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Bulgaria: EU's Parking Lot

A decade since Bulgaria entered the European Union and the economic process and status of the country has appeared into a complete varied direction in comparison to the Eastern European counterparts that had already introduced the common euro currency. Separately analyzing corruption and aging of population, it has become all too obvious to any close-observe mindset that swelling Parliament seats and numerous branch agencies, including ministries that do not make sense, in addition to a gradual loss of literacy and basic competencies across the nation have created a devastating revamp balloon, now only calling for outside help. The main reasons for Bulgaria to be heading into different development pathways have to do with a booming immigration level, duplicate service sector and vague agriculture effect.

It is a statistically wide-spread fact that immigration has continued to expand as more Bulgarians seek jobs abroad. Unfortunately, giving service in the army has not been accessible in terms of paid training and follow-up contracts, neither is it mandatory any longer, until only recently government agencies have begun discussing the potential legislation aspects of adapted NATO applications, such as hiring into a greater number of sectors. Perhaps the nation's association with NATO could be one of very few pillars to draw back some young people who have immigrated. Meanwhile Bulgarians in the U.K., Germany, the U.S. and elsewhere are settling successfully, establishing solid careers and enjoyable lifestyle. Rewarding as immigrant life can be, it certainly outdistances the promise of European-style or reformed prospect! Regrettably too, reliance on any kind of national social-aid support, even on temporary basis, is still the worst-case scenario of stand-by stance, given that thousands of people are working their ways through weirdly changed projects or such in suspense. In fact, a traditional "envy-your-neighbor" trait of both Bulgarian ancient tribes and the current population has also emerged as an important pushing urge to pursue immigration. Comparing oneself with any unemployed individual or even with an array of business owners would shove absurdity of theoretical inconsistency dating back from "all are equal" communist days. Why waste one's time and life on it? Finally, few Bulgarians who have not immigrated can spare finances on a theatre play and concert for their free time, but meanwhile managers at public and state-owned workplaces have been providing leisure offers as bonus to employee salaries.

Defining the services industry in Bulgaria as *duplicate* appropriates from fear of what public sector employees would be doing if layoffs took a toll. Research attempts point to confusing and misdirected prognosis of how re-qualification could work its way through a burdened and inflexible system. Rather than investing into renewal projects for thousands of employees, not to mention university graduates seeking career involvement, significant portions of the state budget and subsidies from the European Union are poured to both information technology training and the expansive legacy operations, in this way nurturing outdated office work too. One example includes spending on huge facilities that host administration staff within smaller municipalities and a rebuff to restructure and delegate work to associates from corporate businesses. Seemingly, weaker economies like Bulgaria should undertake non-duplicate approach of budget spending although service sector software and information technologies have spread internationally to support municipalities and organizations along the transition from paperback practices to digital operations. Importantly too, hiring practices have continuously added charges onto the state-controlled budgets of most universities as well, where administration has expanded to integrate younger staff with no substitute effect. Interestingly so, the hiring process is yet linked to militia structures from the near past, in addition to present political adherence. Not to lose one's job in the public sector, thousands of employees (but they will not

disclose that) pay a percentage of their salaries to someone who represents the unions or a link person, who is more or less a reminiscent of the once centralized hierarchy (to comply with and abide to some logic) in my opinion - boiling down to fear and survival yet again!

Thirty years ago agriculture land, farms, shops and enterprises were all and wholly state-owned, having been seized from owners and renters after the Second World War. One vague agriculture effect has been a result of total destruction of orchards and fruit-trees immediately following the collapse of the communist regime in 1989, and those had been well-grown crops and important as part of the overall agriculture industry. In other words, there was no continuation effect when the properties got returned to their owners and they had to start from scratch. Experts and historians are now to judge how many years it might have taken to recover production, likewise and automatically referring to numerous attempts to form Parliament and cabinet as frequently as never witnessed before the 1940s. Instability within a nation's best-performing sectors and most resourceful deposits, of course, shuttered the economy on a number of occasions leading to illegal commission-based agreements as well. As of today imports of meat, vegetables and fruits outpace local production and marketing capacity in the face of low consumption, limited advantage to country-based producers and quality issues at end-line shops and restaurants. Happily enough consumers and intermediaries are beginning to see an early-stage effect of companies buying off locally produced meat, vegetables and fruit to be deployed within public units such as church-linked facilities and social-aid eateries providing food charity.

After detailed research and wary review on life in Bulgaria, I must say that no stone has been left unturned when it comes to niches of employment, including education, media and advertising. For the time being the media has offered the best workable solutions to lifting up literacy levels by means of various education, broadcast and video and speech projects implemented in the news, film translation and screenplays. One could have their worst experience when dealing with the country's security and law systems, which have a long way to prove that the factual substitute overturn, luckily with no inefficient legacy left, will sustain competence, endorsement and write-down capability. Last but not least, a regulation that makes for absurd economic sense is the fact that *City Bus* transportation tickets are sold hand-to-hand by active individuals rather than via machines, at a ticket-booth or through passenger cards. And, in Bulgaria there is no student employment neither on campus, nor at state-run units, as strange as this may sound. Amid a vast number of school guard employees, not a single college student would have been hired in the sector, which opened about fifteen years ago but would now make for unreasonable structure given the automated security systems. Weighing on the country's sluggish budget is a great number of hospitals, clinics and medical centers per capita (bearing in mind that the latest population poll was inflated) as well as too many former government associates, who have already been used to live on high-level monthly pay. Villages and some small towns have long been abandoned by young people, and a surging mortality rate over the past decade is showing health service inconsistencies when it counts quality versus payroll and innovative investment. Furthermore, general practitioners and private medical specialists are not entitled to initiate and maintain health pension status in relation to patients who seek health and social aid support. Such applications can solely go through a centralized state committee.

The euro currency can only be introduced after undoubted evidence of 1) middle class - its size and value, 2) social aid support – reasons and venue and 3) technical and professional secondary schools – relevant equipment and internship outcome. The latter is significant because, while universities expanded on tremendous scale during the past ten years, technical and professional secondary schools were waning behind. With respect to social aid support to families and disabled individuals, and more broadly to

administration policy, a key priority would be to integrate more families in need while reducing what is currently frustration among most social workers in matters they must deal with daily, including working hours, program and software training. The future will depend on what kind of leaps and bounds Bulgaria is willing to undertake and not repeat other nations' mistakes nor stand on not-pay attitudes of "we are used to things being free of charge" or why pay for a private school if bribing the teachers at a public school will do fine for more teach-and-care time with a child, his or her grades and confidence, anyways the difference between the two school types is more than minimal. Similarly, if one is employed at a hospital, they must seriously think about priorities and the roots of success. After all, low consumption has resulted to companies of all sizes not paying any taxes but simply maintaining survival rapport.

In order to keep pace with the rest of European Union nations, Bulgaria must provide its contribution in unique ways. Successful projects for example have demonstrated an appealing rebuilt airport terminal in the capital city Sofia, which at the moment of this writing (and the observation behind it) bodes for newer looks than a regional airport in Manchester city for one to mention in the United Kingdom. Positively too, the tourism sector in Bulgaria has reenergized based on versatile climate and scenery. Now most Bulgarians keep aware of the need to 1) drift away from Russian lobby groups and therefore boost the middle class to fill the gap between extensively wealthy and extremely poor society reps, 2) distinguish from neighboring Greece, where for many years society reps were paid to do nothing and 3) not assimilate culture from Turkey, where laws differentiate genuinely.