

REGIONAL STUDIES IN SLOVENIA

a) Regional development in Slovenia

The analysis of spatial differences according to selected factors of economic growth indicated the great development diversity of Slovenia's municipalities and regions which for several decades has been visible in certain areas of concentration where the majority of the population, jobs, and business and industry is located, as well as in extensive areas marked by less development, sparse settlement, and weak development potential. The latter are located predominantly on the margins of the country far from development cores and have little hope for a development breakthrough due to their poor demographic and economic structure and minimal infrastructure. Because of this, the state has tried since the early 1970's to awaken them and give them a fresh impetus with the help of a regional policy intended to at least partly reduce the disparity in living conditions if not leveling them and to mitigate the disadvantages of the marginal locations. However, in a number of cases, the state was frequently inconsistent in stimulating these areas since the aims and interests of the regional policy were often overshadowed by short-term sector measures and interventions through which the authorities intervened in individual crisis cases and of development streams within the country as well as outside it on the European and global level. So far, regional policy has improved many structural elements of poorly developed areas but has been generally too weak to reorient unfavorable development directives and ensure the more harmonious development of the entire national territory. Thus areas already classified as less developed thirty-five years ago are still at the bottom of the development scale, and extensive electrification, the construction of the telephone and road network, or expanding motorization have been unable to change this situation. Even modern information-communication technology is not expected to have any major impact. It appears that the response of the state at the time was already too late and above all was inadequate because the state could not stop the population's flight to more developed centers or direct capital into areas where it was badly needed for development. As a consequence, the young and educated population moved away, further weakening the demographic and intellectual power of these areas.

We find it ever easier to agree with theories that ensure the further concentration of activities in certain areas that already enjoy numerous advantages brought by vicinity, the close intertwinement of diverse institutions, a rapid flow of information, rich resources of human and social capital, a distinct development orientation ... In Slovenia, such areas include Ljubljana and the major part of the Ljubljana Basin, the coastal cities, Nova Gorica, Idrija, Novo mesto, the area between Celje and Slovenj Gradec, Maribor, Ptuj, and Murska Sobota. These areas represent the driving force of Slovenia's development on which the country can build its hopes of catching up with the more developed members of the European Union. At the same time, we can hope that the fruits of the relatively good development will flow from these centers outwards, so at least their immediate hinterlands if not entire regions will benefit. This is the foundation on which the future regional policy should be built since previous efforts to solve the problems of less developed areas have proved quite unfruitful. Numerous development projects certainly brought some changes in the development streams of stimulated areas, but their influence was very limited, was only rarely reflected on the municipality level, and practically never exceeded municipal boundaries. On one hand, this is the consequence of the relative small size of the projects, and on the other, that the projects carried out merely established conditions achieved decades earlier by developed areas.

The analysis carried out shows that regional policy did not achieve the goals set by Slovenia. In our opinion, this is the result of (1) overly ambitious goals, (2) the inappropriate division of development funds among municipalities, and (3) the powerlessness of the overall regional policy relative to all the

development streams brought about by inclusion into the European Union and the very aggressive globalization that today is certainly the most visible process on the global level. However, even if the goals were not achieved, we cannot deny some successes of the regional policy. It established an institutional framework that is becoming an increasingly active factor in the development of the regions, it provided a higher degree of intermunicipality cooperation, and it certainly contributed to mitigating regional disparities, if not in reducing them at least in some cases to reducing the speed of their growth.

b) Institutional structure in the field of regional policy

Up to now Slovenia has only two territorial levels of government: national and municipal level. Consequently, the regional policy is mainly influenced by those two levels, although some regional institutions exist and although some attempts to establish a regions as a third level of governance took place in the last ten years.

On national level the main institution is Governmental Office for local selfgovernment and regional policy, led by the minister for regional development. Its main task in the sphere of regional development.

Regional policy structure in Slovenia					
Country	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slovenia				
Region	whole Slovenia				
Type of planning	<input type="checkbox"/> spatial planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> regional development planning <input type="checkbox"/> joint (spatial and developmental) planning				
Level	Name of administrative level	Institutions	Jurisdictions and competences	Laws, regulations and obligatory planning documents	not-obligatory planning documents

