

BULGARIA

SECONDARY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
"PROF. DR. DIMITAR TABAKOV"
SLIVEN

Prof. Dr. Dimitar Tabakov, is a prestigious institution with a long history and good reputation. It is founded in 1948 as a "Commercial School". The town of Sliven has about 90 000 inhabitants. It is situated at 100 km from The Black Sea and 300 km from the capital, Sofia.

The school has 500 students, aged from 14 to 18. It prepares specialists for the Bulgarian economy, in the fields of "Banking", "Operational Accounting", "E-commerce", "Business Administration", "Economic Informatics", "Economics and Management" and "Trade". The students acquire the professions of financier, accountant, organizer-Internet applications, office-manager and economist. The school also offers an opportunity for adults who have dropped out of school for any reason. 45 qualified teachers give the trainees a wide general knowledge and the necessary knowledge and skills in economics, business and marketing, entrepreneurship, banking, insurance and marketing. Sliven region is a typical area of concentration of ethnic minorities. It may be considered to be a socio-economically disadvantaged area comparing it to the other parts of the country.

Unemployment, low income, lowered standard of living and poverty place many children in conditions, which lead to increasing the risk of dropping out of school. As consequence of the financial and economic hardships many children are forced to help their families, which leads to interrupting their participation in the learning process. Large is the share of the families who work abroad, while the children are left behind to grandparents or other relatives who do not exercise control effectively or do not encourage the participation of the children in the educational system.

The students in the Secondary Vocational School of Economics "Prof.Dr.DimitarTabakov" are from different ethos (Bulgarian, Turkish, Gypsies) and have different social status. About 15% of them travel from the nearby villages in the municipality. There are many academic and behavioural problems regarding students that face teachers in the classroom and has a direct impact on the teaching – learning process such as: absence, lack of attention, disobedience, disrespect, bullying, aggressiveness, poor study accomplishment. The school takes preventive measures for at-risk students and tries to create safe and supportive learning environments.

The school also identifies the talented students and provides a curriculum that enables them to develop and achieve their potential.

Secondary Vocational School of Economics "Prof.Dr.DimitarTabakov" tries to facilitate the integration of minority and disadvantaged children in the educational system and to deal with the school problems by increasing the interest in the profession and introducing new teaching methods and different extracurricular activities in the school programme. The school is involved in projects under national and operational



programs and projects under EU programs. The students' participation in projects and extracurricular activities motivates them to develop knowledge, skills and competencies.