THE CHANGE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE REGIONS OF LITHUANIA, LATVIA AND ESTONIA AFTER THE ACCESSION TO THE EU

Dr. Daiva Verkulevičiūtė – Kriukienė
Klaipėda University (Lithuania)
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Social Geography
verkuleviciute.daiva@gmail.com
The aim of this study is to analyse the changes of basic socio-economic indicators which determine the conditions of human life between Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian territorial units (regions), from 2004 to 2012 (2013) year.
EU funds have been allocated for Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia for the period 2007-2013 (mln. EUR)

Source: ES struktūrinė parama 2013
GDP per capita in Latvia and Lithuania in relation to the Estonia average (Estonia = 100) in 1995, 2004, 2008 and 2013, %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>74,5</td>
<td>75,3</td>
<td>83,7</td>
<td>84,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>78,0</td>
<td>65,0</td>
<td>86,8</td>
<td>84,0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Eesti statistics 2014; Latvijas statistika 2014; Lietuvos statistikos departamentas 2014

- The beginning of the membership (2004) GDP per capita in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were accordingly 55 %, 44 % and 50 % of the EU average. In 2007 economic growth in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia was very high and these countries was between leaders.

- GDP per capita in the Baltic countries increased by an average 46% in 2004-2013.
GDP per capita in regions (counties) of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in 2004 and 2012

Sources: Eesti statistics 2014; Latvijas statistika 2014; Lietuvos statistikos departamentas 2014
GDP per capita in counties of Estonia compared to national average in 2004 and 2012, %

Variation coefficient (2004): 35,1%
Variation coefficient (2012): 32,0%

Source: Eesti statistics 2014
GDP per capita in counties of Lithuania compared to national average in 2004 and 2012, %

Variation coefficient (2004): 26.1%
Variation coefficient (2012): 26.0%

Lietuvos statistikos departamentas 2014
GDP per capita in regions of Latvia compared to national average in 2004 and 2012, %

Variation coefficient (2004): 44,0%
Variation coefficient (2012): 40,0%

Latvijas statistika 2014;
Change of average monthly gross wages (salaries) in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 2004-2013, euros

Sources: Eesti statistics 2014; Latvijas statistika 2014; Lietuvos statistikos departamentas 2014
Monthly gross wages (salaries) in counties of Estonia in 2004 and 2013, compared to national average, %

Variation coefficient (2004): 14.7%
Variation coefficient (2012): 12.3%

Sources: Eesti statistics 2014
Monthly gross wages (salaries) in regions of Latvia in 2004 and 2013, compared to national average, %

- Variation coefficient (2004): 13.3 %
- Variation coefficient (2012): 14.2 %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latgale region</td>
<td>-37.4</td>
<td>-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vidzeme region</td>
<td>-28.5</td>
<td>-19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zemgale region</td>
<td>-23.8</td>
<td>-17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurzeme region</td>
<td>-11.67</td>
<td>-22.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pērīga region</td>
<td>-7.3</td>
<td>-13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riga region (Riga)</td>
<td>-12.7</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Latvijas statistika 2014;
Monthly gross wages (salaries) in counties of Lithuania in 2004 and 2013, compared to national average, %

- Variation coefficient (2004): 12.1%
- Variation coefficient (2012): 10.1%

Lietuvos statistikos departamentas 2014
Change of unemployment rate in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania in 2004-2013, %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estonia</th>
<th>Latvia</th>
<th>Lithuania</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>10,1</td>
<td>7,3</td>
<td>11,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6,2</td>
<td>8,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>5,9</td>
<td>4,5</td>
<td>5,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>4,6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>5,5</td>
<td>5,2</td>
<td>5,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>13,5</td>
<td>11,5</td>
<td>13,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>16,7</td>
<td>12,6</td>
<td>17,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>12,3</td>
<td>10,4</td>
<td>15,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9,9</td>
<td>13,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>8,6</td>
<td>7,8</td>
<td>11,8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unemployment rate in regions of Estonia in 2004 – 2013, compared to national average, %

- Variation coefficient (2004): 43.0%
- Variation coefficient (2012): 36.9%

Source: Eesti statistics 2014
Unemployment rate in regions of Latvia in 2004 – 2013, compared to national average, %

- Variation coefficient (2004): 14.7%
- Variation coefficient (2013): 23.5%

Latvijas statistika 2014;
Unemployment rate in counties of Lithuania in 2004 – 2013, compared to national average, %

- Variation coefficient (2004): 33.2%
- Variation coefficient (2013): 21.8%

Lietuvos statistikos departamentas 2014
AT-RISK OF POVERTY RATE IN REGIONS OF LATVIA AND COUNTIES OF ESTONIA IN 2004 - 2011, %

Sources: Eesti statistics 2014; Latvijas statistika 2014;
CONCLUSIONS

• Since the Baltic states accessed to the EU, regional differences are diminishing. However, capital city regions remain leaders in terms of investment, GDP and wages (salaries). Variation in wages (salaries) and the unemployment rate fell in Estonia and Lithuania, but in Latvia - increased.