

**PERNIK DISTRICT  
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY  
2014-2020**

**Executive Summary**

**Pernik, May 2013**

## **1. Introduction**

The development strategy of Pernik District for the 2014-2020 period has been prepared under the conditions of “Methodical guidelines for the preparation of National Regional Development Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria (2012-2022), Regional Development Plans for NUTS 2 regions (2014-2020), District Development Strategies (2014-2020) and Municipality Development Plans (2014-2020)” approved with Order No. RD-02-14-2402/22.11.2011 by the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works and pursuant to art. 12, par. 3 of the Regional Development Law.

The District Development Strategy has its specific place and role in the holistic system for strategic planning of sustainable and integrated regional and local development. It is prepared in the context of the current socio-economic situation in the district and according to the strategic orientation of the regional policy of the EU and the national goals and priorities for regional development, and while considering the legislative and institutional environment for its implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Its structure is in compliance with all significant national and European documents for integrated development:

- National Regional Development Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for the 2012-2022 period – the long-term program document for the goals and priorities regarding the development of the country during the 10-year period;
- National Development Program: Bulgaria 2020 which defines the national commitments toward achieving the EU2020 goals;
- National Reform Program of the Republic of Bulgaria (2011-2015);
- The updated in regard of the provisions of art.11, par.1, par.2 and par.3 from the Rules for Application of the Regional Development Law document for the implementation of the National Regional Development Strategy for the 2011-2015 period, accepted by the Council of Ministers with Resolution No. 922 from December 16. 2011;
- The updated in regard of the provisions of art. 19, par.1, par.2 and par.3 from the Rules for Application of the Regional Development Law document for the implementation of the Regional Development Plan for the Southwest Region (NUTS 2) for the 2011-2013 period, accepted by the Regional Development Council of the NUTS 2 region;

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- The updated document for implementation of the Regional Development Plan of the Southwest Region;
- Regional Development Plan of the Southwest Region 2014-2020;
- The developed in 2011 “Methodical guidelines for the preparation of National Regional Development Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria (2012-2022), Regional Development Plans for NUTS 2 regions (2014-2020), District Development Strategies (2014-2020) and Municipality Development Plans (2014-2020)” approved with Order No. RD-02-14-2402/22.11.2011 by the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works;
- The opinions and recommendations formulated in the Midterm Evaluation of the District Development Strategy of Pernik District for the 2005-2010 period, prepared in December 2010;
- The opinions and recommendations formulated in the Midterm Evaluations of the municipality development plans of the Pernik District municipalities;
- The goals and priorities formulated in the Partnership Agreement and the Operational Programmes which will manage the funding from the Community during the next programming period 2014-2020.

The District Development Strategy of Pernik District was prepared by a consultancy team in consistent dialogue with both the experts of District Administration Pernik and the representatives of all shareholders in the district.

A series of meetings within several focus areas were held at two distinct stages – at the beginning of the document preparation and after the completion of the analytical part and the formulation of the development priorities. The ongoing information, illustrating the whole process, was available on the webpage of District Administration Pernik ([http://www.pernik.e-gov.bg/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=132](http://www.pernik.e-gov.bg/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=132)), and was also published in a Facebook group specifically created for the purpose of publicity (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/429050660522789/>).

At the meetings of the District Development Council were discussed and accepted both the conclusions of the analysis and the strategic development framework. The strategy was presented at a meeting of the Regional Development Council of the Southwest Region, held on May 21. 2013.

## **2. Socio-economic situation in Pernik District**

Pernik District is situated in the Southwest Planning Region (NUTS II) and includes 6 municipalities: Pernik, Radomir, Breznik, Tran, Zemen and Kovachevtsi. The proximity of the district center to Sofia City (about 30 km.) and the border with the Republic of Serbia (about 80 km.) are the key geographical factors regarding the strategic development of the district.

