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ТЕМАТИЧНО НАПРАВЛЕНИЕ:  
РЕГИОНАЛНО РАЗВИТИЕ И ПУБЛИЧНА АДМИНИСТРАЦИЯ  
THEMATIC AREA:  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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НОВА ПОЛИТИКА ЗА СЕКТОРА НА СЕЛСКОТО СТОПАНСТВО И СЕЛСКИТЕ  
РАЙОНИ В ЕВРОПА  
A NEW POLICY FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND THE RURAL  
REGIONS IN EUROPE

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The agricultural sector in the EU is the most important land user and therefore influences the natural resources and the rural regions. The conditions of most of the natural resources like biodiversity, water quality developed quite negative in some regions of the EU. Because the development of the agricultural sector and the rural regions is especially affected by the Common Agricultural Policy it is important to review the influence and effects on agricultural businesses, natural resources and rural regions and formulate new approaches of policy design to reduce the negative effects and strengthen the positive trends. Within the project ZA-Nexus, funded by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, a literature review was carried out, expert interviews were conducted and a proposal for a new policy design for the agricultural sector and the rural regions in Europe were formulated. As a result it can be said, that boundaries for the agricultural production have to be evolved further and consequently be implemented. Environmental friendly productions methods, which go beyond these boundaries have to be paid by public money. There should also be an incentive for small structured regions as well as a program to support cooperative measures.

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РЕГИОНАЛНИ ДИСПРОПОРЦИИ - БИЗНЕС ДЕМОГРАФИЯ И ИКОНОМИЧЕСКИ  
РАСТЕЖ (ПРИМЕРЪТ НА БЪЛГАРИЯ)  
**REGIONAL DISPARITIES - BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHY AND ECONOMIC  
GROWTH (CASE STUDY OF BULGARIA)**

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**Purpose.** The study investigates imbalances of business demography of regions NUTS 2, Bulgaria, which of them are key determinants of regional economic growth disparities; compares business demography at the time of Bulgaria's accession with the beginning of 2014-2020 programming period in EU; determines the impact of key factors on the dynamics of business demography. **Methods.** The study applies comparative, variance and regression analysis in business demography and economic growth. A statistical test was done of the relation between some indicators and test of correlation between the coefficient of variation of regional growth and the variation in business demography. **Results.** Differences in GDP per capita are strongly related to differences in the number of NFC/1,000. Average dependence of differences in GDP per capita on the differences in the number of industrial enterprises and employees has been found out. Moderate negative relationship was observed between GDP per capita and the number of dead companies, as well the number of employed in services. **Conclusions.** Business demography is strongly influenced by economic processes at national and international level. Regions react differently to the socio-economic impacts. Attention needs to be drawn towards business environment, which is determined by the state, improving regional policy and measures to business environment in the companies.

**Keywords:** business demography, economic growth, dependence, NUTS 2 regions, disparities

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РЕГИОНАЛНАТА ПОЛИТИКА И РАЗВИТИЕТО НА ОБЩИНИТЕ-ПРОБЛЕМИ И  
ПРЕДИЗВИКАТЕЛСТВА  
**REGIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPALITIES-PROBLEMS  
AND CHALLENGES**

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Strategy "Europe 2020" raises a number of new challenges for cohesion policy. Regional policy contributes to the success of the strategy by working towards economic, social and territorial cohesion. It supports local and regional stakeholders in the achievement of expected results at the local level - closest to European citizens. The implementation of the European Cohesion Policy programs highlights the need for synergies with the different levels

of governance. Municipalities have a key role in socio-economic cohesion. The negative demographic processes that have taken place in the country in recent decades have led to a significant decrease in the population in a number of Bulgarian municipalities. The implementation of an adequate regional policy is hampered by the current fragmentation in more and more regions of the country. The number of municipalities that use funds under OPs below BGN 100 per person has not decreased for the last few years. Most of them are small municipalities. It is a matter of change of the administrative-territorial division (ATD) in order to implement an effective policy for overcoming the high levels of regional disproportions achieved through economic growth. Solving these issues is important for the development of municipalities and regions in terms of: funding, administration support; In the absorption of investments from different sources, incl. Of the European Union funds; In creating a favorable local investment and R & D climate; Increasing efficiency in the development of public services (health, education, social activities, etc.); In the further democratization of society, etc. This will contribute to the genuine involvement of local and regional authorities in regional policy, enable local communities to make their choice, will and responsibility in addressing the problems of regional development and achieving the objectives.

