PLATON YOUTH FORUM 2009

JULY 26TH – AUGUST 1ST 2009

Traffic Jam

Leader : Richard Pirolt

Julia Schoepp

Anna Sophia Brüning

Andra Ulianov

Madalina Musat

Max Tischer

Christophe Lohay

Patrycja Szczuko

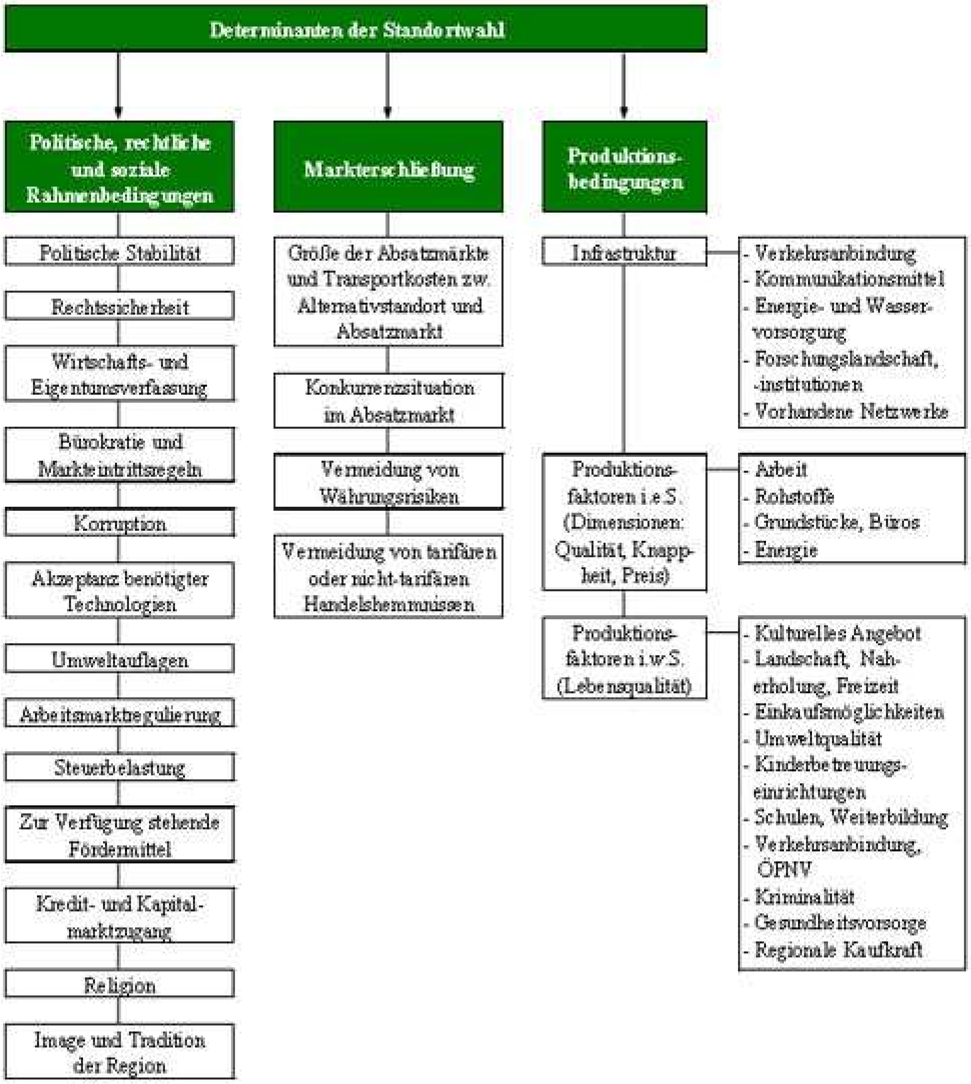
Kristina Oester

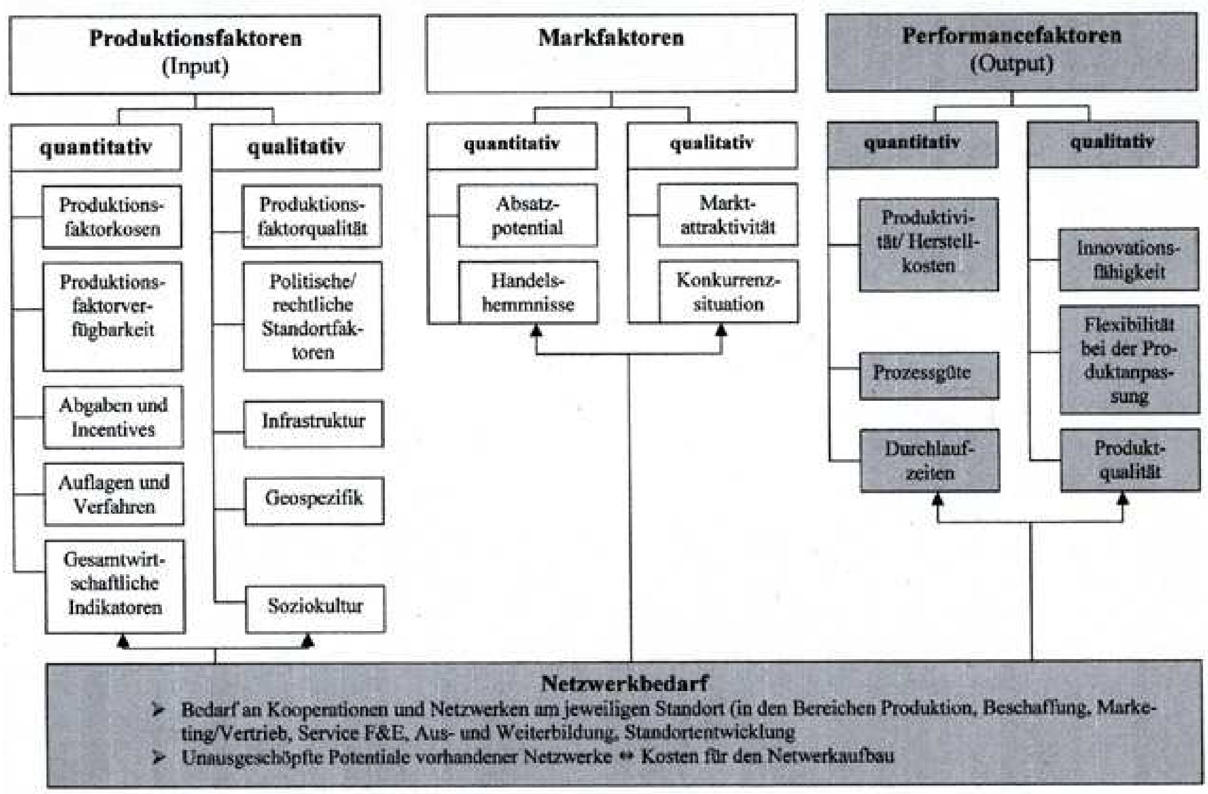
Anna Malin Frank

Index of content

Standortvergleich: **Top 3 verteidigen Spitzenplätze**

Das Ranking der attraktivsten Standorte innerhalb der Region ist seit Beginn der Umfragen 2006 relativ stabil, auch 2009 haben sich keine wesentlichen Veränderungen ergeben. Die TOP-3 sind unverändert Tschechien, die Slowakei und Slowenien.





EU → economic area

http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/Europa/Erweiterung/Erw-Uebersicht.html

Following the accession of Bulgaria and Romania, the EU has become one of the world's largest economic areas with a population of some 480 million. All EU nationals stand to gain from strong growth in the accession countries, new markets and increased competition.

The free movement of goods and capital also benefits the German economy and helps create and protect jobs in Germany. German companies in particular are taking advantage of the opportunities to invest in the new member states. Thanks to enlargement, the EU is able to keep within its own borders the relocation processes triggered by globalization. This generates jobs and investment in the new member states, which in turn protect jobs in the old member states – which might otherwise be lost to countries outside the EU. Since in the new member states EU law is fully in force, conditions are in place to protect investment and employees and ensure high safety, production and environmental standards.

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/country-profiles/europe/slovakia?profile=tradeInvestment&pg=5

The UK is the sixth largest investor in Slovakia. One major investment was the acquisition by Tesco Stores of seven department stores in 1996, and the more recent major development of a chain of hypermarkets. Tesco is now the top retailer in Slovakia, and one of the main employers in the country. Other major UK investors are Shell, Provident Financial, CP Holdings (Slovakia's biggest health spa, in Piešťany), and Tate & Lyle. Next, Mothercare and Accessorize are among the established and well-known franchises that have recently opened stores in Bratislava.

http://www.idpc.net/policy-advocacy/regional-work/south-east-europe

Two main trafficking routes pass through the countries in the region. The so-called northern Balkan route, passing through Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and then Austria to Western Europe and the southern Balkan route leading to Italy through Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania.

http://www.slovak-republic.org/neighbours/

Slovakia belongs to community of four states of the Central Europe, **Visegrad Group**, in short, V4. Members of V4 are Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. Visegrad Group exists for promotion of co-operation of the four nations in the process of European integration and transition of their economies.

Czech Republic

After the First World War two nations created a united state **Czechoslovakia** which through various obstacles withstand up to 1992, when it peacefully split. From 1st of January 1993 there were two fully independent States, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Bilateral relations between Slovakia and the Czech Republic are usually known as premium and brotherly.

Austria

Although the Slovak-Austrian cross-border is only 91 km long, **Austria-Slovakia relations** have a rich history. Both nations have lived for decades in the common Empire, share close moral and Christian values, traditions, culture and view of the world. Common values define not only the past, but put a good basis for current cooperation, mostly in the program of higher education, science and research.

Austria was the only EU Member State neighboring with Slovakia and in 1996 was the **largest foreign investor** in Slovakia, at the same time strongly supported the inclusion of the Slovak Republic into the EU. In the meantime, the total import in the Slovak Republic figures Austria on the 4th place and the export from the Slovak Republic to Austria is also placed on the 4th place.

Hungary

Common membership in NATO, EU as well as in the Visegrad Group is an important framework of cooperation for the development, common interests and values.

Ukraine

Ukraine is the only Eastern European country with which Slovakia has a common border. The border is 97 km long. At present, Ukrainians welcome any initiative of Slovakia to share the experience of the accession process to the EU.

The basic document for the implementation of Ukraine's integrating ambitions is the **Action Plan, European Union - Ukraine**. The Slovak Republic is a supporter of the integration of Ukraine into Euro-Atlantic structures. For example, Slovakia helps Ukraine with liquidation of old ammunition.

Poland

Poland and Slovakia have a very similar economic and security systems. Mutual trade is 25% and it is rising. Poland is ranked in the **top five trading partners of Slovakia**.

https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2085rank.html?countryName=Bulgaria&countryCode=bu&regionCode=eu&rank=90#bu

Bulgaria	40,231km	#90 in 2005
Slovakia	43,761km	#84 in 2006

Bulgaria

With one of the longest coastlines in Europe, and with Romania to the north, Serbia and Macedonia on the west, Turkey to the southeast and Greece to the south, Bulgaria is unique geographically. Doing business in Bulgaria presents a unique opportunity to expand into the rest of the European Union, Russia, Turkey and the Middle East. U.S. and Bulgarian relations are good, and Bulgaria is open to U.S.

Bulgaria became a member of NATO in April 2004, and entered the European Union in January 2007.

The advantages of doing business in Bulgaria are many. For the third year in a row, economic growth was 7% for the first part of 2008. Bulgaria ranks relatively high in business freedom, and it is easy to start, operate and close a business. Franchises are permitted, and laws protect trademarks, patents and copyrights. Equal treatment is required by law for both foreign and domestic investors. Bulgaria has low taxes for both individuals and corporations, 10 percent, and offers businesses some of the most competitive business costs. Due to low per capita income, consumers in Bulgaria are price conscious and are receptive to American companies. Financing for companies is readily available at competitive rates. A skilled workforce with a strong background in engineering, economics, the sciences, etc. is available, and the literacy rate is 93%. Exceptionally clean air and water resources are available. The cost of living is one of the lowest in Europe. The government has made fiscal responsibility a priority along with sustaining the high level of investments in the country. The market is thriving, and there are plans to adopt the Euro in 2011. Efforts to reduce inflation have been successful, and it is now close to 0%. Property prices are very low.

There are also some disadvantages of doing business in Bulgaria. Inefficient bureaucracy and corruption are a problem along with weak property rights. The courts are notoriously slow moving. There is a strong element of organized crime in some areas. Organized crime killings often go unsolved, and government procedures are very vulnerable to corruption. Bulgaria is one of the EU's poorer countries so there is limited consumer income. Direct marketing has not really caught on in Bulgaria, and shopping over the internet is not popular.

Of course the world financial crisis is affecting Bulgaria also. In the last few years, investors have poured into Bulgaria, but this year growth has been slow. However, Bulgaria still shows much promise as a place to do business.

When Bulgaria joined the EU in January 2007 it opened itself up to the real possibility of foreign investment after seventeen long and economically devastating years of communism. The economic stability that EU membership helped to provide has been instrumental in opening up Bulgaria to the West and investment has been gradually increasing in the country. This cements the steps to economic stability already taken by Bulgaria when it joined NATO in 2004.

However, when planning to do business in Bulgaria it is also important to bear in mind the continued political instability in the country and to approach this new and potentially lucrative marker with caution.

Advantages

Finance: The currency of Bulgaria, the lev, is pegged to the Euro. Although this gives Bulgaria little control over inflation, it does provide some stability for the currency and is particularly advantageous given the current strength of the Euro. Bulgaria is also set to join the Euro zone once it has fulfilled its convergence criteria. These are related to financial stability and economic strength in the country. Bulgaria hopes to meet these criteria by 2012 and it seems probably that it will become a member by 2014. Investing in the country before this conversion make good economic sense since costs will soar once the transition is made. The lucrative lure of the Euro is helping to spur the country to solve its economic problems and once the transition is made markets for Bulgarian businesses will really open up.

Bulgaria has made great progress since the fall of communism and is one of the strongest economies in the former Eastern bloc. The country's deficit is below 3% of GDP and public debt is also low. Government debt has also fallen since independence to come in well below Euro zone membership guidelines.[1] It is also ranked third after Poland and Hungary in terms of development since independence. However the cost of setting up a business remains low making it potentially very profitable.

Workforce: With the improving economy, emigration out of Bulgaria as slowed, providing a large and relatively well educated work force. There is also evidence that Bulgaria has suffered less from the brain drain' phenomenon than other eastern european countries. A report from the International Labour Office in Geneva states that MA holders and PhD holders of all fields of science can be shown to have remained in Bulgaria, and the share of workers with completed tertiary education has been on the increase'.[2] There is 98.3% literacy rate in Bulgaria with 46% of the population in tertiary education according to UNESCO statistics.[3]

Outsourcing: Bulgaria is also a prime location for IT outsourcing, providing a highly computer literate working population. Hewlett Packard has invested in the country and now funds specialist training programs at Sofia University.

Microsoft also has plans to invest in the country.[4] This investment is encouraging Bulgarians who have left the country to return, bringing with them valuable knowledge and experience.

Geography: The location of Bulgaria makes it strategically advantageous for accessing the developing markets in Eastern Europe and Turkey. It is also a largely un-spoilt rural country with enormous tourism potential. It has a coastline along the Black Sea which has remained largely undeveloped making for potential investment opportunities. Real Estate sales on this coastline are still in their infancy and prices are very low compared to the rest of Europe. Acting as an agent for foreign buyers could provide great business potential.

Disadvantages

Politics: Bulgaria has, unfortunately, suffered many corruption scandals since independence. As a result the countries inability to tackle this endemic problem the EU withdrew $286m of promised investment in November 2008, a huge blow to planned development in the area. In order to negotiate with the European Union, Bulgaria has undertaken a National Development Plan for 2007 2013 which it hopes will bring it into line with other member states.

Finance: While the country has done much to improve its economy, inflation is currently running well over the 3.2% needed to join the Euro zone. Unfortunately the pegging of the Lev to the Euro is a double-edged sword and Bulgaria can do little to prevent spiraling inflation. However a drop in inflation is predicted in 2009-10 due to weaker fuel and food prices.[5]

Regulations: Business regulations in Bulgaria are still in their early stages. Although much has been done to bring in legislation to regulate and protect businesses in the region, much still needs to be done. With increasing competition pressure in the corporate sector more regulatory structures and instruments need to be put in place to supports and continue to encourage new businesses. A balance still has to be struck between liberalization and regulation in Bulgaria to both encourage and protect investors. This process is inhibited by a shortage of qualified staff able to draft the legislation needed. Implementation of the regulations already in place is also a serious issue which must be addressed.[6]

Bulgaria, then, is still largely an unknown quantity. While there is doubtless huge potential for investment, negotiating the minefield of corruption and bureaucracy may discourage first time business investors in the area. However if Bulgaria overcomes these problems and succeeds in becoming a member of the Euro zone there is no doubt that there is the potential for great things to come

Following the enlargement of the European Union with new members from Central & Eastern Europe in 2004, when eight of ten new entrants were ex-Communist countries, Bulgaria joined the European Union in 2007. Bearing completely different economic and socio-political features than most of the older EU members, particularly its Western partners, Bulgaria is one of the poorest among the EU-27 member states.

However, despite the difficulties to transit smoothly from a centrally-planned economy to a fully-functioning market, the country's regime has accomplished a lot since it started altering the political and economic environment in order to acquire the EU membership. In fact, the lowering of trade barriers in the EU trading block signified a new era for foreign direct investment and particularly, in Bulgaria trade liberalization seems to be the key driver for further economic growth. On the other hand, radical reforms are still required in the areas of crime, corruption, border controls and obsolete ways of administration.

The National Development Plan 2000-2006 was developed to achieve a sustainable low-inflation economic growth as a precondition for increasing incomes and improving living conditions in the country. To join the EU Bulgaria finalized its structural reform, harmonized its institutional system with European legislation, increased the competitiveness of the economy through improvements in basic infrastructure such as transport, energy, and telecommunications, improved education, proceeded to reforms in healthcare and social insurance, improved the quality of manpower and human resources, and focused on key export-oriented sectors with good long-term prospects. Having introduced measures to decrease its deficit and by maintaining a macroeconomic stability, Bulgaria makes a steady progress on structural reforms, which improve the economic and investment climate and attract substantial amounts of foreign direct investment. The establishment of competitive markets and the limitation of state interference in the economy have brought economic and political stability as well as international recognition.

One major implication for the Bulgarian economy is the fact that Bulgarian Lev is pegged to the Euro (1 = 1.96486248 BGN), and therefore it has little control over its interest rates that are linked to the European Central Bank (ECB) levels. Bulgaria will adopt the Euro in 2009. Another implication is inflationary pressures. In December 2007, Bulgarian inflation was 12.5%, which is the second-highest in the European Union after Latvia. Bulgaria has to control inflation through a sustainable budget because it may produce an unsustainable situation in consumer credit and spending in the near future.

Moreover, corruption in the public administration, a weak judiciary, and the presence of organized crime remain the largest challenges for Bulgaria.

Also, the privatization process is complex. Bulgarians are not enthusiastic to participate in a new system of ownership, which favors foreign involvement while locals endure job loss. The biggest sectors undergoing privatization are agriculture, construction, and the food-processing industry.

