

# **REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

## **Public Administration Country Profile**

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)  
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# BULGARIA

[Click here](#) for map of Central and Eastern Europe



Source: [The World Factbook - Bulgaria](#)

## Government type

Parliamentary democracy

## Independence

3 March 1878 (from Ottoman Empire)

## Constitution

Adopted 12 July 1991 ([click here](#))

## Legal system

Civil law and criminal law based on Roman law; accepts compulsory International Court of Justice jurisdiction

## Administrative divisions

28 provinces (oblast) ([click here](#))

In 1989 the head of the Bulgarian Communist Party, Todor Zhivkov, relinquished control, and democratic change began. The first multi-party elections since World War II were held in 1990. The ruling communist party changed its name to the Bulgarian Socialist Party and won the June 1990 elections. Following a period of social unrest and passage of a new constitution, the first fully democratic parliamentary elections were held in 1991 in which the Union of Democratic Forces won. The first direct presidential elections were held the next year.

Social and economic unrest culminated in a severe economic and financial crisis in late 1996 - early 1997. With the help of the international community, former Prime Minister Ivan Kostov initiated a series of reforms in 1997 that helped stabilize the country's economy and put Bulgaria on the Euro-Atlantic path. Elections in 2001 ushered in a new government and president. In July 2001, Bulgaria's ex-king Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha became the first former monarch in post-communist Eastern Europe to become Prime Minister.

Source: [U.S. Department of State - Background Notes](#)

# 1. General Information

1.1 People	Bulgaria	Romania	Ukraine	1
<b>Population</b>				a
Total estimated population (,000), 2003	7,896	22,334	48,523	
Female estimated population (,000), 2003	4,069	11,429	25,994	
Male estimated population (,000), 2003	3,827	10,905	22,529	
Sex ratio (males per 100 females), 2003	94	95	87	
Average annual rate of change of pop. (%), 2000-2005	-0.85	-0.23	-0.78	
<b>Youth and Elderly Population</b>				b
Total population under age 15 (%), 2003	14	17	16	
Female population aged 60+ (%), 2003	24	21	25	
Male population aged 60+ (%), 2003	19	16	16	
<b>Human Settlements</b>				c
Urban population (%), 2001	67	55	68	
Rural population (%), 2001	33	45	32	
Urban average annual rate of change in pop. (%), '00-'05	-0.94	0.08	-0.81	
Rural average annual rate of change in pop/ (%), '00-'05	-1.05	-0.68	-1.21	
<b>Education</b>				d
Total school life expectancy, 2000/2001	12.7	11.7	11.4 <sup>i</sup>	1
Female school life expectancy, 2000/2001	12.9	11.9	11.6 <sup>i</sup>	1
Male school life expectancy, 2000/2001	12.5	11.6	11.1 <sup>i</sup>	1
Female estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 1992	2.1 <sup>ii</sup>	2.7	0.5 <sup>ii</sup>	2
Male estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 1992	1 <sup>ii</sup>	1	0.3 <sup>ii</sup>	2
<b>Employment</b>				e
Unemployment rate (15+) (%), 2000	19.4 <sup>iii</sup>	7.1	11.7 <sup>iv</sup>	1
Female adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 2001	46 <sup>v</sup>	56 <sup>v</sup>	51 <sup>vi</sup>	2
Male adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 2001	55 <sup>v</sup>	69 <sup>v</sup>	64 <sup>vi</sup>	2

Notes: <sup>i</sup> 1998/1999; <sup>ii</sup> 1989; <sup>iii</sup> 2001, Aged 14 years and over; <sup>iv</sup> Month of October, Aged 15 to 70 years; <sup>v</sup> De jure populatio; <sup>vi</sup> 2000

1.2 Economy	Bulgaria	Romania	Ukraine	2
<b>GDP</b>				a
GDP total (millions US\$), 2002	15,608	44,428	41,380	
GDP per capita (US\$), 2002	1,984	1,987	849	
PPP GDP total (millions int. US\$), 2002	54,357	141,418	229,673	
PPP GDP per capita(int. US\$), 2002	6,909	6,326	4,714	
<b>Sectors</b>				b
Value added in agriculture (% of GDP), 2003	11.7	11.9	14.1	
Value added in industry (% of GDP), 2003	30.7	36.1	40.3	
Value added in services (% of GDP), 2003	57.5	52.0	45.6	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				c
GDP implicit price deflator (annual % growth), 2003	2.1	19.2	6.9	
Private consumption (% of GDP), 2003	69.0	70.8	60.2	
Government consumption (% of GDP), 2003	19.0	12.4	15.8	

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Statistics Division:

<sup>a</sup> Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat; <sup>b</sup> Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat; <sup>c</sup> Population Division of the UN Secretariat; <sup>d1</sup> UNESCO; <sup>d2</sup> UNESCO; <sup>e1</sup> ILO; <sup>e2</sup> ILO/OECD

<sup>2</sup> World Bank - Data and Statistics:

