

СЕКЦИЯ 1:
**РАЗВИТИЕ И УПРАВЛЕНИЕ НА РЕГИОНИТЕ В ПРЕХОДА КЪМ ЗЕЛЕНА
ИКОНОМИКА**
SECTION 1:
**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE IN THE TRANSITION TO A GREEN
ECONOMY**

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РАЗВИТИЕ НА ПЕРИФЕРНИ РЕГИОНИ В КОНТЕКСТА НА ПАРАДИГМАТА ЗА БИОИКОНОМИКА
DEVELOPMENT OF PERIPHERAL REGIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BIOECONOMY PARADIGM

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One of the persistent problems of the socio-economic development of a number of European regions is the continuing trend of dominant "center-periphery" relations. EU cohesion policy is expected to deliver results through national policies and programs, including targeted support for lagging regions. To date, the question is not simply whether national measures have the expected impacts, but whether policy and practice priorities reflect current goals for tackling current challenges and technological advances. The aim of this study includes: to identify the trends in the development of one of the typical peripheral regions in Bulgaria - Strandzha-Sakar and the structure of the regional economy; to find out if the leading factor of the identified trends is the trajectory of national economic development; the perspectives of regional bioeconomic development. The methods used are: quantitative methods of diagnostic analysis of objective statistical data, statistical and economic analyzes, subjective assessment of current practices, as well as an desk method for synthesis of accessible documentary information. The results show that good practices, as well as the identified potential, can be sustained through support measures at national and local level. In conclusion, it can be emphasized that despite the available potential, the regional ecosystem does not reflect the necessary environment to intensify the desired processes.

Key words: peripheral regions, politics, Bulgaria, bioeconomy

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СПРАВЕДЛИВИЯТ ПРЕХОД НА ЕВРОПЕЙСКИЯ ЗЕЛЕН ПАКТ И РАЗВИТИЕТО НА РЕГИОНИТЕ С
ИНТЕНЗИВЕН ВЪГЛЕДОБИВ (ПРИМЕРЪТ НА КОМПЛЕКС „МАРИЦА-ИЗТОК“ – БЪЛГАРИЯ)
**A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF
REGIONS WITH INTENSIVE COAL MINING (EXAMPLE OF MARITSA EAST COMPLEX – BULGARIA)**

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A just energy transition is an opportunity to drive a very important process of transformation of the traditional linear, waste holding economy based on fossil fuels and polluting transport to a new type of economy, driven by the circularity bio-, RES economics paradigm and environmentally responsible transport. The purpose of this study is to contribute to the identification of the direction, factors and mechanisms of the energy transition in the Marishki Basin – Bulgaria, as well as to formulate proposals related to the development of territorial plans for a just transition and the integrated development plans of the municipalities. The methods that have been applied to achieve the purpose of the research are qualitative – desk research (search for general information about the object and the subject of the research – offline and online) and an in-depth interview with leading experts (regarding the process of transition and transformation of the Maritsa East complex). In addition to subjective expert assessments, objective statistical data for the region and for the Maritsa East complex were used for the needs of the research. The object of transformation is not just the Maritsa East complex, but the economic system of the region - administrative region of Stara Zagora (NUTS 3), the municipalities where the open pit mines and energy complexes are located, as well as other municipalities from which the workforce of the energy complex is. The present work summarises the views of the leading experts and makes suggestions regarding the future economic development of the region concerned and its energy transition. The approach must be strategic - long-term and holistic, with responsible thinking and care for future generations.

Key words: European Green Deal, energy transition, regional economic development, coal mining regions

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СЪВРЕМЕННИ ПРЕДИЗВИКАТЕЛСТВА ПРЕД КЛЮЧОВИ СОЦИАЛНО-ИКОНОМИЧЕСКИ СЕКТОРИ
СОЦИАЛНИ ПРЕДИЗВИКАТЕЛСТВА В УСЛОВИЯТА НА ЦИФРОВА ТРАНСФОРМАЦИЯ
SOCIAL CHALLENGES IN THE CONDITIONS OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

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The development of digital technologies and their penetration into all spheres of economic and social life necessitates a rethinking of the approach to exploiting their exceptional potential for increasing the competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy, strengthening the supply and demand and efficiency of public services, and successfully dealing with major social challenges.

