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SIP SME

Service for Innovation Processes

The comparison report

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Table of Contents

Table of Figures

1 Introduction

The report analyses the results obtained from the benchmarking reports of Upper Austria and South Bohemia. Whereas the previous benchmarking reports assessed the innovation potential on a national level, this paper offers a comprehensive comparison of Upper Austrian and South Bohemian scores relative to each other. The key indicators of innovation potential in selected spheres are presented. Subsequently, an overall regional competitiveness is evaluated, and several figures from the European Innovation Scoreboard are assessed.

2 Key indicators for innovation evaluation

The key indicators for the evaluation of innovation in the spheres of human resources, business factors, investment factors, and knowledge transfer are evaluated in this chapter. The value of a specific indicator is presented, the overall situation is described for each region, and a comparison and conclusion is offered.

2.1 Human resources

Adequately educated and experienced human workforce is a key aspect to innovation of a regions engaging in research and development activities, bringing new creative ideas to the market. In this chapter, the key performance indicators regarding human resources of Upper Austria and South Bohemia are compared and evaluated.

Residents with completed tertiary education	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
10.4%	22.8%
Upper Austria has the third lowest proportion of university graduates from all Austrian regions, with Vienna being the leading region with 22.2%. (Statistik Austria 2017b)	The population with tertiary education in South Bohemia is higher than the average in the Southwest region (NUTS2) of the Czech Republic (18.7%). (Eurostat)
Conclusion	
The innovation potential in respect to the proportion of residents with completed tertiary education is higher in South Bohemia compared to the average rate in the Southwest region in the Czech Republic, as well as to Upper Austria.	

Number of people working in R&D	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
6,449 employees	5,398 employees
Upper Austria has the third highest number of employees working in research and development from all Austrian regions, specifically 6,449 employees accounting for almost 16% of all employed, which is above the national average of 4,491 employees per region. (BMWFW and BMVIT 2016)	The number of employees working in research and development in the Southwest region (NUTS2) is 5,398 employees, which accounts for approximately 0.9% of overall workforce. (Eurostat)
Conclusion	
Upper Austria has higher innovation potential in respect to the number of people working in research and development compared to the average Austrian rates, as well as to South Bohemia (resp. the Southwest region).	

STEM graduates (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
27%	16%
Almost 27% of citizens in the age group 25-64 years in Upper Austria have engineering and manufacturing related education, which is above the average in Austria of 23.6%. (European Commission 2017c)	Only 16% of citizens in the age group 25 – 64 years in South Bohemia have engineering and manufacturing related education, which is below the average in the Czech republic of 29%. (European Commission 2017b)
Conclusion	
In the Czech republic the average of citizens in the age group 25-64 years with engineering and manufacturing education is above the average in countries in OECD (25%). But the region South Bohemia has only 16% which is significantly lower in comparison with the average in the rest of Czech Republic and Upper Austria.	

Human resources in science and technology	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia

42%	32.6%
42% of Upper Austrian population had higher education and/or is employed in science and technology, which is slightly below the national average of 42.2%, with Vienna and Lower Austria leading the statistics with 48%. (European Commission 2017b)	The human resources in science and technology and other university-educated members of the population in the Southwest region (NUTS2) accounted for 32.6% of the economically active population in 2015 (Eurostat). This represented a slight decrease, by approx. 1.4 percentage points, compared to 2013.
Conclusion	
Even though the percentage of population working in science and technology in Upper Austria is below the Austrian national average, it is higher than in the NUTS2 Southwest region in the Czech Republic.	

Employment in technology and knowledge-intensive sectors	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
2.8%	3.4%
Upper Austria's employment in technology and knowledge-intensive sectors is one of the lowest among all the Austrian regions. The national average is 3.5%, with Vienna and Lower Austria having the highest percentage, 5.6% each. (European Commission 2017b)	The rate of employment in high-tech sectors only in 2015 was 3.4% for NUTS2 Southwest (Eurostat), a value the figure had grown from approximately 2.9% since 2013.
Conclusion	
The Southwest region of the Czech Republic has higher innovation potential with regard to the rate of employment in technology and knowledge-intensive sectors compared to Upper Austria.	

