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Dear readers,

With every new edition of the *Horizons* scientific journal, the academic public has become used to the expectation that it traces new pathways towards its further establishment in the international educational and scientific – research areas.

For the coming period, just as it did previously, *Horizons* will continue to respect the principles of scientific impartiality and editorial justness, and will be committed to stimulating the young researchers in particular, to select *Horizons* as a place to publish the results of their contemporary scientific and research work. This is also an opportunity for those, who through publishing their papers in international scientific journals such as *Horizons*, view their future carrier development in the realm of professorship and scientific-research profession. The international journal *Horizons* is available on the EBSCO database. The internationalization of our *Horizons* journal is not to be taken as the furthest accomplishment of our University publishing activity. Just as the scientific thought does not approve of limitations of exhaustive achievements, so is every newly registered success of the *Horizons* editions going to give rise to new "appetites" for further objectives to reach.

Last but not the least, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the organizing and program committee of XIII International Scientific Conference on Service Sector INSCOSES 2016, held at the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality in Ohrid during the period 06-07 October, 2016. The latest edition of the Horizons journal consists of selected papers presented within the frames of the International conference.

Sincerely,

Editorial Board

CONTENTS

Vyara Kyurova PhD, Raya Madgerova PhD, Anny Atanasova PhD, Problems of the management and marketing of family business in tourism
Dani Bunja, PhD, Šime Knežević, PhD, The reasons for the public sector interventionism regarding tourism development
Cvijanović D. PhD, Radović G. PhD, Cvijanović G. PhD, Resources and
the rural tourism development in the Republic of Serbia
Tatjana Dimoska PhD, Branko Nikolovski PhD, Zoran Tuntev PhD, Employmnet in the small and medium sized enterprises in torusim-comparative analysis
Marija Lazarev Živanović, PhD, Culture and heritage tourism –
destination competitiveness and regional clusters review69
Georgi Leonidov Georgiev PhD, Running head: Natura 2000 in Bulgaria and tourism development
Urim Aliu MsC, Cvetko Andreeski PhD, Bratislav Milosevic PhD,
Development trends for life insurance at developed counries and
developing countries: case study on Switzerland and Republic of
Macedonia93
Ivanka S. Korbankoleva, PhD, Impact of sustainable logistics on
Bulgarian 3PL- companies and their competitiveness
Danijela Miloshoska PhD, Risto Reckoski PhD, Ivica Smilkovski PhD,
Security role of the customs administration in the international trade
Marina Malish Sazdovska PhD, Zivkovic Liljana Davitkova PhD,
International customs cooperation in combating organized crime155
Goce Menkinoski PhD, Marina Blazhekovikj Toshevski PhD, Pece
Nikolovski PhD, Defining a strategy for entering at the international
market
Petya Fileva, PhD, Partnerships to improve customer service of logistics
service providers in Bulgaria179

Jasmina Jović MsC, Predrag Radovanović MsC, Cvetko Andreeski P The impact of global distribution systems on travel agencies business	-
	.187
Ivanka Nestoroska PhD, Naume Marinoski PhD, Michael Risteski M	Sc,
Application of FAS methodology for identification of rural tourism	-
development potentials in the mountainous area of the northeast plan	ning
region	203
Toni Cvetanoski, PhD, The contribution of the small and medium	
enterprises from the tourism industry in the economic development	219
Vladislav Marjanović PhD, Dejan Djordjević PhD, Tourism	
development growth as a strategic goal of the Republic of Serbia	233
Jelena S. Petrovi PhD, Snežana R. Milićević PhD, Marija M. Kostić,	
<i>PhD</i> , Internet – as driven distribution channel in hotels: the case of	
Republic of Serbia	247
Hysen Sogojeva PhD, Stevcho Mecheski PhD, Analytical assessment	of
the tourism sector in Kosovo	
Vlado Sušac PhD, Đani Bunja PhD, Tomislav Krpan PhD,	
Communication effectiveness of tourism slogans	289
Nikola Dimitrov PhD, Dejan Metodijeski PhD, Nistorical review of t	
guides in the Republic of Macedonia	
Nebojša Pavlović, PhD, Trends in tourism	.317
Liljana Batkoska, PhD, Correlation of motives and values within	
consumption	.329
Darko Blazhevski, MSc, Enterprise risk management in Macedonian	
insurance companies	339
Snežana Dičevska PhD, Vera Karadjova, PhD, Bank-insurance – an	
opportunity for development and improvement of financial market	377
Nataliia Gavkalova PhD, Irina Kolupaieva PhD,	
Deregulation of the Ukrainian economy:	
problems and peculiarities of further implementation	389
Trajan Dojcinovski, PhD, Specifics in insurance of fish for certain ris	sks
in the Republic of Macedonia	
Onur Çakir Kırklareli, PhD, Utilizing three factor theory to develop	
organizational motivation system for hotel establishment	.405

