
SPECIFIC FEATURES OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC SECURITY

Metodi IvanovSofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“, Republic of Bulgaria, ivanov.metodi@abv.bg

Abstract: Determining the features of regional economic security are directly dependent on the indivisible nature of security and economic development, and the numerous links and relationships between them. Also important are the resources that are needed for the functioning and development of the security sector, especially in the context of globalization. In order to achieve effective maintenance of regional economic security, attention needs to be paid to both the social and financial spheres, the energy sector and the security sector. Especially in the field of human resource development, the search for opportunities for reducing unemployment, social inclusion of disadvantaged people and working with minorities, which are important elements for maintaining stable regional economic security for the individual territorial unit. Naturally, the possibility of maintaining a stable banking system and national currency should also be kept in mind. Crucial to stability is the maintenance of interaction with the European Union in particular under the Operational Programs, in creating opportunities for an accelerated absorption of European funds, as well as the creation of policies for the development of own development programs for structurally identifying industries for a given region. Highlighting the specific features of regional economic security require that due attention be paid to the development of the energy sector, especially with regard to the need to improve the existing energy infrastructure and in particular to build new capacities and develop new energy sources. An important role and place in maintaining regional economic security must also be devoted to the security sector, especially with regard to the establishment and improvement of inter-agency coordination combined with the establishment of hierarchy in the security sector. It must be borne in mind that regional economic security must involve human dimensions of economic well-being, such as real access to food, energy, technical infrastructure, retirement and health services within territorially separate areas borders. Certainly, regional economic security should not be linked solely to guaranteeing the economic foundations of development, as there are a number of other indicators that will influence the regional economy and the regional development of the territorial-administrative unit. The aim of the present study is to show the specific features of regional economic security in the age of globalization and at the same time to identify the potential for creating sustainable regional economic systems that will resist today's social risks.

Keywords: regional economic security, regional development, regional economy, social risks.

INTRODUCTION

The established economic system today is characterized by the ongoing globalization processes, the reorganization of existing economic centers and zones and the emergence of new ones, as well as through ongoing integration processes in the economy and politics, which give us reason to talk about the merging of the economy with politics. This gives us reason to pay due attention to the perceptions of economic security, as well as to stop to the specificities and relationships of regional economic security. The term economic security can mean "access to resources, finance and markets needed to maintain acceptable levels of wealth and economic power of the state"²¹⁹, which is confirmed by the perception that economic security is a "component of the comprehensive security of the country, as it relates to the way and quality of public life "and consists of two elements, namely "external and internal security"²²⁰. At the core of external economic security is the relationship between the state of international relations and the stability of the economic development of the country. It is here that we may point out that the economic development of the country is directly dependent on the socio-economic development of the individual territorial units, which may also give us grounds to speak of regional economic security. Especially, bearing in mind that in both the above-mentioned definitions of economic security the spatial object is the state, and in the case of regional economic security, the object will be narrowed, where according to the author's perceptions of a region or a separate territorial unit with certain geographical boundaries. The second element describing economic security is the domestic economic security of the country, which should include "a country's place in the international specialization of labor, the use of comparative advantages, enhancing competitiveness, sustainable balance of payments, free movement of goods, services, people and capital, maintaining a state reserve of strategic raw materials, economic growth, raising the standard of living, increasing productivity, high employment, stable money

²¹⁹ Slatinski, N. Security Dimensions, Sofia, Paradigma, 2000.

²²⁰ Ivanov, T. Economics of Defense. University Publishing House "Economy", Sofia, 2002, p. 143-145.

supply is a balanced state budget, etc.²²¹ The description of the second element of economic security can give us reason to perceive regional economic security as part of the national security of the country, which can provide a high social and political potential to ensure stability in the use of economic resources in individual territorial units, while at the same time ensuring independence from internal and external impacts in the development of economic and social processes in the territorial units and regions.