**Keywords:** regional policy, regional development, municipalities, local government, decentralization, local self-government

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#### РЕГИОНАЛНИТЕ РАЗЛИЧИЯ В БЪЛГАРИЯ И СТРАНИТЕ ОТ ЕС REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN BULGARIA AND EU COUNTRIES

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The realization of economic convergence of the new member states is one of the biggest challenges that face EU. It raises important questions and problems for research; to determine what processes of regional development are taking place within the Union. In this regard, a key issue that arises and is related to the Bulgarian integration into the economic structures of the EU is the extent to which these processes have an impact on its regional development. By applying statistical and economic methods the report attempts to analyze these processes in the light of similar processes in the EU as a whole and by particular countries - to highlight the general and specific features in the regional development of Bulgaria. According the "Regional Social Progress Index" and some of its sub-indices the specific places that occupy the Bulgarian regions on NUTS II among all other regions of the EU countries are compared and analyzed Based on the obtained results some policy implications are made.

**Keywords:** Regional policy; EU cohesion policy; Comparative economics

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МЕТОДИ ЗА ДЪРЖАВНО УПРАВЛЕНИЕ И РЕГУЛИРАНЕ НА  
ИКОНОМИЧЕСКАТА ДЕЙНОСТ  
**METHODS FOR STATE CONTROL AND REGULATION OF ECONOMIC  
ACTIVITY**

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PURPOSE

Displaying the positives and negatives of state regulation of economic activity. Marking methods used at all levels of governance in the global economy

METHODS

Experimental plan participants, materials, procedure

RESULTS

Displaying large-scale methods of governance, the operating environment of economic management methods, centralized administrative impact vertical "top - down"

CONCLUSIONS

In the real governance the methods for state control of economics are combined for more effectiveness. Always one of the methods is leading, the others intensify its impact.

**Keywords:** liberalization; social contract; responsibility, democracy; institutions; restrictions

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СТРОИТЕЛСТВО ВЪРХУ ЗЕМЕДЕЛСКА ЗЕМЯ БЕЗ СМЯНА НА  
ПРЕДНАЗНАЧЕНИЕ-ПРАВНИ РЕГЛАМЕНТИ  
**CONSTRUCTION ON AGRICULTURAL LAND WITHOUT CHANGING THE  
PURPOSE AND LEGAL REGULATIONS**

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The conditions for construction on agricultural land without a change of use are regulated in a specific order. This Ordinance №19 of October 25, 2012.

The report is to analyze some basic legal regulations of the decree and on this basis to justify conclusions and make suggestions for correction of texts in regulation.

Moreover, the report makes a comparative analysis between the regulations for construction on agricultural land without changing the purpose and construction with change of use.

Made also make analogies with other legal norms of a fundamental nature. These are: Planning Act's territory, Law on ownership and use of agricultural land, etc.

Definite aim of the report is to answer the question about the place and role of these legal regulations in the sustainable development of the territory and in particular of agricultural lands.

**Keywords:** territory, regulations, sustainable development, property preservation.

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ПРОИЗВОДСТВО НА КАКАО И ШОКОЛАДОВИ ИЗДЕЛИЯ В СВЕТА И  
БЪЛГАРИЯ ЗА ПЕРИОДА 2013-2016  
**PRODUCTION OF COCOA AND CHOCOLATE PRODUCTS IN THE WORLD  
AND BULGARIA FOR THE PERIOD 2013-2016**

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Chocolate is one of the most delicious and popular desserts on earth, but for many people around the world, it is also a serious industry. It is made from cocoa beans that grow on cocoa trees. Historians believe that chocolate consumption dates back before Columbus discovered North America, mainly in Central American societies, where it has been used for more than five millennia. Archaeological excavations prove that in Costa Rica, the Mayans drank cocoa about 400 B.C. Today, however, chocolate production and consumption is a complex commercial task that covers manufacturers and trade networks around the world. The number of cocoa miners in the world is over 14 million people. Almost 35% of the cocoa beans originate in Cote d'Ivoire. This article aims to analyze the main problems and difficulties in the world's cocoa-producing countries as well as to compare the producers, importers and exporters of cocoa and chocolate products in the European Union, including Bulgaria, by focusing on the change in production and consumption over the last years to highlight main trends and dependencies.

