

Civil Society Perspectives: Engagement in countering terrorism and violent extremism in South-East Europe



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UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE

Background

- Relevant UN Security Council guidance on national comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism (CT) strategies
- CTED's engagement with civil society organizations (CSOs) and other partners to ensure a whole-of-society approach in countering terrorism and violent extremism
- Most SEE Member States have national counter terrorism strategies. Variations in implementation.



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Roundtable discussion with CSOs

- Held in a hybrid format on June 29, 2022
- Participants primarily consisted of CSO representatives from the South-East Europe region. UN partner agencies were also in attendance.
- All CSO participants attended online

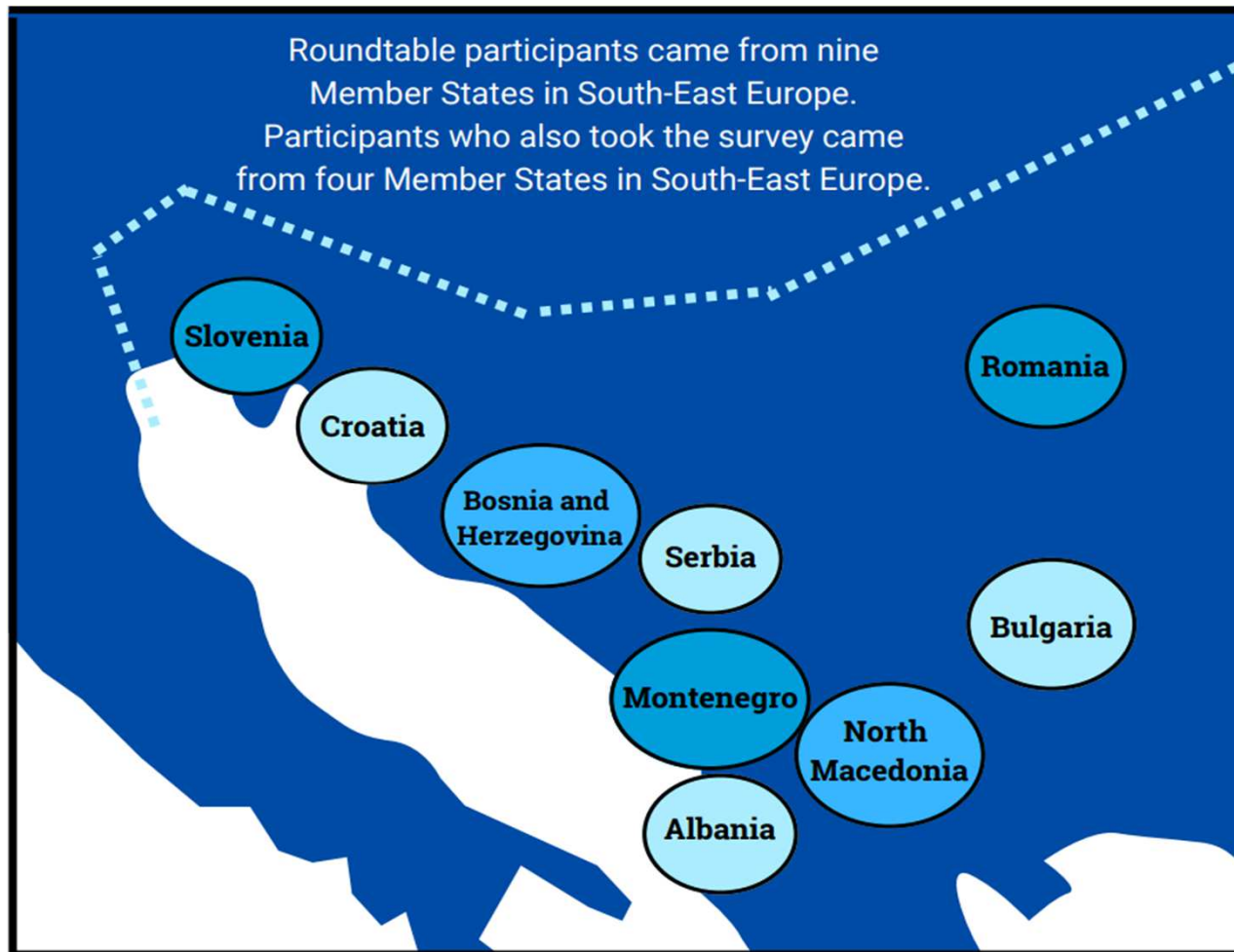
Survey questionnaire

- CSO participants provided inputs to a survey circulated by CTED
- Participants could submit detailed written responses
- The survey helped gather additional information on relevant issues outside the roundtable

Other engagements

- CTED's engagement with Member States in the sub-region
- CTED visits on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its engagement with Governments through the written stocktaking exercises

Roundtable and survey participants



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DECEMBER 2022



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Civil society perceptions on national CT strategies

CSO engagement, threat perception and assessment

- CSO representatives well-versed with challenges faced by their societies in terrorism and counter-terrorism
- Reported need to address growing XRIRB threat.
- Foreign Terrorist Fighters remain a concern in some Member States as comprehensive and tailored prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returnees are developed
- Some strategies too security-focused.

CSO participation development and implementation of national CT strategies

- Significant strides in engaging CSO and other partners in the development and implementation of national CT strategies in some States
- In others, there are fewer resources to improve existing strategies using evidence-based findings
- Successful CSO engagement requires an institutional and legal framework for comprehensive participation

Perspectives from human rights organizations

Key points

In some States, better consultation is necessary

- Harassment and intimidation of human rights advocates must be prevented.

There is a need to strengthen trust among public institutions in CSOs, including human rights organizations

Strategies are often security-centric, and stakeholders are excluded from meaningful participation

CSOs reported a willingness to collaborate on planning and implementation of national strategies, as well as in monitoring, evaluation, and identification of lessons learned.



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