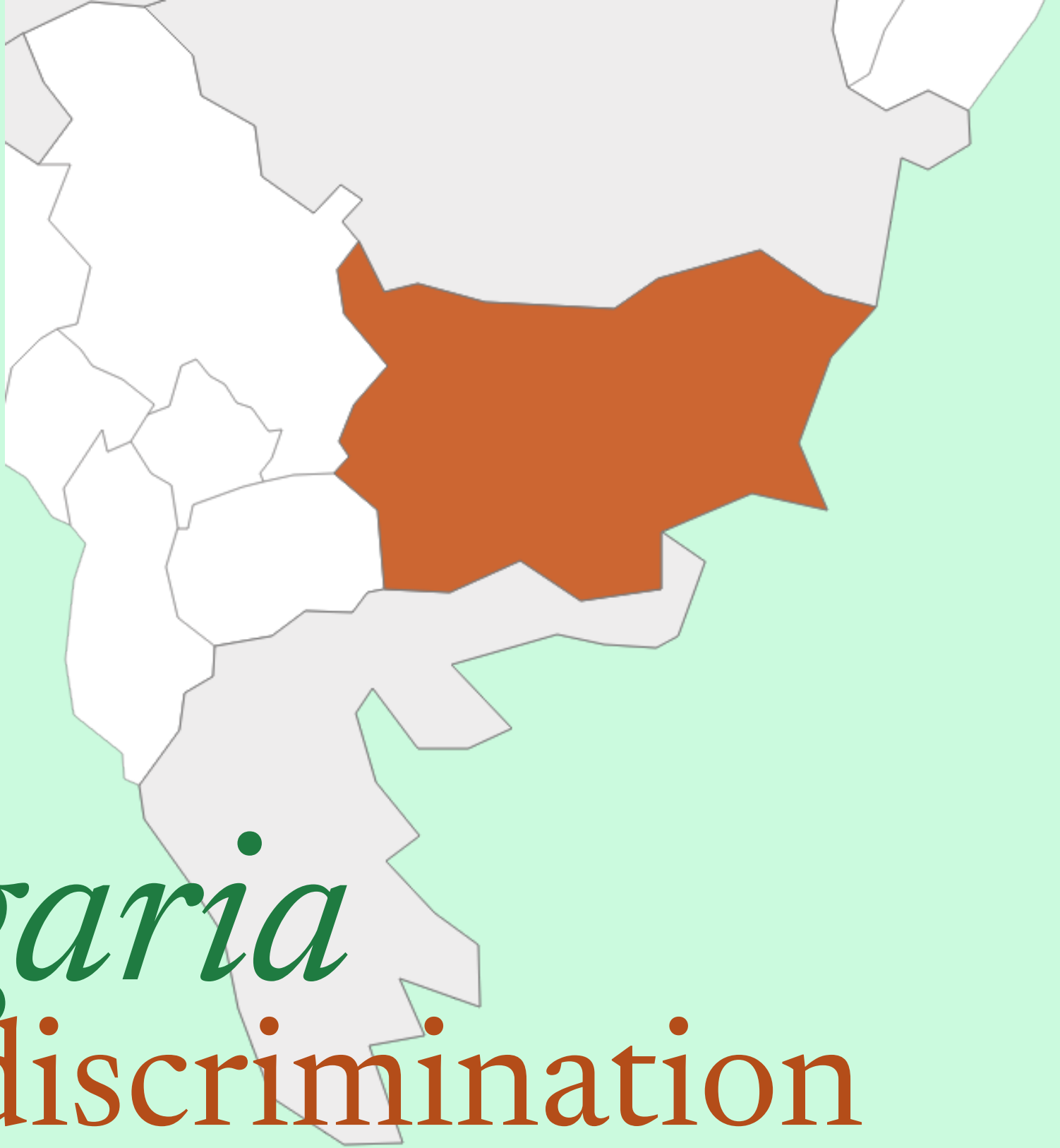
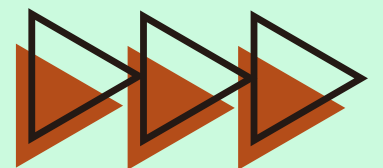




