

## FEATURES AND ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL ECONOMY OF BULGARIA

**Abstract:** The object of the study of regional development planning. In this territory has formed smaller administrative units of different ranks, study their structure and behavior as a prerequisite to understand the core of their vital activity designed mainly through their development and regional development. In our country these distinct areas are subject to our research and ensuing problems with their administrative spatial planning and overall implementation of policies for regional development. In order development has put the settlement structure that forms the basis of the existence and interaction of society and thus offers geo-demographic characteristics of the territory.

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### Author information:

**Kamen Petrov**

Associate Professor, PhD  
🌐 Bulgraia

### Keywords:

spatial development, difference, "special" geography, management, society, planning

### Introduction

The introduction to the problems of regional development and the regional economy requires a specialized approach of spatial development of the individual territorial communities. So the combination population and urban structure highlights approaches and methods for use in the most efficient way of territorial resources, including the potential of poles / development centers. First make attempts to systematize these problems is Varenus (1622-1650), which distinguishes "General" and "special" geography. The difference between them is the focus of special Geography places and regions as broader territory in places. This helps using mathematics to support geographic description. This gives us ground later to assume that planning is an element of polycentric development that takes into account the various ongoing grades as well as in horizontal and in vertical direction and economic processes phenomena stimulating competition in the development of society and cooperation between the major urban centers of each level. In this direction, the purpose of our study is to highlight those processes of regionalization and regionalization that could promote regional development policies and secondly to show deficits accumulated tradition of the structure and management of regional communities in Bulgaria. This approach requires in structural terms to conceptual approaches to the problems of the device and the vitality of the national territory on the one hand and on the other side of the evaluation and analysis of selected models of polycentric development and structuring settlements locations corresponding rank and importance. In this direction, we must consider the state variable related to a state of nature and society. So if recline on possibilism Paul Vidal de la Blache (1845-1918). it connects physical environment of human culture and lifestyle. Its territorial views are landscapes with common but at all costs and with their unique traits. Namely their uniqueness makes them well assembled "army" of which human vision can bring powerful new industries and to seek optimal disposition of population. De la Blache tries to explain why in a natural environment has different foods, different ethno-confessional and other structure of the population. In this Carl Sauer direction only survives classical paradigm "to describe the world" and placed in its center the man. It ranks among the humanists in geography to "read" a new way cultural geography. Here comes the pleasure of way of life, including the choice of location for the realization of this life. The explanation the world can only be done through the use of human experience in finding the right places to life. This is largely related to the delineation of groups of different problems order who are depending on planning the territory and

direct depending on its socio-economic base and development opportunities. So regionally take place a number of processes and phenomena whose description having to derive the relationship between multiple input and multiple other surface mines output variables impact on the territory. Practically this pattern of regression of the territory must emphasize the dependence of the outcome of many variables they are called factors regressors or predictors. This allows to make descriptive part acquisition processes and phenomena, or in other words how the existing environment and development scheme. In context of change or when we have external influences affecting the described system and reported on the model, they lead to a change in the territorial plan and perceived impact or input independent variables influencing regional development of the various territorial communities. All this suggests that regional development is definitely functional and has its own cycles and adaptability to the changing environment and patterns of socio-economic development. This suggests that the problems of regionalization and regionalization to highlight the essence of administrative territorial structure of the country. In theory it could order "to define as an integral defining part of the organization of the state, including separation the national territory of the administrative territorial units (ATU) to rational flow of basic socio-economic processes and implementation of state power in the territory. Respectively substantial matter remains and location of the population itself is its urban structure for example, to 31.12.2015 around 42% of the national territory is in the process accelerated depopulation, and in another 15% of that observed indicators for that. Worsening national disproportion village-town at the end of 2015 nearly 5,145,000 e., or 75% of the population lives in cities, and 1.755 million people, or 25% in villages. According to Yi Fu Tuan in his "Space and Place" (1977) and man his place is not determined only from read books, I saw cards but still more than the practice that he acquired directly on the field.

### **1. The need for regionalization and making regions of Bulgaria.**

With the accession of Bulgaria to the European Union comes to the fore and the concept of polycentric development of urban structures of countries national and European context. This in turn creates the necessary expectations reducing existing regional disparities and ensuring a level playing field a general economic and social development. An important contribution is the availability of connecting infrastructure quality and capacity. Development of balanced and functional polycentric system of cities is a prerequisite, but also the objective of sustainable spatial development (defined at EU level by spatial planning documents such as the European perspective spatial development (ESDP), the Territorial Agenda of the European Union and Leipzig Charter) in theoretical and applied nature, they are part of territorial systems fall within the field of regional science. The aim of any regional policy (regional economic development strategy) is in search of balanced regional development in which, on the one hand, regional economic differences may play a positive role as far as the differences are always a stimulus for development, on the other hand, do not give rise acute socio-economic problems in regional terms. Returning on spatial development spatial plan of the country holding the settlements, social and economic infrastructure, density and population are not evenly spaced. This due to three main factors that influence in various historical stages in the development of Bulgaria: natural, historical and economic. In fact, back in the nineteenth century the final perceive territorial approach places and *topos* as important elements to fill the space. It is alleging Friedrich Ratzel and Hetner imposed by their spatial (Chorological) concept. Both emphasize on the material space by Ratzel develop political geography through the concept of living space, and Hetner "under the laws of beauty" writes about the aesthetics of the landscape and aesthetic geography. The central role of space and the location is seen in the work of Martin Heidegger from the late XIX and early XX century. He sees the world as a home and vice versa. Trying to "sort" home-based world requirements of nature and reminiscent of the Hellenistic-Roman concepts, where the south means heat and the northern means cold. In the theoretical order, we can assume that authors seek appropriate structure to reflect the existing system, but to change or find problems in it in order to equilibrium and development have to bring to the fore the poles of development in it. Overall the approach to poles of development can be characterized generally as part of spatial / settlement structures that are attractive for investment and living as they have certain properties. It is for example more number and density of population, economic capacity above average, modern transport and technical

