

KLADARA



ANALYSIS

"Structure of secondary and higher education in the Republic of Bulgaria"

Kladara

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A N A L Y S I S

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Burgas"

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1. Introduction

Analysis of secondary and higher education in the District of Burgas, presented in the following lines, aims to show the main themes, statistical information and conclusions about the situation in the education system. District of Burgas corresponds to the overall-applicable requirements and standards specific to the educational system of the country. For this reason, the subsequent analysis begins with a broad range of information analyzed, starting with key aspects of the structure of the education system, common to both the school and university system in the country as a whole and also for the middle and high schools in Burgas District.

Due to its high social significance, education in the Republic of Bulgaria is a guarantee for sustainable development of society.

High level of education is a prerequisite for increase of the potential of society and economy of the state.

Development of educational system, investment in the training and qualification of trainees impose preparation of additional analysis which are to outline the priority fields and objectives in the higher education systems and secondary vocational education, including outlining of existing and potential problems in both fields.

The existing educational system, its amendment and development as a whole are the indicators of the state of play of educational and vocational-qualification structure of employees and society development.

2. Structure and analysis of the educational system

2.1 Right to education

The right to education in the Republic of Bulgaria is granted by the Constitution. Art. 53 of the Bulgarian Constitution stipulates that each person has the right to education. School education up to age 16 is compulsory. Primary and secondary education in state and municipal schools is free of charge. According to conditions regulated by law education in public higher schools is free of charge. Higher schools have academic autonomy. Citizens and organizations could establish schools according to conditions and order regulated by law. Education in these schools should be complied with the state requirements. The state encourages education by creation and funding of schools, assistance to capable pupils and students and creation of conditions for vocational training and retraining. The state controls all types and degrees of schools.

The right to education is exercised in respecting the principles of transparency of management and predictability of the national education system.

School education starts when children are age 7 in the year of the first class. 6 years old children could be enrolled in first class if their parents consider that their physical and mental status allow such.

The official language in kindergartens, schools and servicing units is Bulgarian. School education ensures conditions for acquiring knowledge on literary Bulgarian language. Each citizen exercises the right to education in a school chosen by him/her and type of education complied with personal preferences and opportunities.

Kindergartens and schools are public, municipal and private. Servicing units are public and municipal. kindergartens, schools and servicing units that are of national importance are public ad funded by the state budget by the Ministry of Education and Science or by other ministries and institutions. Public kindergartens, public and municipal schools and servicing units are opened, restructured and closed by order of the Minister of Education and Science. Municipal schools and servicing units are opened, restructured and closed by order of the Minister of Education and Science upon proposal by the relevant municipal council.

Private are kindergartens and schools which are opened or restructured upon request by Bulgarian individuals or legal entities and are not funded by the state budget. Private kindergartens and schools are opened and restructured by order of the Minister of Education and Science.

Bulgarian kindergartens and schools with foreign participation are opened or restructured upon request by legally registered in Bulgaria associations of Bulgarian and foreign individuals and/or legal entities with decision of the Council of Ministers upon proposal by the Minister of Education and Science. Foreign kindergartens and schools are opened or restructured upon request by foreign legal entities in accordance with international agreements.

State educational requirements determine the levels of the necessary general and vocational training and create conditions for building of free, moral and proactive individual which, as a Bulgarian citizen, respects the law, rights of others, their language, religion and culture; for satisfaction of personal interests and needs and acquiring of rich common culture; for acquiring of basic scientific concepts and principles for integration of past experience with new knowledge from various fields of science and practice; for choice of options for training and vocational qualification according to the capabilities of students and school chosen by them; for development of material, cultural and eco-environment of kindergartens, schools and servicing units.

2.1.1 School education

School education ensures the training and education of students according to the public needs and individual skills and expectations for successful realization in civic society. School education is primary and secondary, according to the degree as according to the content of training is general and vocational. General education ensures acquiring of basic education minimum and, if possible, of profiled training in relevance with the state requirements in the field of education. Vocational education ensures acquiring of basic education minimum and acquiring of vocational qualification in relevance with the state requirements in the field of education. Vocational education ensures acquiring of professional qualification in relevance with the state requirements in the field of education.

2.1.2 Primary education

Primary education is implemented in two stages: basic - from I to IV class and low secondary - from V to VIII class. Those who complete the basic stage of primary education obtain IVth class diploma. Acquiring of primary education is certified by a diploma which is final. After completion of VIIIth class students obtain a diploma which gives right to continue the education or vocational training.

2.1.3 Secondary education

Secondary education is acquired after completion of XIIth class and successful state baccalaureate on school disciplines or a cycle of disciplines studied during the secondary education and is certified by a diploma containing the total score. The diploma is final and gives the right to continue the education or vocational training.

Vocational training is certified by a diploma, certificate for professional qualification which is obtained after completed vocational training; certificate of capacity issued for professions which requires such.

2.1.4 Types of schools

The schools are as follows: Basic - from I to IV class; low secondary - from V to VIII; primary - from I to VIII class; high schools - from IX to XII class; profiled high schools; secondary schools - from I to XII class; vocational high schools - from VIII or IX to XII class; vocational - from VII or VIII class with duration of education up to 3 years and from IX class with duration of education - 4 years; and vocational colleges after finishing secondary education with duration of education of 2 years; sport schools; art schools; special schools and cultural schools.

Evening (shift basis) schools are opened for persons from age 16.

Religious institutions in Bulgaria could open religious schools with permission by the Minister of Education and Science for their ritual needs for children that obtained a diploma for primary education.

Forms of education are: daily; evening; in-absence training; correspondent; individual; personal; distance training; combined.

For professions and disciplines exercised in harmful and dangerous working conditions practical education starts after age 15.

2.1.5 National Program, state policy and control in the field of education

The National Assembly of Bulgaria adopts National Program for development of school education and pre-school education and training upon proposal by the Council of Ministers. The program contains national priorities and objectives for development of school education and pre-school education and training as well as the measures for their implementation.

State policy in the field of education is implemented by the Council of Ministers. Minister of Education and Science is a specialized body for management of the national education system.

Minister of Education and Science controls the activity of all types of kindergartens, schools, servicing units and educational degrees. Regional Educational Inspectorates are territorial administrations to the Minister of Education and Science for management and control over the national education system.

Municipalities ensure and control: compulsory pre-school training of children and compulsory school education of students up to age 16; health care and security of kindergartens and schools, of children and students by creation of medical cabinets for outpatient care; funds for allowances, building, furnishing and repairs of schools and kindergartens and servicing units; tools for implementation of state educational requirements as well as for the financial support for all sections of educational plan of municipal kindergartens, schools and servicing units; dining rooms for eating in compliance with the requirements determined by regulations of the Minister of Healthcare; hospices, recreation, sport basis and transport of the children, teachers and students as well as free of charge transport and all day organization of school day and dining; scholarships and special aid for students.

The schools, kindergartens and servicing units are managed by a director.

Professions and specialties acquired in schools are determined on the basis of list approved by the Minister of Education and Science in agreement with the relevant ministers and heads of institutions.

Parents, guardians and trustees who are not ensuring the presence of their children in kindergartens and schools for the duration they are obliged to attend the compulsory pre-school training or compulsory education are fined between BGN 20 and BGN 100. Repeating the statutory violation is fined between BGN 50 and BGN 250.

Statutory violations are set by acts issued from the relevant municipal authorities. Penalty provisions are issued by the municipal mayors.

Ministry of Education and Science, together with the Ministry of Finance controls the expenditure of budgetary and extra-budgetary funds allocated for training of pupils, building, reconstruction and renovation of the equipment of schools as for other activities in the system of national education.

2.1.6 Foreign residents and school education in Bulgaria and abroad

Foreign residents could be educated in Bulgarian schools according to the legal acts and regulations of the Republic of Bulgaria.

School education is free of charge for foreign residents who are: permitted to be permanent residents of Bulgaria as well as students belonging to the age group that is obliged to attend school - children members of a family of a foreign resident with permanent residence in Bulgaria; adopted with regulations of the Council of Ministers; adopted by international agreements that regulate the matter; students in compulsory school age range - children of citizens of EU member states; European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and Switzerland employed on the territory of Bulgaria, when these children are residing in the country together with their parents (guardians or trustees).

