

## Law Program

In 2022, the Law Program focused its efforts on four main domains: security and criminal justice, protection of vulnerable groups, equality and diversity, and fundamental rights.

- **Security and criminal justice.** Activities in this domain focused on strengthening the capacity of judicial, police, and correctional services for preventing and countering conventional crime, violent extremism, and terrorism, countering emerging chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats, promoting respect for fundamental rights in the disclosure of information and media coverage of criminal cases, and laying the groundwork for the application of common fundamental rights standards with respect to pre-trial detention and its alternative measures.
- **Protection of vulnerable groups.** CSD contributed to improving the integration and social inclusion of migrants, promoting the fight against anti-gypsyism through training professionals and empowering Roma communities, and facilitating the effective and coherent application of EU law and policy in the area of child-friendly justice.
- **Equality and diversity.** As a founding signatory of the Bulgarian Diversity Charter, CSD continued to promote the values of equality, diversity, and inclusion. The Center was actively involved in the Charter's activities to attract new signatories and support the introduction of diversity management at the workplace.
- **Fundamental rights.** As a member of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency's network FRANET, CSD supported the Agency in its studies on social rights and equality amid the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the legal environment and space of civil society organisations, anti-racism in policing, the capacity of labour inspectors to implement the Employers Sanctions Directive, ageing in digital societies, business and human rights, fundamental rights implications of the war in Ukraine, and generating data on hard-to-reach populations at risk of rights violations.

## I. Security and criminal justice

CSD continued to contribute actively to several Pan-European initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of judicial, police, and correctional services for preventing and countering conventional crime, violent extremism, and terrorism. CSD's activities in the crime and justice domain also focused on the implications of media coverage of criminal cases related to the presumption of innocence and the right to a fair trial.

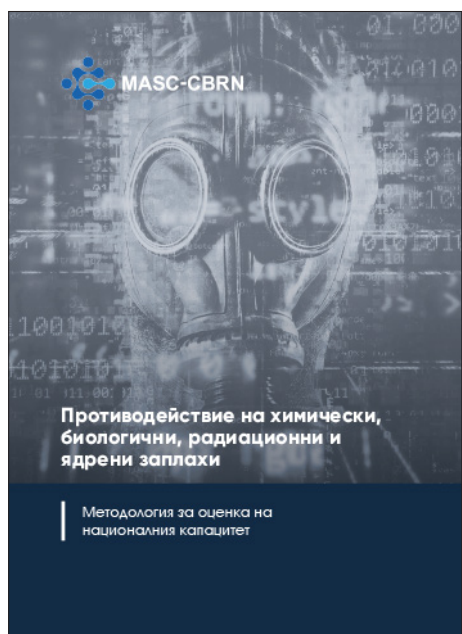
CSD continued to work toward enhancing **cross-border cooperation** through the expansion of existing grassroots partner networks and the development of up-scalable capacity-building tools adaptable to the national contexts. The organisation took part in analytical studies on the investigation and prose-

cution of terrorist offences, and held an international conference on **preventive measures and cross-border judicial and police cooperation**, with a focus on fundamental rights issues in the implementation of EU instruments concerning the principle of mutual recognition in criminal justice matters. The conference, which brought together law-enforcement and criminal justice professionals and academic scholars, featured contributions from leading researchers and experts from Bulgaria, Italy, and the Netherlands.

CSD has led a Pan-European effort to develop a methodology for national capacity assessment for countering **emerging chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats**. Malign state and non-state actors have increasingly sought to leverage the ongoing progress



*International conference “Preventive Measures and Cross-Border Judicial and Police Cooperation”, Sofia, 7 July 2022*



of science and technology to carry out advanced CBRN attacks against individuals and infrastructure. CSD contributed to the development of **practical tools** for enhancing CBRN security at the national level and, together with partners from Germany, Greece, and Spain, held a workshop on **countering the misuse of CBRN materials and related information**. The event brought together experts from the law-enforcement and security sectors as well as representatives from civil society and academia to foster the exchange of experience and promising practices for enhancing preparedness and response time to deliberate CBRN events.

In the framework of the CSD-led initiative **ARISA**, further efforts were devoted to promoting **respect for fundamental rights in the disclosure of information and media coverage of criminal cases**, and mitigating the negative effects of disproportionate disclosure of information about criminal proceedings on the lives of alleged offenders and their fam-

ilies. Established in 2017, ARISA brings together organisations from across Europe; under the leadership of CSD, they work to strengthen the rights of those



suspected, accused, or convicted of a crime. In 2022, CSD produced a [guidebook on disclosing information on criminal cases](#) for criminal justice and media professionals. The guidebook proposes a set of standards on how to publicise and disclose information on criminal cases, observing the presumption of innocence and the procedural rights of suspected and accused persons. To make the guidebook more accessible for the target audience, it was also released as an easy-to-navigate [interactive online publication](#). The guidebook was presented to criminal justice practitioners, law-enforcement officials, lawyers, and academics at a conference entitled “[The Presumption of Innocence and the Rights of the Suspects and Accused in Criminal Proceedings](#)”. This conference was ARISA’s final event on the topic of media coverage of criminal cases, as

over the next two and a half years the ARISA initiative will shift its focus to promoting the [rights of convicted children](#).