infrastructure, skilled labor force, representation of sectors with high added value, concentration capacity for research and development and higher education institutions (Colleges and universities), potential for innovation. On the other hand, we can accept the thesis of leading regionalists that there are existing development axes for Bulgaria as a developed transport and communications infrastructure. These are Sofia - Varna, Ruse and Burgas - development axes that are formed as a result of previously established economic relations with the countries of the former Soviet Union. The new economic realities and the development of our relations with EU countries suggest the formation of further development axes in the direction of Western Europe as an emerging major trading partner of Bulgaria. Of course the new geo-economic realities give us reason to conclude that for Bulgaria more important is the movement in the direction of "North-South", part of which can emerge from the economic interaction between Sofia and Thessaloniki - with further direction to Athens. Remains current and direction of „East- West" and especially Sofia-Nish- Belgrade and Budapest on the north and west of Zagreb. Continuation of this axis of development in the opposite direction Sofia-Istanbul toward the Middle East. The question is which of the two strands has a greater significance. So another economic axis with a particularly positive outlook and growth potential can be found in the construction of the third bridge at Silistra, which will have important multilateral positive effect. It should be noted that direction Silistra-Shumen-Yambol- Lesovo Istanbul, is also called to build a strong infrastructure newly established axis for economic development of the entire Northeast region planning, and later found a sequel in Razgrad Rousse, Bucharest and Budapest to Central Europe . Necessary economic prerequisites for the rapid development of these new axes are present, but their implementation will depend not only on economic but also of political cooperation in South Eastern Europe. The construction of these new economic axes of development involves the improvement and expansion of infrastructure of trans-European transport corridors. In practice in Bulgaria pass routes 5 of 10 transport infrastructure corridors. In order pragmatic development of Bulgaria's infrastructure is the key to future regional development of our territory. In practice, only the construction of the infrastructure is not enough, it is necessary to proceed to a ***new region-creating*** and region-creating of the country. So from an economic point of view the present and future development of regional communities goes through the process of zoning the territory and creating opportunities for economic development through respective cores and axes and poles of regional development. In this respect the role of socio economic zoning is to establish differences in the territories and to propose measures for their solution, to rationally exploit the potential of areas with the aim of improving people's lives. In this respect it is worth to take into account the analysis of place setting of Boyadzhiev who takes "place" is a key concept for the concentrate location. Using the human experience space becomes a place, which means that you specify. There is a need for an assessment of ideas for space. Another important feature on the process of areas are border areas. Border mutual influences of the surrounding territory. It is a linear or area in which the transition is not abrupt. And in both cases is an important contrast between foreclosed natural or social phenomena. As the contrast is greater, the greater is the dividing function of the boundary, and vice versa. Border classic is the antithesis of the center, but with minor differences between separation phenomena she could play the role of center. The creation of EU traditional centers of countries in Western Europe are far from borders and border territory LDCs. Today, the situation is just the opposite and interstate Granny s are places adducts population and economic activities due to the possibility to enjoy the strong resources of neighboring countries. The structure of the spatial organization of society interacts spatial / geographic / division of labor processes equal formation and complexation. The territorial division of labor is closely associated with spatial differentiation of natural and socio-economic conditions, the territorial concentration of production and population spatial specialization and economic structure of the regions, development and placement of production and social infrastructure, the use of labor and migration of population the integration of labor, the cultural aspect and the provision of ecological balance. Diverse forms of spatial organization of society and their components determine the need for research on various regional numbers of sciences: economic, social, geographical. The specifics of the social economic geography is defined by integrity, approach to learning objects. Unlike the sciences dealing with different components and functionality, argue publicly-structural formations, she studied production and

territorial complexes and socio-economic systems. They last appeared main form of spatial organization of society.

## **2. The features of zoning and regionalization as processes.**

Under socio-economic territorial system means economic and socially efficient combinations of interrelated elements of society, purposeful functioning of a particular territory as units of public / in that direction and territorial division of labor and integration of labor. Main elements of the socio-economic territorial systems appear objects of material production, non-production sphere and demographic resources. In this population and objects of the service sector relate to social and sites mining and processing sphere - to the economic elements of the systems. Both a social and economic element of the system can be viewed workforce. In terms of public consumption, the workforce has a social character, but from the standpoint of production - it is an important economic category. In all socio-territorial systems economical seen or population in connection with the holding or farm on population. The system has certain territorial scope. The area serves as a protection, securing space community social and economic elements of the system, thanks to which it differs from other structures on the specifics of development and management. With a territory are linked and characteristics of natural conditions and resources, which are the basis for the development of demographic and economic processes. Thus socio-economic zoning developed in two main areas: scientific objectives and implementation of practical skills in the areas of implementation of a targeted policy and proper management. Issues of socio-economic zoning have always been the subject of study by the Bulgarian economic geography. The first attempts to zoning on the territory of Bulgaria were made by Anastas Beshkov in 1934. It offers country be divided into seven economic regions: Western- Myza, Middle-Myza, Eastern- Myza, Sofia, Pirinski-Thracian Rhodope and South. The next stage in which it is proposed to have a new economic division is the period 1952 ÷ 1953. Formed conference BAS featuring a wide range economic- geographic express the view that "economic division of the country does not match the existing scheme of administrative-territorial units' districts and municipalities." Of discussion Acad. Beshkov again proposed scheme for the area 7 of 1934. That imposed by Ignat Penkov, which supports the view that "administrative-territorial units" counties "are economic development, in other words there is coverage of the administrative units with economic development. Another scheme that is offered is that of Tyanko Yordanov from five economic regions: North, East, South, Mariska-Rodopi and South. A team led by Hristo Marinov offers country to be divided into three regions: northern Bulgaria, western Bulgaria and Southern Bulgaria. Intensive development and studies conducted during 1956 ÷ 1960. The results of the research are published in the "Geography of Bulgaria" Volume II in 1961, And "Economic zoning of NRB", 1963. By offering a total 10 schemes zoning, which include production, demographic and socio-economic activities and more. Another scheme that should be considered in this study is on the lower hierarchical units: sub-regions and micro offered by a team of BAS (1983). Large part of the geographic consider areas like formations formed by interconnected sub-regions. Each sub-region is formed by a different number of micro regions with varying degrees of social and economic status. For micro accepted former districts, the current municipal centers. Studies in which were proven all above listed hierarchical units, mainly from 1965. until 1985. As a final result of research and analysis led to the formation of the nine socio-economic areas: South-eastern, Western Up- Thracian- Rodopski, Eastern Uo-Thracian-Rodopski, South-eastern, North-eastern littoral, North-eastern near-Danuabe, Yantrianian, Vit- Osam and North-western team of BAS (1989). To reduce the critical minimum, the negative effects of improper and irrational administrative division is looking for new models and approaches both at national and at regional and local level. It became increasingly clear that implementation of most departmental and sectoral policies to solve these problems throughout the country do not give the desired results. Therefore, their solution is already looking at cross-industry level through the use of instruments and mechanisms of regional policy. Regional policy has pronounced integral character.

## **3. Approaches to regional spatial planning of the Republic of Bulgaria.**

Regional development is the science of management, administration and the economy of the territory in terms of establishing functional patterns of territorial development. The center of the system is surrounded by concentric sector-functional area. When approaching the limits of the system reduces

the number of functions in the field. By moving away from the center of the system, the field shows high selectivity spheres of human activity and is the smallest functional load. This approach is associated scheme for the diffusion of innovation / concretization of statistical regularities / a Swedish scientist Haogerstrand known later as a model "center-periphery".

