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**Faculty of Finance**  
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**AUTHOR'S ABSTRACT**

of a dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree  
"Doctor" (in Economics) under Doctoral Program "Finance, Money  
Circulation, Credit and Insurance" (Finance) on the topic:

***„FINANCIAL PROVISION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE NORTH WEST PLANNING REGION“***

**Scientific Advisor:**

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Svishtov

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Data about the dissertation:

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The defense of the dissertation will take place on 01 September, 2022 at 2.00 p.m. in the Rectorate Conference Hall of Dimitar A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov.

The materials on the defense are available to those interested in the Department of Doctoral Studies and Academic Development of the Dimitar A. Tsenov Academy of Economics - Svishtov

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## **I. General characteristics of the dissertation paper**

### **1. Relevance of the topic**

In recent years, research has offered a number of expert variants of NUTS 2 regional division. Currently, there are six planning regions in Bulgaria, named as follows: North West (BG31), North Central (BG32), North East (BG33), South East (BG34), South Central (BG42) and South West (BG41). According to the accepted nomenclature (NUTS) and the European Regulation on the Common Classification of Territorial Units for Statistical Purposes (Eur-Lex, 2022), administrative units are defined based on the average number of residents in the respective unit: between 3 and 7 million for NUTS 1, between 800,000 and 3 million for NUTS 2 - and between 150,000 and 800,000 for NUTS 3. The North West planning region is among the regions known to be most vulnerable to economic, social and demographic challenges. Stimulating the regional development and growth of the North West region is a priority in terms of reducing regional disparities in the key quantitative indicators of the regions and in the quality of socio-economic indicators. Practically, this is the area which in a ten year period after the accession of Bulgaria to the EU (after 01.01.2007) was ranked last in the EU in terms of GDP per capita (PPP standard). On this basis, the conclusion can be made about the relevance of the problem of the economic situation and the prospects for the development of the North

West planning region with a view to overcoming the objective divergence compared to the rest of the country in particular and the European Union in general.

## **2. Object and subject of research**

Based on the thus described relevance, *the object* of the dissertation research is the North West Planning Region.

*The subject* of the dissertation research is the financial provision of the development of the North West Planning Region.

## **3. Research thesis statement**

**The thesis statement**, defended in the dissertation is that the lagging behind of the North West Planning Region in terms of the economic and social and demographic indices can be overcome by intensive and priority financing with national and European funds of the projects and the plans for regional development at the district and planning region level.

## **4. Research purpose**

Based on the object, subject and thesis statement thus defined, *the purpose* of the dissertation is to investigate the genesis of the lagging behind in the development of the North West Planning Region and to justify the positive effect of achieving a catch-up and convergence effect through priority provision of national and European funding of the projects and the plans for regional development/integrated development plans at the district and planning region level.

## 5. Research tasks and methodology

Following the thus formulated purpose, object, subject and thesis statement, the following **tasks** can be defined and a relevant **structure** of the dissertation developed:

- Based on the available statistical information, to reveal the genesis of the lagging behind in terms of economic, social and demographic indices of the North West Planning Region (BG31) compared to the other planning regions in the country;
- Using comparative analysis to do internal regional analysis of the districts of Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Pleven and Lovech, and to assess the effect of funding under the operational programs during the first two program periods on the process of overcoming the lagging behind in development.
- To single out the priorities for national and European funding of the development plans at the district and regional level with a view to achieving accelerated convergence, measured by the main indicators of economic and socio-demographic development.
- To prepare a perspective spatial model for sustainable redivision into regions and providing for Bulgaria's regional development, in particular of the North West Planning Region.

**The methods** used in the dissertation research are comparative analysis, dynamic analysis, deduction and induction, analysis and synthesis, spatial modeling, financial analysis on absolute and relative data.

## **6. Scope of the study**

The research in the dissertation, in its theoretical and empirical parts, is limited in scope to precisely defined aspects of the opportunities for funding the development of the North West Planning Region in terms of the analysis and the evaluation of the social, economic and financial situation in the region. The problems of the delayed start of the projects from the new program period 2021-2027 and the macroeconomic imbalances caused by the increased inflation and the war in Ukraine **remain outside the scope** of the dissertation.

