

Slovak Republic: Training and Advisory Services for Potential Entrepreneurs

Description of Programme: This project offers training and business advisory services to unemployed people, youth, women during and after maternity leave, seniors and immigrants to support the development of business plans.

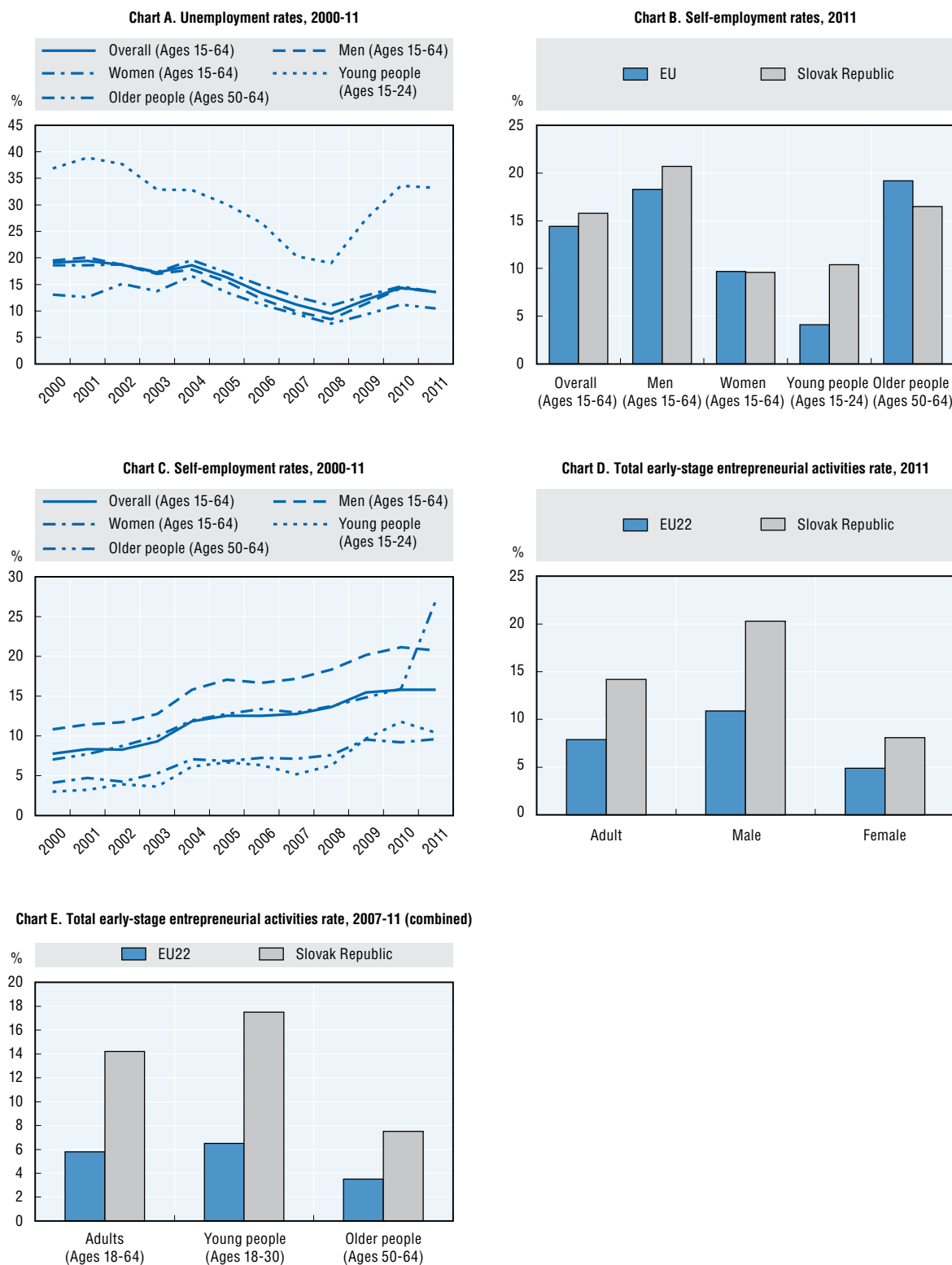
Context: Despite the current recovery in GDP, the Slovak Republic is among the EU countries with the highest levels of unemployment (13.9% in June 2012). While there have been recent signs of recovery in the labour market due for example to growth in the automotive industry, it is uncertain if this growth will be sustainable.

Problem addressed: Two social groups, namely young people and women have been disproportionately affected by the economic crisis. The unemployment rates for youth (more than 33%) and women (nearly 15%) are both well above European Union averages. This project aims to help these and other unemployed and disadvantaged groups through self-employment.

Programme description: The project started in 2002 and aims to increase awareness and knowledge of opportunities in self-employment through training while providing advice to those who wish to start. The scheme is funded by the Ministry of Economy and managed by the National Agency for SMEs (NADSME). The training and advice is delivered by Regional Advisory and Information Centres and other NADSME partners throughout the country. Participants from the eligible groups must demonstrate that they: i) are motivated to start their own business, ii) have a business plan, iii) have some level of technological skills and knowledge about their proposed products or services, iv) have some basic knowledge or experience in entrepreneurship, and v) have personal funds to invest in the business start-up. Applications are assessed by business advisors, who refer the potential entrepreneurs to free training courses and business advisory services. Training sessions are delivered over 3 to 5 days and focus on the administrative steps required for business start-up; small business management; marketing strategies; business finance; basic law; and tax compliance. During the training, participants are provided with support in the development of their business plan. Participants can access up to 40 hours per year of subsidised business advisory services after business start-up. This training is also a prerequisite to access start-up grants from the Labour Office. The average cost per participant is EUR 100.

Impact: Between 2002-2011, 520 training courses were delivered to 9 940 potential entrepreneurs and 57 500 hours of advisory services were provided. In 2011, 73% of those who participated in training started a business. This rate was slightly higher (75%) for people under the age of 30, who accounted for 37% of participants.

Consideration for success: One of the key factors in attracting people onto the programme is its accessibility in rural areas with higher unemployment rates and fewer employment opportunities. In addition, the tailored approach ensures that participants receive training to match their needs.

Figure 10.23. **Entrepreneurship and self-employment data for the Slovak Republic**


Sources: Chart A. Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, 2000-2011; Chart B. Eurostat, Labour Force Survey 2011; Chart C. Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, 2000-2011; Chart D. Special tabulations of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor adult population survey, 2011; Chart E. Special tabulations of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor adult population survey, 2007-2011.

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932929321>



From:
The Missing Entrepreneurs
Policies for Inclusive Entrepreneurship in Europe

Access the complete publication at:
<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264188167-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD/The European Commission (2013), "Slovak Republic: Training and Advisory Services for Potential Entrepreneurs", in *The Missing Entrepreneurs: Policies for Inclusive Entrepreneurship in Europe*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264188167-35-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.