<sup>a</sup> Quick Reference Tables; <sup>b</sup> Data Profile Tables; <sup>c</sup> Country at a Glance

1.3 Public Spending	Bulgaria	Romania	Ukraine	
<b>Public expenditures</b>				3
Education (% of GNP), 1985-1987	5.4	2.2	5.3	a
Education (% of GNP), 1995-1997	3.2	3.6	5.6	a
Health (% of GDP), 1990	4.1	2.8	3	
Health (% of GDP), 1999	3.9	3.8	2.9	
Military (% of GDP), 1990	4.2	3.5	..	b
Military (% of GDP), 2000	3	2.1	3.6	b
Total debt service (% of GDP), 1990	6.6	..	..	
Total debt service (% of GDP), 2000	9.9	6.4	11.5	

Notes:

[Click here](#) for further information on "Subnational share of overall public spending and public administration employees"

1.4 Public Sector Employment and Wages						
<i>Data from the latest year available</i>		Bulgaria 1991-1995	Bulgaria 1996-2000	Europe & Central Asia average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000	Central & Eastern Europe average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000	Middle income group average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000
<b>Employment</b>						
Civilian Central Government <sup>5</sup>	(,000)	79.0	31.5			
	(% pop.)	0.93	0.38	0.61	0.45	0.59
Sub-national Government <sup>5</sup>	(,000)	25.0	31.1			
	(% pop.)	0.30	0.38	0.61	0.45	0.59
Education employees	(,000)	259.0	87.0			
	(% pop.)	3.03	1.05	1.58	1.43	1.20
Health employees	(,000)	201.0	93.1			
	(% pop.)	2.35	1.13	1.15	1.04	0.70
Police	(,000)	..	4.0			
	(% pop.)	..	0.05	0.68	0.31	0.30
Armed forces	(,000)	..	..			
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.87	0.77	0.46
SOE Employees	(,000)	1,496	817.3			
	(% pop.)	17.74	9.90	20.1	8.28	3.61
Total Public Employment	(,000)	..	..			
	(% pop.)	..	..	..	..	6.05
<b>Wages</b>						
Total Central gov't wage bill	(% of GDP)	2.7	5.2	6.0	6.7	8.5
Total Central gov't wage bill	(% of exp)	6.5	7.9	13.1	14.4	21.6
Average gov't wage	(,000 LCU)	45.02	2.55			
Real ave. gov't wage ('97 price)	(,000 LCU)	3,682	2.15			
Average gov't wage to per capita GDP ratio		..	0.98	6.3	1.1	4.2

Source: [World Bank](#) - [Public Sector Employment and Wages](#)

<sup>3</sup> UNDP - [Human Development Report 2002](#)

<sup>a</sup> Data refer to total public expenditure on education, including current and capital expenditures.

<sup>b</sup> As a result of a number of limitations in the data, comparisons of military expenditure data over time and across countries should be made with caution. For detailed notes on the data see SIPRI (2001).

<sup>4</sup> Averages for regions and sub regions are only generated if data is available for at least 35% of the countries in that region or sub region.

<sup>5</sup> Excluding education, health and police – if available (view [Country Sources](#) for further explanations).

## 2. Legal Structure

**B**ulgaria is a parliamentary republic. The Constitution is the supreme law of the country. The latest Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria was adopted in July of 1991 and features all basic principles of modern constitutionalism. It provides for a multi-party parliamentary system and free elections on the basis of universal suffrage. The three branches of power in Bulgaria are the legislative, the executive and the judicial.

Source: [European Commission - System of Government](#)

### 2.1 Legislative Branch

Unicameral National Assembly or Narodno Sobranie (240 seats; members elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms) on Legislative branch.<sup>6</sup>

*Women in parliament:* 63 out of 240 seats: (26%).<sup>7</sup>

The Unicameral National Assembly, or Narodno Sobranie, consists of 240 deputies who are elected for 4-year terms by popular vote of party or coalition lists of candidates for each of the 28 administrative divisions. A party or coalition must garner a minimum of 4% of the vote in order to enter parliament. Parliament is responsible for enactment of laws, approval of the budget, scheduling of presidential elections, selection and dismissal of the Prime Minister and other ministers, declaration of war, deployment of troops outside of Bulgaria, and ratification of international treaties and agreements.

The 2001 parliamentary elections ushered in 63 women deputies, placing Bulgaria first within the region according to the number of women currently serving in parliament. The President of Bulgaria is directly elected for a 5-year term with the right to one re-election. The President serves as the head of state and commander in chief of the armed forces. The President is the head of the Consultative Council for National Security and while unable to initiate legislation, the President can return a bill for further debate (Parliament can overturn the President's veto with a simple majority vote).

Source: [U.S. Department of State - Background Notes](#)

#### Fact box:

*elections:* Last held 17 June 2001 (next to be held June 2005)  
*election results:* percent of vote by party - NMS2 42.74%, UtdDF 18.18%, CfB 17.15%, MRF 7.45%; seats by party - NMS2 120, UtdDF 51, CfB 48, MRF 21; note - seating as of March 2003 - NMS2 110, UtdDF 50, CfB 48, MRF 20, independents 12

### 2.2 Executive Branch

*cabinet:* Council of Ministers elected by the National Assembly.