Bulgaria continues to attract a lot of foreign companies through FDI and will proceed to further privatization of Bulgarian companies through the Bulgarian stock exchange. Moreover, given that Bulgarians would like to keep their national identity as they step towards a new future in Europe, the Bulgarian government will continue to put great effort in making Bulgarian people feeling secure enough to start generating extra revenue. The question is how quickly Bulgarians could step up spending, especially as, still, there seem to be few ways of generating this revenue.

Overall, Bulgaria is a slowly running economy with upward macroeconomic potential. Having become a large pole of attraction for foreign direct investment, it has done a great progress in privatizations and has achieved high rates of consumption expenditure and real GDP growth. On the other hand, the progress is also partially superficial. The race against Crime and Corruption has made large steps towards the right direction, but only regarding the legislation. High levels of corruption reduce the level of international trade and the economic growth rate thus hurting the economy.

Bulgaria: Self-employed workers

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In recent years the absolute number and the relative share of self-employed workers in total employment decreased. This is due to stable and comparatively high economic growth (average 5-6%), resulting in an increase in enterpreunership and an increase in the demand for employees. At the same time self-employment continues in many cases to be associated with low levels of social security level. It is clear that the self-employed are a very heterogeneous group, encompassing retail traders, farmers and home workers on one hand, in addition to high qualified groups of freelancers such as lawyers, consultants, doctors and artists.

1. Legal provisions and social security

Please provide the definition of self-employed workers which is applicable in your country.

Self-employment, and especially the status of the self-employed, is subject to wide interpretations and applications. In a narrow sense this term is used in the implementation of the Labour Force Survey by the National Statistical Institute (NLS) in line with the requirements of Eurostat and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The Labour Force Survey involves a periodic review of the following four statuses of employment:

Employers – the individuals who manage on their own or together with others their own enterprises (firms, farms), lease property or perform other independent activities with at least one hired worker;Self-employed individuals – individuals who independently or in partnership with other individuals perform business activities, practice their profession independently, lease property or perform other independent activities without hiring other persons; Employed individuals – individuals who receive remuneration for their work in cash or in kind as a wage or payment pursuant to a civil contract, or any other compensation, employed in public organisations and entities, or in private companies;Unpaid family workers – individuals who work without remuneration in a firm, enterprise, or a farm belonging to a relative from the same household.

In the current governmental employment projects and programmes, and also in the preferential measures under the Employment Promotion Act, the term “self-employed individual” is used in a wider sense. In addition to participation on the basis of his/her own labour in an independent economic activity, the self-employed person may hire a small number of workers (ie one or two)**.** This is determined by the Law on encouragement of employment and further specified in the requirements of various projects and programmes.

From the current projects and programmes it is evident that the boundaries of the narrow definition of the term self-employment are overstepped by the fact that self-employed people are allowed to hire labour. The latter is treated as “small business”. It is different because they are self-employed according to the government programmes mentioned above.

Briefly indicate the main differences, if any, in the social security regime of self-employed workers with no employees compared with: a) employees; b) self-employed with employees.

The principal approach of the law-maker to the social insurance of the different groups of employed and insured persons is universal – the insurance is obligatory, the social insurance contributions are the same for all, the social insurance compensations defined identically, and the access conditions are the same for all.

The Bulgarian social insurance system is common and universal. The system does not contain special and individual regimes for different professions, sectors or branches. However, there is a ***voluntary pension insurance system.***

There is different approach to individuals in liberal professions or self-insured persons. According national legislation these are as follows: physicians with a freelance practice, lawyers, consultants, craftspeople, hairdressers, painters, artists and others. All categories of workers who work at their own risk and on their own account and without an employer are included in the category of self-insured person. It should be mentioned that the members of the cooperatives that work under an employment contract in the cooperatives of which they are co-founders are covered by the regime for employed persons.

In the case of these liberal professions /self-insured persons, legislation stipulates the following:

they themselves declare the start, end and any breaks in the activity;the obligatory social insurance contributions are paid by them;they are responsible personally for the timing of social insurance payments (the requirement for them is to pay contributions for preceding month no later than the 10th of each month) and they are responsible also for presentation of all data concerning the insurance required by the law; they are obliged by the law to insure themselves in terms of pension coverage, but they may if they wish also insure themselves for other social risks, including sickness and maternity. They have no right to be insured for labour accidents - the logic is that this risk is the employer's responsibility and they are themselves employers. they chose the size of the insurance income on which they will pay contributions within the legal framework defining the minimal and maximal monthly size of the insured income;the minimum insurance income for registered agricultural producers and tobacco producers is different to that for self-insured workers;at the end of the finance year, after their presentation of their annual tax declaration, and if their income is higher than their declared income, which was chosen for advance insurance payments, insurance contributions will be paid on the total of their real incomes, but not more than the maximum amount of the insurance income. That means that if they during the year are insured on the maximum monthly insurance income determined by the law for the budget they will not owe additional payment to insurance funds.

The above mentioned formulations concern persons who are self-employed and exercising a freelance profession and also individuals who hire employees. However, individuals in the second category are liable to all employer obligations concerning their workers.

Employees are covered by obligatory insurance for pensions, health care, sickness, maternity, and unemployment. In 2007 insurance contributions for employees were divided between the employer and the insured employee on a 65% (employer) and 35% (employee) basis (for 2008 this correlation will be changed to 60:40 and the aim is to reach 50:50 in the coming years). The insurance payments for labour accident and work-related illnesses are financed by employers.

Since 2003, two measures have been introduced as part of the fight against the grey economy and insufficient insurance of employed workers: the first one is that it is the employer obligation to register all individual labour contracts in the Labour Inspectorate; the second is the introduction of minimum insurance incomes for different economic activities within nine occupations (ISCO 88). Namely the rule is that the employed worker is insured on the basis of real income but not less than minimum insurance income for related economical activity and occupation. Each year these minimum insurance incomes (the total is over 650) are negotiated at national level between representatives of employers and workers. Only if consensus between employers and trade unions is not reached are the minimum insurance incomes determined by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP).

In conclusion for 2007 the following levels of monthly insurance incomes apply:

minimum monthly insurance income for self-insured persons – BGN 220; minimum monthly insurance income for registered agricultural producers and tobacco producers – BGN 110; minimum monthly insurance income for registered agricultural producers and tobacco producers who exercise agricultural activity only – BGN 55; maximum monthly amount of the insurance income for the country of all categories (insured and self-insured) is BGN 1400. (Above this sum the social insurance contributions are not paid).

- monthly minimum insurance incomes are set for 73 main economical activities and nine occupations – in total there are 657 minimum insurance incomes for employed workers.

Please indicate the existence of any particular legal forms of employment which cover contractual relationships which are commonly regarded to be mid-way between dependent employment and self-employment (if necessary, see for a longer discussion of the concept the EIRO comparative study 'Economically dependent workers', employment law and industrial relations').

whether they are commonly considered as economically dependent employment;specify the main features of such forms of employment and whether they enjoy specific social security regime and, if relevant, the basic features of such special regime (please refer this illustration to the answer given to question 1.2 above).indicate any rules which generally apply to this kind of employment as for: a) working time and vacation; b) maternity and parental leave; c) sick pay and leave for sickness

There are several possible legal forms: persons working as sole traders or a company, according the Trade Law; registration as agricultural producers or tobacco producers; or registration as a person exercising a freelance profession and/or craft activity. In this connection there is an amendment in the Small and Medium Size Enterprises Act. This amendment enlarged the implementation area of the notion “company” and includes not only each person – trader, according Article 1 of Trade Act, but also craftsmen according to the Crafts Law. There is no guidance concerning legal forms, encouraging the appearance of economically dependent workers relations.

The legal regulation of home workers differs from the above. Their labour market status is very unclear, and these workers very often fall in the informal, grey economy. Currently, according to labour legislation in force, the mothers of young children have the legal right to work at home until their child is six (Art. 163, 164, 165 and 312 of Labour Code), as do people with disabilities (Regulation for labour readjustment, vocational rehabilitation). With the introduction of a range of labour market mechanisms, work at home has gained new meaning, expressed in numerous activities and forms (home working sole entrepreneurs, owners exercising a freelance profession and/or craft activity and working only with labour subcontractors and entrepreneurs). This segment of the labour market, however, is out of the government’s field of vision, taxes are hidden, social insurance contributions are not paid, and many workers work too intensely and some work in bad working conditions. It is necessary to design and adopt a new Act that gives workers at home better protection, clearly defines their status, and covers areas such as industrial relations, relations with other economic areas in the country, pay, taxation and inclusion in the social security systems.

2. Recent trends in self-employment with no employees

Please provide data on recent trends in self-employment (since 2000):Please report, according to available research and studies, the distribution of self-employment without employees across sectors and occupations;whether self-employment without employees has either increased or decreased significantly in recent years (since 2000) in specific:

Sectors and activities.Occupations (International Standard Classification of Occupations – ISCO 88, at one digit).

and in specific groups of workers defined by:

Gender (men/women).Age groups (younger/older; 14-24, 25-54, 55-64; 65 and over).Nationality (nationals/foreign nationals).Other relevant dimensions to be specified.

Based on existing research and studies, please provide any available data on the diffusion and recent trends of:

All legal forms of employment indicated in section 1.3 above (contractual relationships midway between dependent employment and self-employment and economically dependent employment), specifying whether they concentrate in any sectors and/or occupations.‘Bogus self-employment’, i.e. formal self-employment which is fraudulently used to disguise contractual relationships which should be properly registered as dependent employment, in order to avoid the protections and costs (both wage and social contributions) connected with the latter, specifying whether it concentrates in any sectors and/or occupations.

Table 1: Self-employed workers and self-employed workers without employees								
	2000*		2003		2006		2007**	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Self-employed*** (thousand)	222.6	104.5	252.7	118.5	248.9	119.8	245.9	117.0
Self-employed without employees (thousand)	171.9	87.5	178.2	93.5	158.5	87.6	160.3	81.4

Source: National Statistical Institute

** 4th Quarter*

*** 2nd Quarter*

**** Self-employed without employees + Employers (see definitions in 1.1)*

Looking at the available statistical information concerning total number of self-employed without employees (Table № 2) the following conclusions can be made:

- The number of self-employed individuals in the country and their relative share of the total number of employed people in the country are significant. A significant part of the Bulgarian population has found a solution to the economic problems in self-employment.
- Nevertheless, self-employment on the labour market in the period 2000-2007 decreased and the relative share of self-employed individuals compared to the total number of employed people in the country from fell from 9.5% in 2000 and 9.6% in 2003 to 7.9% 2006 and 4 % 2007.
- Against the background of total employment increasing and unemployment reducing, the decreasing of total number and relative number of self-employed is taking place in parallel with an increase in the number and share of employed workers and employers. Logically that means that:

some self-employed workers are “expanding” their business and are hiring workers - namely they have become employers; anddue to the poor performance of their own business, other self-employed people have preferred to return to the better-paid or more secure status of employee.

Table 2: Employed and self-employed people by professional status (thousands)				
	2000*	2003	2006	2007**
Total employed	2,735.5	2,834.0	3,110.0	3,253.1
Employers	67.7	99.6	122.7	121.2
Self-employed without employees	259.5	271.7	246.1	241.7

Employees	2,364.4	2,399.6	2,701.5	2,852.9

Source: National Statistical Institute

** 4th Quarter*

*** 2nd Quarter*

The structure of the workforce according to their status in 2007 (NSI data) is as follows:

Employers – 3.7%;Self-employed – 7.4%;Employed – 87.7%;Unpaid family workers-1.1%;No status indicated – 0.1%.

The structure of the self-employed according to sector (Table 3) shows that the highest number of self-employed people is found in the service sector, where the proportion varies between 46.6% and 53.6%. Over the period of transition and even today, agriculture, forestry and fishing have the second-highest number of self-employed people (between 34.8% and 42.5%). Industry has the lowest level of self-employed people, with 11.6%, a proportion that has not changed over the past two years.

There has been no significant change in the proportion of self-employed people according economic activity during the past eight years (Table 3). It is clear marked in the presentation of self-employed in the agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing, and at the second place is the trade and repair of motor vehicles and household goods. In the other economic activities there is an even distribution although the most rapid increase of the relative share of self-employed was seen in the activities related to real estate, renting and business activities, and there has been a decline in the processing industry, hotels and restaurants.

The distribution by sectors and economic activities to a great extent also predetermined the self-employed structure by occupations (Table 3). The occupations with highest relative share of self-employed people are: skilled agricultural and fishing workers (between 27.8% and 37.4%); legislators, senior officials and managers (between 21.4% and 25.0%); and service workers, shop and market sales workers (between 12.3% and 17.4%). Further, during the period, the relative share of professionals increased steadily (from 5.1% to 8.2%).

Table 3: Distribution of self-employment across sectors, economic activities and occupations (in %)

Self-employment	2000*	2003	2006	2007**
By Sectors Agriculture, forestry and fishing Industry Services Unknown	*100.0* 36.5 13.2 50.0 0.3	*100.0* 42.5 10.9 46.6 0.0	*100.0* 34.8 11.6 53.6 0.0	*100.0* 37.5 11.6 50.9 0.0
By economic activities Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing Manufacturing Construction Trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods Hotels and restaurants Transport, storage and communication Real estate, renting and business activities Health and social work	*100.0* 36.5 9.8 3.3 28.7 6.7 5.9 3.1 1.7 3.4 0.9	*100.0* 42.5 7.6 3.2 25.8 4.8 4.9 4.7 2.6 3.2 0.7	*100.0* 34.8 7.0 4.5 29.7 4.9 6.0 5.7 3.4 3.4 0.6	*100.0* 37.5 7.1 4.4 27.3 3.1 5.7 7.3 2.9 4.0 0.7

Other services Unknown				
By occupations Legislators, senior officials and managers Professionals Technicians and associated professionals Clerks Service workers, shop and market sales workers Skilled agricultural and fishing workers Craft and related trade workers Plant and machine operators and assemblers Elementary occupations Unknown	*100.0* 21.4 5.1 3.1 3.0 17.4 27.8 7.0 8.2 6.6 0.4	*100.0* 25.0 6.0 2.7 2.2 12.3 37.4 5.0 4.9 4.5 0.0	*100.0* 22.2 8.0 3.4 2.4 15.3 31.0 6.2 5.5 5.8 0.2	*100.0* 22.6 8.2 3.0 1.6 13.4 32.6 7.1 5.6 5.8 0.1

Source: National Statistical Institute

** 4th Quarter*

*** 2nd Quarter*

The distribution of self-employed people by area of residence, gender, age and education is interesting.

By areas of habitation

The distribution of self-employed by areas – village and town – does not show significant differences (Table 4). But the relative share of self-employed persons in the villages is 15.4% while the relative share of self-employed in the towns is only 5.1%. The intensity of self-employment in the rural areas could be explained by the fact that the largest numbers of self-employment are found in agricultural activities.

By gender

The distribution of the self-employed by gender is 2:1 “in favour” of men. This is evidence that the women are with low intention to risk with own business compared to the men. Women prefer to be hired on lower paid but more secure work, and also by the fact that men still have traditional responsibility for family businesses and earning money.

By age

The data regarding the distribution of the self-employed by age indicate that their number and relative share are highest among men and people in middle age between 35 and 54 years. About 60% of self-employed men and women are from these age groups. The share of the self-employed among young people, in the age group of up 24 years is extremely low, at 3.6%

By education

Nationwide the greatest number and relative share is formed by the group of people with high-school education – 48.1%. The group of the people with lower education – primary and secondary, ranks second in relative share – 35.8%. The intensity of self-employment within a given educational group measured as a proportion of the self-employed to the total in the group in 2007 is as follows:

Relative share of the self-employed with university education – 4.7%;Relative share of the self-employed with high-school education – 6.0%;Relative share of the self-employed with secondary education – 17.3%;Relative share of the self-employed with primary or lower education – 18.2%.

From these data with nationwide representation it is evident that the groups with primary or lower education have the largest proportion of the total number of self-employed. This intensity of self-employment indicates that it is an alternative for lower educated people and presumed lower quality level of the created jobs by the self-employed. This tendency during the period 2000-2007 was unchanged. However, there is one very typical difference between urban and rural areas: self-employed people with higher education are found in the towns and those with secondary and primary education are found in the villages.

These data can be explained by the fact that the quality of self-employment in the urban areas is higher, and highly educated freelancers dominate in this category, and the fact that there is a predominance of agricultural self-employment in rural areas.

Table 4: Self-employed (number in thousand and structure in %)

	2000* (thous.)	2003 (thous.)	2006 (thous.)	2007** (thous.)	2000* (%)	2003 (%)	2006 (%)	2007** (%)
Total	259.5	271.7	246.1	241.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By place of residence Urban Rural	. 134.2 125.3	. .. ..	. 127.7 118.4	. 128.0 113.7	. 51.7 48.3	. .. ..	. 51.9 48.1	. 53.0 47.0
By sex Male Female	. 171.9 87.6	. 178.2 93.5	. 158.5 87.6	. 160.3 81.4	. 66.2 33.8	. 65.6 34.4	. 64.4 35.6	. 66.3 33.7
By age 15-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65 and over	. 16.3 55.4 77.8 74.0 28.9 7.0	. 8.7 45.1 67.7 70.3 47.3 32.7	. 6.0 41.1 66.0 72.6 46.5 14.0	. 8.8 37.8 70.9 71.5 42.0 10.7	. 6.3 21.3 30.0 28.5 11.1 2.7	. 3.2 16.6 24.9 25.9 17.4 12.0	. 2.4 16.7 26.8 29.5 18.9 5.7	. 3.6 15.6 29.3 29.6 17.4 4.4
By level of education Higher Upper secondary Lower secondary Primary or lower	. 31.9 130.9 82.8 13.9	. .. .	. 39.1 119.7 75.6 11.7	. 38.9 116.2 75.7 10.9	. 12.3 50.4 31.9 5.4	. .. .	. 15.9 48.6 30.7 4.8	. 16.1 48.1 31.3 4.5

Source: National Statistical Institute

** 4th Quarter*

*** 2nd Quarter*

3. Collective representation and collective bargaining

NCs are requested to indicate the main collective representation organisations of employed workers with no employees or of the workers with the special contractual relationships illustrated above in section 1.3. In particular, they should provide information on:

The type of associations (trade associations or trade unions).The associational domains of each of such associations: territorial, sectoral, occupational, professional, etc.Membership and membership rates.Any forms of social dialogue or collective bargaining these associations engage in, specifying:

The levels at which such activities take place (national, sectoral, territorial, company).The actors they engage in these activities with (public authorities, employers associations, and single employers).The topics typically covered by these activities.The typical outcomes of such activities (joint documents and declarations, guidelines, agreements, etc.)A brief description of the content of some (two or three) of the main and most recent of such documents.

