

Summary of scientific publications

During the last six years, 24 scientific publications and two monographs have been published after the habilitation; participations / leadership in 15 scientific projects and teaching activities the applicant is teaching eight subjects in six universities.

Major research and publications are devoted to the international economy in the fields of: the European Union economy, EU accession, the Black Sea region economy and international migration. After habilitation, the research interest in the World Economy and the International Economic and Monetary Institute is expanding and deepening. The publications are on three main topics in the field of international finance and international trade:

- **Global and regional economy.**
- **European economy and membership of Bulgaria in the EU**
- **Economic and financial dimensions of international migration**

Global and regional economy.

The latest financial and economic crisis is a challenge for the conventional theory of the global economy and its financial architecture. Therefore, most of the publications focus on the effects of the crisis. The monograph "The Role of International Financial Institutions for the Development of the Private Sector in Bulgaria" focuses on the nature and role of international financial institutions in the changing global financial architecture. The theory of the model of economic development promoted by the global Bretton Woods Institutions is analyzed. The processes of creating new global and regional institutions are being explored. While the status of international financial institutions is a subject of constant interest in literature, their financial status and behavior during the global financial and economic crisis has not yet been sufficiently explored. The results of a thorough study of the theoretical views of the international financial institutions are presented in the thesis, drawing on the concept of the dual mandate and role as institutions supporting the breakthrough, and on the other hand as financial institutions that have to achieve financial sustainability. This concept is applied at the macro level by examining the behavior of international financial institutions (assessment based on 77 annual reports of the dynamics of a complex of 35 indicators for an 11-year period covering the pre-crisis period) and at a micro level by examining the financial and economic situation and dynamics of 56 companies funded by international financial

institutions (on the basis of their annual balance sheet data for the period before and after the provision of the funding). A methodology is developed to assess the effect of Bulgaria's participation in international financial institutions, the positive effects and problems at microlevel are assessed. It outlines the main policy issues and guidelines in the field of international financial institutions and provides a theoretical model for the ongoing evaluation of the benefits of participating in them.

The new protectionism and the risks to the international trade-based framework of liberalism are explored in the country's first emerging protectionism book "Is the Bulgarian Economy Ready for New Protectionism Ready in: Does the Time of New Protectionism Come, Gregory the Theologian Publishing House". The problems of the Bulgarian export through the focus of the new protectionism and its expected effect on the global economy and trade are analyzed. On the basis of empirical data, the effect of bilateral trade agreements between the EU and third countries is also assessed and the main problems of Bulgarian foreign trade are identified - the persistent imbalances with some of the leading countries in the bilateral trade, the risks related to the concentration of the foreign trade commodity exchange and the participation in global value chains and the low added value of Bulgarian exports.

The geographic perimeter in the author's research is expanding compared to the period up to habilitation. In addition to research into the EU and Black Sea region economies, new publications expand the research region to Asia - South Korea and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The interest in South Korea's economy is related to two important challenges for the Bulgarian economy: the role of state-owned enterprises in the economy and the weak recovery of the capital market.

The publication "Revitalization of Capital Market in Bulgaria after the Crisis: The Lessons from the Korean Experience", in: Knowledge Sharing Program with Bulgaria: A Study on Promoting Innovation and Competitiveness of SMEs in Bulgaria: Shaping the Public Policy Management of Financial and Research Policy Instruments, presents the results of a comprehensive capital market research study in South Korea and Bulgaria in partnership with a top Asia-based TinkTank, the Korean Institute for Development. A comparative analysis of the effects of the crisis has been made on the two markets and in post-crisis recovery. Empowered instruments and policies to promote the capital market have been identified.

Governance Innovation for SOEs in Bulgaria: Based on the Korean Experience in 31 Questions, Knowledge Sharing Program with Bulgaria: Policy Studies for Bulgaria's Sustainable Growth: Enhancing Innovation and Accountability focuses on research on development of the state enterprises and the two models of management in Korea and Bulgaria was published in 2016. Based on the comparative analysis between Bulgaria and Korea the research identified the main problems and outlined the key guidelines for improving the management of state-owned enterprises. The monograph is cited by the IMF (IMF, 2016, Country Reports: Selected Issues Paper, 16/345) and the Article IV related recommendations for structural reforms in Bulgaria.

