

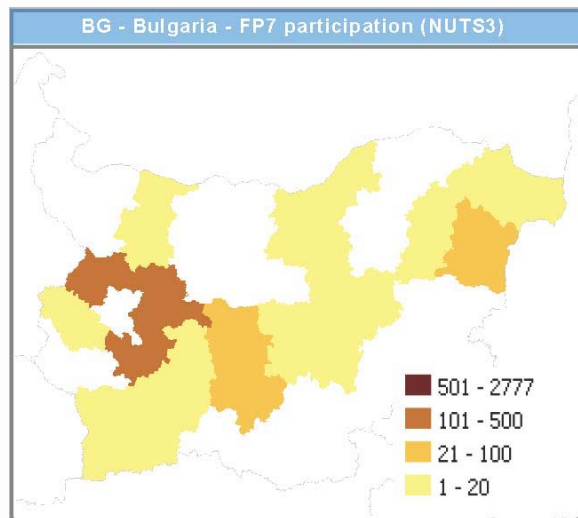


# HORIZON 2020

## BULGARIA



Bulgaria is one of the countries with the lowest R&D intensity in the EU, which has been decreasing over time, from 0.57% in 1999 to 0.49% of GDP in 2008; i.e. to around four times less than the EU-27 average. Even though it has increased from 0.10% of GDP in 2002 to 0.16% of the GDP in 2009, private R&D is still the lowest in the EU. A substantial increase of the R&D spending, both in absolute and relative terms, will be instrumental for Bulgaria's effort to raise its economic competitiveness and secure high-quality jobs.



Aware of the need to raise R&D investment, the Bulgarian government has set a national target for R&D intensity of 1.5% of GDP by 2020. Given the starting situation and current research and innovation capacity, this target is rather ambitious and will be reached only if strong efforts and reforms based on a long-term strategy are put in place and implemented in a sustained and consistent manner. The adoption of the national research and development strategy is an important step into this direction. Noticeable progress has also been made recently regarding the future use of Structural Funds for the establishment of high quality research facilities.

An important issue addressed by the new strategy is related to the unattractive working conditions for highly productive researchers. The measures foreseen in the strategy will be crucial to be implemented in order to ensure sufficient skilled human resources not only for the public but also for the private side of research and innovation activities.

<b>Innovation Union Scoreboard position</b>	26 out of 27
<b>R&amp;D intensity target</b>	1.5%
<b>Number of eligible proposals</b>	2.298 in response to 294 FP7 calls for proposals
<b>Number of applicants</b>	2.943 (0.94% of EU-27)
<b>Success rate (EU-27 =21,5%)</b>	17.3% (EU27=21,5%)
<b>Rank in number of participants signed contracts (EU-27):</b>	20
<b>Rank in budget share (EU-27)</b>	21
<b>Top collaborative links</b>	UK, DE, IT, ES, FR
<b>Total Population &amp; EU 27 Population Share</b>	7.504.868 (1.5% of EU-27)