

### **Tine Stanovnik: Introducing a Point System into Slovenia's Pension System**

We argue that further changes to the pension system in Slovenia are necessary, mostly in the direction of greater transparency and simplicity. Due to ruptures in pension indexation in 1990 and 1991, and to the fact that pension indexation did not quite follow the growth of nominal wages during the 1990s, the determination of entry pensions became quite complex, owing to the desire to strictly pursue the principle of horizontal equity. This complexity could be resolved through the introduction of a point system which is simple, transparent and robust. Such a change could also assure that no pensioner would be worse off compared to the present system. Finally, we present a comparative analysis of the point systems in Germany, Romania, Lithuania, Estonia and the Slovak Republic.

**Key words:** pension system, point system

JEL: J260, H550

### **Marjan Ravbar: Spatial Development between Cooperation and Competition? A Discourse on the Realisation of Spatial Planning in Slovenia**

The number of debates about the modernisation of spatial planning in Slovenia has only recently risen. Some new planning views on the politics of spatial development both in theory and practice are presented in this article. Spatial planning has over the past decades modified some of its most relevant areas. With this change, the instruments, directives and different steps have focused more on the three most important areas: handling the growth of the urban system network and determining settlement structures, planning proper usage of surface area with environmentally integrated components of lasting development, and planning transport and economic infrastructure. With the growing Europeanisation and internationalisation, spatial planning underwent some changes right at its core at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There is a growing urge to equalise spatial planning on the European level and to form a more active model on the implementation level. Project orientation and new cooperation and moderation models, which aim to realize all goals and transfer them into the real world, are put right at the heart. With the help of new instruments it is possible to realise all the abstract goals written into research documents and strategies, which more precisely determine development goals and consensually put them into the environment. This high degree of concretisation needs more detailed information and better notification of all those involved. The measure of success depends on the degree of transformation into real life, which also speaks to the fact that planning accessories such as urban/regional management and/or urban/regional marketing are reasonable instruments for the implementation of goals of spatial and regional development.

**Key words:** Slovenia, spatial planning, regional planning, development planning, social development.

JEL: R580

### **Metka Stare, Maja Bučar : Innovation in Services: Opportunities for Slovenian Players in the EU?**

The article explores the relationship between innovations and services in transition economies – i.e. new EU Member States, focusing on Slovenia. We first present a conceptual framework for defining innovation in services and different dimensions of innovation in services that transcend the boundaries

of sectoral definition. The central part of the article deals with the deficient understanding of innovation in services in transition economies/Slovenia. Using CIS3 and CIS4 innovation survey data, we analyse the intensity of innovative activity in Slovenia compared to the EU and examine differences in innovative activity in services and manufacturing. Further, we identify key general and service-specific barriers to innovation in services, particularly those that are characteristic for transition economies. Based on an overview of the present status of innovation in services and analysis of barriers to innovation in services in Slovenia/transition economies, we propose in conclusion some basic guidelines for policies towards encouraging innovation in services that could contribute to decreasing the lag of transition economies behind developed countries.

**Key words:** innovation in services, transition economies, barriers to service innovation

JEL: O310, L800, L880, O380

**Nika Murovec, Renata Slabe Erker, Peter Stanovnik: Evaluation of the role and importance of the Target Research Programme 2001–2006 in Slovenia**

Target-oriented research programmes (TRP) were introduced as a special form of scientific research programme with the intent to assure target-oriented research support to planning, programming and performing development policies with interdisciplinary applied research. TRP studies target and are problem-oriented towards the improvement of Slovenia's competitive ability as the foundation of successful national development and the enhancement of the welfare of its citizens. With this evaluation, we tried to establish whether and to what extent the approved projects are in accordance with the Strategy for the Economic Development of Slovenia and the programme itself, as well as how the projects serve the competent ministries and agencies in their efforts to increase the competitiveness of Slovenia. Based on the analysis, proposals for simultaneously improving public competitions and the Slovenian Competitiveness 2006–2013 programme, in the sense of increasing the applicability of results and effectiveness of programming, are given.

**Key words:** target-oriented research programme, monitoring, evaluation

JEL: O290, O220

**Mojmir Mrak, Maja Bučar, Helena Kamnar : The Republic of Slovenia's International Developmental Cooperation**

International development cooperation or official development assistance (ODA) is an integral part of the activities of developed countries within the international community. With its achieved level of economic development, Slovenia has joined the group of donor countries: the group which has morally committed itself to help less developed regions in the world. Slovenia's commitments are even more clearly defined with its EU membership. This article first defines international development cooperation or official development assistance (ODA) as the main subject of analysis. In the following section, the current state of affairs in Slovenia in the area of international development assistance is presented. The goals, principles and objectives of Slovenian ODA as seen through the authors' eyes are presented in the central part of the article. The authors suggest a possible organisational structure for ODA, which would enable implementation of the goals that have been set. The system of international development

cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia is bound to evolve through time. How dynamic this evolution is going to be will depend on several factors. Among them, the dynamics of increasing ODA, as well as the ability of the government to implement the necessary organisational changes deserve to be singled out.