Two major roads with European and Balkan significance pass through the territory of the district: **Pan-European transport corridor No. IV** (Dresden/Nuremberg - Prague - Vienna - Bratislava - Győr - Budapest - Arad - Bucharest - Constanța / Craiova - Sofia - Thessaloniki / Plovdiv – Istanbul) and **Pan European transport corridor No. VIII** (Durrës - Tirana - Skopje - Sofia - Plovdiv - Burgas - Varna). The Lyulin Highway additionally accelerates transfer between the district and the capital, while the Struma Highway (planned) will provide good transport links to Greece. The railways passing through the district are part of the international lines Sofia – Athens and Sofia – Skopje while the Sofia Airport is situated within 40 km from the district center.

The economic development of any given geographical or administrative territory embodies the social and economical aspects of the change in the quality of life of the population due to changes in the nature, scope and volume of economical activity within the territory.

The economic context of the analyzed period both in the global and regional perspective is marked by the consequences of the Great Recession that began in 2007 in the USA and took a sharp downturn globally in 2008. The overall economic situation in Pernik District follows the developments in the world and in Europe. In 2009 the GDP per capita in Pernik District plummets to BGN 5267 or 51% of the value in 2008. In 2008 the GDP per capita in the district surpasses the average value in Bulgaria with 10%, yet the crisis has a drastically bigger effect on Pernik District – the GDP per capita in the Country declines with only 1% in 2009 or 50 times less.

The district's position of a leading industrial center is the main factor for this negative turn – the most affected sectors globally are industrial production and construction which in turn has strong negative effect on the extractive sector which has its significant role in the economy of Pernik District.

Besides the exposition of the region to industrial production, the economic trends follow the general slowdown of economic activity in the Country. To summarize the economy snapshot, we can say that the crisis presented severe challenges to the business in the district. While the challenges are quantitatively bigger, they are not significantly different to those observed in other districts in the Country. The growth in FDI in 2011, especially when compared to the decline at the national level, indicates a change in the long-term investment disposition. Considering this in combination with the stability of the rest of the indicators shows that the district has achieved a comparatively stable equilibrium which can be a cornerstone to restructuring and optimizing the regional economy.

The labor market is characterized with drastical intraregional disparities. The job density (relation between the number of jobs and the working-age population) is low: in the most developed municipality – Pernik, in 2011 there are 35.6 jobs for every 100 people in working age while in Tran the jobs are only 10.9. Particularly alarming is the decrease of the quotient in Pernik Municipality. With the exception of Radomir Municipality the job density levels are significantly lower than in Pernik and in other municipality they are also dangerously stable – there is no movement in the quotient in the Tran and Breznik municipalities while the changes in Zemen and Kovachevtsi municipalities occur due to the marked decrease in population in 2011. For the purpose of comparison, the same quotient in Bulgaria (based on working-age population) is 41.6% (a third higher than the best result in the district). The indicator level shows that the existing economic structure in the district and especially in some of the municipalities cannot sustain the current population level.

The lack of alternative income for households (the entrepreneurship share in the household income is typically low in the district and drops from 2.5% in 2009 do 1.1% in 2011; the region is not agricultural and small self-sustaining farms and extremely rare) and the proximity of the labor market in Sofia leads to economic activity levels comparable to those in the country.

Expectedly we observe severe regional disparities: the unemployment level is drastically higher in small municipalities – the situation in Tran, Kovachevtsi and Breznik is particularly worrying. While the unemployment trends are basically positive, the salaries in the district are sustainably lower than the average for the Country, both in terms of level and growth rate. This means the jobs in the district are low-level and associated with lower value added

compared to the average in Bulgaria. An additional effect, leading to the so called “wage compression”, is the lack of workforce mobility in the smaller municipalities.

A significantly larger part of the population (as compared to the average in the Country) is living at the poverty threshold – over 60%, with a trend for gap extension.

The employment rate by sectors confirms the conclusions that the available jobs are mainly concentrated in sectors requiring low qualification.

The education structure in 2011 shows that the district lags behind in education levels: even Pernik Municipality has 15% lower concentration of population with higher education than the average in Bulgaria – the average for the district is more than 25% lower than the average in the Country.