The hierarchical approach explores the manifestation of *taksonomicheskite* ranks of functioning systems. Territorial systems such as spatial forms of life of the community are characterized by hierarchical subordination. The taxonomic status of each system is measured on the basis of the analysis and synthesis of system-connections. In manifestation of hierarchical taxonomists into account all types of connections as only their combination forms an organic integrity system. Usually separate macro, meso and micro. All these levels of ranks include several administrative-formed and unshaped taxonomists. It should be noted that no such effective methods for objectively determining the amount of levels in the hierarchy of systems of every kind. In existing proposals for structuring systems are used heuristic methods based on expert assessments and quality characteristics for the operation of a particular system. Therefore, depending on the purpose of the study of one or another structure may be separated different amount hierarchical subsystems.

It is necessary to observe the unity between the functional and hierarchical structure of the systems. Each functional subsystem has its own spatial organization of elements oriented natural, economic, environmental, social, historical, demographic and others conditions and resources. All hierarchical levels, have a crucial role in the socio-economic system-executed production subsystems. The connections between the units of the system examines German geographer C. Kristaler and in 1933 developed a spatial model and the theory of central places. It found that the settlements are located in geographic space in a certain order and depending on their location and size have different functions. This requires time to seek optimal models of spatial development and effective regional policies to impose new spatial and territorial division.

In 1959 committed new administrative-territorial division of country. Overall it was dictated by the objective processes of social economic development of the country. Many experts agree that this reform is not the most successful, as Dimitrov (2015) considers that "most of the county centers are settlements with established administrative functions, exercising considerable gravitational potential in terms of territory adjoining. This is evidenced by the fact that most of them (109) are scientifically proven in making the 70s of XX century. The Micro regions of the country. "Mentioned above author brings new administrative structure and the territorial division of the existing 14 counties of 30, including 3 cities: Sofia, Plovdiv and Varna. The number of municipalities reaches 979, which they are divided into urban and rural, and are formed on the principle of existing over 5300 settlements. In 1964 the districts of Plovdiv City and Varna city were closed after which until 1987 their number was set at 28 totally 19. In practice in this period the foundations of progressive centralization of government because 14 district cities are more developed than county centers, they also have opportunities for sharper industrial profile. The increase to 28 county towns leads to overestimation of 14 district centers and clean additional load them with economic and social functions, and the rest district centers are assimilated to municipalities and naturally they go to decline and fall under gravity of the regional centers. In this period actually strengthens and bureaucracy in county towns and they increasingly resemble administrative centers and begin to reduce the economic importance of pull-economic development of the country. This may largely be regarded as a controversial decision, mainly due to an increase in the concentration of responsibilities in the municipal center and reduce the flexibility of local government. The number of municipalities was established in 3984. In the areas delegated only certain features of supra-municipal significance - mainly control and coordination. In practice, the reduction of 979 municipalities of 249 sets new problems for the regional development of the country due to the fact that municipalities in this period have already built socio-economic profile in consolidation quickly loses accumulated branch connections and flexibility territorial communities and become stunted incumbent to practice effective self-government. The new communities are a juxtaposition of purely urban areas to rural areas, which sets new sets of problems in transition after 1989 for sustainable form of local government. In order to develop a territory, it is necessary to help solve economic and social problems in the area. So after 1990 think about the return of a large number of municipalities in the range of 545

and linking them with branch and economic nature, as the smallest municipalities should not be less than 2,500. Work is also on view to introduce 45 districts and 14 regions, but ultimately selected model introduction of 28 districts and 265 municipalities. As with the adoption of the new Constitution from 12.07.1991, the start to adopt and packages laws governing local government and regional development in Bulgaria. In 1999 was adopted and the Law on regional development 21 in which define the object, the object and purpose spatial and territorial management of our national territory. Regional Development Act is the formal mark a new stage, which seeks to solve the main problems of regional development policy and conceptual transition to integrated, financially secure and publicly proclaimed and observed regional policy.

So today the Republic of Bulgaria occupies an area of 110.9 thousand. Square kilometers at the end of 2016 has a population of 7.23 million people. Bulgaria is divided into six planning regions (NUTS 2 level), 28 districts (NUTS 3) and 264 municipalities (LAU 1). According to the European typology of "urban-rural" areas, 15 areas are mostly rural, 12 - intermediate, and only one is established as a predominantly urban area (Sofia-Capital). Mostly rural area have 59.49 thousand sq. Km and a population 2719 thousand people but intermediate - respectively 50.13 thousand sq. Km and 3263 thousand. People (Table 1). The population density in mostly rural areas is 47 people per square km, and is similar to that in the EU-27 (51 in 2011). The population density in the intermediate areas is 67 people per square km, and is much lower than the average for the EU-28 (108 in 2015).

In 2016 mainly rural areas occupy 54% of the country, which is close to the average for the EU-27 (52%) and new EU Member States without Croatia (EU 12) (57%). The share of the population in mostly rural areas is 37% of the population of Bulgaria, and is significantly higher than the EU-27 (23% in 2010), but almost equal to that in the EU12 (40% in 2010 years).

It is aimed at establishing rules for the allocation and use of funds for regional development and settlement of relations between the agents of regional development and the creation of conditions to meet the requirements of the EU's regional policy. Law should be viewed not as an end but as a beginning of a long and difficult process. It was followed by the development of a significant number of regulations, establishment and strengthening of a new institutional organization, carrying out intensive process planning. At national level, ultimate responsibility for the formulation and implementation of regional policy is the Council of Ministers. He adopted the National Plan for Regional Development (NPRD) and the National Economic Development Plan (NDP) annual report on the implementation of the Regional Development Plan and its update sets special impact areas, the coordination of central and local executive authorities and their administrations. Members of the Administration Council of Ministers is a separate Directorate "Regional Coordination", which supports the government and provides methodological assistance to local bodies of executive power, prepares opinions on regional development projects and others. "Economic Policy" and "European Integration" coordinate and monitoring implementation the national plan for economic development and national investment programs and participate in the preparation of programs financed by the EU. For coordinating the regional policy at national level a Council for Regional Development Council of Ministers, whose members are the majority of ministers, regional governors and a representative of National Association of Municipalities in Republic of Bulgaria. The Council shall coordinate NRDP prior to its submission to the Cabinet and coordinates the activities of ministries and agencies with a regional character, coordinates the annual plan accounts extra budgetary funds pronounced impact on regional development consider major infrastructure projects approved allocation of funds to build roads and municipal roads and others. Central role in formulation and implementation of regional development policy has Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works. It implements the state and develops policy objectives and priorities of the state strategy on Regional Development, organizes the development, implementation and control implementation of the Regional Development Plan submitted to the Council of Ministers an annual report on implementation the plan render methodological assistance to other authorities in the development and implementation of NRDP. At regional level the main responsibility for conducting regional policy and coordination of national and local interests is the governor. It implements the state policy; coordinate the work of the executive authorities and their administrations region and their interaction with the local authority; organizes the

