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International Scientific Conference 2026

"ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLICIES: REALITIES AND PROSPECTS. GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY, ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE"

23-24 November 2026
3 Aksakov Str., Sofia



PROGRAMME

23 November 2026 (Monday)

09:00 – 09:30	**REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**		
09:30 – 09:45	**OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE** *(MAIN HALL 104, FLOOR 1)* **Prof. Irena ZAREVA-ZAFIROVA** – Director of the Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences		
09:45 – 10:30	**PLENARY SESSION** *(MAIN HALL 104, FLOOR 1)* *Working language: Bulgarian* ***Moderator**: Prof. DSc Victor **YOTZOV*** Keynote: Prof. Dr. Daniela **BOBEVA-FILIPOVA**, ERI-BAS – *"250 Years Later: The 'Invisible' and the 'Visible' Hand in the Economy"* DISCUSSION		
10:30 – 10:45	**COFFEE BREAK** *(ROOM 102, FLOOR 1)*		
10:45 – 13:00	**SECTION:** **INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL CHANGE: POLICIES, RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES** *MAIN HALL 104, FLOOR 1* *Working language: English* ***Moderator**: Prof. Dr. Daniela **BOBEVA-FILIPOVA*** Prof. Dr. Plamen **TCHIPEV**, ERI-BAS – *"Adam Smith's Economic Theory in Socialist Political Economy: Some Issues"* Sofía **TORRES GAYOL**, PhD Student, University of Valencia – *"Geoeconomics and the International*	**SECTION:** **REGIONAL AND SECTORAL REALITIES AND PROSPECTS** *ROOM 405, FLOOR 4* *Working language: Bulgarian* ***Moderator**: Prof. Dr. Darina **RUSCHEVA*** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yana **KIRILOVA**, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dochka **VELKOVA**, ERI-BAS – *"Territorial Distribution of EU Funds among Bulgarian Municipalities, 2007–2024"* Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Elitsa **DIMOVA**, IPS-BAS – *"Regional Planning and Territorial Governance: Socio-Economic Profiles of the Planning Regions in the Digital Age"*	**SECTION:** **ENTERPRISES IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL CHANGE** *ROOM 101, FLOOR 1* *Working language: Bulgarian* ***Moderator**: Prof. Dr. Spartak **KEREMIDCHIEV*** Prof. Dr. Spartak **KEREMIDCHIEV**, ERI-BAS – *"How Much and How Will We Work?"* Assist. Prof. Yordan **DIMITROV**, ERI-BAS – *"Use of Artificial Intelligence and Working Conditions"* Dr. Radostina **SHOPOVA-VAN LINTHOUDT** – *"Vertical Integration, Digital Platforms and the Fate of Small Enterprises: A Case Study"*

