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Title: Innovative Strategy in the Košice Region – actions prepared

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Brief introduction of the Košice region :

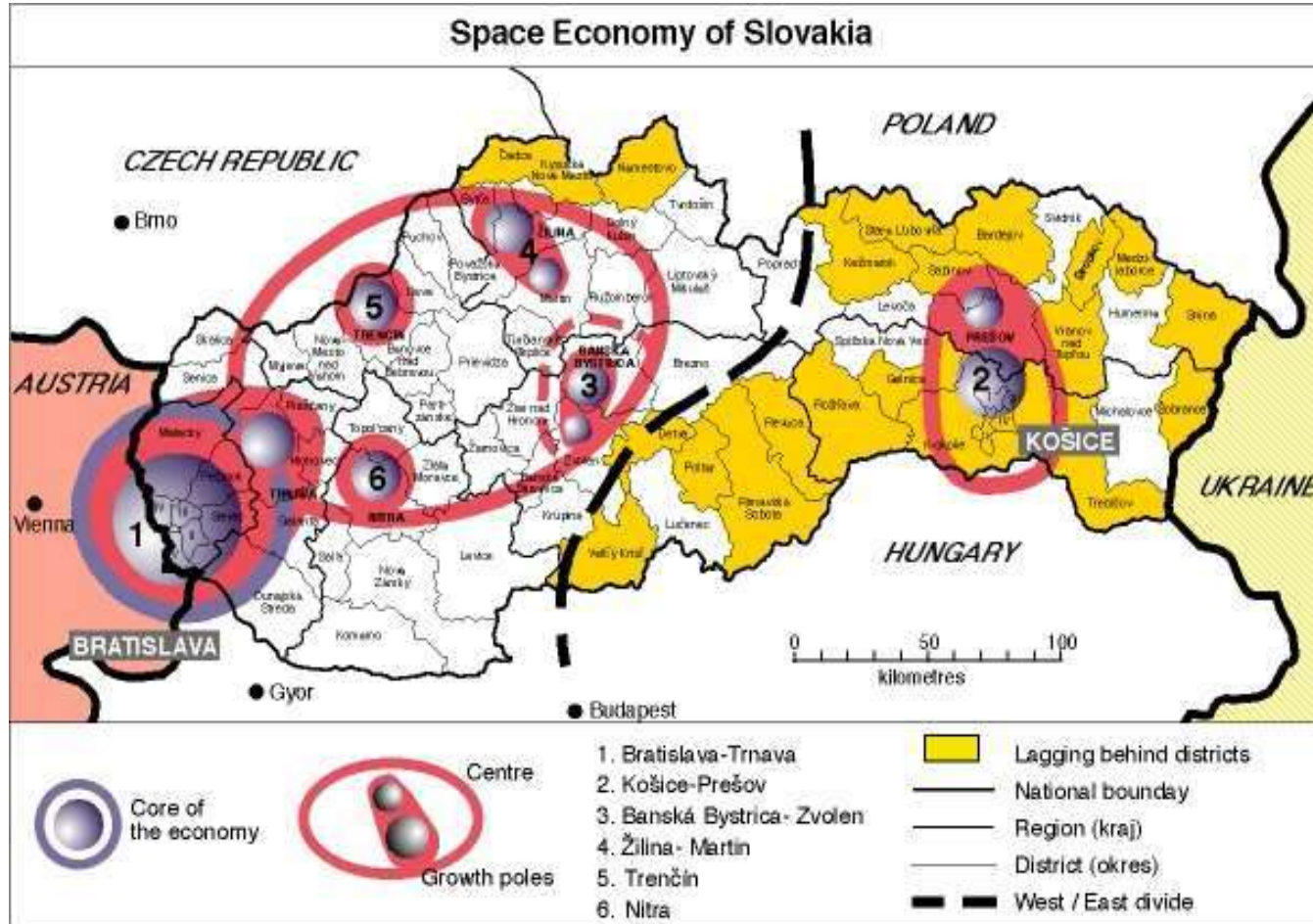
- 774 103 inhabitants, in productive age 396 477 (63,4 %)
 - 63,7 % services
 - 17% school and social care
 - 7% public affairs
 - 39,7% business and services
 - 30% working in industry and construction
 - 4% in agriculture and forestry
- Important intra-regional disparities in the employment structure
- Unemployment rate in Kosice region was 18,3 % (2008)
- GDP per capita in Slovakia is 16 900 EURO (66,7 % of EU 27, 2007) whereas in the KSR 11 500 EURO (46,0 % of EU 27, 2007)

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Innovative Strategy in the Košice Region

The key factor of the Innovative strategy is back up of innovative culture in industry by:

- using the effective tools for supporting development of economy from the state and regional level
- increasing quality of human resources
- incentives for entrepreneurs to utilize the results of the science and research



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The long term goal is :

Development of the social capital in the area of the knowledge economy is the basement of the expected success of the business which would have an positive impact of the quality of lives of the citizens in the Kosice region.

Achieving this long term goal :

- creativity will be strengthened
- innovative business supported
- institutional effectiveness achieved
- innovative culture extended

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Weaknesses :

- Industry is behind the advanced technologies, innovative activities and productivity
- not sufficient knowledge and skills necessary for the sustainable economy development driven by innovations
- low linkages between universities, R&D and enterprises
- demand of specific skills and knowledge in the area of
 - innovation management
 - research and transfer of technologies
 - marketing tools
- no co-ordination of science, industrial and regional policies
- low added value because of high material and energy consumption
- insufficient modernization of the industrial basis
- insufficient utilization of the low cost technologies
- low ratio of the production with high added value
- low share of innovative products
- low export of high tech products

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Main factors having influence on innovation potential of the Kosice region:

- Presence of the research and scientific institutions, universities
- Strength – highly qualified human capital (technical science)
- Presence of the technological centers and centers of excellence
- Advanced research and development base meeting the needs of the industrial companies
- Advanced research and developing basis oriented towards low carbon economy, green economy and creative economy
- Presence of the risk capital, including financial services
- Open labs – for IT etc.
- Challenge – Košice is the „European Cultural Capital of the year 2013“

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Factors supporting development of innovations

Education in the Košice region

Strength – highly qualified human capital (technical science)

- Technical University of Kosice
- University of P.J.Safarik
- University of Veterinary Medicine
- 6 institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences
- several branches of universities from outside the region



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Actions undertaken :

- start up of the regional innovation center
- start up of regional multifunctional center

Clusters initiatives

- IT techniques and robotics cluster
- Renewable energy cluster

Centers of excellence

EXTREM – center for advanced studies in physics

CaKS – center of excellence of IT and knowledge economy

SEPO – Center for oncology

CEVA – Center for atherosclerosis

Center of Excellence for progressive materials

Center of Excellence for utilization of the earth resources

Center of Excellence for the building constructions and materials

Center of Excellence for animal infection

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Innovation in tourism - our goal is to offer quality services, focused on satisfaction of visitors which will pay off by well settled regional trade mark attracting new comers from the other countries

This goal we would like to achieved by focusing on following activities:

- Supporting authenticity of our specific heritage values
- Supporting diversity of nations and nationalities or ethnic living in the region
- Bringing new quality to the active forms of tourism
- Improving accessibility of the region and all destinations
- increasing importance of tourism as a source of income for locals which will contribute to the increased quality to their lives

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Thank you for your attention

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