Bulgaria non-discrimination country report

Key highlights

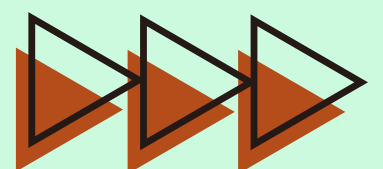


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Broad Equality Legislation

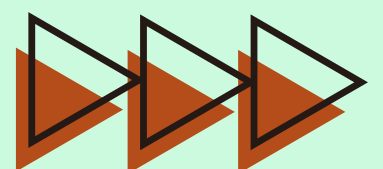
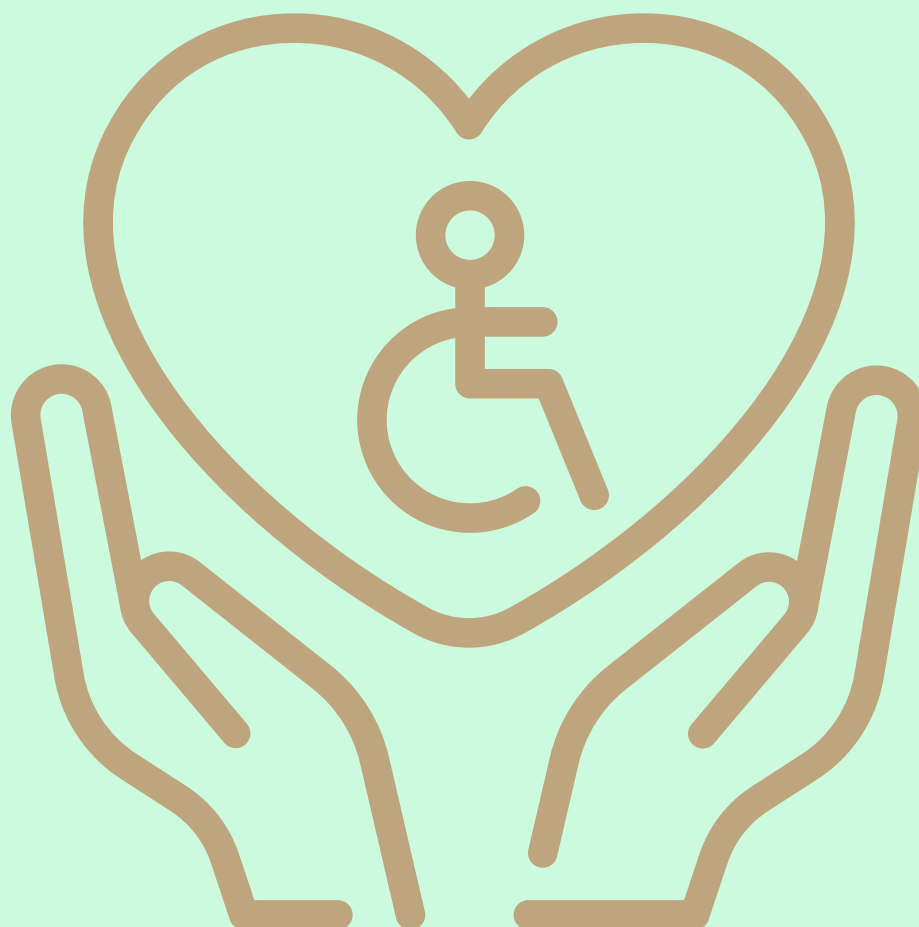
Bulgaria's Protection Against Discrimination Act offers wide-ranging protection across numerous grounds and fields. However, older sector-specific laws remain insufficiently harmonised with it.





Disability Rights

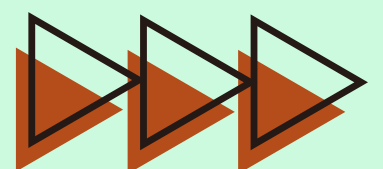
Disability policy benefits from dedicated institutions and the equality body's long-running Accessible Bulgaria initiative. Accessibility has received particular attention, although other discrimination issues have been less systematically addressed.





