

Regional Disparities of Unemployment Rates in Regions of Slovakia and Czech Republic

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The Member States of the European Union (EU) have understood the very important role of reducing regional disparities. The aim of reducing regional disparities in the EU Member States is enshrined in the EU Treaty. It is important to measure disparities for the regions and also to follow the changes and the development of the regional disparities. We decided to measure the regional disparity using two indicators: Gini index and the coefficient of variation (CV). Regional statistics cover the principal aspects of the economic and social life, including demography, economic accounts and labour market data. The focus of the article is to follow regional unemployment data of the Czech Republic and Slovakia and to discover whether the unemployment rates show a convergence or a divergence trend over time. For analyses purposes of regional unemployment rate we used the NUTS 3 hierarchy level of economic territory: Slovakia is divided into 8 regions and the Czech Republic is divided into 14 regions. The lowest levels of the CV (37.8) and the Gini index (0.192) in Slovakia were in 2001. But the economy of Slovakia began to grow quickly and the strong increase of the economy (measured by real growth of the gross domestic product) was correlated with an increase in regional disparities of the unemployment rates. The highest level of the regional disparities according to the level of CV (58.7) and also to the level of the Gini index (0.305) was reached in 2007. The slowdown of the economy affected also the decrease of the CV and the Gini index of regional disparities of unemployment rates. The situation and the development of the CV and the Gini index of regional disparities of unemployment rates in Czech Republic was similar than the development of these indexes in Slovakia. Comparing the indicators of the regional disparities in unemployment rates in Slovakia and in the Czech Republic, we can see that the regional disparity is higher in Slovakia compared to Czech Republic. Acknowledgment: the poster was supported by project VEGA 1/0906/11.

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