



AMERICA FOR
BULGARIA
FOUNDATION



REGIONAL PROFILES

Indicators of development

— 2023 —



March 20
2024



4-5:30 pm
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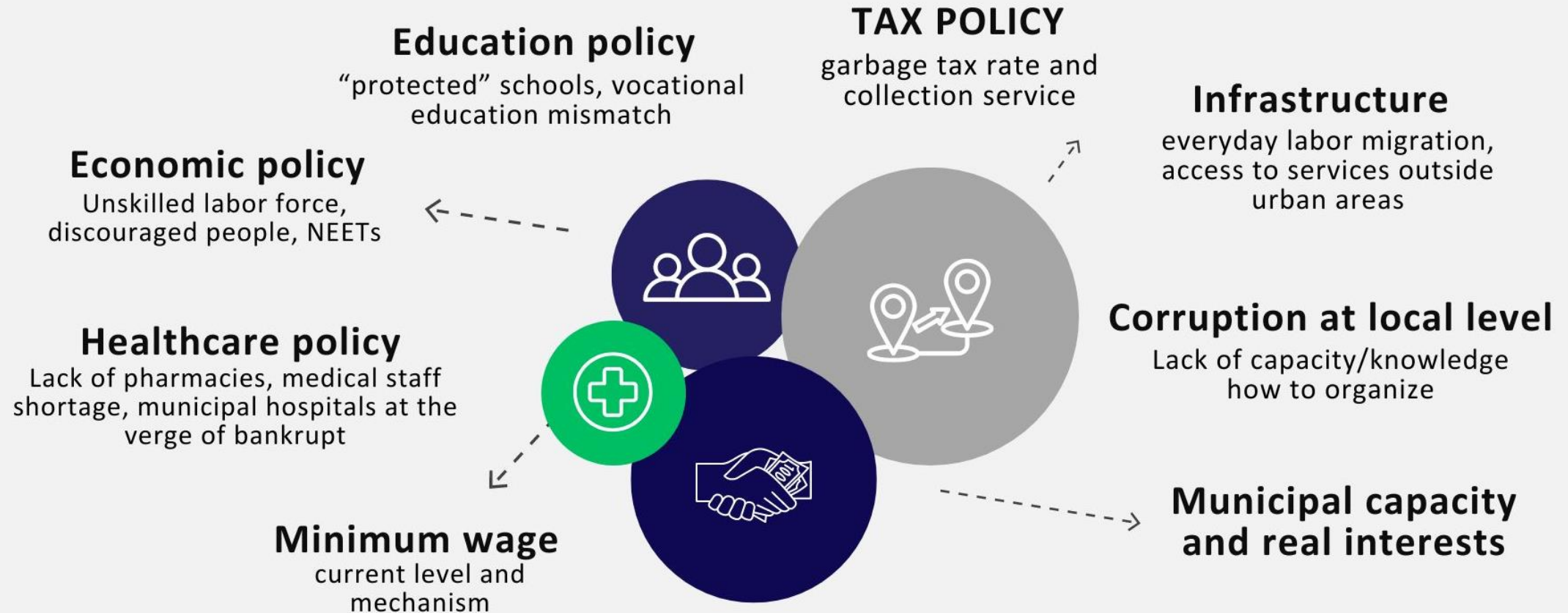


IME and the regions

Svetla Kostadinova

Executive Director
svetlak@ime.bg

Policy challenges – several examples



All have something in common – they should address strong regional features.

Finance Minister Vassilev talking to municipalities in Feb 2024:

“

"We are still waiting to officially discuss your ideas for fiscal decentralization. I am not against it. I proved that I can submit to the Parliament proposals by the municipalities. But, you have to present me with a solution that all municipalities agree on."

The data was the start ... we craft the narrative of diversity, resilience and transformation

IME role:



- Pioneering Research
- Crafting Solutions
- Championing Expertise
- Empowering Change
- Catalysts of Collaboration
- Voices of Change
- Champions of Progress

Empowered stakeholders:



- Local journalists
- Local think tanks
- Municipalities
- Private sector
- Chambers
- Policy makers in Sofia
- Members of Parliament

IME goal



Bring back the **freedom on local level** with **clear responsibilities, resources** and **powers for the people** to manage local processes, use local features and address specific challenges.

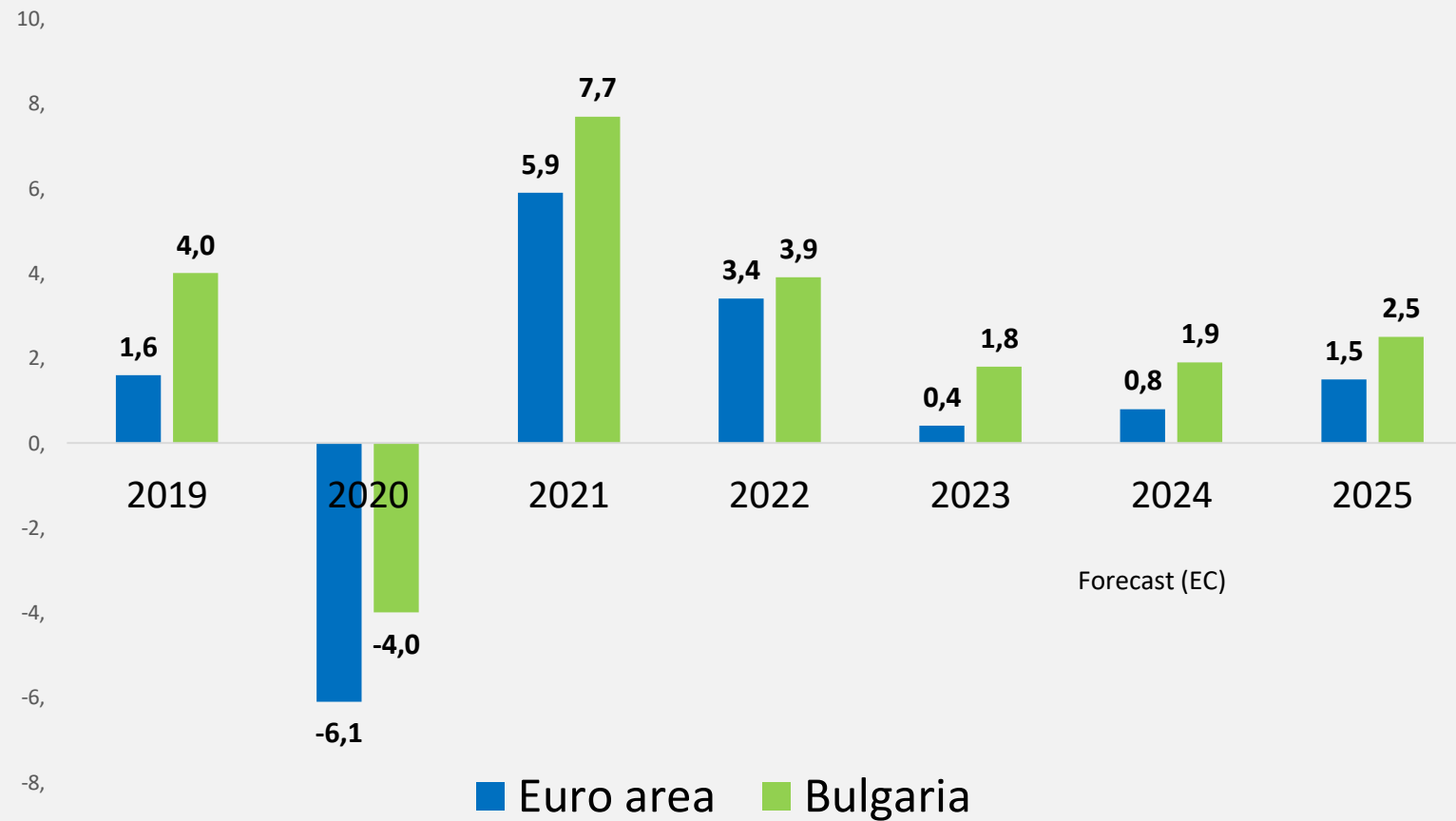
A landscape photograph featuring a row of white wind turbines on a grassy hillside. The sky is a clear, deep blue, and the background shows distant, hazy mountains. The text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular area in the center of the image.

