

Contents

- I. Basic Characteristics of the Region 1
- II. Economics and Business 2
- III. Infrastructure 3
- IV. Human Resources Development 4
- V. Environment 5
- VI. Tourism 6
- VII. Agriculture and Countryside 7
- VIII. Strategic Vision, Goal and Priorities
for the Development of the Region 8

From the economical, social and natural aspect the Moravian-Silesian Region is considerably inhomogeneous. The center - agglomeration of Ostrava and Karviná - is densely industrialised, on the other hand, the border areas with massifs of Beskydy Mountains and Jeseníky Mountains represent perfect conditions for tourism and belong to typical rural areas. From the economical, social and natural aspect the Moravian-Silesian Region is considerably inhomogeneous. The center - agglomeration with massifs of Beskydy Mountains and the Jeseníky Mountains represent perfect conditions for tourism and belong to typical rural areas. From the economical, social and natural aspect the Moravian-Silesian Region is considerably inhomogeneous.

Basic Characteristics of the Region

From the economic, social and natural aspect the Moravian-Silesian Region is considerably inhomogeneous. Its centre - the Ostrava-Karviná agglomeration is heavily industrialised. On the other

hand, the peripheral areas with the massifs of the Beskydy Mountains and the Jeseníky Mountains offer perfect conditions for tourism and are typical rural areas.

Location	North-East of the Czech Republic, in the north and east it borders on Poland, in the south-east on Slovakia. The southern neighbour is the Zlín Region, the south-west neighbour is the Olomouc Region.
Area	5,555 km ² , percentage of agricultural land 51.4 % (CZR 54.3 %)
Districts and Municipalities	Bruntál, Frýdek-Místek, Karviná, Nový Jičín, Opava, Ostrava 302 municipalities, 16 towns with over 10,000 inhabitants
GDP	CZK 202 bn. in 1999, i.e. 2 nd rank within the framework of the Czech Republic after Prague. Percentage share of the Region in the formation of national Gross Domestic Product is 10.7%. Nevertheless, the value of CZK 157,573 per capita ranks it at 6 th place in the Czech Republic. In 1995 - 1998 the GDP of the Region is about 59% of the EU average (in parity of purchasing power).
Population	<i>No. of Inhabitants:</i> 1,278,036 in 2000 (1 st rank among Czech regions) <i>Population Density:</i> 230 inhabitants/km ² (2 nd highest after Prague; the Czech Republic 130.5), major differences within the Region (1,493 in Ostrava and 63 in the Bruntál District) <i>Age Structure of the Population (2000):</i> up to 15 years 17.2 % 15 - 59 years 65.8 % over 60 years 17.0 %
Labour	Unemployment rate reached 15.1 % by 31/12/2000 (CZR 8.8 %) - second highest figure in the Czech Republic after the Ústí Region. By 30/9/2001 it had dropped to 14.8% - in absolute terms, 91,870 people unemployed. The proportion of long-term unemployed (over 6 months) as at 31/12/2000 was 63.4 % of job applicants.
Educational System and Education of the Population	9 vocational high-schools (2,700 students). 3 public universities (12 faculties and 23 thousand students). One private university.
Quality of Life	Mean wage: CZK 13,326. In the first half of 2001, 5 % lower than national average (CZK 14,018).

Economics and Business

1

Current State:

- Despite unfavourable economic development of many indicators, the Moravian-Silesian Region ranks among the economically most significant regions with an ongoing restructuring process of the key industrial enterprises in the Czech Republic
- As for its economic structure, industry with almost all its sectors dominates
- Most people are employed in metallurgy and the coal mining industry (restructuring process and damping down), followed by the power industry
- Undersized services sector
- Diverse economic structure - the Ostrava-Karviná agglomeration and a part of Frýdek-Místek - represent the industrial heart of the Region with a higher concentration of negative consequences resulting from the restructuring of industrial enterprises; Bruntál, Opava and Nový Jičín Districts can be characterised by prevailing agriculture and a smaller number of industrial enterprises which are subject to restructuring; there are many indicators proving these differences (e.g. tax yield of individual districts' villages, Gross Domestic Product share of individual districts, number of private entrepreneurs per 1,000 inhabitants, etc.)

2

Main Goal:

Achievement of competitiveness of the Region and its enterprises both in domestic and international competition, gradual structural changes of

entrepreneurial subjects in favour of small and medium enterprises and new investors, mostly supported by foreign capital, and at the same time preservation of the Region as an industrial area with a significant role for traditional branches, namely coal mining, steel, engineering and the chemical industry, in a restructured form, however by the end of the privatisation process.