Foreign residents could be educated in Bulgarian schools in Bulgaria and abroad for a fee. The amounts that foreign residents pay to public and municipal schools are approved by the Minister of Education and Science. The funds are used for the needs of educational process in schools where foreign residents are educated.

Free of charge training in Bulgarian language is provided to the children in compulsory educational age range whose parents are citizens of EU members states, EFTA countries and Switzerland who are employed in Bulgaria, when these children are residing in Bulgaria together with their parents (guardians, trustees), as well as training in cooperation with the states of origin on mother tongue and culture according to conditions and order determined by the Minister of Education and Science.

Certificates for completed stages of school education, educational degrees and vocational qualification issued by foreign schools are recognized according to conditions and order determined by regulation of the Minister of Education and Science.

2.1.7 Higher education

High public education is independent from technologies, religions and political doctrines. It is implemented in accordance with common values and national traditions. No privileges and restrictions are allowed in the higher education related to age, race, nationality, ethnic affiliation, gender, social origin, political views and religions except cases appointed in the Rules of procedure of the higher school according to the specifications of the training and future profession. Higher education is acquired in higher schools, accredited and created by order and conditions determined by the Higher education legal act.

In the District of Burgas there are two universities having correspondingly accreditation and offering a higher level of education.

Higher school is a legal entity acting in following fields: training of specialists capable to develop and apply scientific knowledge in different fields of human activity; improvement of capacity of specialists; development of science, culture and innovations. Higher school could develop scientific-manufacturing, artistic and creative, sport and healthcare activity according to its specification.

Higher school issues diploma for completed educational and qualification degree in higher education, European diploma application, certificate for vocational qualification and other basic documents determined by a regulation adopted by the Council of Ministers.

The state creates conditions for free development of higher education as well as of conditions for access to higher education by: developing and implementing a national policy for development of higher education and ensuring academic autonomy of higher schools; taking care for quality of training of specialists and researches; granting the training of students in public higher schools and in certain cases ensuring scholarship, dormitories and dining rooms; creating and maintaining a credit system for payment of training fees and allowance and in certain cases ensuring social gains for students, doctoral candidates and graduate students; providing property for public higher schools and ensuring taxation and other reliefs for all higher schools in dealing their activities; organizing the activity of the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA); determining conditions for state acknowledgment of diplomas issued from Bulgarian and higher schools and abroad.

2.1.7.1 Role of the state in the higher education

The state exercises its functions in the field of management of higher education by the National Assembly and Council of Ministers.

By its decision National Assembly opens, restructures, renames and closes higher schools as well as affiliates and faculties where students are educated in majors from regulated professions. Every year the State Budget Act determines the grant for each public higher school, accepts the Strategy for development of higher education which contains the national priorities and development goals of higher education as well as measures for their implementation.

The Council of Ministers: affirms the national policy main guidelines in the field of higher education and proposes the strategy for adoption by the National Assembly; proposes the National Assembly opening, restructuring, renaming and closing of higher schools as well as the amount of annual budget grant for each public higher school; opens, restructures and closes faculties, institutes, affiliates and colleges in public higher schools upon request by the relevant higher school and/or upon proposal of the Minister of Education and Science as for the affiliates and colleges are indicated professional fields where the training will be implemented; affirms a Classifier of higher education fields and professional fields; affirms state requirements for acquiring higher education on educational-qualification degrees and majors of regulated professions as well as state requirements for organization of distant learning; affirms each year by 30th April: upon proposal by the Minister of Education and Science on the base of proposals of public higher schools the number of admitted students and doctoral candidates in accordance with the capacity of the relevant higher school, its professional fields and majors from regulated professions; upon proposal of the Minister of Education and Science on the basis of proposals by private higher schools the number of admitted students and doctoral candidates according to the capacity of relevant higher school, its professional fields and majors from regulated professions; the number of doctoral candidates and organizations, on which base is determined the state grant for education; upon proposal by the Minister of Education and Science and on the base of proposals of public higher schools each year by 30th April affirms the application fees and fees for training of students and doctoral candidates; affirms the conditions and order for providing scholarships in public higher schools and usage of dormitories and other social gains by students, doctoral candidates and graduate students in all higher schools; affirms state requirements for acknowledgment of higher education acquired in foreign higher schools with professional qualification; affirms state requirements for admission of students; affirms state requirements for content of basic documents issued by the higher school; affirms Rules of procedure of the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA) upon proposal by the Accreditation Council; adopts by Decision a List of regulated professions in the Republic of Bulgaria where is indicated the name of regulated profession, regulation which determines requirements for exercising of the profession according the Bulgarian legislation and the body, competent for acknowledgment of right for exercising the relevant regulated profession. The Decision is published in the State Gazette; determines the conditions and order for maintenance the List of regulated professions in the Republic of Bulgaria; represents the interests of Bulgarian higher education and science before other states and international organizations and signs international contracts and agreements.

The Minister of Education and Science is the state body for implementation of national policy in the field of higher education.

The Minister of Education and Science: makes proposals before the Council of Ministers as proposals for opening and restructuring of higher schools, their main units and affiliates excluding opening of an institute are made after positive evaluation of the relevant project by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency; exercises coordination functions as regards the interrelations between autonomous higher schools and state; organizes the maintenance of information system containing a register of higher schools and data about their main units, affiliates and professional fields and majors opened by them, register of the academic staff of higher schools working on permanent contract and determined contract basis, register of all acting and interrupted students and doctoral candidates by educational degrees and professional fields, register of graduated students and doctoral candidates, register of banks providing loans according to the Students and Doctoral candidates Crediting Legal Act; organizes the acknowledgment and legalizing of diplomas of the persons graduated abroad; appoints acting rectors of new opened or restructured higher schools until election of titular but no more than 6 months; appoints acting rectors for mandate not longer than 6 months, controls the higher schools and organizations on respecting the Higher Education Legal Act as the checks are proved by a statement of findings with recommendations and deadline for removal of legal breaches; in case of non implementation of recommendations within the deadline the Minister of Education and Science makes proposals before the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency for withdrawal of accreditation.

2.1.7.2 Types of higher schools

Higher schools are public and private.

Public higher schools are created and implement their activity by provided state property and annual state grant.

Private higher schools are created upon request by individuals and/or legal entities.

Higher schools is opened and restructured by a project containing public acceptable objectives to be implemented by proposed higher school; the project also contains description of main units and/or affiliates of the higher school, training documentation needed and data about academic-teaching staff, equipment and ways of funding; the project also ensures way of management guaranteeing respect of main academic freedoms and finally, the project is in compliance with state requirements. The project should be evaluated positively by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency.

With its decision the National Assembly determines type, name and headquarters of the higher school; subject of activity; property and way of funding. The higher schools is established as a legal entity after publication in State Gazette of the National Assembly decision concerning its creation.

Higher schools are universities, specialized higher schools and independent colleges.

The university is a higher school which: trains in wider range of majors on professional fields in at least three of four main scientific fields – humanitarian, natural, public and technical; has at its disposal academic staff working on undetermined contract and leading not less than half of the auditory for each major as the habilitated persons of the staff profess for each major not less than 70% of the lectures; has equipment that ensures also the practical training in accordance with the state requirements. trains on degrees "bachelor", "master" and "doctor" in the relevant main fields of science; has scientific and artistic-creative potential and with its activity develops main fields of science and culture; ensures to the academic staff, students and doctoral candidates conditions for printing of academic works, schoolbooks, monographes, as well as realization of inherent creative manifestations; has a library and other information tools needed for training and academic researches; maintains international contacts in process of training and creative activity; has at its disposal university information center for administrative servicing of students and doctoral candidates.

Specialized higher school implements research or artistic-creative activity and implement trainings in one of the main fields of science, arts, physical culture and warfare responding to a number of requirements. The name of specialized higher school reflects the specific field where it trains specialists. Higher school could train in educational degree "master" and "PhD".

The independent college trains for acquiring of educational degree "bachelor" and responds to a number of requirements. The college has academic staff working on permanent basis which implements for each major at least half of the attendance and practical lessons. Habilitated persons working under labor contract profess for each major at least 50% of the lectures.

A college could be created also within university and specialized higher school accredited on professional fields or majors from regulated professions the training will be implemented in. The college trains for acquiring of educational degree "bachelor".

Higher schools are closed by the National Assembly: when higher school breaches the requirements of Higher Education Act or other regulations in the field of higher education and these breaches are detected; when higher school receives two consecutive refusals concerning institutional accreditation or did not requested such within the deadlines stipulated by law; upon request of the private higher school founders; upon proposal of the Council of Ministers concerning the relevant higher school.