## **7. Structure of the dissertation**

The dissertation paper is of total volume of 187 standard pages, structured in three chapters as follows:

### **CONTENTS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **CHAPTER ONE. THE NORTH WEST PLANNING REGION AS AN OBJECT OF THE REGIONAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS**

1. The North West Planning Region from social and economic perspective
  - 1.1. Transport and transportation network
  - 1.2. Economy and industry
  - 1.3. Opportunities for the development of tourism
2. Normative and methodological framework of regional and local development
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3. Priorities and strategies for the development of the North West Planning

Region

Conclusions from Chapter one.

## **CHAPTER TWO. THEORETIC AND METHODOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE NORTH WEST PLANNING REGION**

1. Regional development – theoretic aspects and instruments for financial provision

- 1.1. Regional development – theoretic aspects and characteristics

- 1.2 Instruments for financial provision of the regional development

2. Development of the regions from NUTS 2 – a parallel analysis between Bulgaria and Romania.

3. Analysis and evaluation of the social, economic and financial condition of the North West Planning Region

Conclusions from Chapter two.

## **CHAPTER THREE. PRACTICAL APPLICATION STUDY OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINANCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH WEST PLANNING REGION**

1. Analysis of participation in European and national projects and programs for financing the development of the North West Planning Region

2. Status and trends of the implemented development programs in the areas of the North West Planning Region

3. A perspective spatial model for sustainable redivision into regions and providing for Bulgaria's regional development

Conclusions from Chapter three.

## **CONCLUSION**



## **APPENDICES**

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

A list of the publications on the dissertation topic

A reference for the compliance with the requirements for NACID indexing pursuant to the Regulations on the Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act

Statement of originality

### **Applicability of the results from the conducted research**

The theoretical reflections and conclusions developed in the dissertation, as well as the empirical results of the research, aim to support the notion that the lagging behind of the North West Planning Region in terms of the economic and social and demographic indicators can be overcome by intensive and priority financing with national and European funds of the projects and the plans for regional development at the district and planning region level.

On this basis, the proposed spatial model is a useful guide and instrument for the optimal implementation of the planned transport infrastructure projects, by application of a method to achieve the improvement of the environment and a preventive measure to the risk of the financial and economic lagging behind of Bulgaria compared to the other member countries of the European Union.

The literature and information sources used in the dissertation, the adapted models, the studied and mastered approaches to research are extremely useful for the author in his social and public activity and at the same time can be useful for every party interested in the topic under research.

## II. Resume of the dissertation paper

### CHAPTER ONE. THE NORTH WEST PLANNING REGION AS AN OBJECT OF THE REGIONAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

The main line that is followed in Chapter one corresponds to the title and is related to the study of the North West Planning Region as an object of the regional financial and economic analysis. Based on this, the relevant paragraphs of the paper examine the following aspects of the North West Planning Region as an object of the regional financial and economic analysis:

**First.** The North West Planning Region from social and economic perspective

**Second.** Normative and methodological framework of regional and local development

**Third.** Priorities and strategies for the development of the North West Planning Region

Based on the review of the core features of the North West Planning Region in terms of the main components of the socio-economic perspectives ("Transport and transportation network", "Economy and industry", "Opportunities for the development of the tourism"), the normative and methodological framework of the regional and local development and the priorities and strategies for the development of the North West Planning Region, the following more important conclusions and findings can be presented:

**First.** The North West Planning Region is the smallest of the six regions in Bulgaria. It consists of five administrative divisions - Vidin, Vratsa, Lovech, Montana and Pleven which comprise fifty-one municipalities and 626 settlements. From a territorial point of view, the administrative divisions in the region border as

follows: Vidin and Montana with the Republic of Serbia; the divisions of Vidin, Montana, Vratsa and Pleven are located along the Danube River, adjacent to our northern neighbour Romania. In terms of planning regions, the North West Region is situated between the North Central Region to the east, the South West and South Central Region to the south, "Sud-Vest Oltenia" (Eurostat, 2015) in the northern neighbouring country Romania, with the adjacent NUTS-2 regions: RO411 - Dolj, RO413 - Mehedinți, RO414 - Olt and partially "Sud - Muntenia" area RO317 - Teleorman, Southern and Eastern Serbia (Tanjug, 2009) in the west with the adjoining Zajcar and Bor districts and partly the Pirot district. The strategic territorial location of the region emphasizes the relevance of development of an effective model for keeping the residents in the region, thus limiting the negative demographic trends and the depopulation of the North West Planning Region.