3

Measures:

- Establishment of industrial areas and technological parks
- Securing of integrated services for investors
- Co-operation of public and private sectors
- Simplification of SMEs' access to financial resources
- Development of SMEs' co-operation
- Development of small handicrafts, industrial production and services
- Development and improvement of existing services infrastructure in order to support business
- SMEs' preparations for entering the European Union
- Advancement of industrial research, development and transfer of technologies and industrial innovations
- Revitalisation and restructuring of huge industrial enterprises
- Development of foreign trade and cross-border industrial co-operation

Infrastructure

1

Current State:

- No connection to the Czech motorway network via the D47; temporary North-South traffic connection is not an adequate substitute for the D47 motorway
- There are two international railway connections which make-up a part of the high-speed corridors crossing the Region
- The Ostrava-Mošnov international airport has favourable take-off and landing facilities
- Lower level of transport services operating in the border areas of the Region (e.g. the number and frequency of public road and rail services)
- Determination of the area suitable for the construction of the Odra-Danube Canal; it is anticipated that the Odra river will become navigable from Bohumín in the medium-term
- Sufficient and interconnected sources of potable water, mains of potable water supply and the drainage system ratio exceeds the Czech average
- Sufficient electrical energy resources and imports-more than 60 % of all villages have gas supply
- The quality of the basic communication network is being improved, Internet use is being broadened
- Considerable distinctions in the level of infrastructural facilities in individual parts of the Region and the so called "Silesian Estate" characterized by diffuse countryside urbanisation make the realization and infrastructure investment maintenance more demanding

2

Main Goal:

Speeding up the integration of the Region within the European context and all-round

improvement of quality of its transport, technical, telecommunication, and institutional infrastructure.

3

Measures:

- Securing constant elaboration and updating of the Region's transport strategy and concept while taking into account the situation of neighbouring countries and regions. The construction of the trunk road network, including its link to the D47 and D1 motorways and to trans-European road networks
- Connection of the Region to the second railway corridor, including the construction of stations and junctions
- Making the border areas of the Region accessible and increasing traffic across the state border
- Establishment of logistic centres
- Improving the construction and technical conditions of second and third category roads
- Increasing the functions of Ostrava-Mošnov airport and its utilisation for the economic development of the Region
- Creating the conditions for securing the navigability of the Odra river on the Region's territory
- Securing the functionality and efficiency of the Region's transport including an integrated transport system
- Establishment of an integrated rescue system at a regional level
- Completion and modernisation of the technical infrastructure
- Completion of an efficient flood protection system

Human Resources Development

1

Current State:

- Reduction of traditional jobs and stagnation in new job creation
- High unemployment rate (20% of all Czech unemployed live in the Moravian-Silesian Region)
- Discrepancy between the qualifications of job applicants and the requirements of employers
- Increased migration of population from the Region in the last 5 years
- Balance in education at both elementary and secondary schools, restructuring of secondary schools in compliance with employers' requirements, presence of four universities: three public and one private, education in foreign languages is not provided at elementary and secondary schools
- Irregular distribution of social welfare facilities in the Region (many of them are located in unsuitable buildings); increase in unfulfilled demand for places in retirement homes; health care provision in the Region (from the viewpoint of infrastructure and personnel) is in line with the national average
- Concentration of cultural life in traditional centres; uneven distribution within the Region
- High percentage of non-profit organizations in all areas of human resources

2

Main Goal:

Acceleration of the human resources development; increasing the level of employment and the creation of more effective educational, health and social

infrastructures together with an emphasis on public cultural development, non-profit-making organizations and the active utilization of leisure time.

3

Measures:

- Job creation
- Development of programmes for maintaining employment levels and increasing adaptability to new conditions
- Support of workers made redundant through restructuring in the steel industry enabling them to become involved in productive economic activity
- Employment support and job creation for specific disadvantaged groups
- Human resources development in industry and services
- Unemployment prevention and increased flexibility of the labour market
- Adjustment of the secondary education structure to the needs of the Region
- Capacity optimisation of the universities and greater utilization of their output in the Region
- Support of lifelong education
- Optimisation of health services, prevention schemes and development of health education
- Development of social services for senior citizens and endangered social groups and individuals
- Development of cultural activities and utilization of historical and technical monuments and collectors' funds
- Development of leisure time and sport activities
- Development of civic society and other non-profit-making organizations

V Environment

1

Current State:

