

## **Vysocina, Czech Republic**

### **General situation**

The Vysocina region has existed, as all Czech regions, since 2000. The Czech Republic contains 14 regions altogether. The new division brought up vital structural changes; some political and executive power has passed to a region; a regional authority, newly established, is responsible for strategic planning and development of the region in cooperation with both, national and local actors, and there is a regional government as a new body and a phenomenon of public life.

The name of the Vysocina Region derives from the name of the Ceskomoravska vrchovina (Bohemian-Moravian Highlands), and historically, natural conditions has played a great role in many ways. The forests with low hills and valleys fulfil functions from economic to recreational to landscaping. Generally, there are conditions favourable for various businesses with link to transportation. The D1 (E55) motorway, key road connection from east to west of the country, can be identified as the first factor to attract new investments and boost industrial zones.

Bordering the South-Moravian Region to the east, the South-Bohemian and Middle Bohemian Regions to the west, and sharing a border with the Pardubice Region to the north-east, the region is situated in the very heart of the Czech Republic. In addition, the southern part is close to the Czech-Austrian border. The economy of the region's eastern part is influenced by the neighbouring urban centre of Brno, while the north-eastern part is within the sphere of influence of the capital of Prague.

There are only four towns with population over twenty thousand; Jihlava, the regional capital, has a population of fifty thousand. The increasing standards of living and mobility lead to the expectation that this situation will prove to be an asset. People in Vysocina are able to enjoy the advantages of living in the countryside while being guaranteed an easy access to modern facilities offered by local urban centres. More than half of the region's population are able to reach the regional capital within thirty minutes.

Besides nature or industry, history has to be mentioned as one of the assets. It has provided Vysocina with a number of monuments, three of which, the historical centre of Telc, the Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk at Zelena Hora near Zdar nad Sazavou and the Jewish Ghetto together with the St. Prokopus Basilica in Trebic have been classified as international UNESCO monuments.

### **Vysocina as a Learning region**

To develop social dialogue the Vysocina regional authority is initiating the creation of local and regional partnership based on the principle of wide social dialogue. The functional net of local partnership groupings will be sheltered by the Regional Development Partnership. Representatives of the local partnership groupings (important institutions, municipalities mayors, representatives of micro regions, LAG´s, entrepreneurs, NGO´s, farmers) will define the priorities of the region they cover, and under methodic guidance elaborate the local operational program. Requirements of these 15 groupings will be bound into one regional operational program, a list of development intents and necessary investments on the regional level, elaborated to the form of document required for the european funds drawing. This document reflecting the needs on every level will serve as basis for negotiation on european funding during the next planning period 2007 – 2013.

Apart from this, an ongoing PHARE project, which concerns human resources, is run in



# Regional Key Competencies

- a way to manage structural changes [AT6]

Vysocina region. Entitled „Development of further education“, it is focused on a system of continuing vocational training linked to enterprisers and labour market situation.

The Vysocina Region was the first to become a member of the Association of Healthy Towns and Regions, and acquired the official title "The Healthy Region".