**Second.** The territory of the North West Planning Region is of key transportation importance. It is crossed by: the transport corridor connecting the countries of Central Europe with the Aegean Sea and the pan-European transport corridor - Rhine-May-Danube with the adjacent ports and river facilities. At the same time, it is crossed by key European transport corridors, which connect Europe to Asia. This requires a transport network of good condition, which currently is 3424 km, least developed in Vidin and Montana administrative divisions. To achieve significance in the transport and infrastructural development of the area, it is necessary to direct resources to improve the quality of the road surface and improve the road network through the construction of first-class and second-class roads, connected to the many coordinative border and port cities, situated in the area.

**Third.** The presence of a variety of economic sectors in the region and their lagging behind requires additional financing of a number of sectors. The region is unique for the only constructed and operative nuclear power plant - (NPP "Kozloduy", 2022) and the six transport connections with Romania and the countries

along the Danube river, via a bridge near the town of Vidin, ports close to Lom and Kozloduy and ferries at Oryahovo and Nikopol. The main economic sectors in the area are related to the light industry, the food industry, the production of building materials, automotive components, the textile industry, etc. The listed sectors and the companies adjacent to them meet the needs of the European and the Bulgarian markets, some of them being leaders in their activity. At the same time, the area has a high potential for the development of river, mountain and cultural and historical tourism. For the purposes of improving tourist sites and promoting the area, additional funding is needed, which would improve the condition of tourism in individual areas of the region and could result in improvement and stimulation of the tourism industry of the North West Planning Region in general. The presence of potential in the two key sectors of the region: economy and tourism - requires to support optimal characteristics of the area for the purposes of long-term financial provision of the development of enterprises and the capacity of human resources.

**Fourth.** The strategic regional planning and the implementation of integrated approaches for the development of the region, in accordance with the normative compliance with key normative documents and of a European and national nature can contribute to the economic, social and territorial convergence. Such documents are: the Leipzig Charter for Sustainable European Cities, the Law on Regional Development, the National Plan for Regional Development of the Republic of Bulgaria, the National Strategy for Regional Development of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regional Development Plans, etc.

**Fifth.** Based on the reviewed regional development plans and the Integrated Territorial Strategy for the Development of the North West Region for NUTS 2 planning, emphasis is placed on the search for effective methods to achieve sustainable economic development and to increase the competitiveness of the local economy. At the same time, significant attention is paid to: improving territorial

sustainability and connectivity in the area; improving the quality of life in the North West Planning Region and turning it into a modern transport and communication center of national and international importance; supporting regional development and local development initiatives, both of a competitive economy and own potential and human resources. This is possible with the step-by-step implementation of the strategic goals for the development of the regions and the maintenance of the regional capacity at a level consistent with the needs for the financial provision of the region.

## **CHAPTER TWO. THEORETIC AND METHODOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE NORTH WEST PLANNING REGION**

**First.** Regional development - theoretic aspects and instruments for financial provision

**Second.** Development of the regions from NUTS 2 - parallel analysis between Bulgaria and Romania

**Third.** Analysis and evaluation of the social, economic and financial condition of the North West Planning Region

Based on the theoretic and methodological analysis of the economic condition of the North West Planning Region presented in chapter two and the specification of: theoretical aspects and characteristics of regional development; the instruments for financial provision of regional development; the parallel analysis between the regional development in Bulgaria and Romania and the analysis and evaluation of the social, economic and financial situation of the North West Planning Region, the following more important conclusions can be made:

**First.** "regional development" can be defined as: a set of sustainable, coordinated actions taken by political actors and a process of continuous and

purposeful implementation of strategic decisions, expanding and stimulating the social, economic and ecological situation of the region and aimed at the promotion of the regional competitiveness, the improvement of the social, economic and political conditions and the acceleration of regional growth.