	Reality: Technological Change in the Transformation of Relations between Economies" Senior Researcher Iulia Monica **OEHLER-ŞINCAI**, IWE, Romanian Academy – *"A Redefinition of North-South Relations under Weaponized Interdependence"* Assoc. Prof. Plamen **IVANOV**, Middlesex University; UZF – *"Dollar Hegemony, Military Expenditure and the Persistence of U.S. External Power"* Nikolay **NEDELCHEV**, PhD Student, UNWE – *"Innovation Regimes in Artificial Intelligence: A Comparative Analysis of the United States and China"* Dr., Senior Researcher Dorina **CLICHICI**, IWE, Romanian Academy – *"Yuanization and the Depletion of Sovereign Reserves of the Russian Federation: An Empirical Assessment under Secondary Sanctions"* Prof. DSc Virginia **ZHELYAZKOVA**, ERI-BAS; UZF – *"Fragmented Multilateralism and the Green Transition: The Changing Architecture of Global Economic Governance"* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milen **VELUSHEV**, Sofia University – *"ReArm Europe and Industrial Development in Bulgaria: Opportunities and Constraints"* DISCUSSION ***SECTION CONTINUES AFTER THE BREAK…***	Prof. DSc Andrey **ZAHARIEV**, UZF – *"Balance of the Housing Stock in Bulgaria: Dynamics, Components, Trends (2015–2025)"* Georgi **STANCHEV**, PhD Student, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nedelin **MARKOV**, Trakia University – *"Challenges Facing Regional Public Transport Based on Hydrogen Mobility"* Assist. Prof. Dr. Nikolay **BALTOV**, IPS-BAS – *"Reproduction, Transformation or Transition? A Discourse Analysis of the Government's Vision for the Development of Bulgaria's Energy System (2026–2030)"* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas **GEORGIEV**, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – *"Electricity Price Dynamics in Bulgaria and Effects on Industrial Consumers"* Researcher Remina **ALEKSIEVA**, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – *"Legal and Economic Instruments for Integrating Renewable Energy: A Comparative Analysis of Bulgaria and Germany within the EU Electricity Market"* Assist. Prof. Dr. Antoaneta **IVANOVA-BARES**, UTP – *"Economic Effects of Digital Transformation in Regulated Gas Distribution Operators under Global Uncertainty"* DISCUSSION ***SECTION CONTINUES AFTER THE BREAK…***	Assist. Prof. Dr. Milena **MITKOVA**, ERI-BAS – *"Artificial Intelligence in Bulgarian Accounting Firms amid Global Business Transformation"* Assist. Prof. Dr. Svetla **TAGAREVA**, UNWE – *"Artificial Intelligence as a Driver of Organisational Transformation in Tourism: The Emergence of One-Person Companies"* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adelina **MILANOVA**, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlinka **NAYDENOVA**, ERI-BAS – *"Global Changes and Adaptability: Educational and Professional Mobility as a Mechanism for Transformation and Accumulation of Corporate Human and Social Capital"* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Ventsislavova **GEORGIEVA**, ERI-BAS – *"Patents as an Indicator for Assessing Firm Innovativeness – Applicability, Limitations and Challenges"* Zhivko **GRADINAROV**, PhD Student, Technical University of Varna – *"Intellectual Property Transfer Readiness in SMEs"* DISCUSSION ***SECTION CONTINUES AFTER THE BREAK…***
13:00 – 13:30	**LUNCH** *(ROOM 102, FLOOR 1)*		
13:30 – 15:30	**SECTION:** **INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL CHANGE: POLICIES, RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES** **(CONTINUED…)** *MAIN HALL 104, FLOOR 1* *Working language: English* ***Moderator**: Prof. DSc Virginia **ZHELYAZKOVA*** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iana **PALIOVA**, ERI-BAS – *"The Differentiated Integration of the Balkan Countries into the European Union: Fundamental and Fiscal Issues"*	**SECTION:** **REGIONAL AND SECTORAL REALITIES AND PROSPECTS** **(CONTINUED…)** *ROOM 405, FLOOR 4* *Working language: Bulgarian* ***Moderator**: Prof. Dr. Darina **RUSCHEVA*** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena **ANGELOVA**, ERI-BAS – *"Artificial Intelligence and Water: Interconnections"* Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Maria **KOTSEVA-TIKOVA**, ERI-BAS; Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Milkana **MOCHUROVA**, ERI-BAS – *"Artificial Intelligence in the Circular Economy – Application in Europe, Benefits and Challenges"*	**SECTION:** **ENTERPRISES IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL CHANGE** **(CONTINUED…)** *ROOM 101, FLOOR 1* *Working language: Bulgarian* ***Moderator**: Prof. Dr. Spartak **KEREMIDCHIEV*** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Raya **KANAZIREVA**, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – *"Perceived Risk or Institutional Pressure? Investment Intentions in Sustainable Business Models: Evidence from Bulgaria"* Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Ivaylo **YANKOV**, ERI-BAS – *"Large Non-Financial Enterprises in Bulgaria, 2018–2024:*

	Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Atanas **PAVLOV**, Assist. Prof. Dr. Galateya **KOLIKOVA**, ERI-BAS – *"Two Networks in the Balkans: Trade in Goods and Foreign Direct Investment on a Single Map"* Assoc. Prof. DSc Eduard **MARINOV**, NBU; ERI-BAS; UZF – *"Commodity Structure of Bulgaria's Foreign Trade: Terms of Trade and Structural Upgrading"* Prof. DSc Shahin **SADIGOV**, Economic Scientific Research Institute – *"Beyond Nominal Export Growth: Diversification and External Resilience in Azerbaijan under Global Uncertainty"* Prof. Dr. Galina **ZAHARIEVA**, ERI-BAS – *"Resource Use and Import Dependency in Ferrous Metal Scrap Trade: A PPML Gravity Analysis for Bulgaria"* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Monika **MORALIYSKA**, UNWE – *"Investment Patterns in the European Union: Dynamics, Asset Composition and Technological Export Specialization (2020–2024)"* Dr., Postdoctoral Researcher Zvezdelina **ZHELYAZKOVA**, UNWE – *"Digital Transformation and Regulatory Asymmetries in Financial Services: The EU Framework and the Bulgarian Non-bank Lending Market"* Mihail **PETROV**, Independent Researcher – *"The Digital Euro: From Preparation to Legislation and a Pilot Scheme – What Changes for Bulgaria"* Dr., Senior Researcher, Post-Doctorate Andrei **RADULESCU**, IWE, Romanian Academy – *"Structural Macroeconomic Developments in Poland and Romania"* DISCUSSION ***SECTION CONTINUES AFTER THE BREAK…***	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan **BYANOV**, St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo – *"Eco-Schemes in Bulgaria's Strategic Plan, 2023–2025: Financial Concentration, Physical Coverage and Design Adaptation"* Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Damyan **KIRECHEV**, University of Economics – Varna – *"Current Adoption of and Readiness for Transition to Regenerative Agricultural Practices: Empirical Evidence from Northeastern Bulgaria"* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gergana **SLAVOVA**, University of Economics – Varna – *"A Practical Study of the Application of Diversification, Digitalisation and Innovation Strategies in the Agricultural Sector of North-Eastern Bulgaria"* Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Ani **DIMITROVA**, Assist. Prof. Dr. Anton **BLAGOEV**, ERI-BAS – *"Factors and Adaptation Mechanisms in Response to Labour Shortages on Agricultural Holdings in Bulgaria"* Prof. DSc Rumiana **ZHELEVA**, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamelia **PETKOVA**, IPS-BAS, Markus **KAISER**, Independent contractor, development and cooperation in higher education – *"From Barriers to Integration: What Do Bulgarian Employers Learn from Hiring Third-Country Workers?"* DISCUSSION ***SECTION CONTINUES*** ***AFTER THE BREAK…***	*The Economic Basis for Applying the EU Taxonomy"* Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Katerina **VOJCHESKA-NIKODINOSKA**, ERI-BAS; UNWE – *"Financial Resilience Dynamics of Bulgarian Non-Financial Enterprises under Successive Shocks"* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nedyalko **NESTOROV**, ERI-BAS – *"Sustainability of the Export Activity of Bulgarian Non-Financial Enterprises"* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stanislava **PANCHEVA**, NBU – *"Accounting Modelling of Foreign Trade Processes: From a Transaction-Based to a Process-Event Approach"* Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Nedyalka **ALEXANDROVA**, University of Economics – Varna – *"Cultural Determinants of Corporate Reporting: A Bibliometric Analysis of Scopus-Indexed Literature (2001–2026)"* Semra **GYOKCHE**, PhD Student, IBS – *"The Global Corporate Tax and Its Implementation in Bulgarian Legislation"* DISCUSSION ***AFTER THE BREAK, THE SECTION "MACROECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY" FOLLOWS IN THIS ROOM***
15:30 – 15:45	**COFFEE BREAK** *(ROOM 102, FLOOR 1)*		
15:45 – 18:45	**SECTION:** **INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL CHANGE: POLICIES, RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES** **(CONTINUED, until 18:30)** *MAIN HALL 104, FLOOR 1* *Working language: English* ***Moderator**: Prof. DSc Virginia **ZHELYAZKOVA***	**SECTION:** **REGIONAL AND SECTORAL REALITIES AND PROSPECTS** **(CONTINUED, until 18:15)** *ROOM 405, FLOOR 4* *Working language: Bulgarian* ***Moderator**: Prof. Dr. Darina **RUSCHEVA*** Prof. Dr. Nadezhda **ILIEVA**, Dr. Milen **VELIKOV**, NIGGG-BAS – *"From Intention to Sustainable Return:*	**SECTION:** **MACROECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY** *ROOM 101, FLOOR 1 (15:45 – 18:45)* *Working language: Bulgarian* ***Moderator**: Prof. Dr. Petko **SALCHEV*** Prof. DSc Victor **YOTZOV**, ERI-BAS; Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – *"Tax Progressivity, Flat Taxes*