Daniela Koteska Lozanoska, MSc, Gordana Rechkoska, PhD, Features of
GMO food: empirical aspects of food offer in the hotels in the city of
Ohrid417
Irina Petrovska, PhD,
Language standards of the gastronomic offer
Lidija Simonceska, PhD, Domenika, Ilceska MSc Management
knowledge as an area for improving the competitiveness of the tourism
product of Ohrid441
Liljana Sokolova, PhD, K. Berenji, Ž. Prijić, PhD, Eating habits – fast
food and body mass index
Angela M. Vasileska, PhD, Wine and wine products in a function of
tourism development in Republic of Macedonia
Simona Martinoska, PhD, Ilker Mustafa, MSc, Categorization of
accommodation and food service facilities as a tool for hospitality
products quality489
Biljana Petrevska PhD, Vlatko Cingoski, PhD, Energy efficiency
practices: assessment of Ohrid hotel industry511
Vera Karadjova PhD, Snezana Dicevska, PhD,
Microinsurance – between the social and the economic dimension of risk
management521
Milica, M., Radović PhD, Vladimir, M., Njegomir PhD, Exposure to and
management of financial risks of young enterprises543
Evica Delova Jolevska, PhD, Ilija Andovski, PhD, Financial inclusion:
comparative analysis with special emphasis on the level of financial
inclusion in Republic of Macedonia563
Bratislav Miloshevikj PhD, Risto Gogoski PhD, Aneta Trpkoska MSc,
The life insurance companies as participants in the financial market579
Pece Nikolovski PhD, Goce Menkinoski PhD, Marina Blazhekovikj
Toshevski, PhD, Internal audit of the financial operations
Vladimir Njegomir, PhD, Entrepreneurial activity of agricultural
producers under climate changes: necessity of agriculture insurance 607
Risto B. Rechkoski PhD, Danijela Miloshoska PhD, Nikola D. Mickovski
PhD, Law aspects of life insurance development in the Republic of
Macedonia 629

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EMPLOYMENT IN THE SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES IN TOURISM – COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS⁴

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ABSTRACT

SMEs are the engine of the national economy playing a very important role in the overall development of each country. These enterprises are also known as foundation enterprises. Compared to a large enterprises, SMEs employ more workers per unit of capital, contribute to total savings and equal income distribution in the economy, have formidable impact on regional economic development, serve as "training platform" for upgrading and developing the skills of industrial workers and entrepreneurs, contribute significantly to forward and backward linkages and finally play an important complementary role to large firms in the economically diverse sectors. SMEs especially play a crucial role in the field of tourism.

The aim of this paper is to point out the importance of SMEs in general, especially in the field of tourism in the countries: Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Bulgaria and Greece by performing comparative analysis among them. In this paper, first will be analyzed term "small and medium enterprises" in general and then will be explained their application in the field of tourism. The second step will be making detailed analysis in each listed country with the number of persons employed in every sized class enterprise in total economy and also in the field in tourism. Finally, will be derived conclusions and findings about the importance of SMEs for employment in general, and especially for their importance in the field of tourism as well as specifying the measures which will be taken for stimulating their activity in the future.

Keywords: small and medium-sized enterprises, employees, tourism.

53

⁴ Review article

INTRODUCTION

SMEs are the engine of the national economy playing a very important role in the overall economic development of each country. These enterprises are also known as foundation enterprises. SMEs are a major source of technological innovation and development of new products. Moreover, SMEs, with their high turnover and adaptability, play a vital role in addressing regional and sectoral imbalances in a country's economy. Furthermore, SMEs' easy access and exit to markets renders economies more flexible and competitive.

Compared to a large enterprises, SMEs employ more workers per unit of capital, contribute to total savings and equal income distribution in the economy, have formidable impact on regional economic development, serve as "training platform" for upgrading and developing the skills of industrial workers and entrepreneurs, contribute significantly to forward and backward linkages and finally play an important complementary role to large firms in the economically diverse sectors. SMEs also play a crucial role in the developing countries because of their contributions to poverty reduction, export growth of manufactured products and development of entrepreneurship, manufacturing industry and rural economy.