development and implementation of regional strategies and programs for regional development; interact with local authorities and local administration. Regional governors interact also with the territorial structures of trade unions, employers' organizations, organizations for social protection and NGOs. In performing its functions the governor is assisted by departments of regional development in regional administrations (which tend to have 3-4 employees). In regional centers were established territorial units of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (Works) (with 1 employee) that support the planning, coordination and control of implementation of the plans. As regional administrations and territorial units of Works have very limited experience in programming, implementation, monitoring, funding of programs and projects for regional development. Municipalities play a specific role in regional planning and implementation of regional development policy. As a self-governing administrative - territorial units they are autonomous bodies to manage and own, albeit limited financial resources. Local authorities are the main generator of ideas, initiatives and regional development projects, a key partner of the central authorities in the preparation of regional development plans, including and through the participation of their representatives in district councils for regional development commissions for economic and social cohesion in the planning regions and nationally - by a representative of the National Association of Municipalities in Republic of Bulgaria in the Regional Council Development Ministers. They are particularly suitable partner for attracting private sector and NGOs to participate in the development and implementation of regional development projects. Strengthening the capacity of the control of Regional Development is a strategic necessity for the improvement of regional development policy. Improving coordination and partnership between the participants in regional development is also essential to streamline their collaboration. Regional and District Development Councils have significant functions in the strategic planning of regional development, monitoring and evaluation in implementation of regional development plans, coordination of strategies Development of the fields and in the process of regional coordination implementation of operational programs co-financed from EU funds affecting the development of the regions of Level 2 and Level 3. Expanding the functions of regional and district development councils and their participation in the development, updating, monitoring and evaluation of strategic planning documents – regional development plans and regional development strategies, impose the need for expert studies of the administrative and management capacity of these socio advisory authorities to conduct state policy for regional development, as well as other authorities, bodies and partners at regional level. Within the meaning of this law RDA since 2008. 23 regions are formed on the basis of their geographical location and population. Areas that form level 1 do not constitute administrative-territorial units and are as follows:

1. Area "North and South Bulgaria", including the Northwest region, North Central Region, Northeast Region and Southeast region;

2. Region "Southwest and South Central Bulgaria", including the Southwest region and the South Central Region. The areas that make up level 2 do not represent an administrative-territorial units and territorial range as follows:

1. North region including the districts of Vidin, Vratsa, Lovech, Montana and Pleven;
2. North Central region, which includes the regions of Veliko Tarnovo, Gabrovo, Razgrad, Ruse and Silistra;
3. North region including the districts of Varna, Dobrich, Targovishte and Shumen;
4. South region including the districts of Burgas, Sliven, Stara Zagora and Yambol;
5. South region including the districts of Blagoevgrad, Kyustendil, Pernik, Sofia and Sofia region;
6. South Central region, including the districts of Kardzhali, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Smolyan, and Haskovo.

Based on this classification, the Republic of Bulgaria is divided into three levels:

NUTS1 covers both territorial areas of North and South Bulgaria and Southwest and South Central Region;

NUTS2 covers six statistical areas (North, North Central, North, South, South Central and South region);

NUST3 28 administrative territorial districts. Locally LAU1 265 municipalities and 231 belong to rural areas (2016).

It should be emphasized that interest in the regions and in particular to regional studies have from larger countries of Western Europe, Germany, France, Italy, England and others. Activating the "regional ideas" on the continent is reported in 1996, when during this period in Europe there are over 300 different region territories, political and administrative management with a population of over 400 mln.d. In the adopted "Declaration on regionalism in Europe" is the concept "remote" regions to submit their institutional frameworks countries. The initiator of this event is the Assembly of Regions in Europe and seeks to affirm the "Declaration" is not so much about Europe as elsewhere. The formation of regional policy within the European Union is to achieve the necessary pace of sustainable development to reduce structural disparities between regions in the EEC / EU and accelerate the balanced development on territories within the whole European area. It follows that all targets and tasks related to regional policy is based on the concepts of cohesion and economic cooperation between member states.

#### **4. Structuring and features of zoning of rural areas.**

In a sufficiently long period of time rural population was crucial for the overall development of the country. From Liberation to the first years after World War II, Bulgaria retains the agricultural character economic development of Bulgaria as its dominant importance is agriculture population. During the same period, there is rapid growth of its cash lasted until the mid-twentieth century. At the census in 1946 the rural population reaches its absolute maximum of 5 294 thousand people, which compared with Census in 1887, representing a doubling of its numbers. This requires searching a look of important strategic dependence of the structure of the population and rural areas in the administrative and territorial unit of Bulgaria. Practically rural areas are areas that are not urbanized. They are low-density population and typically much of the land is occupied with agriculture.

After the start of the accession of Bulgaria to the EU is to create strategies and modernization of existing contracts and accepting programs of territorial development. In this regard EEC / EU pursues a policy of rural development for all member states. Rural areas in the EEC / EU occupy more than 90% of the territory and are home to approximately 60% of the population. Policies pursued by the EU Rural Development aims to support a significant proportion of the rural population of the Community. Many of these areas are facing major social, economic, environmental and infrastructural challenges. Business activities and operating enterprises, employment in rural areas, agriculture and forestry are still not sufficiently competitive.

By 2011, the country and in other countries in EU rural areas were selected on a single indicator, namely the population of the main village not exceed 30 thousand residents. In the same year introduced a new, more complex methodology requiring digitization in the country and the determination of geographical population density on territorial cells. Difficulties application of the new method can lead to the delay or return of administrative approach in determining rural.

In literature the term "rural areas" is considered individually by given their specialization aimed at developing activities related to the agrarian economy. The formation of rural areas is carried out under the influence of certain factors: location, agro-climatic, ecological, socio-economic, geo demographic, policy formation, infrastructure and others. These areas are in a continuous process of change and development depending on their location, proximity to large social and economic center, metropolitan areas, availability of technical and social infrastructure and others. In terms of terminology and the formation of "Rural areas", there are various explanatory and opinions. According Madjarova (2000) are areas "in which ... agricultural workers occupy a relatively high proportion of the population and live in them and prevails rural way of life ... ". These areas are described as areas with less developed technical and social infrastructure, lack of capital, low labor productivity, deteriorating social services and a lower standard than the national average. The role of municipal center has been successfully implemented in a given village or a small town in the administrative unit determined by regulations. Other authors define rural areas as: "... smaller administrative territorial units that are part of the regionalization of the country. This population is engaged in agricultural activities typical of rural life. The economic activities have reduced performance compared to the national average, technical and