	Prof. Panikkos **POUTZIOURIS**, EIMF; Cambridge Judge Business School – *"The Rationale for Family Business Policy Support: Thesis, Antithesis and a Balanced Policy Framework"* Dr., Senior Research Associate Marica **ANTOVSKA-MITEV**, Tatjana **DZAMBAZOVSKA**, MASA – *"Institutional Conditions and Perceived Business Benefits of Reform: Firm-Level Evidence from North Macedonia"* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodora **PENEVA**, ERI-BAS, Ye **YUAN** – *"From Risk Protection to Elderly Care: The Expanding Role of Commercial Insurance in China"* Dr., Scientific Researcher Georgeta **ILIE**, IWE, Romanian Academy – *"Service Sector Navigating Global Uncertainty and Technological Advances: The Case of the European Union"* Assist. Prof. Dr. Tsvetelina **SIMEONOVA**, ERI-BAS – *"EU Hydrogen Policy in a Changing World Economy: From Climate Targets to Market Creation"* Dr., Lecturer and researcher UMA Sonsoles **JIMÉNEZ PÉREZ**, University of Malaga; Alberizas – *"Collaborative Agri-Food Models as a Resilience Strategy for Small Producers under Global Uncertainty"* Industrial PhD Researcher Simone **PALLARA**, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodoro **GALLUCCI**, Prof. Dr. Annarita **PAIANO**, Prof. Dr. Giovanni **LAGIOIA**, University of Bari Aldo Moro – *"Measuring Circularity in Agri-Food Supply Chains: Transferability of Italian Standards to the Bulgarian Context"* Rytis **MILKINTAS**, PhD Student, Vilnius University – *"The Expression of Smartness' Dimensions in the Culture Management: Theoretical and Empirical Discourse"* DISCUSSION	*Determinants of Behavioural Readiness of Bulgarians Abroad"* Prof. Dr. Albena **VUTSOVA**, Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Iliya **ATANASOV**, Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Martina **ARABADZHIEVA**, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – *"Young People's Transition from Education to Employment and Social Inclusion: A Comparative Analysis of Bulgaria and the EU-27"* Rositsa **STELIYANOVA**, PhD Student, ERI-BAS – *"Conceptual Approaches to Understanding and Assessing the Modernisation of Public Employment Services"* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda **DIMOVA**, NBU – *"Economic Dimensions and Performance Indicators of Sustainable Marketing"* Assoc. Prof. DSc Lyubomir **LYUBENOV**, University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev" – *"The Role of Marketing and Digitalisation in the Competitiveness and Sustainable Profitability of Organisations"* Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Sonya **GEORGIEVA**, ERI-BAS – *"Climate Transition Risk in the Bulgarian Banking Sector: An Exposure Analysis Using the EBA ESG Risk Indicators"* Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Zlatin **SARASTOV**, UNWE – *"Wealth and Private Banking in Bulgaria: History, Etiquette and Substance"* DISCUSSION	*and Macroeconomic Stability in Central and Eastern Europe"* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan **BOZHIKIN**, Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Vasil **GECHEV**, UNWE – *"Progressive Taxation in the Euro Area: A Literature Review of Scopus-Indexed Publications, 2016–2026"* Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Dimitar **SABEV**, ERI-BAS – *"Tobacco Taxation and Fiscal Sustainability in Bulgaria"* Assist. Prof. Dr. Raya **DRAGOEVA**, D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – *"Impact of Macroeconomic Factors on the Share of Non-Performing Housing Loans in Bulgaria"* Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Tsvetomir **TSVETKOV**, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – *"Economic Resilience of the Bulgarian Economy, 2009–2023"* Assist. Prof. Lora **LYUBENOVA**, University of Economics – Varna – *"Factors Determining the Impact of Public Debt on Private Investment: Implications for Bulgaria"* Dr. Nadezhda **IVANOVA**, Adjunct Lecturer, IBS – *"Assessing the Environment for Competitive Growth in Bulgaria"* Dr. Anton **PEYCHEV**, ERI-BAS – *"Economic Growth and the Circular Transition: Direction and Conditions of the Relationship"* Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Kristina **STEFANOVA**, ERI-BAS – *"Higher Education and Young People's Labour Market Outcomes in Central and Eastern Europe"* DISCUSSION

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24 November 2026 (Tuesday)

10:00 – 11:15	**SECTION:** **SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SECTION "70 YEARS OF THE JOURNAL ECONOMIC THOUGHT" FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS, PHD STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS** *MAIN HALL 104, FLOOR 1* *Working language: Bulgarian* ***Moderator**: Prof. Dr. Spartak **KEREMIDCHIEV*** **10:00 – 10:15** *Opening of the special section* Kaloyan **NENCHEV**, PhD Student, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – *"The Floating Exchange Rate of the Lev (1991–1997): Volatility and Structural Changes"* Assist. Prof. Stefan **ASENOV**, IAE – *"Effect of the Euro Introduction on the Value of Agricultural Land Lease and Rental Contracts: A Price Prediction for Bulgaria"* Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Kalina **PETROVA**, Trakia University – *"Territorial Cohesion under the NRDP 2026–2040 – A Critical Assessment of the Instruments for Overcoming Regional Disparities in Employment and GDP per Capita"* DISCUSSION ***SECTION CONTINUES AFTER THE BREAK…***
11:15 – 11:30	**COFFEE BREAK** *(ROOM 102, FLOOR 1)*
11:30 – 12:45	**SECTION:** **SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SECTION "70 YEARS OF THE JOURNAL ECONOMIC THOUGHT" FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS, PHD STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS (CONTINUED, until 12:45)** *MAIN HALL 104, FLOOR 1* *Working language: Bulgarian* ***Moderator**: Prof. Dr. Spartak **KEREMIDCHIEV*** Zhana **PENEVA-DIMITROVA**, PhD Student, Trakia University – *"Energy Communities as a Tool for Tackling Energy Poverty – The Cases of Greece and Italy and Practices Applicable to Bulgaria"* Ralitsa **DIMITROVA**, First Language School – Varna – *"Bulgaria on the Move: Dynamics of Cross-Border Travel (2020–2025)"* DISCUSSION
12:45 – 13:00	**CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE** *(MAIN HALL 104, FLOOR 1)*