GABROVO IN THE CENTER

Geographical center of Bulgaria

Important transport intersection

Part of the trans-european transport corridor 9 (Helsinki – Istanbul)

Population: 60,747 people

Area: 555.57 km²
GABROVO IN THE CENTER

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT PER CAPITA REACHED 10 358 BGN IN 2015
AND IS AMONG THE FIVE HIGHEST IN THE COUNTRY

Source: National Statistical Institute
THE EMPLOYMENT RATE OF THE POPULATION
AGED 15-64 FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2016 IS THE HIGHEST IN THE COUNTRY

Source: National Statistical Institute
Gabrovo is among the districts with the biggest amount of attracted foreign direct investment per capita.

Gabrovo is a leader in the EU funds absorption.

Gabrovo municipality was a beneficiary of 34 grant contracts at the amount of 95 million EUR, financed under 5 Operational programmes, programme period 2007 – 2013.
Organized by: Gabrovo Municipality in partnership with the European Commission's Directorate – General, Joint Research Center, the Representation of the European Commission in Bulgaria, the Committee of the Regions of the European Union and the Technical University of Gabrovo
THE MAIN GOALS OF THE INITIATIVE

- knowledge-based decision making
- facilitate a better understanding of EU policies among scientists
- foster a greater mutual understanding between scientists and parliamentarians, and
- contribute to closing the gap between researchers and policy-makers
THE SCIENCE AND REGIONS PARTNERSHIP - A FACTOR FOR SMART SPECIALIZATION

- to support efforts to address development issues and opportunities
- capacity-building
- more efficient, effective and forward-looking urban policies
Main topics

- Smart specialization of the region - Factors, Policies and Funding Opportunities
- Science - a factor for the sustainable development of cities and regions
- Smart City Solutions
SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENTS AND REGIONS

MODERATORS

RUSLAN STEFANOV
Group coordinator “Innovations.bg”
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Executive Director
IDEASDRIVER
Representatives from the local authorities of North-Central region of Bulgaria, educational institutions – schools and universities. Mayors, regional governors, representatives of Technical University – Gabrovo, Veliko Tarnovo University „St. St. Cyril and Methodius“, Technical University „Angel Kanchev“ of Ruse, the National University of Architecture, Construction and Geodesy - Sofia, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the national Fund of Funds, „ESRI – Bulgaria“, the Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications, the Foundation for applied researches and communications, the Joint Research Center (JRC-IPTS) in Seville and the BG Board for Digital Entrepreneurship.
INTELLIGENT SPECIALIZATION OF THE REGION

SPEAKERS

Elisa Gerussi
Joint Research Centre (JRC-Seville)

John Edwards
Joint Research Centre (JRC- Seville)

Prof. Teodora Georgieva
ARC Fund

Plamen Petkov
Fund of funds

Prof. Lubomira Popova
District Governor of Veliko Tarnovo district

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SCIENCE - A FACTOR FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES AND REGIONS

SPEAKERS

Prof. Kostadin Ganev
Deputy Chairman of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Ass. Prof. Iliya Zhlezarov
Deputy Rector of the Technical University - Gabrovo

PhD Nikola Valchanov
Specialty "Software Engineering" in University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius"

PhD Svilen Kunev
Coordinator - Danube Transfer Center at University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev"
SMART CITY SOLUTIONS

SPEAKERS

Evgeniya Karadzhova
ESRI Bulgaria

Daniela Pesheva
Directorate “Information Technologies”, MTITC

PHD Angel Burov
University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy

Ass. Prof. P. Tsankov
Technical University – Gabrovo

Ass. Prof. N. Madzharov
Technical University – Gabrovo

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We need to make the connection between science and regions really strong, because both sides are committed to the citizens to create conditions for working and living together.

Today's discussion is an opportunity to support an informed decision-making process that is based on facts and research that could directly contribute to the quality of life in our municipalities and regions.
Innovative, reasonable, thorough and related to the future" was the concise remark of the Mayor of Lovech and European Committee of the Regions member, Mrs. Kornelia Marinova. She described the discussion as a really visionary and as far as the intelligent specialization was concerned she mentioned that this is a possibility without alternative for municipalities, regions and science which have to work in partnership and with the support of government.
My advice to local authorities is that they have to have dreams, but also realistic goals. To see what they are strong in, not to try to do something impossible. To seek ideas beyond their own limits, but also to see what they have and whether they can apply it. Regularly check how they do, not just have a strategy, but make sure they assess and monitor what they do. And if necessary - change the strategy.
We are constantly talking about partnerships between businesses, local and regional authorities and academics, but here I see the desire and concrete steps for action by your municipality. We are the heart of Bulgaria and the best investment is in people and their education, it is to me the key to a better quality of life for people and they will return this investment to society.
The key elements for smart specialization are related to the local context, which means that smart specialization is based on the bottom-up approach, i.e. we include all strategic actors that are important for local development. This is why we talk about local authorities first, but also about businesses, universities, research centers, non-governmental organizations and other active citizens. Intelligent specialization is closely related to the region, which means that we identify those local advantages from economic resources to human resources that can be used, increased and strengthened to create something innovative, new and more competitive, effective and successful to enter the international markets.
Innovations are all around us and they constantly change our lives, and the role of universities is to prepare young people for this change. Intelligent specialization, innovation and science are the essential element of urban development in line with the dynamics of the time we live in.