Building on its long track record in **prison research**, CSD continued to actively promote the [increased use of alternatives to pre-trial detention](#), in particular by laying the groundwork for the application of common fundamental rights standards with respect to **pre-trial detention and its alternative measures**. The organisation contributed to the development of an online training course on [pre-trial detention, its alternatives, and the European Supervision Order](#). The course is intended for judges, prosecutors, court staff, and lawyers, but may also be useful for law-enforcement officials, prison and probation staff as well as law students. To promote the



*CSD analysts Maria Stoyanova (left) and Maria Doichinova during the presentation of the guidebook on disclosing information and media coverage of criminal cases, Sofia, 24 March 2022*

**PRETRIAD**  
Pre-trial detention and alternatives

**ONLINE COURSE**  
2 Hours | Self-paced

**Pre-trial detention, its alternatives, and the European Supervision Order**

For Judges, Prosecutors, Court Clerks, Probation Officers, Lawyers, and Law Students

Free Sign up now

**INTRODUCTORY MODULE**  
- Pre-trial detention in the European Union  
- Pre-trial detention in the different Member States

**ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION**  
- Alternatives to pre-trial detention  
- Applying alternatives adequately

**EUROPEAN DIMENSIONS**  
- Pre-trial detention: the case of foreigners  
- The European Supervision Order

results of their work on pre-trial detention, experts from CSD took part in two high-profile international events on the topic: an international conference on pre-trial detention held in Berlin and an online expert discussion hosted by the European Judicial Network (EJN). CSD experts participated as observers in four other international events on pre-trial detention and alternative measures, hosted by organisations from Italy, Germany, Romania, and Portugal, and produced an assessment report based on the participants' interventions and feedback.

## II. Protection of vulnerable groups

CSD further advanced its commitment to improving the **integration and social inclusion of migrants**. Together with fourteen partners from across Europe, the Center successfully concluded the development and testing of the IMMERSE Platform, which provides migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers

with a gateway to public services and resources, and assists them with finding employment, housing, and education. CSD also continued to actively participate in a joint initiative of 25 research institutes and law-enforcement authorities from 15 countries, exploring the impact of novel technologies and social media on perceptions of Europe in countries abroad. To boost the inclusion of migrants in the digital sphere, CSD published an impactful policy brief targeted at creating and implementing ICT solutions in the field of migration. The Center's team published another three policy briefs on **COVID-19, migration and human rights, migrant housing, and safe transits for migrants**. CSD also coordinated the participation of 179 experts from responsible Bulgarian institutions at the national and local level in a survey on good practices in migration-related work.

The **PERCEPTIONS web platform** consists of two main components – an open information hub (comprised of articles,

**PERCEPTIONS**

Policy Brief

April 2022

**Migrants & ICTs**  
How to Use Digital Tools and Digital Media to Reach Migrants

Leda Kaneva (Center for the Study of Democracy)

Executive Summary

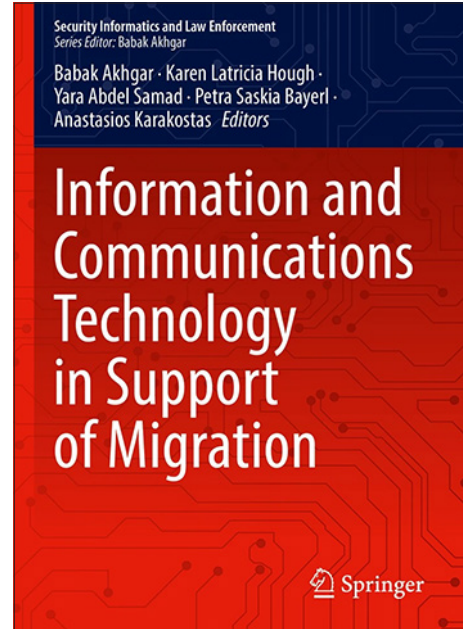
This policy brief provides developers of ICT4RM (information and communications technology for refugees and migrants) solutions, tools and resources with practice-oriented recommendations on the process of designing, implementing and evaluating digital products. It does so with a view of engaging target user bases sustainably, efficiently and successfully. The brief presents the most common use cases of ICT4RM to demonstrate the breadth of utility of those solutions. It also raises awareness on key challenges that have a bearing on creating digital tools for migrants.

The spread of mobile tech, and the preference of migrants prior to, during and after their migration journeys for this type of smart devices, open a vast discussion about the use of digital tools and media to reach and engage migrants. The policy brief builds on the considerable work done under the PERCEPTIONS project. In the first substantive section, a spectrum of use cases for ICT4RM are described and backed by real-life examples. Illustrating that ICT solutions can fill vital niches in service provision for refugees and migrants in an impactful and meaningful manner. The second section offers a succinct summary of enabling and prohibitive factors, risks and challenges related to ICT4RM. The goal is to enhance knowledge on the importance of designing responsive and ethical innovations. Finally, the recommendations offer a pathway to designing and implementing successful, efficient and engaging digital solutions in the area of migration and integration through human rights based and participatory perspectives.