Tolento (Sultan, 2007) summarizes some of the potential economic and social benefits of the SMEs to their capacity as follows: (a) create jobs at low cost of capital; (b) contributepositively to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP); (c) provide an opportunity to expandthe entrepreneurial base; (d) provide the required flexibility to adapt to market changes;(e) provide support to large scale enterprises; (f) enter into market niches which are notprofitable for larger enterprises; and (g) contribute to development policies that are moreoriented towards decentralization and rural development.

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

There is no universally agreed definition of anSME across all academic disciplines. The term SME covers a wide range of definitions and measures varying from country to country and between the sources reporting SME statistics. Some of the commonly used criteria are the number of employees, total net assets, sales, investment level, shareholders funds and even paid up capital. Thus, depending on the criterion selected, the same enterprise can be classified as "small" under one criterion and as "medium" under another criterion. As such, broad comparisons of SMEs across different countries may not be entirely appropriate because of the varied accepted operational

definitions. As there is no uniform definition of the SMEs in the global economy, different counties have defined SMEs in different ways. However, the most common definitional basis used is employment, and here again there is variation in defining the upper and lower size limit of an SME. A large number of sources define an SME to have a cut-off range of 0-250 employees.

Peterson et al. (Sultan, 2007) explain that both quantitative and qualitative measures are used indefining the SMEs. These definitions vary according to the geographic area and thepurpose of the study. Quantitative measures are the most popular tools to define the SMEs such as the number of employees and the annual turnover.

Gunasekaran et al. (Sultan, 2007) suggest that the SMEs need to be defined within the context of the country in which they operate, as typically, the concept varies by the change of country.

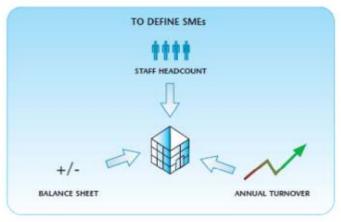
Story(Sultan, 2007) defines the SMEs as follows: (a) enterprises with a relatively small share oftheir market; (b) managed by owners or part-owners in a personalized way, and notthrough the medium of a formalized management structure; and (c) acting as separateentities, in the sense of not forming part of large enterprise or group.

The European Commission defines small, medium and large enterprises, according to the following criteria: staff headcount, annual turnover and annual balance sheet (figure 1 and table 1). The European Commission adopted this SMEs definition on May 6, 2003 which entered into force on January 1, 2005 and is applied to all policies, programs and measures that the Commission operates for SMES. This definition is as follows:"The category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) consists of enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have either an annual turnover not exceeding 50 million euro, or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding 43 million euro.

Within this category: Small enterprises are defined as enterprises which employ fewer than 50 persons and whose annual turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed 10 million euro.

Micro enterprises are defined as enterprises which employ fewer than 10 persons and whose annual turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed 2 million euro." (Extract of Article 2 of the Annex of Recommendation 2003/361/EC).

Figure 1: The New SME Definition – User Guide and Model Declaration, Enterprise and Industry Publications



Source: European Commission. (2003)

Table 1 **SME thresholds**

Category	Headcount:	Anr	Annual turnover or						
enterprise	Annual Work	Annual balance	e sheet						
	Unit (AWU)		total						
Medium-sized	□ 250	≤€ 50	≤€ 43						
		million	million						
Small	□ 50	≤€ 10	≤€ 10						
		million	million						
Micro	□ 10	≤€ 2 million	≤ € 2						
			million						

Source: European Commission. (2003). The New SME Definition – User Guide and Model Declaration, 'Enterprise and Industry Publications

SMALL AND MEDIUM TOURISM ENTERPRISES

Tourism destinations are traditionally dominated by small and medium-sized tourism enterprises which provide wide range of products to the tourists such as accommodation, catering, transportation, attractions and activities and thus contribute significantly to the range, variety, authenticity and quality of their positive 'tourism experience'.SMTEs originate a variety of benefits for the tourism destinations by providing direct contact with tourists and by encouraging tourist for spending in local community, thus stimulating the multiplier effects.

In the field of tourism also is made an attempt by different authors to define the small and medium enterprises. In this area, the views and definitions are different.

Thus, according to Breen (Breen et al., 2005) small and medium tourism enterprises comprise all businesses, which operate in thetourism industry and employ up to 100 employees and include sole operators not employing any staff. Specifically, micro businesses are those that employ between one and four workers, small businesses employbetween five and 19 employees and medium businesses employ between 20 and 100 employees.

Moutinho (Buhalis, 1996) says that when hotels are classified, the number of beds criterion can be applied.