Roma Inclusion

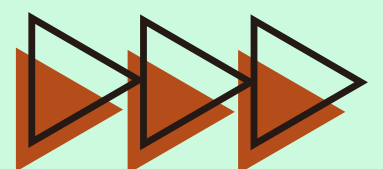
Participation of Roma children in education has improved and courts have recognised school segregation as discrimination. Nevertheless, segregation and major inequalities in educational outcomes remain widespread.





Persistent Housing Inequality

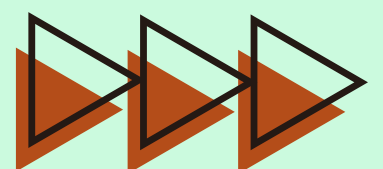
Many Roma continue to live in segregated areas with poor infrastructure and limited access to essential services. Progress in implementing the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)'s Yordanova judgment on forced evictions also remains limited.





Stronger Hate-Speech Protection

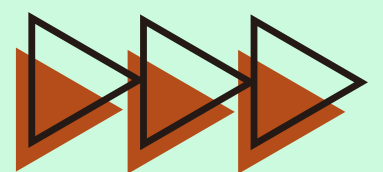
Courts have increasingly recognised discriminatory hate speech and incitement targeting groups, including Roma and Jewish communities. Yet judicial approaches to harassment and freedom of expression remain inconsistent.





Uneven Age Protection

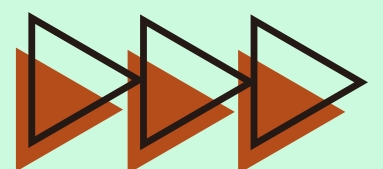
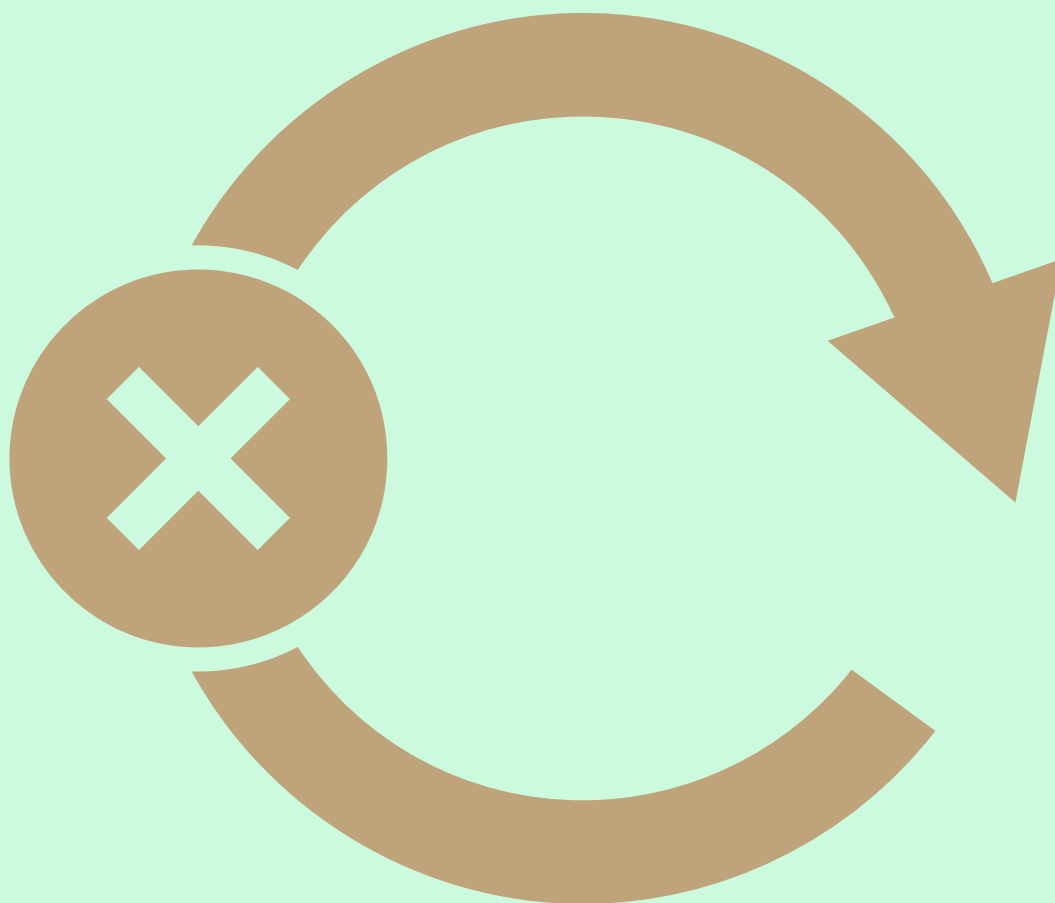
Age discrimination is prohibited, but case law continues to treat some pension-related dismissals as unrelated to age. Mandatory age limits also remain in several sectors without proportionality assessments.