The Craft Law entered in force on 28 May 2001 and with this legislation the principle of obligatory membership in the regional skilled crafts chambers was adopted and the National Chamber of Skilled Crafts (NCSC) was established. The main aim of the Craft Law is to stimulate the development of crafts through ensuring the conditions to increase entrepreneurship, protect the interests of skilled craft workers and to protect crafts services consumers. Established in December 2002, currently the NCSC unites 25 regional chambers of skilled crafts and nine national associations of skilled crafts. NCSC maintain good relations with trade union organisations – especially concerning issues of mutual interest such as vocational education and training, but the NCSC does not participate in collective bargaining at national, branch and regional level. A small number (about 3,500 persons) of home workers are organised in the Home Based Workers Association (HBWA), but according to HBWA data the total number in the country is about 500,000 persons, of which around 240,000 are officially registered as self-employed. This means that more than a half of these workers are in the grey sector. HBWA is member of one of the six nationally represented employers' organisations BG04121002F - Confederation of the Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria (CEIBG**)**. CEIBG participates in the negotiation process with social partners at national level. The attempts to pass the bill of home workers in the Parliament have as yet been unsuccessful. With this law most of home workers problems would be solved in the negotiations at national level. HBWA maintains good relations with the Confederation of Independent Trade Union s in Bulgaria (CITUB). Two years ago, the possibility of home workers (more precisely those that work under contracts) being organised by to the CITUB trade union central were discussed. Subsequently the HBWA was concentrated its efforts on employers. This fact underlines the specific status of the different home workers and their heterogeneous position – self-employed, home workers (probably using unpaid family workers) and at the same time economically dependent workers in firms, where they work under contract or without contract (sewing, assembling and other activities).

4. Employment and working conditions

Wage levels, of self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average.The incidence of low-paid jobs (that is, according to the OECD definition, jobs which pay less than two-third of the median wage) among self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average.Working hours, of self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average:

Average hours actually worked per week.Diffusion of long working hours (more than 10 hours a day).Diffusion of work at unsocial hours (night, weekend).

Place of work of self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average:

Home/office distribution.

Exposure to risks and accidents at work of self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average:

Work accident rates.

Health outcomes, work-related health problems and occupational illnesses of self-employed workers without employees compared with national average:

Occupational illness rates.Work intensity and stress at work

Lifelong learning of self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average:

Participation rates in continuous education and training.

Work-life balance of self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average:

Presence and take up rates of maternity/parental leave (according to the applicable social security regime).Presence and take up rates of long-term leave (according to the applicable social security regime). If possible, please indicate the reasons for long-term leave.Degree of control of personal working time.Degree of consistency of personal working time with family and social commitments.

Job satisfaction of self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average:

Degree of satisfaction with employment conditions.Degree of satisfaction with working conditions.

There is no official statistical data on wages and working conditions. Because there is no other suitable research in this field we will give some of the main findings of the “Statistical research of working at home in Bulgaria "- dissertation of Plamen Petkov, D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, 2006. We have to underline that the research concerns only those working at home and the largest part of them are in the grey sector and they work for the lowest wages and in the worst working conditions.

- 74% declared that their homeworking incomes are below the national minimum wage. This is one of the reasons for their mass non-payment of taxes and social insurance contributions.
- social insurance contributions in accordance with the law are paid by only 6% of these workers. for the remainder, they either pay no insurance, irregular insurance or partial insurance for the lowest coverage or covering only some social security risks.
- every second interviewee showed that they very often have problems in receiving the negotiated payment for their work. In 29.1% of the cases the reason is the bad quality of the work, for 9.8%, non-observance of the terms, for 19.3%, non-observance of the preliminary defined requirements of their contracts and 41.8% stated that there was no reason for not receiving payment for their work.
- more than half (58.2%) rely on stable industrial relations and work only with one contractor, 17.9% with more than one contractor and 12.5% are self-employed.
- for a fifth of interviewees, homeworking is the only source of income and 14.4% showed that it is the main source of their income
- only 7.1% received compensation from the contracting company for heat and light expenses and machine maintenance and equipment during the process of production
- the majority of homeworkers (67.4%) use as working place the premises that are used by the other family members. Only 13.3% work in specially prepared premises for the purpose of work.
- only 21% used information and communication technologies in their work.
- part time hours (up to four hours daily) were worked by 27.7% and 53.3% worked more than 10 hours a day.
- almost all (93.9%) think that new government policy is needed to protect homeworkers' interests in the country.

5. The social partners' positions

The social partners and the government are united in the position that it is necessary to introduce measures to stimulate self-employment, and the creation of small and family businesses. In this context, there are concrete programmes, aimed to increase employment as well as encourage existing small business in the creation of new jobs. The problems arising as a result of changes to employment and the character of labour, have, however, provoked mixed reactions. The employers organisations to a great extent are more and more in favour of a sizable liberalisation of labour legislation and implementation of flexible employment regimes and forms, which would have a range of results, including outsourcing and the creation of remote-working for jobs such as consultants and teleworkers. In terms of objective ongoing processes and the perspectives for labour development, this is deemed to be inevitable and awaited by all, including the trade unions. However, according to the trade unions, these processes should not be allowed to develop according to market pressure, because they threaten the social security system not only in terms of the individual participants on the labour market, but also in terms of the functioning of the system as a whole. In this relation, the trade unions insist on a combination of labour market flexibility with new elements of social security. These forms, according them, have to be regulated at national level; at branch and company level, the concrete details of the schemes should be negotiated. They believe that the strengthening of collective bargaining as a tool to regulate these ongoing processes (concerning the labour market and the forms of employment and employment status) on the one hand will continue to be reliable mechanism for the protection of traditional stable employment, but on the other hand it should be more transparent and regulate self-employment more tightly.

6. NC Commentary

Self-employment is an issue that has not been studied in any depth in Bulgaria. After the transition period, according to Eurostat's statistical surveys, it would seem that the relevant processes have been put into place and are observation. However, this concerns the formal economy only. A range of different forms of self-employment in the grey sector remain hidden and its potential according to European Commission data is that it could account for up to 35% of the country's GDP. There are no studies presenting quantitative analysis of self-employment in the area of working conditions, stress factors, sharing the family and working environment, job satisfaction and life long learning. The difficulties in this direction arise not only by the relatively “closed” character of this kind of employment in contrast to traditionally established industrial relations, but also by the exceptional diversity of activities that not only supplement the process of production, but in practice could copy or replace a vast part of the activities, that are at present carried out by employees.

The effect of future changes will be the decline of trade union density and increasingly limited opportunities for direct contact between trade union leaders and their members and those that potentially need their protection. The present weakness of trade unions poses the question of whether it is possible for trade unions to receive a mandate for bargaining and concluding collective agreements.

The changes in the character, content and labour organisation in the context of inevitable introduction of information technology in all areas of work, individualistic attitudes of society, fragmentation of economic and production units will lead to drastic changes in the traditional structure of people's interests and motivation.

The fundamental outcome of the individualistic attitudes of society is the formation of a wider diversity of interests and the search for new ways to represent and protect these interests.

Die globale Finanzkrise und die möglichen Auswirkungen auf Bulgarien

Welche Auswirkungen hat die globale Finanzkrise auf die Wirtschaft Bulgariens und der Staaten Osteuropas? Bei der Beantwortung dieser Frage gehen die Meinungen von in- und ausländischen Fachleuten stark auseinander.

"Bulgarien und Osteuropa sind kein isolierter Wirtschaftsraum", äußert der Präsident des Bulgarischen Wirtschaftsforums, Georgi Tabakow. "Das sollten alle die zu Kenntnis nehmen, die die Warnungen von Wirtschaftswissenschaftlern und führenden Analysten in den Wind schlagen. Sich abzeichnende Trends belegen, das Osteuropa, einschließlich Teile Südosteuropas, weltweit zu den Staaten gehören, die am meisten von den Auswirkungen der Krise betroffen sein werden. Wir sind Augenzeuge dessen, dass alle führenden Industrienationen umgehend auf die neue Situation reagieren."

Welchen Weg wird die Finanzwelt in Zukunft einschlagen und wie werden die Kapitalmärkte die Krise verkraften? Die bulgarische Wirtschaft ist ein Teil der Weltwirtschaft. Die in Bulgarien zirkulierenden Finanzen sind Teil des globalen Kapitals. Dafür gibt es auch keine andere Alternative, weil mehr als 80 Prozent der Banken in Bulgarien sind im Besitz ausländischer Unternehmen", so Georgi Tabakow. "Ende der 90-er Jahre war dieser Umstand für uns sehr erfreulich, da die ausländischen Finanzinstitutionen dem maroden bulgarischen Bankensystem erneut zu Stabilität verhalfen. Schnell etablierten sich moderne Produkte am bulgarischen Markt, vor allem im Kreditsektor. Plötzlich stellte sich heraus, dass internationale Probleme auch auf den bulgarischen Markt übergreifen können, da sich die günstigen Ressourcen, auf die besagte ausländische Banken bisher zurückgreifen konnten, auf einmal an den internationalen Märkten verteuerten. Ein Trend, der auch um Bulgarien keinen Bogen machen wird. Die niedrigen Zinssätze für Kredite sind nicht darauf zurückzuführen, dass hier ein enormes Anlagevermögen akkumuliert wird. Die günstigen Ressourcen waren eine Folge der europa- und weltweit billigen Ressourcen. Doch die Ära des `leichten Geldes` ist vorbei. Der gleiche Trend ist auch an der Börse zu verzeichnen. Wichtige Anleger haben auf Wink von außen den Rückzug angetreten."

Die Verteuerung globaler Ressourcen bedeutet, besonders für Großprojekte von Privatunternehmen, dass sich die Kapitalbeschaffung für ausländische Unternehmen immer schwieriger gestaltet. Das Kapital, das eine Bank für Bulgarien-Investitionen bewilligt, ist generell teurer, als für Investitionen in Frankreich, Irland und anderen europäischen Staaten. Georgi Tabakow zeigt sich "pessimistisch-vorsichtig". Seiner Meinung nach habe Bulgarien ein reelles Problem, da die Reallöhne schneller steigen, als die Produktivität. "Ich bin Pessimist. Die Krise wird sich auch auf Bulgarien auswirken" so der Präsident des Bulgarischen Wirtschaftsforums, Georgi Tabakow.

"Die Krise wird die treffen, die Hypothekendarlehen aufgenommen und Probleme mit der Rückzahlung ihres Kredits haben", erklärt Georgi Tabakow. "In diesem Fall haben sie entweder die Möglichkeit der Refinanzierung, allerdings mit teureren Krediten, oder die Bank kassiert die Immobilie. Da Immobilien eine nur geringe Liquidität aufweisen, sind die Banken bestrebt, diese so schnell wie möglich wieder abzustoßen, was dazu führt, dass diese unter Marktwert zum Verkauf angeboten werden. Die Folge sind fallende Immobilienpreise. Gegenwärtig werden allein in Sofia mehr als 29.000 Wohnungen zum Verkauf geboten. Ganz zu schweigen von Geschäftszentren und anderen Bauprojekten, die ebenfalls über Bankkredite finanziert werden. Bisher wurde der Immobilienmarkt vom Geld regiert, von Geld, das von außen kam und über verschiedene Fonds in Immobilien investiert wurde – und 40 Prozent der Investitionen in Bulgarien ausmachte.

Die aufkommende Finanzkrise, die zahlreichen Wirtschaftsbereichen einen Strich durch die Rechnung machen könnte, wird sich vor allem auf die Immobilienbranche auswirken und auf den Bausektor überschwappen. Das klassische Wirtschaftskrisen-Modell lässt grüßen.

Wie kann man diesen Prozessen entgegenwirken? Eine Möglichkeit wäre die Umsetzung weitreichender Infrastrukturprojekte, da so die frei werdenden Ressourcen aus dem privaten Bausektor in Großprojekte investiert werden können.

Ein entschiedenes und zielgerichtetes Vorgehen der Regierung könnte Bulgarien vor einer Wirtschaftskrise bewahren. Die US-Wirtschaft war nicht in Lage, gegen die Krise anzukämpfen. Jetzt reguliert der Markt diese Prozesse. Um die Krise einzudämmen, war das umgehende und adäquate Vorgehen des Staats gefragt. Auch die bulgarische Wirtschaft würde gerne erfahren, wie die Regierung den künftigen Auswirkungen der Krise begegnen will, zumal die ersten Anzeichen bereits auf sich aufmerksam machen.

Nach Ansicht von Verwaltungsminister Nikolaj Wassilew könne man bereits der Haushaltsplanung für das kommende Jahr entsprechende Maßnahmen zur Vermeidung von Negativauswirkungen der globalen Finanzkrise zugrunde legen:
„Der Haushaltsplan 2009 darf keinesfalls den im kommenden Jahr anstehenden Parlamentswahlen untergeordnet werden“, erklärt Verwaltungsminister Nikolaj Wassilew. Die Parteien sollten sich nicht dem Irrglauben hingeben, dass Mehrausgaben auch mehr Wählerstimmen einbringen, d.h. der prozentuale Anteil der Ausgaben an der Wirtschaftsleistung darf nicht erhöht werden, man sollte sich darüber hinaus keinen Illusionen über einen sprunghaften Anstieg der Sozialleistungen hingeben und auch differenzierte Mehrwertsteuerraten sind nicht möglich. Die Ausgaben des öffentlichen Haushalts müssen sich im Rahmen der von der Regierungskoalition vereinbarten 40 Prozent des Bruttoinlandsproduktes halten. Im Jahr 2009 muss ein Haushaltsüberschuss von mindestens drei Prozent erwirtschaftet werden, noch besser wären 3,5 Prozent. Auch die Steigerung der Einkommen sollte sich in gewissen Grenzen halten. Und drittens sollte sich die Regierung verstärkt der Umsetzung der Exportstrategie zuwenden. Unser Vorschlag ist eine verstärkte Werbung für das bulgarische Tourismusprodukt 2009 an den internationalen Märkten, da man auf diese Weise die Einnahmen aus der Tourismusbranche erhöhen und entsprechend das Leistungsbilanzdefizit senken könnte. Darüber hinaus sollte die Regierung umgehend die schleppenden Reformen in Schlüsselbereichen ankurbeln, wie zum Beispiel Betreiberverträge für Autobahnen, Flughäfen, Seehäfen und andere Infrastrukturobjekte abschließen“, empfiehlt Verwaltungsminister Nikolai Wassilew vor dem Hintergrund der zu erwartenden Auswirkungen der internationalen Finanzkrise.

Wirtschaftslage:

Bulgariens Wirtschaft wird 2009 aufgrund der internationalen Finanzkrise weniger dynamisch wachsen als in den Vorjahren, im EU-Vergleich aber immer noch überdurchschnittlich.
Die Wachstumsprognosen für das Jahr 2009 schwanken zwischen 1,5 und 4,5%. Im Jahr 2008 dürfte der reale An-stieg des Bruttoinlandsprodukts (BIP) bei rund 6,5% liegen. Sorgen bereiten das sehr hohe Leistungsbilanzdefizit, die hohe Inflation und die Unfähigkeit, zur Verfügung stehende umfangreiche EU-Fördermittel verantwortungsvoll zu verwalten.

Wirtschaftsentwicklung

Bulgariens Wirtschaft wird 2009 voraussichtlich dynamischer wachsen als die vieler anderer EU-Länder. Da aber der Balkan-Staat auch deutlich von der Finanzkrise betroffen ist, wird das Wachstum geringer als in den Vorjahren ausfallen. Nach einem noch dynamischen 3. Quartal 2008 mit einem Plus des Bruttoinlandsprodukts (BIP) von real 6,8%, werden die eigentlichen Auswirkungen der Krise für das Jahr 2009 erwartet. Aufgrund der internationalen Finanzkrise haben sich die Finan-zierungsbedingungen für Unternehmen deutlich verschlechtert. Drei Viertel der im Rahmen einer Untersuchung der AHK Bulgarien (http://bulgarien.ahk.de) befragten Firmen beklagten, dass sie jetzt schwieriger oder zu höheren Zin-sen Kredite erhalten. Von den Auswirkungen der internationalen Krise stark betroffen sind vor allem der Bau-Sektor und die Kfz-Zulieferer, aber auch der Tourismus und die Textilbranche. Von den durch die AHK Bulgarien befragten Mitgliedern sehen sich 14% gezwungen, Mitarbeiter zu entlassen. Rund 8% versprechen sich aber auch positive Auswirkungen der Krise auf die bulgarische Wirtschaft, beispielsweise in Form von Betriebsverlagerungen von teure-ren Standorten in den Balkan Staat. Die Unternehmen im Maschinen- und Anlagenbau sind von der Finanzkrise sehr unterschiedlich betroffen. Hersteller von Werkzeugmaschinen, Werkzeugen und Hydraulik, die in den vergangenen Jahren ihre Produktion umstrukturiert und modernisiert haben, erwarten keinen drastischen Zusammenbruch. Insgesamt gehören über 3.000 Betriebe mit 134.000 Beschäftigten zum Maschinenbau in Bulgarien. Nach Angaben der Branchenkammer für Maschinenbau wuchs der Umsatz im Jahr 2007 im Segment Herstellung von Maschinen, Aus-rüstungen und Haushaltsgeräten um 16,2%, bei Metallerzeugnissen um 15,6%, in der Metallurgie um 10,0% und im Schiffbau um 6,4%. Auch in Zeiten der aktuellen Krise bereitet der Mangel an Fachkräften große Schwierigkeiten.

Bulgarian environmental laws and regulations conform to European Union policy

Bulgarian environmental legislation includes **the Law on Protecting the Environment** and the Ordinance for the Evaluation of the Effect on the Environment, as well as the **Law on Protected Territories and the Law on Water.** The Ministry of the Environment and Water (MEW), Regional Inspectorates of the Environment and Water (RIEW) and local council authorities are responsible for the administration of environmental law.

- Bulgarian Law on the Protection of the Environment
- Bulgarian Ordinance for the Evaluation on the Effect on the Environment
- Bulgarian Law on Water

The largest industrial polluters in Bulgaria are large industrial plants and thermal-powered electricity stations. If they do not adhere to emission limits for dangerous materials, the polluters will be subject to various sanctions.

Enterprises and persons face fines and sanctions for polluting the air, water and soil above permissible levels.

- Bulgarian Ministry of the Environment and Water
- Bulgarian Law on Protected Territories

Other than the mandatory ecological regulations, businesses can also undertake further voluntary measures for the protection of the environment.

- Taking sustainability further — Bulgaria

Administrative procedures

Legislation governs the application of procedures for the **evaluation of the effects on the environment** (OVOS) for investment proposals, as included in addendum I and addendum II to the Law on Protection of the Environment. For proposals that must complete an OVOS, or for those that, based on a review, have had the decision made that an OVOS is necessary, an **Evaluation Report of the Effect on the Environment (DOVOS)** must be prepared. The DOVOS report is paid for by the construction entrepreneur and is carried out by independent experts.

An OVOS is necessary before the construction of nuclear and thermo-energy stations; cast-iron, steel, fertiliser, cement, glass, pulp and wool dying production plants; abattoirs; large farms; roads and motorways; hotels; resorts; sports facilities and others.

Procedural stages of the OVOS

- Preparation of the investment proposal;
- Notifying the relevant environment protection body and the affected local population;
- Appraisal;
- Determining the extent of the evaluation;
- Drawing up the report for the OVOS;
- Evaluating the quality of the report for the OVOS;
- Community negotiation;
- Making a decision on the OVOS;
- Notification of the decision on the OVOS;
- Quality control.

Participants in the OVOS process

- Contracting authority;
- Relevant environmental bodies;
- Other relevant departments;
- Local authorities;
- The public;
- Registered OVOS experts.

