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## CHALLENGES TO SMALL COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE

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### INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary world challenges in the future of developed and the most developed countries, other countries, as well as small ones (both developed and undeveloped) grow with the advancement of science and technology, the progress of society and civilization.

Tempo of development of science and technology and the process of globalization in the planetary frame influence, and will ever more, on economic growth and development of certain countries, regions, regional communities and world economy in general; the level of preservation of living environment; conditions, quality and duration of life of population, etc.

Having in mind the different level of development and the dynamics of development of certain countries, these processes have different impact on directing and the speed of these countries' development and developing tendencies. By applying the achievements of science-technology progress, especially of the information-communication technologies, a new world has been created; a world of science-technological merging of everyone from different parts of the globe, regardless the distance; the speed and efficiency of business and private communications. Prestige and concurrence come forward, a world connected through social networks which enable intensive communication worldwide and in any place. In such a world, special place occupy small developed countries, by different features.

Due to applying of the contemporary scientific-technological achievements, the economic and overall development of all countries increase, with different intensity though. In the same time, the gap between big, developed, highly developed and economically the most developed countries on one side, and undeveloped, under-

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developed, and especially small underdeveloped countries, deepens on the other. It affects the different choice of the developing priorities, considering when determine them their relation with the challenges of each country's future when defining them.

Some of these issues will be considered more in depth hereafter.

### **1. DIFFERENT LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT AMONG COUNTRIES – FACTOR OF THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES SELECTION**

In the indicated processes of contemporary era, the developed and the most developed countries step forward by accelerated pace when it is about the new achievements and results of their application in praxis. On the basis of knowledge, especially the new knowledge, they conquer new spaces of the unknown in almost all fields of intellectual, practical, economical and other activities. These countries constantly improve scientific-research and developing activities, thus enabling, by new discoveries and their application, the finding of optimal solutions for the advancement of all the areas, higher productivity, efficiency and compatibility.

In the developed and industrially most developed countries, regarding the world processes in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, generation cannot longer rely on what's inherited but look for the new. For such quest exists a huge, multiple motivation which strives to progress. Besides the strivings and efforts coming from personal, scientific motivation for constant mastering and search for novelties, there is a strong motivation to make and create new and higher values and profit from obtaining the new and its application. This is especially pronounced in forming the market rules and conditions of producing in the capitalist countries, former socialist countries that have undergone the system transition, as well as in other countries on the global plane.

The indicated phenomena and constant tendencies towards the new on the basis of higher degree and form of knowledge, are not equally pronounced in all parts of the developed and the most developed countries, reason being the different level of development and various sorts of inequality within them. It is commonly known that in all countries, including these, there are regional differences with regards to: economical, educational, scientific, cultural and overall civilizational development.

All the experiences accumulated so far of the economically developed countries, both big and small, confirm that, in the past as it will continue in the future, as more prosperous and attractive for investment in science and new technologies, as well as for the founding of new companies, are more developed parts of the country, i. e. city centres and parts with developed economy. In the city zones it is concentrated the population, especially well educated, and the scientific potential, as well as built infrastructure. Therefore, especially in big cities and city zones, operate scientific institutions and research potential which is the biggest treasure of a country and intensively follows and finds the new in all the areas of science, which is a challenge to the contemporary and future time. In the same time, in the developed economic centres there are research / scientific-research centres, the activity of which is being financed by big enterprises and corporations for their own purposes. The staff

engaged in the scientific institutions and research centres work all the time with strong motivation to make new findings, such to obtain higher concurrence and profit, as well as secure the prestige in particular scientific, business and commercial areas of a large scale.

In the mentioned and other processes of the contemporary world small countries hold special place, with great difference between small developed from small underdeveloped countries. The development priorities and challenges in the development process in the future, when they are concerned, are somewhat different for the particular group of countries.

The small developed countries, especially some European ones, which have developed economies and high gross domestic product per capita (GDP/pc) have succeeded to rise high with relation to the science development and scientific contribution in some areas, like some big developed and highly developed countries. With their scientific and other inputs they speed up not only the development of certain areas in their countries, but also on the global plane – in the world science, especially in the information-communication technology, some other fields of science and economy.

Unlikely to them, the most number of undeveloped countries did not succeed to make a significant step in this regards due to many limiting factors of their own development and other specific circumstances. For these countries, special place, or better limitation in developing possibilities, represent: historical heritage, low material basis and lack of competent personnel, development planes, finances, etc. The lack of their own funds for the scientific research and the development of economy have special weight, however not decisive. It would be wrong and too simplified to assume that the solution for small undeveloped countries could come down only to securing the financial means. In securing the success, besides the financial, important role play various other factors, too: staff, technical/technological, political, social, functional, as well as their mutual harmonic combination. This stand does not diminish the importance of availability of financial funds for reaching the goals and development priorities of these countries in the contemporary conditions also in the future, under the impact of global movements over different territories.

Although the transition processes and globalization are followed by certain unfavourable movements in particular spheres – especially in small countries with average development and underdeveloped countries, they incite the creation of new knowledge and scientific breakthroughs. At the same time, they stress the necessity to follow new and improve own knowledge and scientific contributions to overall development. In small developed and small underdeveloped countries there also exist other complementary activities which should contribute to creation of conditions for economic development based on knowledge and advancement of overall development; which also represent constant challenges to their future development.

