Abstract

The aim of this paper is to assess the positive and negative consequences for the Bulgarian SMEs after the EU accession. An empirical survey has been conducted in the following aspects: Readiness of the Bulgarian manufacturing SMEs for integration in the EU; The main problems they face in the process of integration; The changes that emerge as a result of the integration; The anticipated benefits from the integration and the fundamental determinants of the long run success of the Bulgarian companies in the context of the Common European market. In the current article have been defined recommendations to the Bulgarian manufacturing SMEs for improvement of their defence mechanisms against the European competition. This paper presents results from the study and provides some insight to how local economy development is affected when conditions are changing in a region due to the closing-down of a major public workplace. The specific purpose is to reveal opportunities for municipalities to prepare for entrepreneurial activity to meet up with the ongoing structural changes and a globalized local economy.