Relevant bodies that can make decisions regarding the necessity for an OVOS:

- The Bulgarian Minister for Environment and Water;
- The Bulgarian Director of Regional Inspectorates for Environment and Water;
- Bulgarian Ordinance for the conditions and regulations for completing an OVOS
- Directories of Regional Inspectorates for the Environment and Water

Programmes

The Energy Efficiency Agency develops programmes and projects for the improvement of energy efficiency and for the use of renewable energy sources, and guarantees the financing of various projects and programmes

Bulgarien

-Die bulgarische Wirtschaftspolitik hat zwei wichtige Bestandteile, und zwar das Currency-Board (feste Anbindung des Lew an den Euro) und das im März 2007 ausgelaufene Stand-by-Abkommen mit dem IWF. Bulgarien hat das Jahr 2007 für den Beitritt zum Europäischen Wechselkursmechanismus (WKM II) und das Jahr 2010 für den Beitritt zur Euro-Zone angepeilt. Diesen Beitritt komplizieren schon 2 Jahre die hohe Inflation und das Kontokorrentdefizit in dem Land. Bulgarien könnte aber bis Ende des Jahres 2009 alle Maastrichtkriterien erfüllen und so zum WKM II beitreten.
Seit der Wirtschaftskrise von 1997 zeichnet sich die bulgarische Wirtschaft durch eine hohe Wachstumsdynamik aus. Im 2004 wurde der Höhepunkt im Konjunkturzyklus mit einem realen Bruttoinlandsprodukt 6,6% erreicht. Seitdem legt das reale BIP um gut 6% jährlich zu. In 2008 hat das Wachstum 6,5% erreicht.
Der bulgarische Arbeitsmarkt wird durch das nachhaltige Wirtschaftswachstum sehr positiv beeinflusst. Die durchschnittliche Arbeitslosenquote sinkt seit 2002. In dem Jahr hatte sie noch bei über 16% gelegen. Im Jahr 2008 betrug die Arbeitslosenquote 8%. Die heutige Finanz- und Wirtschaftskrise hat schon die Veränderung in der Entwicklung der Arbeitslosigkeit verursacht. Prognosen für die nächsten Jahren sagen, dass die Arbeitslosenquote steigen wird. Bulgarien verfügt über gut ausgebildete Arbeitskräfte. Das Lohnniveau ist das niedrigste im EU-Vergleich, aber sie steigt seit einigen Jahren kontinuierlich an. Der durchschnittliche Monatslohn in 2008 lag bei 265 Lew (178 Euro). Der gesetzliche Mindestlohn in 2008 lag bei 180 Lew (92 Euro).

-Mindeststammkapital für eine GmbH beträgt derzeit BGN 5.000,-, das sind umgerechnet rund EUR 2.500,-. Mindestens 70% des Stammkapitals muss bei der Gründung eingezahlt sein.

-Mehr als zwei Drittel in Bulgarien tätigen deutschen Firmen sind mit ihrer gegenwärtigen Geschäftslage zufrieden. Das geht aus der diesjährigen Stimmungsumfrage der Deutsch-Bulgarischen Industrie- und Handelskammer (DBIHK) unter deutschen Investoren in Bulgarien hervor.

Auch die Prognosen für das bevorstehende Geschäftsjahr stimmen optimistisch. Für 2006 erwarten 66 Prozent der Umfrageteilnehmer höhere Umsätze als im Vorjahr, weitere 30 Prozent erwarten Umsätze in gleicher Höhe. Dies schlägt sich auch in den Investitionsplanungen nieder. 56 Prozent möchten ihre Investitionen ausweiten, weitere 28 Prozent wollen soviel wie im Vorjahr investieren.

Der seit mehreren Jahren anhaltende Wirtschaftsaufschwung wirkt sich auch auf den Arbeitsmarkt aus. Nachdem das Angebot an qualifizierten Arbeitskräften im Vorjahr noch mit den Schulnote 2,7 bewertet wurde, beurteilen die Firmen diesen Standortfaktor in der diesjährigen Umfrage nur noch mit 3,4. In einigen Regionen haben Firmen sogar

Schwierigkeiten, ausreichend ungelernte Arbeitskräfte zu finden. Hier verschlechterte sich die Benotung von 1,9 auf 2,5.

Handlungsbedarf sehen die Firmen insbesondere bei der Bekämpfung von Korruption und Kriminalität (Note 4,3). Bemängelt werden auch der Zustand der öffentlichen Infrastruktur, unzureichende Rechtssicherheit und ungenügende Effizienz der öffentlichen Verwaltung.

Die Noten für diese Rahmenbedingungen verschlechterten sich sogar im Vergleich zum Vorjahr. Hoffnungen setzen die deutschen Firmen auf den EU-Beitritt; dieser wird von drei Viertel der Umfrageteilnehmer als sehr wichtig oder wichtig bewertet.

Bilaterale Wirtschaftsbeziehungen

Der Warenverkehr zwischen Deutschland und Bulgarien erreichte im vergangenen Jahr mit einem Gesamtvolumen von über 2,9 Milliarden Euro einen neuen Höchststand. Die deutschen Exporte nach Bulgarien beliefen sich auf knapp 2,0 Milliarden Euro, die deutschen Importe aus Bulgarien auf 0,9 Milliarden Euro. Während die bulgarischen Exporte nach Deutschland um 13,8 Prozent zunahmen, stiegen die Importe aus Deutschland sogar um knapp 18 Prozent.

Unternehmensgründung Bulgarien

- Wirtschaftswachstum
- beliebter Investitionsstansort
- geringe Immobilienpreise
- geringe Produktionskosten
- niedrigste Steuer (Körperschaftssteuer 10%)
- viele kulturelle/ wirtschaftliche Zentren
- in EU (Vorteil z.B. dauerhaftes Ansiedeln)
- große Zahl gut ausgebildeter Akademiker
- geringer Lohn (Bsp.: 400.- / Monat – hohe Abeitsleistung)
- Investitionen zu geringen Preisen
- gute Infrastruktur
- tägliche Flugverbindung Wien- Sofia

→ attraktiv durch allgemein günstige Bedingungen

Quelle: http://www.slc-europe.com/xist4c/web/firmengruendung-bulgarien_id_3525_.htm
27. Jul. 2009

Standort Slowakei

Die Slowakei wurde zum Unternehmerparadies schlecht hin ernannt

Alle Unternehmer werden schwach....

Die Mitarbeiter der SLC-Europe in Bratislava merken in den derzeit drei Beratungsbüros die steigende Anzahl an Anfragen betreffend einer Unternehmensgründung in der Slowakei.

Die Slowakei ist so nahe und winkt mit einer **Flat Tax von 19 Prozent**!

Der Spitzensteuersatz in Österreich beträgt 50 %, der in Deutschland beträgt 47,5 % und hier in der Slowakei winken nicht nur schöne 19 % sondern auch noch weit mehr steuerliche Vorteile, wie etwa bei der PKW Abschreibung.

Standortverlagerung

Grundsätzlich haben Unternehmer zwei Möglichkeiten, Ihre Steuern zu optimieren. Entweder sie entschließen sich für eine Standortverlagerung (was nicht immer sehr einfach sein wird) oder sollte dies nicht funktionieren, dann bleibt noch immer die Gründung einer slowakischen Kommanditgesellschaft (GmbH & COKG).

Viele Unternehmer rufen bei uns an und meinen (wie im übrigen auch die Gründungsagenturen), daß es ausreicht in Pressburg eine Büroadresse, Faxgerät und einen Emailanschluss zu haben. Diese Zeiten sind lange vorbei. Nähere Informationen finden Sie auch unter: Mindestanforderungen für die Auslandsanerkenntnis.

Auch die Leitung des Unternehmens aus der Ferne wird zu keiner Steuerersparnis führen, da nach den Doppelbesteuerungsabkommen die Gewinne nach dem "Entstehungsprinzip" versteuert werden.

Das Positive jedoch ist, dass für die Standortverlagerung die Verlagerung des steuerlichen Wohnsitzes in die Slowakei nicht unbedingt erforderlich ist. Jedoch muss die Entscheidungsfindung in der Slowakei stattfinden.

Sollte eine komplette Standortverlagerung in die Slowakei nicht funktionieren, dann empfehlen wir die saubere Lösung einer KG siehe "Mutter-Tochter-Modell"!

Mutter-Tochter-Richtlinie

Bei vielen Unternehmern in Deutschland und Österreich wird eine Standortverlagerung nicht wirklich funktionieren. In diesem Falle wäre die Gründung einer slowakischen Kommanditgesellschaft also eine GmbH & CoKG als Holdinggesellschaft zu empfehlen.

Der feine Unterschied, der den Steuervorteil ausmacht ist jener, daß nach slowakischem Recht die KG als Kapitalgesellschaft angesehen wird und nach deutschem bzw. österreichischem Recht sie jedoch als Personengesellschaft behandelt wird.

Dieser Qualifikationskonflikt kann zu beträchtlichen Steuervorteilen führen, wenn zum Beispiel eine slowakische GmbH & CoKG Mutter einer österreichsichen/deutschen GmbH wird.

Die Gewinnausschüttungen der österreichischen GmbH sind aufgrund der Mutter-Tochter-Richtline der EU steuerbefreit und die Entnahme der Gewinne der Holding KG durch die Gesellschafter lösen grundsätzliche keine Einkommenssteuer aus.

Das faszinierende Ergebnis: Es bleibt die jeweilige Körperschaftssteuer (zB. Österreich mit 25 %), die Kapitalertragssteuer bei der Gewinnentnahme wird gänzlich vermieden.

Dieses Vorgehen wird von den Finanzbehörden akzeptiert, solange es sich um keine Schein- bzw. Briefkastenfirma handelt.

Slowakei

-insbesondere die Region Bratislava verfuegt ueber ein gut ausgebildetes Arbeitskraeftepotential, welches sich laufend durch Zuzug aus der Restslowakei vergroessert.Insbesondere auch Techniker und EDV Experten sind vorhanden

Arbeitskraefte, welche Deutsch und/oder Englisch sprechen stehen zur Verfuegung. Daneben ergibt sich als besonderer Vorteil einerseits die Tatsache, dass die slowakische Sprache als Esperanto der slawischen Sprachen gilt, und deshalb viele Slowaken neben Slowakisch auch andere slawische Sprachen(z.b.Tschechisch, Russisch, Kroatisch, Polnisch) beherrschen. Andererseits gibt es eine starke ungarische Minderheit. Aus diesen Gruenden sowie der Naehe zu Wien bietet sich Bratilsava als Brueckenkopf fuer die Erschliessung der neuen EU-Mitgliedstaaten geradezu an. Das Durchschnittseinkommen slowakischer Mitarbeiter liegt etwa bei 30-50% des vergleichbaren oesterreichischen Lohnniveaus, Expatriates Manager werden in der Regel eher besser entlohnt als vergleichbare Mitarbeiter in Oesterreich.

-Die Arbeitszeit beträgt max. 40 Stunden/Woche. Der gesetzliche Mindesturlaubsanspruch beträgt 4 Wochen pro Jahr, erhöht sich aber auf 5 Wochen bei Arbeitnehmern, die ab der Vollendung des 18. Lebensjahres zumindest 15 Jahre berufstätig waren. Es gibt auch kollektivvertragliche Vereinbarungen über eine weitere Urlaubswoche.

Gesetzlich vorgeschrieben sind 12 Monatsgehälter pro Jahr, in manchen Branchen ist ein 13. Gehalt üblich. Der Durchschnittslohn beträgt ca. SKK 14.000,-/Monat, der Mindestlohn SKK 6.080,-/Monat (Stand: Juni 2004).

-Wir empfehlen unseren Kunden die Gründung einer s.r.o & KG, da die Kommanditgesellschaft in der Slowakei - soweit der Gewinnanteil der Kommanditisten betroffen ist, wie eine Kapitalgesellschaft behandelt wird und daher Gewinnanteile der Kommanditisnten der slowakischen Körperschaftssteuer unterliegen, die bekanntlich ja 19 % sind.

Der wesentlich Punkt dabei ist jedoch, dass diese Gewinne wirklich in der KG in der Slowakei erwirtschaftet wurden und die KG keine Briefkastenfirma darstellt. Dann dürfen diese Gewinnanteile nach dem Doppelbesteuerungsabkommen zwischen Österreich und der Slowakei in Österreich nicht besteuert werden, womit die Steuerbelastung für entnommene bzw. entnehmbare Gewinne tatsächlich bei 19 % liegt.

Man muss jedoch auch hier anmerken, dass es den sogenannten Progressionsvorbehalt gibt, dass bedeutet, dass die Gewinne der Slowakei zwar steuerlich nicht mehr erfasst werden, die Höhe jedoch zur Progressionsstufenberechnung herangezogen wird.

Traffic in Slovakia

Roads in the Slovak Republic typically are safe and well maintained. Four-lane highways exist in and around Bratislava. However, most roads outside of built-up areas are two lanes only, and aggressive drivers attempting to pass at unsafe speeds pose a serious hazard. Due to poor lighting and narrow, winding roads, nighttime driving outside of built-up areas is not recommended.

From November through March there is often heavy snowfall, which is not adequately cleared from many rural roads. Roads in the mountainous northern part of the country are particularly prone to hazardous conditions during winter months. Winter tires are recommended and chains are necessary in certain mountainous areas.

In the Slovak Republic, vehicles travel on the right side of the road. Headlights must be used at all times (day and night) from October 15 until March 15. The maximum legal speed on highways is 130 kilometers per hour (78 mph). On smaller roads the maximum speed in 90 kph (54 mph). The limit in towns is 60 kph (36 mph). Use of cellular phones while driving is strictly prohibited. Safety reflection vests and first aid kits are compulsory equipment of each vehicle.

Drivers must yield the right of way to all vehicles with flashing blue lights (police, ambulances, fire trucks, motorcades), while vehicles with yellow or orange lights usually indicate that traffic must slow down. Drivers must always be cautious, however, as many slowly moving vehicles, such as agricultural vehicles, are not well marked.

Driving under the influence of alcohol is strictly prohibited. The blood alcohol tolerance level is zero percent.

Penalties for drivers involved in car accidents involving injury of death are decided by a court of law. Penalties for minor offenses are not generally large, but foreigners are sometimes targeted for additional sums. Anyone suspecting this has occurred should ask for a written receipt and note the name and number of the traffic officer imposing the fine.

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1019.html

Slovakia's Economy (Summary)

Slovakia's economy is in good shape, especially when compared with its central European neighbours. Thanks to reforms begun in 2002, including the introduction of a flat tax of 19% on corporate and personal income, the country is poised for continued growth. Foreign direct investment, especially in car manufacturing, looks set to rise. However, the OECD reckons that Slovakia could do more to increase its low employment rate by trimming payroll taxes and cutting social benefits.

http://www.economist.com/markets/PrinterFriendly.cfm?Story_ID=2446784

SLOWAKEI – Abwärtstrend der Wirtschaftskennzahlen seit Jahresbeginn

BIP-Prognose rutschte von +2% im Jänner in die roten Zahlen

- **Kurze Einschätzung der aktuellen Wirtschaftslage / Auswirkungen der Finanzkrise**

Die **Wirtschaftskrise** in den Industrieländern Westeuropas, für die die slowakische Industrie fast ausschließlich produziert, machen der Slowakei zu schaffen, da z.B. allein auf die Automobilindustrie mehr als 30% aller Exporte entfallen. Die geringere Nachfrage hat einen Domino-Effekt ausgelöst: weniger Aufträge führen im besten Fall zu Kurzarbeit, vermehrt aber auch zu Kündigungen, Importe wie auch Exporte sind in den ersten beiden Monaten drastisch gesunken.

Die Slowakei darf nicht mit anderen CEE-Staaten in einen Topf geworfen werden.Die Krise wirkt sich auf die Wirtschaft, **nicht** aber den **Finanzsektor** aus, da dieser durch die Vorbereitung auf die Euro-Einführung am 1.1.2009 stabil blieb. Dasselbe gilt für den Staatshaushalt, der gesund ist und noch die Mastricht Kriterien erfüllt. Dennoch ist die Slowakei vor Spill-Over Effekten der großteils ausländischen Mütter slowakischer Banken und der Industrie nicht gefeit.

Die **Einführung des Euro** war einerseits ein Segen, da die Slowakische Krone ansonsten, so wie die Währungen der umliegenden Nicht-Euroländer, drastisch an Wert verloren hätte und die Haupthandelspartner Euro-Länder sind. Das **Währungsrisiko** konnte dadurch **ausgeschaltet** werden. Andererseits musste die Slowakei gegenüber den nunmehr billigeren Nachbarwährungen an Attraktivität einbüßen. Ob sich dies mittel- oder langfristig auf **Investitionsentscheidungen** auswirkt, kann man zum jetzigen Zeitpunkt noch nicht sagen. Ein weiterer **Negativpunkt** ist die Tatsache, dass slowakische Konsumenten nun nach Tschechien, Polen oder Ungarn zum Einkaufen strömen und der **Inlandskonsum dadurch Schaden** nimmt. Dieser war bislang eine der Wachstumsstützen des BIP. Durch weniger Produktion und Konsum werden die **MWSt-Einnahmen des Staates niedriger** ausfallen. **Geringere Abgaben** in die sowieso bereits kränkelnden Sozialversicherungssysteme spitzen deren Lage weiter zu.

In der Frühlingssonne schmolz das noch im Jänner auf 2% prognostizierte BIP Wachstum restlos dahin. Für 2009 wird inzwischen mit einem **BIP-Rückgang von -1% bis -2,5%** gerechnet. Seit November des Vorjahres hatten sich die Wirtschaftskennzahlen verschlechtert und zu einer ständigen Nachjustierung der Prognosen geführt. Die Ergebnisse im Jänner vielen extrem schlecht aus, doch **bereits im Februar war ein Aufwind** zu bemerken. Gab es im Jänner noch ein Außenhandelsdefizit, mit einem Rückgang der Exporte um -33% und der Importe um -28,6%, so saldierte die Handelsbilanz im Februar bereits positiv, obwohl die Exporte im Jahresvergleich um -31% und die Importe um -32,7% zurück gegangen sind. Ob die Talsohle bereits erreicht wurde, wagt jedoch niemand zu sagen.

Prognosen 2009

BIP	-1 bis -2,5%
Arbeitslosigkeit	10,2%
Inflation	1,7%
Budgetdefizit	3,1% bis 4% des BIP
Exporte	-1 bis -3%
Importe	0 bis -2%

Die **Arbeitslosigkeit steigt** seit November des Vorjahres wieder an und soll Ende des Jahres 10,2% erreichen. Es ist ein Hauptanliegen der Regierung, die Auswirkungen der Wirtschaftskrise auf die Arbeitsplätze abzufedern und Langzeitarbeitslosigkeit zu vermeiden. Erreicht soll dies durch eine Sozialpartnerschaft slowakischer Prägung, Flexi-Konten, Förderungen für (Um-)Schulungen, etc. erreicht werden.

Einzig die **Inflation** entwickelt sich – entgegen der ursprünglichen Erwartungen auf Grund der Euro-Einführung – **positiv**: Von 3,4% im Jänner sank sie im Feb. bereits auf 3,1%. Für 2009 werden 1,7% erwartet. Grund dafür ist, dass einerseits die ausschlaggebenden Erhöhungen von Miete, Energie, und Wasser bereits statt gefunden haben und andererseits die Handelsketten – nicht zuletzt auf Grund des Drucks der günstigeren Nicht-Euro-Währungen und der Vergleichbarkeit der Preise in der Eurozone – nach und nach die Preise hinunter setzen, um wettbewerbsfähig zu bleiben.

Maßnahmen der Regierung

Zum Hilfspaket in Höhe von EUR 332 Mio., das im Februar angekündigt wurde, gibt es erst vereinzelte Maßnahmen. Dem Wunsch der Opposition nach Steuer- und Abgabensenkung, Änderungen im Arbeitsgesetzbuch, Unterstützung nicht nur von Schlüsselunternehmen (wie VW oder US-Steel) gibt die Regierung nicht nach. Für sie haben die Eindämmung der Arbeitslosigkeit und soziale Maßnahmen, deren Effekte zweifelhaft sind, Priorität.