Inconsistent Case Law

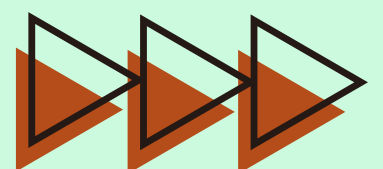
Courts have issued positive rulings clarifying aspects of direct discrimination, but conflicting decisions persist on intent, comparators and justification, weakening consistent application of EU standards.





Accessible Equality Body

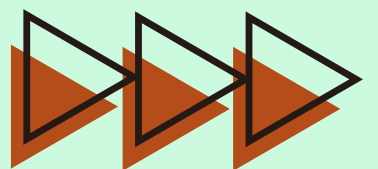
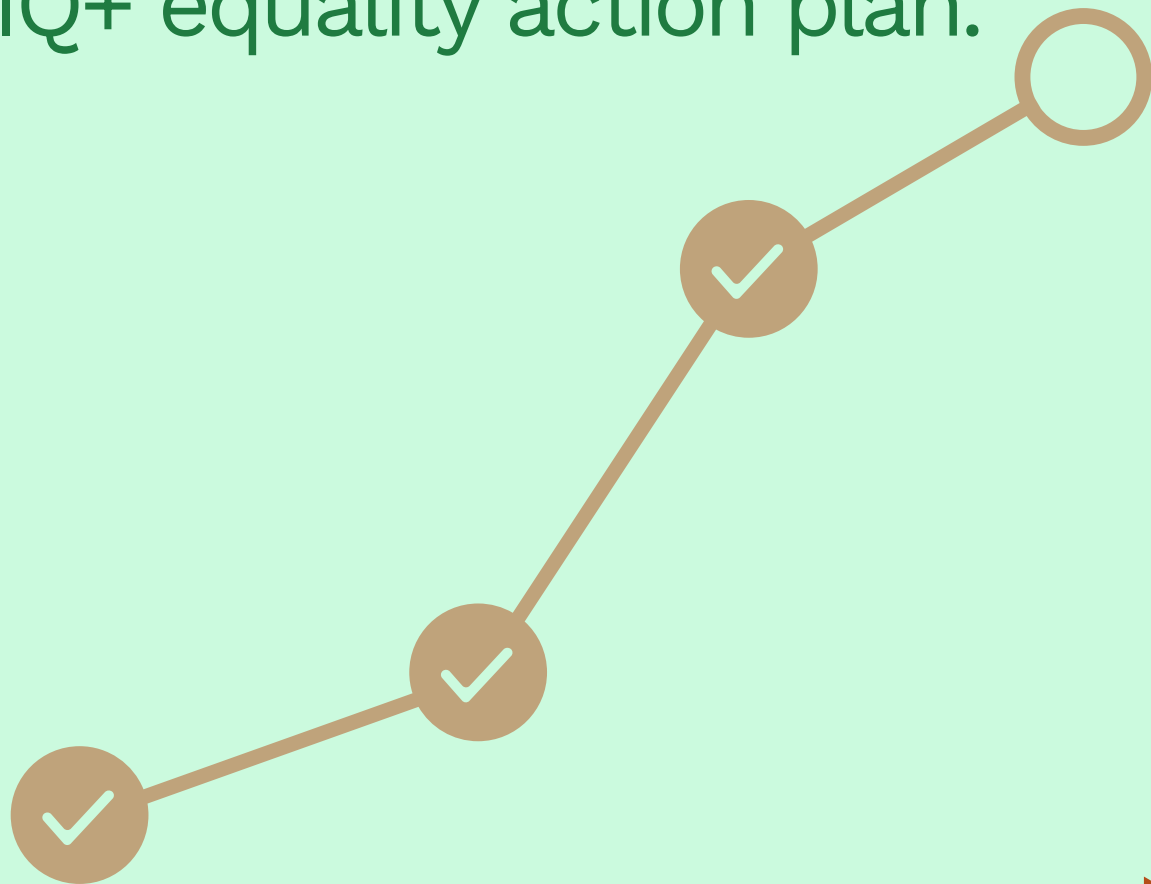
The Protection Against Discrimination Commission is an established, independent and generally accessible equality body, with free procedures and a broad mandate. Concerns remain over transparency, strategic prioritisation and incomplete regional coverage.