social infrastructure in their territory is underdeveloped. These areas are the smallest in the administrative territorial structure of the country ... ". In the process of territorial division of labor and the impact of various social-economic factors can be divided and form rural areas, where the main activity involves the development of agricultural activities, but are part of the administrative-territorial division of the country. Again according Madjarova (2000) "... in rural areas will understand separate territorial entity which is part of the administrative-territorial division of the country. Prevails capacity of the rural economy ... ". In the European Union for rural areas adopt territorial units have a population density of 100e / km<sup>2</sup> or share of agricultural employment equal to two times higher than the Community average for any year after 1985. Developments in socio-economic objectives of a particular EU country affects the overall development of rural regions .The most general by the term "rural area ... means: certain small administrative units that have population below the threshold for urban area ... ". This threshold varies too widely EU than 200 residents of Sweden to 10000 Italy or Germany. The European Commission in 1988. in his post: "The future of rural society" provides a definition of rural areas: "... rural areas are shaped by socio-economic and environmental structure. Those entities may include villages, towns, regional centers and other places ... ". Based on this conclusion, the EC determined that rural areas occupy 80% of the territory of 12 states and they live ½ of the population of the EEC / EU. This work is not complete, b.p. not specified areas and methods by which to determine their status for rural areas within the Community. According to the program LEADER 1, which is introduced by the EC in 1991. The definition of rural area: "... For the rural areas are considered municipalities with a population of 5,000 ÷ 10000 d., population 100 000 e. The population of any of the settlements should not exceed 10 hil.d .; the density is less than 120e / km<sup>2</sup> with an average in the EEC 115d / km<sup>2</sup> "32 ...". In 1995. for "agrarian strategy" developed in connection Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the EU using the same definition as the EU and the new member states from Central and Eastern Europe. Cork Declaration, adopted at the European Conference on Rural Development (EKRSR) in 1996. defined these territories as "... areas covering 80% of EU territory and they live in 25% of the population, characterized by a unique culture, economic and social structure unusual combination of economic activities and varied landscape (forests, farmland, natural areas, villages, towns and small industries) .... "In the Declaration of Cork for the first time rural areas are defined as a source of public goods outside the sector of agricultural development, they are autonomous regions, which are not only a source of food resources and habitats forming its own appearance and development on the basis of a developed landscape, natural resources, cultural heritage, geo-demographic potential and others. A new element in rural development is to overcome the socio-economic differences. It appears as a new European base for development of this type of development. Parallel Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted Recommendation №1296 / 1996. on the European Charter of rural areas. In this document the rural area is defined as follows: "... internal and coastal areas, including villages and small towns where most of the land is used for: 1) agriculture, hunting, fishing and forestry; 2) economic and cultural activities of the population in these areas; 3) development of non-urbanized areas into areas for leisure or reserves; 4) for other needs such as residential areas ... " (Hanover 2000). Rural areas generally have an agricultural function which said social and economic influence in the development of the area. It is important to create acceptable living conditions in rural areas in terms of all economic, social, infrastructural, ecological and ethno-cultural aspects. Distinguished areas are located near large administrative center or near agglomerations to those located on the periphery of region.

In areas for development must take into account the specific way of life of local people and landscape protection. With this type of territories it is needed for additional construction and development of infrastructure facilities Social and economic type. The transformation in agriculture and raising its competitiveness will be determined by diversifying economic activity in rural areas; the development of the service sector is a preservation of rural communities as a source of labor force and a prerequisite for the realization of those employed in agriculture. The definition of the terms "rural" and "Rural areas" is crucial to detect regional differences in these concepts. Most economic studies prevails understanding rural areas in its geographic sense, connect more with certain territory, which has a diverse and dispersed business with clear predominance of primary economic activities (agriculture, yields activities, forestry, etc.), low population density and relative independence of the

impact of urban centers. The criteria for classification of rural areas must be considered essential links between these regions and urban centers. On this basis, there are two methods: one is developed by the OECD, (OECD - Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) and the second from Eurostat (European Statistical Office). Both classifications are useful in survey and analysis of rural areas in the EU. The OECD method is applied on two levels, locally and regionally. Local municipal level method of OECD (2006). 35 defines rural areas as:

"... Municipalities with a population density of less 150d / km<sup>2</sup> ...". The population density between rural and urban areas is the most commonly used criterion, but in itself is not sufficient for final definition of rural areas. At the regional level the OECD method includes widely administrative units according to their "rural" level, depending on what share of the region's population lives in rural areas. With this type of criteria to distinguish between three types of areas: *predominantly rural areas; intermediate areas and predominantly urban town areas.*

Eurostat method is based on the degree of urbanized in Europe regions, and may be used the following criteria:

"..1) Densely populated areas - these are groups of contiguous, close to each other municipalities, each with a population density of over 500 g / km<sup>2</sup> and a total population of the area at least 50hil.d .;

2) intermediate areas - these are groups with dense populations over 100e / km<sup>2</sup> not belong to densely populated areas. The total population of the area should be at least 50 thousand people or must be adjacent to densely populated areas;

3) sparsely populated areas - these are groups of municipalities, which are not classified nor as densely populated or intermediate ... ".

Municipalities or series of municipalities that have not reached the required level of density, but accounted density area near the foregoing is considered as such. If they placed between densely populated and intermediate areas are considered intermediate. It can be assumed that such groups of municipalities must have a minimum area of 100km<sup>2</sup>. For Bulgaria the national definition that applies fixes for rural areas is as follows: "... rural areas - municipalities (LAU1), where there is no village a place with a population of over 30,000 people ... ". This definition is used and applied in programs and development strategies of the country and rural areas. As a EU member Bulgaria complies with the concepts and rules for forming network rural and equates its law on regional development to that of the Union as follows:

1. EC Regulation 1698/2005. On support for rural development by European Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development (2007 ÷ 2013);

2. National Strategic Plan for Rural Development – NSP (2007 ÷ 2013);

3. Program for Rural Development (2007 ÷ 2013);

4. Program for Rural Development (2014 ÷ 2020.);

5. Regulations for implementing the measure PRSP (2007 ÷ 2013 and 2014 ÷ 2020.). Each Member State should establish a national network for rural areas that will unite all organizations working in this field. The concept of development must contain the following elements: Overview of existing prerequisites for rural development in the country; research on attitudes description of existing areas and needs the creation of new ones; Structure of the National Network, assumptions and targets; Viewing relationships between the National Network for Rural Development of Bulgaria and that of the EU and administrative-territorial unit with low population density, the municipal center can be village or city. The program for rural development RDP (2007 ÷ 2013.) As well as for the next programming period in frame (2014 ÷ 2020)., Includes three main areas:

- Development of competitive agriculture and forestry;
- The application of new technologies in the food industry;
- Promotion of population employment and development of non-agricultural activities rural areas.