The healthcare system in the district is on a relatively low level. According to NSI, the district has a total of 36 healthcare institution (2012) with capacity of 591 beds (86% in hospitals). This means an average of 453.81 beds per 100 000 people, while in the Southwest Region the average is 667.45. In general the population in the district has a relatively low coverage with health infrastructure – the value of the indicator number of patients per physician is almost 50% over the average in the Country. On the other hand, the childcare services in the healthcare system are sustainably better than the average in Bulgaria.

The education structure in the district is in significantly worse condition than what is observed in the Country. The education system at the secondary school level is relatively good – according to NSI, in 2011 there are 36 schools for general and specialized education and 9 schools for 3<sup>rd</sup> degree of professional qualification. The infrastructure is mainly concentrated in Pernik Municipality but each of the municipalities has at least one general school. On the territory of the district is located one university, founded in 2010. Accompanying the trend for aging of the population and depopulation of the smaller municipalities, we observe significant decline of the number of students in general schools. The available places in kindergartens cover almost 100% of the needs of the population.

There are various cultural institutions in the district, including one theater, four museums, one library with over 200 000 titles, State Archive – Pernik, 74 community centers as well as a wide range of formal and informal organizations. According to the Ministry of Culture on the territory of the district are situated 40 monuments of national importance. The community center network is focal point for the cultural activity at the local level. The large part of the

cultural institutions are funded with state or municipal subsidies or via projects, funded by the national budget or the European funds (Pernik Municipality is very active in this regard).

### **3. SWOT Analysis**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic location of the district (proximity to the capital and key transport corridors linking to two international markets)</li> <li>• Proximity to Sofia Airport</li> <li>• Developed industrial sector</li> <li>• Ore deposits</li> <li>• Sufficient coverage of kindergartens; availability of daycare and focus on the construction of nurseries which supports employment and fast reintegration of young families on the labor market</li> <li>• Relatively low share (despite the growth trend) of students leaving the education system without secondary education</li> <li>• Renewable energy resources</li> <li>• Well developed cultural infrastructure: community centers, museums and other cultural institutions</li> <li>• Rich cultural calendar</li> <li>• Heritage monuments</li> <li>• Nature landmarks</li> <li>• Active sport clubs with vision for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aging population, especially in small municipalities, and progressively declining share of working-age population</li> <li>• Low job density due to low economic activity (esp. in small municipalities)</li> <li>• Overconcentration of jobs in sectors with low value added</li> <li>• Low income and high share of population in risk of poverty and social exclusion</li> <li>• Low-educated work force</li> <li>• Lack of diversification in the regional economy</li> <li>• Low internal consumption of products and services</li> <li>• Low mobility of the work force in small municipalities (esp. low qualified)</li> <li>• High pollution levels in Pernik City, affecting the image of the district</li> <li>• Low quality long-distance transportation infrastructure, difficult access to some settlements</li> <li>• Low intensity and quality of long-distance transport, servicing small</li> </ul>

<p>growth</p>	<p>settlements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration of highly qualified experts towards the capital; lack of experts for specialist jobs in the district</li> <li>• Unused agricultural lands and lack of land recultivation</li> <li>• Ineffective management of water resources and old water supply and sanitation system</li> <li>• Greatly reduced ore deposits</li> <li>• Concentration of old technologies in industries with low value added</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transborder cooperation and capitalization of access to internal and external markets (networks, clusters, specialization, etc.)</li> <li>• Focused support of high value added companies and restructuring of local economy</li> <li>• Providing conditions for remote work in environmentally clean areas</li> <li>• Establishing the district as a logistic center and providing conditions for intermodal transport</li> <li>• Access to R&amp;D infrastructure in the capital</li> <li>• EU funding; extended participation in EU programs and effective use of available funds</li> <li>• Currently building a system for waste</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant intraregional disparities in economic, social and demographic development and quality of life with a trend for intensification</li> <li>• Drastic depopulation of small municipalities and destruction of the parallel structures for mutual assistance, esp. in isolated settlements</li> <li>• Isolation of vilages due to insufficient investments in maintenance and completion of local road network</li> <li>• Increase in the number of people in retirement age: lack of means for autonomous life, additional pressure onto families' resources (time, income) and social service system</li> <li>• Impossibility to provide conditions for quality life in small vilages with mainly elderly population and lack of access to basic social and health</li> </ul>