The economy: growth and challenges

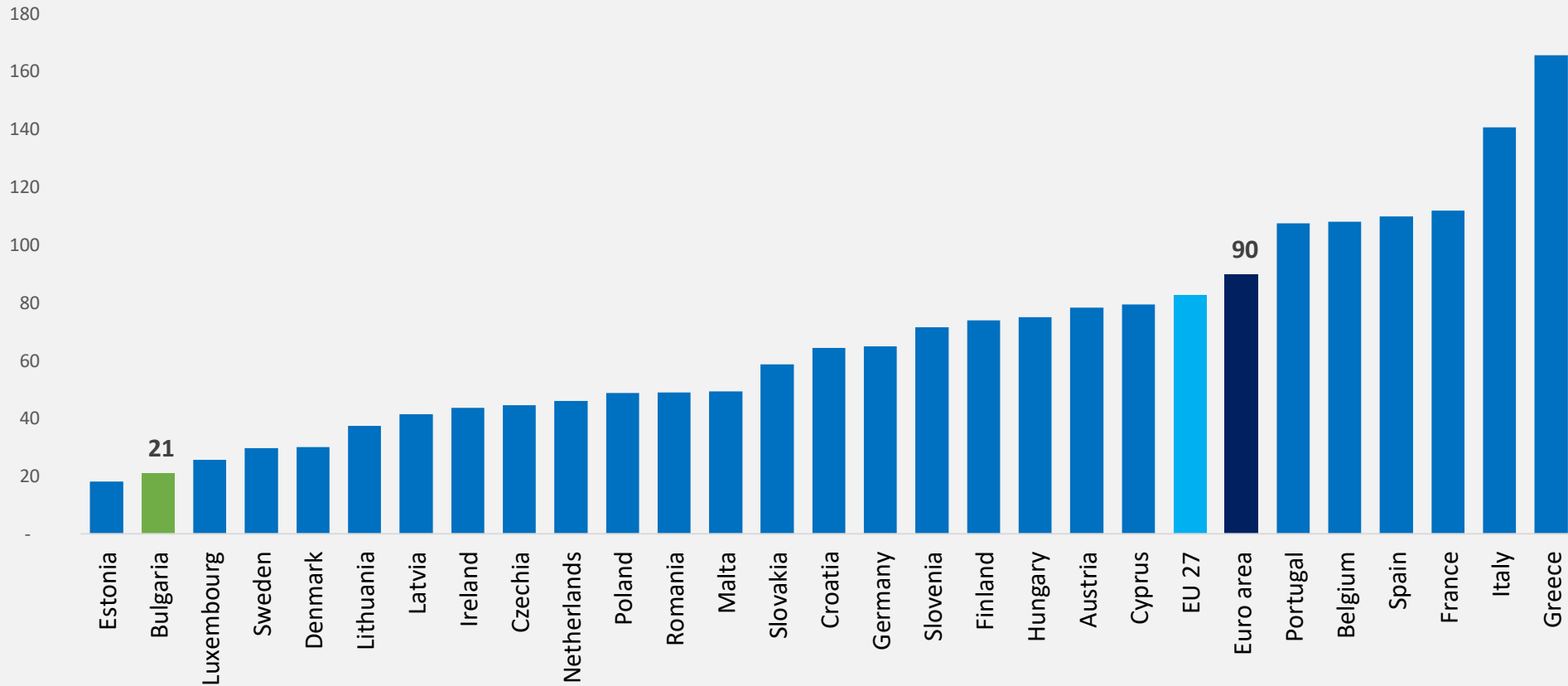
Latchezar Bogdanov

Chief Economist
bogdanov@ime.bg

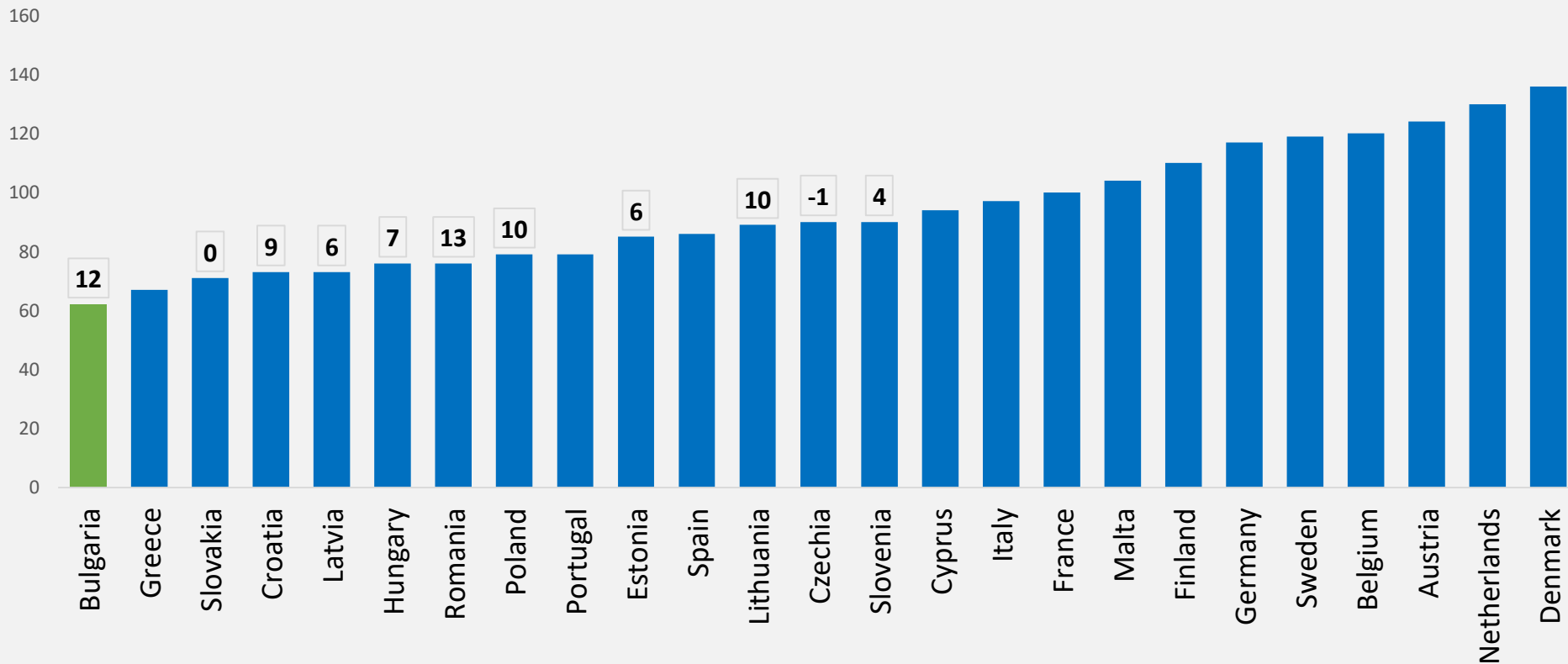
GDP real growth



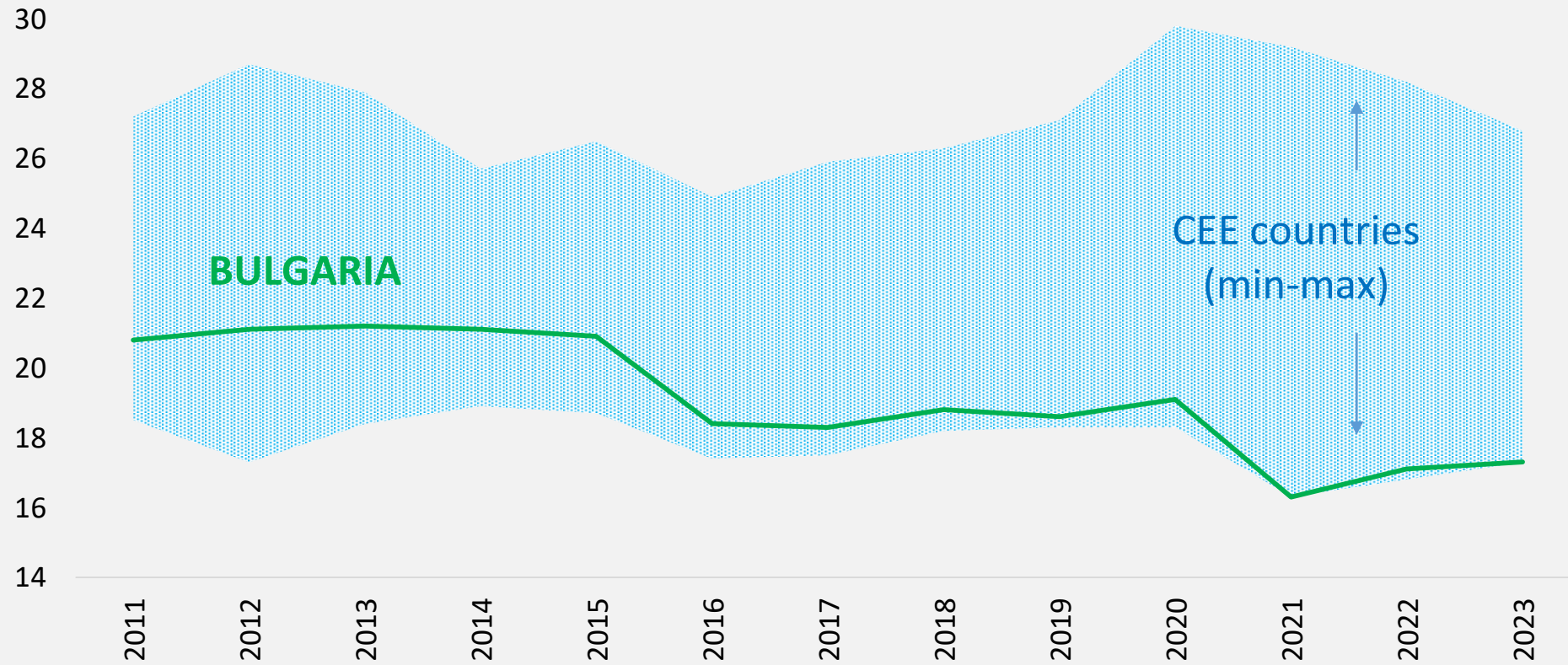
Government debt as % of GDP, Q3 2023



GDP per capita in PPS, EU = 100 (convergence between 2017 and 2022)



Investment as % share in GDP





Regional Profiles 2023

Petar Ganev