In the report we will focus on some of the most important challenges for the digital transformation for society - modern infrastructure, adequate education and training, adaptation of the labor market, improving the quality of public services, territorial development, etc. We will study the regulatory framework and trends for the development of these important processes in the EU and Bulgaria with a horizon of 2030 and will make the relevant conclusions and recommendations.

Key words: social challenges, digital transformation, territorial development, public services, public administration."

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ПРОИЗВОДСТВО НА ПРОДОВОЛСТВЕНИ ПРОДУКТИ И НАЦИОНАЛНА ПРОДОВОЛСТВЕНА
СИГУРНОСТ: СЪСТОЯНИЕ, ПРОБЛЕМИ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ
FOOD PRODUCTION AND NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY: STATUS, PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

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Food production in agriculture and food industry in Bulgaria has a great importance for the food resources formation of the country of which mostly depends the national food security. The status and challenges to the insurance of the population with food products is related to the stability of the national resources for the availability of basic food products. In this regard, in current paper there have been used the approaches for assessment of the current status of the food production, the main problems are identified and there have been substantiated guidelines for the development of the food production in the context of Bulgaria's membership in the EU. There have been outlined the critical moments and identified the main problems, related to the provision of food products to the population, where the reliability of national resources has a negative effect over the degree of food independence of the country, which as a component of the food security is also a component of the national security of the country.

Key words: food production, sources, food security

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РАВНИЩЕТО НА ИКОНОМИЧЕСКО РАЗВИТИЕ КАТО ФАКТОР ФОРМИРАЩ РЕГИОНАЛНИ
РАЗЛИЧИЯ
THE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS A FACTOR SHAPING REGIONAL DISPARITIES

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The results of some empirical studies within the EU determining the relationship between the achieved level of economic development and the specific economic structure on the one hand and the magnitude of intra-regional differences on the other are presented and analyzed. Based on comparative analysis, the expected evolution of the regional disparities in Bulgaria are defined. The possibilities for pursuing a targeted policy for achieving regional economic convergence have been assessed.

Key words: Economic level; Regional disparities; Economic structure; Regional policy

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НЕОБХОДИМОСТ ОТ ПРОВЕЖДАНЕ НА ЦЕЛЕНАСОЧЕНИ ПОЛИТИКИ ЗА РЕГИОНАЛНО РАЗВИТИЕ
В АДМИНИСТРАТИВНИТЕ ОБЛАСТИ СЛИВЕН И ШУМЕН, В КОНТЕКСТА НА РЕГИОНАЛНОТО
ИКОНОМИЧЕСКО РАЗВИТИЕ

NEED TO IMPLEMENT TARGETED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS OF SLIVEN AND SHUMEN, IN THE CONTEXT OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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The spatial characteristics of two adjacent districts in the eastern part of Bulgaria, such as the districts of Shumen and Sliven, are presented. The needs for targeted regional policies for the regional development of both areas have been identified. The points of contact between them are outlined, as well as an analysis of their demographic potential. Their potential in terms of regional connectivity in the north-south strand, as well as infrastructure opportunities for the promotion of regional economic development, has been considered. The spatial characteristics of two adjacent districts in the eastern part of Bulgaria, such as the districts of Shumen and Sliven, are presented. The needs for targeted regional policies for the regional development of both areas have been identified. The points of contact between them are outlined, as well as an analysis of their demographic potential. Their potential in terms of regional connectivity in the north-south strand, as well as infrastructure opportunities for the promotion of regional economic development, has been considered. The guidelines and opportunities for conducting policies that can have a positive impact on the development of both areas are outlined.

