Ten years in the EU: the experience of the Visegrad countries

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Outline

• Institutional integration, legal adaptation

• Growth and catching up at the level of countries, regions, wages

• Development of some competitiveness indicators

• Fiscal and monetary environment

• Conclusions
Institutional integration

• Filling up positions at the **EU institutions**
  • Smooth process, HU among the best performers

• Successful **Council-presidencies**
  • CZ (2009), HU (2011), PL (2011)

• In 2013 among the 15 **MEPs of the year** (this time also of the term)
  • Roza Thun, PL, internet policy, digital market
  • Jan Olbrycht, PL, sustainable built environment
  • Kinga Gál, HU, fundamental rights: minority rights, linguistic diversity

• Hosting **European Agencies**
  • Warsaw: FRONTEX
  • Prague: European GNSS Agency
  • Budapest: EIT

• In general: the **V4** appears as one group in integration matters

Source: European Commission

Transposition deficit %

Infringement cases
Growth rates:
Change of real GDP as percent of previous year

Source: Eurostat
Catching up at national levels
GDP/capita, PPP, EU27=100

Source: Eurostat
Catching up at regional (NUTS2) levels
GDP/capita, PPP, 2004: EU27=100; 2011: EU28=100

Source: Eurostat
Catching up of wages?...
Annual net average earnings, EUR, PPP

Source: Eurostat
Competitiveness: employment/unemployment

Source: Eurostat
Competitiveness: investments
GFCF and FDI stock as % of GDP

Source: Eurostat
## Competitiveness: absorption of EU Funds

Source: European Commission, Insideurope

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Total assistance 2007-2013 (BEUR)</th>
<th>Main priorities</th>
<th>Absorption share of effectuated expenditure by mid-2013 (EU-average = 54%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CZ</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>Environment Transport R&amp;D&amp;I SME sector</td>
<td>42% (below EU average)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HU</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>Environment Transport Rehabilitation of urban areas SME sector</td>
<td>48% (below EU average)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SK</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>Environment Transport R&amp;D&amp;I Info-communication</td>
<td>46% (below EU average)</td>
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<td>PL</td>
<td>67.0</td>
<td>Transport Environment R&amp;D&amp;I SME sector</td>
<td>59% (above EU average)</td>
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</table>
Public finances: public budget balance and public debts as % of GDP

Source: Eurostat, European Commission
Monetary environment: inflation (HICP) and interest rates (EMU-criterion)  

Source: Eurostat
Summary and conclusions

• Successful institutional and legal adaptation, increasing role of V4

• Protracted catching up at the national, regional and wage levels
  • with more harmonious growth rates across the region on the horizon

• Slowly improving trends in labour markets, sluggish investments

• Gradual fiscal stabilisation, promising monetary trends recently
  • → euro in V3 by 2020?...

• Conclusions:
  • perceivable convergence to EU averages + to each other (HU not the black sheep any more)
  • → converging trends may strengthen the Visegrad group inside/outside the EU
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!