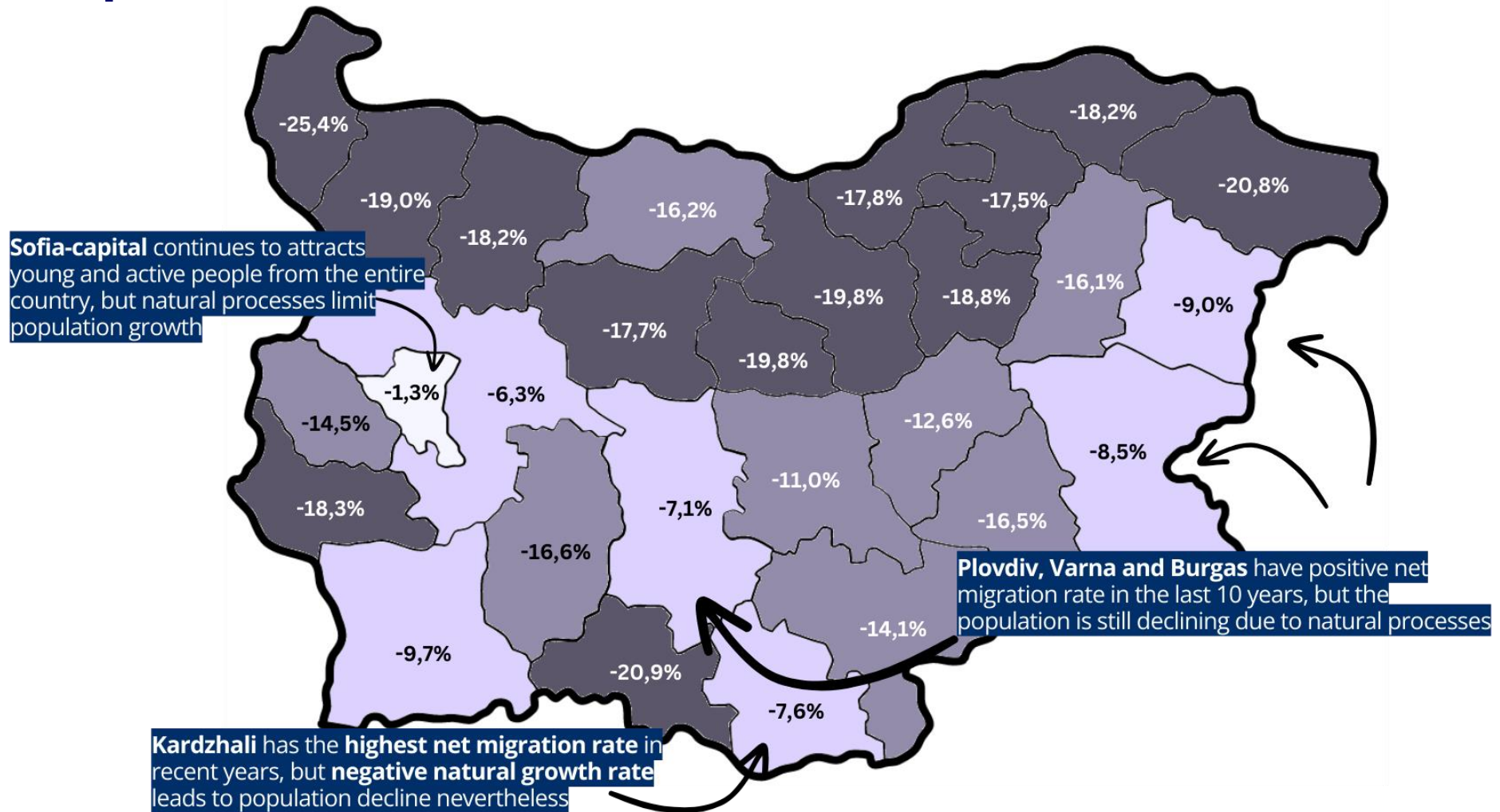
Senior Research Fellow
ganev@ime.bg

Regional Profiles 2023: Indicators of Development

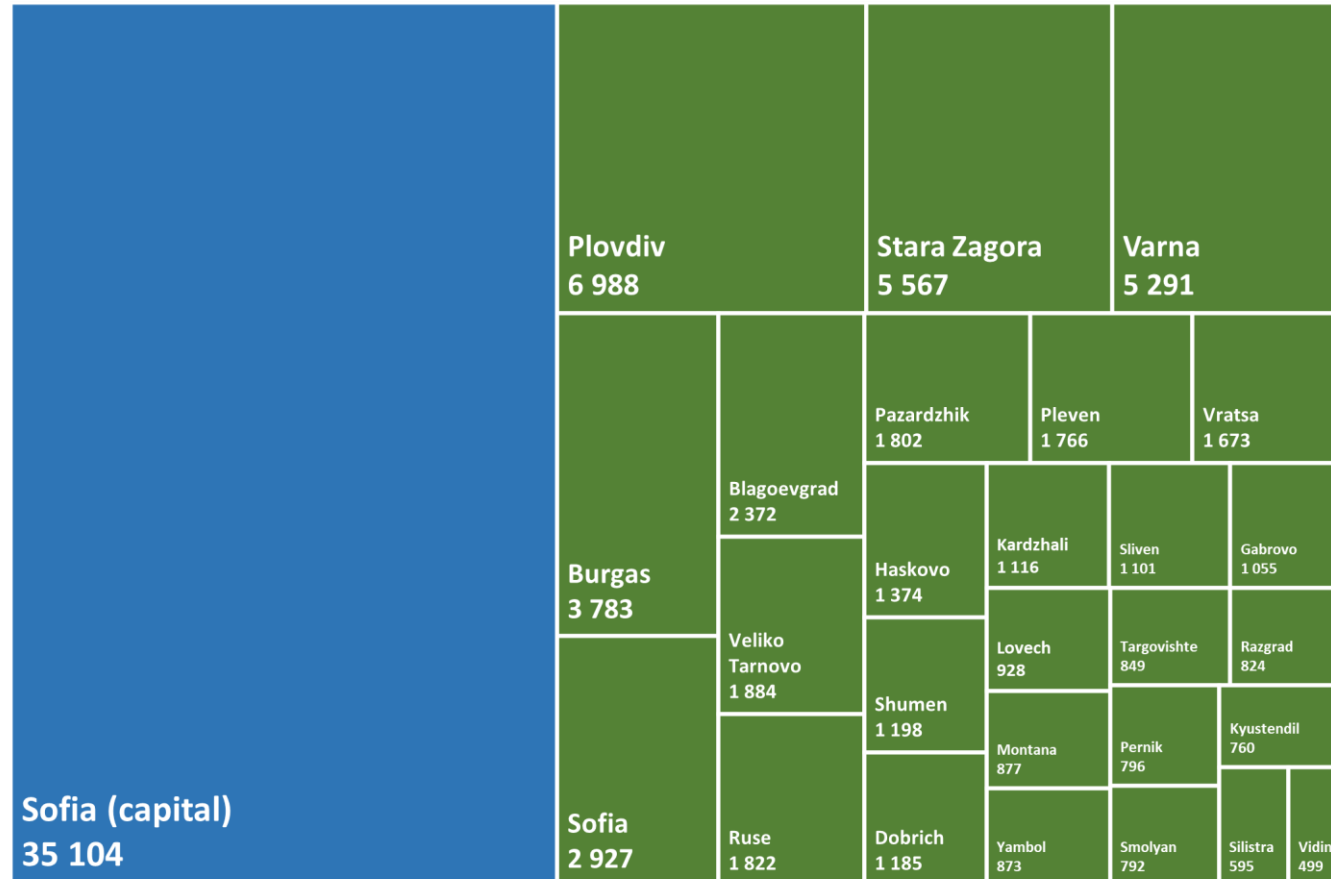
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
 Income and living conditions	 Demographics
 Labour market	 Education
 Investments	 Healthcare
 Infrastructure	 Security and justice
 Taxes	 Environment
 Administration	 Culture