According to Poon (Buhalis, 1996) most authors seem to agree that accommodation establishments with less than 50 rooms as well as hotels and travel agencies employing less than 10 people are small. In addition, he lists a wide range of qualitative criteria that can be used to determine the correct size of tourism enterprises, such as the organizational structure, participation in hotel consortia or chains, turnover, responsibility distribution in decision making, financial strength, operational procedures, recruitment and training practices, decision making process, entrepreneurial involvement and control, integration level, family participation in running the organization, internalization of operation, marketing functions and managerial experience.

According to Beaver (Beaver, 2005), defining the SMEs in the field of tourism should use the same definition for SMEs adopted from the European Commission but now using the acronym SMTEmeaning either small and medium sized tourism enterprise or small and medium sized travel enterprise.

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND EMPLOYMENT – COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Small and medium sized enterprises are the dominant form of enterprises in all countries in the world, as in developed as well as in developing countries. They are backbone of European economy too. According to the data from the European Commission, SMEs assemble more than 99% of all European businesses, provide two-third of total employment (employ 2 in every 3 employees), and contribute to more than half (around 57%) of the total added value created by European businesses (produce 58 cents in every euro of value added).

Hence, SMEs are most prevalent in the countries which are object of analysis in this paper too: Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Bulgaria and Greece.

A classification of enterprises by employment size classes using criteria "number of persons employed", shows that the number of SMEs in 2013 is: in Macedonia 71 081 (which represent 99.71% of the total number of enterprises in Macedonia in 2013), in Albania 77 620 (99.87%), in Bulgaria 313 525 (99.79%), in Greece 698 272 (99.94%), in Serbia 87 040 (99.44%), in Croatia 146 223 (99.72%) and in Bosnia and Herzegovina 24 605 (99.25%). Micro enterprises (0-9 persons employed) create the largest share of total number of classified enterprises in all named countries (Macedonia 91.20%, Bulgaria 91.36%, Greece 96.92%, Croatia 91.56%, Bosnia and Herzegovina 94.985, Serbia 86.97%, Albania 95.1%). In the second place are the small enterprises employing 10 to 49 employees (Macedonia 6.70%, Bulgaria 6.99%, Serbia 10.17%, Croatia 4.60%, Albania 3.9%), while the smallest share in SMEs have the medium-sized enterprises employing 50 to 249 employees (Macedonia 1.81%, Bulgaria 1.31%, Serbia 2.30%, Croatia 2.34%, Bosnia and Herzegovina 4.27%, Albania 0.1% of the total number of enterprises in 2013) (table 2).

The number of active business entities in the Republic of Macedonia in 2013 is 71 290. The majority of them belong to the categories of micro and small enterprises. The number of active micro enterprises in the Republic of Macedonia in 2013 is 65 014 i.e. 91.20% of the total number of active enterprises in the country. The number of active small enterprises is 4 776 i.e. 6.70%, the number of active medium enterprises is 1 291 i.e. 1.81%, while the large enterprises are represented with only 0.29% of the total number of active enterprises in the Republic of Macedonia and their number is 209 (Table 2).

Table 2
Number of active business enterprises in total economy (enterprises by size class depending on the number of persons employed), NACE REV 2

		Total	0-9 employed	10-49 employed	50-249 employed	250+ employed
	Macedo	75	70 032	4 051	1 211	203
	nia	497				
	Albania	76	73 393	2 965	595	
		954				
	Bulgari	313	284 670	23 321	4 381	692
	a	079				
	Greece	-	-	-	-	-
	Serbia	83	72 191	8 959	2 129	509
10		787				
2010	Croatia	165	152 178	10 917	1 972	423
		490				

	BiH	21	20 315		986	168
		469	20313			100
	Macedo	73	67 294	4 451	1 187	185
	nia	118				
	Albania	79	76 344	3 002	622	•
		969				
	Bulgari	309	281 793	23 181	4 237	683
	a	953				
	Greece	-	-	-	-	-
	Serbia	84	73 108	8 990	2 105	487
		690				
	Croatia	153	140 928	10 419	1 915	425
=		687				
2011	BiH	24	22 947		1 002	179
		128				
	Macedo	74	68 211	4 732	1 280	201
	nia	424				
	Albania	83	79 801	3 105	686	
		591				
	Bulgari	312	285 346	22 049	4 061	661
	a	608		1		1
	Greece	726	702 936	20 698	2 544	402
	G 1:	581	72.240	0.042	2.025	505
	Serbia	84	73 349	9 042	2 025	505
	G +:	921	126 110	10.212	1.040	402
- 1	Croatia	148	136 119	10 212	1 840	402
2012	D.II	573 25	24 668		1.025	179
7	BiH		24 668		1 035	1/9
	Macedo	882 71	65 014	4 776	1 291	209
	nia	290	03 014	4 //0	1 291	209
	Albania	77	73 916	3 026	678	99
	7 Houma	719	75 710	3 020	070	
	Bulgari	314	287 045	21 976	4 119	667
	a	192	20/043	21) 10	7 117	307
	Greece	698	677 117			388
		660	-,,,			
	Serbia	87	76 126	8 903	2 011	489
[3		529				
2013	Croatia	146	134 255	10 181	1 787	404
		627				
		627				

