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**THE FREE UNIVERSITY AND THE SLAVIC SCIENTIFIC
COOPERATION (1920–1940)**

(Summary)

The Free University of Political and Economic Sciences was established in 1920 and it was Bulgaria's first institution for higher education with an economic profile. Its organizational structure, educational, and scientific activities were similar to those of other free universities in Europe and the world in this period. A team of provident professors taught and prepared the students for a diplomatic career, and for successful participation in the public and private sector. At the same time, the university became a scientific research centre, and its professors authored numerous high-level textbooks and specialized economics literature. Since its establishment, the Free University maintained international contacts that evolved rapidly into successful collaborations with other similar institutions, prominent scientists, and public figures from over 50 countries around the world. Among them were representatives of the Slavic countries. The cooperation took different forms – personal contacts, correspondence, mutual visits with public lectures, participation in joint educational and scientific forums, international organizations, etc. All this allowed for exchange of personal impressions, up-to-date information, useful professional communication, cultural acquaintance, and spiritual convergence.