

MUTUAL LEARNING PROGRAMME:
PEER COUNTRY COMMENTS PAPER - BULGARIA

**Keeping the Way Open in Favour of Work: Variety of Programmes
and Measures**

Peer Review on “Pathways to Work for Lone Parents”
Northern Ireland, 10-11 May 2010

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1 LABOUR MARKET SITUATION IN THE PEER COUNTRY

This paper has been prepared for a Peer Review within the framework of the Mutual Learning Programme. It provides information on Bulgaria's comments on the policy example of the Host Country for the Peer Review. For information on the policy example, please refer to the Host Country Discussion Paper.

1.1 Labour market

Over the last decade, the Bulgarian economy has achieved steady economic growth: according to official statistics, from 5.4% in 2000 to 6.6% in 2004, and 6.0% in 2008. As a result of the economic crisis in 2009, GDP marked a sharp drop of 5.1%. At the same time, the unemployment rate showed a very significant decline – from 17.9% in 2000, to 13.7% in 2002, 6.9% in 2007 and 5.6% in 2008 (which was a lower than the average level for the EU-27).¹

In 2009, the number of unemployed individuals increased to 238,000. As a result, the total unemployment rate increased to 6.8% (7.0% for men and 6.6% for women).² The unemployment rate was nearly twice as high in the villages (10.2%) as in the towns (5.8 %). Employment Agency data show a higher level of registered unemployment for 2009: growing from 6.5% in January to 9.13% in December – which gives an average for the year of 7.59%. The rate has increasingly grown in 2010 to 10.26% in February; with a slight decrease in March to 10.14% when the number of the registered unemployed was 375,607, of which 3,069 or 0.8% are lone parents. Eurostat data for January 2010 showed the unemployment rate for Bulgaria as 8.5% (9.0% for men and 8.0% for women), and 9.6% for the EU-27 (9.7% for men and 9.3% for women). Eurostat data also showed a significant difference between the countries: from 19% in Spain, to only 6% in the Netherlands. Bulgaria's level of unemployment is lower than that in eight other EU countries.

The employment rate of the working age population has gradually increased over the last few years: from 52.5% in 2003 to 64.0% in 2008, followed by a decrease in 2009 to 62.6% (66.9% for men and 58.9% for women). According to this indicator, Bulgaria is behind the average level for the EU-27.

The rate of the working age economically active population has also increased over the last few years: from 60.9% in 2003 to 67.8% in 2008, followed by a slight decline to 67.2% in 2009 (72.0% for men and 62.5% for women).

1.2 Characteristics of lone parents

The last three decades have marked a constant increase in the number of lone parent households in Bulgaria. In 2001, the proportion of the lone parent households was 3.4% higher than that in 1985, and 2.1% higher than that in 1992.³ In 1985 the number of lone mothers and fathers was only about 4,700 and at the present time it is nearly 25,000.⁴

¹ Where the source of the labour market data is not explicitly indicated, it has been taken from Наблюдение на работната сила (Labour Force Survey) of Национален статистически институт (National Statistical Institute, NSI).

² There are significant differences in the unemployment rates by region in the country. They vary from 3.9 % for the South-West administrative region, to 10.2 % for the Northern-Eastern region.

³ According to data from the Population, Dwelling Stock and Farms Census in Bulgaria, organized by the National Statistical Institute (this is regarded as the most reliable source of data). The last three surveys were carried out in 1985, 1992 and 2001. The next Population Census will be organized in 2011, for the first time together with all the 27 EU countries.

⁴ See Naynenov, L. *Социално подпомагане на самотните майки и бащи* ('Social Assistance of Lone Mothers and Fathers'), Министерство на труда и социалната политика (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, MLSP), 2008. Internet : www.mlsp.government.bg, published on 27.07.2009, see info for mothers.

In 1992 the share of the lone parent families (households) was 10.3% of all the families in the country, in 2001 it reached 12.2%. Despite this increase, the proportion of households with either lone mothers or lone fathers has remained very stable at approximately 83:17 (in favour of mothers). This indicates that there are nearly five times more lone mothers with children than lone fathers with children.

There has been an observed increase in the proportion of children living in lone parent households. In 2001, 17% of the country's children were in lone parent households, which means that one in six children were living with one parent. This proportion marks an increase of 72% in comparison with 1985. Two years ago, 391,460 (or 21% of all children) were living with only one parent (i.e. one in five of them). Nearly 17% of these children were being brought up by their mothers and only 4% by their fathers.