1. PECULIARITIES OF THE ECONOMY SECURITY

The traditional view of economic security represents it as the main qualitative characteristic of the economic system, which determines the ability of the economic system to maintain normal living and working conditions for the population, to provide sustainable resources for the development of the economy and to ensure the realization of the national- interests of a country. This implies that the domestic economic security of a particular country is directly dependent on the country's active macroeconomic and structural policy, which requires skillful use of monetary and fiscal policy instruments. The fact that economic security is also presented and viewed as protecting the members of society from the occurrence of possible economic risks such as financial and economic crises, bankruptcies, rising unemployment, increasing accidents at work as a result of major industrial accidents, etc. It is an additional reason why the governments of developed countries are developing diverse by nature and scope of economic programs that provide for the provision of aid to the needy, determination and correction of the upper limit of prices of goods and services for consumer, doping the production of certain goods as well as the provision of subsidies in individual sectors of the national economy. The important elements in the structure of economic security are economic independence, which must be the result of creating opportunities for control of national resources, aiming at increasing the efficiency of production and the quality of gross domestic product, which, on the other hand, ensure the competitiveness of the national economy and enable equal participation in world trade through the ongoing globalization processes. The second important element is to ensure the domestic stability of the national economy, which consists in protecting property in all its forms by creating reliable conditions and guarantees for the development of economic activity and control of the factors that can destabilize the economy of the country and its particular constituent regions. As a third element we can point out the ability to achieve self-development and economic growth of the national economy, which is a result of providing a favorable business climate for investment and innovation, creating opportunities for constant modernization of production, seeking opportunities for improvement of the professional, the educational and cultural level of the population in the country and in particular in the specific territories of the country. The listed elements are the basis of the objective of ensuring economic security, which is related to the maximization of the well-being of all members of society, which passes through the solution of regional problems in the social and economic development of the individual administrative-territorial units.

2. ECONOMIC SECURITY ASSESSMENT

Making a proper assessment of the level of economic security depends on the magnitude and depth of information on the current situation, and its impact on the sectors of the economy as a whole. The analysis of the current situation includes analysis of a set of indicators of an economic system, such as an assessment of the conditions for economic growth through the determination of the dynamics and structure of national production and national income, an assessment of the sectoral structure of the economy and the dynamics of the individual sectors, of the investment opportunities offered. Naturally, it is not to be neglected to carry out assessment and characterization of the natural resources, industrial and scientific and technological potential of the country as well as in particular of the individual territorial units that make up it. In addition, the dependence of the national economy on external factors, such as inflation, budget deficits, the impact of external economic factors, the stability of the national currency, the increase in the amount of domestic and foreign debt, must be assessed and characterized. From the point of view of the quality of life, the values of GDP per capita indicators, level of income inequality, the supply of goods and services to the population by the state, the number of the economically active population, the ratio of the working population to the dependent population in non- working age. In essence, the indicators and their specific values have a direct impact on the economy and indirectly affect the level of economic security in the country, as breaching tolerable limits will lead to the formation of negative and destructive tendencies in the country's economic security as a whole, and in individual territorial units. As examples of internal regional threats affecting both the economic security of the country and the individual regions are the high levels of unemployment in the mountainous and semi-mountainous regions, leading to significant income disparities between the populations

²²¹ Ivanov, T. Economics of Defense. University Publishing House "Economy", Sofia, 2002, p. 143-145.

in the different territorial units. In the case of external threats, the main indicators are the exceeding of the maximum amount of government debt, the positive or negative foreign trade balance, the dependence of the national economy on imports of foreign technologies, components or raw materials. From what has been written to here, we can summarize that consideration of the notion of economic security can be realized and explored in two directions as a process and as a phenomenon.

3. MAINTAINING ECONOMIC SECURITY THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC SECURITY STRATEGIES.

When talking about the development of the economic security strategy, it must undoubtedly be linked to the national security strategy, as security is generally directly related to achieving economic efficiency. On the other hand, the developed economy in a given territory can be seen as a guarantee of a high level of security in it, or economic security is a foundation of national security, although economic security interacting with the spheres of influence of other types of security accumulates their impact, where we can't have security in a weak economy, and vice versa, we can't have high economic certainty in the presence of many social conflicts in the society of the particular country, and region. It is this fact that requires the implementation of the two basic strategies for ensuring economic security of the state, one of which is related to the implementation of an economic security strategy through isolation and closure and the other through adaptation and opening. In a globalizing world, the implementation of an isolation and foreclosure strategy is possible in a very short space of time, and any attempts to long-term economic closure can lead to the break-up of the economy and mandatory opening at a later stage, as from the creation of restrictions it may be expected to improve economic stability and create conditions for boosting economic growth. Such a strategy of economic security by isolation and closure can be defined as a strategy of extreme protectionism and internal self-sufficiency, which will ultimately lead to a loss of strategic competitiveness and an opportunity for economic growth. It is precisely because of these circumstances and given the international division of labor that we can say that the economic security strategy by opening and adapting the main challenge of the modern world, since in addition to the mutually advantageous exchange there is a transfer of negative tendencies, which results in increases uncertainty, instability and dependence of the economy on external factors, which is a consequence of the globalization of the world economy. In modern times, global liberalism may not always be the best solution, as it sharply increases the degree of economic dependence, as a result of which the economic activity in the country is subject to international control through the established and imposed by the international organizations.

