The Bulgarian SMEs Operating in International Subcontracting Networks: The Impact of the EU Accession Process*

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Abstract

The paper highlights the importance of subcontracting to the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as to the large companies, which are the main clients of SMEs. It presents the characteristics of the work in international subcontracting networks and it summarizes the main advantages and threats for SMEs operating as subcontractors.

The paper analyses the subcontracting relations of Bulgarian SMEs. The author shows the opportunities and challenges before the Bulgarian SMEs-subcontractors related to the membership of Bulgaria in the European Union and gives an account of their preparation for functioning on the united European market.

Key words: Subcontracting networks, Bulgarian SMEs, European market

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