The Council of Rectors of higher schools is the body which represents the common interests of higher schools before state institutions. Council of Rectors: gives opinions on problems related to the higher education and science; expresses opinions on the draft state budget in its part concerning higher education and science; expresses opinion on the Draft Classifier of higher education fields and professional fields.

2.1.7.3 Governing bodies and structure of higher schools

Governing bodies and structure of higher education which are typical for country are an integral part of both universities in the territory of Burgas District. Subsequent analysis, summarizing the main points in this field, valid for universities in the Republic of Bulgaria, refers in every aspect to the higher education system in the district of Burgas.

Governing bodies of higher schools are General Assembly, academic council and rector. Governing bodies of higher schools are elected for 4 years mandate. The powers of the rector of higher school expire with the mandate of the General Assembly which has elected him/her. He/she exercises its functions until the election of new rector but no longer than 2 months.

Higher school includes in its structure main units, servicing units and affiliates. Main units of higher school are faculties, departments, institutes and colleges. Servicing units are sectors, centers, libraries, laboratories, testing stations, research complexes, manufacturing bases and other relatively detached structures. Structure and functions of governing bodies of servicing units are determined by the Rules of procedure of higher school. Affiliates are territorially detached structures of higher school.

Faculty is a main unit of higher school which unites departments for ensuring training of students, doctoral candidates and graduate students in one or several professional fields of science for which the higher school is accredited to educate. The faculty has 40 members of academic staff working on labor contract, as the habilitated persons profess for each major at least 70% of the lectures. Governing bodies of the faculty are General Assembly, academic council and dean. They are elected with 4 years mandate. The mandate is not interrupted in case of partial elections. The general assembly of the faculty consists of members of academic staff working on labor contract, by representatives of administrative staff, students and doctoral candidates in the faculty. Members of academic staff are at least 70% as students and doctoral candidates are at least 15% of the general assembly.

The department is main unit of higher school for ensuring training in one or more subjects that not compose a major. Department has at least 14 academic members working under labor contract.

The institute is main unit of higher school that unites academic staff for implementation of long term research activity. Structure of the institute, constituting and functions of its governing bodies are determined by the academic staff of higher school.

Affiliate is a territorially detached structure of higher school created in regions which lack relevant university structure in order to satisfy the needs of education in certain professional fields. The training is implemented inly in field for which the higher school is accredited. The affiliate has at least 10 members of academic staff working on labor contract, as the habilitated persons to the higher school profess for each major at least 70% of the lectures. Composition, structure and governing bodies of the affiliate are determined by the academic council of higher school. Affiliate is headed by a director who is habilitated person and is elected by the academic council for a four year mandate.

The college is a main unit of the higher school that has academic staff working on permanent basis which implements for each major at least half of the attendance and practical lessons. Habilitated persons working under labor contract profess for each major at least 50% of the lectures. Governing bodies of the college are general assembly, college council and the director. They are elected for a four year mandate. The director is a habilitated person in the relevant field. Structure of the college, constituting and functions of its governing bodies are determined by the Rules of procedure of the higher school.

Private higher schools could have other structure, way of governance and determining of governing bodies if this does not violate the academic freedoms.

2.1.7.4 Educational degrees acquired in higher schools

The higher education system organizes training after graduated secondary education and consists of following degrees: educational-qualification degree "bachelor" and educational-qualification degree "master". The education in "PhD" degree is implemented under doctoral programs.

Higher schools create opportunities and determine conditions for: acquiring of a second or new major within the training on one educational degree respecting certain requirements; transfer from training in one educational degree to training in other; acquiring of higher educational degree; early graduate upon trainees wish; acquiring of a new major according to certain requirements; partial training of Bulgarian and foreign students in higher school, faculty or major selected by them; movement of students in other higher school, faculty or major and education form; interruption of training by students, doctoral candidates and graduate students as well as the continuation after; choice of professors by the students when training in subject is implemented by more than one professor.

The forms of education in the higher school are full-time, part-time, evening and distant. Distant learning is implemented only by higher schools, accredited and created by order and conditions determined by the Higher education legal act.

Training in each major of educational-qualification degree "bachelor" or "master" ends with state exam or thesis defense.

Higher school could implement training in educational and scientific degree "PhD" only in accredited majors according to a number of conditions. The doctoral training is implemented under individual training plan and includes training and exams, pedagogical activity and dissertation defense.

Higher schools educate students, doctoral candidates and graduate students.

Student is this person who is trained for acquiring of educational degrees "bachelor" and "master". Doctoral candidate is this person who has obtained the "master" degree and is trained for acquiring of educational and scientific degree "PhD". Graduate student is this person who raises his/her qualification under specialized training plan without acquiring higher educational degree or new major.

Admission of students, doctoral candidates and graduate students that are citizens of EU member states and EFTA is implemented according to the conditions and order in force for Bulgarian citizens.

2.1.7.5 Role of the students' council

The Students' council is a body for defense of common interests of trainees. It consists of students representatives and doctoral candidates in general assembly of the higher school. Mandate of the students and doctoral candidates in general assembly and students' council of the higher school is two years with the right for re-election for one more mandate. Students' council elects amongst its members a chair who organizes and leads the activity of the council and represents it before governing bodies of the higher school, general and servicing units within.

The National Representation of Students' Councils is the national body representing the common interests of students' councils.

2.1.7.6 Accreditation

Accreditation is acknowledgment by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency of the right of higher schools to provide higher education on educational qualification degrees in certain fields, professional directions and majors by regulated professions by evaluation of the quality of activities. The accreditation is institutional and program.

In the district of Burgas, there are two universities that have received its accreditation after the evaluation period conducted by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency

Institutional accreditation is based on evaluation of the way of implementation of the higher school mission and goals as an organization and is a result of evaluation of effectiveness by which higher school controls, maintains and improves the quality of training in higher education proposed fields and professional directions.

Program accreditation is based on evaluation of quality of education provided in certain professional field in main unit and/or affiliate of the higher school, major of regulated professions or doctoral program.

2.2 Opening of units of foreign higher schools in Bulgaria and Bulgarian units abroad

Foreign higher schools could not open their affiliates in the Republic of Bulgaria. Bulgarian higher schools could open within their structure main units in cooperation with foreign higher schools according to the order stipulated by the Higher Education Act in relevance with international conventions and agreements with foreign higher schools.

Bulgarian higher schools could open their units abroad in accordance and order stipulated by the Higher Education Act and respecting the legislation of hosting country.

In cases of contracts for joint learning, research, artistic, project and innovative activity and educational franchise Bulgarian legislation is applied expect in cases the document is issued as a result of training, only by the foreign higher school with which the contract is signed.

After Bulgarian EU accession foreign higher schools opened by respecting the order in EU member-state and EFTA country could open affiliates in Bulgaria according to the conditions for opening of higher school and order for opening of main unit or higher school stipulated in the Higher Education Act.

2.3 Acknowledgment of graduated stages of school education or educational degrees issued by foreign schools.

Conditions and order for acknowledgment of graduated stages of school education or educational degrees and professional qualifications by documents issued from foreign schools are regulated in Regulation No 2 from 2003 concerning acknowledgment of graduated stages of school education or educational degrees by documents issued from foreign schools (SG 40/2003).

Graduated education and training in foreign school is certified by a document issued from school created under legislative order in the country where documents are issued and considered as a part of the system of public school education of the relevant state.

The acknowledgment is an official written confirmation of the compliance of graduated stages of school education or educational degrees and professional qualification in foreign state school with these of the public educational system in the Republic of Bulgaria.

All persons with acknowledged graduated class – from IX to last secondary by documents issued by foreign state school lay equivalence exams in Bulgarian language and literature, history and civilization and geography and economy in the part related to the history and geography of Bulgaria if these subjects are studied in the relevant classes. These persons lay equivalence exams also in subjects from the education plan that are not studied in the foreign school or have no mark on them.

All persons who have graduated class acknowledged – from IV to last secondary certified by documents issued by foreign state school and who have studied Bulgarian language and literature, history and civilization and geography and economy (in the part related to the history and geography of Bulgaria) within diplomatic representations of Bulgaria, organizations of Bulgarians registered according to the legislation of relevant state for implementation of educational and culture activity and within Bulgarian orthodox communities abroad supported by the budget of Ministry of Education and Science, and presented original certificate for the training implemented for the relevant acknowledged class do not lay equivalence exams on these subjects.