BiH	24	23 546	1 059	185
	790			

Source: Summarized data from the State Statistical Offices of the listed countries

The largest number of persons employed, observed by the size of enterprises by "number of persons employed", in 2013 worked in SMEs. This share in Macedonia is 78.04%, in Bulgaria 75.50%, in Croatia 68.03%, in Bosnia and Herzegovina 61.80%, in Serbia 59.45%, in Greece 86.48% and in Albania 81.01%. Analyzing the share within SMEs i.e. between micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, the situation is as follows: in micro enterprises were employed 34.04% of total employees in Macedonia, in Albania this share is 43.42%,in Bulgaria 30.09%,in Greece 59.17%, in Serbia 21%, in Croatia 30.14% and in Bosnia and Herzegovina 10.82%.

Small enterprises employed 22.60% of total employees in Macedonia, this percent in Albania is 18.12, in Bulgaria 23.05, in Serbia 17.68, in Croatia 19.38 and in Bosnia and Herzegovina 20.56. In the medium-sized enterprises worked 21.40% of employed persons in Macedonia, in Albania 19.46%, in Bulgaria 21.40%, in Serbia 20.78%, in Croatia 18.50% and in Bosnia and Herzegovina 30.04%. The percent of people employed in the large enterprises in Macedonia was 21.96, in Albania 18.98, in Bulgaria 24.50, in Greece 13.51, in Croatia 31.97 and in Bosnia and Herzegovina 38.20 (table 3).

Table 3
Number of persons employed in total economy (enterprises by size class), NACE REV 2

		Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+
			employed	employed	employed	Employed
	Macedonia	316	100 064	70 140	63 235	70 306
		745				
	Albania	276	125 701	57 094		93 236
		031				
	Bulgaria	1 927	580 293	456 407	420 245	470 494
0		935				
2010	Greece	4 389		423 782	393 494	730 489
7		800				
	Serbia	1 024	207 400	181 297	223 215	412 884
		796				
	Croatia	1 075	335 059	206 291	202 243	331 849
		442				
	BiH	365		153 419	93 923	117 785

		126				
	Macedonia	328	110 970	72 919	70 033	74 456
		377				
	Albania	288	129 356	58 175		100 905
		436				
	Bulgaria	1 902	568 383	454 443	406 726	468 215
		513				
2011	Greece	4 054	-	-	-	-
7		300				
	Serbia	1 025	210 319	181 121	223 545	410 037
	G i	022	210.620	107.007	107.010	227 472
	Croatia	1 033	310 638	197 825	197 210	327 472
	D.H	145	71 700	120 126	100 401	225 ((2
	BiH	615	71 709	128 136	180 401	235 663
	Macedonia	909 335	113 179	73 829	70 531	78 232
	Macedonia	771	113 179	13 629	70 551	16 232
	Albania	315	141 067	60 982		113 914
	Albania	963	141 007	00 782		113 714
	Bulgaria	1 872	565 674	432 268	211 334	236 785
	Burguru	997	202 07 1	132 200	211 33 .	250 705
7	Greece	2 198	1 288 790	374 801	239 105	296 290
2012		986				
	Serbia	1 019	208 944	182 167	213 809	414 818
		738				
	Croatia	1 002	303 447	192 650	188 676	318 132
		905				
	BiH	617	69 382	128 205	181 941	237 751
		279				
	Macedonia	339	115 515	76 700	72 613	74 518
		349				
	Albania	320	139 120	58 067	62 362	60 823
		373				1.5.000
	Bulgaria	1 864	561 075	429 815	399 122	456 808
2013		690	1.260.041			207.072
7	Greece	2 130	1 260 841	-	-	287 972
	Combis	786	212.041	170 170	210.600	411.020
	Serbia	1 013	212 841	179 178	210 609	411 030
	Croatia	658 996	300 388	193 170	184 427	318 646
	Cioana	631	300 388	193 1/0	104 44/	316 040
	1	031				

BiH	617	66 851	126 993	187 934	235 992
	770				

Source: Summarized data from the State Statistical Offices of the listed countries

SMALL AND MEDIUM TOURISM ENTERPRISES AND EMPLOYMENT – COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The enterprises of tourism industry i.e. accommodation and food service activities are represented with 6.29% (4482) in the total number of active business entities in the Republic of Macedonia in 2013. SMEs in this sector count 4 481 enterprises which represent 99.98% of the total number of enterprises in the sector accommodation and food service activities in Macedonia in 2013. The micro enterprises in this sector represent 90.49% of all enterprises in the sector accommodation and food service activities, the small enterprises 8.97%, the medium-sized enterprises 0.51% and the large enterprises only 0.02% of all enterprises in this sector in Macedonia in 2013 (table 4).