**Keywords:** cocoa; chocolate products; production; import; export; European Union

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ЕКОСИСТЕМНИТЕ УСЛУГИ СЪЗДАВАНИ В СЕЛСКОТО СТОПАНСТВО КАТО  
ФАКТОР ЗА ТЕРИТОРИАЛНА КОНКУРЕНТОСПОСОБНОСТ  
**ECOSYSTEM SERVICES FROM AGRICULTURE AS KEY FACTOR OF  
TERRITORIAL COMPETITIVENESS**

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Purpose of the research: Agriculture is a dominant form of land management, delivering products (food, fodder and nonfood) to meet human needs. The production process also has various externalities for its surroundings. Therefore, the notion that agriculture does not only provide/produce commodity outputs but also performs additional functions (ecosystem services) and creates non-commodity outputs (public goods) necessitates the analyses of the ecosystem services provided by agricultural activities in the territorial context. The aim of the paper is to present and assess the causal connections between ecosystem services provided by agricultural production and their contribution to the territorial competitiveness. Methods of the research: The analysis is based on the example of the case study region as a comparative analysis and synthesis of scientific literature and the methods of induction and deduction were used to investigate the theoretical aspect and characteristics of ecosystem services provision and territorial competitiveness. Later, Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) is applied. Results

and conclusion: It was found that different ecosystem services and non-commodity outputs have a positive influence on territorial competitiveness as the strongest impact is from the agricultural land resulting from provisioning ecosystem services (food, flood control, water quality regulation, soil formation, photosynthesis, recreational benefits etc.).

**Keywords:** Ecosystem services, Territorial competitiveness, Data envelopment analysis

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МОНИТОРИНГ И ПОЛИТИКИ КЪМ ОБЩИНИТЕ С ФИНАНСОВИ ЗАТРУДНЕНИЯ  
**MONITORING AND POLICIES TOWARDS THE MUNICIPALITIES WITH  
FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES**

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Local government in Bulgaria is determined by strong legal regulation, significant imbalances and heterogeneity. Municipalities have different socio-economic and demographic potential. This defines different conclusions regarding the budget process, which is a basic attestation of the volume of municipal commitments and the resources for their implementation. The aim of the study is to present the quantitative measures that define a municipality as "a municipality in difficulty" and on this basis to present some summaries and recommendations. The study uses general and specific methods of assessment and analysis. The results show that a group of municipalities is in permanent financial difficulty. This requires a differentiated approach by the central government to local government.

**Keywords:** Municipalities, Budgets, Imbalances, Regulation

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ЕФЕКТИ ОТ ПОДПОМАГАНЕТО ЗА НЕОБЛАГОДЕТЕЛСТВАНИ РАЙОНИ В  
ТЕРИТОРИИ С ПРИРОДНИ ОГРАНИЧЕНИЯ  
**EFFECTS OF LESS FAVOURED AREAS SUPPORT IN TERRITORIES WITH  
NATURAL CONSTRAINTS**

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The paper aims to assess the effects of the support provided to areas with natural constraints in the framework of the Less Favoured Areas (LFA) measure of the Rural Development Programmes since 2007. The topic is important because the European Commission requires member states to review the LFA measures in 2017 and to suggest new schemes as of 2018. The objectives of the measure relate to maintaining the agricultural activity and preventing land abandonment and depopulation; maintaining the landscape and biodiversity as well as promoting the rational use and sustainable management of land and other natural resources. The analysis is based on official implementation data at administrative district and municipal levels for Plovdiv region as well as questionnaires to beneficiaries of the measure to identify the effects at farm level. The analysis reveals that the number of beneficiaries has doubled from the 2007-2013 to the 2014-2020 programming periods in a multitude of farming systems – horticulture, tobacco and cereals production,

animal breeding and organic farming. The relevance of the effects to the set objectives is discussed and recommendations for the 2017 review are developed on this basis.