When in the document for graduated IX to last secondary class including in foreign state school, on certain subject there is a mark lower than satisfactory (3.00), equivalent to the six-point scale, but the student is admitted to the next class, he/she lays equivalence exam on this subject in Bulgarian school in case the subject is studied in the relevant class according to the educational plan. When educational subject from the document certifying graduated class in foreign state school includes content from two or three subjects according to the Bulgarian educational plan, the mark on this subject is acknowledged as such for all relevant subjects for the relevant Bulgarian class. When reviewing a document for graduated school term in country where there are no intermediary marks, the annual mark in Bulgarian school is formed according to the state educational requirement of the scoring system. Graduated educational term in foreign state school is acknowledged regardless of the number of equivalence exam that should be laid according the Bulgarian educational plan only if a document is presented for certification training during entire time period of the school term in the relevant country. When marks in documents presented are average from marks on relevant subjects for two or more classes of the secondary stage and this is exclusively stated in the documents, these marks are acknowledged as marks on relevant subjects for each class.

Diploma for graduated secondary education issued by foreign state school and responding to the common requirements for admission to higher education in this state, is acknowledged as such in Bulgaria except there is a significant difference between common requirements for admission to higher education in both states. When in a diploma for graduated secondary education there is a subject with a mark lower than satisfactory (3.00), equivalent to the six-point scale, this subject is not listed in the certificate.

Acknowledgment of professional qualification acquired in foreign state school is made only in relation to acknowledgment of graduated class or in accordance with the List of professions for vocational education and training under art. 6 of the Professional Education and Training Act. Acknowledgment of professional qualification aiming admission or exercising of regulated profession on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is made in accordance with the order stipulated by the Professional Qualifications Act.

Persons educated for one or more school years in foreign state school could, if they consider so (for the adolescents and minors if parents (guardians) consider and wish), repeat in Bulgarian school the last acknowledged class.

Conditions and order for acknowledgment of professional qualifications acquired abroad in other EU member states or third countries aiming admission and exercising regulated professions in the Republic of Bulgaria, are regulated by the Professional Qualification Acknowledgment Act.

Acknowledgment of professional qualification provides the citizens of member states access to the relevant regulated profession in the Republic of Bulgaria for which these persons have acquired qualification in foreign member state, and the right to exercise this profession under same conditions as Bulgarian citizens. The profession which a citizen of member state wishes to exercise in the Republic of Bulgaria is the same for which he/she have acquired qualification in other member state if the relevant professional activities are comparable.

Citizens of third countries who have acquired professional qualification in a member state have the rights of citizens of a member state as regards acknowledgment of their professional qualification in cases they are members of the family of Bulgarian citizen; members of family of citizen of other member state, when this citizen moved in Bulgaria; obtained permission for long term or permanent residence in the Republic of Bulgaria; high-qualified workers having a visa according to art. 15, par. 1 of the Foreign Citizens Act.

Except the above mentioned cases, professional qualification for exercising a regulated profession is acknowledged for citizens of third countries that acquired right to exercise the same profession in a state with which Republic of Bulgaria has international contract signed or clauses for mutual acknowledgment of professional qualification of this profession, according to the agreed conditions.

Professional qualification for exercising a regulated profession which is not acquired in a member state could be acknowledged for a citizen of third country under conditions of mutuality established for each concrete case when the qualification is in relevance with the regulatory requirements of Republic of Bulgaria for acquiring of same professional qualification.

Right to acknowledgment of higher education acquired and graduated education terms in foreign higher schools have Bulgarian citizens, foreigners and refugees trained in higher schools, created and functioning according to the legal order in the country where the higher education is acquired or term of education are graduated according to the Regulation for state requirements for acknowledgment of higher education acquired and terms of education graduated in foreign higher schools (SG, 69/2000).

Higher education acquired in foreign higher school is certified by diploma or other similar document issued by educational institution, acknowledged by competent state body as a part of the public educational system of the relevant state. Period of education as a part of higher education program, graduated in foreign higher school, acknowledged by competent state body as a part of the public educational system of the relevant state is certified by a transcript or other similar document.

Acknowledgment of higher education acquired in foreign higher schools is an official written affirmation of the value of diploma or other similar document issued by educational institution, acknowledged by competent state body as a part of the public educational system of the relevant state.

The procedure of acknowledgment of higher education acquired in foreign higher schools is organized by the higher school in cases related to admission to further education in the higher education system, training for increase of qualification and doctoral candidature, and by the Minister of Education and Science by the National Center for Information and Documentation (NACID) in cases related to facilitating access to labor market as well as for other purposes when the applicant has legal interest.

Acknowledgment of higher education acquired in foreign higher schools is refused when significant differences are stated between data from presented documents and state requirements for acquiring of higher education in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Acknowledgment of terms of education means establishment of relevance of a part of higher education program that has been evaluated and documented by foreign higher school, with this of Bulgarian higher school where the acknowledgment is requested. Higher school organizes the acknowledgment process for terms of education under conditions and order determined of its Rules of procedure and respecting the relevant requirements for acquiring of higher education on the same or similar major in Bulgarian high schools.

The process of acknowledgment of higher education acquired and graduated terms of education in foreign higher schools is assisted by NACID which also performs the functions of a National center for academic recognition and mobility.

3. Educational system in Burgas District

3.1 Schools in Burgas District

Burgas District includes following municipalities: Aytos, Burgas, Kameno, Karnobat, Malko Tarnovo, Nesebar, Pomorie, Primorsko, Ruen, Sozopol, Sredets, Sungurlare and Tsarevo.

District of Burgas has 130 municipal schools, 7 public schools and 4 private schools on its territory. They could be classified as follows:

- 24 – high schools;
- 16 professional high schools;
- 6 profiled high schools;
- 1 secondary school (gymnasium);
- 1 sport school;
- 1 professional college;
- 1 art school.

High school "Hristo Botev"	High school (I – XII class)	Aytos	Burgas	Municipal
High school "N. Y. Vaptsarov"	High school (I – XII class)	Aytos	Burgas	Municipal
Professional Agricultural High School "Golden Field"	Professional high school	Aytos	Burgas	Public
High school "Hristo Botev"	High school (I – XII class)	Black sea	Burgas	Municipal
High school "Ivan Vazov"	High school (I – XII class)	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
High school "Yordan Yovkov	High school (I – XII class)	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
High school "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski	High school (I – XII class)	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
High school "Dimcho Debelyanov"	High school (I – XII class)	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
High school "Dobri Chintulov	High school (I – XII class)	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
High school "K. Petkanov"	High school (I – XII class)	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
High school "Petko Rosen"	High school (I – XII class)	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
High school "St. St. Kiril and Metodiy"	High school (I – XII class)	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
High school for Roman languages "G.S.Rakovski"	Profiled high school	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
English language High school "Geo Milev"	Profiled high school	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
German language High school "Goethe"	Profiled high school	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
Foreign languages High school "V. Levski"	Profiled high school	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
Professional mathematics High school "Acad. Nikola Obreshkov	Profiled high school	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
SPORT SCHOOL	Sport	Burgas	Burgas	Public
Professional High school on Tourism	Professional high school	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
Professional High school for Marine Navigation and Fishing "St. Nicola"	Professional high school	Burgas	Burgas	Public

