Bulgaria in the EU - Achievements and Challenges
This lecture includes:

- I. Short Introduction
- II. The Bulgarian Road to the EU
- III. Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member
- Challenges to Bulgaria
The Bulgarian Road to the EU

- June 1990 election results for the Grand National Assembly
  - BSP - 47.15%
  - UDF (SDS) - 36.20%

- June 1991 election results:
  - UDF - 110 MPs
  - BSP - 106 MPs
  - MRF - 24 MPs
Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member

- **GDP growth - CIA World Factbook Data**
  - 6% (2008 est.)
  - Country comparison to the world: 59th
  - 6.2% (2007)
  - 6.3% (2006)

- **GDP per capita - CIA World Factbook Data**
  - $12,900 (2008)
  - $12,100 (2007)
  - $11,300 (2006)
Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member

- Unemployment - CIA World Factbook Data
  6.3% (2008 est.)
  7.7% (2007)

- Stock of direct foreign investment in Bulgaria:
  CIA World Factbook Data
  - $42.91 billion (31 December 2008 est.)
  - country comparison to the world: 52
  - $33.91 billion (31 December 2007 est.), Greece is 57th,
    Cyprus - 69th, Lithuania - 74th, Slovenia - 75th
Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member

- Exports
  
  $22.71 billion (2008 est.), 69th in the world, better than Estonia and Latvia
  
  $18.58 billion (2007 est.)

Exports: clothing, footwear, iron and steel, machinery and equipment, fuels

Partners for exports: Greece 9.9%, Germany 9.2%, Turkey 8.9%, Italy 8.5%, Romania 7.2%, Belgium 5.9%, France 4.1% (2008)
Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member

Human Development Index Trend

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Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member

- **Electricity Production - CIA World Factbook Data**
  40.25 billion kWh (2007 est.), 53rd in the world, better position than Hungary, Slovakia, Ireland and Denmark

- **Life Expectancy in Bulgaria - CIA World Factbook**
  73.9 years
  Estonia- 72.82 years
  Romania-72.45 years
  Latvia- 72.15 years
  WORLD AVERAGE- 66.57 YEARS
Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member

- HIV Cases- Bulgaria is 153rd out of 165 countries. Only Slovakia and Slovenia have fewer cases than Bulgaria in the EU.


- Internet Users: 2.64 million
  This is better in % of the population than Latvia, Lithuania and Croatia.
Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member

- Petty crime is a concern in Sofia, although less widespread than in most Western European cities. Organized criminal groups are involved in casinos, nightclubs, and prostitution. Violent crime, although rare, occurs.

- Homicide rate per 100,000 people- UN statistics
  Bulgaria: 2000-4.07; 2003-3.15; 2009-3.08
  2009: USA- 5.4; Canada- 1.83; Austria- 0.73
  2009: Columbia-36; South Africa-37; Venezuela-52

- Migration rate: -3.11 migrants/1000 people (2009), for comparison: Estonia: -3.26/1000
Challenges to Bulgaria as a EU Member

- low salaries and pensions, (average GDP for the EU per capita 33, 700);
- enlarging the international educational cooperation;
- improvement of the conditions in mental health institutions;
- corruption and effective sentences for high profile corruption cases;
- bigger transparency for the money spent on EU-funded and Bulgarian government-funded projects;
- nepotism and more careful checks of the background of candidates for political offices, especially for EU, UN and other international organizations;
- better integration of the Roma minority stricter application of anti-racist and anti-xenophobic laws;
- improving the Bulgarian immigration and refugee legislature as well as control of the treatment of detained refugees by the Bulgarian authorities;
- restricting GMO on Bulgarian territory and preserving the Bulgarian nature- destruction of illegal hotels and villas;
- decentralization of the government institutions, encouraging and creating employment opportunities across the country;