SMEs in accommodation and food service activities in 2013 in Bulgaria represent 99.91% of all enterprises in this sector, in Greece 99.98%, in Serbia 99.82% and in Croatia 99.87%. Micro enterprises in this sector in Bulgaria count 23 350 business entities (89.61%), in Greece 86 192 (96.31%), in Serbia 2 456 (85.99%), in Croatia 16 617 (93.03%), and in Albania 13 567 (98.43%) of all active enterprises in the sector.

The situation of the small enterprises in the sector of accommodation and food service activities is as follow: 200 enterprises in Albania (which represent 1.45% of all enterprises in this sector in the country), in Bulgaria 2 395 (9.19%), in Greece 3 015 (3.37%), in Serbia 323 (11.31%) and in Croatia 1 100 (6.165). Medium-sized enterprises in this sector have the smallest share in the SMEs. Their share is: in Bulgaria 1.10%, in Serbia 2.52%, in Croatia 0.68% and in Greece 0.30%. The smallest share in all enterprises in the tourism industry i.e. in the sector of accommodation and food service activities when enterprises are observed by the size class according to the number of persons employed have the large enterprises. Their share in 2013 is: in Serbia 0.17%, in Croatia 0.13%, in Bulgaria 0.09% and in Greece 0.02% (table 4).

The total number of employees in the accommodation facilities and food service capacities in the Republic of Macedonia in 2013 is 19 479 i.e. 5.74% of the total employment in the country. The number of employees in the micro enterprises in this sector is 10 386 which represent 53.32% of the total employment in the sector, in the small enterprises 7 062 i.e. 36.25%, in the medium enterprises 1 747 i.e. 8.97% and this number is the smallest in the

large enterprises and count 284 employees which represent only 1.46% of the total number of persons employed in the sector of accommodation and food service activities. The number of persons employed in the tourism industry in the SMEs in Macedonia in 2013 is 19 195 and represent 98.54% of the total number of employees in this sector (table 5). The employment in the SMEs in the field of accommodation and food service activities in 2013 in Bulgaria is 91.40% of the total employment in this sector, in Greece 97.56%, in Serbia 88.83%, in Croatia 89.54 and in Bosnia and Herzegovina 89.02%. The micro enterprises employment: in Albania 82.35%, in Bulgaria 40.86%, in Greece 69.85%, in Serbia 30.51%, in Croatia 51.77%, in Bosnia and Herzegovina 21.69%; the share of the small enterprises is: in Albania 10.08%, in Bulgaria 32.46%, in Greece 19.04%, in Serbia 27.53%, in Croatia 20.28%, in Bosnia and Herzegovina 37.09%; and the medium-sized enterprises employment in Bulgaria 18.09%, in Greece 8.67%, in Serbia 30.27%, in Croatia 13.49% and in Bosnia and Herzegovina 30.23% of the total number of employees in the sector of accommodation and food service activities. According to the class size of enterprises, the smallest number of persons employed in this sector worked in the large enterprises: in Bulgaria 8.60%, in Greece 2.43%, in Serbia 11.17%, in Croatia 14.46% and in Bosnia and Herzegovina 10.98% (table 5).

Table 4
Number of active business enterprises by size class in the sector of accommodation and food service activities depending on the number of persons employed, NACE REV 2

	Total 0- 10-49 50-249 250+					
			9employed	employed	employed	Employed
	Macedonia	4 433	4 110	299	23	1
	Albania	12	12 558	112		17
		687				
	Bulgaria	26	23 373	2 385	291	24
		073				
0	Greece	95	91 071	3 799	210	9
2010		089				
~	Serbia	2	1 836	334	77	7
		254				
	Croatia	19	18 300	1 016	130	23
		469				
	BiH			664	26	-
		691				
2	Macedonia	4 313	3 953	340	18	2