- For over a decade the Institute for Market Economics has presented the annual issue of Regional Profiles: Indicators of Development, the only almanac of regional development in Bulgaria of its kind;
- The book, better known as The Regional Profiles, has now become an established trademark of IME;
- The study is based on 73 indicators evaluating the economic and social environment in the country's 28 districts;
- IME team wishes to express their gratitude to the America for Bulgaria Foundation for their partnership and lasting support in preparing and publishing the Regional Profiles.

Map: Population change by district in the period 2011–2021 (%)

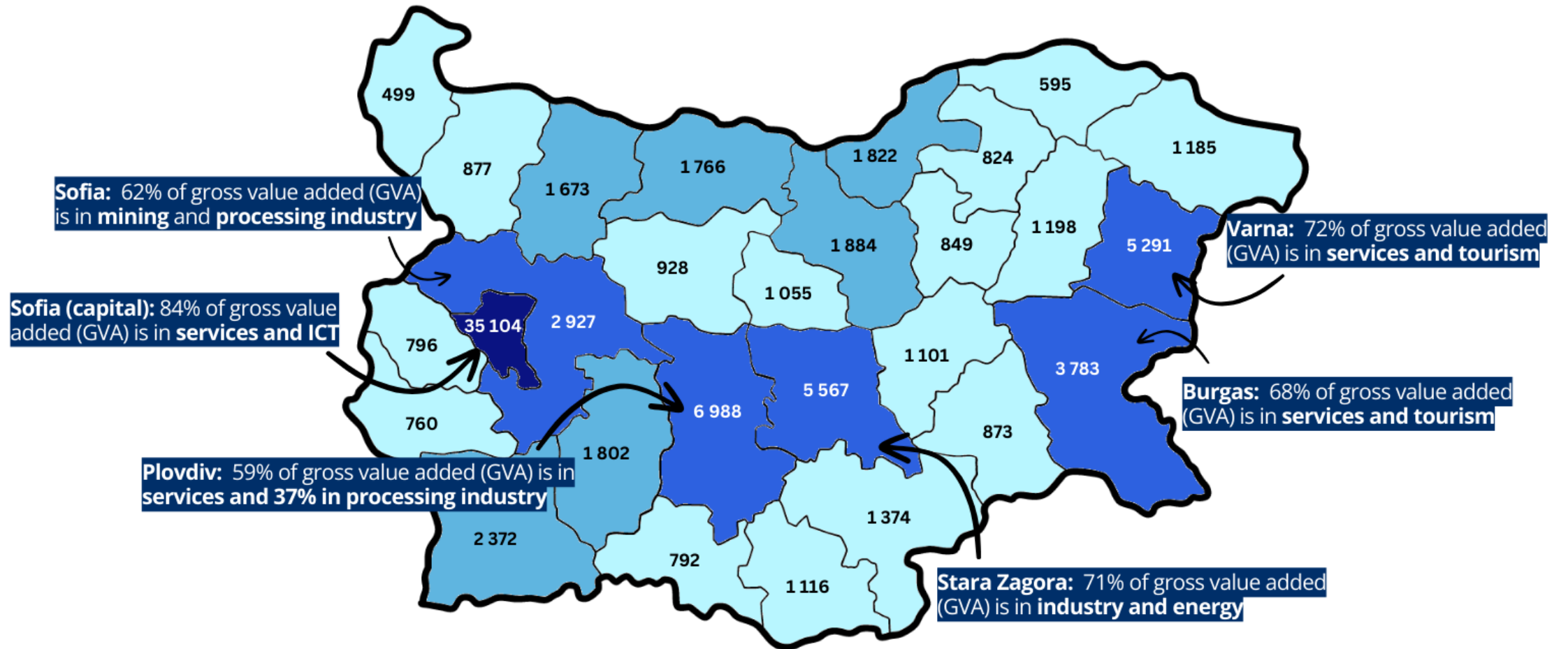


Gross domestic product (GDP) by districts in Bulgaria (million EUR, 2022)