Another trend is the increase in the proportion both of two parent families and one parent households with one child. At present, over 50% of the two parent families have one child, while this proportion is over three quarters for the lone parent households. On the other hand, the share of the families and households with two or more children has decreased.

Most lone mothers and fathers have a low employment status, primarily because of their low level of education. The Population Census data in 2001 showed that 77.7% of lone mothers and 86.3% of lone fathers had secondary or lower levels of education; 33.9% of mothers and 43.6% of fathers had basic, elementary or unfinished elementary education or were simply illiterate. Around 30% of lone parent households are economically inactive. This situation gives rise to a serious threat to the children concerned: dropping out of school, juvenile delinquency, propensity towards drug use, limited access to good paid work in the future, and social isolation overall.

Concerning social status, 21.6% of mothers and 25.5% of fathers with infant children are unemployed. Around 46% of unemployed mothers are unmarried women (i.e. they are, in the full sense of the word, lone mothers). Over 17% of lone mothers and nearly 25% of lone parents are registered as married (i.e. they are legally married, but cannot rely on the partner to care for and bring up their children). Nowadays, the sole parent is unmarried, widowed or divorced in 24.5% of the lone parent households with children. In cases where the parents are divorced, the lone parent can have more or less help and support from the ex-partner. Finally, it is worth mentioning the rapid increase in the number of unmarried lone mothers: while their proportion was 3.8% of all lone parent households in 1992, by 2001 it had grown to 10.3%.⁵

Many of the lone parent households with children live separately from other relatives (65.6% from the mothers and 66.6% from the fathers in 2001) and cannot rely on any help with child care and housekeeping. Because of their very low income, they cannot afford paid services either. The increasing number of lone parents with children and limited funds face problems in accessing appropriate and affordable childcare. For these parents, it is more difficult to combine paid work with child care.

⁵ A rapid increase in extra-marital births has been observed in Bulgaria, and the country takes one of the first positions amongst other eastern European countries in relation to this indicator. The proportion of extra-marital children amongst all newly born babies has been constantly growing – from 38.4 % in 2000 to 49.0 % in 2005. In 2006, the number of extra-maritally born children was 37,569, or 50.8 % of all newly born babies. This is a very significant indication of the status of the family-marital institution. According to data however, in the case of 60 % of the extra-marital births, the mothers live with the fathers as cohabitants, and only in about 20 % of the cases, the fathers are unknown or do not acknowledge their fatherhood. (See Национална стратегия за детето (National Strategy for the Child, 2008-2018). Voted by the Parliament of the R of Bulgaria, came into force on 12 February 2008, State gazette, No 14 of 2008). It should be noted that because of the relatively high child provision, mothers prefer the status of 'single mother' to getting married.

The problems faced by lone parents in terms of taking paid work are closely connected with the children's age.⁶ Nearly half of the lone parent households have children aged up to 18 years and over 13% of the lone parent households have children under school age. Therefore, the share of households with lone mothers (14.3%) is roughly double that with lone fathers (7.9%). Over one quarter of children in lone parent households are aged between 8 and 15 years. The age and stage of development of children under 18 is crucial for their health, education and care. Therefore, this is a time when the lone parents should be particularly concerned about their children's behaviour. The conflict between paid work and housekeeping also worsens if the lone parent has to take care of her/his own parent(s) or other disabled person in the household.

1.3 Child poverty - a key rationale for encouraging lone parents into work

In Bulgaria in 2006, the proportion of children aged up to 15 years in poverty was 15.1%. The risk of poverty was higher for children living in lone parent households or large families. Nearly one in every three children with a lone parent lives in a poor household. This risk is even higher for children from minority ethnic groups, in particular Roma and Turkish children.⁷ The risk of poverty is highest in households where no one is employed. The situation varies by region, with child poverty being particularly prevalent in rural areas.

Increasing opportunities for employment is considered in Bulgaria as one of the main preconditions for reducing poverty, in particular child poverty. Data show a serious at risk of poverty rate in 2008: 43.3% for unemployed persons and 17.1% for children between 0-15 years of age. This is why the active inclusion of people in the labour market is one of the basic long-term priorities of the social inclusion policy of the Bulgarian government.⁸

⁶ Stoyanova, U. And A. Kirova, *Джендър неравенства в платения и неплатения труд в България (Gender Inequalities in the Paid and Unpaid Work in Bulgaria)*. Publishing House of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences "Acad. M. Drinov", 2008, pp.16-21.