management	<p>services due to low mobility (lack of transport infrastructure, inaptitude of existing infrastructure to the needs of this target group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social exclusion of vulnerable / unequal segments of society (ethnic minorities, disabled people, elderly people, families under the poverty threshold, etc.)</li> <li>• Further delayed rate of recovering the local economy due to focus on structurally vulnerable sectors (extractive industry, construction, etc.)</li> <li>• Automation and relocation of production and replacement (through mechanization) of low-qualified labor</li> <li>• Lack of highly qualified specialists who could enable shift in the local economy</li> <li>• Lack of infrastructure (incl. networks) for innovation</li> <li>• Insufficient cofunding from municipalities for the necessary investment projects</li> <li>• Continued (industrial) pollution of the environment</li> <li>• Lack of legal framework for the accomplishment of large infrastructural projects</li> <li>• Continued aging of existing technological base</li> </ul>
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## 4. Strategic Goals and Priorities for development of Pernik District 2014-2020

### 4.1. Vision

***PERNIK DISTRICT: QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY THROUGH SUPPORT FOR HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTIVATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR FREE IMPLEMENTATION OF INOVATIVE IDEAS.***

### 4.2. Strategic Goals

- 1. ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY***
- 2. SMART AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT***
- 3. QUALITY OF LIFE***
- 4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION***

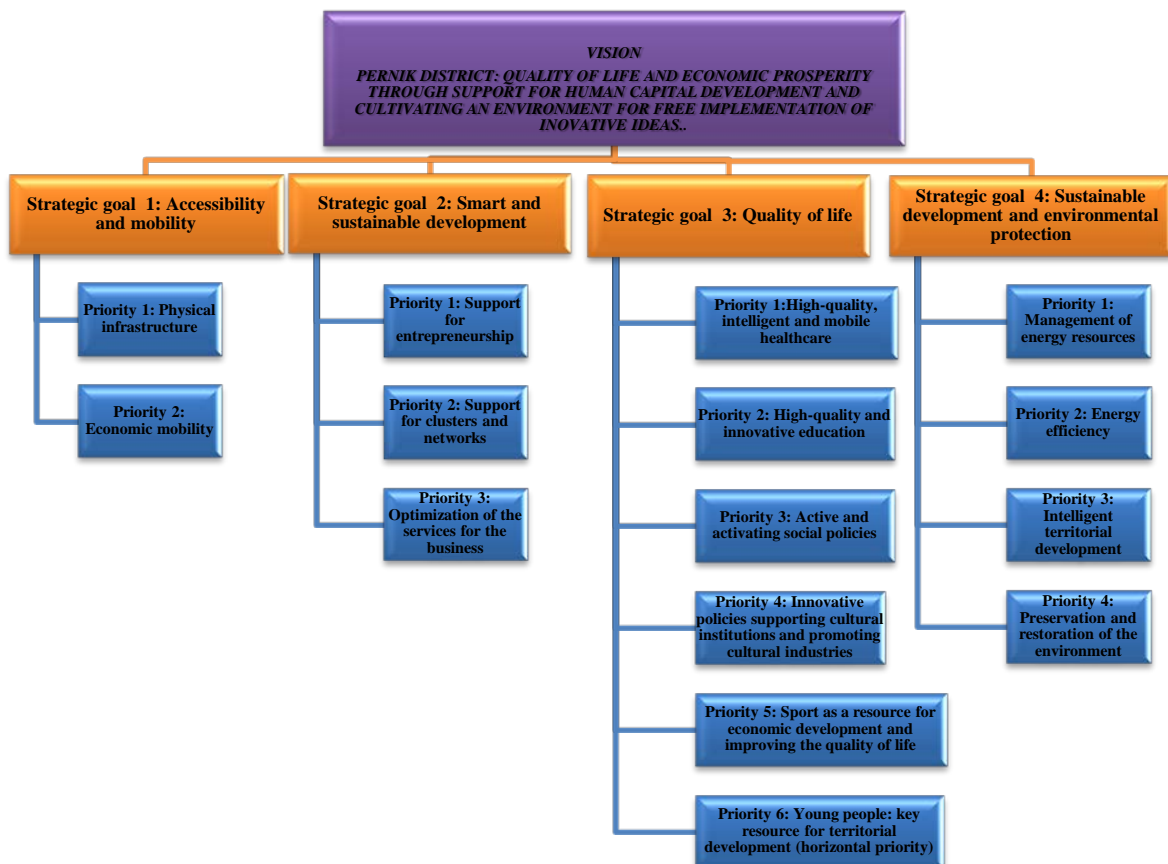
The implementation of the strategic goals ensures smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in accordance with the European and national policy 2020, presented in the relevant strategic documents, through:

- Significantly optimized use of public and private resources;
- Complete utilization and capitalization of opportunities for economic development and sustainable competitive business;
- More and better jobs with high added value;
- Living environment attractive for investors, employers and highly skilled specialists;
- Protected environment;
- Responsible, flexible and open administration and improved quality of social services;
- Improved quality of life, incl. of people in small and remote settlements and other groups at risk of social exclusion
- Diversified economy and better resistance to economic crises of structural nature.

Several basic approaches were used in the preparation phase of the Strategy:

- **Competitiveness:** the area should be attractive, oriented to the needs of citizens and businesses, able to compete with other areas in the process
- **Specialization:** efficient use of resources and establishing *sustainable competitive advantage in key areas*
- **Focus:** on areas that lead to improved quality of life and improved conditions for doing business, not just development "in general"
- **Prioritize:** efficient use of resources in order to maximize their effect, instead of applying an universal approach
- **Multiplicative effect:** the strategy creates the circumstances that enable people to achieve their goals; it does not *do it for them*.

### 4.3. Priorities for Development



## **Strategic goal 1: Accessibility and mobility**

### **Priority 1: Physical infrastructure**

- Construction of the transport network for internal and external mobility in the district within an integrated multi-modal transportation plan;
- Development of the ICT infrastructure: focus on broadband access;
- Development of logistics solutions (incl. ICT) for intermodal transport in order to optimize the transport services in the region and to neighboring areas;
- Development of the network of energy-efficient public transport.

### **Priority 2: Economic mobility**

- Integrated activities to enhance labor force mobility.

## **Strategic goal 2: Smart and sustainable development:**

### **Priority 1: Support for entrepreneurship**

- Support for establishment of structures that combine physical (offices, communications) and social (mentoring services) infrastructure for young innovative companies in their initial stage of development;
- Provision of priority services and information for entrepreneurs in all economic sectors, including tourism;
- Support through simplified administrative procedures and advisory support to the restructuring of agricultural holdings in order to improve their competitiveness and sustainability.

### **Priority 2: Support for clusters and networks**

- Support for cooperation in horizontal and vertical clustering and development of networks for creating added value;
- Organization and support for industry forums, fairs and conferences;
- Lobbying for the inclusion of companies from the district in clusters, formed as part of state policy at national level, incl. the provision of terrains for the construction of part of the infrastructure within the region.

### **Priority 3: Optimization of the services for the business**

- Provision of a stable, transparent and efficient administrative environment for business;
- Provision of information and support to business;

- Development of electronic services targeting 100% coverage by the end of the period.

### **Strategic goal 3: Quality of life**

#### **Priority 1: High-quality, intelligent and mobile healthcare**

- Establishment of specialized medical centers with the latest technology and redirection of non-critical cases;
- Extremely good coverage at local level through the deployment of mobile diagnostic and medical offices equipped with technology for basic therapeutic activities;
- Support for an integrated information system for medical services, incl. integration of health services with personal monitoring systems for health.