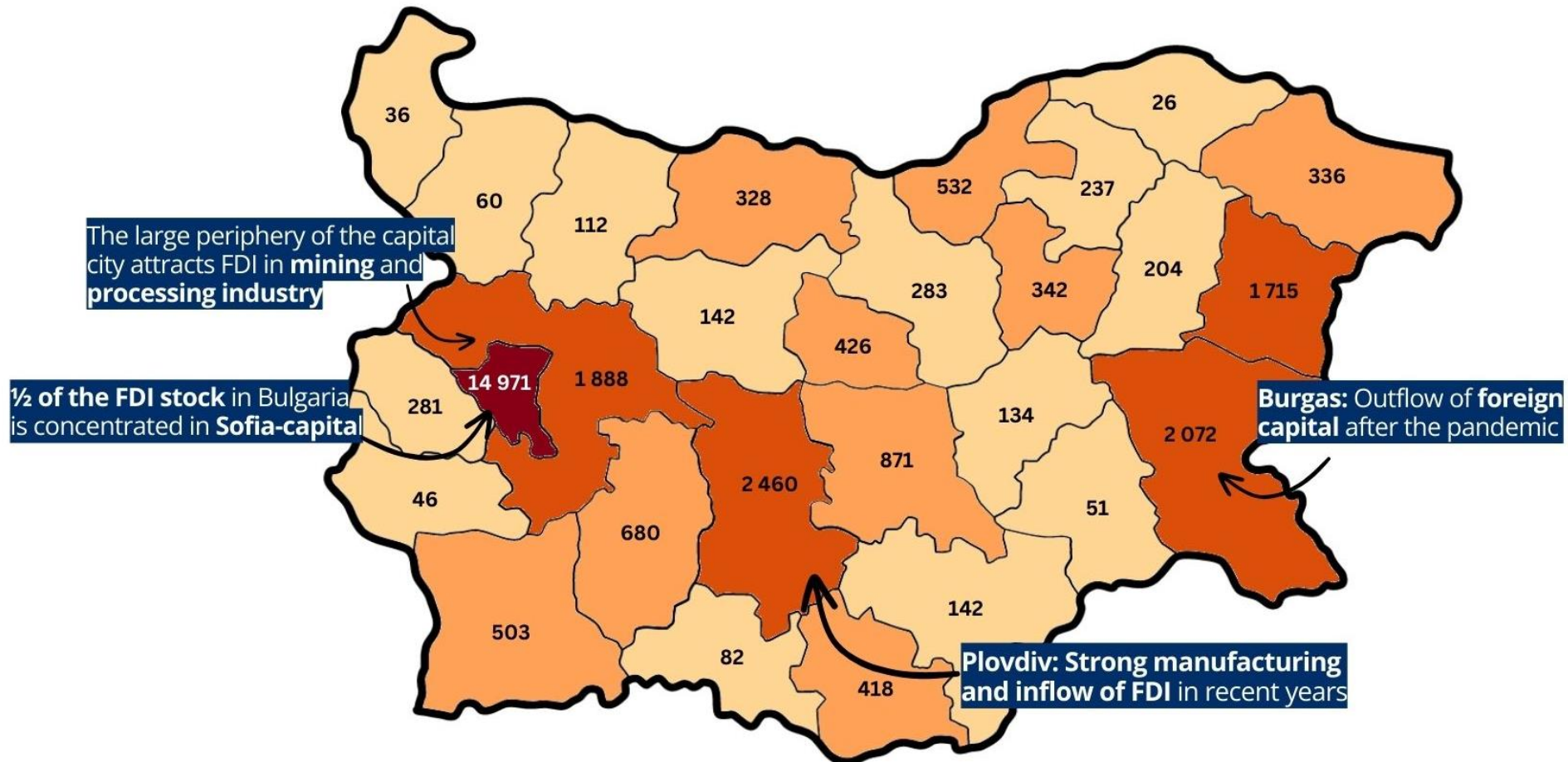


- The gross domestic product (GDP) of Sofia (capital) reached 35 billion EUR in 2022;
- Sofia (capital) concentrates 19.8% of the country's population and 40.9% of Bulgaria's economy (2022);
- In the south, the biggest economy is Plovdiv (7.0 billion EUR), followed by Stara Zagora (5.6 billion EUR) and Burgas (3.8 billion EUR);
- In the north, the undisputed leader is Varna (5.3 billion BGN), followed by Ruse and Veliko Tarnovo.

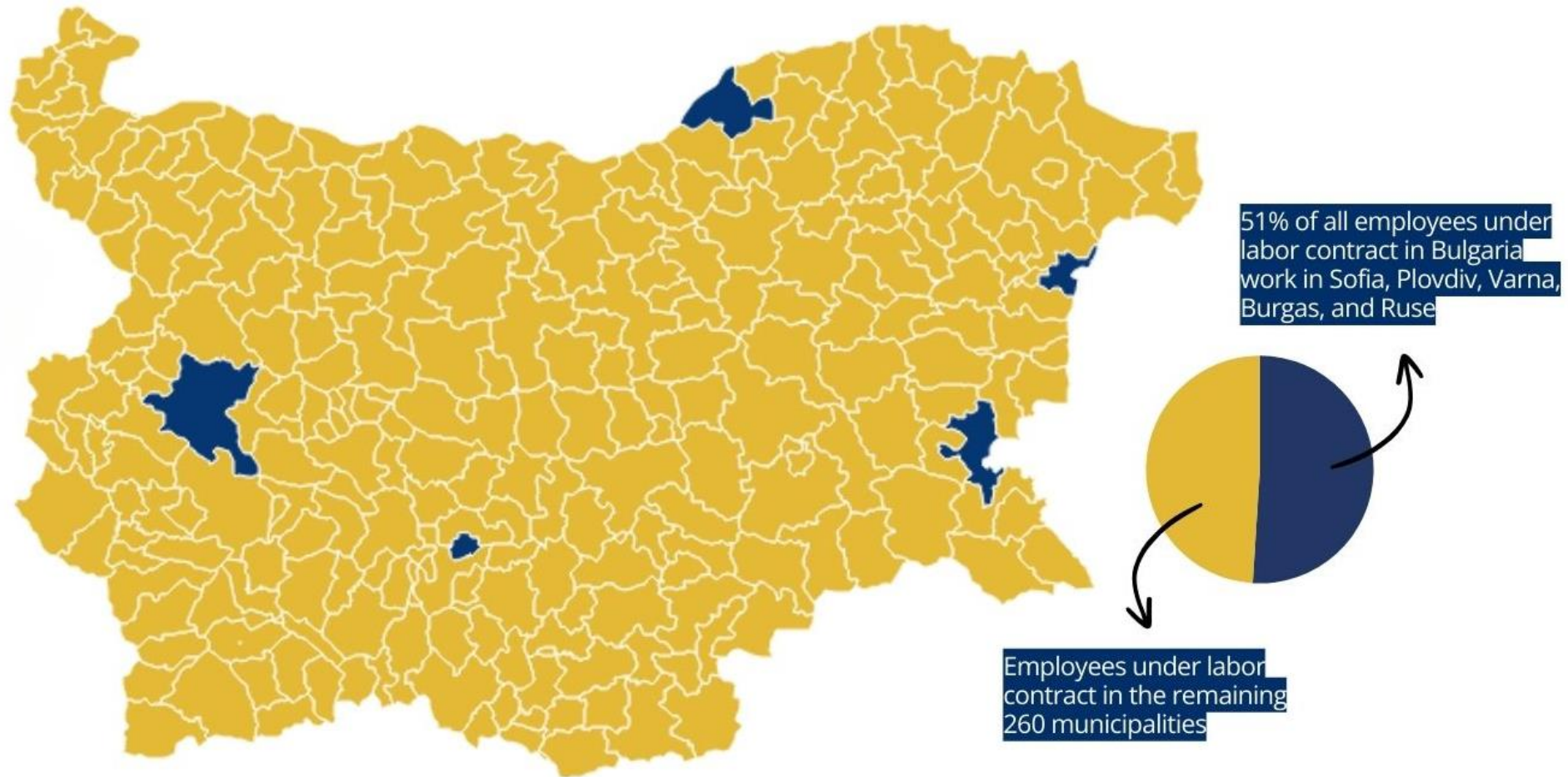
Map: Gross domestic product (GDP) by districts in Bulgaria (million EUR, 2022)



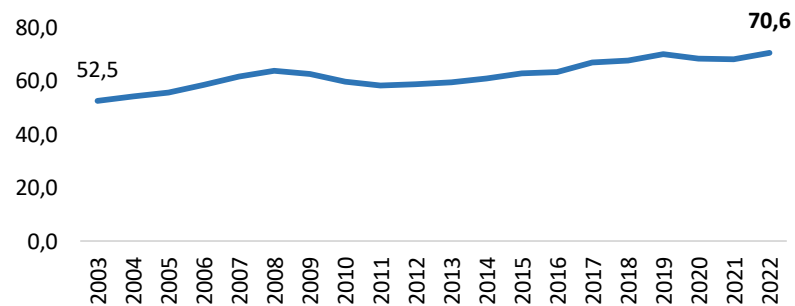
Map: FDI stock in non-financial enterprises by districts (million EUR, 2022)



Map: Employees under labor contract in Bulgaria (2022)

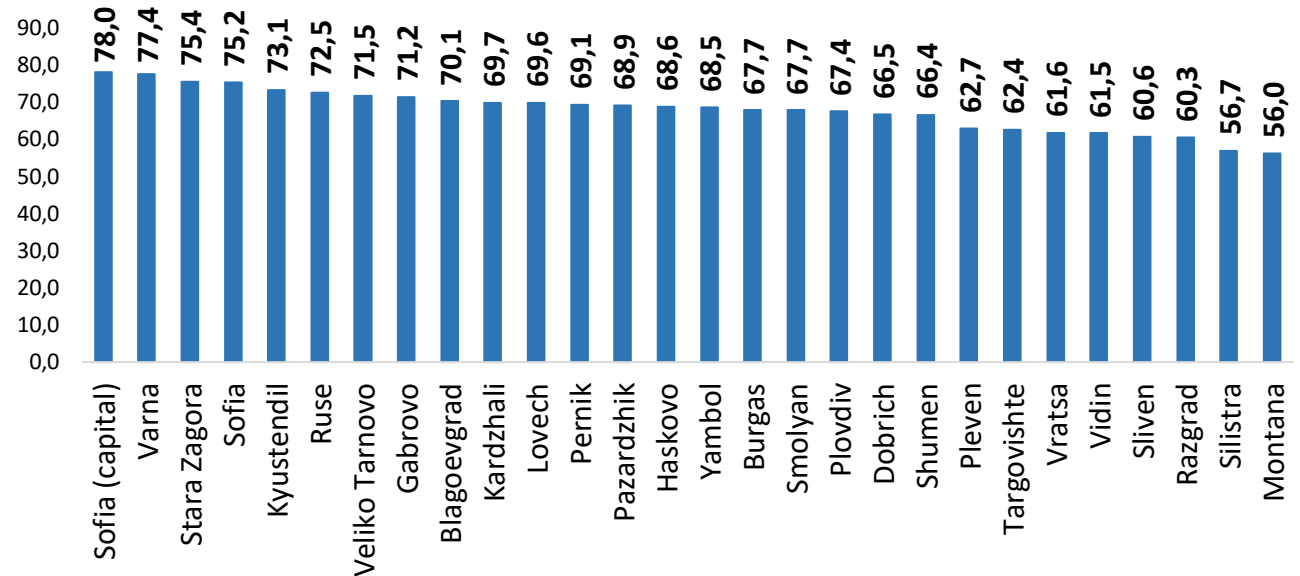


Employment rate of the population aged 15-64 (% , 2022)

