

## **The impact of the economic recession on long-term unemployment in Central-European countries**

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The recent economic recession has had a significant impact on the labour markets of the Member States of the European Union. Unemployment is associated with considerable economic and non-economic negative impacts. It is well known that these negative effects are growing with the duration of unemployment. The paper analyses the development of long-term unemployment, i.e. unemployment lasting more than one year, in selected countries of Central Europe - the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Germany, and Austria. Unemployment and long-term unemployment does not affect all population groups in the same way and with the same intensity. Some population groups are affected more strongly, some less. The paper analyses how the economic recession has impacted the incidence of long-term unemployment in particular age groups of the workforce. Some scholarly studies also suggest that the existence of long-term unemployment is one of the causes of a high level of overall unemployment. The dependence is explained by the effect of hysteresis which means that the long-term unemployed lose interest in work and also employers refuse to employ the long-term unemployed because they believe that the long-term unemployed have lost their working habits. The paper, in this context, examines whether a relationship exists between the level of long-term unemployment incidence and the level of overall unemployment in the countries of Central Europe.

**Keywords:** Economic cycle, duration of unemployment, hysteresis, labour market