The dynamic nature of interethnic attitudes in Bulgaria

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AIM OF PROJECT

Prior research conducted in Bulgaria show that negative attitudes towards different groups and discrimination (in particular of Roma) have historically existed and remain persistent, though they do change too. As social psychologists we are interested in 1) the nature and intensity of negative attitudes and behaviours between ethnic groups in present-day Bulgaria (e.g. comparing the ethnic Bulgarian majority and the two major and historically established ethnic minorities) and 2) strategies to improve interethnic attitudes and relationships.

3 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Secondary analysis of International Social Survey Programme ISSP 2003 data for comparisons between Bulgaria’s 28 regions
2. Our own survey (1216 respondents)
3. Semi-directive interviews among ethnic Bulgarian majority (20 interviews) and Roma and Bulgarian Turks (10 interviews for both groups)

HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS

1. ETHNIC BULGARIANS’ & BULGARIAN TURKS’ ATTITUDES TOWARDS ROMA

How do interpersonal experiences with Roma fuel or reduce prejudice? The role of emotions

2. ETHNIC BULGARIANS’ & BULGARIAN TURKS’ MUTUAL ATTITUDES

How do perceptions of history (Ottoman domination, Revival period) explain current prejudice?

3. ROMA’S EXPERIENCE

How do Roma’s ethnic and national identities relate to attitudes and prejudices?

IMPACT OF RESEARCH

• Understand social disparities and regional differences within Bulgaria
• Studying the perspectives of ethnic Bulgarians and ethnic minorities in parallel
• Training of junior scholars in Bulgaria
• Dissemination to policy makers and NGOs working on minority questions

PUBLICATIONS

