

Marjan Ravbar: CREATIVITY AND INVESTMENT – FACTORS IN SLOVENIA’S REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Abstract

Analyses in the global scientific literature broadly address regional innovative systems and their contribution to economic growth. Modern theories and empirical research indicate a strong correlation between technical progress, creative human resources, toleration, and capital investment. New investments are a fundamental but not sufficient condition for balancing developmental stimulation. Capital, linked with investment activities, natural (material) resources, and human resources (work, knowledge, information) are the main driving forces of economic progress. New forms of investment today are strongly connected with the population’s educational structure and knowledge, therefore investment does not occur everywhere, simultaneously, and equally. Some forms of investments, especially the most extensive ones, originate from already established innovative centres, consequently the less developed areas (which cover the greater part of the territory) continually suffer from a disadvantaged starting-point. New investments usually coincide with new knowledge in the form of new products, innovations, and new technological and organizing solutions. Capital therefore becomes strongly intertwined with creative social groups, which undoubtedly has an impact on regional development. The accumulation or lack of investment in a certain area is often the result of numerous factors: socio-economic differentiation, changes in local factors, regional disparities, etc.

A geographical analysis of both investment and creativity in Slovenia indicated an almost identical distribution: a strong concentration in the Osrednjeslovenska development region, with the two-fifths of all Slovenian investments and more than half of all employment in creative professions, but only a quarter of the Slovenian population and 32% of all employment. This imbalance has resulted in a below-average level of investment activities and "creative" employment in the rest of Slovenia. In the Podravje development region the level is three times lower (13%), followed by the Savinjska, Dolenjska, and Gorenjska development regions. The Dolenjska development region in particular evidences a distinctive deficit in the number of creative jobs. Approximately 5% of investment and creative employment can be found in the Obalno-kraška and Goriška development regions while, in the remaining development regions the share is between 1% and 3%.

Key words: Slovenia, geography of creativity, investment, regional development, creative environment, competitiveness

JEL: O200

Milena Bevc: Potential job mobility of researchers in Slovenia and alternative employment

Abstract

This paper presents the probability of changing employment in Slovenia for researchers with master’s or doctorate degrees in 2005 and the alternatives of making such a change with emphasis on outflow from the science sector. The study is based on a survey of 12% of researchers with the above degrees. The potential internal mobility (size and factors) and alternatives in the case of changing employment in

2005 are compared with those in the mid-1990s. The analysis shows that in 2005 one-tenth of researchers definitely planned to change employment in the next 6 months; a quarter of these were planning to leave the science sector. The profile of researchers who definitely intended to change employment within the country is the following: single man with a master's degree, below 30 years of age, from the technical sciences, and employed in an enterprise or public institute. The main alternatives for changing employment are another state research institution or state administration.

Key words: researchers, change of employment, internal mobility, mobility of researchers, outflow from the science sector, Slovenia

JEL: I200, I230, J400, J620

Franci Klužer: Youth and the labour market

Abstract

This contribution presents an analysis of youth in the labour market, showing that young people are in many cases in a worse position than other age groups. How the youth and first-time job seekers manage in the labour market depends on a number of factors, in general educational and training systems on the one hand and the functioning of the labour market on other.

Key words: youth, labour market, employment, unemployment

JEL: J000

Janez Šušteršič, Snežana Šušteršič: Prediction markets: The case of Slovenian election markets

Abstract

In this article, we analyse the performance of three election prediction markets in Slovenia, with the finding that, despite the novelty of the prediction markets concept, the performance of election markets was satisfactory both in terms of turnover as well as in terms of predictive accuracy. We compare market predictions to those made on the basis of opinion polls and show that the market predictions were at least as good as those of the pollsters. We also analyse certain particular features of Slovenian election prediction markets, such as the possibility of short-selling and the movement of prices in the last week before elections, when the media were forbidden to publish poll results.

Key words: prediction markets, election forecast, Slovenia

JEL: D700, D720

Tomaž Lešnik: Tax collection efficiency in Slovenia – a review of the period from 2000 to 2007

Abstract

According to the categories discussed in the present paper, tax collection in Slovenia achieved good results in the period from 2000 to 2007. For an interpretation of these results it is necessary to consider the specificity of the tax procedure as well as modifications in tax legislation during this period. The efficiency of tax collection is presented with an analysis of the collected debt amount, a comparison between claimed and actually collected categories, and a comparison with collected public revenues (performed by the Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia and the Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia). In addition, the necessity of a provisional legal framework for tax collection in Slovenia is discussed and established through a comparative review of tax collection regulations in Austria.

Key words: tax collection, Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, collected debt, public revenues, order of tax collection

JEL: H210, E620