Two publications focus on exploring the sub-Saharan African markets and the export potential of these markets. (Marinov, E. and Bobeva, D. 2017. Markets in Sub-Saharan Africa - Possibility for Diversification of Bulgarian Foreign Trade, Journal of BAS, 3/2017, pp. 64-72, S., ISSN 0007-3989, Marinov, E. and Bobeva, D. 2017. Synthetic profile of Bulgarian companies trading in Sub-Saharan Africa, Economic Thought, 1/2017, C., pp. 49-68, ISSN: 0013-2993). The interest in the topic is related to the other publications devoted to the identification of the problems of the Bulgarian economy and above all to that of the excessive geographic concentration of the Bulgarian exports. On the basis of a comprehensive empirical study, the potential for trade development with this region is revealed and assessed, in the light of the favorable legal framework for trade agreements between the EU and the region. From a methodological point of view, these studies outline a working scientific approach in solving a topical problem of the Bulgarian economy.

In the regional aspect of international economy is the study ("Is Greece exit from the rescue programmes successful? Lessons for Bulgaria in: *BULGARIA AND ROMANIA: COUNTRY MEMBERS OF THE EU, PART OF GLOBAL ECONOMY*). The paper explores the regional and bilateral effects of the economic crisis in Greece. The Greek economy is of particular importance to the Bulgarian economy and to the region's economy. The analysis is based on the identification of channels for the transfer of shocks between the economies of the Single Market. Effects on mutual investment, trade, free movement of people and financial flows between countries are explored.

The European economy and Bulgaria's EU membership

Two fundamental factors stimulate and underpin publications in the field of European and Bulgarian economy: the financial and economic crisis and EU membership. Eleven years of

the crisis and EU membership have raised a number of questions that seek their explanation in theory and research. The events of this period are a kind of verification of the relevance of the conventional theory of the international economy.

Several publications assess the effects of EU membership mainly on convergence ("*Convergence: Concepts and Trends, European Integration Today - Some Problems and Opportunities*", Paisii Hilendarski University Publishing House, Plovdiv, 2019); real convergence Acceptance of the euro in: "The Bulgarian economy: 10 years in the EU"). The effects of EU membership on foreign investment are devoted to several articles. ("The Impact of EU Membership on Foreign Direct Investment, in: The Bulgarian Economy in the European Union"). The volatility of the financial flows to Bulgaria and their impact on the instability of the economy is revealed.

Both the positive effects of membership and the risks and problems of the Bulgarian economy that arose in connection with membership have been identified. The articles provide a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of convergence - nominal and real, using the beta and sigma convergence indicators. The argument that the current legal framework for the assessment of cohesion is ineffective is being developed and justified. The concept and possible measures of "structural" and "regional" convergence are being developed, arguing that the current European instruments do not stimulate the sustainable convergence of the new EU Member States.

Regarding foreign investments, unlike the post-hierarchical publications, where the positive effects of FDI are being studied, the critical publications focus on identifying unfavorable trends - concentration in sectors with weak competition and those related to the public sector, investing in sectors with low added value, low level of reinvested earnings and intangible contribution to innovation.

In the publication representing part of the annual report "*Ten Years Since the Beginning of the Financial and Economic Crisis - Lessons and Necessary Reforms, Economic Development and Policies in Bulgaria: Assessments and Expectations, Annual Report 2018, Institute for Economic Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences sciences*" assesses the way in which the Bulgarian economy responds to external shocks related to the global and European financial and economic crisis. It analyzes the main channels of transmission of shocks related to the crisis and then examines the significant direct effects of the crisis at macro and sector level to reveal the main aspects of the vulnerability of the Bulgarian economy and to draw

lessons from the crisis and the necessary reforms to improve the sustainability of the economy. The analysis of the macroeconomic and sectoral effects of the global financial and economic crisis on the Bulgarian economy shows that the observed changes in the period 2008-2017 are above all cyclically justified and there are no significant changes in the structure of the economy that would set different developments in the post-crisis period, and, respectively, make the economy less vulnerable to external crises. On a comparative basis, the economies of other Member States are also being analyzed focusing on the new ones in order to outline the specificities of the crisis response of the different countries. This leads to the conclusion that the vulnerability of the economy from the pre-crisis period is largely due to the domination of non-tradeable sector in employment, investment and foreign capital inflows. The most important lessons learned from the crisis in Bulgaria are the need to improve the efficiency of public spending and investments, the development of the capital market; differentiation of the foreign trade structure and markets; overcoming the dependence of the Bulgarian economy on external financing, structural reforms and promotion of the sectors with high added value.