**Key words:** Official Development assistance – ODA, Slovenia, European Union, international development cooperation

JEL: F350, O190

### **Róbert Tésits: Some important regional tendencies of the European labour market**

The model calculations of the European Commission showed that in the second half of the 1990s, the rate of adjusted structural unemployment dropped in the EU. However, this tendency was different in the various member states.

The aim of this analysis is to explore the regional and structural features of labour market tendencies at the time of the eastern expansion of the European Union. The purpose – besides bringing to light inequalities in the field of employment and unemployment – is to evaluate regional differences in atypical employment. Regarding regional and temporal tendencies, it is unambiguous that the change of economic system has determined the labour market processes for a long time in the countries of eastern Central Europe. However, after the turn of the millennium, one of the most important features of European tendencies is that the periphery – which belongs to the "file closers" in almost every aspect – has started to fall into line with the others. In this, the southern regions of Italy, Spain, France and Greece are the leaders. Signs of structural change can also be recognised behind these tendencies.

**Key words:** labour market, regional differences, EU

JEL: R230

### **Laura Južnik Rotar: Dispersion of Atypical Employment**

The phenomenon of atypical employment is connected with increased labour market flexibility. Various forms of atypical employment are a reflection of the adjustment process to the current market situation. Transition countries undoubtedly represent a group of countries where labour market reforms have been most noticeable in light of the transition into a market economy, as well in light of introducing modern work arrangements. Still there are some differences between countries in the sense of employment legislation rigidity, as well in the esteem of these forms of employment. This article focuses on the two major forms of atypical employment: that is, part-time and temporary employment. By empirical analysis we try to answer whether there is a convergence or divergence between EU Member States in the prevalence of atypical employment in various occupational groups.

**Key words:** atypical employment, transition countries, EU, convergence, divergence

JEL: J210

### **Matija Rojec, Tjaša Redek, Črt Kostevc: Constraints and Possible Elements of Slovenian FDI Promotion Policy**

Based on existing theoretical knowledge, empirical studies and practical experience of other countries, the objective of the paper is to propose main elements of Slovenia's policy of investment incentives for

inward foreign direct investment (FDI). First, we analyse the scope and limitations of investment incentives' policies. Special attention is given to the efficiency of investment incentives from several aspects, such as goals of investment incentives' policies, types, structure and scale of incentives, and method of investment incentives delivery. Based on that, in the last section we present a proposal for the concept and actual measures of the Slovenian FDI incentives policy.

**Key words:** FDI, investment incentives, Slovenia

JEL: F210, F230

### **Marjan Ravbar : Creativity – a component of success in Slovenia's social development**

This article analyses the spatial dispersion of creative occupations in various municipalities in Slovenia. The main conclusion drawn from the article is the very uneven distribution of creative occupations, which are most dominant in national employment centres and suburban areas of urban regions. Creative social groups undoubtedly represent a strong impact on regional development, which is seen through GDP per capita. The areas with higher levels of creative occupations are more innovative, and their social and economic development more dynamic. The analyses also show a positive correlation between the share of employed people in creative occupations, and innovation based on the average number of patents per capita.

**Key words:** Slovenia, geography of human resources, creative social groups, learning regions, competitiveness

JEL: J240

### **Igor Prodan, Nika Murovec: Entrepreneurship in the Zasavje region: Its importance, status and encouragement**

The Zasavje region is one of the least developed regions in Slovenia with very limited options for development. However, several entrepreneurial opportunities in the region remain unexploited. Therefore, in this article we study the status and issues of entrepreneurship in the Zasavje region, with a special emphasis on technological entrepreneurship. Based on analysis of the region and the results of a survey of 129 entrepreneurs in Zasavje, the differences between entrepreneurs in general and technological entrepreneurs are studied, in order to find out how much they contribute to regional development. The gathered data on entrepreneurial characteristics also enable the formulation of some propositions for fostering entrepreneurship in the region. The final conclusion is that technological entrepreneurship can put the region on the path to success.

**Key words:** entrepreneurship, technological entrepreneurship, entrepreneur, regional development, Zasavje region

JEL: L260, O300

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Renata Slabe Erker, Nika Murovec: The unattractiveness of sustainable consumer choices**

Modern consumption is largely unsustainable and its sole purpose is often the display of material wealth, regardless of possible negative influences on the environment, health and society in general. Our thesis is that it is feasible to alter the existing consumption patterns towards a more sustainable direction by taking appropriate measures. In this article, the background of the stated thesis is investigated. Furthermore, present patterns of consumption are explained with different theories. Based on this, proposals for reducing unsustainable consumption or increasing sustainable consumption are presented, with an emphasis on how to make sustainable consumption more visible and therefore more attractive to all generations.

**Key words:** sustainable consumption, conspicuous consumption, modern consumption patterns, tax policy, awareness, marketing