*elections:* President and vice president elected on the same ticket by popular vote for five-year terms; election last held 11 November and 18 November 2001 (next to be held 2006); chairman of the Council of Ministers (prime minister) nominated by the president; deputy prime ministers nominated by the prime minister.

The Council of Ministers (the Government) chaired by the Prime Minister is the principal body of the Executive Branch. The Prime-Minister-designate is nominated by the largest parliamentary group and is given a mandate by the President to form a cabinet. The National Assembly elects the proposed Council of Ministers. The

<sup>6</sup> Source of fact boxes if nothing else stated: [The World Factbook - Bulgaria](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Inter-Parliamentary Union - Women in National Parliaments](#)

activity of the Council of Ministers is under the direct control of the National Assembly.

Source: [European Commission - System of Government](#)

In addition to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Ministers, the Council is composed of ministers who head the various agencies within the government and usually come from the majority/ruling party in parliament.

The Council is responsible for carrying out state policy, managing the state budget and maintaining law and order. The Council must resign if the National Assembly passes a vote of no confidence in the Council or Prime Minister.

The President serves as Head of State, and is directly elected once every 5 years for a maximum of two terms. The Vice President is elected on the same ballot as the President.

Source: [U.S. Department of State - Background Notes](#)

The President is also the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria and appoints and dismisses the senior command. He appoints the Prime-Minister designate to form a government, schedules the elections and sets the date for national referendums, and countersigns, together with the Prime Minister or the respective sector minister, decrees for the promulgation of the adopted laws.

Source: [European Commission - System of Government](#)

**Fact box:**

*chief of state:* President Georgi PURVANOV (since 22 January 2002). Percent of vote - PURVANOV 54.13%, Petar STOYANOV 45.87%; Vice President Angel MARIN (since 22 January 2002)  
*head of government:* Chairman of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister) Simeon SAXE-COBURG-GOTHA (since 24 July 2001); Deputy Prime Ministers Nikolay VASILEV (since 24 July 2001), and Lidiya SHULEVA (since 24 July 2001), Plamen PANAYOTOV (since 17 July 2003)

## 2.3 Judiciary Branch

Supreme Administrative Court; Supreme Court of Cassation; Constitutional Court (12 justices appointed or elected for nine-year terms); Supreme Judicial Council (consists of the chairmen of the two Supreme Courts, the Chief Prosecutor, and 22 other members; responsible for appointing the justices, prosecutors, and investigating magistrates in the justice system; members of the Supreme Judicial Council elected for five-year terms, 11 elected by the National Assembly and 11 by bodies of the judiciary)

The Bulgarian judicial system became an independent branch of the government following passage of the 1991 Constitution. Reform within this branch was initially slow. In 1994, the National Assembly passed the Judicial Powers Act to further delineate the role of the judiciary. The first, appellate and cassation (highest appellate) courts comprise the three tiers of the judicial system.

The court that interprets the constitution and constitutionality of laws and treaties is the Constitutional Court.

Source: [U.S. Department of State - Background Notes](#)

It consists of 12 judges, one third of whom are elected by the Parliament, one third are appointed by the President, and one third are appointed by the General Assembly of Judges of the Supreme Court of Cassation and the Supreme Administration Court.

The mandate of the justices is 9 years. Each quota of the Constitutional Court is updated each three years. The chair of the Constitutional Court is elected through secret vote by its judges for a mandate of three years. The Constitutional Court can be summoned by the initiative of at least one fifth of the MPs, by the President, by the Council of Ministers, by the Supreme Court of Cassation, by the Supreme Administrative Court, and by the Chief Public Prosecutor.

Source: [Bulgaria Online - Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria](#)

The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) is composed of 25 members serving 5-year terms. Those who serve on the council are experienced legal professionals and are either appointed by the National Assembly, selected by the judicial system or serve on the SJC as a result of their position in government. The SJC manages the judiciary and is responsible for appointing judges.

The Supreme Court of Administration and Supreme Court of Cassation are the highest courts of appeal and determine the application of all laws. Its judges are appointed for life.

Source: [U.S. Department of State - Background Notes](#)

## **2.4 Local Government**

Local government is regulated by the Constitution (1991), the [Local Self-Government and Local Administration Act](#), adopted in 1991 with numerous subsequent amendments.

Constitution provides two main levels of local government, municipality and the region. Municipalities are either governed through locally elected authorities or directly. Municipal bodies have general competencies with regard to local matters but they also assume delegated authority from the state.

The region is the unit at which state government is exercised on the local level. It is an administrative and territorial unit entrusted with the conduct of regional policy and with ensuring harmony between national and local interests. Regional governors are not civil servants; they are state representatives at this level appointed by the Council of Ministers. They have the right to issue orders and revoke unlawful rulings of the municipal mayors.