Employed in Sector III (Services)	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
65%	52.7%

The proportion of people working in the tertiary sector in Upper Austria is approximately 65%. The number increased from 2001 to 2010 by almost 18%. (AMS 2017; Janssen, den Hertog, and Kuusisto 2014)	The number of employees in the tertiary sector was 311,000 in the Southwest region (NUTS2) in 2015, which represents 52.7% of the workforce. The number has been stable over the last years.
Conclusion	
A higher proportion of population is employed in the service sector in the Upper Austrian region compared to the Southwest region of the Czech Republic.	

Core creative class employment	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
8.5%	7.9%
The percentage of people between 15-64 years employed in a job where creativity and innovation is required, and non-standard tasks are performed is 8.5 in Upper Austria, which is very slightly above the national average of 8.45%. (European Commission 2017b)	The proportion of people between 15-64 years working in a job where creativity and innovation is required, and non-standard tasks are performed is 7.9% in the Southwest regions (NUTS2), which is very slightly below the national average of 8.41%. (European Commission 2017b)
Conclusion	
Upper Austria has a slightly higher innovation potential than the Southwest region in respect to the proportion of people having a job where creative thinking and performance of non-standard tasks is required.	

Lifelong learning	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
13%	8.7%
The percentage of adult population (age group 25-64 years) engaging in further educational activities in Upper Austria is 13%, which is below the national average of 14.2%. (BMWFW and BMVIT 2016)	The proportion of population aged 25-64 participating in lifelong learning dropped to 8.7% in 2015 from 10.7% in 2013 in the Southwest region (NUTS2).

Conclusion
The percentage of population engaging in lifelong learning is higher in Upper Austria compared to the NUTS2 Southwest region of the Czech Republic. Moreover, the rate in the latter has been showing a decreasing tendency.

2.2 Business factors

Business environment is an essential factor of innovation as an appropriately functioning business environment a key prerequisite for innovation potential actualization. In this chapter, the Upper Austrian and South Bohemian scores on business factors (such as start-up intensity, or structure of the export of the regions) are compared.

Start-up intensity	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
7.8%	3.0%
The start-up intensity (the percentage of registered companies being start-ups) in Upper Austria was below the national average. While the national average in 2014 was 8.1%, Upper Austria's rate was 7.8%, a slight increase from 7.6% in 2013. In 2014, 6,176 new companies were established in Upper Austria. (Janssen, den Hertog, and Kuusisto 2014; Statistik Austria 2016b, 2016a)	According to the data of Bisnode, 26,953 new companies were founded in the Czech Republic in 2015. They are capital companies, i.e. limited liability companies or joint-stock companies. 825 companies were founded in the South-Bohemian Region, which, however, represents only 3% of the nation-wide number. (JAIP, 2016)
Conclusion	
While the percentage of newly registered companies being start-ups in Upper Austria is below the Austrian national average, the start-up intensity of 7.8% is more than twice as great as the rate in South Bohemia.	

Export of the region	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
€ 33.5 billion	€ 4,32 billion
Upper Austria is the most export-oriented region in the country, with exported goods worth € 33.5 billion in 2015. The vehicle industry (94.9% of national exports in this industry), foundries (86.9%), the electrical and electronics industry (74.5%) and the chemical industry (69.5%) dominate export.	South Bohemia participates in the total export of the Czech Republic with only 3.9%. A dominant share in export is held by machines and means of transport (51%). Export of market products and industrial consumer goods is important, too.

(Janssen, den Hertog, and Kuusisto 2014; Statistik Austria 2017a)	
Conclusion	
When comparing the regions in terms of export, Upper Austria belongs to the best export regions in Austria; in contrary, South Bohemia reaches less than 4% of the entire Czech Republic figure.	

Export in the area of technologically demanding production	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
49%	-
The index measuring "the technological competitiveness and the ability to commercialize the results of R&D" shows that Upper Austria (on NUTS1 level), with 49% of all products exported being medium/high technology products, is in the middle of the national average. (European Commission 2017b)	We do not have adequate data fot this indicator.
Conclusion	
Upper Austria's performance is average compared to the national rate.	