**Second.** Based on the review of the instruments for financial provision of regional development we can infer that Bulgaria's membership in the EU since 2007 has been a serious prerequisite for the development of the regions. The more important regional instruments are: European Fund for Regional Development; European Social Fund; Cohesion Fund; European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development; The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, comprising the European Structural and Investment Funds, etc. All of them, although to a lesser extent, have been reflected in the development of the North West Planning Region in recent years.

**Third.** The comparative analysis of the trends in the development of the regions in Bulgaria and Romania shows a high degree of imbalance between them, the positioning of the North West Planning Region among the regions with the lowest development of the population, and the contrasting condition of the South West Planning Region, which ranks among the most developed regions. For the purposes of improving the average values of the monitored indicators, it is necessary to search for new measures (including funding and investments) that will contribute positively to the development of the population in the area and will be a factor for its catching up both in national and European Union context.

**Fourth.** The analysis and the assessment of the socio-economic and financial condition of the districts from the North West Planning Region, covering the percentage changes compared to the previous period of key financial and economic indicators, such as income, working conditions, labour market, investments, infrastructure, etc. Based on the analytical review, it is evident that there is a serious degree of lagging behind in the indicators (from the greatest lagging behind to the

least) in the district of Vidin, the district of Montana, the district of Lovech, the district of Vratsa, and the district of Pleven. This raises the question of seeking solutions how to improve the indicator to resolve the serious demographic problem in the region, the implementation and the integration of the minority groups and those of lower financial opportunities in the processes of increasing their activity in the direction of improving skills, additional education, employment and social engagement.

### **CHAPTER THREE. PRACTICAL APPLICATION STUDY OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINANCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH WEST PLANNING REGION**

The third chapter presents the practical application study of the opportunities for financing the development of the North West Planning Region.

The chapter is divided into three paragraphs as follows:

**First.** Analysis of the participation in European and national projects and programs for financing the development of the North West Planning Region.

**Second.** Status and trends of the implemented development programs in the areas of the North West Planning Region

**Third.** A perspective spatial model for sustainable redivision into regions and providing for Bulgaria's regional development

The main conclusions that can be drawn from this chapter cover the practical application study of the opportunities for financing the development of the North West Planning Region and presents in a practical aspect the strengths and weaknesses of the region in retrospect and perspective. The more important findings relate to:

**First.** Based on conducted analysis of the participation in European and national projects and programs for financing the development of the regions in Bulgaria, and in particular the focus on the North West Planning Region, we can arrive at the conclusion that: the most effective use of the funds for the implementation of projects is in the South West Planning Region during the two program periods; The North West Planning Region lags behind in the implemented project proposals, because of absence of such or failure to meet the requirements for their implementation and ranking; in terms of the implementation and execution of projects at the district level in the North West Planning Region, there is a strong lagging behind in the project activity in the districts of Vidin and Lovech. For the purposes of minimizing regional disparities, this must be compensated for in the new programming period.

**Second.** The North West Planning Region is among the regions that have been developing in recent years by investing mainly in the operational programs “Regions in Growth”, “Innovation and Competitiveness”, “Human Resources Development” and “Environment”. The largest financial support in the region in the period 2014-2020 was received by the district of Vratsa, where the total value amounted to BGN 496,793,813.66. The biggest share of the value of the projects per 1 resident is also observed in this district - BGN 4 054.86. The district of Pleven received the largest grant in the period 2014-2020 - BGN 390,231,586.79, with executed 990 contracts for financing and 748 beneficiaries. Given the assets of the districts in the region - the presence of a significant geographical location, transport corridors and cultural and historical heritage for the development of the area in the next program periods, it is necessary to concentrate on the programs for improving transport and transportation infrastructure, cultural entrepreneurship, heritage and cooperation. In this way, the North West Planning Region would take on a new look with national and European appeal.