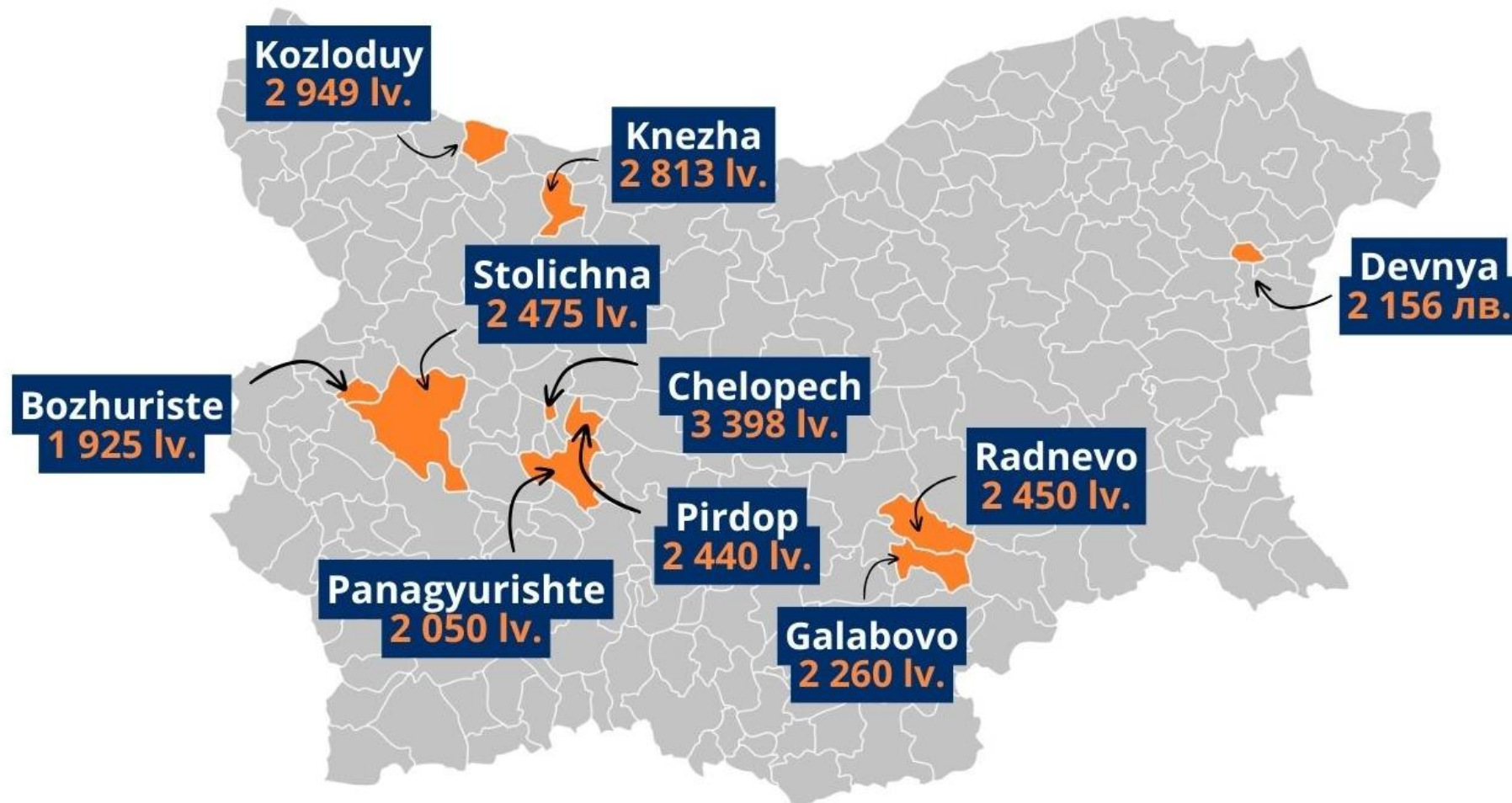


- Bulgaria reached record high employment rate in 2022, with 70.6% of the population aged 15-64 being employed;
- Employment rate increased by nearly 20 p.p. in the last two decades;
- Unemployment in 2022 reached 5.2%, with unemployment in Sofia-capital being as low as 1.6%.

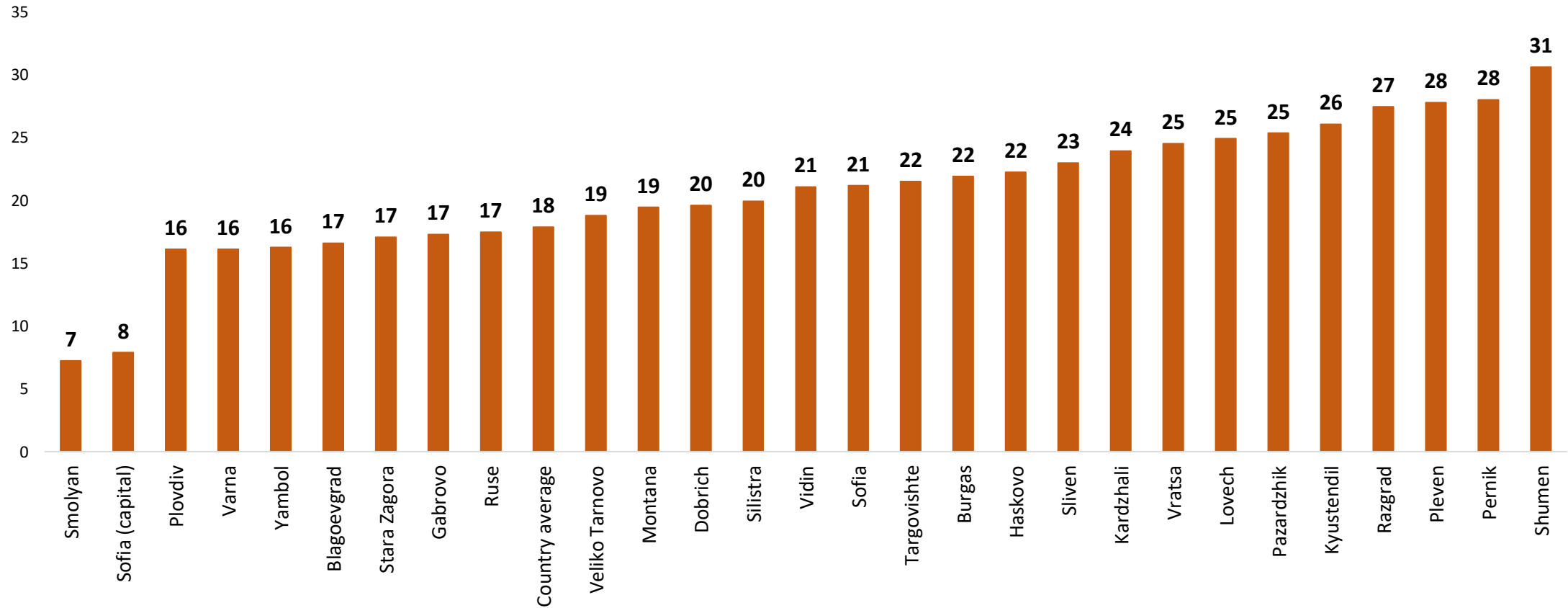
- Employment rate (15-64) reached 78% in Sofia (capital) in 2022. Varna is at second place (77.4%) and Stara Zagora at third (75.4%);
- There are still districts in the north with employment rate (15-64) below 60%. Unemployment in some districts (mainly in the north) reaches up to 15%.



