

# Political cabinets and senior civil servants in Bulgaria: friends or foes

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**Abstract:** The current paper is part of a book project examining top civil servants and political appointments across Central and Eastern Europe. The paper examines the structure of political cabinets and top civil servant across the various Bulgarian ministries, as well as individual career paths of political appointees and top civil servants. The paper aims to understand the relationship between political cabinets and top civil servants and the degree to which institutional frameworks, patronage networks, and political dynamics may influence that relationship. The paper utilizes publicly available data from the administrative registry, media reports, and interviews.