⁷ See 'Национална стратегия за детето' (National Strategy for the Child, 2008-2018). Voted by the Parliament of the R of Bulgaria and came into force on 12 February 2008. State gazette, No 14 of 2008, as well as Оперативна програма за развитие на човешките ресурси, (Human Resources Development Operational Programme, 2007-2013, HRD OP, European Commission).

⁸ The priorities are set out with concrete measures and targets in 'Национален план за социално включване', 2008-2010 (Bulgarian National Action Plan for Social Inclusion, 2008-2010).

2 ASSESSMENT OF THE POLICY MEASURE

2.1 Focus of the policy measure

Basic regulations in the field of the social assistance are included in 'Закон за социално подпомагане' (Law on Social Assistance). The social support can be offered in two ways: either by giving cash or in-kind payments for basic vital needs, or by providing different social services to socially vulnerable people. The social assistance is given based on an assessment of the person's circumstances. To guarantee the success of this activity, the role of the dedicated social worker is very important.

In terms of providing employment to the most vulnerable groups, social policy focuses on certain at-risk groups, including lone parent households. In contrast with the experience in Northern Ireland, lone parent households in Bulgaria are not identified as a specific target group, but they are implicit within certain other vulnerable groups. However, for lone parent households to be included they must have one or more common features in addition to being a lone parent. Some examples include: disadvantaged youths, persons of working age receiving social assistance, low-educated or low-qualified persons, inactive persons, long-term unemployed, socially vulnerable families, or including vulnerable Roma.. As a consequence, it is difficult to separate out the lone parent households and to evaluate the direct results of the policy on this one individual group. This is why in this section policies and measures towards Bulgarian vulnerable groups are discussed, in particular those which are related to lone parents status.

In Bulgaria, there is dedicated social assistance protection for people living on very low incomes, which includes many lone parent households. It is legally regulated and consists of two basic measures: financial assistance, and counselling/advice. However, the latter is not undertaken by dedicated personal advisers, as in Northern Ireland, but within the framework of advice given to other at-risk groups. The social assistance schemes include: cash benefits/monetary transfers (free of taxes and fees), benefits in kind (for example some provisions, clothes and textbooks for the children, fuel, etc.), personal social services (like education and training) and time-rights (i.e. maternity and parental leave). Indeed, Bulgaria is the country with the longest maternity or parental leave compared with other EU countries.⁹ It should be noted however, that these kinds of social assistance payments are limited and the purpose is to keep the minimum of social existence of those people.

Unemployment persons, who meet the terms of receiving monthly financial assistance, are required to be included on active labour market policy programmes. If they refuse to participate in such programmes, social assistance can be withdrawn for a year. Inclusion in these programmes is not compulsory for some groups of people, in particular for mothers with children under 3 years of age, including single mothers and fathers.

⁹ The current maternity leave entitlement begins 45 days before the due date and continues a year after the birth, (i.e. 410 days). During this time, mothers receive 90 % of their net monthly salary. In the second year of the child, they can use maternity leave receiving the monthly minimum wage for the country. This wage is part of the social policy in Bulgaria and its size has been fixed annually by the Government. At present the minimum wage is about EUR 123. Fathers can use parental leave instead of mothers for six months. In case the income per capita in a family is not over EUR 180 the children can receive allowances. The monthly childcare assistance is EUR 18 for a child and he/she takes them up to 18 years of age. In case the child still lives with the parent(s) he/she could receive it after this age, until finishes secondary education but not later up to 20 years of age.

In regards to cash assistance, lone mothers and fathers are treated equally.¹⁰ For example, one off cash assistance (around EUR 128 for a first child, EUR 307 for a second child and EUR 102 for a third or further child) for child care is given to both lone mothers and lone fathers.

2.2 Features of the Pathways to Work for Lone Parents

A vital factor in combating child poverty in lone parent households is the transition from inactive benefits into sustainable employment. The latter depends both on the financial means and the effectiveness of the implemented labour market policy. Due to the relatively low level of economic development the financial means for social policy are still very limited. As far as the implementation of active labour market policy is concerned there has been a significant increase and diversification in measures implemented over the last 3-4 years. This is connected firstly, with the achieved significant economic growth over the last decade in the country, and secondly, with the integration of Bulgaria into EU and working together with the other countries on improvement of the social policy. Some of the programmes and measures will be mentioned below.