NUTS 1	country	Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy	<p>– harmonizes regional stimulations and finances special measures of regional policy;</p> <p>– prepares, monitors, supervises and coordinates the implementation of National development programme;</p> <p>– performs a role of Managing Authority in case of EU policy and leads the slovene negotiations for EU cohesion policy;</p> <p>– performs shaping of euroregions and other transborder cooperations;</p> <p>– fosters business and scientific collaboration with Slovenes living abroad;</p> <p>– coordinates sustainable actions between ministers;</p> <p>– establishes the information system for monitoring regional development.</p>	<p>LAWS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zakon o spodbujanju skladnega regionalnega razvoja. Uradni list RS 93/05. Ljubljana, 2005. • Zakon o popotresni obnovi objektov in spodbujanju razvoja v Posočju. Uradni list RS 26/05. Ljubljana, 2005. <p>REGULATION S:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uredba o dodeljevanju regionalnih državnih pomoči. Uradni list RS 72/06. Ljubljana 2006. • Uredba o pogojih in merilih za dodeljevanje spodbud, pomembnih za skladni regionalni razvoj. Uradni list RS 110/04. Ljubljana, 2004. • Uredba o posredovanju podatkov in poročanju o dodeljenih državnih pomočeh in pomočeh po pravilu »de minimis«. Uradni list RS 61/04. Ljubljana, 2004. • Uredba o regionalnih razvojnih programih. Uradni list RS 31/06. Ljubljana, 2006. 	no
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		Council for structural policy	- harmonizes the activities between ministers	no	no
		Regional development fond	- subsidizes regional development actions, - promotes project financing and gives expert suport at preparing regulations and implementating of project financing	no	no
NUTS 2	country		no	no	no
NUTS 3	razvojna regija (planning region)	regional development agencies	- general development actions in the regions and provision of expert, technical and administrative suport to regional development council.	REGULATIONS: • Pravilnik o subjektih spodbujanja razvoja na regionalni ravni. Uradni list RS 103/06. Ljubljana, 2006. • Pravilnik o merilih za ugotavljanje delovne uspešnosti direktorjev regionalnih razvojnih agencij. Uradni list RS 28/06. Ljubljana, 2006.	

		<p>association of municipalities//council of the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to pass the regional development programme, – to confirm the implementation plan of regional development programme, – establishes the criteria for prioritizing regional development projects, – appointment of municipality representatives in the regional development council, – appointment of representatives for the development council of cohesion region, – institutionalisation of regional institutions, – preparing the financial contracts on a regional level, – representation function of the region. 	<p>DOCUMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. regional development programme 2. implementation plan of the regional development programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. local development programme 2. development programme for protection or reconstruction area 3. interregional development programme
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		regional development council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – accepts decisions in the phase of the preparation of the regional development programme, – prepares draft of the implementation plan of the regional development programme, Monitors and evaluates regional development programme, –appointment of representatives for the development council of cohesion region, – cooperation in programme committees for the preparation of regional spatial guidelines, – appointment of councils committees leaders, –accepts the internal roles, – other regional matters. 		
LAU 1	upravna enota (administrativ e unit)		no	no	no

LAU 2	občina (municipality)	municipalities	- functions in the sphere of local selfgovernment and local development functions	LAWS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zakon o ustanovitvi občin ter določitvi njihovih območij. Uradni list RS 60/94. Ljubljana, 1994. • Zakon o financiranju občin. Uradni list RS 123/06. Ljubljana, 2006. REGULATIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pravilnik o namenih porabe, merilih in pogojih za dodelitev sredstev za sofinanciranje investicij občin. Uradni list RS 19/07. Ljubljana, 2007. 	no
Others (hierarchy, specifics):					

c) Regional studies

Research institutions dealing with regional development:

1. Anton Melik Geographical Institute of the Scientific Research Centre of Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Activities: research on regional development, organisation of Slovene Regional Days Symposium, Regional Gevelopment book series (bianual)

Link: <http://giam.zrc-sazu.si/?q=en>

2. Institute for Economic Research

Activities: research on regional development

Link: <http://www.ier.si/index.php>

3. Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

Activities: research on regional development

Link: <http://www.urbinstitut.si/index.asp?jezik=GB>

Faculties and educational institutions:

There is no special faculty or study programme for regional studies in Slovenia. Some elements of social studies could be found on following institutions:

1. University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department for Geography

<http://geo.ff.uni-lj.si/>

2. University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Economics

<http://www.ef.uni-lj.si/en/>

3. Faculty of Applied Social Studies

<http://www.fuds.si/en/node/5>

4. University of Maribor, Faculty of Arts, Department for Geography

http://www.ff.uni-mb.si/index.php?page_id=243

5. University of Primorska, Faculty of Humanities Koper, Department for Geography

<http://www.fhs.upr.si/index.cgi?lang=2>

The institutions listed above are not the only institutions, dealing with regional development, but just exemplar one.

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