Das Finanzministerium muss das **Staatsbudget aufschnüren**, da das jetzige nicht den neuen Anforderungen entspricht.

Die in der Slowakei eingeführte **Schrottprämie** nutzt am ehesten den Werken in Tschechien, wo der Marktführer Skoda produziert wird, da die Automobilwerke in der Slowakei für Westeuropa produzieren. Ergo kommen der Slowakei die Schrottprämien in Deutschland und Österreich zu gute.

Die **Energiefrage** ist durch den Gaslieferstopp aus Russland im Jänner, der der Industrie Millionenschaden zugefügt hat, Regierungsinteresse geworden. Ein Ausweg aus der Abhängigkeit wird nur im Aus- und Zubau von Nuklearkapazitäten gesehen, da Alternativenergien nicht ausreichen. Von letzteren werden v.a. Biomasse- und Solar gefördert.

Weitere Priorität der Regierung ist nach wie vor der **Infrastrukturausbau** - Autobahnen, Schnellstraßen, Flughafen, Wasserverkehr – mit Hilfe von PPP-Projekten.

- Auswirkungen auf den österreichischen Außenhandel (+ Prognose der Entwicklung des Außenhandels 2009)

Die bilateralen **Beziehungen** leiden unter der gesamtwirtschaftlichen Situation. Gab es 2008 bei den österr. Exporten noch einen Zuwachs um +15% und bei den Importen um +6%, so brachen die Exporte im Jänner -21,6% und die Importe um -24,9% ein – aber immerhin noch geringer als in andere CEE Staaten.

Betroffen sind die traditionell wichtigen Bereiche des österr. Exportes in die Slowakei, die Automobilzulieferungen sowie der Maschinen- und Anlagenindustrie.

Umso mehr gilt es jetzt rasch die **Chancen**, die sich in der Slowakei u.a. durch Regierungsinititativen bieten, für die österreichischen Unternehmen zu nützen: Die slowakische **Bauindustrie** – entgegen dem weltweiten Trend – ist nicht so spürbar belastet, da viele der Großprojekte bereits laufen und es dafür bereits Verträge gibt. In neue Großprojekte wagt man sich aber nur, wenn der Staat diese vergibt. Die Regierung hat Ende März die Förderung von Wärmedämmung von Häusern beschlossen und will dafür einen eigenen Fonds einrichten. Auch gibt es (EU) Gelder für **Biomasse- und Solaranlagen**. Ein Gesetz zur Förderung von Alternativenergie soll noch heuer verabschiedet werden.

Da in den letzten Jahre die Jahres-Außenhandelsbilanzen mit Ö immer besser als die Gesamtslowakischen Export- und Importzahlen waren – ein Trend der sich in den Jännerwerten widerspiegelt - SK Exporte -33%; nach Ö –24,9%; Importe 28,6%, aus Ö -21,6%) erwarten wir für **2009 leicht rote Zahlen:**

Exporte -1 bis -3%
Importe 0 bis -2%

Auf Grund der Dominanz der Automobilindustrie treffe die Finanzkrise die Slowakei hart, sagte DGAP-Experte Pänke. Trotz des Einbruchs verzeichne die slowakische Wirtschaft immer noch Wachstumsraten. Auch dürfe man nicht vergessen, dass das Wirtschaftswachstum auch viele negative Strukturveränderungen wie radikale Steuersenkungen und eine damit einhergehende Vertiefung sozialer Unterschiede zur Folge habe. Doch die Slowaken würden dank ihrer Improvisationsbereitschaft auch diese Krise meistern können, sagte Botschafter S.E. Korčok. Wichtig sei aber, die Infrastruktur des Landes weiter auszubauen und somit auch den strukturellen Unterschieden innerhalb der verschiedenen Regionen im Land entgegenzuwirken. „Dort, wo Infrastruktur besteht, wächst die Wirtschaft“, sagte der Botschafter.

Die Slowakei, die den Euro im Januar eingeführt hatte, steht denn auch besser da als ihre Nachbarländer. "Der Euro stabilisiert den gesamten Finanzsektor im Land", sagt Zdenek Lukas, Slowakei-Experte beim Wiener Institut für Internationale Wirtschaftsvergleiche.

Die Regierung hatte einen glücklichen Moment erwischt: Als Mitte 2008 die Entscheidung fiel, war das Ausmaß der Krise noch nicht zu ahnen. Deshalb konnten die Slowaken mitten in den weltweiten Turbulenzen ihre Kronen zum Rekordkurs gegen Euro eintauschen: Als im Sommer der Konvergenzkurs von 30,126 festgelegt wurde, stand die Krone auf ihrem historischen Hoch.

Auf Dauer muss sich aber auch die Slowakei aus der Abhängigkeit von der Autoindustrie befreien. Nirgendwo anders auf der Welt werden pro Einwohner so viele Autos hergestellt wie in der Slowakei und Tschechien. Skoda, Volkswagen, Peugeot, Citroen, Toyota, Kia und Hyundai unterhalten hier Werke, hunderte Zulieferbetriebe kommen dazu. Jetzt müssen die Regierungen mit einer gezielten Industriepolitik rasch andere Branchen stärken.

How the recent financial crisis has affected you negatively and the steps you are taking to correct the situation

Being a small business owner and truck driver, the financial crisis has negatively affected the trucking community in almost every way imaginable. The trucks I operate pull flatbed trailers, which haul everything from housing materials to onions. That being said, the housing market has nearly collapsed with the consequences being very little building materials being shipped.

As oil prices skyrocketed, the cost of shipping increased significantly due to the increase in fuel costs, increased maintenance costs, as well as increased tire costs. This is combined with the necessary job cuts to meet the demand as more manufacturers cut production and close doors.

Of course, staying in business and protecting my livelihood has become priority number one. Surviving in a fierce financial crisis, such as this, requires tightening belts, cutting back, and making smart business decisions. Steps I have taken to improve my own financial standing include expense management, such as fuel, preventative maintenance, employee selection, and decreased competition where freight is concerned.

One of the biggest expenses in the trucking community is fuel. In order to manage this monster bill, trucks are forced to slow down in order to improve fuel mileage. Also, using fuel discounts at participating locations lowers the fuel cost significantly.

Preventative maintenance is often overlooked as a cost cutting technique. Since trucks travel hundreds of miles every day, simple steps, such as maintaining correct tire pressure, can affect fuel mileage as well as the extend the life of a tire. Regular oil changes also affect fuel mileage and performance.

Driver selection is important because how he or she performs affects the bottom line. A driver should always care for the equipment as if it were his or her own. I recently had to let go one driver in order to get a better one. A driver should choose freight that will bring in the most revenue to the truck while keeping the truck moving. For the most part, a truck that isn't moving isn't making any money.

In order to keep trucks moving, one may have to take less desirable freight. Many drivers want to take the higher paying load and will wait to get it. However, with the financial crisis, that can take a little while to happen. By being less competitive and taking loads that aren't ideal, a truck can stay moving and still make money. The economy is no longer capable of sustaining the position of a choosy driver. Whereas, someone who is willing to open up their preferences on what they are willing to haul and where they are willing to go, will move faster and generate more revenue.

This financial crisis has had its affects on almost everyone. The ability and willingness to adapt, adjust, and change with the economy will determine the survivors. I have taken steps that will, hopefully, help me protect my livelihood. My goal, like most everyone else, is to come out of it intact.

http://www.helium.com/items/1309050-financial-crisis-trucking
28.7.09 11:40

World financial crisis affects transport and logistics companies.

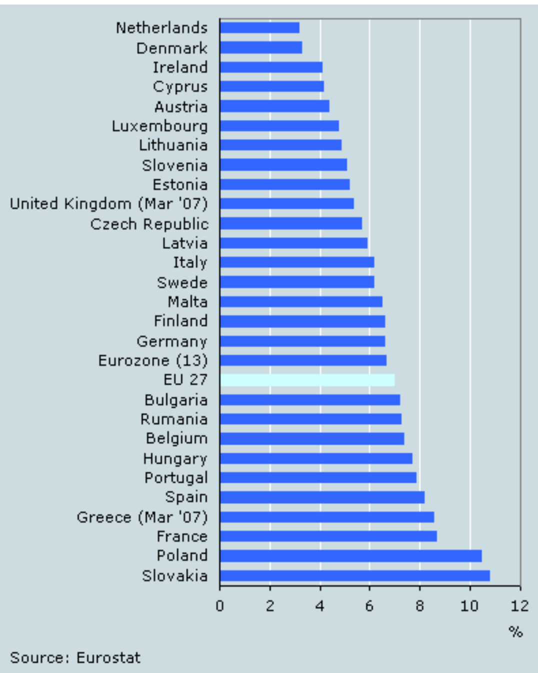
By Dmitry Kostin: Our neighbors from Lithuania hope that long-term partnership with Belarus will help them to overcome the crisis. During the 2 months the turnover at Klaipeda port shrank by 14%. (Sigistas Dobilinskas, director of Klaipeda port)
The parties confirmed once again their adherence to strategic partnership. The geographical closeness of Klaipeda port and loyal tariff policy make it convenient for the Belarusian enterprises. In 2009 due to the economic slump Klaipeda offered a large discount to the Belarusian carriers.
One of the promising avenues in business cooperation is transportation of containers. The first, who started using such transportation, were the Belarusian exporters of potash fertilizers, oil products, timber and metal.
The main item of the Belarusian exports to Lithuania is potash fertilizers and Lithuania mainly supplies cars. This is a bright evidence of the unique geopolitical situation of our countries.

http://www.tvr.by/eng/economics.asp?id=10011

28.7.09 11:42

Slovakia made the grade to join the euro as of January 2009 on a performance that was comfortably within all Maastricht criteria. However, euro adoption will be just another step on the long road to catching up with core Eurozone members, as EMU membership is no carte blanche for smooth economic development. Portugal suffered a prolonged crisis as EMU member. In Slovenia, inflation picked up strongly. In Slovakia's case, the sustainability of inflation convergence is less in question, although the need for future price adjustments is substantial.

http://images.google.at/imgres?imgurl=http://www.sbbc.org.uk/files/u6/1191_slovaiacomment.gif&imgrefurl=http://www.sbbc.org.uk/node/799&usg=___rDDIPMDRcKAVUfMDCqdcYTHkQI=&h=558&w=560&sz=28&hl=de&start=11&um=1&tbnid=xmmVCv3DeO3XTM:&tbnh=133&tbnw=133&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dcrisis%2Bslovakia%26hl%3Dde%26sa%3DG%26um%3D1
28.7.09 11:51



http://www.cbs.nl/en-GB/menu/themas/arbeid-sociale-zekerheid/publicaties/artikelen/archief/2007/2007-2245-wm1.htm

28.07.09 11:53

Unemployment Rate Coming Close to 11 percent
Anca Dragu, RSI

In April the unemployment rate in Slovakia approached 11 percent, the highest figure to be reported in this country since June 2006. And while about 290,000 people are desperately looking for jobs in a market that doesn't offer too many, the Government has decided see the glass half full by arguing that Slovakia has only the seventh worse unemployment rate in the EU. Anca Dragu reports.

http://www.slovakradio.sk/inetportal/rsi/core.php?lang=2&page=spravy&katID=25
28.07.09 11:55

Slovakia: Self-employed workers

Disclaimer: This information is made available as a service to the public but has not been edited or approved by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. The content is the responsibility of the authors.

Self-employed workers without employees represent around 10% of the total number of employed people in the national economy. The social protection of self-employed workers differs slightly from the social protection of employees. Legislation does not differentiate between social security for the self-employed with and without employees. Recent amendments to the Labour Code are aimed at eliminating 'bogus self-employment'. Self-employed workers are associated in the Slovak Craft Industry Federation, which participates in national tripartite social dialogue. Bipartite social dialogue is, however, not developed due to a missing social partner. The working conditions and wages of self-employed workers are on average below the national levels.

1. Legal provisions and social security

Please provide the definition of self-employed workers which is applicable in your country.

According to Article 5 of Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on social insurance, a self-employed person is defined as a natural person, who:

- is entitled to run a business, or
- deals with agricultural production and is registered according to the Act no. 369/1990 Coll. on municipalities, or
- is a partner of a plc company (public limited company), a general partner of a limited partnership company, or
- performs sports activities gainfully (not being employed), operates as a sales representative, or
- is entitled to perform special activities, e.g. to work as an advocate.

According to Article 2 of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on trade business (Trade Licensing Act), a self-employed worker is defined as a person performing systematic business autonomously, in his or her name and at own liability for the purpose of achieving a profit, and under conditions set by the law. At the same time, general conditions must be met (the age of 18 or more, legal capacity and integrity) and often also special conditions, especially to prove professional qualification.

According to Article 2 of the Commercial Code (Act No. 513/1991 Coll.), entrepreneurship is defined as a systematic business operated autonomously by an entrepreneur in his or her name and at own liability for the purpose of achieving a profit. According to Article 2 of the Commercial Code self-employed worker can be a person who:

- is registered in the Business Register (filed by the district court) or
- carries out business on the basis of a trading licence (Article 10 of the Licence Act) or any other licence. Trading licence is represented by:
    - Trade Certificate, (businesses subject to registration, licensed or free businesses), or
    - Trade Permit Certificate, or
    - an abstract from the Trade Registry kept at the Trade Licensing Office (Živnostenský úrad).

Also a natural person, who produces agricultural products and is registered, can be defined as a self-employed worker.

According to Article 1 of the Act No. 311/2001 Labour Code, as amended, economically dependent work is work carried out within a relationship that is under the supervision of an employer and based on the subordination of an employee, where solely the personal performance of work of an employee for an employer takes place. The work is performed according to the instructions of the employer, in the employer’s name, for a wage or reward, during working time, at the employer’s expense, with the employer’s means of production, and on the employer’s liability. It concerns a performance of work, which consists predominantly of a repetition of defined activities.

Briefly indicate the main differences, if any, in the social security regime of self-employed workers with no employees compared with: a) employees; b) self-employed with employees.

In Slovak social protection legislation, special provisions governing the self-employed differ only slightly from the social protection that covers employees. However, the legislation does not differentiate between social security for self-employed workers with and without employees.

a) The assessment base for employees, from which the contributions to compulsory insurance funds are paid, is represented by their actual gross monthly earnings. Employees pay a contribution amounting to 13.4 % of that base.

b) The payment procedure of contributions for the self-employed is different. The assessment base for the contributions to health, sickness, old-age, invalidity, survivors and unemployment insurance funds is half of the average monthly taxable income of the previous year. The total sum of levy rate is 47.15 % of the assessment base. If the self-employed pay the contributions provided by Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on social insurance and by Act No. 580/2004 Coll. on health insurance, they enjoy the same rights to pay/benefits as employees. If the self-employed worker operates as an employer (i.e. has employees), he or she pays employer contributions in addition.

A difference exists in the insurance of employment injuries, occupational diseases and sickness insurance. The self-employed are not, and cannot be, insured against employment injuries, nor occupational diseases, because these kinds of insurance only apply to employees, whose contributions are fully covered by the employer. In the case of sickness insurance, eligibility for sickness benefit for the self-employed worker is conditional upon the payment of insurance contributions over the previous 270 days. Employees do not have such a pre-condition.

Please indicate the existence of any particular legal forms of employment which cover contractual relationships which are commonly regarded to be mid-way between dependent employment and self-employment (if necessary, see for a longer discussion of the concept the EIRO comparative study '<u>Economically dependent workers', employment law and industrial relations</u>').

whether they are commonly considered as economically dependent employment;

Currently, the legislation provides an entitlement to work gainfully as a self-employed worker and/or in form of economically dependent employment. Each form has its special characteristics and they are not commonly considered as economically dependent employment.

specify the main features of such forms of employment and whether they enjoy specific social security regime and, if relevant, the basic features of such special regime (please refer this illustration to the answer given to question 1.2 above).indicate any rules which generally apply to this kind of employment as for: a) working time and vacation; b) maternity and parental leave; c) sick pay and leave for sickness.

The most frequent forms of attainment of the mid-way between dependent employment and self-employment are the following:

1. Locatio operis (Contract for work) according to the Act no. 513/1991 Coll. on Commercial Code, Articles 536 and following. According to this contract, the provider binds him or herself to perform a particular job of work, and the client binds him or herself to pay a price for this work. A piece of work is understood to represent a production of a particular thing, assemblage, maintenance and repair, modification of a thing or a result of some other activity in material terms. This form is not considered as an economically dependent employment. The provider can be a natural person, who should be registered as self-employed worker to whom the above mentioned scope of social protection is applied. No claims for paid holiday and working regimes stipulated by the Labour Code are applied to this form of contract. However, claims for maternity and parental leave, sick pay and unemployment benefits are applied within the compulsory insurance of the self-employed. The client (ie the organisation offering the work) does not pay any contribution to the health, sickness, disability, accident, old-age or unemployment insurance funds for the provider of the work The provider can regulate the amounts of the contributions to the insurance funds, and thus he or she can either keep more for the personal usage or put aside more for old-age insurance.

The application of other forms of commercial agreements (which can also be used for undeclared entrepreneurship) result in a similarly low level of social security coverage for the workers. According to the Commercial Code the following ones can be mentioned: Contract on transport of goods, Consignment agreement, Shipping contract and Mandate contract (designated, e.g. for the activities in transport and commerce).

2. The contract for work performance (1) and the contract for work activity (2) are, according to Article 223 of Labour Code (Act No. 311/2001 Coll.), contracts for activities which are performed outside of the employment relationship. Under these forms of contract the employer is provided with an exceptional performance of works defined either by the result (at 1- maximum 350 working hours annually for one employee) or by the kind of work (at 2 -maximum 10 working hours per week for one employee). Using these forms of work, the employer is obliged to create appropriate working conditions for employees, which ensure safe and proper performance of work. However, usually the employer does not determine the organisation of working time for the worker. The level of social security for these workers is low, and only their accidence insurance is guaranteed. These workers are not entitled to meal vouchers, paid holiday, maternity and parental leave, sick pay and unemployment benefits. The employer does not pay the employee contributions to the health, sickness, disability, old-age and employment insurance funds. These workers only pay tax from earnings, and no contributions to social insurance funds. Further, if the worker does not have any other employment, he or she is not entitled to any disability insurance and old-age pension.

2. Recent trends in self-employment with no employees

Please provide data on recent trends in self-employment (since 2000):

Table 1. Recent trends in self-employment (2000-2007)

	2000		2003		2006		2007(1st half)	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Self-employed	122,100	42,400	152,100	55,900	214,700	73,300	218,900	74,600
Self-	84,800	27,600	107,500	40,500	166,200	54,500	168,600	54,400

employed with no employees								

In the long-term, self-employment has been increasing. Since 2000 the number of self-employed workers with employees as well as without employees has almost doubled. Most of the self-employed workers are represented by those without employees, the number of which has increased more than the number of self-employed workers with employees. In the first half of 2007, self-employed men without employees comprised 77% of all self-employed workers. On the women's side it was 73%. The share of women of the total number of self-employed workers, including those without employees, comprises around 25%.

Please report, according to available research and studies,

the distribution of self-employment without employees across sectors and occupations;

No specific research or surveys have been carried out in this respect in Slovakia. Statistical data includes sector-related information only for self-employed workers as a whole.