Both the Local Self-government and Local Administration Act and subsequently the Administration Act provide legal framework related to regional administration.

Source: [Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative \(LGI\) - Stabilization of Local Governments \(2001\)](#)



## 3. The State and Civil Society

### 3.1 Ombudsperson

The Law on the Ombudsman was adopted on May 2003 by the National Assembly to become effective on January 1, 2004. It regulates the establishment of a national parliamentary ombudsman institution.

The Ombudsman is elected directly by the National Assembly upon proposals by individual member of parliaments or Parliamentary Groups with a secret simple majority vote. The Ombudsman is elected for a period of five years, with the number of possible mandates being limited to two.

The main responsibility of the Ombudsman is to receive and examine complaints and signals regarding violations of human rights and freedoms.

The newly adopted Law, however, failed to take several of the proposals and recommendations aimed at guaranteeing the efficiency and political independence of the institution into account. For instance, it does not indicate which institutions and authorities fall under the scope of Ombudsman activities.

Source: [Eunomia & The Greek Ombudsman - The Ombudsman Institution in South-eastern Europe \(2003\)](#)

### 3.2 NGOs

Although there is no current data on the number of organizations that are active, the Information Center of the Open Society Fund of Sofia indicated that in 1998 over 1,000 nonprofit organizations were functioning in more than 50 towns.

All ethnic groups, including Turks, Roma, Bulgarian Muslims, Armenians, and Jews, have their own NGOs that are engaged in a variety of civic activities. Roma are especially interesting in this respect. Although they are not represented in the government, some of their NGOs function as political discussion clubs and protoparties. The Non-Economic Purpose Legal Persons Act, Bulgaria's NGO law, has been in force since January 2001. NGOs helped draft the law and lobbied for it in the assembly.

NGOs have proved to be an important and necessary part of Bulgarian society. The government's attitude toward NGOs has improved over time, and parliamentary committees often recruit NGO experts as advisers when they organize public hearings on issues of national importance. In 2001, Parliament established a permanent committee to address the needs of civil society and serve as a bridge between civil society and the legislative body. The committee's public council includes 21 members, representing 28 NGOs, who will be able to take part in the legislative process by proposing ideas that might become the basis of future bills. Some of the most important bills to emerge from the committee have addressed the registration and activities of lobbyists and proposals for a new electoral code.

Source: [Freedom House - Nations in Transit \(2003\)](#)

### 3.3 Civil Society

There are three major independent trade unions in Bulgaria. Together these trade unions represent around two million workers. Trade unions take part in the so-called tripartite commission for negotiations with the government on wages, management

policies, and the privatization of enterprises. Workers' rights to engage in collective bargaining and to strike are protected by law.

The participation of interest groups in politics remains largely unregulated. Think tanks have repeatedly urged the National Assembly to legalize and regulate lobbying, feeling sure that this will result in better transparency and deal a blow to clientelism. As a result of this, the parliamentary Committee on the Problems of Civil Society introduced a bill in 2002 on the registration and activities of lobbyists. The aim of the bill is to improve the environment for the work of interest groups and to increase the opportunities for civil society to affect the political process. The bill remained under consideration in Parliament at the end of 2002.

Source: [Freedom House - Nations in Transit \(2003\)](#)

## 4. Civil Service

### 4.1 Legal basis

Reform of Bulgaria's civil service began with the adoption of the 1998 Law on Administration and the 1999 [Civil Service Act](#). Although a new Law on Civil Service was adopted in 2000, its implementation has been somewhat problematic. The main problem concerns Article 20, which stipulate that "the civil servant shall be obliged to announce without delay decision about the request of citizens". In practice, there is still considerable lag time before citizens receive the decision of the state administration. The minister of state administration has stated that the Law on Civil Service will be changed, but he has not elaborated any specific ideas or plans.

Source: [Freedom House - Nations in Transit \(2003\)](#)

#### **Act of 16 June 1999 on public servants.**

*D'rzhaven Vestnik, 1999-07-27, No. 67, pp. 54-69*

Chap. I: General provisions. Chap. II: Establishing the employment relationship. Chap. III: Civil servants status. Chap. IV: Modification of the employment relationship. Chap. V: Honours and prizes. Chap. VI: Termination of the employment relationship. Chap. VII: Service book and length of service. Chap. VIII: Protection against illegal termination of the employment relationship. Chap. IX: Disputes. Chap. X: Control on observing the civil servants status.

Source: [International Labour Organization - NATLEX](#)

#### **Act of 15 October 2003 to amend and supplement the Act on public servants.**

*D'rzhaven Vestnik, 2003-10-28, No. 95, pp. 1-10*

Amends provisions relating with participation in competitions, training, promotion, wages, protection in the event of termination of service relation and occupational status.

### Content of Civil Service Legislation

Content of Civil Service Legislation in OECD and Select CEE Countries <sup>1</sup>						
Country	Job duties & Responsibilities	Tenure & Security <sup>2</sup>	Disciplinary Arrangements <sup>3</sup>	Rewards & Wage Bargaining	Career System	
					Closed	Open Recruitment
Bulgaria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

1) The empirical data presented in this table (and the one below) draw from material kindly provided by OECD PUMA and SIGMA. The authors take full responsibility for any errors. The specific content of civil service legislation varies widely.