Professional High school for Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and Electronics – Burgas	Professional high school	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
Professional high school "Kolyu Ficheto" – Burgas	Professional high school	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
Trade high school	Professional high school	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
Professional high school for Chemical Technologies "Acad. N.D.Zelinskiy"	Professional high school	Burgas	Burgas	Public
Electrical and Electronical Professional high school "Konstantin Fotinov"	Professional high school	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
Professional high school for Transport	Professional high school	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
Professional Technical high school	Professional high school	Burgas	Burgas	Public
Professional Carpenter high school	Professional high school	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
Professional high school for Construction of buildings and Installations "P.Penev"	Professional high school	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
Evening high school	High school (I – XII class)	Burgas	Burgas	Municipal
Private profiled high school with English language "Britannica	Profiled high school	Burgas	Burgas	Private
Private professional college "Vassil Levski"	professional college	Burgas	Burgas	Private
High school "Hristo Botev"	High school (I – XII class)	Kameno	Burgas	Municipal
High school "St.St. Kiril and Metodiy"	High school with (associated) kindergarten group	Karnobat	Burgas	Municipal
High school "Hristo Botev"	High school (I – XII class)	Karnobat	Burgas	Municipal
Professional high school for Agriculture and Light Industry	Professional high school	Karnobat	Burgas	Public
High school "Vassil Levski"	High school (I – XII class)	Malko Tarnovo	Burgas	Municipal
High school "Lyuben Karavelov"	High school (I – XII class)	Nesebar	Burgas	Municipal
Professional high school "Ivan Vazov"	Professional high school	Nesebar	Burgas	Municipal
High school "Ivan Vazov"	High school (I – XII class)	Pomorie	Burgas	Municipal
Professional Tourism high school "Aleko Kosntantinov"	Professional high school	Pomorie	Burgas	Municipal
High school "N.Y.Vaptsarov"	High school (I – XII class)	Primorsko	Burgas	Municipal
High school "Priest Paisiy"	High school with (associated) kindergarten group	Lyulakovo	Burgas	Municipal
High school "Elin Pelin"	High school (I – XII class)	Ruen	Burgas	Municipal
High school "St.St. Kiril and Metodiy"	High school (I – XII class)	Sozopol	Burgas	Municipal
High school "St.St. Kiril and Metodiy"	High school (I – XII class)	Sredets	Burgas	Municipal
Professional high school for Agriculture Mechanization and Electronics "N.Y.Vaptsarov"	Professional high school	Sredets	Burgas	Municipal
High school "Hr. Botev"	High school (I – XII class)	Sungurlare	Burgas	Municipal
High school "N.Y.Vaptsarov"	High school (I – XII class)	Tsarevo	Burgas	Municipal
National School for Musical and Scenic Art	artistic	Burgas	Burgas	Public

District of Burgas has two higher schools on its territory – Burgas Free University and University "Prof. Asen Zlatarov" – Burgas.

3.2 Statistical data about the educational system in the South-Eastern Region

3.2.1 Secondary schools and special schools

Classes, teachers, students and graduated students in high schools and special schools for the 2012/2013 school year by statistic zones, statistic areas, districts and municipalities

Statistic zones Statistic areas Districts Municipalities	IX – XII class				
	classes	teachers	Students		graduated students
			Total	including women	
South-Eastern Region					
Burgas	317	605	8055	4773	1754
Aytos	23	31	536	325	93
Burgas	224	425	5861	3505	1255
Kameno	-	9	-	-	..
Karnobat	22	42	557	311	137
Nesebar	9	17	214	119	49
Pomorie	1	3	18	10	6
Primorsko	3	-	65	25	28
Ruen	20	38	498	316	119
Sozopol	1	-	22	10	-
Sredets	3	7	52	34	19
Sungurlare	3	15	61	29	..
Tsarevo	8	18	171	89	40

**Classes, teachers, students and graduated students in high schools and special schools for the
2011/2012 school year by statistic zones, statistic areas, districts and municipalities**

Statistic zones Statistic areas Districts Municipalities	IX – XII class				
	classes	teachers	Students		graduated students
			Total	including women	
South-Eastern Region					
Burgas	326	652	8322	4945	1837
Aytos	19	32	449	277	88
Burgas	234	449	6137	3637	1344
Kameno	-	10	-	-	17
Karnobat	24	47	568	332	156
Nesebar	9	18	217	126	24
Pomorie	1	3	19	8	10
Primorsko	3	16	77	43	16
Ruen	20	37	520	338	103
Sredets	4	7	79	56	28
Sungurlare	3	14	62	31	16
Tsarevo	9	19	194	97	35

**Classes, teachers, students and graduated students in high schools and special schools for the
2010/2011 school year by statistic zones, statistic areas, districts and municipalities**

Statistic zones Statistic areas Districts Municipalities	IX – XII class				
	classes	teachers	Students		graduated students
			Total	including women	
South-Eastern Region	830	1641	20382	11824	4480
Burgas	335	674	8509	5101	1892
Aytos	18	22	421	275	99
Burgas	242	474	6316	3787	1388
Kameno	1	10	19	16	13
Karnobat	24	40	569	335	135
Malko Tarnovo	-	3	-	-	11
Nesebar	8	15	196	109	42
Pomorie	2	13	30	15	20
Primorsko	4	18	83	43	4
Ruen	20	38	537	345	94
Sredets	4	7	76	42	14
Sungurlare	3	15	58	27	16
Tsarevo	9	19	204	107	56

**Classes, teachers, students and graduated students in high schools and special schools for the
2009/2010 school year by statistic zones, statistic areas, districts and municipalities**

Statistic zones Statistic areas Districts Municipalities	IX – XII class				
	classes	teachers	Students		graduated students
			Total	including women	
South-Eastern Region	862	1725	20934	12266	4726
Burgas	350	711	8771	5321	2014
Aytos	18	19	427	285	95
Burgas	257	512	6596	3988	1431
Kameno	2	13	35	29	18
Karnobat	24	44	594	347	143
Malko Tarnovo	1	3	11	8	19
Nesebar	8	17	186	113	50
Pomorie	2	6	37	18	34
Primorsko	3	19	62	32	17
Ruen	19	35	497	322	118
Sredets	4	8	80	46	22
Sungurlare	3	14	55	29	22
Tsarevo	9	21	191	104	45

**Classes, teachers, students and graduated students in high schools and special schools for the
2008/2009 school year by statistic zones, statistic areas, districts and municipalities**

Statistic zones Statistic areas Districts Municipalities	IX – XII class				
	classes	teachers	Students		graduated students
			Total	including women	
South-Eastern Region	921	1816	22125	13091	4884
Burgas	375	782	9234	5621	1981
Aytos	17	25	418	270	88
Burgas	275	552	6916	4213	1461
Kameno	4	16	76	60	21
Karnobat	25	54	611	350	147
Malko Tarnovo	2	6	31	18	15
Nesebar	8	21	195	109	50
Pomorie	4	10	61	38	46
Primorsko	4	15	74	32	..
Ruen	18	39	483	322	74
Sozopol	-	-	-	-	-
Sredets	4	8	91	51	16
Sungurlare	4	15	79	42	..
Tsarevo	10	21	199	116	50

3.2.2 Higher schools

Higher schools, teachers, students and graduated students by statistical zones, statistic areas and districts for 2012/2013 school year

Statistic zones Statistic areas Districts Municipalities	Higher schools	Teachers			Students		Graduated students	
		Total	Including		Total	including women	Total	including women
			Women	Of major work				
Universities and specialized higher schools								
South-Eastern Region	3	1202	645	842	14086	8498	3430	2316
Burgas	2	524	339	322	8153	4849	2226	1529

Higher schools, teachers, students and graduated students by statistical zones, statistic areas and districts for 2011/2012 school year

Statistic zones Statistic areas Districts Municipalities	Higher schools	Teachers			Students		Graduated students	
		Total	Including		Total	including women	Total	including women
			Women	Of major work				
Universities and specialized higher schools								
South-Eastern Region	3	1191	600	797	14794	9167	3210	2128
Burgas	2	444	260	322	9403	5722	2023	1371

Higher schools, teachers, students and graduated students by statistical zones, statistic areas and districts for 2010/2011 school year

Statistic zones Statistic areas Districts Municipalities	Higher schools	Teachers			Students		Graduated students	
		Total	Including		Total	including women	Total	including women
			Women	Of major work				
Universities and specialized higher schools								
South-Eastern Region	3	1178	573	780	16056	9972	3044	1971
Burgas	2	482	269	316	10590	6552	2004	1355

Higher schools, teachers, students and graduated students by statistical zones, statistic areas and districts for 2009/2010 school year

Statistic zones Statistic areas Districts Municipalities	Higher schools	Teachers			Students		Graduated students	
		Total	Including		Total	including women	Total	including women
			Women	Of major work				
Universities and specialized higher schools								
South-Eastern Region	3	1106	518	745	16800	10420	2754	1776
Burgas	2	438	235	311	11699	7261	1891	1272

Higher schools, teachers, students and graduated students by statistical zones, statistic areas and districts for 2008/2009 school year

Statistic zones Statistic areas Districts Municipalities	Higher schools	Teachers			Students		Graduated students	
		Total	Including		Total	including women	Total	including women
			Women	Of major work				
Universities and specialized higher schools								
South-Eastern Region	3	1070	520	753	16772	10434	2607	1693
Burgas	2	424	232	301	11919	7454	1639	1098