#### **Priority 2: High-quality and innovative education**

- Focus on schools and rationalization of the system; raising the standards and expertise of several key institutions;
- Support for collaborative activities between schools and leading companies in the district which will lead to overcoming the imbalances between education and the needs of the labor market, with particular attention to the economic sectors that promote growth;
- Expanding the network for career counseling and specialized extra-curricular activities for the preparation of applications for work or further education;
- Supporting innovative extra-curricular learning activities.

#### **Priority 3: Active and activating social policies**

- Development of specialized support for people at risk of social exclusion: "working poor", marginal groups, incl. Roma, young unemployed, elderly people;
- Promotion of self-employment and entrepreneurship;
- Ensuring the participation of low-skilled young people in vocational trainings, internships;
- Activities for professional (pre) qualification and lifelong learning;
- Development of hybrid social services that avoid the transition to unemployment or exit from the labor market: social enterprises, job rotation/temporary replacement work, etc.

**Priority 4: Innovative policies supporting cultural institutions and promoting cultural industries**

- Establishment of innovative mechanisms supporting the development of traditional organizational forms of the cultural context: museums, community centers, archives, libraries, galleries;
- Support for local cultural events and targeted policies for their inclusion in the national cultural calendar, as well as in integrated tourism products;
- Mapping of the arts, cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries and cultural tourism in Pernik District;
- Promotion of cultural industries, clusters and networks in the field of culture and education, culture and tourism, etc., incl. through specialized funds; building a technology park for cultural products;
- European territorial cooperation for exchange of cultural products.

**Priority 5: Sport as a resource for economic development and improving the quality of life**

- Support for mass sport, incl. infrastructure development and provision of funding for sports activities;
- Promotion of research activities in sport through the integration of private and public research centers in various disciplines (biology, bio-mechanics, instrumentation and computing, bromatology, medicine, pharmacy, materials);
- Usage of sports organizations recourses for information on the process of formulation and provision of services related to sports industries;
- Entry of sports organizations in the EU strategy for active aging;
- Developing long-term partnerships with client organizations (e.g. companies) to provide the sport as a service (e.g. team building).

**Priority 6: Young people: key resource for territorial development (horizontal priority).**

**Strategic goal 4: Sustainable development and environmental protection**

**Priority 1: Management of energy resources**

- Development and implementation of policies for achieving the maximum degree of energy independence within the framework of national legislation, incl. Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP) and contribution to the objectives of the European Energy Policy;

- Introduction of energy management systems that follow the requirements of ISO 50001 or similar standards and their integration with the Sustainable Energy Action Plans;
- Support for the development of renewable energy facilities, incl. small capacity installations for domestic purposes;
- Development and implementation of innovative financing schemes and solutions to support future large-scale investments in sustainable energy projects.

**Priority 2: Energy efficiency**

- Support for renovations of existing buildings in order to achieve near-zero energy consumption; introduction of standards for new buildings (public / private);
- Support for activities and introduction of standards for improving energy efficiency in production industries.

**Priority 3: Intelligent territorial development**

- Introduction of ICT systems and integrated management of the territory, based on the “smart cities“ concept;
- Integrated management, improvement and development of water supply and sanitation systems and provision of water services, incl. through joint inter-municipal/ interregional planning and execution of large-scale joint projects;
- Construction and upgrading of landfills and implementing a system for separation and waste recycling.

**Priority 4: Preservation and restoration of the environment**

- Increase the proportion of green areas;
- Terrain remediation of mining sites;
- Preservation, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity in the district.

