

PROVADIA MUNICIPALITY IN THE NEXT 30 YEARS

/RESEARCH ESSAY/

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ABSTRACT: PROVADIA AND THE VILLAGES IN THAT REGION DEVELOPED AT A FAST RATE AFTER THE PLENUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BULGARIA HELD IN APRIL 1956. THERE WAS SUCCESS IN ALL SECTORS EXHIBITED THROUGH IMPROVED EQUIPMENT OF ALL INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS OF THE POPULATION IN GENERAL. INDUSTRY IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BRANCH IN THE ECONOMY OF THE REGION. IT IS CONCENTRATED ONLY IN PROVADIA AND IS REPRESENTED BY ALL NINE SUB-BRANCHES OF FOOD INDUSTRY, MACHINE-ENGINEERING AND METAL-MACHINING, TEXTILE INDUSTRY. WELL-DEVELOPED AGRICULTURE. BUT THE FUTURE OF THE CITY WILL BE LINKED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM, SPA TOURISM, PROCESSING OF ESSENTIAL OILS, AGRICULTURE - MAINLY IN MILK PRODUCTION AND DAIRY

KEY WORDS: FOOD INDUSTRY, MACHINE-ENGINEERING, METAL-MACHINING, TEXTILE INDUSTRY, TOURISM BALNEOTOURISM, ESSENTIAL OILS, AGRICULTURE, MILK PRODUCTION AND MILK PROCESSING

PROVADIA Municipality is located in the western part of Varna region, which is a part of North-eastern Bulgaria and covers a territory of 576.6 km². The municipality includes 25 settlements and the central town is Provadia. There are natural and historical landmarks like Provadia Salterns, mineral baths, the fortress of Ovech, the Monastery complex near by the village of Ravna, as well as some rock monasteries around Provadia.

PROVADIA is one of the ancient cities in our thirteen centuries-old Bulgaria. The first name of the municipality was Provad which means "sheep". After the establishment of Slavic-Bulgarian country, it was called –Ovech. During the period of Ottoman influence the name was changed to Provad, later to Provadia. All industries and activities from the social and economic life of Provadia and its region reached their genuine development after the victory of the socialist regime in Bulgaria in 1944. In that period the workers from Provadia transformed all settlements. The economic development of the region is maintained by nine different sub-sectors. The economic basis of the region is assured by the established and later on reconstructed oil-extraction factory "Boycho Zhelev", textile works "Georgi Dimitrov", chemical machine-building "Stoyan Muradanlski", a factory for ship-furnishing "Petko Shiderov" and a large productive cooperation. The region's success in agriculture, construction, trade, education and culture is increasing.

PROVADIA and the villages in that region developed at a fast rate after the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bulgaria held in April 1956. There was success in all sectors exhibited through improved equipment of all industries as well as higher living standards of the population in general.

ONE of the important achievements in the 1980s was the agglomeration Varna-Devnia-Provadia.

INDUSTRY is the most significant branch in the economy of the region. It is concentrated only in Provadia and is represented by all nine sub-branches of food industry and takes 39% of all industrial production. Machine-engineering and metal-machining take second place with 23.9%. The next place is for textile industry with its production of linen and cotton fabrics. One of the main industries in the economic system of the region is agriculture, which takes 15.4% from all agricultural area in the region. The leading sub-branches are plant-growing and grain-production. There is a development of vegetable-growing, stock-breeding, and cultivation of perennial plants. Vine-growing is concentrated in the region around the villages of Krivnya, Ravna, Cherkovna, Ovchaga, Slaveikovo, Chernook, Dobrina, and Manastir.

THE population of the municipality are scattered over a large area but the municipality center still serves as a magnet for people – 56% of the population is concentrated there. The population is ageing. In comparison with the statistics from other municipalities the share of the people who have graduated high school is higher in Provadia. The data from the last census poll is as follows:

№	MUNICIPALITY	22934
1.	The town of Provadia	13255
2.	Bluskovo	1336
3.	Bozveliysko	1324
4.	Burzica	198
5.	Venchan	248
6.	Gradinarovo	807
7.	Dobrina	232
8.	Jitnica	891
9.	Zlatina	260
10	Kiten	52
11	Komarevo	437
12	Krivnya	398
13	Manastir	495
14	Nenovo	57
15	Ovchaga	166
16	Petrovdol	369
17	Ravna	149
18	Slaveikovo	413
19	Snejina	616
20	Storoselec	60
21	Tutrakanci	226
22	Hrabrovo	390
23	Chaika	71
24	Cherkovna	216
25	Chernook	268

What will the future of Provadia be?

1. The tragic trend is that three of the villages in the municipality –Kiten,Nejovo,and Chaika, are bound to enter the list of the so called “dead” villages in Bulgaria.
2. The Municipality is becoming more attractive to tourists.The program for tourism development is already accepted. Tourists from the nearby resorts become enchanted with Provadia’s beauty.
3. One forgotten treasure of Provadia is on the way to be rediscovered: balneotourism – which used to attract almost 6000 people per year 2 decades ago.
4. The mineral baths in the southern outskirts of the town will be reconstructed.
5. There are no “industrial giants”so far. There is development in food production (“Sluncheviluchi”, “Vodolei”, “Delikat”), production of machines and facilities (“Terem”, “Protex”), chemical materials and productions (“Provadsol” and “Himic”), textiles and clothing. There are opportunities for further economic development which are not sufficiently explored.
6. Agriculture will continue to beof traditional priorityfor this region. It will be mainly represented by grain production (corn, barley, wheat), technical crops (sunflower, soy-bean, sugar beet), as well as grass fodder (alfalfa).There will be a development in vine- and fruit-growing.A vineyard covering an area of 1000 decares is already set upnear Venchan village. The production of essential oils will increase (an area of 50 decares has been planted with lavender).
7. Milk cattle-breeding is a predominant branch in the region but people will breed goats, sheep and pigs. Bee-keeping will also be developed.

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