Key words: areas, spatial, district, regional policies, regional development, demographic, regional economic, characteristic

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ИЗМЕРВАНЕ ЕФЕКТИТЕ В РАЗВИТИЕТО НА РЕГИОНИТЕ В БЪЛГАРИЯ

MEASURING THE EFFECTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONS IN BULGARIA

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The aim of the study is to measure the effects in the economic development of the regions in Bulgaria. To achieve this goal, Eurostat data for the period 2010-2018 were used for the following indicators by NUTS 2 regions: Gross domestic product (GDP) at current market prices, Employment (thousand hours worked), Gross fixed capital formation, Compensation of employees, Unemployment by educational attainment level, Population and Households with access to the internet at home. The methodological framework of the study covers the use of the following statistical methods: stepwise regression, panel regression with fixed and random effect. The results of the study focus on the interpretation of the established cross-sectional and time-series effects. In this aspect, the best model for measuring the effects can be highlighted as the main conclusion.

Key words: GDP by regions, economic indicators by NUTS 2, stepwise regression, panel regression, fixed effect model, random effect model

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МЕТОДИЧЕСКИ ВЪПРОСИ ПРИ ПРОУЧВАНЕ НА ЕЛЕКТРОННОТО УПРАВЛЕНИЕ В РЕПУБЛИКА
БЪЛГАРИЯ

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES IN THE STUDY OF E-GOVERNMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

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Purpose. The digital transformation of processes and services is a priority for the Bulgarian society and economy. This is especially true in the context of a global pandemic. Online work and training require state and municipal administration to provide additional efforts for digitalization. In this context, the main methodological issues in the study of the e-government system in the Republic of Bulgaria will be presented. **Methods.** The applied methods are related to: analysis and evaluation of the applicable regulatory framework; analysis of the possible technological solutions for conducting surveys among the municipal administration; methods related to the possibilities for statistical analysis of the obtained results. **Results.** The main results are in the direction of clarifying the applicable methodological and technological tools for studying the degree of development of the e-government system. **Conclusions.** The

conclusions are in the direction of the achieved methodological and technological readiness for conducting a survey in the local administration.

Key words: e-government, digitalization, digital administrative services, online research

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СЪСТОЯНИЕ НА ДИГИТАЛНИТЕ АДМИНИСТРАТИВНИ УСЛУГИ В РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ STATUS OF DIGITAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

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Purpose. Digital administrative services are an essential component of the e-government system. They provide to citizens and businesses opportunities to facilitate contacts with the administration. To be developed and used, they need to be designed very carefully in advance. For this purpose, in most cases, modeling and reengineering of the main work processes is done. In this context, the study aims to present some of the results of a survey conducted among a sample of municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria. **Methods.** The applied methods are related to: preparation and conducting of an online survey; methods related to data collection and storage by the respondents; statistical methods for analysis of the obtained results. **Results.** The main results represent the degree of development of digital administrative services in the Republic of Bulgaria. They were obtained from the survey. **Conclusions.** The conclusions are in the direction of clarifying the degree of development of digital administrative services.

Key words: e-government, digitalization, digital administrative services, online research

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ПРЕДИЗВИКАТЕЛСТВА ПРЕД УПРАВЛЕНИЕТО РАЗВИТИЕТО НА ГАБРОВСКА ОБЛАСТ В КОНТЕКСТА НА ПРЕХОД КЪМ ЗЕЛЕНА ИКОНОМИКА CHALLENGES FACING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT OF GABROVO DISTRICT IN CONTEXT OF GREEN ECONOMY TRANSITION

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Gabrovo district is one of the administrative areas with very low level of socio-economic development in Bulgaria. The effects from this negative tendency is non balanced demographic structure, high age of domestic population and fast decrease of population number. In other side Gabrovo has good performance in European funds absorption. In 2020 European union has adopted The Green Deal. It is important to underline that EU starts the new program cycle 2021 - 2027.

The aim of this research is to analyze socio-economic terms in Gabrovo district and to point out challenges for the region development and management in the context of The Green Deal. The author will uses a complex of different approaches and methods as system and spatial approaches and comparison, descriptive and analytical methods. The expected results from the research is defining problems and opportunities for Gabrovo district green development and management.

Main conclusions are:

1. Knowledge management enforcement for better processes' management
2. Gasification of municipalities in Gabrovo administrative area
3. Improvement of relation among resources - financing - regulation for green economy enforcement
4. Agglomeration improvement Gabrovo - Sevlievo
5. Proactive local policy for green energy, innovation, waste and business adoption and management.