On the basis of the elaborated strategies are formed four axes which are directed towards improving the quality of life in rural areas, creating new opportunities development activities outside the known traditional agricultural industries. Development rural and socio-economic status of the

population is an important element by agrarian socio-economic policy. Information on the population of Bulgaria and rural areas of South Central Region is based on information of the National Statistical Institute (NSI). Population in ES39 for 2011. is 503492041 people, more than half the population of the 27 states arise (through 2015. Member States with the 28th Croatia). Rural areas cover 90% of EU territory and approximately 60% of the population lives in them. According to the last national census in the country which is made to 01.02.2011 the population of the Republic of Bulgaria is 7364570 thousand people (to 2013. tho.d. population was 7,245,677 in rural areas of South Central region 686 491 thousand people). For 2011. the number of cities and 255 villages of 5047, there are 264 municipalities, of which 231 belong to rural areas and constitute 87.5% all municipalities (01.01.2015g. Sarnitsa municipality has the status of an independent administrative unit). The rural areas covering 90371km<sup>2</sup> or 81% of the territory and 43% of the population or 3,166,755 thousand people the average population density in rural Bulgaria is 40g / km<sup>2</sup>, at an average density - 74,6d / km<sup>2</sup>. In rural areas of the South Central Region the average population density is 38e / km<sup>2</sup>, ie below average indicators for the country and the EU. In 186 settlements or 3.7% of total settlements, no persons counted as 21% of the urban population is 50 people, while 36% of urban population is 100 ÷ 500 people. The European Commission dealing with rural development in the period (2007 ÷ 2012). defines the territory of the country: 15 of the areas they are "predominantly rural areas", 12 "intermediate areas" and one as "urban area" Sofia. In research and analysis for rural areas need to identify their weaknesses / strengths and to adopt strategic programs their future development. The problems in rural areas can be summarized in a few aspects: negative geo-demographic indicator in their territories; difficulty development in the construction of technical and social infrastructure; no new technology and capital; Lack of information about the development of business projects will or no access to information technology, financial, legal, software nature; Weak sectoral specialization and lack of competition and development in only the primary sector in most areas and poor preparation of bureaucracy when dealing with European programs and documents. The definitions and interpretations of "rural" vary widely for Europe. For some of the EU countries in their setting as rural areas the main indicator is the number of inhabitants. About main criterion is the density population (e / km<sup>2</sup>), because 60% of the EU population live in those areas where geo-demographic factor negative natural growth or missing values are minimum. In 1996. EKRSR accepted definition of rural areas as autonomous regions, emerging industries and activities other than agriculture sector. Using the methodology of the OECD definition of rural areas based on population density (d / km<sup>2</sup>) and the proportion of population in the region living in rural areas. The methodology of Eurostat also based on population density (E / km<sup>2</sup>). The country average density in rural areas is below the average. For Bulgaria the definition of rural is defined in the RDP and we adhere to the national definition of rural areas. The villages that fall within the boundaries of municipalities with populations over 30000 people drop formulation of rural areas, although eligible for such socio-economic, infrastructural, ecological and geo-demographic plan.

##### **5. New projects to improve regional development in Bulgaria.**

In territorial terms Bulgaria may adopt a project approach as efforts focus on building large infrastructure enable regional connectivity in North-South direction, and then to focus towards the development of regional economy. This can be done by attracting strategic investors or creating conditions for support productions specific regions of the country that give appropriate branch and specific model of regional development. Largely in spatially impact should start from the Danube coast. Looking more globally at the concentrate of Bulgarian Danube coast as part of the national territory is necessary to bring out its specific characteristics of the coastal territory associated with geopolitical and geo-economic dimensions. The main approach to this area is improving accessibility of Bulgarian river ports and real creation of conditions for year-round navigation on the river. In this direction it is necessary to think about new construction of a new river fleet and build ten logistics ports centers *porechenie* Bulgarian Danube to link the emerging traffic flow in the direction North-South. This is necessitated by the fact that the North part of Europe to make efforts for rational use of river transport and investments put enough into it. In recent years, is preparing a big project connected with intent at the mouth of the Vistula River to build a new port Baltic Sea. Then promote high with railroad the name "South-North flow." So on the one hand will allow for rational use of the port and raising the visibility

of rail. Under the new railroad will move heavy freight trains and high-speed passenger trains, so will reduce the load on the field of motor transport and mostly will improve road safety. The aim is loading compositions will move at a maximum speed of 160 km / h and passenger - 360 km / am in North-South direction. This approach of combining rail, river and road transport will mean that the Danube and its tributaries Sava, Tisa and Morava will be transformed into efficient inland waterways throughout the year. On the other hand now on track to realize the project ABC + De, which provides a series of specific solutions improving the navigability of the river. River, as well as to address the problems of the annual flooding caused by it. According to the project after its implementation will end Floods from Vienna to Tulcea and near the town Passau, Germany. This has a degree will be a new opportunity for Bulgarian River Shipping. Infrastructure. Development of the route of the 7th Euro corridors in the region. The most important

elements in its infrastructure development and functional linkage Danube ports of Silistra, Ruse and Svishtov. Their technical and technological modernization will allow in the region to develop intelligent transport systems and combined transport in transport -More Atlantic destinations from the Rhine-Main-Danube in the Black Sea for Caucasus-Central Asia and the Far East to the Middle East and North Africa. Important component of its infrastructure development is building a parallel (in along the river. River) high-speed road, which will be very important for economic linking the Danube riparian areas of the district. For the realization of projects on this route it is important that participation and Danubian municipalities in the region in the implementation of the EU Danube Strategy. In this direction is need to go to create a legal opportunity for development in the Black Sea and the Danube private ports. Simplification of procedures in the construction of new ports and expanding existing ones. The abolition of the institution of the right to use water body. The main problem standing in front of building new or expanding existing public transport ports and ports of art. 107-109 LSSIWPRB (marinas, fishing ports and special purpose) is rooted in the status of the seabed (and the bed and the flood plain of the River Danube). The blades are unquestionably state property (not exclusive) and therefore falls under the prohibition of Art. 7, paragraph. 1 LSP to be burdened with rights of third parties. This determines the inability for the construction and expansion of the port, which is not owned by the state. Since the business has clearly manifested the desire to overcome existing legal obstacle currently is absolute, for construction of new or expansion of existing ports - municipal and private property. For example, in Silistra is necessary to build new grain port on the Danube. River at p. Aydemir near Silistra. The size of the port terminal should be at least 4 berths and storage silo with a total capacity of 68 000 tons. We need the government to commit to building a new inlet and path asphaltting of part of the existing to the future port terminal. The planned turnover volume of grain is 150,000 tons after the start of operation at full capacity of the base. In these amounts will be 70% cereals and 30% oilseeds. Upon adoption of any legislative

approach to overcome the problem is to find a balance between public interest and the private interest of investors. Possibility, people who wills to build a port with a property which is between more owners is more than acceptable for the safety and security of shipping and the macroeconomic logic. To overcome this problem the state should at some point to withdraw the rights to build new ports, which would mean adopting approach "first in time is stronger in law." This approach is fully in line fair competition and do not fit fully into the modern community. Another possibility to overcome that disadvantage is the creation on objective criteria, with the result that it can be determined which owners to grant rights and which - not. The state can hardly control the process through detailed development plan for violations macroeconomic logic can hardly become a reason to give up coordination of the plan. Strategic importance may have Northeastern Bulgaria. First it has to be renovated and double railway line Ruse-Varna and turning and speed highway and railway electrification. Samuel-line Silistra, while seeking an opportunity to build speed road in the direction of Silistra-Shumen-Rishki Pass-Karnobat. An important condition regional development is the certification of airports in Targovishte and Silistra in international terminals for cargo and low-cost civil flights. That intentions Bulgarian state must structure a new Economic Development Plan for the period 2020- 2030 year as special attention is given to Dobrich, Silistra and Shumen regions as areas that can quickly become regions with sustained economic growth. In this direction it is necessary to pay special attention to North coast. Emerging new