2) Tenure and security does not imply that civil servants cannot be dismissed.

3) Disciplinary arrangements may apply only to some groups of civil servants.

Source: [World Bank – Civil Service in OECD and Select CEE Countries](#)

## Who has civil servant status?

Groups of public employees covered by the same civil service legislation as civilian central government employees					
Country	Health Employees	Education Employees	Police	Sub national Government (excluding education, health, & police)	
				Covered by same legislation as civilian central government?	Separate civil service legislation offering similar, but distinct status?
Bulgaria				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Source: [World Bank – Civil Service in OECD and Select CEE Countries](#)

### 4.2 Recruitment

According to the Administration Act, Article 14, a certain qualification is required for recruitment to office. Qualification comprises both education and time worked. Based on these provisions, the CSA determines the procedure and terms for recruiting civil servants. Based on a uniform specification, each administration prepares its own functional guidelines which include the following:

- functional characteristics of departments;
- pay and job description of each position.

According to the Civil Service Act, Article 10, recruitment may be carried out based on competition. This procedure is elaborated in detail in the Civil Service Act, specifically with regard to existing competition regulations.

Civil servants are appointed to office by the head of the respective administration. This is a general provision and practice referring to all categories of public servants. In order to be appointed the requirements have to be met: 1) be a Bulgarian citizen; 2) be of full age; 3) not be under legal disability; 4) never be indicted for a committed crime of general character to imprisonment; 5) never be deprived by the due order from the right to take certain position; 6) meet the specific requirements provided in the normative acts for taking the corresponding position.

The members of the political cabinets, the deputy regional governors and the deputy mayors of the municipalities; and persons implementing technical functions in the administration are not considered civil servants.

Source: [SIGMA - Civil Services and State Administrations \(1999\)](#) & [Civil Service Act](#)

### 4.3 Promotion

Since the system up to now (March 1999) has not been career-based, civil servants' progress based on special skills and qualities has not been formalized and institutionalized. The initiative rests entirely with the respective administration.

Rank is based on the civil servant's professional qualifications, which implies that professional qualifications are absolutely essential to the promotion process. Improving qualifications is a basis for a pre-term rank promotion. Worked time is another promotion criterion. A civil servant is promoted in rank within five years (no sooner than three years and no later than five years). Promotion is based on testimonials for the respective civil servant.

Source: [SIGMA - Civil Services and State Administrations \(1999\)](#) & [Civil Service Act](#)

#### **4.4 Remuneration**

According to the Civil Service Act the basic salary for civil servants is determined by the Council of Ministers. Depending on each and every position the Council of Ministers determines additional amounts according to the rank and category of administration. The Civil Service Act regulates the guaranteed minimum salary, which cannot be lower than the triple amount of the minimum salary for the country. Salaries are paid in two parts, in advance and the final payment determined by the body of appointment at the end of each month.

The Civil Service Act also regulates payments for additional temporary work, holidays and paid leave of absences.

Source: Civil Service Act

#### **4.5 Training**

Provisions in the state budget specifically refer to resources earmarked for civil servants' training. Apart from budget-supported training programmes, each ministry or other governmental institution reserves the right to seek outside (domestic or international) training funds.

Language training, specifically in English, is a priority. The command of a Western language is an advantage in the recruitment process. An interesting example is provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy's practice. Based on the ministry's network, "virtual English training courses" are carried out for the expert staff of the administration.

Source: SIGMA - Civil Services and State Administrations (1999)

#### **4.6 Gender**

Source: Institution - Title

## 5. Ethics and Civil Service

### 5.1 Corruption

2003 CPI Score relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen by business people and country analysts and ranges between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt).

Corruption Perceptions Index							
		2003 CPI Score	Surveys Used	Standard Deviation	High-Low Range	Number Inst.	90 percent confidence range
Rank	Country						
1	Highly clean	9.7	8	0.3	9.2 - 10.0	4	9.5 - 9.9
54	Bulgaria	3.9	10	0.9	2.8 - 5.7	8	3.5 - 4.4
133	Highly corrupt	1.3	8	0.7	0.3 - 2.2	6	0.9 - 1.7

Source: [Transparency International - Corruption Perceptions Index 2003](#)

**Surveys Used:** Refers to the number of surveys that were used to assess a country's performance. 17 surveys were used and at least 3 surveys were required for a country to be included in the CPI.

**Standard Deviation:** Indicates differences in the values of the sources. Values below 0.5 indicate agreement, values between 0.5 and c. 0.9 indicate some agreement, while values equal or larger than 1 indicate disagreement.

**High-Low Range:** Provides the highest and lowest values of the sources.

**Number Institutions:** Refers to the number of independent institutions that assessed a country's performance. Since some institutions provided more than one survey.