Key words: Gabrovo district, green economy, regional development, regional management, knowledge management

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БИОИКОНОМИКАТА КАТО ИНОВАТИВЕН ПОДХОД ЗА РАЗВИТИЕ НА СЕЛСКИТЕ РАЙОНИ В КОНТЕКСТА НА ОСП НА ЕС BIOECONOMY AS AN INNOVATIVE APPROCH TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN EU

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Bioeconomy is an innovative approach in the economy of the region, aimed at integrating the available natural and labor resources, production facilities, the achievements of science in the field of innovation technologies related to the production of material goods, the conversion of production and energy in the direction of fuller utilization of organic and mineral sources as a raw material resource for achieving sustainable development in the field of production and consumption, stable economic development and growth living standards of the population while protecting the environment and resources. The aim of the report is to analyze the possibilities for applying the bioeconomy in rural areas through research and innovation, stimulating private investment, developing new value chains and engaging stakeholders. The role of the CAP in supporting and financing activities of the bio and circular economy models is argued.

Key words: Bioeconomy; CAP; circular economy; environment; resources

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УСПЕШНО РАЗВИТИЕ НА СЕЛСКИТЕ РАЙОНИ В СЕВЕРОИЗТОЧНА БЪЛГАРИЯ ЧРЕЗ СЪЗДАВАНЕ И ВНЕДРЯВАНЕ НА СОФТУЕРЕН ПРОДУКТ ЗА ПРОИЗВОДИТЕЛИ НА МЛЯКО И МЛЕЧНИ ПРОДУКТИ **SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS IN NORTHEASTERN BULGARIA BY CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING A SOFTWARE PRODUCT FOR MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCERS**

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A large portion of the territory of Bulgaria, more than 80%, falls within the so-called rural areas. The situation is similar with the European Union, with more than 85% of its territory falling within these specific areas, whereas rural areas in the United States of America encompass more than 90% of the territory of the states. Naturally certain nuance differences exist in the definitions that different countries in the world use to define an area as a rural area and this report reviews these specifics. One of the main features of rural areas globally is that they are predominantly linked to the development of agrarian business and the processing operations related thereto. A portion of these particular activities are related to the development of livestock breeding and the production of milk and dairy derivatives. The purpose of this report is to encompass and analyze the advantages of the creation, the implementation and approbation of software product in the production and processing of milk and dairy products in Northeastern Bulgaria. Methods used: deduction, induction, programming, method of analysis and synthesis. Several main conclusions have been made in the scientific report, with the general conclusion being that on the basis of the computer program developed and implemented in practice, an easier method of work is ensured, while taking into account the specific pre-production and production processes, as well as processing operations in the area of dairy production and the creation of complete dairy products with added value. The developed specialized information system in the area of milk production and processing of dairy products encompasses all important elements, inherent to the pre-production, production and commercial processes. This includes the specific criteria for 18 categories of milk with specific characteristics, type and quality. An important functionality of the computer program is that it summarizes monthly results. Based on these monthly results specific decisions are taken regarding the received monthly results as regards to the differences between the purchased and the sold milks with the purpose of minimizing specific losses.

Key words: rural areas, software product, computer program, milk and dairy products

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РАЗПРЕДЕЛЕНИЕ НА ПРАВОМОЩИЯТА МЕЖДУ ВЛАСТИТЕ ПРИ ПРЕДОСТАВЯНЕ НА ПУБЛИЧНИ УСЛУГИ В ЕС

RESPONSIBILITIES DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT FOR PUBLIC SERVICES DELIVERY IN EU COUNTRIES

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The main goal of the article is to review and analyze the pros and cons when public services are provided by different levels of government in EU countries. Methods such as analysis and synthesis, comparative method, mathematical and statistical are used for achieving the goal. The results will clarify the distribution of responsibilities for public services delivery in EU countries, which seek to fully cover the principle of subsidiarity stated in the European Charter of Local Self-Government. Transferring more powers will lead to new responsibilities for local government and it needs to be more effective, as larger municipalities would be able to cover all requested faster and better. The conclusions are related to the more efficient and effective distribution of public services between different levels of government.