challenges, especially considering the emerging new pattern of regional relations mainly in direction "North-South" requires the search for new creative solutions for regional development. Recently seriously raises the question is building new port terminals can therefore assess the feasibility of the implementation of the second industrial port in the Northern Black sea coast. Localization such port may be mostly about Shabla, but this cannot happen due to the inclusion of this area within the "Natura 2000". However, this can create conditions to be realized natural extension of the European Transport Corridor №8 from Varna to Constanza and eventually to Ukraine Moldova. On the Romanian side is good to finish the highway Constanta-Vama. Now and the Bulgarian side to create a link from the Hemus highway after Aksakovo over Balchik towards Romanian border and connect to Romanian pathway in the border. The realization of this project is necessary in order to strengthen transport traffic on 8th Euro corridors within the country through the port Constanta Bulgaria to be integrated into this new geo-economic area. For similar project and its realization is appropriate adoption of new spatial development solutions. This means that apart from the construction of express road is necessary and modernizing rail links in the direction Dobrich- Kardam-Constanta mostly through its electrification and increasing maximum speed of 140-160 km. A significant role in the regional development of the country may have Rouse. Reason for this is that the strong gravitational potential of Ruse, which has strong implications with Razgrad, Svishtov, Levski, White and Municipality. This gives grounds to appears on the spinning plan Ruse need to have a real gravitational potential to influence the dynamics and direction of movement labor resources (labor force), the direction of the dominant vector of both cultural and educational ties, and those under the administrative, legal, communal services to the population in North Central Region Planning. Overall strengthening the role of Ruse could be regarded as logical and reasoned. Ruse has crucial update on the construction of the route of the 9th Euro corridors in the country. In this respect, the update of the master plan of Ruse mainly construction of new railway track to Danube Bridge I, which is displaced by urban area also planning a new bridge to replace the old facility in the coming 15-20 years. Then it is important that building speed road Ruse - Gorna Oryahovitsa on a new route to mine outside urban areas and settlements. In the new conditions necessary Gorna Oryahovitsa to become a major transport hub in northern Bulgaria where you meet "Hemus" highway, alternative paths to Pleven and the need to build new express road in the direction of Upper Oryahovitsa-Lyaskovetz-Sheremetya-Malak Chiflik Debelec to be carried traffic along Veliko Tarnovo. In this part the most important turns detour of Gabrovo and construction road tunnel under the Shipka Pass. In practice, infrastructure development Central Bulgaria the route of the transport corridor will directly and indirectly influence on the whole of northern Bulgaria, and later it will name direct relation for the technical modernization of ports Somovit, Belene, the route of road, road Nikopol-Pleven-Lovech-Troyan and multi multi highway tunnel Troyan- Hr. Pole. So, it will give a new horizon of transport and urban axis through extra modernization and construction of high-speed road Ruse- Byala- Pleven Jablanica. In practice, economic specialization in the central parts of Northern Bulgaria is strengthening the role of engineering industries, chemical, food and light industry. Their technological and territorial restructuring takes place and they have prospects for development due to its territory of important factors for sustainable development of the processing industry: according to production traditions of the population in the period of economic transition, developed resource base and availability of markets for their produce. At the same time the region has extra need for development of agriculture and agribusiness. In Northern Bulgaria there was a clear specialization and zoning in the development of vegetable (near Danube's areas and along the rivers Yantra, Ruse Lom, Osam, Vit), grain (northern and central areas, Danube plain, Ludogorie), cultivation of perennial crops and potatoes (area of the region), the development of environmentally pastoralism (Fore and Stara Planina). In South Bulgaria it is necessary to pay attention to improving on the main road. Road between Highway was built south in the foothills of the Balkan Mountains to connect Sofia and Burgas. This is the shortest route between two end points. There are great economic importance for the development of infrastructure, industry and agriculture in the settlements of this region of Bulgaria. The transition between Sofia Plain and Zlatitsa-Pirdop valley is done with the mountain pass through the saddle Galabets. For its construction was used and the favorable earthy relief Balkan valleys between the Balkan and Central Forest. In this direction it is necessary to create conditions for economic interaction on both sides of the Balkan Mountains mainly

through the establishment of joint factories and companies, as well as putting the competitive advantages of settlements in both parts of the mountain. This means at national level according to changes in the Law on Regional Development to draw up a specialized program for the development of the Balkan region. This effectively means Putting municipalities as Berkovitsa Republic, Tryavna Kazanlak, Pavel Banya, Elena, Kotel, Sungurlare, Troyan, Karlovo and others to deliberately influence on their regional development and measuring the priorities for their regional economy. In this direction we can go towards the development of regional industrial clusters to consolidate further economic territory of the Balkan region. This means that the utilization of cultural, historical and natural-resource and potential for the development of regional economy creates opportunities for investment and construction of facilities that may have significant potential, which is a prerequisite for sustainable development of regional economy. The economy in South Bulgaria was marked by ups and partial standstill. Positively affected major infrastructure projects south of the Balkan Mountain proximity to Greece and Turkey led to significant investment flows in the region, the crisis hit hard and southern regions. But lengthening recovery after her most of the new jobs were created in the southern part of the country. Economic development of South Bulgaria was supported by projects such as highways "Maritza", "Thrace" and "Struma". However, in economic terms more back to its European neighbors and the three southern regions. Focus if toward the most developed area of our Southwest region, if you look at areas shows that only in Sofia there is development, and the rest as Blagoevgrad, Kyustendil and Pernik or worsen, or have stalled. At the same time the analysis of socio-economic indicators for the implementation of regional plans developments indicate that southern regions have serious economic change. On terms of GDP per capita is not noticed a steady increase, and more rather, there is a standstill. Measures taken to attract foreign Investment retaining investors is difficult in some areas. There has been growth revenue from tourism, which is a positive indicator of increased tourist interest to Southern Bulgaria. However, this is not very helpful to our economy because demographic problems are exacerbated (emigration and aging) the employment rate of the population decreased by 3.3 IP. Points for the last years and continues the negative trend of increasing unemployment in South Bulgaria. To the extent we can say that noticeable improvement Region, which has averages in almost all major indicators compared to six regions in the country. In terms of the GDP and Gross Value Added (GVA) regional economy registered and stability resistance close to the average in the country.