Albania	12 773	12 634	117		21
Bulgaria	26	23 222	2 530	295	24
Greece	93 372	89 415	3 708	237	12
Serbia	2 480	2 077	317	80	6
Croatia	18 324	17 175	996	129	24
BiH	737	579	135	23	1
Macedonia	4 611	4 200	389	20	2
Albania	13 678	13 518	140		20
Bulgaria	26 540	23 764	2 477	277	22
Greece	91 568	88 514	2 831	210	12
Serbia	2 601	2 176	346	74	5
Croatia	17 545	16 386	1 020	117	22
BiH	723	565	136	22	0
Macedonia	4 482	4 056	402	23	1
Albania	13 784	13 567	200		18
Bulgaria	26 056	23 350	2 395	287	24
Greece	89 491	86 192	3 015	268	15
Serbia	2	2 456	323	72	5
Croatia	17	16 617	1 100	122	23
BiH	690	66	3	D*	A*
	Bulgaria Greece Serbia Croatia BiH Macedonia Albania Bulgaria Greece Serbia Croatia BiH Macedonia Albania Croatia BiH Croatia BiH Croatia BiH Croatia Croatia BiH Croatia Croatia	Bulgaria 26 071 Greece 93 372 Serbia 2 480 Croatia 18 324 BiH 737 Macedonia 4611 Albania 13 678 Bulgaria 26 540 Greece 91 568 Serbia 2 601 Croatia 17 545 BiH 723 Macedonia 4482 Albania 13 784 Bulgaria 26 Greece 89 491 Serbia 26 056 Greece 89 491 Serbia 26 056 Greece 89 491 Serbia 13 784 Bulgaria 26 056 Greece 89 491 Serbia 2	773 Bulgaria 26 23 222 071 372 89 415 Serbia 2 2 077 480 17 175 Croatia 18 17 175 324 17 175 BiH 737 579 Macedonia 4 611 4 200 Albania 13 13 518 678 23 764 540 Greece 91 88 514 568 2 176 Gol1 2 176 Croatia 17 16 386 Serbia 2 2 176 601 16 386 Macedonia 4 482 4 056 Albania 13 13 567 784 13 567 784 Bulgaria 26 23 350 056 23 350 056 Greece 89 86 192 491 2 456 Serbia 2 2 456 856 16 617 Croatia 17 16 617 862 16 617 <td>Bulgaria 26 23 222 2 530 Greece 93 89 415 3 708 Serbia 2 2 077 317 480 17 175 996 Croatia 18 17 175 996 BiH 737 579 135 Macedonia 4 611 4 200 389 Albania 13 13 518 140 Bulgaria 26 23 764 2 477 540 23 764 2 477 Greece 91 88 514 2 831 Serbia 2 2 176 346 601 16 386 1 020 Serbia 2 2 176 346 Macedonia 4 482 4 056 402 Albania 13 13 567 200 784 3565 136 Bulgaria 26 23 350 2 395 Greece 89 86 192 3 015 491 2 456 <</td> <td>Bulgaria 26 23 222 2 530 295 Greece 93 89 415 3 708 237 Serbia 2 2 077 317 80 Croatia 18 17 175 996 129 BiH 737 579 135 23 Macedonia 4 611 4 200 389 20 Albania 13 13 518 140 678 8 2 23 764 2 477 277 Greece 91 88 514 2 831 210 Greece 91 88 514 2 831 210 Croatia 17 16 386 1 020 117 545 136 22 Macedonia 4 482 4 056 402 23 Albania 13 13 567 200 20 Greece 89 86 192 3 015 268 Greece 89 86 192 3 015 268 Greece 89 86 192 3 015 268 Croatia <</td>	Bulgaria 26 23 222 2 530 Greece 93 89 415 3 708 Serbia 2 2 077 317 480 17 175 996 Croatia 18 17 175 996 BiH 737 579 135 Macedonia 4 611 4 200 389 Albania 13 13 518 140 Bulgaria 26 23 764 2 477 540 23 764 2 477 Greece 91 88 514 2 831 Serbia 2 2 176 346 601 16 386 1 020 Serbia 2 2 176 346 Macedonia 4 482 4 056 402 Albania 13 13 567 200 784 3565 136 Bulgaria 26 23 350 2 395 Greece 89 86 192 3 015 491 2 456 <	Bulgaria 26 23 222 2 530 295 Greece 93 89 415 3 708 237 Serbia 2 2 077 317 80 Croatia 18 17 175 996 129 BiH 737 579 135 23 Macedonia 4 611 4 200 389 20 Albania 13 13 518 140 678 8 2 23 764 2 477 277 Greece 91 88 514 2 831 210 Greece 91 88 514 2 831 210 Croatia 17 16 386 1 020 117 545 136 22 Macedonia 4 482 4 056 402 23 Albania 13 13 567 200 20 Greece 89 86 192 3 015 268 Greece 89 86 192 3 015 268 Greece 89 86 192 3 015 268 Croatia <

Source: Summarized data from the State Statistical Offices of the listed

countries A^* – primary confidentiality./ Data is confidential if it includes less than three statistical units.

