

Regional information Pomurje / Slovenia

The region Pomurje is located in the North-eastern part of Slovenia (approx. 120.000 inhabitants, 90 inh./km²). It is influenced by its close relations to the neighboring countries Hungary, Austria and Croatia. Main capital as well as economic and cultural center is Murska Sobota with 12.000 Inhabitants. Pomurje is considered to be the least developed region in Slovenia which is partly due to an isolated geographical position and poor transport connections. The region is characterized by the highest unemployment rate in Slovenia (16.9% after national calculation method, 7.6 % in 2008 after EUROSTAT calculation) and an agriculturally aligned economy producing a low GDP (70 % of the national average). In this context it is affected by nationwide increasing unemployment among people with higher education (Slovenia: from 5,3 % in 2000 to 8,8 % in 2009). According to EUROSTAT data the unemployment for women is significantly higher than the mean value (e.g. 8.4 % to 4.8 %). Also the wages are far below the national mean. Generally, the employment possibilities are restricted – not only for university graduates, but especially for well-educated women. The regional economy is traditionally focused on processing industry (textiles, metal, and food). The deindustrialization process and the decline of big employers (like the flag ship enterprise 'Mura') caused rising unemployment rates (unemployment rate 2011: 18%). Notably the textile industry is strongly affected which is at the same time still an important regional employer (ca. 25% of the regional work force). Further important economic sectors are the service sector (27.5%) and the building industry with 8%. A peculiarity is the Hungarian and Roma minority living mainly in the Eastern parts of the region and demonstrating the multicultural character of Pomurje.

Sources

Eurostat

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EEO – European Employment Observatory (2011): Mismatch between market needs and skills in Slovenia. Ad-hoc request, April 2011, Prepared by Mirosljub Ignatovic, SYSDEM Correspondent for Slovenia (online: <http://www.eu-employment-observatory.net/resources/reports/Slovenia-AdhocRequest-MismatchofLMneedsandskillsinSlovenia.pdf>)

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