2.3 Financial framework (e.g. budget and funding arrangements)

In Bulgaria, labour market policy is funded mainly from the state budget. The main additional source is the European Social Fund insofar as the Human Resources Development Operational Programme (HRD OP) is designed to promote local activity in the implementation of employment and training measures, as well as the development of local partnerships, including public-private partnerships. The funding for these schemes may come from different sources, including: direct state financing (predominantly); specific financial dedicated funds; grants to co-finance provider organizations, etc. The funding from municipal budgets and the private sector for the time being is very limited.

According to 'Закон за насърчаване на заетостта' (Law on Employment Promotion, LEP) established annually by the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, the Council of Ministers adopts the 'Национален план за действие по заетостта' (National Action Plan for employment, NAPE). This NAPE is the main operational instrument for the implementation of employment policy in Bulgaria. The NAPE includes all programmes and measures to be financed during the given year. It defines the activities, measures and programmes to be undertaken for implementation of the labour market policy, as well as the types and the amounts of the incentives for the participants in the measures for subsidised employment and training. The regional employment programmes regulated by the LEP are also part of the plan. Results have already been visible. For example, only for the period January-September 2009 as a result of participation in different programmes and measures financed by active market labour policy, 97,251 persons found employment and 18,325 began training. These figures include lone parents but unfortunately there is no specific data for them.

Article 53 in the LEP concerns lone mothers: 'every employer who hires an unemployed lone mother receives from the state labour costs for (labour and insurance payment) for a period up to 12 months'. In this way employers are encouraged to recruit lone mothers for a year without additional financial burden on the firm (with the expectation that employment will be sustained).

Many national programmes and measures have been implemented, and some of them could be related to lone parents together with other risk groups. The most relevant is the programme 'От социални помощи към осигуряване на заетост' ('From Social Assistance to Employment'). It ensures jobs for the largest number of persons in comparison with the

¹⁰ See Закон за семейните помощи за деца (Law on Family Assistance for Children), came into force on 1 April 2004, the last amendment in the State Gazette, No 23 of 27 March 2009.

other programmes. Over the first nine months of 2009, the programme assisted 40,916 unemployed individuals, of which 53% were female.

The main aim of another programme 'Активиране на неактивни лица' ('Activation of Inactive Persons') is to attract and motivate inactive persons to register as unemployed.

There are certain articles in the LEP where regulations concern at risk groups including lone parents; for example: encouraging unemployed persons, who are subject to monthly social assistance to take a job independently (Article 42); incentives for employers to hire unemployed mothers (and adoptive mothers) with children up to five years of age (Article 53); incentives for employers to hire the long-term unemployed, etc. These measures assume that there will be a relatively small number of participants involved: from 100 to 200.

There is encouraging experience involving especially trained mediators of Roma origin. They work in the Roma ghettos among unemployed and uneducated people without skills. According to official data in 2009, nearly 15,600 meetings between mediators and the Roma population were conducted.

3 ASSESSMENT OF THE SUCCESS FACTORS AND TRANSFERABILITY

3.1 Difficulties and constraints in addressing the needs of lone parents in Bulgaria

Bulgaria's institutions should improve their active policies related to lone parent households. Above all, the explicit identification of this group as an at-risk group is needed. Moreover, the problems of these households need to be specified, and adequate social policies and practices implemented to address these problems.

The social assistance given mainly by the state, and in some cases by NGOs, is not sufficient and is sometimes inadequate in addressing the needs for social protection of lone parents. In particular, there is a need to create cohesion between private and public organizations in order to satisfy the increasing need for social care. In this debate, the role of social enterprises needs to be better defined and user oriented.

A convergence towards public and private partnership is notable around Europe. Bulgaria should be encouraged to support the participation of private organizations in the welfare system, both in terms of financing and service provision. This method should be developed more distinctly by the government through fixed tax reductions for donations. The role of social enterprises needs to be better defined and user oriented. A more efficient and user-oriented welfare system may better satisfy citizens' needs.

