

## Model for revitalising the rural areas – micro and small farms

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### Abstract

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The structural defining elements of the socio-economic model for the sustainability of rural development are closely related to the revitalization of the activities, processes and results of the functioning of economic units/actors in rural areas. We have used a double matrix socio-economic model that has the aim to determine what role do the micro and small farms have in socio-economic environment in Bulgaria, as well as how implementation of EU politics and national legislation affect them. Bulgarian agriculture has experienced major structural changes as a result of the restoration of ownership of agricultural land and in recent years, CAP policy the green deal, combined with COVID19 and the war in Ukraine has influenced heavily the processes happening to small and micro farms in Bulgaria and their role/place in agriculture.

**Keywords:** small farms, gardens, rural revitalization, short supply chains

### Introduction

The structural defining elements of the socio-economic model for the sustainability of rural development are closely related to the revitalization of the activities, processes and results of the functioning of economic units/actors in rural areas. Given the communal agricultural policy that dominates production processes in agriculture as a sector, dichotomies have emerged in a number of countries with a unfavorable impact on the socio-economic pattern of rural communities. This, in turn, provoked the scientific community to propose analytical developments on the basis of which the legislature of the European community took steps to change the policy towards rural communities. The main focus in this regard is the economic units operating on the territory of rural areas (European Parliament, 2022a). In the literary analyses, there are scientific studies that show a harmonious stability between the natural conditions of a territorial feature, the

economic activity of the subjects and the state of rural areas.

Bulgarian agriculture has experienced major structural changes as a result of the restoration of ownership of agricultural land. The effect of restitution can easily be called the “Via ruptura”<sup>1</sup> or the way of division (breaking into parts). After the division of the land that had already been consolidated in the period 1944-1989, numerous owners of small plots of agricultural land appear. This is due to the appearance of a large number of heirs when returning the land in real boundaries. A new economic environment is created, and the old system of economic relations changes in order to respond to objective social and economic processes. The open capital market, for its part, greatly affected the classical chain of land-labor-capital, and with its neoclassical spirit shifted the gaze from land to capital, but only in appearance. In the primary sector and in land use and land tenure poli-

<sup>1</sup> Via ruptura” from Latin path of division, fragmentation