2.3 Investment factors

An adequate level of investment is critical to support the innovation potential of any region. In this chapter, the R&D Intensity levels and R&D expenditures in the public and business sectors are assessed and compared.

R&D Intensity	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
3.17%	1.65%
Upper Austria's GRP in 2013 was € 54.806 million, and the gross domestic expenditure on R&D was € 1.738 million, resulting in a R&D intensity of 3.17%; an above-average rate compared to national rate of 2.97%, and the third largest percentage after Styria (4.81%) and Vienna (3.55%). (BMWFW and BMVIT 2016)	Based on the specific focus of science and research institutions primarily on biotechnology, it may be said that the expenditure on basic research has outweighed the expenditure on applied research in the South Bohemia Region in recent years. The available statistical sources indicate a very low involvement of the application sphere in research and development programmes (Alfa, TIP, 7th Framework Programme). (JAIP, 2014)
Conclusion	
Taking into account the GRP and gross domestic expenditure on R&D, Upper Austria has greater innovation potential compared to South Bohemia, as the regional R&D intensity is almost twice as high.	

R&D expenditures in the public sector	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
€ 1.683 billion	€ 104.4 million
Upper Austria had the third largest R&D expenditures from all regions after Vienna and Styria. Over 50% of the amount went to experimental development, almost 40% to applied research, and 10% to basic research. (Statistik Austria 2015)	The majority of R&D investments are undertaken at the university level; in 2014, these expenditures were € 85.9 million, which represented a slight increase from 2013. Further expenditures were undertaken directly in the public sector. Altogether, the public R&D expenditures amount to € 104.4 million. (Euro-

	stat)
Conclusion	
The public sector in Upper Austria has greater innovation potential with regard to the public sector expenditures to research and development as it has been investing a substantially greater amount of finances to the R&D activities compared to the South Bohemian counterpart.	

R&D expenditures in the business sector	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
€ 1.149 billion	€ 157.6 million
Almost 89% of all R&D expenditures in Upper Austria are covered by the business sector, providing € 1.149 billion and covering the highest share of R&D expenditures of all regions. 19% of the expenditures was provided to motor vehicles, trailers, and semi-trailers R&D activities, 18.9% in mechanical engineering and machinery, and 14% in electrical equipment. (BMWFW and BMVIT 2015, 2016)	In previous years, the structure of regional economics lacking remarkable representation of high-tech production resulted in a slower growth of the region. However, establishment of scientific-technical parks and Centres for Transfer of Technology brings about an increase in funds for R&D expenditures in South Bohemia.
Conclusion	
R&D expenditures in the business sector are higher in Upper Austria and have longer tradition focussing rather on support of research and development of the technical specialization. Biotechnologies prevail in South Bohemia and the support tends to increase depending on establishment of scientific-technical parks.	

2.4 Knowledge transfer

Dissemination of relevant knowledge increases the innovation potential of the region. In this chapter, the access to broadband and to the Internet, as well as the patent rates and the structure of the patents of both regions is compared and evaluated.

Household access to broadband and access to the Internet	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
80%	82%
The degree of household access to broadband and the Internet in Upper Austria is slightly below average compared to other regions within the country. The most households with access to both the Internet and broadband are in Salzburg (85%). (European Commission 2017b)	Households in the NUTS 2 Southwest region show a relatively high penetration value for Internet connectivity; the most recent data from 2016 says 82% households are connected to the Internet, a figure including also high-speed Internet connections. (Eurostat)
Conclusion	
A greater percentage of households have access to the Internet connection in the Southwest region of the Czech Republic compared to the Upper Austrian region.	

Number of patents	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
544	
Upper Austria has the highest patent application rate of all regions in Austria, specifically 544. The region is followed by Vienna (419), and Styria (371). Most of the applications come from plastic industry (plastic shaping and modelling machines). (Österreichisches Patentamt 2016)	South Bohemia region has one of the lowest rate of patents. The hightest number (1095) has Prague. South bohemia represents only 3% of all patents in Czech republic. (CSU, 2017)
Conclusion	
Upper Austria belongs a among regions with a high degree of innovation potential, South Bohemia has only 3% of all patents in the Czech Republic.	

