



FACT & FIGURES

Dear Leader's readers,

In the first issue of regional pages, I promised to introduce the Moravian-Silesian region. With these two pages I am beginning to present this marvelous yet insufficiently known area of the Czech Republic. I truly hope that you will come to understand and share my enthusiasm for Moravian-Silesia.

The Moravian-Silesian region lies in the Czech Republic's east. It is roughly 300 km by air from Prague. Geographically it is at the very center of Europe at the borders of three countries. It is also positioned in the middle of an ancient trade route between the Baltic and Mediterranean seas. Strong cooperation among the three neighboring regions - Moravian-Silesia (CR), Zilinsky samospravny kraj (Slovakia) and Wojewodstwo Slaskie (Poland) - helped to develop a very significant European regional entity, a great tri-national region of 8 million inhabitants. I like to consider Ostrava its capital (at least by size and economical importance).

The Moravian-Silesian region, with its 1.25 million inhabitants, is the most populous region in the Czech Republic. Ostrava has about 340 000 inhabitants. Other major cities of the region are Havírov, Karvina, Frydek Mistek, Opava and Trinec.

The GNP of the Moravian-Silesian region is 337.9 million CZK. Over 20,000 companies are registered in the area, in addition to 50 state-owned companies and 1,400 cooperatives. The average unemployment rate is 10 percent. The region has over 23 industrial zones occupying an area of more than 1,000 hectares. There are more than 5,500 foreign companies registered in the region as well.

The Moravian-Silesian region has 18 hospitals and

466 other medical facilities, 55 cinemas, 430 libraries, 84 museums, 139 art galleries, 22 theaters, 130 public swimming pools, 144 stadiums and 26 ice stadiums. The great number of sport facilities confirms my short note below regarding the sport passion of the region's people.

The Moravian-Silesian region has strong cooperation ties with various other regional entities in Europe, more precisely:

Lorraine, Metz, France - Cooperation, formally recognized in 2001, is concentrated in economic development, education, environmental protection and cultural/social cooperation.

North Rhine-Westphalia, Düsseldorf, Germany - Cooperation, established 2001, is concentrated in economic development.

Zilinsky samospravny kraj, Zilina, Slovakia - A cooperation agreement with the neighboring region was executed in 2003. It concerns cooperation in economic development, tourist industry development, transportation infrastructure, culture, sports and European integration.

Wojewodstwo Slaskie, Katowice, Poland - A cooperation agreement with this neighboring region was executed in 2001. It concerns cooperation in economic development, tourist industry development, transportation infrastructure and environmental protection.

Region North East, Newcastle, UK - Cooperation was formalized in 2004, concentrated in exchange of experiences in reconverting industrial sites, development of crisis and emergency integrated systems, environmental protection, transport, regional governing, culture, science and educational development, sports and tourism.

Region Vologda, Vologda, Russia - Cooperation agreed

to in 2005 relates to areas of metallurgic and chemical production.

Region Veneto, Venice, Italy - A cooperation agreement is expected to be sealed this year. The major areas of cooperation will include transportation systems, hospital and public health systems, economical development and tourism.

Moravian-Silesia's economical boom is due principally to availability of a workforce specialized and skilled in the mechanical and technological fields, presence of academic and research centers (IT, biotechnology), four prestigious universities, industrial areas, growing infrastructure, excellent geographical position and positioning of transport-transit corridor of European highway and train transport.

A regional airline company, **Central Connect Air (CCA)**, is expanding vigorously. A new schedule of five weekly flights to Moscow has been added to already existing Vienna flights.

Jobair, the most advanced and modern company in Central and Eastern Europe for aircraft service and maintenance, operates at the international airport Leos Janacek in Ostrava-Mosnov in a new hangar of 11,680 m². Jobair services Boeings 737 and 747, Airbus A340, MD 11, L 410, SAAB 340 and 2000. The presence of this amazing structure (employing over 250 highly specialized workers) attracts new investors and clients to this region and is certainly putting Ostrava on the aviation service map.

But it is industry that dominates economics in this region (unlike in the rest of the country), coal mining, energy and metallurgy. In GNP formation, the Moravian-Silesian region represents the second most important position in the entire CR economy.





Hangar of Job Air – Central Europe Aircraft Maintenance



Mike Mitchell signing 2 year contract with basketball Team NH Ostrava

The Moravian-Silesian region is rich in important Czech companies. The only Czech machinery engineering holding, Vitkovice a.s., contributes substantially to the local wealth production. Ironworks Vitkovice was founded 180 years ago. Today Vitkovice Holding a.s. is present in 25 countries, including China, Russia, South Korea and the USA. Vitkovice Holding a.s. operates in 13 categories of goods production and services.

GEOFIN group presents highly diversified investment activities that range from construction, real estate, banking and finance sector to aerospace operations and services.

In the next issues I will bring more information about Czech capital companies that originate in this region.