According to the LFS data of the Slovak Statistical Office (Štatistický úrad Slovenskej republiky, ŠÚ SR) available at the end of 2006, the sectors with the highest numbers of self-employed men were construction (73,000 persons), commerce (37,000), industry (28,000), real estate and renting (18,000), agriculture (15,000), transport (14,000), hotels and restaurants (8,000) and in financial intermediation (7,000). The sectors with the highest numbers of self-employed women were commerce (20,000), real estate and renting (16,000), other public services (13,000), financial intermediation (7,000), industry, healthcare (in both 6,000) and in hotels and restaurants (4,000).

Data about the structure of the self-employed by professions are not available.

whether self-employment without employees has either increased or decreased significantly in recent years (since 2000) in specific:

Sectors and activities.

Since 2000, the total numb
er of self-employed workers has been increasing - mostly in the financial sector (by more than 300%), in construction and health care and other social services (by 100%). Some increase has also been recorded in the transport sector, hotels and restaurants, real estate and renting and commerce.

Occupations (International Standard Classification of Occupations – ISCO 88, at one digit).

There are no data available on self-employed workers by occupations.

and in specific groups of workers defined by:

Gender (men/women).

According to specific groups of workers, the numbers of the self-employed workers without employees have been rising throughout the whole observed period. In the case of men, numbers rose most rapidly in 2002-5. For women the most rapid increase took place in 2002-4. The numbers of self-employed men and women have been rising most rapidly in the financial sector (more than triple growth). In the case of men, there has also been strong growth in construction, while for women the main growth has been in the healthcare sector and other social services (for both about 100% increase). An increase in the number of self-employed men has also been recorded in the transport sector (by about 50%), and in hotels and restaurants (by about 30%). In industry, agriculture and real estate, the number of self-employed men has been stagnating recently. As for self-employed women, their numbers have also been increasing in real estate and renting (by about 50%) and commerce (by about 25%).

Age groups (younger/older; 14-24, 25-54, 55-64; 65 and over).

The numbers of 25-54 year-old self-employed without employees have been rising most strongly during the observed period since 2000, from 107,000 in 2001 to 189,000 in 2006. From 2000 to 2004, the total number of young self-employed workers up to the age of 24 increased to 13,000 persons. Since then, their number has been stagnating. The number of older self-employed without employees (55-64 year-olds) has been rising since 2000. While in 2001, their number was 6,000, in 2006 it had risen to 17,000. The number of self-employed workers without employees who are older than 65 is still very low – in total it was 100 in 2001 and 1,100 in 2006.

Nationality (nationals/foreign nationals).

There are no data available on self-employed workers by nationality.

Other relevant dimensions to be specified.

Regarding education level, within the group of self-employed workers without employees, there was a high and rising proportion of persons with primary education and apprenticeship (from 42% to 48%) and with school-leaving certificate (from 38% to 43%) in 2000-6. The share of self-employed workers without employees with university education increased from 12% to 16% in the same period.

Based on existing research and studies, please provide any available data on the diffusion and recent trends of:

All legal forms of employment indicated in section 1.3 above (contractual relationships mid-way between dependent employment and self-employment and economically dependent employment), specifying whether they concentrate in any sectors and/or occupations.

There are no statistical data, specific research or surveys available on the trends in this form of employment. Only general information on these forms of employment can be provided.

Contracts for work performance and Contracts for work activity are the most frequently used forms of the so-called “mid-way” between employment and self-employment. They are used mainly by employees, but also by self-employed workers. They are used by people to perform work on the basis of specific contracts usually only as a complementary activity for the purpose of increasing their income. However, no official data on the number of employees working on to these contracts are available.

‘Bogus self-employment’, i.e. formal self-employment which is fraudulently used to disguise contractual relationships which should be properly registered as dependent employment, in order to avoid the protections and costs (both wage and social contributions) connected with the latter, specifying whether it concentrates in any sectors and/or occupations.

There are no official data, specific research projects or surveys available on the trends in this form of employment. Only general information on these forms of employment can be provided.

During the nationwide discussion on the amendments to the Labour Code held from the end of 2006 to June 2007, the practice of “bogus self-employment” was criticised. The criticism concerned mainly the low level of social protection and occupational health and safety of employees who work for the employer as self-employed involuntarily. In the daily newspaper Pravda an article of the MP Iveta Radičová was published on 11 May 2007, in which she referred to data from the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (Ministerstvo práce a sociálnych vecí Slovenskej republiky, MPSVR SR) stating that about 25,000 employees were involuntarily “self-employed” in Slovakia. Even trade unionists have spoken about several thousands of involuntarily employed traders, who have been working especially in construction and commerce, e.g. cashiers in some hypermarkets work as self-employed. The importance of this issue can be highlighted by the declaration of the Trade Union Confederation (Konfederácia odborových zväzov Slovenskej republiky, KOZ SR) of 18 June 2007 aimed at supporting the adoption of the amendments to the Labour Code by the Parliament, in which the elimination/reduction of involuntary self-employment is mentioned in the first instance.

3. Collective representation and collective bargaining

NCs are requested to indicate the main collective representation organisations of employed workers with no employees or of the workers with the special contractual relationships illustrated above in section 1.3. In particular, they should provide information on:

The type of associations (trade associations or trade unions).

Self-employed workers with and without employees are organised in the Slovak Craft Industry Federation (Slovenský živnostenský zväz, SŽZ). They are not organised in any trade union organisation.

The associational domains of each of such associations: territorial, sectoral, occupational, professional, etc.

SŽZ associates professional organisations - licensed trade associations, guilds, and other bodies uniting craft workers and small and medium size enterprises. SŽZ members are organised according to occupational, professional, sectoral and territorial levels. Guilds, e.g. of bakers and confectioners, plumbers, fitters, are usually organised at the national level. Bus transporters, small travel agencies, traders and real estate agencies are also organised at the national level. Further, tradespeople's associations are established in some regions as well as cities.

Membership and membership rates.

Membership in SŽZ is voluntary. According to information from a SŽZ representative, in total 19 tradesperson's organisations were members of SŽZ in 2006. They covered 7,000 subjects, i.e. self-employed workers with and without employees, which created around 22,000 jobs. There are no data available about the share of self-employed without employees of the total number of SŽZ members. However, this share can be estimated at about 30%.

Any forms of social dialogue or collective bargaining these associations engage in, specifying:

- The levels at which such activities take place (national, sectoral, territorial, company).

SŽZ is involved in the national tripartite social dialogue. Single self-employed workers are not involved in any form of social dialogue, including collective bargaining. Since 1997, SŽZ has been a member of the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAPME) where it represents Slovak craft industry members.

- The actors they engage in these activities with (public authorities, employers associations, single employers).

SŽZ is member of the Federation of Employers Association (Zväz zamestnávateľských zväzov a združení Slovenskej republiky, AZZZ SR), which represents SŽZ in the Slovak tripartite Economic and Social Council (Hospodárska a sociálna rada, HSR).

- The topics typically covered by these activities.

The usual topic concerning self-employed workers is setting the national minimum wage level, which is a calculation base for the contributions of self-employed workers to compulsory social insurance funds. Sometimes, the topics concern changes in legislation regulating the business of the craft industry sector.

- The typical outcomes of such activities (joint documents and declarations, guidelines, agreements, etc.)

The outcomes depend on the topic, but the dialogue usually results in agreements, declarations and draft legislation.

At the national level, dialogue resulted in an agreement between the representatives of employers and trade unions on increasing the minimum wage level from 1 October 2007.

The next topic concerns the implementation of Directive 2006/123/ES on services in the internal market.

4. Employment and working conditions

Wage levels, of self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average.

Available statistics provide data only on self-employed workers with 0-9 employees (micro enterprises). According to the LFS data, their average wage reached 89% of the average gross monthly wage level in the national economy in 2006. Wage experts estimate that the wage level of self-employed workers without employees can be even lower - about 70% of the average gross monthly wage in the national economy.

The incidence of low-paid jobs (that is, according to the OECD definition, jobs which pay less than two-third of the median wage) among self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average.

There are no data available about this indicator. Wage experts estimate that the incidence of low-paid jobs among self-employed workers without employees is likely to be higher than the national average, which was around 6-7% in 2005.

Working hours, of self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average:

Average hours actually worked per week.

According to the LFS data for the 2nd quarter of 2007, average hours actually worked by self-employed workers were 46.5 per week. That is more by about 12% than the national average. Regarding self-employed workers without employees there are no data are available. However, representatives of SŽZ estimate that these workers usually work even more - up to 60 hours per week, which can be higher than the national average by 40%.

Diffusion of long working hours (more than 10 hours a day).

There are no data available on diffusion of long working hours of self-employed with and without employees. It is estimated that around 60-70% of self-employed workers without employees work more than 10 hours a day.

Diffusion of work at unsocial hours (night, weekend).

The Labour Code regulates work at unsocial hours only for employees. The ratio of work performed at unsocial hours by self-employed workers without employees is likely to be above the national average. It is estimated that about 50-60% of these workers usually work at unsocial hours.

Place of work of self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average:

Home/office distribution.

No statistical data are available about this indicator. The national average usage of home-work, including telework by employees, was about 3% in 2003. As far as the self-employed without employees are concerned, this proportion is certainly higher (according to the available information, about 60-70% of self-employed workers´ workplace is at home).

Exposure to risks and accidents at work of self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average:

Work accident rates.

Risks and accidents at work related to self-employed workers with and without employees have not yet been surveyed and no data are available about this indicator. It is estimated that the share of work accidents related to self-employed workers without employees is, however, likely to be higher than the national average. These workers have usually no motive to report work accidents to the competent state authority, which is the labour inspection body.

Health outcomes, work-related health problems and occupational illnesses of self-employed workers without employees compared with national average:

Occupational illness rates.

There are no data available on this indicator regarding self-employed workers with and without employees. However, the occupational illness rate officially declared by self-employed workers without employees is likely to be lower in comparison with the national average.

Work intensity and stress at work

There are no data available on this indicator concerning self-employed workers with and without employees. The work intensity and stress at work of self-employed workers without employees is, however, estimated to be higher in comparison with the national average concerning all employed.

Lifelong learning of self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average:

Participation rates in continuous education and training.

There are no data available on this indicator regarding self-employed with and without employees. It is estimated that the participation rate of self-employed workers without employees in continuous education and training is likely to be lower than the national average. Employees´ participation in continuous education and training is often supported by their employers through provision of time off, and sometimes even by paying for the tuition. By contrast, self-employed workers cover the cost of education and training themselves, and they often prefer to work and earn money rather than to participate in education and training activities. However, in some professions, continuous education and training is inevitable (required by law) for keeping a professional licence, e.g. for building surveyors and operators of construction equipment and transport machines. The most common form of continuous education and training used by self-employed without employees is the attendance at different kind of seminars, workshops and conferences.

Work-life balance of self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average:

Presence and take up rates of maternity/parental leave (according to the applicable social security regime).

Self-employed workers without employees apply for maternity/parental leave to a rather limited extent, and it is likely below the level allowed for by the labour legislation. Official data and even estimations about this are, however, not available.

Presence and take up rates of long-term leave (according to the applicable social security regime). If possible, please indicate the reasons for long-term leave.

The take up rates of long-term leave used by self-employed workers is lower than the national average. Official data and estimations about this are, however, not available.

Degree of control of personal working time.

External control of personal working time concerns usually employees. External control of the working time of self-employed without employees it is applied only exceptionally, e.g. regarding keeping the overtime limits set by the labour legislation. Therefore, self-employed workers are likely to have a high degree of control over their personal working time. However, official data or estimations about this are not available.

Degree of consistency of personal working time with family and social commitments.

The degree of consistency of personal working time with family and social commitments is estimated to be lower in the case of self-employed workers without employees than the national average for employees.

Job satisfaction of self-employed workers without employees compared with the national average:

Degree of satisfaction with employment conditions.

No statistical data or estimations are available about this indicator.

Degree of satisfaction with working conditions.

It is estimated that the degree of satisfaction of self-employed workers with their working conditions is lower than the national average. The working conditions of self-employed workers are often not thought to be satisfactory or in keeping with minimum standards.

5. The social partners' positions

a) According to the representatives of employers SŽZ, entrepreneurship has a short-term history in Slovakia. The market for self-employed workers without employees or with a small number of employees is still not properly developed. It is desirable to improve the support offered to self-employed workers, especially in the sphere of education and training, to be better prepared for entrepreneurship in the free market. Excessive red tape, extensive legislation to be complied with, and lack of financial resources limit the effectiveness of the work of self-employed workers and their associations as well.

b) Self-employed workers participate in the social dialogue only at the national tripartite level. Due to the absence of any trade union organisation for self-employed workers, bipartite social dialogue at sectoral and company levels does not exist in Slovakia.

c) In general, the current legislative regulation of self-employed workers is considered to be satisfactory. However, compulsory instead of current voluntary membership would be likely to improve the position of self-employed workers in Slovakia. From 1 September 2007, the activities of self-employed workers have been influenced by the amendments to the Labour Code, which were aimed at preventing economically-dependent work being performed by previous employees but working for the employer as self-employed workers or sole traders.

Radical reduction or abolishment of the "dual" education system in vocational schools, which included practical professional training in companies, contributed to current relatively low professional skill of self-employed workers.

6. NC Commentary

Self-employment is still considered as more suitable for men than women, especially because of lower job stability and security. Also social security coverage for self-employed workers is weaker than that for employees. For example, social fund can be used only by employees. This is also the case for those engaged in "mid-way" forms of work between employment and self-employment, which concerns more men than women.

The number of self-employed workers has increased especially since 2002 when the new Labour Code and more radical reforms of the labour market were implemented. Higher numbers of self-employed workers may imply that this growth was caused also by "bogus self-employment". The high incidence of a "mid-way" form of work and "bogus self-employment", emerging especially in 2002-4 have, however, declined. Finally, a continuous decrease in unemployment provides more options for getting a job, and recent amendments to the Labour Code reduce the manoeuvring space for workers to become involved in "bogus self-employment".

Rastislav Bednárik, Ludovit Cziria, Teodor Hatina, Institute for Labour and Family Research

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^Back to top of page
About this document

- **ID:** SK0801019Q
- **Author:** Rastislav Bednárik, Ludovit Cziria, Teodor Hatina
- **Institution:** Institute for Labour and Family Research
- **Country:** Slovak Republic
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- Transportunternehmen in der Slowakei
- Seit Ende 2008 greift die globale Finanzmarkt- und Wirtschaftskrise zunehmend auf die slowakische Wirtschaft über. Aufgrund der hohen Einbindung des Landes in den internationalen Handel macht dem Reformstaat die kräftig gesunkene Nachfrage nach seinen Waren auf den traditionellen Hauptabsatzmärkten stark zu schaffen. Deutsche Firmen können von den eingeleiteten Maßnahme zur Belebung der Konjunktur profitieren. Sie sind und bleiben mit einem Anteil von rund einem Fünftel an den Im- und Exporten der Haupthandelspartner der Slowakei.

Automobilindustrie

- (gtai) - Der Transportmittelbau hat sich zum Motor der slowakischen Industrie entwickelt. In keinem anderen Land der Welt werden heute mehr Autos pro Einwohner produziert (2007: 105,7 Wagen pro 1.000 Einwohner). Die Hersteller von Fahrzeugen und Zulieferungen stehen für ein Viertel des BIP und ein Drittel der Exporte.
- Die weltweite Absatzkrise auf dem Fahrzeugmarkt geht auch an der Slowakei nicht spurlos vorbei. Von den drei Autoschmieden Volkswagen Slovakia, PSA Peugeot-Citroen und KIA Motors Slovakia (geschätzter Gesamtausstoß 2008: 600.000 gegenüber ursprünglich 675.000 geplanten Einheiten; Ausstoß 2007: 571.000 Wagen) dürfte das zuerst genannte Unternehmen die Rezession in der Branche am meisten spüren. Es produziert Fahrzeuge im höheren Preissegment. Die weltweite Nachfrage nach solchen Wagen zeigt überdurchschnittlich nach unten. Auch zahlreiche Unternehmen aus der Kfz-Zulieferindustrie mussten in den letzten Monaten ihre Fertigungslinien zurückfahren und zum Teil Mitarbeiter entlassen.
- Dennoch dürfte die Kfz-Industrie im Vergleich zum Transportmittelbau in den westlichen Ländern nur einen geringen Produktionsrückgang verbuchen. Der Standort Slowakei gewinnt gerade in Zeiten der Rezession aufgrund seines günstigen Kostenniveaus für eine Reihe von Produzenten noch mehr an Attraktivität. Zahlreiche Zulieferfirmen wollen ihre vorbereiteten Neubau- und Erweiterungsprojekte jetzt oder in naher Zukunft umsetzen. Der Volkswagen-Konzern hegt Pressemeldungen zufolge Pläne für die Serienmontage von zwei sparsamen Familienautos (ab März 2011; Investitionsvolumen: knapp 300 Mio. Euro). Der südkoreanische Fahrzeugbauer Kia Motors kündigte den Bau einer Fabrik für die Produktion von jährlich 300.000 Benzin- und Dieselmotoren ab 2009 an (Gesamtkosten: 110 Mio. bis 200 Mio. Euro).
-

- Der Absatz von Neuwagen (inklusive Lieferwagen) auf dem slowakischen Markt hat sich in den ersten elf Monaten 2008 positiv entwickelt. In jenem Zeitraum wurden 87.712 neue Fahrzeuge registriert, 16,8% mehr als in der Vorjahresperiode. Marktführer in der Sparte Neuwagen blieb der tschechische Fahrzeugbauer Skoda mit einem Marktanteil von rund einem Fünftel. Es folgten die Marken Volkswagen, Peugeot und Renault (circa 9 bis 7%). Trotz des steigenden Neuwagenabsatzes bleibt die Slowakei das EU-Land mit dem geringsten Motorisierungsgrad (1.1.07: 247,3 Pkw pro 1.000 Einwohner). Der Nachholbedarf ist den nicht üppigen Einkommen der Bevölkerung geschuldet. Die Neuregistrierungen von Lkw mit einer Nennlast von 3,5 bis 12 t ist im analysierten Zeitraum um 8,9% auf 941 Einheiten und von Lkw mit einer Nennlast von mehr als 12 t um 12,8% auf 3.602 Einheiten geschrumpft.
-
- Sie benötigen ausführlichere Informationen zur Automobilindustrie in der Slowakei? Wir erstellen für Sie eine Markstudie nach Ihren Bedürfnissen.

Legal requirements (Slovakia)

Protection of the environment requires business activities to comply with national environmental policy, which defines in more detail the measures on air and ozone layer protection, protection and rational use of water resources, waste management, nature and landscape conservation, sustainable development and measures to solve environmental pollution. One of the Slovak Republic's basic concept papers with respect to environmental policy is the **National Environmental Action Plan II and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.**

- National Environmental Action Plan II
- National Strategy for Sustainable Development

Business activities which may potentially lead to negative environmental impact require a prior environmental impact assessment. The **primary aims of anenvironmental impact assessment** are:

- to determine, describe and evaluate the full, direct and indirect impact of a project on the environment;
- to identify measures for the prevention or reduction of environmental pollution and damage;
- to clarify and compare the advantages and disadvantages of the project submitted, including variants thereof, also when compared with the situation if the project were not to go ahead.