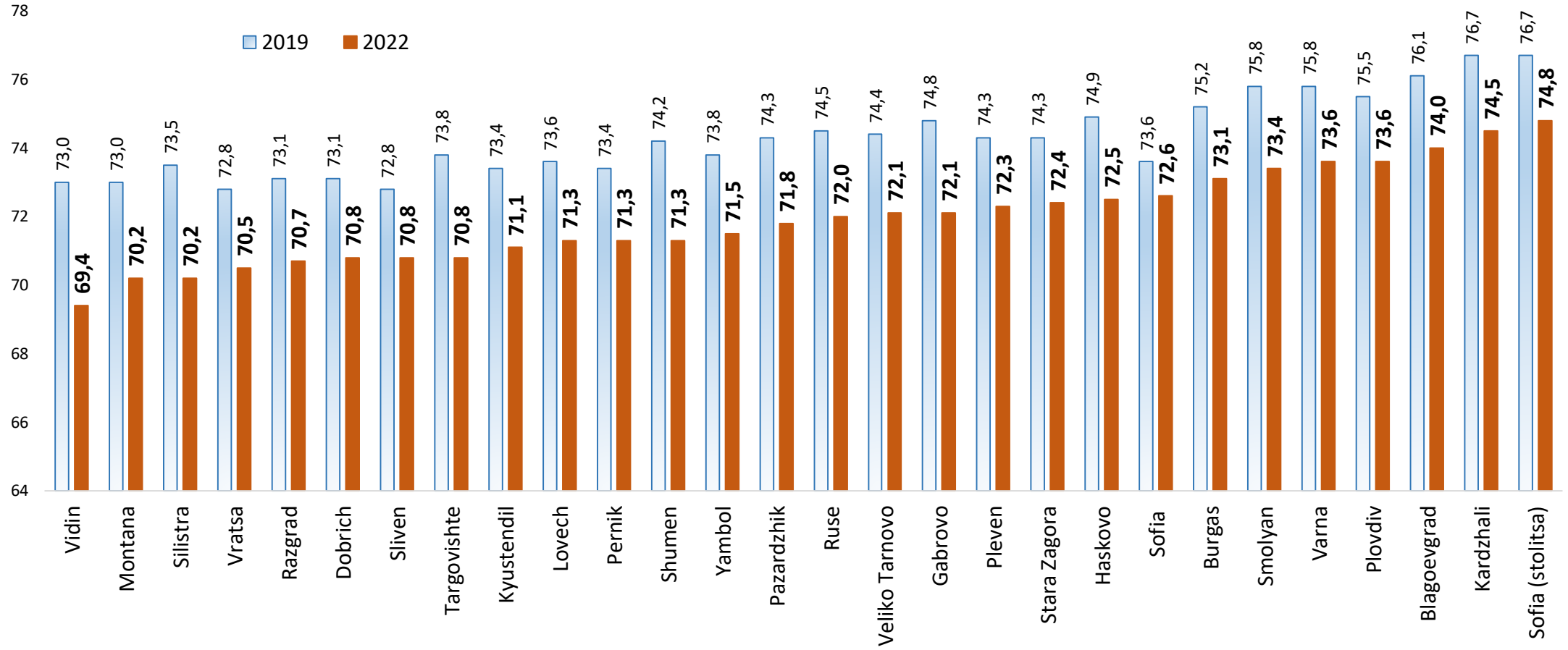
Map: Top 10 municipalities with the highest average gross monthly salary in Bulgaria (2022)



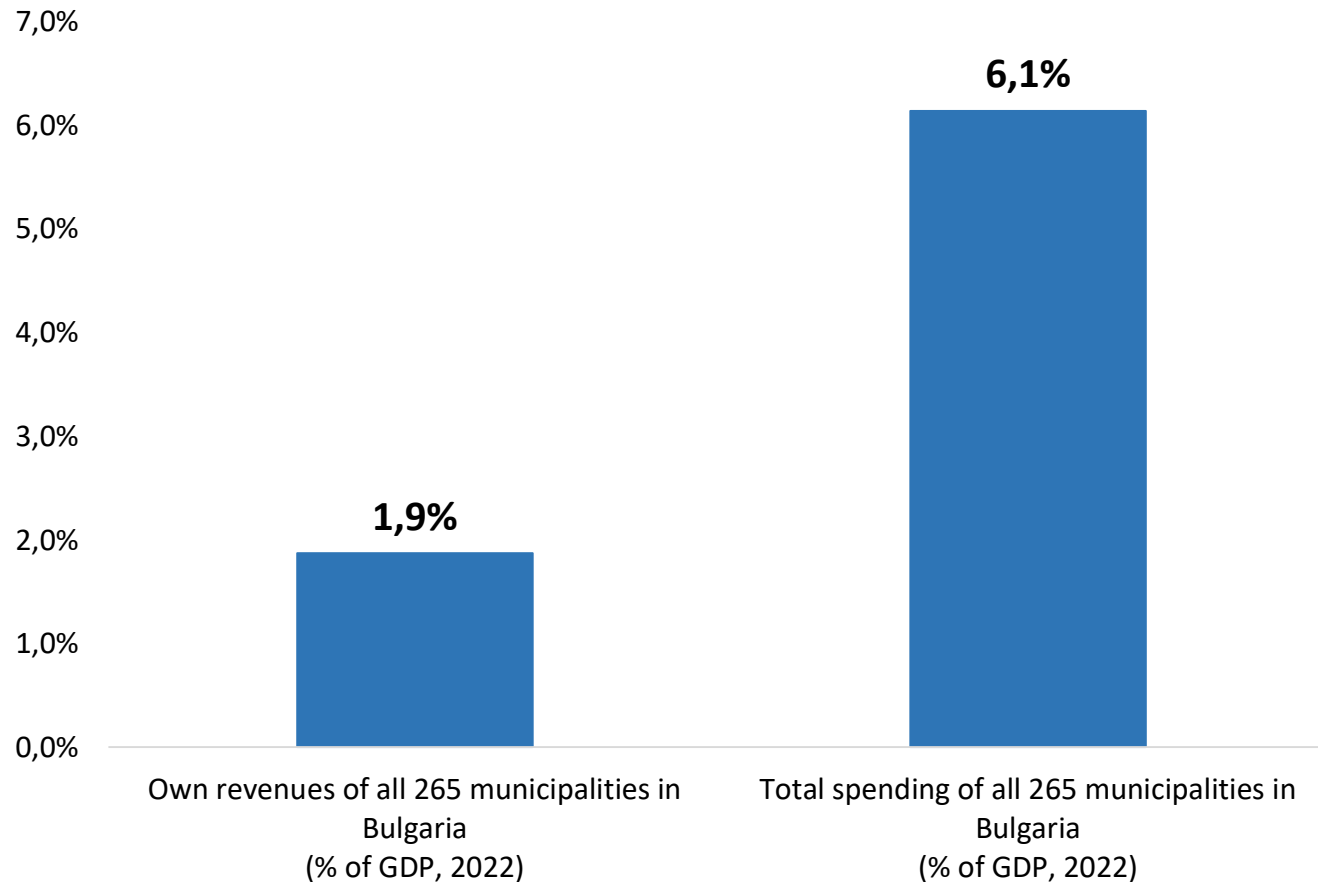
Share of failed grades at the state matriculation exam (% , 2023)



Average life expectancy at birth (2019 & 2022)



Total spending and own revenues of Bulgarian municipalities (% of GDP, 2022)



- Total spending on all 265 municipalities in Bulgaria amounts to 6,1% of GDP in 2022;
- Municipalities' own revenues amount to 1.9% of GDP. Municipalities' own revenues cover 31% of their total budget (2022);
- Municipal tax revenues are derived mainly from property taxation. Direct taxes on income and profits go entirely to the state budget;
- Financial decentralization, in terms of increasing municipalities' own revenues, is one of the major issues for local authorities in Bulgaria.



IME pages

ЕНЕРГЕТИКАТА РИСКУВА ДА ПОТОПИ (ОТНОВО) ДЪРЖАВНИТЕ ФИНАНСИ



Лъчезар Богданов
15-03-2024

ЗАЕТОСТТА СТАВА ВСЕ ПО- НЕДОСТЪПНА ЗА НЕОБРАЗОВАНИТЕ



Агриан Николов
15-03-2024

0,9% ОТ БВП ЗА ФАЛШИВИ ДИПЛОМИ



Петър Ганев
15-03-2024



Regional Profiles

Indicators of Development

The publication „Regional Profiles: Indicators of Development” aims to provide objective and comprehensive information on the development of Bulgarian districts. Through the elaboration of separate district profiles and regular thematic analyses, the publication presents the economic and social aspects of life in every district.

[Read more about the project](#)

Energy and Manufacturing Pull Regions Forward in 2022

05.02.2024

NSI publishes data on the economic development of districts in 2022 The unprecedented growth of Stara Zagora,...