**Third.** Based on the perspective spatial model for sustainable redivision into regions and providing for Bulgaria's regional development, the normative requirement for number of residents in NUTS 2 regions remains unchanged in the long term (until 2080) and five regional centers are identified. In the absence of force majeure circumstances in the socio-economic aspect in the country, it would be possible to achieve economic integration between the regions and the development of regional policy for the purposes of implementing the financial provision, the development of the lagging regions, one of which the North West Planning Region currently is. At the same time, in this way, it would be possible to achieve optimal execution of the planned transportation infrastructure projects, as well as refer to a method to achieve the improvement of the environment and a measure to prevent the risk of the financial lagging behind of Bulgaria compared to the other member states of the European Union. The complete map of the regions can be seen in Figure 1.

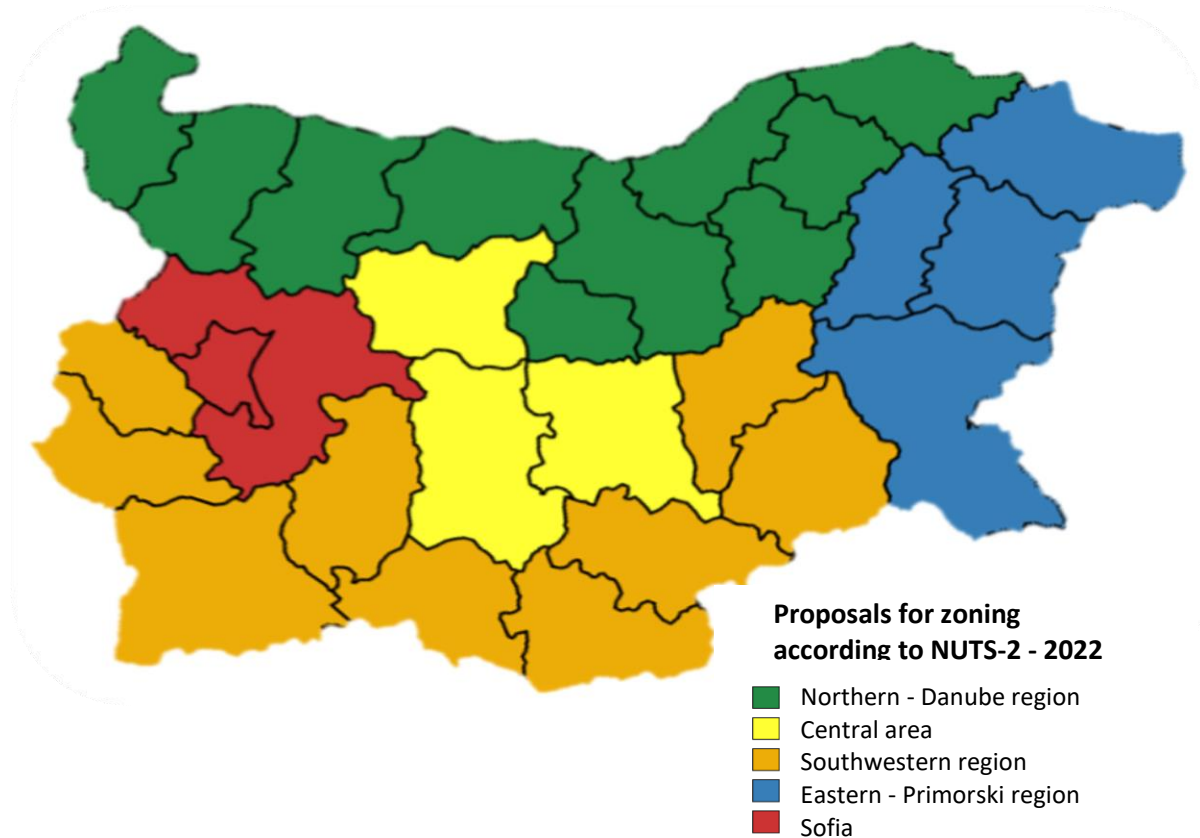


Figure 1. Model for division into regions in Bulgaria, for the purposes of the financial provision of the development of the regions in the country, in compliance with the NUTS2 nomenclature.

Source: Adapted by the author

## CONCLUSION

The dissertation focused on the problem of financial provision for the development of the poorest region in the EU - BG31 (Northwestern planning region). In the exposition, the main results and conclusions of the research were consistently presented in a theoretical, methodological and practical application aspect, as follows:

**First.** The strategic territorial location of the North West Planning Region brings to the fore the issue of searching for an effective model to stimulate residents to stay in the region, limiting negative demographic trends and the depopulation of the region.

