

**THEORETICAL ASPECTS
OF MODELLING THE CHANGE
IN ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION
EDUCATIONAL STRUCTURE**

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Summary

This study is an effort to set up a causal model of relations between the educational structure (ES) of the economically active population (EAP) and the major determinants of its evolution. It sets out the results obtained in the process of identification and analysis of factors for changing EAP educational level over the transition period to market economy. The notion of “educational structure” was used as a measure of the population’s educational level. The study includes the most significant determinants having impact on formation and momentary state of EAP ES over the transition period.

It is also a summary of the results of the review of the specialised economic and demographic studies on the issue of modelling the relations between EAP ES and the major determinants of its evolution. In addition, the main categories were discussed of macroeconomic models where population’s educational level is present as a separate element and could be used to identify the relations between EAP ES and major determinants of its evolution at macroeconomic level.

A review was made of the published research works where the subject-matter of study were EAP ES partial dependencies (or sub-groups thereof) from a specific determinant and the models of such dependencies. Two causal models describing the process of formation and the cross-sectional state of EAP ES in Bulgaria over the reference period were propounded.

Keywords: educational structure; economically active population; participation in training; primary and secondary labour market; demographic, economic and social factors.

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INTRODUCTION

The contemporary complex and dynamic society is facing a universal problem, the quality of human labour as a major economic factor, as a major tool to achieve stability and social security of individuals and as a major criterion for defining a person's place in society. During the last few decades the society and along with it the whole economic system have faced numerous social, economic and technological challenges. In such conditions searching for answers to the question on the reproduction of EAP and its major quality characteristics is becoming more and more important, as well as building up and developing the Bulgarian model for economic activity, employment, social security and stability of the socio-economic development of the country in the future. Education is one of the most important characteristics of EAP. Under the conditions of global economy the education and qualification of the population are a factor, which is being paid more and more attention. In this economy knowledge is wealth, which guarantees the economic development and prosperity of the countries. At the same time education is a major determinant for the quality of labour force.

In the specialised literature concerning measuring the educational level of population there is no common indicator. In the present article for measuring the educational level of EAP the term *educational structure* of EAP is used. According to it, the population is divided in a few groups depending on the completed level of education.

In the following report the results of the carried out study of the factors, influencing EAP ES, and their classification are presented. The types of models where the educational level of the population is presented as a separate element have been looked into, as well as studies on partial dependencies of EAP ES on a certain factor and the attempts for modelling these connections. The aim of this article is, on the basis of studies on factors and models, to be built a causal model of the connections between the major groups of factors and the educational structure of the total and EAP in Bulgaria over the period of transition to market economy.

FACTORS FOR MAKING CHANGES IN EAP ES

The factors which influence EAP are of various original. Different factors influencing EAP are pointed out in the research literature but as a whole we are not aware if there has been made a complex study focussed on the factors for making changes in EAP ES over the period of transition to market economy in our country. It is usually claimed in scientific literature that, as a result of society's development, the necessity of increasing knowledge and information has arisen with the aim of retaining the balance of the whole society system. This is what leads to the intense growth in the increase of the intellectual labour since the mid 1950s in industrial societies (Тофлър, 1992: 110-112).

In general, EAP influencing factors are divided into two groups: demographic and non-demographic (Стефанов, 1974). There are two more detailed classifications of EAP influencing factors in literature (Борисова, 2004: 17-28). They are based on