Students by educational degree, citizenship, form of education and gender in higher schools by form of property

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Total in public and private higher schools					
Bulgarian citizens					
Total	260826	273202	270889	269213	267208
Professional bachelor	27411	28682	25254	15967	14420
	233415	244520	245635	253246	252788
Men	113969	119514	119465	119936	119229
Professional bachelor	11959	12367	11079	7537	6832
Bachelor and master	102010	107147	108386	112399	112397
Women	146857	153688	151424	149277	147979
Professional bachelor	15452	16315	14175	8430	7588
Bachelor and master	131405	137373	137249	140847	140391
Foreigners					
Total	9472	10034	10281	11079	11380
Professional bachelor	313	265	257	243	268
Bachelor and master	9159	9769	10024	10836	11112
Men	5875	6289	6563	7036	7230
Professional bachelor	191	169	155	162	169
Bachelor and master	5684	6120	6408	6874	7061
Women	3597	3745	3718	4043	4150
Professional bachelor	122	96	102	81	99
Bachelor and master	3475	3649	3616	3962	4051
Total in public higher schools					
Total	211973	220260	223866	227706	228847
Professional bachelor	8451	8834	8549	8483	7612
Bachelor and master	203522	211426	215317	219223	221235
Men	96003	99635	101950	104407	104934
Professional bachelor	4405	4385	4302	4378	3904
Bachelor and master	91598	95250	97648	100029	101030
Women	115970	120625	121916	123299	123913
Professional bachelor	4046	4449	4247	4105	3708
Bachelor and master	111924	116176	117669	119194	120205
Bulgarian citizens					
Total	203398	211133	214646	217940	218969
Professional bachelor	8238	8643	8361	8329	7479
Bachelor and master	195160	202490	206285	209611	211490
Men	90589	93768	95898	98110	98610
Professional bachelor	4278	4260	4176	4270	3810
Bachelor and master	86311	89508	91722	93840	94800
Women	112809	117365	118748	119830	120359
Professional bachelor	3960	4383	4185	4059	3669
Bachelor and master	108849	112982	114563	115771	116690
Foreigners					
Total	8575	9127	9220	9766	9878
Professional bachelor	213	191	188	154	133
Bachelor and master	8362	8936	9032	9612	9745

Men	5414	5867	6052	6297	6324
Professional bachelor	127	125	126	108	94
Bachelor and master	5287	5742	5926	6189	6230
Women	3161	3260	3168	3469	3554
Professional bachelor	86	66	62	46	39
Bachelor and master	3075	3194	3106	3423	3515
In public higher schools					
Total	58325	62976	57304	52586	49741
Professional bachelor	19273	20113	16962	¹ 7727	7076
Bachelor and master	39052	42863	40342	44859	42665
Men	23841	26168	24078	22565	21525
Professional bachelor	7745	8151	6932	3321	3097
Bachelor and master	16096	18017	17146	19244	18428
Women	34484	36808	33226	30021	28216
Professional bachelor	11528	11962	10030	4406	3979
Bachelor and master	22956	24846	23196	25615	24237
Bulgarian citizens					
Total	57428	62069	56243	51273	48239
Professional bachelor	19173	20039	16893	7638	6941
Bachelor and master	38255	42030	39350	43635	41298
Men	23380	25746	23567	21826	20619
Professional bachelor	7681	8107	6903	3267	3022
Bachelor and master	15699	17639	16664	18559	17597
Women	34048	36323	32676	29447	27620
Professional bachelor	11492	11932	9990	4371	3919
Bachelor and master	22556	24391	22686	25076	23701
Foreigners					
Total	897	907	1061	1313	1502
Professional bachelor	100	74	69	89	135
Bachelor and master	797	833	992	1224	1367
Men	461	422	511	739	906
Professional bachelor	64	44	29	54	75
Bachelor and master	397	378	482	685	831
Women	436	485	550	574	596
Professional bachelor	36	30	40	35	60
Bachelor and master	400	455	510	539	536

Students PhD by citizenship

	2008/09			2009/10			2010/11			2011/12			2012/13		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total in public and private higher schools and academic organizations															
Total	3949	1923	2026	3850	1906	1944	4095	2022	2073	4703	2310	2393	5371	2627	2744
Bulgarian citizens	3723	1768	1955	3625	1747	1878	3875	1871	2004	4502	2182	2320	5157	2498	2659
Foreigners	226	155	71	225	159	66	220	151	69	201	128	73	214	129	85

Graduated in 2012 by educational degrees, statistical zones, statistical areas and districts

Statistic zones, Statistic areas and districts	Secondary education					
	Total	High schools	Special schools	Artistic and sport schools (III degree of professional qualification)	Professional high schools (III degree professional qualification)	Professional high schools and professional schools (II degree professional qualification)
South-Eastern Region						
Burgas	3455	1754	-	91	1288	322

3.2.3 Burgas Free University

Burgas Free University (BFU) is established with an act of the Great National Assembly on 18 September 1991. The main accent in the education process is focused on the development of capabilities for independent creative thinking.

Organizational chart of Burgas Free University is built on the basis of relatively independent, established on the base of academic autonomy units, uniting majors from the fourth main scientific fields: Faculty of Legal Studies, Faculty of Business Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering. The university implements training of over 7000 students (full-time and part-time) on a number of bachelor and master majors:

- ✚ Law,
- ✚ Finances,
- ✚ Accountancy,
- ✚ Marketing,
- ✚ Business Administration,
- ✚ International Economic Relations,
- ✚ Economy and Marketing of Tourism,
- ✚ Public Relations,
- ✚ Journalism,
- ✚ Public Communications and Social Psychology,
- ✚ Social Activities and Consulting,
- ✚ Psychology,
- ✚ Informatics and Computer Sciences,
- ✚ Computer Systems and Technologies,
- ✚ Communications and Computerization of Renewable Energy Sources,
- ✚ Software Engineering,
- ✚ Applied Informatics and Multimedia,
- ✚ Electric Supply and Electric Furnishing,
- ✚ Communication Equipment and Computer Network,
- ✚ Multimedia Technologies,
- ✚ Logistic Information Technologies and Brokerage,
- ✚ Legal Engineering-Technical Expertises,
- ✚ Information Security,
- ✚ Business Information Technologies,
- ✚ Marketing and Management of Tourist Business,
- ✚ Bank Management,
- ✚ E-Marketing,
- ✚ Customs Control and Brokerage,
- ✚ Management and Development of Human Resources,
- ✚ Economy and Management of Real Estate Property,

- ✚ Marketing and Managerial Information Systems,
- ✚ Social Consulting and Psychology,
- ✚ Public Communication and Social Psychology,
- ✚ Children and Adolescent Psychology,
- ✚ Strategic Communication and Media Management,
- ✚ Psychology and Primary School Pedagogics,
- ✚ Financial PR

Since the academic 2008 there is admission on Master program "Public Relations in English". Over 12 000 persons have graduated the Burgas Free University.

Since 6 June 2003 Burgas Free University is a member of the Association of private Higher Schools in Bulgaria which main objective is to raise the quality of private higher education and advocate its authority in the country. The commitment of Burgas Free University is for creation of a common professional community of private and public universities with opportunity for joint participation in educational initiatives, projects and debates in various forums.

Burgas Free University has affirmed international authority. It works on a number of international projects with partners from over 30 universities abroad. Teachers and students participate in courses and specializations under European Union projects. BFU has signed cooperation contracts with over 20 universities and other organizations in Europe and America: Cambridge University, UK; Thracian University in Odrin, Marmara University and University of Halic in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey; American University Huron in London; Tennessee University, USA; Technical University in Chemnitz and Technical University of Zwickau, Germany; State Trade-Economic University of Kiev, Ukraine; International Business Academy and Financial Academy of Moscow; Belorussian State Economic University of Minsk, Belarus; University for Humanitarian Sciences in Elbron, Poland, etc.

In 1998 Burgas Free University signed an agreement with UNESCO for creation of a UNESCO Department on human rights and culture of peace in the university.

Since the beginning of 2004 Burgas Free University is a member of the Association of European Universities. Over 45 universities are members of the Association.

In 2006 BFU is again accredited from the National Accreditation and Evaluation Agency and obtained the maximum accreditation period – 6 years.