Social services and benefits providing child-care and long-term care can allow work-life reconciliation, thus improving the labour market participation of lone parents. Since there is generally a supply shortage of social services and an increasing need for personalised facilities, a reform to improve efficiency and quality requires efficient management, user orientation, decentralization, public-private partnership and the integration of services.

3.2 Important success factor: the local context

Because of the significant differences by region in Bulgaria, it is necessary to take account of the specificity of each region and implement different measures and policies in favour of those regions with lower economic and social positions: higher unemployment, lower income per capita, etc. Despite the established mechanisms for the active involvement of representatives of the relevant institutions and organizations at the local level in employment policy, the main actors remain the sub-divisions of the Employment Agency at

regional and municipal levels. This means the social policy is still very centralized. Much more is expected from relevant institutions and organizations at a local level to help and combine their efforts with that of the public authorities. To this, we can also add the structures of the Agency for Social Assistance because it works in cooperation with the Employment Agency in practical implementation of measures for individual support of the most vulnerable groups on the labour market.

3.3 Impact of the recession on the opportunities for lone parents

Because of the economic crisis in 2009, the allocated funds for active labour policy were reduced to 90%. Shortly after this, they were once again cut by EUR 1,816,426. This led to a restriction on additional individuals being able to participate in certain employment and training measures and programmes, a restriction which also affected lone parents. Faced with increasing unemployment, modern society tends to turn towards less traditional and more flexible models such as part-time work, tele-work, etc.¹¹ These types of models can be suitable for lone parents, giving them an increased opportunity to combine work with childcare. In the labour market, however, these opportunities are not always readily accessible since lone parents are increasingly competing against newly redundant workers with high levels of education and qualifications.

As counter-measures against the labour market crisis, in the first half of 2009, the government implemented a wage freeze and even reduced wages in selected economic sectors like industry and services. There were also allowances for workers and employees who accepted short-time working as a result of reduced economic activity. In addition, funds can be accessed to take part in training measures during short-time working to increase employability. These counter measures against the crisis were aimed at mitigating the financial burden on workers. They have affected a relatively large number of the employed in the country, including lone parents.

3.4 Success factors and transferability

The policy and practice designed for lone parent households in Northern Ireland are interesting in comparison to Bulgaria. In general the individual approach to lone parents implemented in Northern Ireland is very important. In this way the specific needs and problems of the lone parent households could be considered. A lone parent advisor can focus on the needs of the individual and be more effective in looking for a solution for their specific problems. Bulgaria presents noteworthy experience in regards to their use of specially trained mediators working with the Roma communities. Their work is concentrated on people of minority ethnic origin.

The real purpose of the Return to Work Credit measure is to stimulate lone parents to become more interested in paid work making softer transitions from social assistance to employment. In the case of Bulgaria, there are some similar incentives. This is an important measure, in particular during a period of economic progress and more intensive labour force demand. Because of the difference in the income per capita between the two countries, however the scale of the incentives in Bulgaria is smaller in scale.

¹¹ 'Българска „пътека“ за постигане на по-добра гъвкавост и сигурност на пазара на труда 2009-2011 г.' ('Bulgarian "Pathway" to higher flexibility and security at the labour market, 2009-2011'), MLSP, 2009.

4 QUESTIONS

- How are regular (up to date) statistics on lone parent households provided?
- Additional assistance in Northern Ireland helps with childcare costs for lone parents while they are participating in Pathways to Work/NDLP/StW training provision. For care by a registered child minder, a lone parent could receive up to GBP 240 per week for 2 or more children, and for care by a relative they could receive up to GBP 100 for two or more children. Why is there such a considerable difference in payments?
- Why did the Northern Ireland government stop the Pilot? Are there any plans to restart it, at least in a modified way?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of the mediators in Bulgaria in comparison with the specialist lone parent advisors in Northern Ireland?