- Despite significant improvements since 1990 due to the reduction of industrial production, and significant investment into the environment, the Moravian-Silesian Region still ranks among the most burdened regions in the Czech Republic
- Old ecological burdens and air pollution as a consequence of pollution resource concentration and increasing density of road traffic
- Disposal of industrial and communal waste is predominantly through dumping
- In spite of significant improvements, the cleaning and drainage of waste waters is still insufficient, and rivers in the Region are still marked by a high degree of pollution
- Increased use of cars, especially in large towns and in the vicinity of main roads is the one form of environment pollution which, in contrast to other types, has not yet been successfully reduced
- There are significant differences among industrial centres such as Ostrava, Karviná and Třinec and precious protected areas of countryside, natural parks and small areas of specially protected lands

2

Main Goal:

Significant reduction in negative socio-economic impacts on the environment. Utilisation of requirements focusing on the improvement of environmental quality for the development of environmentally-oriented scientific research and

economic activities supporting a flexible development of the Region. Improvements in the quality of life and the creation of a healthy environment for inhabitants.

3

Measures:

- Nature and landscape protection
- Protection of land and rocky areas, regeneration of damaged areas
- Sewage disposal
- Protection and utilisation of water resources, anti-flood protection
- Reduction of air pollution
- Environmental education of the public; education and training for the support of sustainable development
- Development of environmentally-oriented research and economic activities
- Crisis management in the environmental sphere
- Improvement of waste-treatment systems
- Removal of old ecological burdens

Current status: Great development in cycle-tourism - an advantage over other regions in building infrastructure. Good conditions for skiing in ranges of Jeseníky and Beskydy. Development of spas (balneology) using iodine-bromine waters, climatic and natural conditions. Exceptional conditions for industrial tourism, in selected areas for conference and incentive tourism. Potential development of "shopping" tourism. Existence of cultural-historical monuments of national and international character. Large-scale cultural and sports activities development and utilization of the economic potential of tourism in the Region as a resource of prosperity, employment, and the balancing of economic disparities

W Tourism

1

Current State:

- Great development in cycle-touring - an advantage over other regions in building of infrastructure
- Good conditions for downhill and cross country skiing in the Jeseníky Mountains and the Beskydy Mountains
- Development of balneology (spas) using iodine-bromine waters, climatic and natural conditions
- There are exceptional conditions for industrial tourism as well as for conference and incentive tourism in selected areas. In connection with building-up of shopping centres, particularly in the city of Ostrava and other bigger cities in the Region, shopping tourism potential is developing
- Presence of cultural historical monuments both of national and international character, outstanding cultural and sport events

2

Main Goal:

Development and utilization of the economic potential of tourism in the Region as a resource of prosperity, employment, and as a tool for balancing of economic disparities among individual sub-districts in the Region.

3

Measures:

- Renewal and reinforcement of the technical tourism infrastructure
- Care of the countryside, municipalities, cultural and industrial heritage
- Support of education and professional development in tourism
- Creation of a tourism-organizational structure in the Region
- Support of initiatives and co-operation among those interested in tourism in the Region
- Development of tourism products and product packages
- Promotion of tourism potential of the Region
- Information and communication provisions for tourism development in the Region

VIII Agriculture and Countryside

1

Current State:

- Representation of both intensive and extensive agriculture management, which is of great importance for countryside shaping
- With the exception of the industrial area of the Ostrava-Karviná agglomeration, agriculture is a part of the whole Region
- Growing tendency to subdivide countryside municipalities according to their development potential and depopulation of small municipalities
- Depopulation of some countryside areas due to changes in the agricultural sector accompanied by unemployment and economic decline
- Town centres providing work opportunities for qualified people able to commute to towns putting some rural areas under pressure. The rural areas then serve only for housing, and the character of typical countryside with functional services and small businesses is in decline
- Some rural areas are unattractive for foreign investors due to significant environmental damage
- Agricultural areas, in particular, will face strong competition of EU Single Market after the entry of the Czech Republic into the European Union
- Presence of many areas with leisure potential in nature with a rich and dynamic culture and tradition

2

Main Goal:

To develop agriculture and forestry on the basis of agricultural, energy and environmental

development policies. To develop the countryside as a prosperous, attractive, cultural and integrated area supported by a functional infrastructure and accessible public utilities harmonically integrated with the countryside.

