



## ORIGINAL PAPER

# Democracy Assistance - Bulgaria and the Council of Europe (1989-2007)

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### Abstract

The process of democratization in Bulgaria, started November 10<sup>th</sup> 1989, ended with the Bulgaria accession at EU in 2007. The paper analyses the dynamics of the process of Europeanisation in the country and its influence of the main political actors (political parties, formation and development of the institutions and the civil society). The paper presents the international support for the process of democratization and democratic consolidation, mainly of the Council of Europe. The main questions seeking answers are: What are the characteristics and levels of development of the political system in its transition from authoritarianism to a stable democracy? To what extent is the process of democratization in Eastern Europe and especially Bulgaria influenced by international factors and international organizations? To what extent do international organizations hold roles as creators of stability in the region? The role of the Council of Europe in Bulgaria's road to democratization is summarized.

**Keywords:** *Council of Europe, Bulgaria, democracy assistance, institutions*

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