Key words: Public services, decentralization, government

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ОКОЛНА СРЕДА И ЗДРАВΟΣЛОВНИ ЖИЗНЕНИ СТИЛОВЕ: СТРУКТУРНИ И ИНТЕРСЕКЦИОНАЛНИ АСПЕКТИ НА ЗДРАВЕТО И БОЛЕСТТА В МЕДИЦИНСКАТА СОЦИОЛОГИЯ
ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH LIFESTYLES: STRUCTURAL AND INTERSECTIONAL ASPECTS OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS IN MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY

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Goals and Methods: The paper traces the effects of the environment and other structural factors on individual health and illness, as analysed theoretically by Medical Sociology. More particularly, it focuses on the interplay between structural factors in sociology and individual agency, i.e. the extent to which one's health is a matter of personal choice or affected by macrosocial factors, such as living conditions, social status, race/ethnicity, gender, age and etc. **Results and conclusions:** An imaginary debate between an expanded economic view on health (Becker 1979) and a sociological perspective (Cockerham 2013) will be staged to weigh out different standpoints and the insistence on the primacy of either of the factors. William Cockerham's health lifestyles (Cokerham 2013) will be analysed (an extension of the traditions of Max Weber and Pierre Bourdieu), as an interplay between life chances and life choices, stressing the primacy of structural factors, without disregarding individual agency, however, within the confines of particular structural restrictions. The intersectionality of structural factors will be examined and their overall mutual reinforcement and re-definition. Finally, a claim will be made for the need to connect environmental health with preventive medicine (Hall 1990).

Key words: environment, health lifestyles, Medical sociology, structure and agency, intersectionality

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ПАНДЕМИЯТА COVID-19 КАТО СЪВРЕМЕННО ПРЕДИЗВИКАТЕЛСТВО И ОПРЕДЕЛЯЩ ФАКТОР НА ПРИОРИТЕТИТЕ НА ГРАЖДАНИТЕ НА ЕС
COVID-19 PANDEMIC AS A CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGE AND DETERMINANT OF EU CITIZENS' PRIORITIES

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It is inevitable that the COVID-19 pandemic is a main contemporary challenge for key socio-economic sectors. It is a challenge mainly for the healthcare systems but its effects on the economies are rather significant as well. Furthermore COVID-19 has led to transformations in the values and priorities of the societies. Thus, the purpose of the current study is to identify the dynamics of the priorities of the EU citizens in the last five years. The object of the research is EU member states in the period 2016-2020. The focus is priorities of their citizens, measured by Eurobarometer. The methods include a secondary processing of quantitative data form Eurobarometer spring waves of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 as well as the wave, performed in the Summer of 2020. The results show that there is a certain level of dynamics in the priorities of the EU citizens in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and we can conclude that in general the priorities have remained the same, but the pandemic raised the concerns about the economic development, unemployment, and health.

Key words: COVID-19, European Union, Eurobarometer, citizens, priorities

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РОЛЯТА НА МЕСТНИТЕ ИНИЦИАТИВНИ ГРУПИ ЗА РАЗВИТИЕ НА СЕЛСКИТЕ РАЙОНИ В БЪЛГАРИЯ
THE ROLE OF LOCAL ACTION GROUPS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN BULGARIA

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Over the last decade, local action groups (LAGs) in Bulgaria have become key organizations supporting the implementation of projects important for rural development. Prerequisites for this are the unique characteristics of the LEADER / CLLD approach, which allow empowerment of the population, capacity building combined with providing access to financial resources, as well as building trust and accumulation of social capital. The aim of this study is based on the analyses of the activities of LAGs in the country, to outline the challenges facing these organizations and to reveal their potential for sustainable development of rural areas. The case study method is

applied. The results of the study show a significant potential of LAGs to accelerate the socio-economic processes in rural areas.

