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Fellowship Topic Area: Business Development & Entrepreneurship (SME

Policy & Entrepreneurship)

Project Title: Policy Gaps In Promoting Innovative SME In Bulgaria

Draft Research Paper (January 2006)

Policy Environment and Patterns of Innovative Entrepreneurship in Bulgaria[©]

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Chapter 6. - Policies towards innovative entrepreneurship in Bulgaria after year 2000: main problems and patters.

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Summary of elaborated chapters:

Chapter 1 outlines the methodology, applied in the current study of innovative entrepreneurship in Bulgaria. It attempts to synthesize three methodological traditions – economics technical change and more precisely the so-called evolutionist paradigm in it (Freeman, Dossi), the sectoral approach to the economic development (Michael Shafer, Garry Jereffy, Bela Greskovits) and actor-network theory (M.Callon, J.Low). It analysis the achievements in these approaches in understanding the mechanism of innovation in late capitalist societies and also their potential in studying post-socialist economic transition.

Chapter 2 provides taxonomy of the economic resources available at that period and related topology of the potential economic actors in the eve of the radial economic and political changes in 1989. It outlines how the relationships and availability of different type of resources constitute the new actors of post-socialist economic transition, defined by their ability to mobilize different set of these resources. The resources include material assets lands and industrial assets owned by the state, stockpiles of goods in distribution system, real estate owned by the state institutions, political parties, socialist organisations, etc., personal property of citizens, etc.), non-material assets (financial assets in the National and Commercial banks, intellectual and industrial property, contacts with foreign companies and other economic agents both in Western and former COMECON countries, knowledge and skills embodied by the economically active persons especially in the innovative areas as foreign languages, IT, biotechnologies and others), specific positions in the late socialist hierarchies (in management of the economy, in financial sphere, in system of distribution, in foreign trade, etc.) and which determine the access of the individuals to the various economic resources. It stipulates that the (potentially) most important economic resource appears to be positions in late socialist hierarchies that define the positions of other economically active individuals, so-called "control over the cadres". The chapters also points out the importance of some newly emerging assets in the course of transition such as access to personal information about economically active individuals, skills in specific fields of sports (as resource to replace ideological control 'by force'), Internet, etc. On the base of these recourses a typology of main economic agents is defined comprising the mass of late socialist workmen and women, different branches of ex-socialist nomenclature (political, economic, trade-union, youth communist organization, special services), late socialist entrepreneurs, etc. and the main types of relationships between them.

Chapter 3 is based on the author's IPF 2003 field work, as well as his other theoretical and empirical studies the chapter outlines the dynamics of interaction of main economic actors in early period of transition – the rise of private entrepreneurship, the dismantling of corporate structure of socialist economy, foreign direct investors as new agent in economy, transformation of socialist financial system and emergent of 'mediators' as specific economic actors of early transitions, enabling 'conversion of ex-socialist political capital into economic one'.