Limited National Strategies

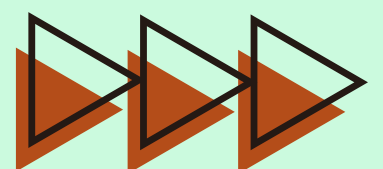
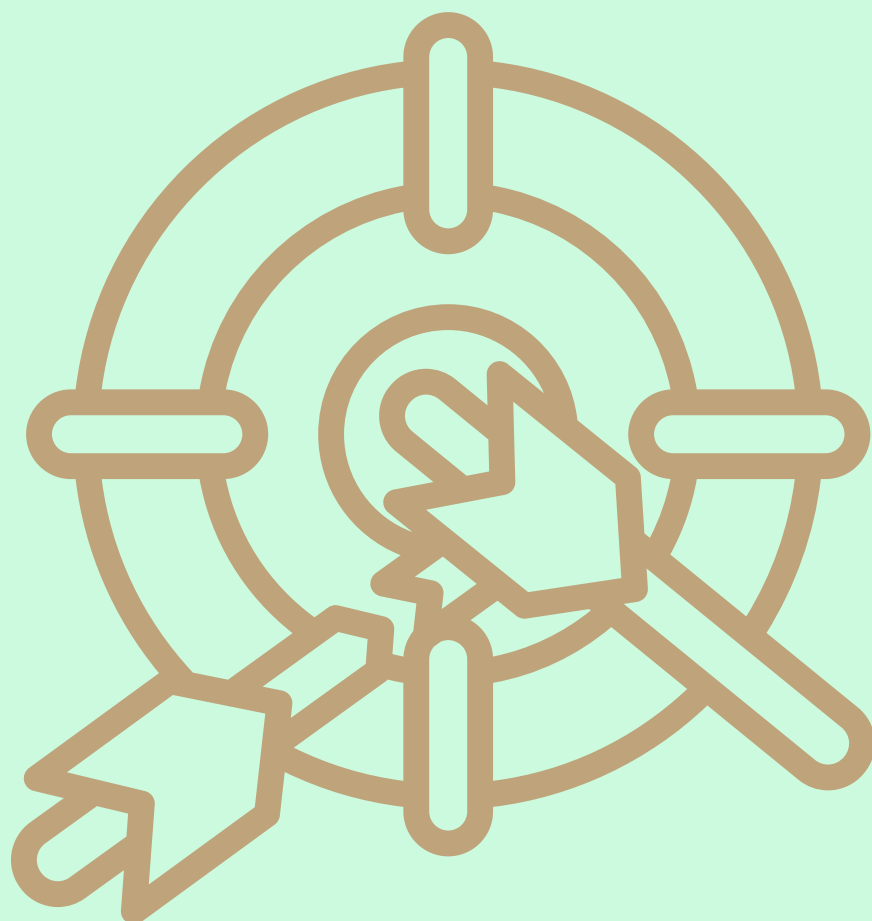
Bulgaria has strategies addressing disability rights and Roma equality and inclusion. However, there is still no comprehensive national anti-discrimination, anti-racism or LGBTIQ+ equality action plan.

