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PATHWAYS AND FACTORS OF TRANSITION INTO INACTIVITY IN SLOVENIA

Abstract

The analysis of the 2005-06 Slovenian labour force surveys shows that old workers are primarily engaged in the informal sector. At higher ages, the share of regular workers decreases and the share of self-employed and casual workers increases; the share of employment in agriculture increases, as does involvement in a family farm or enterprise; the share of white collar workers decreases and the share of blue collar workers increases; and finally the share of private sector employment increases. As for retirement pathways, the analysis shows that (i) regular workers start leaving the workplace upon reaching the age of 60 (women a few years earlier) and remain employed at most up to the age of 65, exiting directly to retirement and not engaging in transitional employment; (ii) the self-employed remain employed full-time also after age 60 and their transition to retirement is more gradual, often involving transitional work activities, and (iii) casual workers transit to complete retirement at the slowest rate, staying active to an older age while being engaged in temporary jobs.

Key words: population ageing, old workers, pathways to retirement, labour force participation

JEL: J210

Milena Bevc

THE SITUATION IN THE SLOVENIAN SCIENCE SECTOR – THE PERCEPTIONS OF RESEARCHERS

Abstract

The country specific situation in the science sector is a key factor affecting whether scientists remain in this sector. The perceptions of researchers regarding the situation in the science sector are crucial. The availability of statistical data is a serious constraint with regard to respective analysis. This paper presents such an analysis of the Slovenian science sector based on the responses of almost 600 researchers with Master's degrees or Doctorates (carried out in 2005). The paper opens with a description of the broader context of the analysis (the situation in the EU and brain drain from the Slovenian science sector). Next, the methodology and characteristics of the respondents are presented, followed by a presentation of several dimensions of the situation in the Slovenian science sector (work conditions, the hierarchy of values related to work, and the circumstances of their best realisation in the near future, the demand for researchers' scientific work, and international professional mobility). For some of these dimensions, the situation in 2005 is compared to that in the mid 1990s. The analysis shows that – in many respects – the researchers perceived the situation in the Slovenian science sector in 2005 to be better than ten years before. In some respects, however, it was the same, and occasionally worse.

Key words: researchers, science, Slovenia, inquiry, researchers' perceptions

JEL: F220, I200, J400, J690

Štefan Bojnec

THE ROLE AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DEFENCE SECTOR FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SLOVENIA

Abstract

The relative economic importance of the defence sector in the economy is declining, which is confirmed by data on military expenditures as a share of government expenditures, on military expenditures as a share of gross domestic product, and on military personnel as a share of the total labour force. From a comparative point of view, in terms of the relative economic importance of the defence sector in the economy, Slovenia is rather similar to other European Union (EU) countries as regards both the level of its relative importance and its tendencies over time. A considerable increase is apparent regarding the import of arms and munitions from the EU-27 countries, whereas the export of related products has stagnated and only slightly increased in 2007, which has resulted in Slovenia having a considerable trade deficit regarding these products with the EU-27 countries. Slovenian enterprises are aware of importance of different norms regarding security and standards for products in the defence-supply chain, whereas so far they have less experience with elements of protectionism in the international arms trade. Almost half of the Slovenian enterprises in defence-based industries and technologies are small enterprises involved in service activities. The production capacities and employees in enterprises in the defence sector have above average productivity, but are less profitable due to higher costs. The efficiency of involvement in the defence-supply chain is assessed as sufficient. Most enterprises do not develop double-use products, i.e. for military and civil purposes, and as well they have not been engaged as sub-contractors in public procurements. The research and development activities of enterprises in the defence sector are above average. Almost two-thirds of enterprises have established cooperation with other defence enterprises in Slovenia and abroad. Most enterprises claim that the size of the enterprise and even more the size of the country do matter in the defence-supply chain, as well as that cooperation and networking with foreign enterprises in the defence sector provide opportunities for survival and future development. This implies that there exist greater opportunities for the defence sector with regard to the economic development of Slovenia. These enterprises would welcome an institution that would monitor and provide information to the defence industry, and coordinate and provide guidelines for further development.

Key words: defence sector, importance in the economy, international trade, comparative analysis, enterprise, Slovenia, European Union

JEL: H590, C830, F140, F520

Timotej Jagrič, Davorin Kračun

DYNAMICS AND LEVEL OF CONSUMER PRICES

Abstract

After the introduction of the euro, prices in Slovenia started to rise. It was a phenomenon known from other EMU members, but for a certain period, the growth of prices in Slovenia was higher than in other euro countries even though prices in these countries were affected by world prices in a similar way. Many economists considered the price growth a result of market imperfection, oligopoly and monopolistic behaviour of certain suppliers. This paper analyses Mercator's products, as Mercator has the highest market share in retail trade. The results are divided into three parts: in the first, the price dynamics of the most traded Mercator's products are compared with the statistical indexes of Slovenia, in the second, Mercator's prices are compared with prices of the same or similar products in Austria, and in the third both views are synthesized in a comparative analysis of price levels in the period of the last three years.

Keywords: Consumer Price Index, Oligopoly, Retail Trade

JEL: D430, L130, C430

Zdravko Mlinar:

TEMPORAL ORGANIZATION AND QUALITY OF THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Abstract

The temporal – especially in comparison with spatial – organization of the living environment is a neglected topic both in social research as well as in planning practice. When focusing on the physical structure of the built environment, housing design and urban planning in particular, with architects as the main actors, continue to a great extent to have a static character and tend to produce 'final' solutions. They come into discord with changes based on the regularities of the life cycle as well as with long-term developmental changes. Such discord in the living environment can lead to an overburdening or underutilization of space, facilities, etc. The past and the future are dealt with according to the tradition of idiographic research, in the sense of listing individual phenomena or events one after another, which does not provide a basis for envisaging and directing future change. Historical studies tend to be self-satisfying and are not considered in the function of predicting and impacting the future. The basic paradox of planning: it lags behind the actual changes instead of directing them. The temporally undifferentiated organization of the use of space is causing great losses. Globalization is exerting increasing temporal inclusiveness in the sense 24/7/365. The processes of decision making involving stakeholders with conflicting short-term (profit-based) and long term interests remain unexamined. Attention should be devoted to the powerlessness of the individual in housing construction, which prolongs the time needed to accomplish the goal; greater attention to temporary, short time (no) use of space and the like.

Key words: time dimension, living environment, past and future, socio-spatial change, life cycle, long-term developmental processes, 24/7/365, housing design, urban planning, architecture, flexibility, informatization, globalization

JEL: O200