For the future development of small countries, like Montenegro, we find the necessity of improving the current and getting new knowledge and creating conditions for more intensive development of science and research, faster transfer of scientific achievements from the most developed and developed countries in industry and

their wider use in various areas of economy, but also non-economic ones and the society. It is a constant challenge for small countries' future development and fundamental for strategy of conduct in processes that occur in wider measures, which are inevitable even for them.

Having in mind the speed of the science development, technics and information-communication technologies, as crucial imposes the problem of selection of technical-technological solutions for the application of new achievements, which grow with each day. It is a problem even for big and small developed countries, as well as for some other countries, which by the most important indicators of the development level range among the medium developed countries. Unfortunately, for the undeveloped countries the application of the newest technical-technological breakthroughs is a dream. The selection and the possibilities of application of the newest breakthroughs for all the developed countries (regardless of their size) represent much smaller problem than for the others because, as a rule, they do not have the limitations related to the financial investments and highly qualified personnel, which have to realize new programs and their application in various areas, especially in the industrial highly sophisticated production.

The new technical-technological breakthroughs and the technics today do offer and will continue to offer bigger savings, considerable rationalizations and the sudden increase of effects of all the investments in the material sphere of production (and of course, in the non-material!), as well as the investments in: industry, agriculture, traffic, services and other branches. However, in the same time it will remain always as problem their uneven application and the priority selection, as well as the logical order of their introduction with the sequent chain of changes which follow one another.

Apart from the level of economic and overall development, all countries, even the small ones, are faced with what is going on today in atmosphere, nature, living environment on the planet. It is about the consequences of development effects of few the most developed and other countries in the world, which cause the global warming and climate change in the past and present time. If that continues with such dynamics in the future, it will threaten the survival of human kind, of the entire living world including vegetation in the time ahead. Small countries are not in position to act such to change that state. It is a consequence of the activity of big, the most developed, most powerful and most influential countries, which because of their industries and economic interests, wont reduce the industry production, especially the so called „dirty industry”, even less replace it with the „green industry”, as well as some capacities in other economic activities (traffic in the first place), which in the greatest extent release harmful gas into the atmosphere. That has provoked and still does the changes to happen that lead to the: thinning of the ozone layer, occurrence and spreading of the ozone holes, planet warming, global ice melting, climate changes that affect very unfavourably the air, water, soil, people's health, and the whole living world. We evidence many unfavourable consequences that came to happen over the last years in different corners of the world (flaws, drought, terrible earthquakes, poverty, health damaging of population in many areas, and so on).

To the mentioned consequences of the global warming and climate changes are exposed countries in certain geographic areas of the world, among which especially the undeveloped and the poor ones. The countries of the Mediterranean area, including Montenegro, as a small country, have evident consequences of climate changes with the pronounced tendency of the unfavourable trends continuation. Therefore, many small countries nowadays should examine, like the big ones, and in accordance with their needs and possibilities, the actual decisions and methods of ongoing industrialization, in spite the fact that it is the most certain and the fastest way to any economic development. Moreover, the development possibilities on the basis of the natural and human resources and economy restructuring to the forcing of the „green economy” development and service sector should be examined. In the countries with the dominant industries in the overall economy structure it is difficult to reach the decision as such, and even more difficult to carry it out. This because through the industrial development the basic goal of every development is fast reachable, i. e. elevation of the work productivity, increase of national gross product (GDP), of GDP per capita and the living standard of the citizens. For these reasons it is difficult to convey restructuring in the conditions of formed economy structure, i. e. to redirect the development to other branches and areas of economy, since the industry gives the most favourable conditions because of the high share of measurable work in the production process and faster development of new technics and technology that make this share ever more growing. That’s why in the industrial development the new work posts are created very fast and increase the income in relation to the invested work, enabling, thus, the radical changes in the overall economy, securing high salaries, which altogether have favourable impact to the fast growing market demand and simultaneously to the creation of new sources of money saving.

## FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

In the actual conditions for the development of small countries, the changes and courses represent the special challenge on the global plane. It makes to distinguish in a completely different way now the constantly present dilemma of their development model in the future: balanced or imbalanced industrial development.

Because of the economy structure, of development potentials and general level of development, small countries cannot opt for a great deal of strategic goals of their social-economic transformation in the future. Namely, globalization and world economic scene, world economic crisis of today, are determined to much extent by globally influential and dynamic technological and economic changes, as well as social consequences of these changes. The growing of overall knowledge, affirmation of „market without limits” approach, „ever smaller world” and the spreading of technology, condition more or less similar patterns of administration, economic policy and development of small countries. That’s why these countries have priorities in their future development which base primarily on rational use of own resources, improvement of their own knowledge and transfer of new and modern technologies.

By determining the goals of long term development and choosing the priorities, small countries get into balance what is possible with what's wanted. It means that the challenges in the future, along with all they may have impact on in their countries, are the same as for other countries, regardless of their level of development.

Montenegro as a small country, which has undergone the transition of political, legal and economic system and the economy restructuring, should give special importance on its scale of future development priorities to science, research, transfer of scientific and technical-technological achievements and their application, to the activities from the sphere of „green industry” and services, as well as to preservation and better use of natural and human potentials and protection of the living environment. This is necessary more so because of the certain specificities it has. That is to say, Montenegro belongs to the Mediterranean zone where the consequences of the climate changes become more pronounced with every year. That is a problem which demands permanent joint action of profession, science, institutions, society and the state. Furthermore, Montenegro was declared more than two decades ago as ecological state and has particular urban and natural values placed on the list of world heritage under protection.

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