4. SPECIFIC FEATURES OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC SECURITY.

The offsetting of negative impacts affecting economic security in modern conditions takes place in two ways through the signing of bilateral agreements and / or through active involvement in international organizations and unions in order to ensure economic security. The parties' specific participation in international organizations is dictated both by the existence of direct economic interests and by the creation of guarantees to ensure the national security of the country. But the dynamics in the global economy predetermines the creation of new configurations of interests, as a result of which co-operation is often transformed into even confrontation, through economic, social, currency diplomatic and other sanctions, and vice versa. Certainly the choice of economic strategy to ensure regional economic security has to be determined by the duration of the impact of the destabilizing factors, the level of competitiveness of the regional economy and its degree of dependence on direct state intervention through subsidies. In essence, achieving regional economic security is not only an economic but also a political issue that is directly dependent on the situational analysis of the internal and external environment. Although in the context of globalization of national economies, regional economic security can hardly be achieved, which implies increasing demand for opportunities to implement measures at national and national level to ensure regional economic security. At the top of the international level, to guarantee regional economic security, the establishment of a system of international economic security, which also has certain features related to the opposite economic interests of individual countries, can be established. The achievement of economic security as a whole must be related to building it at different levels, in different areas of socio-economic life, as well as to different territorial units that are in a certain dependence and subordination. This is the main reason why it is necessary to decompose the subject in economic security and to move from the particular country to analyzing and assessing economic security in the particular region. Naturally, economic security as a subject can guarantee the sustainability and development of the national economy and defend national economic interests internationally. While regional economic security as an entity can guarantee the sustainability and development of the local economy and assert local economic interests at national level as well as at international level under certain conditions. This calls for the development of regional

economic security strategies in individual territorial units based on the principle of adaptation and opening up the local economy, on the one hand, to achieve a national consensus and, on the other hand, to achieve an active and lasting empathy and consolidation of the whole society, taking into account regional and national economic interests.

CONCLUSION

In order to achieve regional economic growth, it is necessary for the country to pay attention to the opportunities for increasing economic growth through the introduction of new high-tech technologies. In addition, the labor economic activity of the population should be increased at regional level. At the same time, efficient use and consumption of the workforce should be achieved, which will stimulate consumption and trade. Considerable attention should be paid to creating conditions for increasing the share of foreign direct investment and the introduction of information technology in small settlements in order to stimulate the economic activity of the population and create opportunities for work from home. The concept of economic security in the overall construction of security is essential, as the development of the economic space, which „will become the main paradigm of the 21st century“²²², is the leading place in the modern world. The need to achieve regional economic growth justifies addressing the issue of ensuring regional economic security as one of the main functions of the state as economic development and increasing the competitiveness of the national economy are a major national priority for each country.

REFERENCES

- [1] Angelov, G., Demography problems and economic security, 2015, available to <http://journals.uni-vt.bg/getarticle.aspx?aid=387&type=.pdf>.
- [2] Ivanov, T. Economics of Defense. University Publishing House "Economy", Sofia, 2002,
- [3] Marinov, A., Indicative model of the economic security strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria, available to http://oldweb.ltu.bg/jmsd/files/articles/44/44-16_A_Marinov.pdf
- [4] Marinov, A., Bulgaria's macroeconomic stability – economic security guarantee, available to http://journal.ue-varna.bg/uploads/20150223110009_62969135354eb083909eba.pdf
- [5] Nocheva, M., Economic aspects of security and competitiveness in crisis, Sofia, 2011, available to http://old.vtu.bg/bg/godishnikVTU/2011/Studia_Maria_Nocheva.pdf
- [6] Slatinski, N. Security Dimensions, Sofia, Paradigma, 2000.

²²² Nocheva, M., Economic aspects of security and competitiveness in crisis, Sofia, 2011