The largest factory producing synthetic soda ash in Europe is in Bulgaria. The country has a well developed electricity and pipeline networks. The sector has developed base and untapped potential, which It implies tremendous opportunities for development. Bulgaria remains one of the most attractive investment destinations in Eastern Europe after Poland, Romania and Czech Republic. Developed in countries, mainly members of the European Union remains the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the region. There is increasing number of greenfield projects (mainly for services and industries that are new to country, such as the automotive industry) due to aspiration of foreign producers to find relatively low-paid and highly skilled hand and gain access to growing domestic markets. Problems in the regional development of municipalities in South Bulgaria are related lack of qualified and skilled manpower. For example, in the municipality of Sliven as a major problem for the expansion of production large enterprises define lack of skilled raka45. The problem is particularly serious for "ZMM Sliven "" Roger Vanden Berhane BG "textile factory" E. Miroglio "new venture of Australian investor Lempriere Wool and others. On the other hand Sliven is in an exceptionally rich cultural heritage, with many monuments. All are conveniently located and close to the highway. A large investment region emerged Plovdiv region. For example, in 2016-2017 year several new factories will be built in Plovdiv area "Trakia". The projects have a total worth about 50 million euros and will create 1,500 jobs. In the economic area near Plovdiv enterprises already have large companies in the sector such as ABB and Schneider Electric. In addition to new enterprises large extension provides logistics company DB Schenker, which is already working in the area. From a regional perspective noted the need to improve the infrastructure of the region, mainly related to the construction of the southern arc of the ring road Asenovgrad Komatevo- highway. There is a similar picture in Haskovo and Kardzhali. In this direction despite negative trends particularly Kardzhali region has great potential for development because of its favorable geographic Location and proximity to Greece. The common border is about 90

km and passes through it Pan-European Transport Corridor №9 from Scandinavia to the Aegean Sea. Then the opening of border crossings Makaza increased opportunities for cross-border cooperation for development of tourism, trade and cultural exchange. The port Alexandroupolis is only 170 kilometers from Kardzhali. All this creates preconditions to attract investment, enterprise development and increased interest domestic and foreign firms whose proximity with Greece is important. The problems of the region are to improve the service of investors, which requires adequate infrastructure - industrial zones logistics parks, etc., with any region currently lacks but they are set as priority objects. Na agenda is the widening of Makaza checkpoint for heavy vehicles and higher transmission capacity. At present, the point is second in importance is a respect of passenger traffic and the number of passing through it increases exploding. Because of the intense traffic in Makaza from the district administration Kardzhali provide for the construction of a bypass road to take on road passengers to the border. The project is extremely important as it will decide number of problems related to traffic safety, the security of citizens and environmental protection. Diversion of traffic will increase speed transit traffic and shorten the time to connect to the corridor №9. Currently prepare the technical design of the track, which will be a length of about 14 km. Will have bridge over the river. Arda and several viaducts, whose design yet. This project is strategic Kardzhali and is directly linked to the development of cross-border cooperation. Along with Makaza, the region will be opened and checkpoints Avren - Mirtiski, which is also included in the joint Bulgarian-Greek agreement. The distance from the Bulgarian village of Avren to the Greek Mirtiski is only 12 km. among important infrastructure projects and the construction of an industrial zone in the district city, completing the regional center for waste management rehabilitation of main roads, replacement of water supply and sewers socialization of archaeological and natural sites and others. However, in Smolyan will seek new funding model with European funds through a new approach called "integrated territorial investments". This will going through the realization of projects such as the construction of ring road Chepelare and rehabilitation of 14 kilometers of road Chepelare-Sokolovtsi Public Works the main pedestrian street "Vasil Detchev" and repair street. "Aegean" and others similar projects. The aim is also in other areas such as Pazardzhik, Blagoevgrad and Kyustendil areas to focus on improving the infrastructure play an increasingly important role in international trade and investment. Meeting the huge needs of developing regions in Bulgaria for infrastructure such as roads, ports and electricity is a major challenge for the private sector and attracting funds from abroad. Market growth, market size and access to international and regional markets are among the most important factors that influence the choice of location for investment by companies, followed by the quality of the business environment, including the availability of skilled labor, suppliers and adequate infrastructure. Embedding Bulgarian regions in the economy at the international level can be done by delivering products at competitive prices without sufficient and good quality electricity, telecommunications and transport networks and without the presence of other key factors such as mass access to drinking water. This means that regional development of Bulgarian territory must have its focus and adequacy, and leads to improved well-being of our environment. So that the participation of large corporations in concessions such as "build - acquisition - service 'or management contracts to become real and to create conditions for permanent presence of economically active persons in the Bulgarian regions to be develop branch and specialized Bulgarian regional economy.

### **Conclusion**

The aim of conducting regional policy is related to finding opportunities for purposeful impact on the territory through tools and activities that should highlight the regional development as a national priority of the contemporary modern state. **Practically regional development means a balance between the priorities of municipalities districts and planning regions and search for the most important issues for them solving related to national priorities and understandings of development regions as separate territorial communities** In practice, the creation of conditions for balanced development of different regions of the country and support territorial bodies and activities through financial, credit and investment policy means that regional development must be the foundation of regional economy and outlines its contours through effective policies regional development. This can be a sufficient condition for our country to be suitable for foreign companies along with stable tax policy and lowest Europe's corporate tax rate of 10%. As a positive fact can be mentioning that there are 600

million euros invested in production facilities, but necessary good infrastructure to facilitate investors. It is expected to simplify the bureaucratic procedures for large investors and long-term programs return to the country of Bulgarian specialists. Therefore conduct policy regional development is an important strategic task of the government especially CS villages and small towns (population) remaining outside the national definition for rural areas should enjoy the same rights and opportunities for social, economic and financial programs. This should be done through constant and qualitative zoning and modeling of spatial development of the various territorial communities. The combination of sustainable development models based on the potential for modernization and efficiency of their development poles providing a high level of competitiveness; it is a prerequisite for long growth and prosperity. Speaking of them, imagine cores of metropolitan agglomerations and objectives regions of metropolitan agglomerations with out effective zoning and modern infrastructure. Practically poles of development play an important role in the relationship with their wider ambient areas covering suburban, and rural areas and they are subject to appropriate management and administrable. Poles create development impulses that transmit in their environment and thus have an effect on its development. Another important measure is to overcome adverse developments for the backwardness of rural areas. This effectively require the implementation of targeted programs related to the demographic future of Cities and villages in the country, which is consistent with the clear definition of what the rural areas and which urban systems. As a result of the general negative demographic trends in the country the majority of districts in Bulgaria decreased their significant demographic and socio-economic potential. This is reflected in the direction of reducing regional significance of the various territorial communities be sustainable over time. This practice tends to reduce territorial basis for the realization of large-scale regional infrastructure projects. This them negative impact is understood by regional business and seek a solution to their problems of larger territorial levels (beyond regional boundaries) by participation in various economic or political projects. Thus they accept that the more successful will be able to influence pursued by central government regional policy in larger-scale regions. This is very important confirmation the thesis that today's zoning and regionalization of the country is more inappropriate and does not have the sharpness and territorial basis for the formation of regional level of government in the country.

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