 $D^{\pmb{*}}-$ secondary confidentiality / Data is protected in order to prevent disclosure of primary confidential data

 $Table\ 5$ Number of persons employed in the sector of accommodation and food service activities, NACE REV 2

	ice activities,	Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+
			employed	employed	employed	employed
2010	Macedonia	16	9 823	5 296	1 200	562
		881				
	Albania	27	23 056	2 049		2 301
		407				
	Bulgaria	138	57 587	43 713	24 949	11 869
		118				
	Greece	276	185 373	69 377	17 277	4 020
20		047				
	Serbia	23	5 436	6 844	7 703	3 751
		734				
	Croatia	93	48 805	17 596	14 164	12 961
		526				
	BiH	7	3 201	1 625	2 398	-
		224				
	Macedonia	17	9 770	5 334	1 471	567
		141	2			
	Albania	28	24 114	2 027		2 285
		426				15.015
	Bulgaria	142	58 095	47 138	25 276	12 015
Ξ		524	155.000	62.500	21.022	6.110
2011	Greece	269	177 282	63 780	21 833	6 118
	G 1:	014	6.054	6.202	7.020	2011
	Serbia	23	6 054	6 383	7 939	2 944
	C 4:	320	47.470	17.202	12.502	12 001
	Croatia	91	47 478	17 202	13 503	12 981
	BiH	164	1.017	2 812	2.027	25.4
	Macedonia	7 010	1 917 10 141	6 028	2 027	254
2012	Macedonia	18	10 141	6 028	2 039	307
	Albania	515	25 899	2 519		2 925
	Albailla	343	23 099	2 319		2 923
	Bulgaria	140	57 878	46 814	24 391	10 928
	Duigaria	011	3/8/8	40 814	24 391	10 928
		UII				

	Greece	262 252	191 259	46 967	19 287	4 739
	Serbia	23 516	6 355	6 876	7 729	2 556
	Croatia	89 012	46 971	17 452	12 002	12 587
	BiH	7 910	1 987	3 030	2 632	261
2013	Macedonia	19	10 386	7 062	1 747	284
		479				
	Albania	33	27 605	3 378		2 536
		520				
	Bulgaria	137	56 216	44 658	24 885	11 827
		586				
	Greece	277	193 796	52 835	24 052	6 754
		438				
	Serbia	23	7 060	6 369	7 123	2 584
		136				
	Croatia	92	47 684	18 677	12 423	13 321
		105				
	BiH	8	1 873	3 202	2 610	948
		633				

Source: Summarized data from the State Statistical Offices of the listed countries

Based on the data presented for the participation of small and medium tourism enterprises in the employment of the people, it can be concluded that these companies have huge importance for the economy and for economic development of all named countries. Therefore, it is necessary to take measures and actions for further development of these enterprises such as:introducing incentives to encourage investment in tourism facilities, investment in tourism product (in many types of tourism), education of employees in the field of tourism, encouraging others branches that stimulate tourism and vice versa, and professional (university) education for managers and other employees in the tourism that will ensure the required level of quality in offering tourism and catering services.

CONCLUSION

Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are the dominant form of enterprises in all countries in the world, as in developed as well as in developing countries. They are backbone of European economy too.

According to the data from the European Commission, SMEs assemble more than 99% of all European businesses, provide two-third of total employment (employ 2 in every 3 employees), and contribute to more than half (around 57%) of the total added value created by European businesses (produce 58 cents in every euro of value added).

SMEs are most prevalent in the countries which are object of analysis in this paper: (Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Bulgaria and Greece) as in the total economy as well as in the tourism industry in selected countries.

Seeing the fact that small and medium enterprises in these countries in general and in the tourism sector especially employ most of the active working population, have the largest share in the realizing of turnover and in the generating of value added, it can be concluded that these enterprises have great importance for the economy and for economic development of all named countries. Therefore, it is necessary to take measures and actions for further development of these enterprises such as:introducing incentives to encourage investment in tourism facilities, investment in tourism product (in many types of tourism), education of employees in the field of tourism, encouraging others branches that stimulate tourism and vice versa, and professional (university) education for managers and other employee in the tourism that will ensure the required level of quality in offering tourism and catering services.

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