

Milena Bevc

## **Knowledge Capital in Slovenia in different Regions -Synthesised Estimation**

Paper shows the summarised estimation of the relative position of 12 Slovene statistical regions (in comparison to the average for the country) on the quantity and quality of the stock of education/knowledge capital and some factors which influence them (enrolment of population in education, supply of educational services, the extent of investment in education). It starts with methodology, continues with main results and finishes with conclusions. Paper is based on the research project "Knowledge and education in Slovenia in the context of EU accession", prepared for the Strategy of economic development of Slovenia.

Marjan Ravbar

## **Contemporary trends in population growth and job availability - towards a sustainable and decentralized settlement in Slovenia**

This article deals with current efforts made in the area of population and job distribution which is aimed at ecological and decentralised settlement in Slovenia. The article's main goal is to examine further possibilities of directing settlement given the fact that the falling number of city population and the rising number of people living on the outskirts is related to the growing number of jobs on the outskirts. This is leading to the gradual inter-twining of the functions of working and living. The analysis has revealed the emergence of a pattern of balanced distribution of jobs and dwellings and diverse combinations of working and living in a quality living environment of a close-knit town. A combined use of land is being gradually introduced not only in cities and/or industrial centres, as has been the case recently, but also in widely urbanised areas of city regions. Decentralised and mixed use of land is one of the possible compromises between economical (condensed) and dispersed settlement, which is facilitated by socio-geographic principles related to the population's lifestyles.

In Slovenia, cities are being gradually transformed from a hierarchical system of settlement to a more balanced network of hubs, which is based on a modern principle of shallow hierarchical networks and development centres dispersed along infrastructural hubs. Their further development puts to the fore regional development policy which is based on balanced polycentric development of city networks based on creating a single urban system in combination with the countryside.

The strategy of mixed land use plays a key role in the systemic reorganisation of polycentric-based system of settlement. This strategy ensures a coexistence of two interactive principles of city planning: the condensation of the city centre (municipal rehabilitation and internal development) and the simultaneous condensation of dispersed and suburbanised settlement structures, as well as transport and infrastructural integration. The main goal of settlement system planning by means of the principle of mixed land use is to manage dynamic processes and put chaotic tendencies under control. The concept of mixed land use helps reduce the number of daily migrations, thus saving the energy and reducing environmental pollution with emissions. Mixed land use ensures better adjustment and faster changes in the purpose of land use, which creates and strengthens land diversity. The planning of mixed land use instead of mono-functional zones creates an environment suitable for a diverse functional structure of city regions.

Andrej Pogacnik, Marjan Ravbar

## **Description of possible regional divisions of Slovenia and the proposal of an optimum alternative**

The article deals with the results of an applied research conducted by the Chair of Spatial Planning (Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) for the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning.

Guidelines for the Slovenian regional development are based on the contents of the state plan. This "top-down" approach was combined with the "bottom-up" approach, as represented by the local communities. Additionally, an extensive questionnaire was carried out, helping to determine the development goals and other issues regarding Slovenian communities. Regional agencies were interviewed as well. The planning goals are as follows: to promote the development of

underdeveloped regions and sustainable use of natural resources. Guidelines have been set for the 12 statistical regions (with all data available), though larger regions (6) have been proposed in order to be comparative and competitive with the neighbouring regions abroad.

Pavle Sicherl

### **Development Distances in Southeast Europe**

Two dimensions of development distances in Southeast Europe are analysed. The conventional differences at a given point in time in terms of indexes or percentages are complemented by the novel time-distance statistical measure. Development distances for GDP per capita at purchasing power parity in 1998 can be summarised as follows: the average value for the EU15 was about 70 per cent of the value for the USA, in turn the value for Slovenia and Greece was about 70 per cent of the average for the EU15, while the value for Croatia, as the highest of other analysed countries, amounted to some 46 per cent of the value for Slovenia and Greece, and about 33 per cent of the average for the EU15. When expressed in terms of time distances, Slovenia and Greece are lagging behind the EU15 average of 1998 by about 20 years, about as much as the EU15 average is lagging behind the USA. The lags in time between Slovenia and Greece, on one hand, and with all other countries in the region on the other, are even larger than those between the USA and the EU15, or between the EU15 and Slovenia and Greece, respectively.

Development distances are analysed for ten selected economic, social and infrastructure indicators. Static disparities for social indicators are considerably smaller than the disparities for economic indicators. For indicators with very high growth rates like mobile phones and Internet hosts per capita, the static disparities are generally greater than that of GDP per capita, but much smaller in terms of time distances. In the transition depression seen in all transition countries, GDP fell substantially, the countries worsened their relative position with the EU and, with the exception of Slovenia, in 1998 they were all still substantially below their 1989 GDP levels.

Matija Rojec , Janez Sustersic

### **The developmental role of and policy's attitude to foreign direct investment**

The objective of the paper is to assess the development impact and the level of penetration of FDI in the Slovenian economy, to review the existing Slovenian regulatory and policy framework for FDI, and to make policy guidelines in the respective field in the period of accession to EU. Major conclusions of the analysis are that FDI makes a positive contribution to the restructuring and development of the Slovenian economy, that FDI penetration level is low in Slovenia, that Slovenia has an adequate regulatory framework for FDI, but that policy of attracting FDI is relatively unsuccessful. As far as the issue of national interest and FDI is concerned, the message of the analysis is the following: if the national interest is to have stable and growing economy, which would increase the welfare of the population at large, then it is in the national interest of Slovenia to create conditions which will attract more FDI than it was the case in the past. This would increase the existing positive development impact of inward FDI. The real strategic and policy issue related to FDI is thus not "yes or no" or "where and how much" but how to maximise inward FDI benefits for Slovenian economy, and how to integrate foreign subsidiaries in the local economy. The latter is the best instrument for preventing potential negative effects of FDI. On the other hand, equally relevant policy issue is how to promote outward FDI and internationalisation of Slovenian enterprises in general.