

## TERRITORY AND POPULATION

### BOUNDARIES AND AREAS

Yambol region is situated in the southeast part of the Republic of Bulgaria. It encompasses a territory of 3 355,5 sq.m. and takes up 3,10% of the territory of the country. It borders with the Sliven, Burgas, Haskovo and Stara Zagora regions. The south border of Yambol region coincides with the state border between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey.

The territory of the region is situated along the middle parts of the Tundzha river valley and includes the Yambol and Elhovo plains and the Bakadzhitsite uplands, as well as parts of the Svetiliiskite, Manastirskite and Derventskite uplands. The relief is predominated by plains and hills, with an altitude of 100 - 150 meters.

Yambol region includes 5 municipalities - Yambol, "Tundzha", Elhovo, Straldzha and Bolyarovo, 4 cities and 105 villages. The cities of Yambol, Elhovo, Straldzha and Bolyarovo are economic, service, transport and municipal centers. The permanent population of the region, as of 2009, is 138 429 people.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

#### WORK FORCE

The biggest concentration of work force is in the municipal centers. The age structure of the working people is with favorable characteristics. According to the statistics prevailing are men of working age. The workforce within the region is 83 552 people.

#### EDUCATIONAL STRUCTURE

The prevailing qualification level is secondary, college and university degree. According to the qualification level the workforce is divided as follows /the data is from the last national census/:

- With university degree - 9233 people;
- With college degree - 6470 people;
- With secondary special education - 21 803 people;
- With intermediate secondary education - 28 558 people;

There are 9 public vocational schools and one college that prepare personnel for the

automotive, engineering, food processing, construction and chemical industries and tourism.

### **MAIN ARTERIAL ROADS AND BORDER CHECKPOINT**

Main road arteries pass through the territory of the region - 1st and 2nd class roads, as well as railways. The main road which connects the north border of the Republic of Bulgaria at the Danube river with the south border with the Republic of Turkey, is I-7 road. The construction of the part of the "Trakia" highway that will pass through the territory of Yambol region began in 2010. Its length is 50km with a deadline for completion - July 2012. The border checkpoint Lesovo-Hamzabeyli between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey, which is also an outer border of the European Union, is constructed and functions in the territory of the region.

### **ADVANTAGES OF THE LOCATION OF YAMBOL REGION**

The capital of the country - Sofia is situated 300km. to the west of Yambol region, and the port of Burgas is 100km. away. The location of the region - at the crossroad between the North and the South, the East and the West, gives one of its economical advantages.