## 5. General Evaluation of the Resources Needed to Achieve the Goals of the Strategy

Indicative total amount of financial resources available for the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy of Pernik District 2014 - 2020 amounts to **97 500 000 BGN**.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY								
PRIORITY	mln. BGN	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Priority 1: Physical infrastructure	24 375 000	2 437 500	4 875 000	8 531 250	13 406 250	18 281 250	21 937 500	24 375 000
Priority 2: Economic mobility	3 900 000	390 000	780 000	1 365 000	2 145 000	2 925 000	3 510 000	3 900 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>28 275 000</b>	<b>2 827 500</b>	<b>5 655 000</b>	<b>9 896 250</b>	<b>15 551 250</b>	<b>21 206 250</b>	<b>25 447 500</b>	<b>28 275 000</b>
STRATEGIC GOAL 2: SMART AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT								
PRIORITY	mln. BGN	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Priority 1: Support for entrepreneurship	9 750 000	975 000	1 950 000	3 412 500	5 362 500	7 312 500	8 775 000	9 750 000
Priority 2: Support for clusters and networks	4 875 000	487 500	975 000	1 706 250	2 681 250	3 656 250	4 387 500	4 875 000
Priority 3: Optimization of the services for the business	2 925 000	292 500	585 000	1 023 750	1 608 750	2 193 750	2 632 500	2 925 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 550 000</b>	<b>1 755 000</b>	<b>3 510 000</b>	<b>6 142 500</b>	<b>9 652 500</b>	<b>13 162 500</b>	<b>15 795 000</b>	<b>17 550 000</b>
STRATEGIC GOAL 3: QUALITY OF LIFE								
PRIORITY	mln. BGN	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Priority 1: High-quality, intelligent and mobile healthcare	4 875 000	487 500	975 000	1 706 250	2 681 250	3 656 250	4 387 500	4 875 000
Priority 2: High-quality and innovative education	3 900 000	390 000	780 000	1 365 000	2 145 000	2 925 000	3 510 000	3 900 000
Priority 3: Active and activating social policies	3 900 000	390 000	780 000	1 365 000	2 145 000	2 925 000	3 510 000	3 900 000
Priority 4: Innovative policies supporting cultural institutions and promoting cultural industries	3 900 000	390 000	780 000	1 365 000	2 145 000	2 925 000	3 510 000	3 900 000
Priority 5: Sport as a resource for economic development and improving the quality of life	4 875 000	487 500	975 000	1 706 250	2 681 250	3 656 250	4 387 500	4 875 000
Priority 6: Young people: key resource for the territorial development (horizontal priority)	1 950 000	195 000	390 000	682 500	1 072 500	1 462 500	1 755 000	1 950 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>23 400 000</b>	<b>2 340 000</b>	<b>4 680 000</b>	<b>8 190 000</b>	<b>12 870 000</b>	<b>17 550 000</b>	<b>21 060 000</b>	<b>23 400 000</b>
STRATEGIC GOAL 4: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION								
PRIORITY	mln. BGN	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Priority 1: Management of energy resources	7 800 000	780 000	1 560 000	2 730 000	4 290 000	5 850 000	7 020 000	7 800 000
Priority 2: Energy efficiency	7 800 000	780 000	1 560 000	2 730 000	4 290 000	5 850 000	7 020 000	7 800 000
Priority 3: Intelligent territorial development	7 800 000	780 000	1 560 000	2 730 000	4 290 000	5 850 000	7 020 000	7 800 000
Priority 4: Preservation and restoration of the environment	4 875 000	487 500	975 000	1 706 250	2 681 250	3 656 250	4 387 500	4 875 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>28 275 000</b>	<b>2 827 500</b>	<b>5 655 000</b>	<b>9 896 250</b>	<b>15 551 250</b>	<b>21 206 250</b>	<b>25 447 500</b>	<b>28 275 000</b>