Size of semester fees:

- For all majors (except Law) full time – BGN 1000.
- For all majors (except Law) part time – BGN 850.
- For majors Law full time – BGN 1100.
- For major Law part-time:
 - I, II and III course – BGN 1000.
 - IV and V course – BGN 950.

3.2.4 University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - City of Burgas

University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" is the only public university in South-Eastern Bulgaria. It is established on 6 October 1963 with Council of Ministers Act No 162 as a High Chemical-Technological Institute. Five years later the institute has been renamed to High Chemical-Technological Institute "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov". In 1995 with Decision of the National Assembly the institute is affirmed as "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University.

University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" is institutionally accredited with Decision No 16/17.05.2007 of the National Accreditation and Evaluation Agency for 6 years term.

Education in the university is implemented in three faculties – Faculty on Technical Sciences, Faculty on Natural Sciences and Faculty on Public Sciences. Within the university there are three colleges – Technical, Medical and Tourism. The training is implemented by 29 accredited bachelor and over 60 master programs.

Over 320 high qualified professors are lecturers in the university as 127 of them are habilitated. Organization and management of the educational process of the university is in compliance with the European requirements for qualitative educational and research process.

The university has established academic contacts with institutes and universities from UK, France, Germany, Russia, Romania, Turkey, Spain, Italy, Hungary, Serbia, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, etc. These contacts create opportunity for academic specializations and educational practice of professors and students, exchange of lecturers, scientific and school literature.

Size of semester fees:

- ✚ For Pedagogic studies – BGN 350.
- ✚ For Humanitarian studies – BGN 560.
- ✚ For Social, Economic and Legal studies – BGN 350.
- ✚ For Natural studies, Mathematics and Informatics – BGN 710.
- ✚ For Technical studies – BGN 710.
- ✚ For Healthcare and Sport studies – BGN 910.
- ✚ For foreign citizens under art. 95, par. 7 of Higher Education Act (in EUR) – 2800.
- ✚ For language course (in EUR) – 2200.

3.2.5 Comparative characteristics

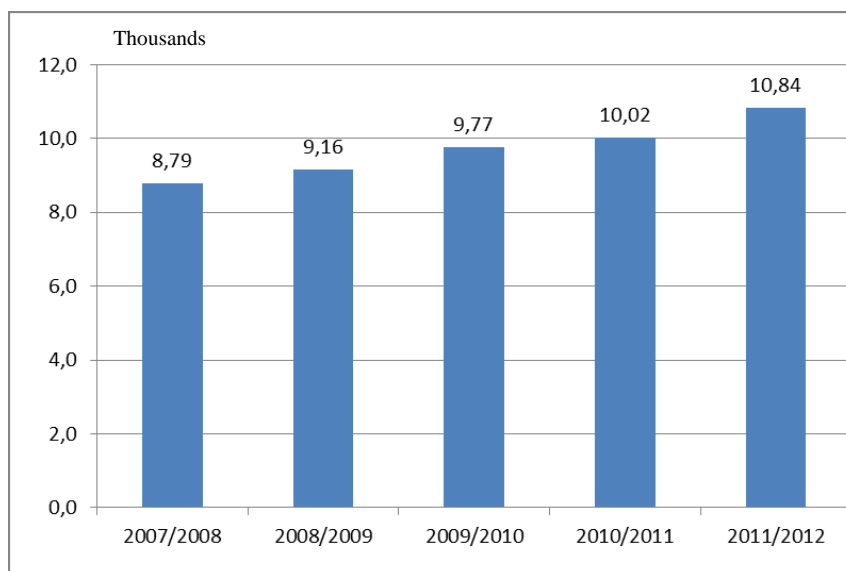
During academic year 2011/2012 total of 16 200 students are trained in bachelor degree, of which Bulgarian citizens are 16 thousand or 98.5%. 7.7 thousand or 47.7% of the students are enrolled in private colleges.

The higher relative share in the structure by educational fields is for trainees in majors Economic Studies and Administration – 34.8% followed by Sport, Tourism and Hotel Management – 19.1% and Technical Studies and Technical professions – 18.6%.

In 2011 7.6 thousand students have acquired educational degree professional bachelor of which 99.1% are Bulgarian citizens. Among graduated students the highest is the number of graduated in the fields Economic Studies and Administration – 3.7 thousand, or 49.1% followed by Public and Human Behavior Studies – 1.5 thousand, or 20.1% and Sport, Tourism and Hotel Management – 0.7 thousand or 9% of total number of graduated.

During the academic year 2011/2012 Bulgarian students in universities and specialized higher schools are 253.2 thousand or 95.9%. Their number increases with 7.6 thousand compared with academic 2010/2011 year or with 3.1%. Since the beginning of the reviewed period the number of foreign students gradually grows – during the next academic year they are 10.8 thousand or 8.1% more than previous.

4. Foreign students in universities and specialized higher schools



The highest increase is stated for Greek students – from 0.6 thousand in 2007/2008 to 1.9 thousand, or 3.2 times more, followed by the students from Turkey which increased 1.8 times. In 2011/2012 students from Turkey are 44.7% of all foreign students in Bulgaria followed by Greek students – 17.5% and FYROM – 7.8%. The number of Macedonian students gradually decreases from 2.8 thousand in the beginning of the reviewed period to 0.9 thousand in 2011/2012 or 69.9%.

International student mobility gets more and more importance in shaping of policies in the field of higher education which is accompanied with increasing need of information in the sector. Since the academic 2004/2005 year National Statistic Institute collects data and calculates indicators by Eurostat methodology about mobile students trained in Bulgaria. The newest concept of European Commission concerning mobile student is structured on the basis of citizenship, residence and graduated previous education. Student mobility in Bulgaria is measured by the indicator "country of graduated previous education" as mobile students are these who graduated their secondary school abroad.

The number of mobile students educated for bachelor and master degree increases slowly – from 8.8 thousand in 2007/2008 they increased to 10.8 thousand or 22.6% as compared with previous academic year the increase is 8.5%.

The higher relative share in the structure by educational fields is for trainees in majors Economic Studies and Administration – 23% followed by Technical Studies and Technical professions – 13.9% and Public and Human Behavior Studies – 12.3%. The smallest is the share of students trained in Veterinary Medicine – 0.6%, Natural Studies – 0.5% and Mathematics and Statistics – 0.2%.

During the academic 2011/2012 year enrolled are 52.5 thousand new students for bachelor and master degree after graduated high school compared with 50.4 thousand for the previous year. 50.3 thousand or 95.9% of them are Bulgarian citizens.

The number of newly enrolled in master programs after graduating bachelor degree is 24.5 thousand. Of them 2.5 thousand or 10.1% are enrolled in programs after graduated bachelor degree.

In 2011 55.9 students graduated bachelor and master degree as 54.2 of them are Bulgarian citizens. Highest relative share is of graduated in following educational fields: Economic Studies and Administration – 30.6%, Public and Human Behavior Studies – 15.2% and Technical Studies and Technical Professions – 11.8%. Lowest of total number of graduated students is the relative share in the fields Veterinary Medicine (0.4%) and mathematics and Statistics (0.3%).

To the end of 2011 in Bulgaria study 4703 doctoral candidates as 50.9% of them are women. Foreign doctoral candidates trained in Bulgaria are 201 or 4.3% of the total number. Highest share of them is for Greece and FYROM – 16.4% of the total number of doctoral candidates, followed by Turkey – 12.4%

5. Majors preferred by foreign students

Turkish and Greek students choose a Bulgarian university. Foreigners prefer engineering majors and medicine. Over 1300 students in the Technical University for example are from Turkey and study Industrial Engineering, Mechatronics, Engineering. Turkey is a large economy which is rapidly developing and there is a need of engineers. Turkish universities cannot ensure education for all students and by that reason Turkish students choose education in Bulgaria.

Foreign students choose Bulgaria mainly due to the cheaper education, easy admission and Bulgarian EU membership.

6. Fees for foreign students

Foreign students pay between EUR 2000 and EUR 8000 per academic year in Bulgaria. The data are stated by the Ministry of Education and Science.

