

PARTNER SEARCH:

Technical university of Ostrava, Department of Regional Economics

The VSB - Technical University of Ostrava - is a technical and economic institution of higher education, the principal task of which is the provision of higher education based on independent and internationally oriented research. It is an integral part of the higher education structure in the Czech Republic providing for the highest-level education in the field of its specialisation. The scientific and teaching staff collaborates with research and academic institutions and specialists on national and international level. The University has more than 19 thousand students who study at seven University faculties, and more than 900 professors and research workers.

The Faculty of Economics was founded in 1977 as the fourth University faculty. With a student population of 5 500, it is the University's largest faculty. The Faculty of Economics closely co-operates with regional and local municipalities and authorities and it takes part in creation and realization of market economy development as well as of its transformation in the region.

Department of Regional Economics guarantees the mediation of knowledge in the spatial, regional, sociological and economic disciplines, and in the fields of environmental economics, ecological policy and geography. Regional economics is focusing on the aspect of location of economic entities, their mutual relations, and interactions between localities in spatial economic structures. This discipline also deals with the problems of regional development and regional policy including the co-ordination of activities performed by municipalities and towns, as well as with the problems concerning labour market. Contemporary trends in the environmental issues, such as assessment of economic and environmental impacts of land use changes, utilization of natural resources and different ways of environmental management performance, are monitored and analysed. Geographical disciplines are represented especially through the knowledge of socio-economic structures, specific features of world regions or particular Czech regions and demographic processes. Research activities of the Department are focused on ecological and socio-economic aspects of the processes of restructuralisation in industrial regions, on the labour market changes (especially regarding to knowledge based society), further on transboundary co-operation particularly with Polish borderland and on both methodological and practical creation of strategic developmental documents of regions and towns.

As a Department of Regional Economics, we closely cooperate with Institute of Regional and Community development of the Technical University in Košice (Slovak Republic) and Department of Regional Development and Institute of Geography and Spatial Management of Jagiellonian University (Poland). These institutions are interested in participation in FP7 projects as well.

More specifically, the research performed at the Department of Regional Economics is aimed especially at:

- the application of the theories of regional development and localization/location decision-making, such as learning regions theory, management of the regional and local governments, regional management and marketing, clusters, regional competitiveness - in Czech Republic and EU;
- the use of mathematic-statistical methods in analyses, modelling and predictions of socio-economic and demographic processes development; use of tools based on qualitative and

quantitative methods, expert based methods, and their combination, such as simultaneous and discrete simulation, Delphi method, Analytic Hierarchy Process, Analytic Network Process, etc., and GIS methods and fuzzy logic as well;

- methodological and application approaches to the creation of development strategy of municipalities, regions and cross-border areas, and approaches to qualified sample survey performed in the region;
- verification of the methodology for assessment of environmental risks and negative impacts on the environment, application of the sustainable development theory and environmental policy on the regional development;
- regional planning, formulation of development visions and scenarios and assessment of socioeconomic impacts in relation with application of various policies and trade and business activities while using various methods within the tested areas;
- time and spatial impacts analysis of the changes on the labour market while considering the learning and culture perspectives.

According to the EU 7th Framework Programme's SSH theme calls, we would like to participate (not as a coordinator) in such thematic projects as mentioned above (and below), namely in the topic **8.1.1.1. "Interactions between knowledge, economic growth and social well-being"**. This topic thematically coincides with our Czech project "Changes on the Labour Market and the Knowledge Perspectives" (described below). Within this project, various research activities were undertaken and the theoretical and practical monograph was composed. Another topics which we are interested and would like to participate in, because they correspond to our research specialization, are: **8.2.1.2. The extend to which trade-offs or synergies exist between the different aspects of sustainable development**, **8.2.2.1. Regional development challenges in an evolving international context** and in the area 8.3 in topic **8.3.1.1. The impact of European demographic changes in Europe**.

Last research projects, where the researches of the Department of Regional Economics participated, and their main aim:

- 1 **Changes on the Labour Market and the Knowledge Perspectives.** Czech Science Foundation, 403/05/2496, 2005 – 2007.
 - The project analyses changes on the labour market in respect to knowledge perspectives and knowledge based society development. The main aim is to map employees perception of ones job, how the market changes and how this changes influence them; how their level of education and specialization influence and determinate their position on the labour market. If the education is still the tool of self economic growth or if it starts to be defence strategy against new risks on the labour market and social decline.
 - <http://knowledge.vsb.cz>
- 2 **Theory of Learning Regions and its use in Regional Programming and Projects.** Czech Science Foundation, 402/05/0585, 2005 – 2007.
 - Last two decades witnessed an intense development of the theory of learning regions. Learning, innovations and the detection of new solutions of regional problems represent the fundamental features of this approach. Since the aggregate regional indicators hide the particular socio-economic micro-processes, networks and contacts among particular actors influencing the development of the region play the main role. The theory of learning regions very often turned out to be useful for the clarification of local and regional development in advanced countries. Moreover, individual researches brought the practical suggestions for local and regional managements. Not surprisingly, 'learning regions' currently constitute one of the most dynamic directions

of regional development. It is worth to notice that virtually no research of this kind have been accomplished in transition economies until now. Therefore, the project strives for filling the theoretical gaps in modern regional development.

- Comparison and definition of common characteristics and differences in development of the studied learning regions and localities. Identification of the factors and mechanisms at the national and regional level which influenced changes in economic and institutional structure.
- 3 **Methods Regional Development for needs Strategic Development Region's.** Ministry of Regional development, WA-003-05-Z12, 2005 – 2006.
 - Solving research design survey not only to precise terminology regional development for needs practice, but also to cumulative evidence, and to relative enclosure measure finding base to exercitation methods of strategic development region for needs transaction regional policy on levels of central, regional and local.
 - 4 **Cities business activities and economic competitiveness in urban conglomeration restructuralization process.** MSMT CZ-18, Programme KONTAKT. 2006 – 2007.
 - 5 **Management of Regional and Local Administration.** Ministry of Regional Development, WB-14-04, 2004 – 2006.
 - Project focuses on regional management system in the Czech Republic, its structure and effectiveness, further on management and marketing applied by regional and local government. Cohesion regions and their position in structure of regional management in the Czech Republic is the domain, which has not been yet substantially and systematically examined, thus it is the one of issue solved in the project. Project builds progressive knowledge bases for formation of efficient and effective regional and municipal management. Project ministers to identify function of each level of regional management by meeting principle of subsidiarity, project identifies its problems and bindings among different levels.
 - 6 **Projekt Przedsiębiorczy i konkurencyjny region w teorii i politice rozwoju regionalnego.** Polska Akademia Nauk, Komitet przestrzennego zagospodarowania kraju, PR, 2003–2004, 2005.
 - Methodology questions in economic theory; the role of the public sector and the new challenges in context of Europe regional police in regional development with the help of entrepreneurship and competitiveness enhancement.
 - 7 Department of regional economics also participated in preparation of **National programme documents of Czech Republic for 2007 - 2013 period and Strategic development plan of the city of Ostrava for 2005 - 2013 period.**
 - 8 Some of the department researches participated in project of 5th FP – **Iron Curtain (NQLRT-CT-2001-01401) and TRANSCAT.**

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