Beside the above-mentioned Czech holdings and companies, the following are just a very few examples of the foreign companies represented in the region:

AccelorMittal (India), ASUS Computer (Taiwan), Bang & Olufsen (Denmark), Munz-Magenwirth Gruppe (Germany), Bekaert (Belgium), BorsodChem Rt. (Hungary), KKCG Industry (Holland), Cromodora Wheels (Italy), Briggs & Stratton (USA), Harsco Corporation (USA), Daechang Seat (South Korea), Veolia Environment (France), DHL International (Germany), Protech (Canada), EVRAZ GROUP (Russia), Fau-recia Group (France), Gates Corporation (USA), General Electric (USA), Goodyear (USA), Grafton Recruitment (Ireland), Grupo Antolin-Irausa (Spain), Hays (UK), Hyundai (South Korea), IVAX International (USA) + TEVA (Israel), IVG Holding Colbachini (Italy), Kanlux (Poland), Kone Corporation (Finland), KSR International (Canada), Linde Gas Aktiengesellschaft (Germany), Mayr-Melnhof Holz Gruppe (Austria), Messer Griesheim (Germany), Model Holding AG (Switzerland), Mölnlycke Health Care (Sweden), International Railway Systems (Luxembourg), Gerrit Eindhoven (Holland), Ness Technologies (Israel), Nowaco (Denmark), Groupe Danone (France), Osram (Germany), Interbrew (Belgium), SABMiller – South Africa Breweries (SA), PLAKOR (South Korea), Primus (Belgium), ROSSIGNOL Pierre Decolletage (France), Siemens Aktiengesellschaft (Germany), Siemens Automotive Beteiligungs (Germany), Stant Manufacturing (USA), Sungwoo (South Korea), Takenaka Europe (Japan), Terex Corporation (USA), Tieto Enator (Finland/Sweden), UPS SCS (Canada).

I am very sorry that I have had to trim many significant companies from the list. A complete list of just companies that have rushed in recent months from abroad to be present in this region would by itself have filled these pages.

However, the beginning of coal mining represents the major historical and economical development. The first mine that was opened is in the Landek area – Anselm Mine. Today, the coal-mining museum has its seat at the very same zone. If you visit this region I strongly recommend that you visit this site. It will help you to understand the local mentality, history and the unbelievable toughness of the mining profession. A model descent (a few meters down into a real mine shaft) provides a powerful, yet totally safe, experience. Please visit <http://www.muzeumokd.cz/>

People from the Moravian-Silesian region have a strong passion: sports. For whoever likes sports, this region is a must to visit and to spend some time in. The region offers practically any recreation you might like, from skiing to golfing, skating, biking, horseback riding, etc. The locals are also big fans of their teams – basketball, hockey and soccer.

In this issue I would like to write a bit about Ostrava's Basketball Team – NH Ostrava. This team is unique in many ways: First because it has been, without interruption, in the first league for over 50 years! But mainly, you just have to see these guys play. If you are fan of this game, as I am, you will feel as though you were attending a Lakers' game. The fans are loud, the cheering girls are just as they should be, and Michael Mitchell (my favorite) is a real show – besides being the best playmaker in the Czech basketball league. You will feel entertained, you will LOVE the atmosphere and you will see an amazing game. Ostrava's guys rarely lose at home. I would like to add one more fact. The club makes regular visits to the pediatric department of the Ostrava Hospital, so the kids that cannot see their stars perform in their unique basketball hall can see ball played when they need it most.

As for real estate, it goes without saying that this sector is expanding strongly in the region. New apartments are being built and amazing projects are being realized. Recently, project ATRIUM apartments was completed. It offers 129 apartments with balconies or terraces. Stunning views are guaranteed by the project's elevated position high above Bazaly stadium. An inner courtyard offers tranquility and space for children. The visualization of this unique project as up-to-date pictures can be seen on the following website: <http://www.atriumslezska.cz/vizualizace-exterior.php>

It is the natural environment of the Moravian-Silesian region that I consider one of its most precious assets. Beautiful mountain ranges of Jeseník and Beskydy and the

protected surroundings of the Odra river form a protected area of over 2,000 m². The waterfalls of Resov, natural parks of Venusina sopka, Velky Roudny, Uhlirsky vrch and Hukvaldy or caves of Sipka are just few other areas to visit.

You can still find remote cottages that will enable you to live in wilderness and feel cut off from the frenetic lifestyle. You will be able to take long walks without meeting another person, to watch wild deer and breathe the fresh air (something I bet you do not expect to experience here). Your cell phone may not work either. You will feel like new at the end of your stay.

Regards,

Michaela Jorgensen ■

Much of the factual information for this article was provided by the Regional Offices and can be found on web pages of the Moravian-Silesian region. I consider this web site very informative. Please consider visiting: <http://www.kr-moravskoslezsky.cz/>



ATRIUM apartments

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