7. Management program for Burgas Municipality

Following objectives and measures for their implementation are outlined in the Management Program of Burgas Municipality 2011-2015:

7.1 Effectiveness and quality of education

Measures:

- Administrative and fiscal decentralization in the educational system by improvement of the system for financial management and control, dealing with municipal property and management of own incomes by educational and children institutions on the territory of Burgas Municipality;
- Development of a mechanism for partnership by encouraging the parental and civic participation in the education management system;
- Continuation of the traditions in human resource development in the system of education – qualification and pre-qualification of teachers, directors and assistant-directors;

- Expansion of buildings and renovation of equipment in the system of education – enlargement of the existing premises, building of new infrastructural objects, measures under Energy Efficiency Fund, National Trust Ecofund, Fund "Kozloduy", etc., continuing of municipal program activities for upgrade of equipment and building of new one, gradually building of accessible environment, obligatory 100% access to ICT; building of specialized cabinets in profiled and professional high schools equipped with multimedia systems for foreign language learning, profiling and basic subjects (interactive classrooms);
- Optimizing the school network – reduction and removal of ineffective and doubled majors, creation of new ones after thorough research of market needs, consolidation of classes filling;
- Ensuring of optimal social and housing, hygienic, healthy and safe training conditions, education and labor by increasing the number of school dining rooms and kiosks, ensuring new school buses, increasing the number of medical specialists in schools;
- Continuing the traditions in interaction between education and business – creation of centers for career consulting oriented to the professional high schools, organization of meetings between representatives of schools and business, creation of opportunities for training of so called "professional consultants";
- Upgrade of school equipment in schools and kindergartens;
- Affirming the traditions for prizing of prominent students, teachers, schools and kindergartens on occasion of national holidays – 24 May, 6 December, by renovation of criteria system in nomination and awarding;
- Development of programs and projects to the EU and ministries for attraction of additional funds; If needed new information campaigns are to be organized about the work of schools on European projects as well as "sample projects" are to be elaborated which are to be used in case of funding opportunity.

7.2 Democratization of education

Measures:

- Ensuring equal access to qualitative education and social integration of children and students with special educational needs, from ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups by attraction of additional funds from national and European programs and projects, development and renovation of already created municipal programs for educational integration and work with children with special educational needs, enlargement of the network of logopedic cabinets, creation and maintenance of a Community Center for early child development and parental support;

- Creation of a package of measures for prevention of dropping out of school – continuing the traditions in the field of whole day organization of educational process, ensuring transport for children and students from settlements with ethnic mixed population, professional training of students from ethnic minorities as a secure way for successful employment and social integration, joint projects and programs for prevention of school abandonment;
- Ensuring conditions for coverage the children in compulsory school age – elaboration of school programs for solving the problem with students not-covered by school regardless of place of residence, origin, social and health status; implementation of explanatory work with parents which are not committed to educate their children due to lack of incomes or low intellectual level; economic mechanisms that oblige the family to send their children at school up to age 16;
- Organization of literacy, qualification and re-qualification courses for adults with the cooperation of Labor Bureau – Burgas.

8. State of play of the school network

The National Development Plan 2000-2006 updated in April 2003 emphasizes the need of human resources development including improvement of professional education and training as a priority.

In April 2003 Council of Ministers approved a National Action Plan in the field of employment. The plan indicates the key activities for encouraging the employment in 2003, significant part of which are adult training leading to acquiring of professional qualification.

Investments in education calculated as a part of GDP are still below the average European Union level. The share of drop-out students, early abandoned school and failed to graduate is significant. Enrollment in higher schools is relatively poor. An insignificant follow-up monitoring of the Commission memorandum is implemented concerning long life learning or optimizing the school network.

Increasing and adapting of education and training levels is a significant problem in order current and future labor force to be redirected from declining to developing sectors, to be avoided discrepancy in skills and discrepancies at regional level and to be responded to the requirement for adaptiveness imposed by the process of restructuring. Bulgaria should further develop the reform in the field of professional education and training in accordance with economic needs, including to develop a strategy for continuous professional training in close cooperation with social partners as well as appropriate incentives for training of employees. Of significant importance is to be raised awareness of inequalities in access to training for unemployed. Cooperation between enterprises and schools should be enforced. The process of development of new standards for training in accordance with the professional requirements as well as a new system for evaluation and certification should continue.

It is needed efforts to be made also for improvement of opportunities for education of minority groups and possible obstacles to be revised with a view to ensuring equal access to education.

9. Vocational training

Implemented analysis of professional education and training in Burgas District during the last five years shows decrement of classes with 4 year term of education and acquiring of second qualification degree and increase of classes with 5 and 6 year term of education and acquiring of third professional qualification degree.

Intensified is enrollment in professional high schools with intense learning of foreign languages. This is particularly expressed in professional field "Electronics and Electrical", professions "Electronics", "Micro processors" and "Computers".

Justified is the interest in professions "Culinary", "Hotel Management", "Technology and management of manufacturing and servicing in restaurants", from professional field "Food industry and services" in accordance with development of small and medium business of families in municipalities of Burgas, Nesebar and Pomorie.

The greater distance from professional high schools of certain settlements imposed opening of professional classes in high schools on site. The profession trained is complied with the economic development of region and need of staff for future development – municipalities of Ruen, Tsarevo, Primorsko.

The average filling of classes in Burgas Municipality goes near 100%. The same indicator for professional classes in Burgas District during the last years is almost 98%.

Optimization of school network in professional schools from the district is implemented by introduction of training in new professions.

Modern equipment, qualification of teachers and implementation of the public admission during the last years are enough prerequisite Regional Educational Inspectorate – Burgas not to make proposals for closing or restructuring of professional schools.

Children with antisocial behavior acquire skills in tailoring in the socio-pedagogic boarding school in the village of Sigmen – Karnobat Municipality. Deaf children are trained in culinary in the Professional Tourist High School "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" – Burgas.

Continuing training and long life learning is implemented in qualification centers. Such centers are opened in most of the professional schools. The centers qualify not only citizens but also students eager to obtain additional qualification in other profession.

10. Conclusions and recommendations

Following conclusions could be made on the basis of analysis implemented:

Educational system in Burgas District, in particular educational programs of universities and high schools, cover wide range of majors accenting on the specific for the region fields of socio-economic nature such as tourism, real estate, hotel management and other accompanying and auxiliary services to the economic sectors specific for the region.

Also could be mentioned that educational programs of universities in the district and their majors (in particular the new majors of FBU) reflect the economic dynamics in the country. Opening of new majors in the field of programming, network building and maintenance of computer systems aim satisfaction of the lack of high-qualified staff as well as the new external services companies entering the market of the It sector (outsourcing).

Following trend is observed: In high schools and professional and profiled high schools in Burgas District the number of majors and classes is decreased with one – two classes during the last five years and with one to three majors as there is outflow from professional high schools and orientation to high schools and profiled high schools accenting on foreign language training and majors applicable in the field of services provided in the district to the moment.

Also should be taken into consideration the fact of deepening the processes of ageing and decrease of population. Economic growth runs with different dynamics in different municipalities. As regards the employment there is slow growing during the last years as the seasonal factor is clearly outlined – increase of employed during the high season and agricultural summer season. Competitiveness evaluated in European aspect is exclusively low, regardless of good educational characteristics of human resources. The problem "center-periphery" is typically expressed in Burgas District. In the center is the concentration of beneficiaries of positive changes – educational and academic centers, well qualified human resources, good infrastructural networks and business environment institutions than in periphery.

Raise and adaptation of education and training levels is a significant problem. Bulgaria should further develop it reform in the field of professional education and training in compliance with the economic needs.

Of significant importance is to be raised awareness of inequalities in access to training for unemployed. Cooperation between enterprises and schools should be enforced.

It is needed efforts to be made also for improvement of opportunities for education of minority groups and possible obstacles to be revised with a view to ensuring equal access to education.

11. Information Sources

1. Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria
2. National Education Act
3. Higher Education Act
4. Acknowledgment of Professional Qualifications Act
5. Regulation No 2/2003 on graduated stages of school education or educational degrees and professional qualification by documents issued abroad (SG No 40/2003)
6. Decree No 11 from 3 February 2010 on adoption of Rules of Procedure of the Ministry of Education and Science and determining of primary and secondary administrators with appropriations in the Ministry (SG No 12/2010)
7. Decree No 103 from 31 May 1993 on implementation of educational activities among Bulgarians abroad
8. National Statistic Institute
9. Management Program of Burgas Municipality 2011-2015
10. Regional Strategy of Burgas District 2005-2015
11. Official web-site of Burgas Municipality

12. Annexes

Annexes to this document could be found in a separate file.