POLICY BRIEF | MIGRANTS & ICTS 1

resources, and policy guides, as well as a “find an expert” section) and a closed collaboration and exchange platform (providing awareness-raising materials, policy recommendations, practice and action plans, campaign guides, and research funding opportunities). These were evaluated by end-users – relevant institutions, NGOs, and individual experts – during national workshops and a series of online surveys. CSD coordinated the evaluation activities involving stakeholders from Bulgaria.

Experts from the Center also took part in the conference “Co-creating ICT solutions to aid migrant integration: challenges, solutions and sustainability”, offering critical insights on the link between ICTs and integration, and contributed to the academic handbook *Information and Communications Technology in*



*CSD Analyst Leda Kuneva (middle) during her presentation on knowledge production in the field of migration and integration at the conference “Migration, Cultural Diversity and Life Prospects under Conditions of Global Crisis”, Sofia, 25 November 2022*

*Support of Migration – Security Informatics and Law Enforcement* with a critical chapter on the role of key stakeholders in the creation and distribution of narratives about migration and integration. The research from this chapter was presented at the conference “*Migration, Cultural Diversity and Life Prospects Under Conditions of Global Crisis*” in Sofia in November 2022. Good practices and insights from CSD’s work in the sphere of migration and integration were also published in the article “*Applicability and sustainability of technological innovations in the field of migration in Bulgaria: Insights from three international initiatives*”, included in the academic bulletin *Refugees: Today and Tomorrow* issued by UNHCR in collaboration with the Bulgarian Refugee Council.

Supporting the **social inclusion of Roma** is another area of CSD’s activities related to vulnerable groups. The Center continued to promote successful instruments for fighting discrimination and facilitating the inclusion of Roma and Sinti persons within local communities. In partnership with local authorities and NGOs from Italy, CSD carried out a series of activities aimed at countering anti-gypsyism through training professionals and empowering Roma communities. These included, among others, developing and disseminating **policy recommendations**, elaborating a training manual *On the Road to Inclusion*, and holding a joint awareness-raising **seminar** for Bulgarian and Italian experts.

A more recent, but equally important topic in CSD’s work related to vulnerable groups is **child protection and children’s rights**. CSD has joined an effort to promote the effective and coherent application of EU law and policy in the area of child-friendly justice in Greece and Cyprus. As a first step, the Center carried out a large-scale review of what has already been achieved at the

EU level and beyond in training justice professionals in the criminal, civil and administrative branches. The results of this analysis will be used for developing an innovative and practice-oriented learning tool for training judicial trainers from Greece and Cyprus and for producing an interactive and interdisciplinary online training module.

### III. Equality and diversity

As one of the founders of the **Bulgarian Diversity Charter**, CSD continued to promote the values of **equality, diversity and inclusion**. The Charter, a joint initiative of CSD and the Bulgarian Business Leaders Forum, continued to attract new signatories. Since its launch in September 2020, the Charter has been signed by 44 Bulgarian commercial companies and civil society organisations. After the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the Bulgarian Diversity Charter joined the other European Charters in standing up for the people of Ukraine and sending a powerful **joint message of support**. Later in the year, the Charter announced the winner of the second **Diversity@Work Award**, took part in a series of activities to mark European Diversity Month, and held its second **webinar on sharing best practices in diversity and inclusion in the workplace**, bringing together public institutions, commercial companies, and civil society organisations.

### IV. Fundamental rights

As a member of **FRANET** – the multidisciplinary research network coordinated by the **EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** – CSD continued to monitor the protection of fundamental rights in Bulgaria. In addition to its regular contribution to FRA’s annual *Fundamental Rights Report*, CSD produced studies on social rights and equality amid the

global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the legal environment and space of civil society organisations in supporting fundamental rights, anti-racism in policing, the capacity of labour inspectors to implement the Employers Sanctions Directive, ageing in digital societies (with a focus on the enablers and barriers to elderly people's exercising of their social rights), business and human rights (with a focus on promoting environmental protection through the enforcement of consumer rights), and fundamental rights implications of the war in Ukraine. Apart from data collection, CSD conducted comprehensive fieldwork research to identify and assess the need for technical assistance of national human rights institutions that would enable them to monitor compliance of EU funds management with international fundamental rights

instruments. After the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, CSD supported FRA in implementing an [online survey among persons displaced from Ukraine](#). As a result of CSD's promotional campaign, which combined a range of online and offline activities, a total of 535 persons fleeing the war in Ukraine and residing in Bulgaria completed the survey.

As a FRANET member, CSD continued to support FRA and the Bulgarian National Statistical Institute in their joint initiative to develop novel approaches for generating data on hard-to-reach populations at risk of violation of their rights. CSD's research team delivered a series of five thematic reports: on the situation of [children, people with disabilities and older people](#), on the [application of SDG indicators](#), and on the [use of data in the policy process](#).