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Corporate Sector's Performance in 1994 - 1998 by ownership category

An analysis of aggregate company performance in the period from 1994 to 1998 reveals that companies in concentrated ownership (foreign, personal, and subsidiary companies) expanded by offensive restructuring (investment and hiring new staff) and strengthened their positions compared to other companies in terms of labour productivity and return on equity. Privatised companies in dispersed ownership (public and non-public companies) improved their performance, but the process was slow and sustained by defensive restructuring (reduction in employment and assets). Public companies were one step ahead of non-public companies as regards restructuring. Non-privatised companies stayed in the red despite the lower operating loss and higher labour productivity, which were achieved on account of dismissals and divestment.

Franc Zibert

Productivity and profitability of production factors

The economic theory and economic practice use different manners to measure efficiency of economy. In the article the author limits to the efficiency of production, because he would like to expose a problem of measuring the efficiency of factors of production, labour and capital. For this reason economic analysts find out the efficiency of labour and capital. But, both of these efficiencies are connected; we could say that efficiency of capital depends on efficiency of labour. However, in the article the author proves that the only real scale of efficiency of production is efficiency of capital, which in relation to the size of product measures the ability of employees. For international and macroeconomic temporal comparing the efficiency of production the economists use the productivity of assets as the relationship between the domestic product and the size of invested assets (capital stock). In this case, scale of economy is insignificant. But for individual producer the productivity is not relevant. An enterprise makes decisions on the principle of profitability as the profit earned by firm in relation to the size of total assets employed. The author tries to explain the variety of indicators which are used to measure the efficiency of production. He reduces them on productivity and profitability of already acting and additionally invested assets.

Nada Stropnik

Transfers to the Families with Children in Selected European Countries: Example of child benefits and child-related tax saving

Our analysis focuses on two types of child-related transfers existent in most European countries: child benefits (a direct cash transfer) and child-related tax saving (indirect transfer resulting from child-related tax reliefs). It shows the impact of child benefits and child related tax saving on family disposable income and relation between total transfers to single- parent families and two-parent families with two children. The situation as of 1997 is used in this examination. To the data derived from the OECD analysis of the tax/benefit position of employees, data of Slovenia and Croatia were added. Family earnings are expressed in percentages of the average production worker (APW) wage level in individual countries.

The investigation is carried out for four family/household types: a single person and a single parent with two children, earning 67% of APW wage, and a couple without children and with two children, earning 100% plus 33% of APW wage. Selected former socialist countries (except Poland) tend to add the relatively highest share of child- related transfer income to the net earnings of families with children. Most North- and West-European countries (except Sweden and the United Kingdom) have active family policies as well. Our results however proved the traditionally weak public interference of Mediterranean countries (except Italy) with the socio-economic position of families.

Peter Beltram

Social back-ground of the Students, Scholarships and Scholarship Policy

Vertical intergenerational mobility and the related changes in the educational structure of the population are very slow processes. This is partly due to the long-lasting educational process, and partly due to the obstinate tendencies of re-formation of classes by transmitting and adopting values, patterns, expectations and ambitions. Modern states are playing an active role in interfering in the spontaneous stream of recruiting higher education students, based on declared values, goals and criteria. We can assume that education is commonly recognised as a value and that equal opportunities are a commonly approved basis of equity. Nevertheless, the decision whether or not to become a university student in Slovenia is still closely linked to the family social status and the development level of the resident community. From this point of view, we can value the policy orientation of the Slovenian state in the field of scholarship distribution as positive: the number of recipients of state scholarship, and Zois scholarship for talented students in particular, is increasing, the recent introduction of student loans is most welcome, the distribution between communities is also appropriate. Additional demands and expectations could hardly be fulfilled, due to the immense increase of the number of enrolled students (also the capacities of student halls of residence do not meet the needs anymore) and because state scholarships cannot entirely compensate for the lack of scholarships offered by enterprises and companies.

Andrej Gulic, Aljaz Plevnik

Transport Infrastructure Development Concept of the Republic of Slovenia

The paper discusses results of some analyses undertaken in the framework of the research project 'Transport Infrastructure Development Concept for the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Slovenia' (Gulic A., Plevnik A. 1999). The analytical part of the project was to a great extent supported by a transport network model which enables analysis of and forecasts for an important planning indicator-accessibility within the Slovenian settlement system and transport network. Beside quantification of numerous accessibility indicators, the model supported design of a proposal for a new geographical regionalization of Slovenia based on accessibility data and, most importantly, creation of a new transport infrastructure development concept.

Nada Turnsek, Samo Urban, Marta Gregorcic

Some Cultural Characteristics of Slovenian population in 1991-1997

The paper presents an overview of values and beliefs held by Slovenes in a temporal (1991-1997 period) and spatial (43 countries) perspective. Theoretically and empirically, the paper is based on an international survey of values - World Values Survey (Inglehart, 1995, 1996, 1997).

The analysis incorporates a subjective evaluation of the quality of life, the attitude of Slovenes towards the key aspects of life, such as work, family, leisure, friends, politics and religion, towards social development, changes in the way of life, goals of state, running a state, political system and poverty. The independent variables are gender, age, education, income, political views of respondent, and the materialism/post-materialism index (Inglehart, 1997 : 389). The representative sample for Slovenia was 1035 respondents in 1992, and 1007 in 1995. The pressing of data includes the calculation of standardised deviation from the arithmetic mean, Hi-squares and T-tests. The research revealed the following characteristics of values and beliefs held by Slovenes in the given period: mainly materialistic values orientation, a low level of culture of democracy, poor evaluation of the welfare, an exceptionally great importance of work in life, orientation of the population. vulnerable groups in particular, towards social security, and the concept of the welfare state.

Milena Bevc, Valentina Prevolnik Rupel Barbara Virlic-Christensen

Cross-border migration and immigration policy in developed countries, with a focus on the EU

The paper is based on the research project Migration in Slovenia in the Light of Accession to the EU (Bevc, Christensen, Prevolnik, 2000), which was carried out within the framework of the Strategy for

Economic Development of Slovenia - Slovenia in the EU. First, the paper presents the impact of immigration on demographic developments in EU and OECD countries as well as the scope and structure of the stock of foreign workers in these countries at the end of the 1990s. Next, we attempt to analyse the scope and structure of immigration flows over the last two decades and compare them with the previous period. We also look at immigration of active population to the EU and its implications for the labour market and immigration policy. Finally, we examine in detail migration policies in EU countries and the possible effects of enlargement on immigration to the EU. At the end we sum up the findings of the paper.