## 6. Performance indicators of the strategy

### 6.1. Impact and context

Indicator	Source of information	Referent value	Target value
<b>Economic Development</b>			
GDP per capita (thousand BGN) as % of the average for the country	NSI	60%	100%
Share of industrial production in the sectors of economic activity (%)	NSI	40.9%	30.0%
Average net operating income per company in the district as % of the average for the country	NSI	96%	110%
Net FDI per year as a % of GDP in the district (cumulative for the last 3 years)	NSI	-1.4%	4%
<b>Labor Market</b>			
Density of jobs	NSI	32.5%	45%
Level of economic activity (among population 15-64)	NSI	68.6%	72%
Unemployment rate	NSI	10%	7%
Share of long-term unemployed from the total number	NSI	28.2%	15%
Average gross annual salary as % of national average	NSI	72.6%	100%
Percentage of population at risk of poverty or social exclusion	NSI	62.5%	49%
Percentage of population with higher education in the district compared to the country average	NSI	72.6%	90%
<b>Demography and Health</b>			
Age dependency ratio 65 +	NSI	33.8%	30%
Age dependency ratio	NSI	51%	51%
Deaths per 1,000 people in the population under 65	NSI	5.5	4
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births	NSI	0.05	0.05
Morbidity of children under 18 from respiratory diseases (1000)	NSI	1232	600
<b>Accessibility</b>			
Share of the third-class roads in the total road network	NSI	72.5%	69%
Share of households with Internet access	NSI	37.1%	60%
Share of households with access to broadband	NSI	-	60%
<b>Environment</b>			
Share of anthropogenic impact areas (infrastructure, residential areas, industrial sites) -%	NSI		
Share of forest, agricultural and urban areas in the total territory -% /% /%	NSI		
GHG emissions (CO2 equivalent) per capita - t / person / year	NSI		
Expenditures for fixed assets for environmental purposes – million BGN	NSI		
Expenditures for fixed assets for environmental purposes per capita	NSI		
Share of the territory with a high risk of erosion - %	NSI		
Expenditures for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy - million BGN. / year	NSI		

## 6.2. Results

Indicator	Value
<b>Strategic goal 1: Accessibility and mobility</b>	
Developed integrated transport plan	1
Share of the households with broadband Internet access	60%
Built intermodal transport solutions (systems, services, infrastructure, etc.)	5
Median of fast accessibility to Sofia (regardless of modality)	45 minutes
Maximum travel time from Pernik Municipality to a settlement in the area (regardless of modality)	60 minutes
Rehabilitated/reconstructed roads - II <sup>nd</sup> and III <sup>d</sup> class (% of total)	20%
Rehabilitated / reconstructed road network - municipal (% of total)	20%
Measures, programs and projects, introduced by the municipalities, for increasing the economic mobility of the labor force	10
<b>Strategic goal 2: Smart and sustainable development</b>	
Specialized services, projects, institutions, information systems supporting entrepreneurship, functioning in the district	7
Structures for seed funding and / or mentoring within the district	2
Percentage of newly established enterprises by young entrepreneurs (under 30 years)	40%
Percentage of start-ups in high-tech sectors (in the OECD methodology)	30%
Share of enterprises with rapid (within 2 weeks) access to loans (including working capital)	50%
Maximum proportion of new enterprises without access to credit	10%
Number of clusters operating in the district	5
Number of industrial forums, trade fairs, conferences (annual average) with participants over 100 enterprises, held in the district	2
Share of business services provided entirely electronically	100%
Number of PPP in business services	5
<b>Strategic goal 3: Quality of Life</b>	
Number of rehabilitated health and educational facilities	10
Number of schools in the district in the 15th percentile by representation in state matriculation exams <sup>1</sup>	1
Number of partnerships between schools and companies in the district	5
Developed innovative projects in the field of education and employment	10
Number of initiatives / projects / organizations with a focus on lifelong learning (including pre-/ qualification) operating in the district	5
Number of commercial cultural and sports products / services developed in the district	3
Number of active sports and / or cultural events with a total audience / participants over 10,000 people	3
<b>Strategic goal 4: Sustainable development and environmental protection</b>	
Decrease of the energy dependence (energy imports as a percentage of total energy consumption) of the district	70%
Share of renewable energy capacity in total energy consumption (including savings from energy efficiency projects)	40%
General large-scale projects for intelligent management of the territory (including smart cities, management of waste collection, resource consumption, etc.), at least 33% of which based on ICT	3

<sup>1</sup> Number of schools with an average performance of graduates of exams for secondary school among the top 15% of schools in Bulgaria on results of exams.