

RE-DIRECT THE LOCAL ECONOMY TO “KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY”

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STATE-OF-THE-ART

- **Five universities and several research centres;**
- **Research institutes in technology and marine sciences;**
- **City prize “Varna” for excellency in education, research and public activities;**



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- **Discussion but no real recommended way to unite the universities and research centres;**
- **Low level of cooperation between university and business;**
- **Comparatively low level of cooperation between universities themselves;**



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- **Linkage of city economy to the maritime sector;**
- **Negative impact on the city economy and social activity due to bankruptcy of Varna shipyard;**
- **Many shipping companies represented in the city, promote education and industrial growth**

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- **Changes in national legislation regarding academic development;**
- **Lack of common standards of academic performance across universities in the country;**



ADVANTAGES AND POSSIBILITIES



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- **Changes in national legislation:**
 - Allow financial independence of university structures (schools);
 - Facilitate the integration into a united University of Varna;
 - Allow efficient usage of national budget for higher education;
 - Unify standards in career development through adoption of quantitative indicators for each research area;

ADVANTAGES AND POSSIBILITIES



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- **Promote interdisciplinary research across the scientific community and appraise such initiatives among scientists;**
- **Further support cooperation between universities for research and education;**
- **At a regional and national level support the establishment of funds for support of start-ups;**

ADVANTAGES AND POSSIBILITIES



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- **Further extend the connection between city, university, and the maritime sector:**
 - Strengthen cooperation with companies;
 - Enhance practical training of students;
 - Perform recruitment campaigns together with representatives of business organizations;
 - Promote the city as the marine capital in both economic and touristic aspect;
 - Define a common strategy for the future development of the port of Varna.





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**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**