**90 percent confidence range:** Provides a range of possible values of the CPI score. With 5 percent probability the score is above this range and with another 5 percent it is below.

As a result of a combination of government and civil society efforts, everyday bribery has been reduced by almost 50 per cent in the past three years. Bulgaria has continued to improve its ranking in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index—to 45th out of 102 countries in 2002, up from 66th place in 1998.

Source: [UN Office on Drugs and Crime – Interview with Dr. Ognian Shentov](#)

One of the problems most acutely faced by Bulgaria is the interaction between law enforcement in its investigative and policing work and the courts in adjudicating corruption cases. Unless the two operate in harmony, the friction could be used by offenders to work around the system. These issues are addressed in Bulgaria's Judicial Anti-Corruption Programme, developed by the Centre for the Study of Democracy (CSD).

Source: [UN Office on Drugs and Crime – Interview with Dr. Ognian Shentov](#)

Public opinion still perceives corruption as a serious problem. Customs authorities, occupations linked to the judicial system, police and the health sector are considered to be amongst the most corrupt groups. The fight against corruption remained high on the political agenda of the Government.

Following the adoption of a National Strategy against Corruption (October 2001) and of an Action Plan (February 2002), various pieces of the national legislation have been amended to align with the main international instruments in the fight against corruption. The new measures should now be fully enforced.

The Action Plan expires at the end of 2003 and is currently being updated. In September 2003 the Government adopted a report on the implementation of the National Strategy. The report concluded that the administrative set-up of specialized

structures for the fight against corruption should be strengthened, as well as the overall control over the implementation of the Action Plan.

Income and property declarations became compulsory for magistrates following the most recent amendments to the law on the judicial system (July 2003). The declaration also covers spouses and children and is included in a public register. Similar registers exist for customs officers. In February 2003 the National Association of Court Officials adopted a code of ethics specifying how court clerks should act in the event of being offered a bribe. Amendments to the Law on Civil Service law contain a new conflict-of-interest regulation.

Since the beginning of 2003, the collection and processing of statistical information on bribery has been further developed and now distinguishes between active and passive bribery in the private and public sector, trade in influence and abuse of official positions.

The institutional set-up in the fight against corruption has been further consolidated. An inter-ministerial committee, chaired by the Ministry of Justice, has been in charge of coordinating and controlling the implementation of the National Strategy and the Action Plan since February 2003. In addition, in October 2002 Parliament set up a 24-member permanent Commission to fight corruption. Its main task is to bring legislation into line with the EU acquis and practices, to monitor its implementation and to supplement it should weaknesses occur. Special units within various ministries and within the police and border guards are in charge of fighting corruption (see also chapter 24: Justice and home affairs). In particular, special measures have been taken with a view to ensure proper police behaviour at the borders and along transit routes.

Source: [European Commission - Regular Report \(2003\)](#)

## **5.2 Ethics**

Source: [Institution - Title](#)

## 6. e-Government

### e-Government Readiness Index:

The index refers to the generic capacity or aptitude of the public sector to use ICT for encapsulating in public services and deploying to the public, high quality information (explicit knowledge) and effective communication tools that support human development.

The index is comprised of three sub-indices: Web Measure Index, Telecommunications Infrastructure Index and Human Capital Index.

### Web Measure Index:

A scale based on progressively sophisticated web services present. Coverage and sophistication of state-provided e-service and e-product availability correspond to a numerical classification.

### Telecommunications Infrastructure Index:

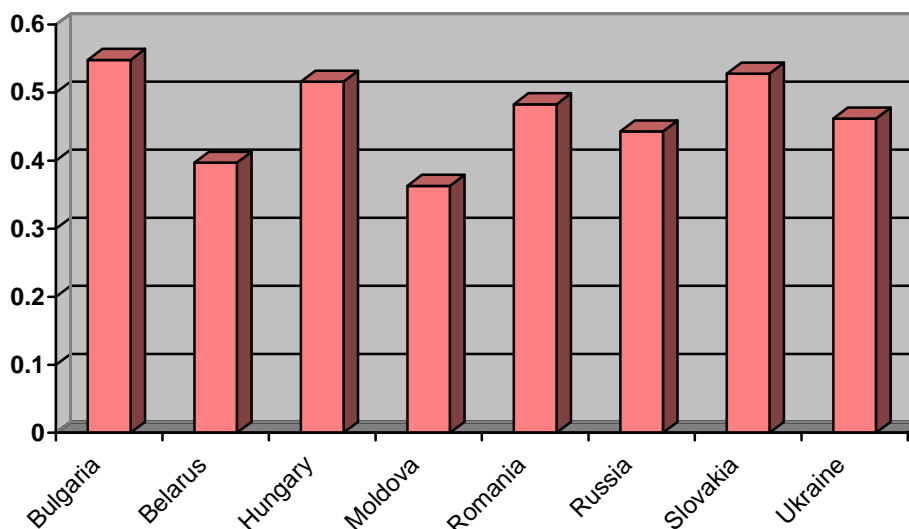
A composite, weighted average index of six primary indices, based on basic infrastructural indicators that define a country's ICT infrastructure capacity.