Key words: LAGs, rural development, entrepreneurship

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ПОВТОРНОТО ИНВЕСТИЦИОННО ИЗПОЛЗВАНЕ НА „КАФЯВИ ПОЛЕТА“ (BROWNFIELD) КАТО ИНСТРУМЕНТ ЗА ОГРАНИЧАВАНЕ ТЕРИТОРИАЛНОТО РАЗРАСТВАНЕ НА НАСЕЛЕНИТЕ МЕСТА В БЪЛГАРИЯ

THE REINVESTMENT USE OF BROWNFIELDS AS A TOOL TO LIMIT THE TERRITORIAL EXPANSION OF SETTLEMENTS IN BULGARIA

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Purpose: The aim set by the author of the study is to consider the good European practices for the restoration and reuse of "Brownfields" and on this basis to outline the possibilities for the application of these practices in Bulgaria in order to limit the territorial expansion of settlements at the expense of nonurbanized areas.

Methods

The specifics of the researched problem determine as the most appropriate the following methods of scientific research: method of documentary analysis; method of comparison; analysis and synthesis.

Outcomes

The possibilities for reusing Brownfield in Bulgaria are emerging.

Conclusions

The reuse of the so called "Brownfields" combine the benefits of environmental, economic and social development by leading to more sustainable development of settlements, as well as reducing the use and construction of green areas and nonurbanized land for the construction of new buildings and infrastructure (social and technical).

Key words: Brownfields, Reuse, Settlements, Sustainable development, Nonurbanized areas

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"ЗЕЛЕНА АРХИТЕКТУРА" В ОБЩАТА СЕЛСКОСТОПАНСКА ПОЛИТИКА НА ЕВРОПА В ПЕРИОДА 2021-2027- ИДЕИ И НАСОКИ

"GREEN ARCHITECTURE" IN THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY OF EUROPE IN THE PERIOD 2021-2027 - IDEAS AND GUIDELINES

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The aim of the report is to clarify the concept of "green architecture" in the context of the new CAP in the period 2021-2027. The methods used are analysis of the literature and official regulations of the EU and the Member States. The result is an outline of the ideas of "green architecture". The conclusion is focused on the future effect of it for the Member States of the EU.

Key words: Green Architecture, CAP, environment, agriculture, climate.

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АНАЛИЗ НА ИНФОРМАЦИЯТА ЗА ПОЗИЦИОНИРАНЕ НА КОМПАНИИ С ОПЕРАЦИИ В СОФИЯ И 24-ТЕ РАЙОНА НА СТОЛИЧНА ОБЩИНА

ANALYSIS OF THE INFORMATION FOR POSITIONING OF COMPANIES WITH OPERATIONS IN SOFIA AND THE 24 DISTRICTS OF THE CAPITAL MUNICIPALITY

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Purpose of this study is to summarize the distribution of companies in different regions of the capital - by type of industry and the size of annual turnover of the enterprise. Information for 116 companies was analyzed. The study included companies with an annual turnover of up to EUR 50 million (93 companies), up to EUR 100 million (11 companies), up to EUR 250 million (also 11 companies), and with over EUR 250 million annual turnover. The presented data are from November 2020. Conclusion. The presented results outline the direction of development of the individual regions at the moment and enable potential investors to follow the development of the city.

Key words: Map of Industries: Head Offices in Sofia by Regions

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ВЪЗМОЖНОСТИ ЗА РАЗВИТИЕ НА ТРАНСПОРТНИТЕ ВРЪЗКИ МЕЖДУ РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ И РЕПУБЛИКА СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЯ

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

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Purpose of the study

The transport infrastructure of the Republic of Northern Macedonia is mostly a legacy of Socialist Yugoslavia. The transport connections in the north-south direction are very well organized. The situation with the other - east-west direction is different. This is a challenge to the development of relations (including economic) with the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Bulgaria. Some of the reasons for the delay in transport connections are purely geographical, related to the peculiarities of the terrain.

The study examines the possibilities for the development of transport connections on alternative routes.

Research method

The study analyzes the issue from a purely geographical point of view.

Results

The research is aimed at the result for formulating recommendations for the development of alternative routes in the east-west direction.

Conclusions

The conclusion of the study is that the lack of connectivity between the Republic of Northern Macedonia and the Republic of Bulgaria on the one hand and the Republic of Northern Macedonia and the Republic of Albania on the other can be overcome gradually by developing more routes to improve connections and economic environment regions."

Key words: Bulgaria Republic of North Macedonia, connections