Number of patent applications per capita	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
270 applications per million inhabitants	143 patents per million inhabitants
Upper Austria is the second region with respect to the number of patent applications per capita, after Vorarlberg's 653 applications. The national average is 218 patent application per million inhabitants. (European Commission 2017b)	South Bohemia region has the 4th lowest rate in this indicator. After Prague region (855) is Liberecky region (492). The national average is 305.(Eurostat, 2017)
Conclusion	
Upper Austria is higher the national average in the number of patent applicationas per capita. On the other hand South Bohemia, does not reach even half the value of the national average.	

High technology EPO patent rates	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
19	0
Assessing the EPO patent rate, Upper Austria's 19 high technology patents per million inhabitants are below the Austria's average of 24, and significantly below Vorarlberg's 46, Styria's 23, and Tirol's 32 patents per million inhabitants. (European Commission 2017b)	We do not have adequate data for this indicator, because South Bohemia have really low number of companies in this sector.
Conclusion	
In respect to the rate of high technology EPO patents per million inhabitants, Upper Austria with its 19 has greater innovation potential compared to the South Bohemian region.	

Information and Communication Technology EPO patent rates	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia

33	0.393 (the expert estimation)
Information and Communication Technology EPO patent rates in Upper Austria (33 applications per million inhabitants) are below the national average of 40. The leading region is Vorarlberg with 95 application per million inhabitants, followed by Styria's 65 applications. (European Commission 2017b)	We do not have adequate data fot this indicator, the Czech republic did not report.
Conclusion	
There is a greater number of Information and Communication Technology EPO patents registered in Upper Austria compared to Bohemia, therefore, the region has a greater innovation potential in this aspect.	

Structure of patent applications	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
Primarily manufacturing Lower degree of diversity	Primary manufacturing
Upper Austria is focused mainly on the manufacturing industry and even though this has helped to gain competitive edge for the region, there are concerns that, in the long-term horizon, this strategy might limit Upper Austria's success. (Janssen, den Hertog, and Kuusisto 2014)	The South Bohemian region is typical by high level of patents by individuals (22%).(CSU, 2017)
Conclusion	
South Bohemia has a high level of patents by individual, so that is why there is a greater diversity but to a lesser extent than in Upper Austria.	

Fluctuations in average patenting rates	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
Slightly decreasing	Slightly growing

During the last years, the patenting rate of Upper Austria has been fluctuating with a slightly decreasing trend; from 620 patents in 2010 to 544 in 2015. Nevertheless, compared to the national average, the patenting rates remain significantly higher. (Österreichisches Patentamt 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)	During last years patenting rates are growing in all regions in the Czech republic. In the South bohemian region the growth rate is 6,5% per year on average. (CSU, 2017)
Conclusion	
Fluctuations in average patenting rates have a slightly declining character over long-term surveillance in Upper Austria, bot in South Bohemia the patenting rate is rising.	

Number of Scientific Publications per million inhabitants	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
1,010	0,989
Scientific publication rate per million inhabitants in below the national average in the Upper Austrian region (1,010 publications compared to the national average of 1,765 per million inhabitants). (European Commission 2017b)	Scientific publication rate per million inhabitants in below the national average in the South Bohemia (0,989 publications compared to the national average of 1,064 per million inhabitants). (European Commission 2017b)
Conclusion	
As the scientific publications as a vital part of innovation due to knowledge dissemination, Upper Austria has more innovation potential in this regard due to greater number of scientific publications.	

Clusters and incubators	
Upper Austria	South Bohemia
Dense and well-established network	New and setting networks
The cluster network in Upper Austria is dense and well established. There are automotive, IT, plastic, mechatronic, food, medical, and other clusters in the Upper Austrian	In Czech region the main clusters are orientated on food industry, like beer production or healthy food. On the other hand some clusters orientated on nature, processin of

region. Moreover, after Vienna, Upper Austria has the highest density of research and development centers, competence centers, and other research facilities, e.g. Tech2b or Akostart. (akostart 2017; Forschungsatlas 2017; TallyFox 2015; tech2b 2017)	inorganic waste materials, potable water, sewage treatment or low-energy buildings, renewable energy sources are growing up every year. Automotive and IT clusters are mainly state, with only regional representation.
Conclusion	
The Austrian region has a dense and well established network. In South Bohemia, we can see new clusters, where the IT and automotive industries predominate only in the region.	