Primary indicators are: PC's, Internet users, online population and Mobile phones. Secondary indicators are TVs and telephone lines.

### Human Capital Index:

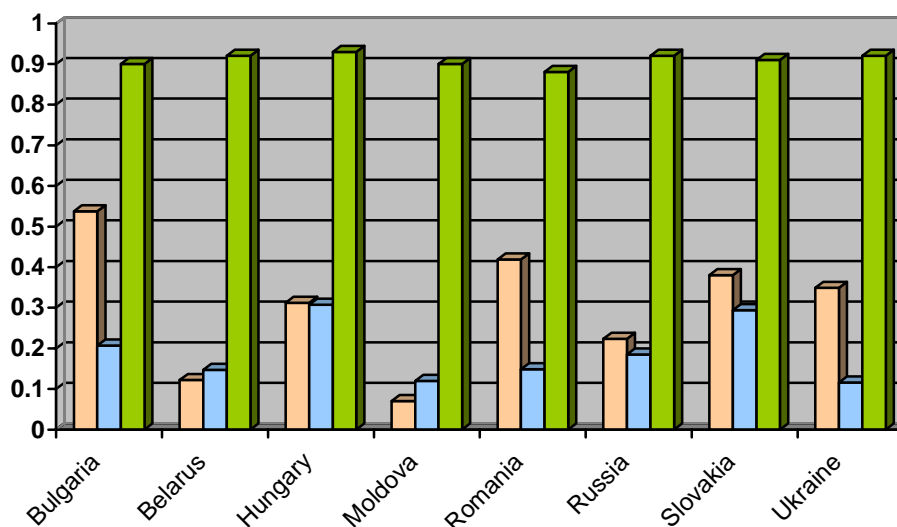
A composite of the adult literacy rate and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio, with two thirds of the weight given to adult literacy and one third to the gross enrolment ratio.

### e-Government Readiness Index



Source: United Nations – World Public Sector Report 2003

### Web Measure Index Telecom. Infrastructure Index Human Capital Index



Source: United Nations – World Public Sector Report 2003



**e-Participation Index:**

Refers to the willingness, on the part of the government, to use ICT to provide high quality information (explicit knowledge) and effective communication tools for the specific purpose of empowering people for able participation in consultations and decision-making both in their capacity as consumers of public services and as citizens.