Several studies assess the effectiveness of the new mechanism for macroeconomic imbalances in the EU, adopted as part of the so called "Six Pack (2011)". ("Is the Bulgarian Economy Debalanced: The Answer to the New European Early Warning Mechanism in: Alternatives to Economic Development in the 21st Century: Theories, Policies, Solutions", "Macroeconomic Imbalances and the Economic Convergence of EU Candidate Countries, Scholedge International Journal of Business Policy and Governance, Volume 3, Issue 10, and others). Consideration is given to the appropriateness of using the so called "Dashboard" under the EU's excessive macroeconomic imbalances procedure. The benchmark indicators for a ten-year period have been calculated, indicating that the recent economic crisis has helped to overcome some of the imbalances in EU candidate countries but at the expense of slowing economic growth and convergence. It is argued that the Scoreboard fails to take sufficient account of the specificities of the economic development of the emerging economies and can not be used as a tool for assessing their readiness to join the EU. It is also considered its ineffectiveness as an early-warning mechanism. The research reveals the main problems in the Scoreboard structure and implementation. Applicability is tested for both EU Member States and the regional aspect of the EU candidate countries, which has not been done so far. *(The new EU Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure and its Relevance for the Candidate*

Countries. Journal of Central Banking Theory and Practice). The study further argues that the current mechanism is inappropriate for countries with catching-up economies.

The publications focusing on macroeconomic imbalances use an own econometric model and justify and construct an "Integrated Indicator of Macroeconomic Imbalances (IMII)", which overcomes some of the main weaknesses of the Dashboard. This new tool serves as a benchmark of macroeconomic imbalances between countries in the different phases of the cycle (Bobeva, Daniela and Atanasov, Atanas, *Macroeconomic Imbalances in Euro- and Non-Euro Area Member States* (2017), *The Yearbook of UNWE*).

A subject of research is also the regulatory changes in the financial sector and their impact on the development of financial intermediation (*Will the new European Financial Sector Regulatory Framework impose ethical and responsible behavior on financial institutions?*) *Tenth International Scientific Conference "Investment in the Future – 2015"* "). It is argued that reforms in the EU financial sector do not ensure its stability, and over-regulation stimulates concentration and thus limits intra-sector competitiveness, which will adversely affect the cost of the financing for the economy.

In the context of the development of the EU financial sector and the problems of consumer protection of financial services in the EU, a survey was conducted in the monograph "Personal Finance" - Introduction. It analyzes the main European regulations in the field of financial services, their application in Bulgaria, examining the theoretical sources of personal finances and the role of the consumer psychology in their management. A detailed analysis is made of trends in savings, loans, payment services, insurance and the dynamics of the financial services market. The study on the indebtedness of the population on the basis of a rich empirical study is also one of the pioneer studies on that topic in Bulgaria. (*The indebtedness of the citizens through the view of the macroeconomic data and the results of a sociological survey in: "The financial crisis and indebtedness in Bulgaria"*).

Economic and financial dimensions of international migration

The economic and financial dimensions of international migration are examined in two new aspects: the factorial dependence of out-migration on the macroeconomic and structural indicators of the host country, and the link between migration flows and related financial flows. The main objective of the study is to examine the thesis that the role of economic instability in host countries for the scope and intensity of emigration is growing. An

econometric model has been constructed to assess the magnitude of the various macroeconomic factors on emigration flows.

The study of migrant money transfers expands to a new issue, which is becoming more and more topical, with the analysis of the structure of migrant transfers. For the first time, the dynamics of retirement cross-border transfers and their impact on the balance of payments, economic growth and the population are explored. (*Economic Impact of Elderly Migration and Pension Transfers*)

It analyzes the related economic effects and changes in the structure of the population. The reasons and factors for the positive migration balance of the population over the age of 50 and the different migration patterns of the local population and the immigrant population in this age group are revealed. The cross-border movement of people who have acquired pension rights is analyzed at a macro level in parallel with the related financial flows and their role in the balance of payments and the social security system. For the first time, a specific methodology is being applied to study this kind of migrant transfers based on pension transfers between pension insurance institutions.