

RESUME

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The Evaluation of the Municipal Financing System in Slovakia

The personal income tax redistribution system of the Slovak Republic has several elements that adversely affect a large part of the country's population, practically dividing the municipalities and their inhabitants into two groups. Although the revenue from the total personal income tax is distributed among the regional governments (30% between the county and 70% between the local governments), the assessment of the share redistributed to the local governments shows significant discrimination. This is mainly due to two elements: the first is the redistribution based on the altitude of local governments, namely that those above 300m altitude get a significantly higher share than those at lower altitudes. The second discriminative rule is the one that ensures a disproportionately larger share of redistributed funds to larger localities (above 50 thousand inhabitants), to the detriment of smaller ones. The paper introduces the detailed functioning of the redistribution system from the standpoint of the municipalities, and quantifies its effects with a focus on the territories inhabited by ethnic Hungarians.

Bence BÁNKI

Southern Slovakia: a Neglected Region? The Economic Performance of Slovak Territories Inhabited by Hungarians in a Political Context

The paper investigates the relationship between economic development in Southern Slovakia — home to a sizeable Hungarian population — and minority parties' power on the national level. It is once again confirmed that areas inhabited by ethnic Hungarians lag behind the rest of the country, as they suffer from higher rates of unemployment and lack high-quality road infrastructure. The paper argues that the trajectories of regional economic indicators are greatly influenced by changes in government composition. It is empirically shown that Hungarian minority parties, which enjoy a dominant position in Southern Slovakia actively represent the region's interests when they become part of the government. Preferential treatment for the region is found to be most notable in road network development and distributive politics, with Hungarian incumbents targeting considerable benefits toward southern territories. Similarly, positive tendencies are observed in the level of unemployment and regional GDP figures, albeit to a lesser extent and often with no discernible connection to electoral cycles. These findings complement the literature on the determinants of regional economic disparities in Slovakia, and offer a deeper insight into how ethnic parties can facilitate development in their strongholds.

Dóra GÖRÖG**Language-based Discrimination in the Context of the Right to Access to Data of Public Interest in the Case Law of the Romanian National Anti-Discrimination Council**

The struggle of the Hungarian minority for language rights is an ongoing process in Romania, so it is not surprising that today, in addition to recourse to the judiciary, members of the Hungarian minority also appeal to the National Council for Combating Discrimination on a number of occasions to establish the fact of discrimination. In order to guarantee the principle of equal treatment, the European Commission considers separate legislation at the level of the Member States as the most effective solution, which is the reason why Romania has intended to regulate the provisions on the principle of equal treatment in a separate piece of legislation, in accordance with its harmonization obligations. Thus, in Romania, the Anti-Discrimination Council was established by Government Decree No. 137/2000 to guarantee the principle of equal treatment in accordance with existing national legislation, European Union law and international conventions. Every citizen has the right to complain to the Council, and the body can make decisions not only in cases of language discrimination against the members of the Hungarian minority, but also in cases of language discrimination against the members of the Romanian-speaking community. As the public appearance and use of the mother tongue is extremely important not only for the minority, but also for the majority, I have taken decisions under scrutiny from the case law of the Council where the fact of discrimination was established primarily with regard to the language criterion. In addition, the Council's practice has shown that most language discrimination cases occur in the context of access to data of public interest.