State administration relating to environmental protection is performed by:

- The Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic;
- The Regional Environmental Authorities;
- The District Environmental Authorities.
- Slovak Ministry of the Environment

The **Slovak Environmental Inspectorate** is a specialist inspection body responsible for performing State supervision and imposing fines in connection with matters regarding environmental protection. It is also responsible for local State administration with respect to pollution prevention and control.

- Slovak Environmental Inspectorate

Before business activities commence, verification is required as to whether or not the proposed activities are subject to an environmental impact assessment. A list of the strategic documents and business activities which require an environmental impact assessment can be found in Annex 1 and Annex 8 to **Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on Environmental Impact Assessment**.

- Act on Environmental Impact Assessment

Environmental impact is also assessed in terms of other laws, e.g. the Construction Act with regard to buildings. Businesses must meet the minimum rules required by law, but are free to go beyond the minimum legal requirements and become more environmentally friendly.

- Taking sustainability further — Slovakia

Administrative procedures

The party submitting the project proposal presents it to the relevant body in hardcopy form with the pre-agreed number of copies and one copy on an electronic data carrier. The proposal must contain at least two other proposals for the business activity (variant proposals) and an evaluation of the situation if the proposal is not implemented (zero variant).

The project proposal must in particular contain the following:

- the basic characteristics of the proposed activity;
- basic data regarding the current state of the environment for the area where the activity is to be performed and the area which will be affected by the activity;
- basic data on the anticipated environmental impact of the proposed project, in particular the requirements in terms of land, energy and raw materials and the level of pollution or damage caused to components of the environment;
- basic evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives proposed for the project;
- proposals for measures designed to eliminate or reduce the adverse environmental impact of the proposed activity during the implementation, operation and termination phases.
- Slovak Environmental Inspectorate

Resources

Euroenviro helps users to find their way around the system of EU environmental funds **and the opportunities for using these funds** to finance environmental projects in the Slovak Republic.

- Euroenviro sk

Ten Regional Environmental Advisory and Information Centres have been set up within the Slovak Environmental Agency. These serve as the first point of contact for all those interested in information on European funds in the regions of Slovakia. The Slovak Environment Agency also operates the Enviroportál, a website which provides authorised, verified information on the environment.

- Slovak Environmental Agency - Consultancy
- Enviroportál

Programmes

In an attempt to support an improvement in the state of the environment and the rational use of resources through completion and improvement of Slovak environmental infrastructure and sustainable development, a number of **operational programmes are available to businesses for 2007-2013**.

National Operational Programme

The **Environmental Operational Programme** consists of 6 priority axes: Integrated protection and rational use of water resources, Flood protection, Protection of the atmosphere and minimisation of the adverse effects of climate change, Waste management, Protection and regeneration of the natural environment and landscape, Technical assistance.

- Environmental Operational Programme

Transnational Operational Programmes

The **Central Europe Operational Programme** is designed for partnerships between public and private sector organisations on a national, regional and local level from Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia. Its aim is to provide funding for projects involving at least three partners from at least three countries, of which at least two must be EU Member States, dealing with transnational issues relating to innovation, accessibility, the environment and competitiveness.

- Central Europe Operational Programme

The **South-East Europe Operational Programme** is designed for partnerships between public and private sector institutions from 3 Partner States in South-East Europe on a national, regional and local level. At least one of the partners must be from an EU Member State. The Programme has 5 priority axes: Facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship, Protection and improvement of the environment, Improvement of accessibility, Development of transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas, and Technical assistance to support implementation and capacity building.

- Environmental Operational Programme, Central Europe and South-East Europe

Another financial instrument designed for improving the environment is the **LIFE +** programme**.**LIFE + is made up of3 components: Nature and biodiversity, Environmental policy and governance, and Information and communication. LIFE + may not finance any measures which fall within the eligibility criteria or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments or support in the form of a grant or loan from the Slovak environmental fund **Envirofond**.

Economia italiana

Finanza pubblica

Secondo i dati forniti da Bankitalia, dagli inizi del 2009 il debito pubblico italiano ha stabilito mese dopo mese una serie di nuovi record storici negativi, raggiungendo ad aprile 1.750,4 miliardi di euro [1] (equivalenti a circa 3,3 milioni di miliardi delle vecchie lire). Le prospettive di un rientro del debito entro livelli prossimi a quelli della media europea (il rapporto debito / PIL di Francia e Germania è di circa il 60%) appaiono quindi molto difficili nel breve/medio periodo.

A partire dal 1992, la politica economica in Italia si è concentrata principalmente sulla riduzione dei disavanzi del bilancio delle amministrazioni pubbliche e nella riduzione del debito nazionale. I governi italiani che si sono succeduti si sono orientati su tagli alla spesa e adozione di nuove misure per aumentare le entrate. Dal 1991 al 2007 l'Italia ha goduto di un avanzo primario del bilancio, al netto dei pagamenti di interessi. Il disavanzo della pubblica amministrazione è sceso all'1,4% del PIL nel 2000, dal 7% nel 1995. L'Italia ha aderito all'Unione economica e monetaria dell'Unione europea (UEM) nel maggio 1998. Il debito pubblico, che era pari a circa il 124% del PIL nel 1995, è costantemente diminuito fino al 2002, ma da allora è di nuovo aumentato a causa della bassa crescita.

Abbassare il debito è di fondamentale importanza per diminuire l'effetto spiazzamento, cioè la sottrazione di capitale privato che invece di finanziare gli investimenti e quindi l'economia, va a pagare il debito.

Lavoro

La disoccupazione ha raggiunto il 6% nel 2007, il suo livello più basso dal 1992. Purtoppo la situazione è particolarmente grave nel sud, dove la disoccupazione può superare il 15%. Le donne e i giovani presentano i più elevati tassi di disoccupazione. Negli anni passati, alcuni hanno sostenuto che il rigido mercato del lavoro è stato un disincentivo alla creazione di posti di lavoro. Dopo la decisione di una serie di misure impopolari riguardanti la flessibilità, l'occupazione è leggermente migliorata, ma vi sono stati numerosi casi di aziende che hanno abusato di queste misure in vari modi, al fine di costringere i dipendenti a lavorare più ore rispetto al consentito dalla legge, e di fornire posti di lavoro meno sicuri. È presente inoltre, una presenza significativa di economia sommersa, soprattutto nel Sud dove viene alimentata in parte dall'elevato tasso ufficiale di disoccupazione, assorbendo un numero sostanziale di persone, con bassi salari e senza nessun tipo di assistenza sociale e sicurezza.

Transport Service GmbH
Philosophie

- UNSER ZIEL
- UNSERE POSITIONIERUNG
- UNSERE EMOTIONALITÄT
- UNSERE VORBILDFUNKTION

UNSER ZIEL

Wir helfen mit unserem Transport-Service so, dass unsere Kunden dadurch noch erfolgsfähiger und erfolgreicher werden können.

- Wir sind der Partner, der für die täglichen Fragen unserer Kunden und für die Umsetzung im Transportbereich motivierend zur Verfügung steht. Dadurch können sich die Kunden auf Ihre Kernkompetenz (Verkauf, Produktion, etc.) konzentrieren.
- Wir kennen die Wünsche und Anliegen unserer Kunden und handeln danach.
- Wir führen tägliche Sammelguttransporte mit fixen Abfahrtszeiten von und nach allen wichtigen Handelszentren Italiens durch. Aufgrund dieses Transport Service und aufgrund unserer Unternehmensstruktur haben wir uns zum absoluten Marktführer für ITALIEN-TRANSPORTE emporgearbeitet. Unser Unternehmen wird daher auch als das Tor für Italientransporte genannt, nicht zuletzt auch wegen des Standortes, direkt an der Brennerautobahn (Innsbruck Süd). Zusätzlich verfügen wir über ein weltweit aufgebautes Partnernetz, über welches wir sämtliche Transportgüter schnell, sicher und termingerecht innerhalb von Österreich und EUROPA, sowie weltweit transportieren können.
- Um noch erfolgreicher und leistungsfähiger werden zu können, ist es unser vordringlichstes Ziel ein privates, neutrales und weiterhin eigenständiges Unternehmen zu bleiben.
- Wir sind uns unserer Stärken und Chancen bewusst und arbeiten dadurch alle als „Unternehmer im Unternehmen“ am gemeinsamen Ziel, als Problemlöser für unsere Kunden den daraus resultierenden Erfolg zu erreichen.

UNSERE POSITIONIERUNG

TSG ist die erste Adresse, wenn es um rasche und reibungslose Transportlösungen geht und dies nicht nur bei Lieferungen von und nach Italien.

Eine Transport- und Dienstleistung durch TSG ist preiswert – Sie ist ihren Preis wert, auch wenn Sie in der oberen Preisklasse solcher Leistungen liegt. Die reibungslose und sichere Abwicklung, das optimale Service rundherum und die rasche Lieferung und die dadurch erreichten Einspareffekte machen die Entscheidung des Kunden wirtschaftlich sinnvoll. Stammkunden wissen das.

Seit 1992 bieten wir unseren Kunden **„Transport Service“** an und dies mit großem Erfolg. Was Qualität und Nutzen unserer Angebote, sowie den guten Ruf angeht, folgen uns andere Anbieter mit weitem Abstand.

Mit dem Produkt „Sammelguttransport“ von und nach Italien, mit täglichen Abfahrten in die wichtigsten Handelszentren, haben wir nicht nur die Marktdurchdringung, sondern die Spitzenposition erreicht. Auch in allen anderen Transport- und Dienstleistungen (Logistik) können wir unseren Kunden besonderen Nutzen bieten.

Ertrags- und Eigenkapitalsituation signalisieren ein Unternehmen, das einen modernen und dynamischen Fortbestand aus eigener Finanzkraft forcieren kann.

Wir haben festgestellt, dass der Unternehmenserfolg auf die Freundlichkeit und Kompetenz unserer Mitarbeiter/innen zurückzuführen ist. Um unseren Erfolg weiter zu sichern lautet unsere Devise: **Qualität statt Quantität**.

UNSERE EMOTIONALITÄT

Unsere Leistungen sprechen die Emotionen der Menschen durch seriösen Umgang mit Partnern und deren Waren, höchste Qualität, Verlässlichkeit und Schnelligkeit an. Kunden sagen uns immer wieder: „Es macht Spaß und Freude mit uns Geschäfte abzuschließen und mit uns zu arbeiten. Daher kommt es nicht selten vor, dass uns zufriedene Kunden aus vollster Überzeugung heraus weiterempfehlen.

UNSERE VORBILDFUNKTION

Unsere Firma ist sehr erfolgreich und ist ein vorbildliches Beispiel für alle Speditionsunternehmen. Dies gilt für materiellen Erfolg, dies gilt für die Einhaltung von Versprechungen, für die Unternehmenskultur und für das Betriebsklima. Dies gilt aber auch für den guten Ruf sowie das Renommee unseres Unternehmens.

UNSER MARKETING - UNSER VERKAUF

Wir kennen die Wünsche und Anliegen unserer Kunden und handeln danach. Der persönliche, mitmenschliche Kontakt unserer Disponenten zu den Kunden ist für uns sehr wichtig. Es werden unklare Dinge sofort abgehandelt und auf Änderungen sofort reagiert. Dieser Kontakt und die persönliche Verbindung ist die Grundlage für eine erfolgreiche Weiterentwicklung und für die gleich bleibend hohe Qualität unserer Dienstleistungen. Neukunden kommen hauptsächlich über Empfehlungen/Referenzen zu uns.

Gut, nicht billig, fair und zuverlässig, so ist der Ruf unseres Unternehmens. Durch unseren ständigen Kontakt mit den aktuellen Kunden und der Offenheit zu Neuem bleibt unser Leistungsangebot stets kundenorientiert, marktgerecht und zeitgemäß.

UNSERE ZIELGRUPPE

Wir wenden uns ganz bewusst nicht an Interessenten, die ausschließlich eine billige Transportdurchführung suchen und bereit sind, hierfür Nachteile und Folgeschäden zu riskieren.

Wir wenden uns vielmehr konsequent an jene Unternehmen, denen sehr viel an Zuverlässigkeit, Termintreue und Betreuung rundum liegt.

UNSERE FÜHRUNGSSTRATEGIE

Sämtliche Mitarbeiter kennen die gemeinsam erarbeiteten Ziele und Vorgaben und sind für Ihren Wirkungskreis und darüber hinaus verantwortlich und entscheidungsfähig. Dadurch erneuert und verstärkt sich die Führung aus sich selbst heraus.

UNSERE UNTERNEHMENSSTRUKTUR

Der Mensch steht bei TSG seit eh und je im Mittelpunkt aller unternehmerischen Aktivitäten. Dies gilt für die Kunden, dies gilt für die Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter, dies gilt genauso für alle weiteren Partner des Unternehmens.

Unser mitmenschliches Service und unsere konsequente Kundenorientierung heben sich äußerst wohltuend von den Leistungen unseres Mitbewerbs ab. Freundlichkeit, Kompetenz und Ausstrahlung der Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter bei TSG sind unvergleichlich und vorbildlich.

Neben der Einzigartigkeit unseres Sammelgutsystems mit Italien und der Hochwertigkeit unserer anderen Speditions-Leistungen ist diese Art des Nutzenbietens eine weitere Quelle für das Erfolgsgeheimnis der TSG.

Dies ist allen Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeitern bewusst. Wir alle organisieren uns gerne und mit voller Überzeugung dafür.

Auch unregelmäßige und außergewöhnliche Leistungen für Kunden, die ein besonderes Engagement verlangen, stellen für uns keine Belastung dar. Wir verstehen dies viel mehr als eine Chance, uns als moderner und kundenorientierter Dienstleister zu präsentieren.

Das gilt auch für den internen Umgang. Unser Betriebsklima ist geprägt durch Hilfsbereitschaft, Teamorientierung, Eigenverantwortlichkeit, Initiativfreude sowie höchste Achtung vor den Leistungen und vor der Persönlichkeit der Kolleginnen und Kollegen. Gestützt wird diese fruchtbare Unternehmensstruktur von einer offenen Informations- und Kommunikationskultur, welche durch monatlich organisierte Mitarbeitergespräche mit den Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter unterstützt wird.

Diese Vorbildfunktion unseres Unternehmens und die Erfolge unserer Produkte und Leistungen stärken unsere Aktivität und lassen Kunden zu uns kommen, die dann sehen und spüren, dass bei uns gelebt wird, was versprochen wird.

UNSERE NUTZENERNTE

Mitarbeiter

Alle Mitarbeiter haben einen sicheren und angenehmen Arbeitsplatz, an dem Sie jederzeit Ihren Fähigkeiten entsprechend gefördert und entlohnt werden.

Kunden

Wir helfen mit unseren Leistungen, dass unsere Kunden noch erfolgsfähiger und erfolgreicher werden.

Speditionen

Durch unsere Konzernunabhängigkeit sind wir für viele Speditionen (weltweit) ein neutraler Partner im Westen Österreichs.

Frächter/Lieferanten

Wir bieten mehreren Frächtern und Lieferanten entsprechende Arbeiten und sind für diese eine wichtige Referenz.

Durch die ständige Modernisierung und unsere Investitionsfreudigkeit bieten wir auch der gesamten Volkswirtschaft entsprechenden Nutzen.

Kein Wunder also, dass immer mehr Unternehmen die TSG als den optimalen Partner auf dem Weg zu Ihren Zielen sehen.

TSG ist ein attraktiver Partner für erfolgreiche Kunden

http://www.tsgspedition.at/philosophie.html

LKW-Verkehr zahlt nur 56% der verursachten Kosten!

Der Lkw-Verkehr in Österreich kommt für nur 56 Prozent der verursachten Infrastrukturkosten auf. Den Rest von 1,5 Milliarden Euro, bezahlt die Allgemeinheit. Das zeigt eine VCÖ-Studie, die letzte Woche in Wien präsentiert wurde.

Eine Folge dieser Subvention: Der Lkw-Transport hat sich seit dem Jahr 1990 verdoppelt. Der VCÖ sieht zudem die zukünftige Finanzierung von Österreichs Infrastruktur gefährdet. Deshalb fordert der VCÖ die **Ausweitung der Lkw-Maut auf alle Straßen**, wie es sie in der Schweiz seit dem Jahr 2001 gibt. Die neue Wegekostenrichtlinie erlaubt nun eine Lkw-Maut auf allen Straßen auch in der EU.

„Die **Finanzierung der Infrastruktur** wird in den kommenden Monaten eine zentrale Frage sein. Bei Autobahnen und Schnellstraßen beträgt der Schuldenstand rund zehn Milliarden Euro, auch bei den Landes- und Gemeindestraßen gibt es eine **große Finanzierungslücke**. Neben Einsparungen bei den Ausgaben werden zusätzliche Einnahmen nötig sind. Die Ausweitung der Lkw-Maut auf alle Straßen hat dabei oberste Priorität“, stellte DI Wolfgang Rauh vom VCÖ-Forschungsinstitut bei der Präsentation der neuen VCÖ-Studie „Lkw-Maut auf allen Straßen“ fest.

Die VCÖ-Studie zeigt, dass der Lkw-Verkehr in Österreich im Vorjahr für den Bau und den Erhalt der Straßen anteilige Kosten von 3.292 Millionen Euro verursacht hat. Über verkehrsspezifische Abgaben, Steuern und Mauten bezahlte der Lkw-Verkehr lediglich 1.778 Millionen Euro. „Für den Fehlbetrag von 1,5 Milliarden Euro muss **die Allgemeinheit** aufkommen“, macht VCÖ-Experte Rauh aufmerksam. Werden auch die Kosten für **Gesundheits- und Umweltschäden** durch Abgase und Lärm, sowie die Folgekosten der Verkehrsunfälle dazugerechnet, dann erhöhen sich die Kosten des Lkw-Verkehrs in Österreich um 2.350 Millionen Euro. „Damit kostet der **Lkw-Verkehr** statistisch gesehen **jeder Person über 14 Jahre 560 Euro pro Jahr**“, betont VCÖ-Experte Rauh. Eine Folge dieser Subventionen ist die starke Zunahme des Lkw-Verkehrs. Der Lkw-Transport hat sich seit dem Jahr 1990 in Österreich verdoppelt.

Der **Schweizer** Verkehrspolitik ist es hingegen gelungen, das **Wachstum des Lkw-Verkehrs zu stoppen**. Die Schweiz hat bereits im Jahr 2001 eine Lkw-Maut eingeführt, die auf allen Straßen zu bezahlen ist. Auch ist die Lkw-Maut in der Schweiz mit durchschnittlich 45 Cent deutlich höher als in Österreich. „Der Lkw-Verkehr in der Schweiz trägt zum überwiegenden Teil die von ihm verursachten Kosten“, stellt VCÖ-Experte Rauh fest.

In Österreich wurde im Jahr 2004 die Lkw-Maut auf Autobahnen und Schnellstraßen erfolgreich eingeführt. Eine Lkw-Maut auf allen Straßen wurde bisher von der EU nicht erlaubt. „Mit der neuen EU-Wegekostenrichtlinie ändert sich das. Die **Ausweitung der Lkw-Maut auf alle Straßen** ist ausdrücklich **erlaubt**. Österreich kann nun das erfolgreiche Schweizer Modell anwenden“, weist VCÖ-Experte Rauh auf die **EU-Wegekostenrichtlinie**, die am 17. Juni in Kraft tritt, hin.