3 European Regional Competitiveness

According to the European Regional Competitiveness Index (RCI), Upper Austria (49) is performing better in the innovation aspect compared to the Southwestern region (29). This aspect takes into account patent applications, core creative class employment, HR in science and technology, exports in medium-high/high tech manufacturing, and scientific publications. Both region have the same score in the higher education and lifelong learning (63). The levels of basic education are relatively the same, with Upper Austria scoring 63 and Southwestern region 62. Upper Austria performs better at the overall business sophistication scores (number of innovative SMEs collaborating with others and employment in K-N sector) as well as infrastructure (accessibility of motorways, railways and passenger flights), whereas Southwestern region scores slightly better in technological readiness (access to the Internet and broadband). (European Commission 2017a)

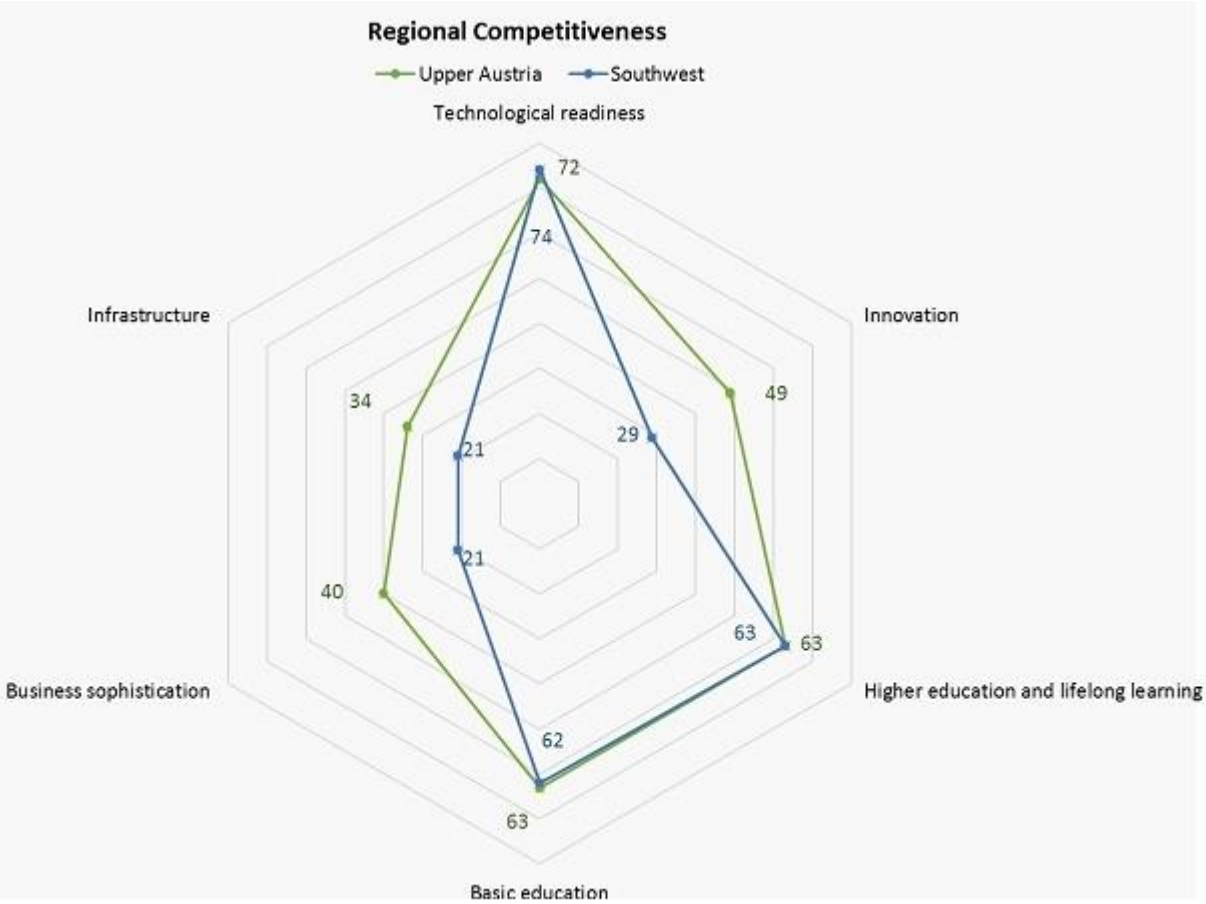

Figure 1- European Regional Competitiveness Index adapted by the authors (European Commission 2017a)

4 European Innovation Scoreboard

The European Innovation can be used to indicate the impact of innovation activities on sales and employment on a national level relative to the average EU performance. Austria has been performing relatively well on the employment in knowledge-intensive activities, whereas the innovation activities in the Czech Republic had a significant impact on the employment in fast-growing enterprises in 2010, but decreased over time. Austria's performance in knowledge-intensive exports has been slightly decreasing relative to the EU performance, whereas the Czech performance in the same aspect has been significantly below the EU performance, however, on a slight increase. The Czech Republic has scored positively on the medium and high-tech product exports; however, the rating on the sales to new-to-market/firm innovations has been decreasing significantly since 2010. (European Commission 2017d)

	Austria			Czech Republic		
	Performance relative to EU 2010 in		Change 2010-2016	Performance relative to EU 2010 in		Change 2010-2016
	2010	2016		2010	2016	
Summary innovation index	112.5	121.5	8.9	87.9	84.4	-3.5
Innovators	115.9	122.3	6.4	105.6	73.7	-31.8