**Keywords:** rural development, territories, natural constraints, policy review

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ДИАГНОСТИКА НА СЪСТОЯНИЕТО НА СЕЛСКИЯ ТУРИЗЪМ В ОБЩИНА  
БОРИНО

**DIAGNOSTICS OF THE STATE OF RURAL TOURISM IN BORINO  
MUNICIPALITY**

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Borino municipality is located in the Western Rhodope Mountains among preserved nature, varied topography, unique natural attractions, diverse flora and fauna, favorable climate all year round, the presence of water areas and balneological resources, excellent conditions for skiing in the winter, unique and authentic folklore, traditions and crafts. These rich resources are excellent preconditions for the development of tourism, including rural. The socio-economic development of the municipality is characterized by: underdeveloped and non-diversified economy; a small number of companies in the industrial sector, dominated by micro-and small enterprises, fragmentation of land ownership and extensive agriculture; a very low percentage of the economically active population, high unemployment. The area belongs to the so-called "less-favored rural areas. In Borino municipality there is built capacity for accommodation of tourists – 23 hotels and guesthouses, with a capacity of 144 rooms that caters to rural tourism, but its filling rate is very low (only 3.8%), i.e. the development of rural tourism does not correspond to the opportunities of the municipality and the region. The aim of this study is to make a diagnosis of the situation of rural tourism in Borino municipality and to specify the main factors that determine its development. Use the methods of the standard linear correlation measurement of tightness of the relationship between the level of employment of tourist facilities and major demographic, economic, and agricultural, infrastructure and settlement system factors. Each factor is formalized through a few specific indicators. Established on the link is the correlation - correlation coefficient - coefficient of determination  $R$  and  $R^2$ . As a result of the study are synthesized following conclusions: there is a modern base for accommodations, which, as capacity and as a structure of supply can take considerably greater flow of people; beds capacity in recent years has increased significantly, but not fully utilized; entrepreneurs offering rural tourism product operate independently and separately. The main factors that determine the development of rural tourism in Borino municipality are: unemployment rate of the population, the absence of small and medium-sized enterprises, and length of period of the unemployed individual out of work.

**Keywords:** development, factors, bed capacity

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ДИНАМИКА НА КОНКУРЕНТОСПОСОБНОСТТА НА РЕГИОНИТЕ В  
БЪЛГАРИЯ  
**DYNAMICS OF COMPETITIVENESS OF THE REGIONS IN BULGARIA**

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The balanced development of regions is one of the European Union goals. The competitiveness of regions is applicable approach for assessment of regional development and regional inequalities. The aim of article is research of regions in Bulgaria by evaluation of its competitiveness and comparison of scores with previous periods. The regional competitiveness index (RCI) was used which is designed on the base of 10 indicators – population density per sq. km; natural growth; rate of employed persons; relative share of population on age between 25-64 with higher education degree; foreign direct investment per capita in non-financial enterprises on cumulative basis; expenditure on acquisition on tangible fixed assets; productivity; turnover per capita; gross domestic expenditure on research and development activity per a person engaged in research and development activity and relative share of persons on age between 16 and 74 years who used Internet in last 12 months. For the period of research is 2004-2015 was confirmed the leading role of Sofia (capital). As less competitive regions were identified Vidin, Montana, Kardzhali, Silistra, Kyustendil, Smolyan, Razgrad, Targovishte and Yambol. The recommendations for improvement of competitiveness of less developed regions were made.

**Keywords:** regional development, regional inequalities, regional competitiveness index (RCI)

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БИОПРОИЗВОДСТВОТО В ЕС И БЪЛГАРИЯ- ОСНОВНИ ЗЕМЕДЕЛСКИ  
КУЛТУРИ  
**ORGANIC PRODUCTION IN THE EU AND BULGARIA- MAIN CROPS**

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The purpose of the report is to outline the overall picture of organic production of the main agricultural crops in the EU and Bulgaria.

An important aspect is the type of production (arable land and orchard) of organic farms. The choice of type of production differs between regions and Member States and depends on various factors (including the technical aspects related to organic production and the structure of consumer demand). In the course of the study, the methods of comparison, statistical methods, etc. are used. The results are aimed at identifying existing differences between EU countries in the field of organic production development.