**Second.** The territory of the North West Planning Region is of key transport importance. For the purposes of achieving significance in the transport and infrastructural development of the area, it is necessary to direct resources to improve the quality of the road surface and improve the road network through the construction of first-class and second-class roads, which link the numerous coordination border and port cities, located in the area.

**Third.** The existence of a variety of economic sectors in the region and their lagging behind requires additional financing of a number of sectors. The uniqueness of the region consists in the only constructed and operative nuclear power plant - (NPP "Kozloduy", 2022) and the six transport connections with Romania and the countries along the Danube river, via a bridge near the town of Vidin, ports close to Lom and Kozloduy and ferries at Oryahovo and Nikopol. The area has a high potential for the development of river, mountain and cultural and historical tourism.

**Fourth.** The strategic regional planning and the implementation of integrated approaches for the development of the region, in accordance with the compliance with key normative documents and of European and national origin, is the basis for the economic, social and territorial convergence.

**Fifth.** Based on the reviewed regional development plans and the Integrated Territorial Strategy for the Development of the North West Planning Region, emphasis is placed on the search for effective methods to achieve sustainable economic development and to increase the competitiveness of the local economy. This is possible with the step-by-step implementation of the strategic goals for the

development of the regions and the maintenance of the regional capacity at a level consistent with the needs for the financial provision of the region.

**Sixth.** "Regional development" can be defined as: a set of sustainable, coordinated actions taken by political actors and a process of continuous and purposeful implementation of strategic decisions, expanding and stimulating the social, economic and ecological situation of the region and aimed at the promotion of the regional competitiveness, the improvement of the social, economic and political conditions and the acceleration of regional growth.

**Seventh.** Based on the review of the instruments for financial provision of regional development we can infer that Bulgaria's membership in the EU since 2007 is a serious prerequisite for the development of the regions. All of them, in a specific aspect, have been reflected in the development of the North West Planning Region in recent years.

**Eighth.** The comparative analysis of the trends in the development of the regions in Bulgaria and Romania shows a high degree of imbalance between them. For the purposes of improving the average values of the monitored indicators, it is necessary to search for new measures (including funding and investments) that will contribute positively to the development of the population in the area and will be a factor for its catching up both in national and European Union context.

**Ninth.** Based on the analytical review, it is evident that there is a serious degree of lagging behind in the indicators (from the greatest lagging behind to the least) in the district of Vidin, the district of Montana, the district of Lovech, the district of Vratsa, and the district of Pleven. This raises the question of seeking solutions how to improve the indicator to resolve the serious demographic problem in the region.

**Tenth.** The comparative analysis shows the most effective use of the funds for the implementation of projects in the South West Planning Region during the two program periods; The North West Planning Region lags behind in the project activity.

**Eleventh.** The North West Planning Region is among the regions that have been developing in recent years by investing mainly in the operational programs “Regions in Growth”, “Innovation and Competitiveness”, “Human Resources Development” and “Environment”. The largest financial support in the region in the period 2014-2020 was received by the district of Vratsa. Given the assets of the districts in the region - the presence of a significant geographical location, transport corridors and cultural and historical heritage for the development of the area in the next program periods, it is necessary to concentrate on the programs for improving transport and transport infrastructure, cultural entrepreneurship, heritage and cooperation.

**Twelfth.** Based on the perspective spatial model for sustainable redivision into regions and providing for Bulgaria’s regional development, the normative requirement for number of residents in NUTS 2 regions remains unchanged in the long term (until 2080) and five regional centers are identified. In the absence of force majeure circumstances in the socio-economic aspect in the country, it would be possible to achieve economic integration between the regions and the development of regional policy for the purposes of implementing the financial provision, the development of the lagging regions, one of which the North West Planning Region currently is. At the same time, in this way, it would be possible to achieve optimal execution of the planned transport infrastructure projects, as well as refer to a method to achieve the improvement of the environment and a measure to prevent the risk of the financial lagging behind of Bulgaria compared to the other member states of the European Union.