3

Measures:

- Development of agriculture and forestry for land shaping and environmental protection mainly under LFA conditions
- Support of special management programmes
- Support of production technology modernisation in areas with intensive agriculture and agricultural and food processing
- Professional guidance in agriculture and forestry
- Development of infrastructure and equipping of countryside municipalities for functional and aesthetic improvement of the countryside
- Development of advisory and information services and civic activities for the preservation of countryside heritage
- Development of alternative economic activities (handicrafts, tourism, trades and services) in the countryside



Strategic Vision, Goal and Priorities for the Development of the Region

The Moravian-Silesian Region's strategic vision is based on the principle of respecting each of the three basic aspects of development - economic, social and environmental - to equal extents. The vision focuses above all on improving the quality of life of the Region's inhabitants.

THE MORAVIAN-SILESIA REGION AIMS TO BE AN ATTRACTIVE, ECONOMICALLY STRONG AND COMPETITIVE REGION OF CENTRAL EUROPE.

The Region will become a dynamically developing part of the Czech Republic, and its internal and external integration will be visible in its network of well-run businesses, institutions and cooperative relationships on the regional, national and international levels.

The vision of the future development of the Region focuses on the following, decisive aspects:

- An effective and efficient economy in a business-friendly environment within the scope of the Region's development strategies. Around 2010 the Region will boast a varied, energetic and ecologically sound economic structure including well-developed key areas for competitiveness in the 21st century: micro-electronics, information technologies, bio-technology and industry working with both new and traditional materials, scientific knowledge, and clean technologies. The Region's traditional industries will remain an important part of the regional economy and will contribute to the development of new industries and sub-supplier relationships using the latest technologies, research and scientific innovation.
- A high-quality infrastructure meeting European standards. At the heart of this infrastructure will

be the Region's integration with major European transport routes. At the same time the Region's internal infrastructure will be modernized and transport links with neighbouring Regions will be improved. A modern, balanced and ecologically sound system of transport, telecommunications and energy supply will be created as a part of the process of European integration.

- The development of human resources will become the basis for improving citizens' identification with their region. The support of lifelong learning, the development of both existing and newly formed educational systems, and the full use of the Region's innovative business potential will all lead to improvements in the employability and competitiveness of the Region's workforce. Health and social services will adapt to meet the needs of the Region, especially by increasing their quality and accessibility for various social groups throughout the Region and by ensuring the adequate presence of both semi-private and high-quality standard health care in various areas of the Region with a view to specific local geographical and demographic conditions. The quality of cultural life both in and outside the main towns and cities of the Region will improve. There will be improvements in inter-ethnic relations, a strengthening of civic social values and an increase in non-profit organizations.
- A healthy environment will both lead to sustained improvements in quality of life for the Region's inhabitants and also increase the attractiveness of the Region for living, working and leisure.
- A change in the Region's image will help to increase its attractiveness for investors both from within the country and abroad. The Region will become a

development of tourism support and expanding region co-operation with foreign countries and neighbouring regions. The main priorities of regional development are the following (and in order of priorities): Support of small and medium-sized businesses, increase in volume of direct domestic and foreign investment and the creation of new work positions in the region, preparation of direct integration into the European Union, and general improvement of its transport, technical, telecommunication and institutional infrastructure. Acceleration in the development of human resources in the region, and the creation of an effective communication system between all institutions in the region's labor market, all of which shall be done respecting the principles of public and private sector partnership, educational

favourite destination for tourists and spa guests, making better use of its potential to attract Czech and foreign visitors. The development of tourism will become one of the most important opportunities for businesses and employers, especially for small and medium-sized companies.

- A new role for the countryside will be based on profitable, diversified and relatively versatile agriculture and forestry, both respecting the interests of nature preservation, contributing to the landscaping and supporting leisure activities. The Region's countryside will be transformed into a prosperous, attractive, cultivated and integrated within which each micro-region is supported by fully functioning infrastructure and accessible social facilities, will exist in harmony with the countryside and will preserve its own valuable local traditions and unique identity.

The main strategic development goal of the Moravian-Silesian Region is to ensure a sustained growth in the quality of life of its inhabitants by activating economic growth and the diversification of the Region's economic structures with emphasis on economic competitiveness, local and Regional job creation, by improving the environment and reducing the differences between individual parts of the region. By the year 2010 the Region's GDP will have grown to around 75% of the average per inhabitant within the European Union.

At the heart of the future development of the Region are activities centred around the development of human potential, economic restructuring, improvements to basic infrastructure, improvements in the urban and rural environment, the integration

of environmental priorities with the strategic interest of economic development, the support of tourism, and increased international cooperation and cross-border links.