Der VCÖ schlägt vor, dass die Lkw-Maut auf den Landes- und Gemeindestraßen gleich hoch ist, wie derzeit auf den Autobahnen und Schnellstraßen, also durchschnittlich 22 Cent pro Lkw-Kilometer. Die VCÖ-Studie zeigt, dass im Vorjahr auf Österreichs Landes- und Gemeindestraßen Lkw rund 3,9 Milliarden Kilometer zurückgelegt haben. Es ergeben sich damit mögliche Brutto-Einnahmen von rund 800 Millionen Euro pro Jahr. „Ein Teil der Einnahmen soll wie in der Schweiz für **Investitionen in die Schiene** verwendet werden“, schlägt VCÖ-Experte Rauh vor.

Auf die **Konsumpreise** hat eine flächendeckende Lkw-Maut kaum Auswirkungen. „Die Erfahrungen mit der bestehenden Lkw-Maut zeigen, dass steigende Kosten für die Frächter durch höhere Effizienz wettgemacht werden. Zudem ist der Anteil der Transportkosten am Produktpreis gering“, betont VCÖ-Experte Rauh. Bei Lebensmitteln beträgt der **Transportkostenanteil ein bis vier Prozent**.

http://marktcheck.greenpeace.at/3457.html 2009-07-30

Seit über 50 Jahren arbeiten wir als Familienbetrieb im internationalen Transport. Durch höchsten Einsatz und mit Hilfe eines tollen Teams können wir uns täglich unter Großkonzernen behaupten.

In den 50er Jahren haben wir als klassisches "Fuhrwerksunternehmen" begonnen. Heute sind wir Logistiker.

Mit unseren 200 eigenen LKW-Zügen sind wir Bindeglied zwischen Industriebetrieben, Produzenten und Handel. Durch punktgenaue Abholungen und Anlieferungen tragen wir zu einem reibungslosen Ablauf im täglichen Wirtschaftsleben bei.

Unsere 250 Mitarbeiter – bestehend aus Disponenten, Fahrern, Büromitarbeitern, Mechanikern und Lagerarbeitern – tragen zu einer erfolgreichen Lösung Ihrer Transportaufgabe bei.

Es ist unsere Philosophie möglichst alles mit eigenen Mitarbeitern und eigenen Fahrzeugen für Sie durchzuführen.

Moderne EDV- und Telematik-Systeme unterstützen uns in unserer täglichen Arbeit und garantieren Ihnen Genauigkeit, Kontrolle und Kosteneffizienz.

Auch die Ökologie spielt eine wichtige Rolle für uns. Unsere Fahrzeuge werden in kurzen Abständen immer wieder erneuert und entsprechen immer den aktuellsten Umweltvorschriften.

Durch höchsten Einsatz von uns allen versucht "MÜLLER – TOP QUALITY TRANSPORT" Ihnen immer den größten Servicelevel zu bieten.

http://www.muellertransporte.at/deutsch/ziele.html 2009-07-30

Was verdient ein LKW Fahrer im Fernverkehr (brutto)

Möchte bald LKW-Fahrer werden und wollte mal nachfragen was so ungefähr aus eigener Erfahrung ein guter ausgebildeter LKW-Fahrer so monatlich verdient (Bruttogehalt) ???

Beste Antwort - Ausgewählt durch Abstimmung
Ich habe einmal bei einer spedition in der verrechnung gearbeitet, und es ist so (zumind. in österreich aber in deutschland wahrscheinlich auch nicht viel anders) dass du brutto ca 1300-1500 brutto (sprich ca 1200-1350 netto +/-)verdienst, das was den guten verdienst ausmacht sind die diäten, dass heisst du bekommst für jede die du fährst einen gewissen festgelegten betrag, beispielsweise italien 120 euro pro tour aber um so weiter weg zb spanien bekommt man 500-800 euro bonus. so kalkuliert sich der gute verdienst. urlaubsgeld usw bekommst du aber immer nur den fixgehalt... ich hoffe ich konnte dir helfen, vielleicht weicht dass in deutschland etwas ab, aber ich denke dass ist eine relativ gute richtlinie. lg

Quelle(n):

Berufserfahrung

- vor 3 Monaten

60% **3 Stimmen**

Du musst das differenzieren und als Nettoverdienst berechnen.
Der Bruttoverdienst ist meist nicht so hoch und liegt zwischen 1600€ und 2000€, manchmal

aber auch noch darunter. Dazu kommen die Spesen die Steuerfrei sind in Höhe von 24€ in Deutschland und 36€ im Ausland und die je 24Std Abwesenheit von zu Hause gezahlt werden .
Also wenn Du nur in Deutschland fährst und jedes Wochenende zu Hause sein willst dann wirst Du Netto keine 2000€ erreichen. Über 2000€ verdienst Du nur wenn Du 2-3 Wochen Europaweit unterwegs bist.

> Hatte es dir schon mal geschrieben, aber mittlerweile sind auch da die Bezahlungen gesunken. ich denke mal so zwischen 2000 und 3000 € brutto sind schon drin.
>
> gruß
> Franky

Hallo 5 000 DM ja sogar 8 000 DM das ist vorbei jetzt 1 300 bis 1 600 € das ist Real.So richtig Berg ab ging es los mit der Maut. Aber den Spediteuren geht es auch nicht besser. Hat keine Zukunft mehr.Schwiegersohn hatte 23 LKW zum Monatsende summa summarum null alles verkauft und macht jetzt was anderes.(der hat gerade noch die Kurve bekommen) Hier im umkreis wahren drei große Speditionen ungefähr 300 Autos jeder Konkurs angemeldet.

http://de.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20090507054322AATRN1S

Nachdem ich für zwei verschiedene Östereichische Firmen gefahren bin, fällt bei mir zum Thema Östereich jegliche Toleranz raus.

Und grad, wenn ich da höre, Verdienst 2.500€ im Monat versprochen, dann klingt das vieder nach "leistungsgerechter" Bezahlung, sprich 12 cent pro kilometer.

Und wenn Dich der Disponent mal nen Tag lang in England stehen lässt, haste nix verdient. Wie sagt man dazu? Außer Spesen nix gewesen....

Neenee, ich rate jedem nur von den Ösis ab, die sind da echt alle gleich drin.

http://www.motor-talk.de/forum/als-lkw-fahrer-in-oesterreich-arbeiten-t1540042.html

Unternehmensgründungsprogramm

Die Teilnahme am Unternehmensgründungsprogramm ist an folgende Voraussetzungen gebunden:

- Zu Beginn der Vorbereitungsphase muss Arbeitslosigkeit gegeben sein
- Absicht, sich selbständig zu machen
- Eine konkrete Projektidee
- Berufliche Eignung zur Gründung des entsprechenden Unternehmens

Anspruchsberechtigt sind auch Personen, die im Rahmen einer Arbeitsstiftungsmaßnahme ein eigenes Unternehmen gründen. Die mögliche Jungunternehmerin bzw. der mögliche

Jungunternehmer kann eine Gründungsberatung in Anspruch nehmen. Die Kosten für die Unternehmensberatung sowie für notwendige Weiterqualifizierung trägt das AMS.

http://ams.brz.gv.at/arbeitundbehinderung/data/13.html#id51

WER GRÜNDET WIRD MIT € 8.400,–* GEFÖRDERT!

Gründungsbonus? Was ist das?
Der Gründungsbonus ist ein finanzieller Zuschuss von bis zu EUR 8.400,-* auf das Startkapital, das Sie für eine spätere Betriebsgründung ansparen.

Wie bekommt man den?
Ganz einfach indem Sie sich gleich heute unverbindlich anmelden, anschließend mindestens 1 Jahr und maximal 6 Jahre nach Ihren Möglichkeiten sparen, frühestens nach einem Jahr und spätestens nach 6 Jahren Ihr erstes Unternehmen gründen und dann die Auszahlung beantragen.

Wie bilde ich mein Gründungskapital?
Die Sparform (ausgenommen sind nur bereits geförderte Sparformen wie zB. Bausparen) und die Sparsumme können Sie frei wählen. Maximal gefördert wird ein Guthaben von EUR 60.000,- (pro vollem Ansparjahr maximal EUR 25.000,-)

Wie lange dauert das?
Je nachdem wie schnell Sie am Ziel sein wollen, müssen Sie ab Ihrer Anmeldung mindestens ein oder können maximal 6 Jahre ansparen, ehe Sie die Auszahlung im Rahmen Ihrer Unternehmensgründung beantragen.

Wer steht dahinter?
Der Gründungsbonus ist eine Idee der Wirtschaftskammer Österreich, der Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH (aws) und der Bundesländer.

*Höchstwert, entspricht 14 % Gründungsbonus bei einem Sparguthaben von EUR 60.000,–

http://www.gruendungsbonus.at/

Social inclusion

Solidarity is a hallmark of the European Union. It is an intrinsic goal of European models of society and welfare that people should not be prevented from benefiting from and contributing to economic and social progress. Building a more inclusive Europe is vital to achieve the European Union's goals of sustained economic growth, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.

In 2000, EU leaders established the Social Inclusion Process to make a decisive impact on eradicating poverty by 2010. Since then, the European Union has provided a framework for national strategy development as well as for policy coordination between the Member States on issues relating to poverty and social exclusion. Participation by actors such as NGOs, social partners and local and regional authorities has become an important part of this process.

Action at European level had an impact in various ways. Integrating plans to combat poverty into national policies increased political awareness of poverty and exclusion and placed it higher on national political agendas.

It encouraged Member States to critically examine their policies. It highlighted how countries perform well in certain areas, spurring on other Member States to perform better. It also created a better basis for policy making by involving a range of actors such as NGOs, social partners, local and regional authorities and those working with people in poverty.

In the field of social inclusion, EU action has finally created a clear consensus about the following key challenges:

- **to eradicate child poverty by breaking the vicious circle of intergenerational inheritance;**
- **to make labour markets truly inclusive;**
- **to ensure decent housing for everyone;**
- **to overcome discrimination and increase the integration of people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and immigrants;**
- **to tackle financial exclusion and overindebtedness.europa.eu**

EU unveils microfinance fund to tackle unemployment

Published: Thursday 2 July 2009

Newly unemployed people in need of loans to start their own businesses will be able to avail of up to €25,000 in the form of loans and credit guarantees from the European Union. The scheme, especially targeted at young people, will make €100 million available over a four-year period.

Background:

Thousands of people have lost their jobs this year as the impact of recession spreads across Europe. At the same time, the availability of credit has dried up making it more difficult to start new enterprises.

Since the beginning of the financial crisis, the European Investment Bank (EIB) has moved to extend lines of credit to the auto industry, energy efficiency projects, research and development, and small businesses.

EIB President Philippe Maystadt revealed in February that an initial attempt to establish a European Microfinance Fund had not attracted sufficient funds from member states due to what he called "a lack of solidarity" and governments' insistence on attaching strict conditions to money they lend (EurActiv 13/2/09).

However, he indicated earlier this year that providing funding and technical assistance to microcredit institutions was high on the Bank’s agenda.

Micro-enterprises are defined as businesses employing fewer than 10 people and make up around 91% of all European businesses.

The funds, unveiled on Thursday (2 July), could be used to leverage more than €500 million and will be dispersed through banks and non-profit trusts as part of a scheme run in partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Commission said.

The scheme will begin in 2010 for four years and will be operated as a pan-European initiative with funds drawn down on demand. Specific portions of funds will not be allocated to each of the 27 EU countries, the Commission said.

The €100 million made available for the microfinance facility has been drawn from other budgets and represents a reallocation of existing funds rather than an injection of new money.

The move is designed to help people who have lost their jobs, those who wish to start a small business, and people who have difficulty securing finance from traditional banking sources. Young people and microenterprises in particular face severe problems getting loans, a Commission official indicated.

According to Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner Vladimír Špidla, the EU will take the "first risk" in providing funding and guarantees for entrepreneurs in order to attract additional credit. The EIB will accept the "second risk," with other investors benefiting from a degree of protection thanks to the availability of European funds.

Validation date: 17/09/2008

Overview

Businesses - especially small ones - can be put off from exploring the many opportunities in the EU market by obstacles like language barriers, lack of market information, or poor knowledge of administrative requirements and procedures.

Business support services set up by public authorities can help by giving companies the information and personalised assistance they need to access the EU market and exploit their potential for growth.

Delivered by **experienced personnel**, support services offer help **locally** - this is key to understanding a company's specific needs.

In addition to personalised assistance, authorities also **consult businesses** on their needs and provide them with **comprehensive information tools**.

http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/business/business-support/index_en.htm

Wir schaffen Transportlösungen (reder-Transporte)

Und arbeiten wirtschaftlich. Aus der nach unten führenden Dumping-Preis-Spirale halten wir uns heraus.

Soziale Gerechtigkeit ist uns wichtig.Ein fairer Umgang miteinander, Orientierung nach Werten und Zahlen sind bei uns nicht nur Schlagworte, sondern gelebte Wirklichkeit im Umgang mit unseren Mitarbeitern.

Wir leben Handschlagqualität.Vereinbarungen werden bei uns eingehalten und Qualitätskriterien erfüllt. Das betrachten wir als tägliche Verpflichtung unseren Kunden gegenüber.

Mit unseren Ressourcen gehen wir sparsam um. Wir beachten Umweltaspekte und sorgen dafür, dass wir am neuesten Stand der Technik agieren. Wir sind ehrlich bestrebt, unseren Nachfolgegenerationen gute Startbedingungen zu gewährleisten.

Wir zählen uns zu den Besten in unserem Leistungsangebot. Ein hoch motiviertes Team ist ständig bemüht, die Anforderungen unserer Kunden bestmöglich zu erfüllen. Wir stehen auch zu unseren Fehlern. Sie zeigen uns unsere Grenzen auf und lassen uns dadurch noch besser werden.

Diese Webpräsentation zeigt Ihnen nicht nur unsere Leistungen und Referenzen, sondern auch unsere Einstellung und unsere Überlegungen - und die Menschen dazu.

Transportunternehmen und Abschleppunternehmen (Schlepp und Berge GmbH

Du kannst ein hervorragendes Produkt verkaufen, du hast in deiner Firma Verkäufer wo jeder Kunde begeistert ist, deine Arbeiter erledigen die Arbeit zur vollsten Zufriedenheit deiner Kunden. Doch wenn ich als Frächter eine lausige Arbeit verrichte sind dein Produkt, dein Verkäufer und dein Arbeiter höchstens noch die Hälfte wert.

Ich bekomme nichts geschenkt! Auch ich kann nichts verschenken. Ich habe nur Freude an meiner Arbeit wenn auch der Preis passt! Es wird immer einen Billigeren geben. Nimm Ihn. Qualität hat seinen Preis! Es wird vielleicht Bessere geben. Wer einen gefunden hat möge es mir sagen! Wir geben unser Bestes und sind bemüht dies zu einem angemessenen Preis zu leisten! Der Kunde ist dann König wenn er sich wie ein solcher benimmt! Für den Umsatz können andere fahren. Ich fahre für den Gewinn! Wer mir mein Geld neidig ist soll meine Arbeit machen! Die Menschlichkeit endet meistens am Eingang der Geldtasche dessen der sie verlangt! Ehrlich währt am längsten. Deshalb wird nach 4 Jahren gewählt! Wenn Andere aufgeben fange ich an! In der Ruhe liegt die Kraft sagt der der genügend Zeit hat! Ein Krieg ist nicht mit einem „weil“ zu beantworten sondern mit einem „warum“ zu hinterfragen!

Karl Karlowetz

Schuldspruch gegen Frächter Karl Kralowetz

Mit einem Schuldspruch ist am Donnerstag der Prozess gegen den Frächter Karl Kralowetz am Landesgericht St. Pölten zu Ende gegangen. Sein Anwalt hat dagegen Berufung angemeldet, das Urteil ist somit nicht rechtskräftig.

In 792 Fällen verurteilt
Karl Kralowetz ist wegen "Ausbeutung von Fremden" in 792 Fällen zu 16 Monaten Haft verurteilt worden. Der Großfrächter soll in den Jahren 2000 bis 2002 diese 792 Lkw-Fahrer, die vor allem aus osteuropäischen Staaten stammten, angeworben haben und sie dann auf in Luxemburg zugelassenen Lkws eingesetzt haben.

Fahrer hatten keine Arbeitsgenehmigungen
Die Fahrer sollen dabei zwar Arbeitsverträge, aber keine Aufenthalts- oder Arbeitsgenehmigungen gehabt haben. Bei Krankenstand oder Urlaub sollen sie keinen Lohn bekommen haben.

Berufung gegen Urteil
Karl Kralowetz wurde zu 16 Monaten Haft verurteilt. Sein Anwalt Franz Hofbauer sieht die Vorwürfe aber als nicht gerechtfertigt an und hat gegen das Urteil bereits Berufung angemeldet.

Das Verfahren wird nun am Oberlandesgericht Wien erneut verhandelt werden. Karl Kralowetz bleibt auf freiem Fuß.

http://noe.orf.at/stories/103791 27.07.09

willi betz

Focus: Spedition Willi Betz vor großem Prozess im September

In dem Strafverfahren gegen Verantwortliche der Reutlinger Großspedition Willi Betz beginnt im September nach einem Bericht des „Focus" der Prozess vor dem Landgericht Stuttgart.

In dem Strafverfahren gegen Verantwortliche der Reutlinger Großspedition Willi Betz beginnt im September nach einem Bericht des Nachrichtenmagazins „Focus" der Prozess vor dem Landgericht Stuttgart.

Die Ermittler rechnen damit, dass das Gerichtsverfahren mindestens ein Jahr dauern wird. Zunächst seien 70 Tage angesetzt. Die Staatsanwaltschaft Stuttgart hatte im Januar Anklage gegen Verantwortliche des Speditionskonzerns erhoben, darunter der Geschäftsführer Thomas Betz, der in Untersuchungshaft sitzt. Die Spedition soll systematisch und illegal bulgarische Lastwagenfahrer eingesetzt haben.

Allein zwischen 1999 und 2002 seien 35 Millionen Euro an Sozialversicherungsbeiträgen, Zöllen und Kraftfahrzeugsteuern hinterzogen worden. Die Staatsanwaltschaft wirft den Verantwortlichen unter anderem Bestechung von in- und ausländischen Amtsträgern, Sozialversicherungsbetrug und Urkundenfälschung vor.

Außerdem wurde Anklage gegen den bereits im April 2004 suspendierten Vizepräsidenten des Bundesamtes für Güterverkehr (BAG), Rolf Kreienhop, wegen Bestechlichkeit erhoben. Die Spedition hatte die Vorwürfe der Staatsanwaltschaft zurückgewiesen.

Laut Staatsanwaltschaft soll Betz, der seit September 2005 in Untersuchungshaft ist, gemeinsam mit einem Mitarbeiter von 1999 bis 2002 insgesamt mehr als vier Millionen Euro Bestechungsgelder an hohe Amtsträger in Georgien und Aserbaidschan gezahlt haben. Im Gegenzug soll die Spedition Genehmigungen ausgestellt bekommen haben, die für den grenzüberschreiten Straßengüterverkehr unter den so genannten CEMT-Staaten berechtigen.

Zu diesen Staaten gehören die EU-Länder, zahlreiche osteuropäische Länder, Russland sowie weitere Staaten der ehemaligen Sowjetunion. Darüber hinaus wird Betz vorgeworfen, das Anbringen falscher Kennzeichen an rund 900 bulgarischen und aserbaidschanischen Kraftfahrzeugen veranlasst zu haben

http://www.logistik-inside.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=414100