In summary, research findings confirm the general conclusion of serious deficits in the national and European policies aiming at overcoming the lagging behind of the EU regions in their development, compared to the average indicators for the Union. The poor development forms attitudes towards migration to wealthier regions, with a higher "cost" of labour (Zahariev, 2011). Financial resources alone are definitely not enough. A comprehensive long-term vision is needed to overcome the development lag through measures, programs and projects that improve the demographic, educational and health status of the population, together with rising regional GDP (per capita) indicators.

### **III. GUIDELINES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH ON THE DISSERTATION TOPIC**

The scope of the dissertation does not completely exhaust the issue of the financial provision for the development of the North West Planning Region. The topic is still relevant and can be further researched in the following aspects:

1. The development of the North West Planning region during the new programming period 2021-2027.

2. Research on the trends in the development and the progress of the region based on the implementation of the Integrated Territorial Strategy for the Development of the NUTS-2 North West Region for the period 2021-2027.

#### IV. LIST OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND APPLIED CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE DISSERTATION PAPER

**First.** Based on the available statistical information, the genesis of the lagging behind in economic and socio-demographic indicators of the North West Planning Region (BG31) compared to the other planning regions in the country has been revealed;

**Second.** An author's definition of the concept of "regional development" has been derived, as a set of sustainable, coordinated actions taken by political actors and a process of continuous and purposeful implementation of strategic decisions, expanding and stimulating the social, economic and ecological situation of the region and aimed at the promotion of the regional competitiveness, the improvement of the social, economic and political conditions and the acceleration of regional growth.

**Third.** Through a comparative analysis an internal regional analysis of the Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Pleven and Lovech regions was done, and the effect of the financing under the operational programs during the first two program periods on the process of overcoming the development lag was evaluated.

**Fourth.** After applying basic analytical indicators for economic and socio-demographic development, priorities for national and European financing of the development plans at the level of districts and regions with a view to achieving accelerated convergence have been identified.

**Fifth.** Through the development of a perspective spatial model a sustainable redivision into regions and providing for Bulgaria's regional development, in particular of the North West Planning Region was proposed.



## **A LIST OF THE PUBLICATIONS ON THE DISSERTATION TOPIC**

### **Studies:**

1. Harizanov, M. (2022). Financial Aspects of the Realized Development Programs in the North West Planning Region, Annual Almanac Scientific Research of Doctoral Students (2022), vol. 17, ISSN 1313-6542, p. ... (in press) / The journal is indexed in NACID.

### **Articles:**

2. Harizanov, M. (2022). Perspective spatial model for sustainable redivision into regions and providing for Bulgaria's regional development. Economic Archive, (2), ISSN 0323-9004, ERIH+ indexed, pp. 69-88, The publication is indexed in NACID.
3. Harizanov, M. (2022). Development of the NUTS-2 regions – a parallel analysis of Bulgaria and Romania“, Scientific Atlas (2022), (2), ISSN 2738-7518, pp .... The journal is indexed in NACID.

**A REFERENCE FOR THE COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR NACID INDEXING PURSUANT TO THE REGULATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMIC STAFF IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA ACT**

National requirement for number of points: **30,00**

Number of **studies**, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals, or published in edited collective volumes: 1

Number of points for the author: 15

Number of **articles**, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals, or published in edited collective volumes: 2

Number of points for the author: 20

Number of **reports**, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals, or published in edited collective volumes: 0

Number of points for the author: 0

Total number of points: 35,00 > 30,00

## V. STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY OF THE DISSERTATION WORK

The dissertation paper in the volume of 187 pp., titled: *Financial provision of the development of the North West Planning Region* is authentic and is the author's own scientific production. It uses copyrighted ideas, texts and visualizations through graphics, diagrams, tables and formulas, complying with all requirements of the Copyright and Related Rights Act by properly quoting from and referring to foreign copyright, as well as data, including:

1. The results achieved in the dissertation and the contributions derived are original and are not borrowed from research and publications in which the author does not participate.

2. The information presented by the author in the form of copies of documents and publications, personal reports, etc. corresponds to the objective truth.

3. The scientific results obtained, described and/or published by other authors are duly and in detail cited in the bibliography.

**Date:** 21.06.2022

**Doctoral student:** .....

/Martin Harizanov/