

ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET POLICY AND THE POVERTY

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In the article 'Active labour market policy and the poverty' the author examines the problems of the employment and unemployment in Bulgaria and the actions (active labour market programmes and measures) aiming to resolve these problems and improve the access to income and prosperity. The first section focuses on the priority actions (active labour market programmes and measures) aiming to resolve these problems. The second section concentrates on the income of unemployed - unemployment benefits, minimum and maximum amount of the unemployment benefit, insurance period, policy for unemployment benefits, share of unemployment benefits in the total household income etc.

INCOME, LIVING STANDARD AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE IN BULGARIA

Radi Foutekov

The profound changes in the social and economic life resulting from the transition to a market economy led to a permanent decrease of the purchasing power of incomes of large groups of population and deepening of problems related to increasing poverty.

The major objective of the MLSP in the sphere of incomes' policy in 2002 and for the period 2003 - 2005 is the creation of conditions for achieving a real growth of incomes through a nominal increase of cash benefits and decrease of tax and insurance burden. The increase of incomes and living standard of population has to be achieved by increasing the productivity of labour, production and employment.

The wage exercises a significant influence on the living standard of people, as it is a basic source for the formation of their incomes. For the last 6 years there is a tendency for increasing the rate of the average monthly nominal wage for the country but as a result from the high inflation in that period the real rate of that wage tends to decrease. With a view to not allowing further increase of tax and insurance burden on labour related incomes, which would be unfavorable for their purchasing power, MLSP must continue the policy for decreasing the tax burden and discuss the expedience of decreasing the insurance burden.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY - TWO CHALLENGES OF BULGARIAN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dora Mircheva

In the article, the necessity of changing employment policy as a precondition for reducing poverty is discussed. The analytical evidences for shifting from passive to active labour market policy are presented. The tendencies in labor market development and their impacts on employment, unemployment and wages are analyzed with respect to poverty. The building of statistical capacity for establishing poverty-monitoring system is briefly considered.