SMEs product/process innovations	119.0	124.0	5.0	98.8	81.5	-17.3
SMEs marketing/organizational innovations	109.9	121.3	11.4	120.6	50.6	-70.0
SMEs innovating in-house	118.9	121.6	2.7	97.0	89.7	-7.3
Innovative SMEs collaborating with others	135.4	193.3	57.9	101.1	88.6	-12.5
Employment impact	77.3	78.5	1.2	115.8	95.4	-20.3
Employment in knowledge-intensive activities	111.5	114.1	2.6	84.6	91.0	6.4
Employment in fast-growing enterprises	52.3	52.5	0.2	138.5	98.6	-39.9
Sales impact	77.8	82.7	4.9	102.4	95.0	-7.5
Medium and high tech product exports	97.5	106.6	9.0	119.9	124.5	4.6
Knowledge-intensive service exports	55.6	54.1	-1.5	40.9	49.2	8.2
Sales of new-to-market/firm innovations	80.1	87.3	7.2	153.4	112.9	-40.5

Dark green: normalised performance above 120% of EU; light green: normalised performance between 90% and 120% of EU; yellow: normalised performance between 50% and 90% of EU; orange: normalised performance below 50% of EU. Normalised performance uses the data after a possible imputation of missing data and transformation of the data.

Figure 2- European Innovation Scoreboard adapted by the authors (European Commission 2017d)

5 Conclusion

As observable by the comparison of selected KPIs of Upper Austria and South Bohemia, as well as the European Regional Competitiveness analysis, and the European Innovation Scoreboard, both regions assessed have high innovation potential, which is developed and exploited to greater or lesser extent, depending on a specific aspect in each region. Nevertheless, it is evident that both regions are active in their innovation efforts and could capitalize on additional tools and steps to tap their full innovation potential. It is expected that the development and active usage of the SIP tool could provide methodological support for the companies operating in the Upper Austrian and South Bohemian regions to support and encourage further innovation activities and promote greater degree of cross-border collaboration in the sphere of innovation. After a thorough analysis of both regions and a complex and structured comparison, there are no risks that could negatively influence the development of the SIP tool. On the contrary, the SIP tool will help both territories in the development of their innovation potential.

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