The main priorities for the development of the Region (in random order) are as follows:

- Support for small and medium-sized businesses, increasing the volume of direct domestic and foreign investment, creation of new jobs in the Region.
- Preparation for the integration of the Region into the European Union, comprehensive improvements in the quality of transport, technical, telecommunications and institutional infrastructure.
- Increased development of the Region's human resources, construction of an effective system of communication amongst all players on the regional labour market, respect for the principle of partnership amongst the public and private sectors, educational institutions and non-profit organizations.
- Marked decrease in the negative effects of industry and transport on the Region's environment and promotion of environmental applied research to contribute to the necessary improvements in the environment, support of related industrial activities in contributing to a better environment for the Region's inhabitants.
- Making full use of the tourist potential in the Region as a source of prosperity and employment for local people.

Brief Extract from the Development
Programme of the Region

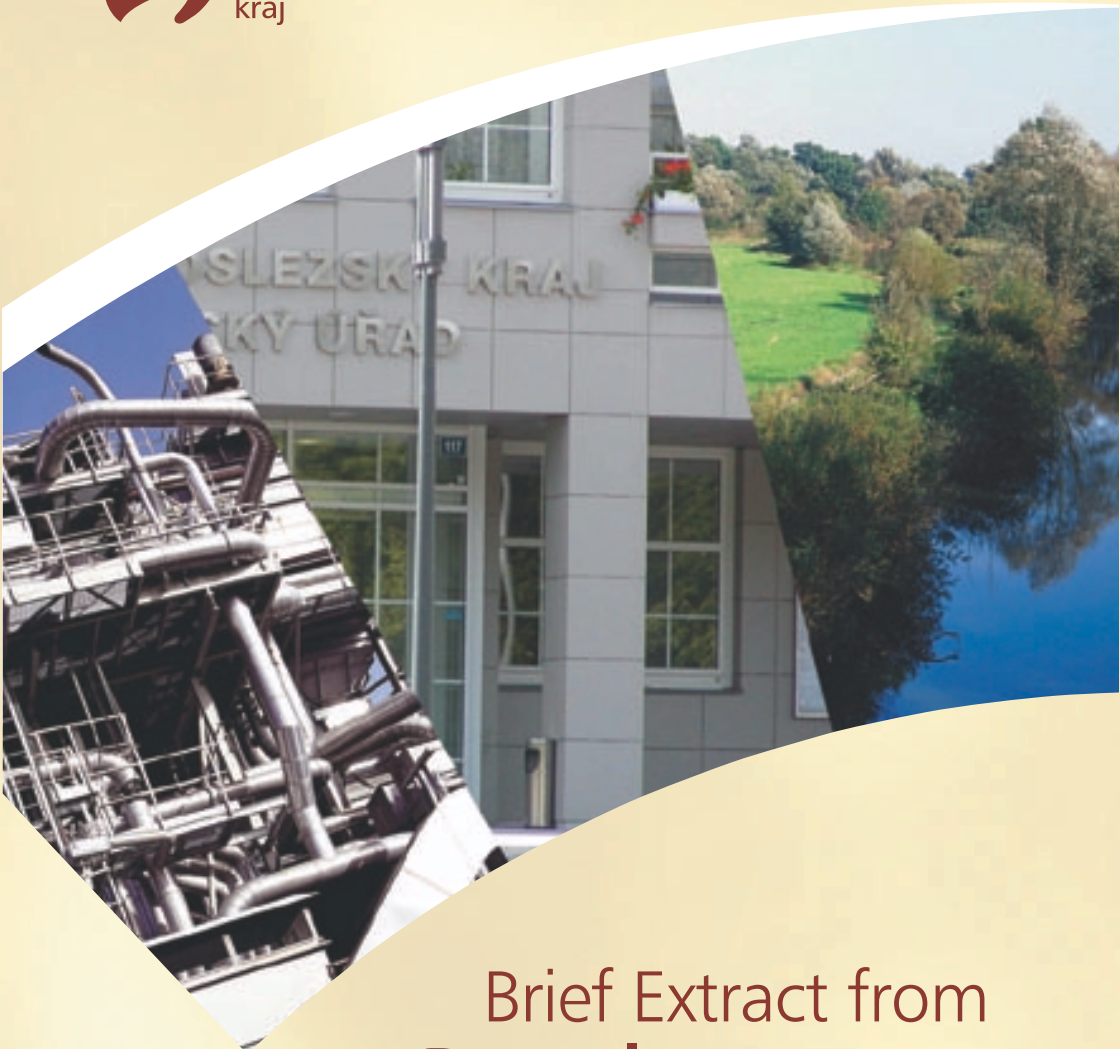
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