**e-information:**

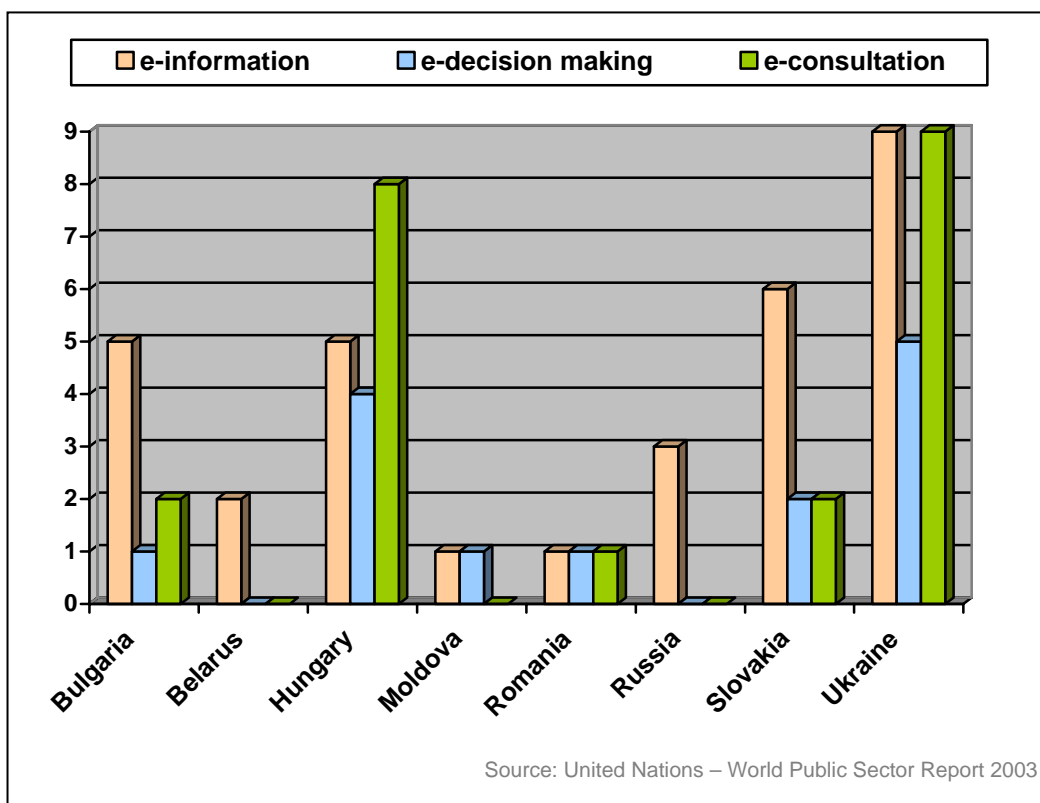
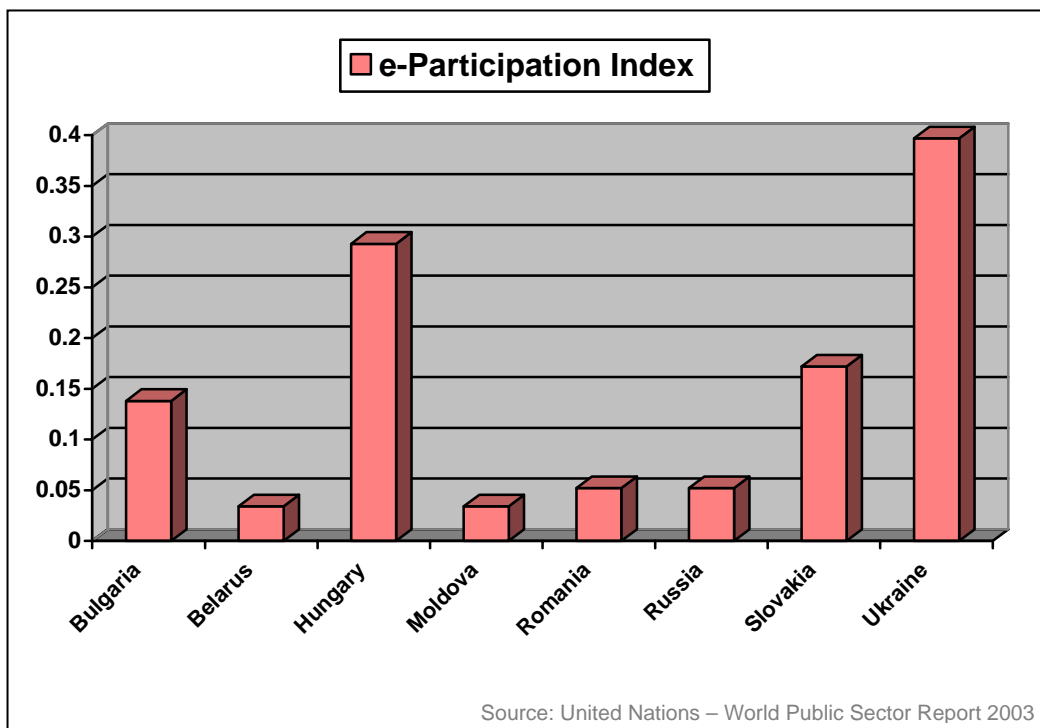
The government websites offer information on policies and programs, budgets, laws and regulations, and other briefs of key public interest. Tools for disseminating of information exist for timely access and use of public information, including web forums, e-mail lists, newsgroups and chat rooms.

**e-decision making:**

The government indicates that it will take citizens input into account in decision making and provides actual feedback on the outcome of specific issues.

**e-consultation:**

The government website explains e-consultation mechanisms and tools. It offers a choice of public policy topics online for discussion with real time and archived access to audios and videos of public meetings. The government encourages citizens to participate in discussions.



## 7. Links

7.1 National sites	
Authority	Topic
President	<a href="http://www.president.bg">http://www.president.bg</a>
Government	<a href="http://www.government.bg">http://www.government.bg</a>
National Assembly	<a href="http://www.parliament.bg">http://www.parliament.bg</a>
Ministries	<a href="http://www.government.bg/English/Government/Ministers/">http://www.government.bg/English/Government/Ministers/</a>
Constitutional Court	<a href="http://www.bild.net/ccourt/">http://www.bild.net/ccourt/</a>
National Statistical Institute	<a href="http://www.nsi.bg/">http://www.nsi.bg/</a>

7.2 Miscellaneous sites	
Institution	Topic
European Union (EU)	<a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/bulgaria/index.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/bulgaria/index.htm</a>
Council of Europe (COE)	<a href="http://www.coe.int">http://www.coe.int</a>
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	<a href="http://www.ebrd.com/country/country/bulgaria/index.htm">http://www.ebrd.com/country/country/bulgaria/index.htm</a>
European Commission and World Bank (SEERECON)	<a href="http://www.seerecon.org/bulgaria/index.cfm">http://www.seerecon.org/bulgaria/index.cfm</a>
International Labour Organization (ILO)	<a href="http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home">http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home</a>
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)	<a href="http://www.osce.org/cio/bulgaria/">http://www.osce.org/cio/bulgaria/</a>
OSCE - Legislation	<a href="http://www.legislationline.org">http://www.legislationline.org</a>
OSCE - News	<a href="http://www.osce.org/news/index.php">http://www.osce.org/news/index.php</a>
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	<a href="http://www.undp.bg/">http://www.undp.bg/</a>
World Bank (WB)	<a href="http://www.worldbank.bg/">http://www.worldbank.bg/</a>