ANNEX 1: SUMMARY TABLE

Labour market situation in the Peer Country
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the last decade the unemployment rate in Bulgaria marked a very significant decline – from 17.9 % in 2000, to 5.6 % in 2008 achieving a lower level than the average for the EU-27. As a result of the economic crisis the level of unemployment increased but not dramatically. In March 2010 the unemployment rate was 10.14%, as the number of the registered unemployed was 375, 607, of which 3,069 or 0.8 % were lone parents. Women are nearly five times more likely than men to be lone parents with children. A vital factor against child poverty in lone parent households is the transition from inactive benefits into sustainable employment. The latter depends both on the scale of financial means and the effectiveness of the implemented labour market policy.
Assessment of the policy measure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lone parents are not a distinct target group for programmes in Bulgaria; they are integral to sub-divisions of other risk groups. There is variety of programmes and measures for employment promotion, where lone parents, both mothers and fathers, can participate. Acceleration of the labour market active policy is observed over the last 2-3 years. Because of the economic crisis, more new cuts are expected after restrictions on the state funds for employment policy are completed in 2010. Paid work of lone parents should be considered with the commitment to their own children.
Assessment of success factors and transferability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activation and diversification of the labour market policy is due to the total economic progress in Bulgaria over the last decade and to a great extent to the country's EU membership (from 1 January 2007). It is necessary to specify and analyse the group of lone parent households and focus appropriate measures on them. More suitable for lone parents are flexible employment (flexicurity) because it allows them to combine child-care with paid work.
Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How are regular (current) statistics on lone parent households provided? Additional assistance in Northern Ireland helps with childcare costs for lone parents while they are participating in Pathways to Work/NDLP/StW training provision. For care by a registered child minder, a lone parent could receive up to GBP 240 per week for 2 or more children, and for care by a relative they could receive up to GBP 100 for two or more children. Why is there such a considerable difference in payments? Why did the Northern Ireland government stop the Pilot? Are there any plans to restart it, at least in a modified way? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the mediators in Bulgaria in comparison with the specialist lone parent advisors in Northern Ireland?

ANNEX 2: GOVERNMENT AND LEGISLATION IN BULGARIA

Executive bodies (institutions) of state policy:

- Министерство на труда и социалната политика (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, MLSP)

www.mlsp.government.bg

- Агенция по заетостта (Employment Agency, EA). To get through with the consequences of the crisis on the Bulgarian labour market Employment Agency applies to a higher extent labour intermediation. A specific approach is implemented: (1) application of individual, accessible and flexible services for employment depending on the individual capability of the given person, his/her worked out profile as well as her/his wishing to work; (2) Giving services of professional orientation and advising and preparing an individual action plan within 1 month giving concrete measures for realization at the labour market; (3) Weekly and monthly report on the activity of the labour mediators by chosen indicators both towards the looking for job and employers. EA is an intermediate body for implementation of the HRD OP.

http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Council_Conclusions/March/0314ECpresidency_conclusions.pdf

- Агенция за социално подпомагане (Agency for Social Assistance, ASA).
- Regional Departments for Social Assistance. They are territorial subdivisions of the ASA.
- Държавна агенция за защита на децата (State Agency for Child Protection, SACP)

Consultative bodies:

- Съвет за социално подпомагане (Council for Social Assistance). This is a public consultative body to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.
- To State Agency for Child Protection is set up Национален съвет за защита на децата (National Council for Child Protection) with consultative and coordinating functions. Representatives of many ministries and other state institutions and bodies are involved in the activity of this Agency.

Laws and other regulations:

- Law on the Social Assistance, into force since 1.01.2003, last amendments 23 February 2010, State Gazette, No 15. The social assistance is based on social work applying individual approaches and evaluations of the concrete needs of the given persons and families (households). Except to relief of citizens related to their vital needs, helping of social reintegration of socially vulnerable people, the law makes provisions for assistance of people for labour employment as well as encouragement of entrepreneurship in the social sphere through development of social services by physical and legal bodies.
- Правилник за прилагане на Закона за социалното подпомагане (Statutes for
- Application of Law on the Social Assistance, into force from 1.11.1998, the last amendments on 9 April 2010.
- Закон за защита на детето (Law on Child Protection, into force from 13 June 2000.
- State Gazette issue 48, last amendments 20 February 2009, State Gazette, No 14.
- Закон за семейните помощи за деца (Law on Family Assistance for Children).
- Came into force from 1 April 2004, the last amendment in the State Gazette, No 23 of 27 March 2009.
- Закона за насърчаване на заетостта (Law on Employment Promotion, LEP).
- Национална стратегия за детето (National Strategy for the Child, 2008-2018). Voted by the Parliament of the R of Bulgaria and came into force from 12 February 2008. State gazette, No 14 of 2008, and also Human Resources Development Operational Programme (HRD OP), 2007-2013.