Sofia Municipality is too dependent on the Property Market

30.01.2024

In 2024, Bulgaria's economy is expected to grow by nearly BGN 15 billion and reach over BGN 205 billion. This...

[More news](#)



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Икономика и инвестиции

Пазар на труда

Демография

Образование

Здравеопазване

Местни финанси

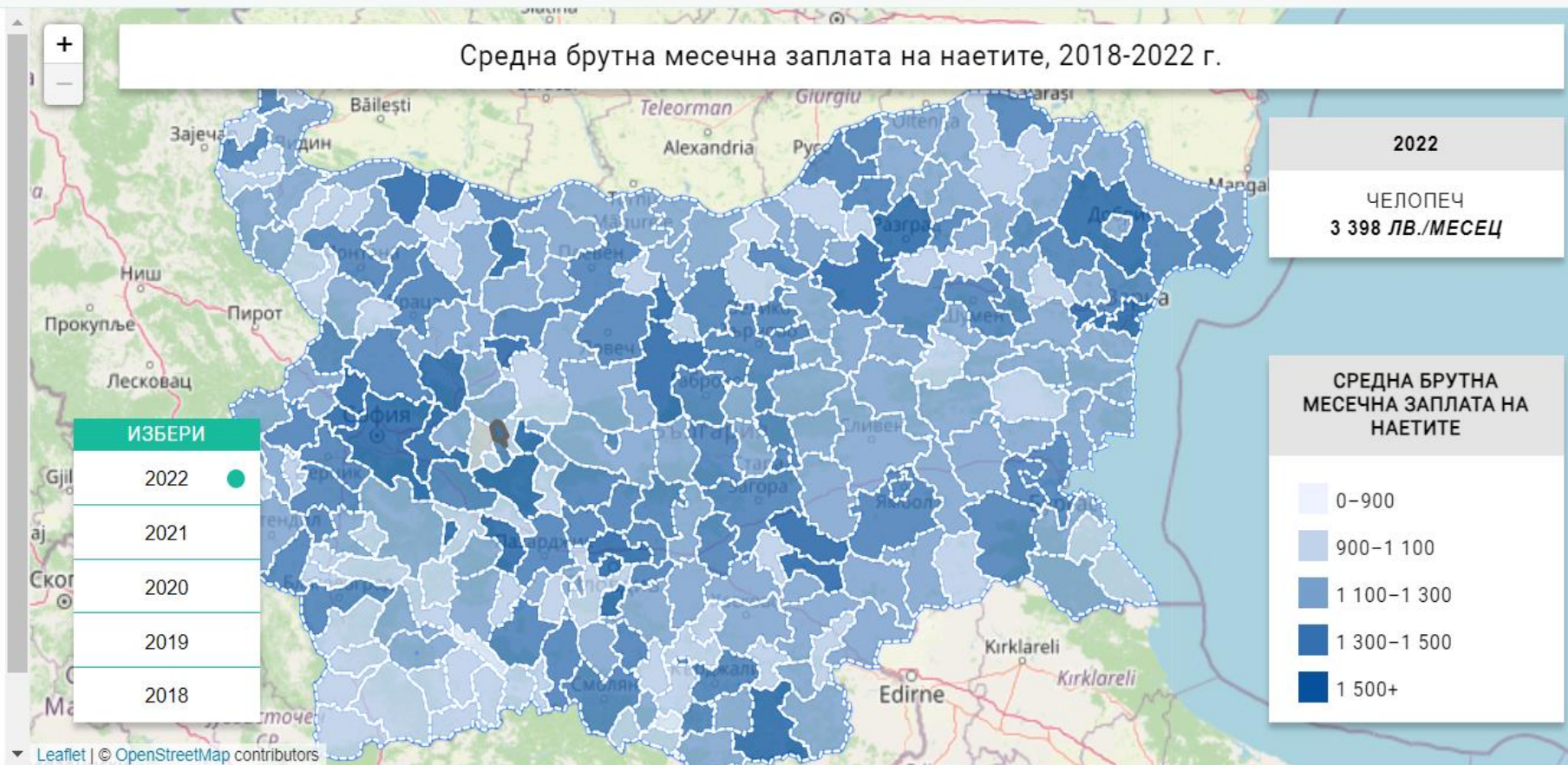
Социални услуги

Екология

Администрация

Инфраструктура

Средна брутна месечна заплата на наетите, 2018-2022 г.



С ПОДКРЕПАТА НА



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HBC

VIVACOM



от държавните трансфери
Дългове
Забравени региони
Ограничени възможности
Децентрализация
са на пари
политическа зависимост
симост
държавните трансфери
Пристрастяване към помощите

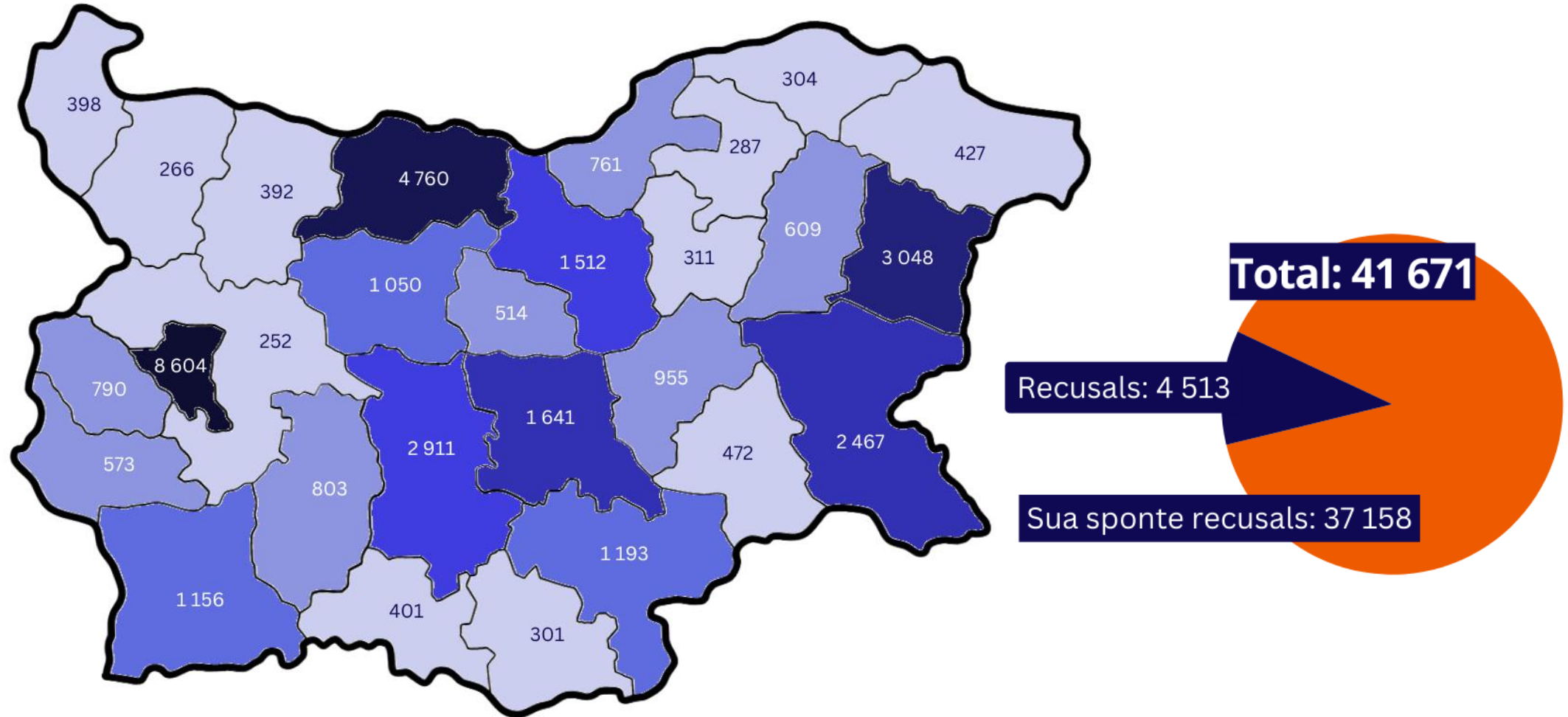


IME Legal Program

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Legal Expert
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Number of recusals/disqualifications of judges (Jan 2021 - Dec 2023)



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