**Keywords:** Bio production, agriculture, organic farming

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ТУРИЗМА В ОБЛАСТ СТАРА ЗАГОРА - ДВИГАТЕЛ ЗА УСТОЙЧИВОТО  
РАЗВИТИЕ  
**TOURISM IN STARA ZAGORA AREA - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ENGINE**

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The development of sustainable tourism is a long-term orientation, especially as a major driver and an important condition for the sustainable development of the region. The sustainable tourism model provides a balance between the interests of all stakeholders: local people, tourists, tour operators, local businesses, local authorities, the public. The purpose of the present study is to examine the economic and natural features of the Stara Zagora region for the development of year-round spa and SPA. An analysis of the state of this type of tourism is made and the trends and growing needs of the tourists are analyzed.

**Keywords:** Balneo and SPA tourism, sustainable development, mineral and thermal waters

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АНАЛИЗ НА ЗНАЧИМИТЕ ФАКТОРИ ЗА РАЗВИТИЕТО НА БИЗНЕСА ПРИ  
РЕМОТ НА ТЕХНИКА В ПЛОВДИВСКИ РЕГИОН  
**ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT FACTORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
BUSINESS IN REPAIR OF EQUIPMENT NEAR PLOVDIV**

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*ET "Marin Georgiev", Plovdiv, Bulgaria*

**OBJECTIVE:** To identify important factors for business development in the repair of equipment.

**METHOD OF STUDY:** Integral method of factor analysis. Method of correlation analysis. Method of current observations. Graphic method expressing business development.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** The development of business in the repair of indicators expressed in value depending on: the development of engineering and technology; state of commissioning of the art - a new or refurbished / second hand /; repair of suitability; uptime.

**RESULTS:** In business in the region with activity 'repair technique' involved 1256 companies. In value terms the highest share of the repair and installation of machinery and equipment should repair cars.

Total Domestic cars are four million, approximately 10% are in the Plovdiv region. The average age of cars in the country nineteen years, and advanced European countries for nine years.

In the region of the studies it was found that the load is a coefficient  $K = 1.05$ .

CONCLUSIONS: There is the continued development of repair techniques and business development in the coming years.

**Keywords:** repairs, equipment

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ТЕРИТОРИАЛЕН АНАЛИЗ НА МЕСОДАЙНОТО ГОВЕДОВЪДСТВО В БЪЛГАРИЯ  
**TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF THE BEEF CATTLE BREEDING IN BULGARIA**

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The aim of the present study is to determine the level of development of beef cattle breeding in the main territorial units of Bulgaria (six NUTS2) regions and to highlight those with leading potential for development of the beef cattle branch. The tasks that follow are: to review the strategic directions for spatial development in Bulgaria and the directions for the development of the cattle breeding (including the meat industry); to identify the opportunities for regional development through the production of foodstuffs with a designation of origin, geographical indications and traditionally specific character, to study the trends, problems and prospects in the development of the beef cattle breeding in Bulgaria for the period 2014-2020; to analyze the development of the beef cattle breeding in Bulgaria by NUTS 2 and the territorial potential for development of this sub-sector. The object of the study is the nature, meaning and policy in the field of beef cattle breeding. The subject of the study includes the indicators for beef cattle breeding by NUTS 2 regions. What we can expect in the future is the prosperity and stability of the beef cattle breeding in Bulgaria to cope with the changes and challenges of the dynamic world.

**Keywords:** beef cattles Bulgaria regions NUTS 2

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НАЦИОНАЛЕН ПАРК ЦЕНТРАЛЕН БАЛКАН-  
ЗНАЧЕНИЕ ЗА ТЕРИТОРИАЛНОТО РАЗВИТИЕ  
**NATIONAL PARK "CENTRAL BALKAN"-  
IMPORTANCE FOR TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT**

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The present study aims to highlight the problems and ways to overcome them in the use of the Central Balkan National Park in favor of territorial development. The tasks that are being carried out for the realization of the aim are as follows: studying the territorial scope and characteristics of the national parks in Bulgaria; clarifying the ecosystem services offered by the NP-s and integrating parks into territorial development; characteristic of NP Central Balkan and its territorial economy; identification of the major limitations on the use of its potential; conducting a survey about the challenges and opportunities for business use of the NP Central Balkan. The survey includes two sections: demographic characteristics of respondents; issues related to the use and protection of the park. The participants are 35

people from the districts of Stara Zagora, Plovdiv, Pleven, Sofia, Gabrovo, Lovech. One of the main findings of the survey is that the majority of the respondents are aware of the opportunities and problems of the protected territory but appreciate the NP Central Balkan's impact on local development as insufficient.