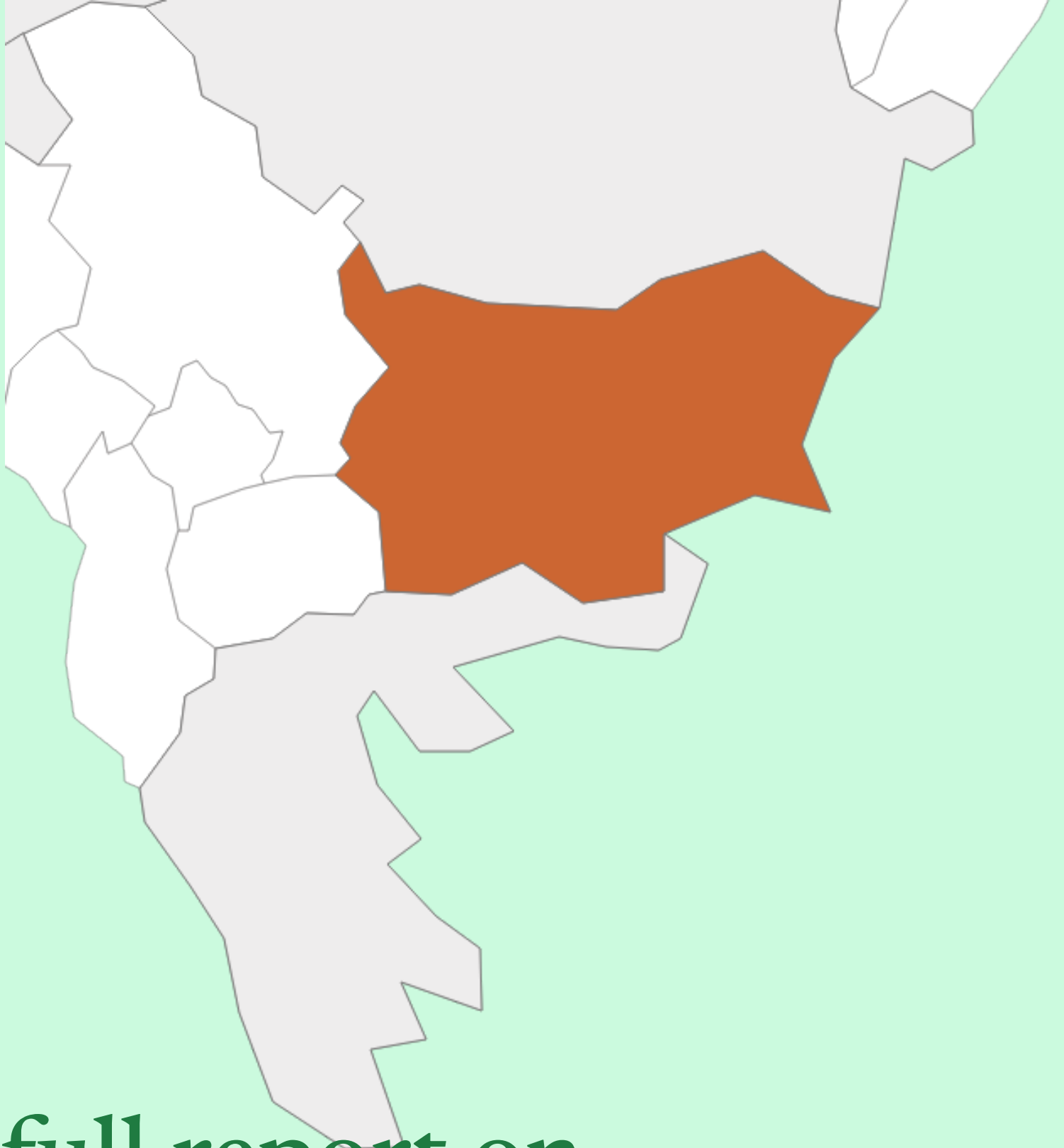




Incomplete EU Alignment

Bulgarian law is largely aligned with EU equality requirements, but important implementation gaps remain, including difficulties applying the burden-of-proof rules and incomplete transposition of the new EU equality body standards during the reporting period.





See the full report on
non-discrimination
in Bulgaria on our website.



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