**Keywords:** national parks Bulgaria Central Balkan using problems perspectives

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РЕГИОНАЛНИ ПРОБЛЕМИ НА ИКОНОМИЧЕСКОТО РАЗВИТИЕ / ПРИМЕРЪТ НА  
ОБЛАСТ ЯМБОЛ /  
**REGIONAL ISSUES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT /CASE STUDY OF  
YAMBOL DISTRICT/**

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The main objective of this paper is to identify key issues and opportunities for the future economic development of district of Yambol based on an analysis of the economic development and the region's main resources. Tasks that follow from the objective are: to study the theoretical foundation of local and regional development; analysis of the regional economy of Yambol District; characterization of the resources for economic development; assessment of the weaknesses in the economic development of the area; identifying opportunities for the future development of Yambol District. The subject of analysis include key indicators of economic development for the period 2012-2015. Based on the findings made in the analytical section on the state of the regional economy, the Yambol Region should focus its efforts on project proposals aimed at creating an innovative environment that supports the entrepreneurial activity on the territory of the region.

**Keywords:** regional analysis regional economy Yambol District

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РЕГИОНАЛНИ ПРОБЛЕМИ И РЕШЕНИЯ ЗА ПОВИШАВАНЕ НА БИЗНЕС  
АКТИВНОСТТА (ОБЩИНА КАЗАНЛЪК)  
**REGIONAL PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS FOR INCREASING BUSINESS  
ACTIVITY (KAZANLAK MUNICIPALITY)**

*Student Valentin Krlev*

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The main objective of the survey is to determine the retention factors in the business environment of Kazanlak municipality and the opportunities for the improvements based on an analysis of local business conditions. The tasks following the main objective are: to study the theoretical aspects of the entrepreneurial activity; assessment of entrepreneurial activity in Bulgaria; trends in the business environment in Bulgaria; characteristic of the regional economy of Kazanlak municipality; conducting a survey on the problems and opportunities for increasing business activity in Kazanlak municipality. The subject of the study includes characteristics of the local economy, the problems and opportunities for improving the

business environment. The object of the study includes the economy of Kazanlak municipality and the economic entities in the municipality.

**Keywords:** local business environment Kazanlak municipality

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ОБУЧЕНИЕТО В СПЕЦИАЛНОСТ "РЕГИОНАЛНА ИКОНОМИКА"-  
ПРЕДПОСТАВКА ЗА УСПЕШНА РЕАЛИЗАЦИЯ НА ПАЗАРА НА ТРУДА  
**THE TRAINING IN THE SPECIALTY REGIONAL ECONOMY - A  
PREREQUISITE FOR SUCCESSFUL REALIZATION IN THE LABOR MARKET**

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The challenges facing the educational system in Bulgaria are many and varied. The main problem is not so much in the financing of higher education as in the development of a specific profile of the jobseekers allowing fast realization in the labor market, according to their subjective perceptions of satisfaction. The aim of the article is to define the strengths and weaknesses of the training in the specialty "Regional Economy" and on this basis to define some actions for the optimization of the educational process in the context of the successful realization in the labor market. The methodology is based on a survey conducted amongst current and former students of the specialty Regional Economics of the Faculty of Economics. The results indicate the need for policy to update current plans and programs.

**Keywords:** Education, Qualification, Smart growth, Labor market

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ВЪЗДЕЙСТВИЯТА НА ЕВРОПЕЙСКАТА КОХЕЗИОННА ПОЛИТИКА НА  
ФИНАНСИРАНЕ ВЪРХУ БЪЛГАРСКАТА ИКОНОМИКА  
**THE IMPACTS OF EU COHESION POLICY FUNDING ON THE BULGARIAN  
ECONOMY**

*Dora Deleva*

*Euro Invest Consult Deleva Ltd*

The purpose of this report is to show the development of the European Cohesion Funding Policy, its main levers and instruments in Bulgaria, to look at the main strands, the planned and paid subsidies.

Statistical and comparative methods are used. Through them are presented the results achieved in Bulgaria. The conclusions are that European Cohesion Funds are very important for the development of the Bulgarian economy and continue to be a key factor in it. The membership of Bulgaria in the European Union has positively influenced the development of the Bulgarian economy.

**Keywords:** EU funds, Bulgaria, growing, results