# Industrial restructuring in Central and South-Eastern Europe: Difference of degree or kind?

Territorial Cohesion in Europe – International Conference for the 70<sup>th</sup>
Anniversary of the Transdanubian Research Institute
Pécs, 27-28 June 2013

#### **Gabor Lux**

PhD, Research Fellow
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
CERS Institute for Regional Studies
lux@rkk.hu

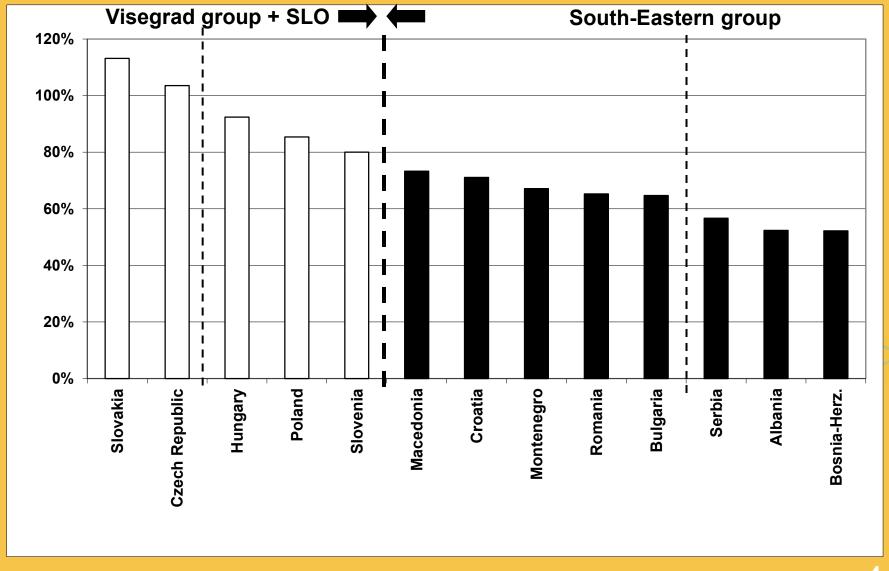


- Post-socialist industrial development
  - De-industrialisation
  - Regional restructuring
  - Reorganisation
- Development lag with identical processes or fundamentally different development paths? (Periphery vs. Periphery)
- Country groups:
  - Visegrad Four + Slovenia
  - Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, FYROM, Montenegro, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania
  - Is this classification valid?

#### Post-socialist industrial restructuring: main trends

- Sectoral transformation of the economy: shift towards services
- Tertiarisation: differentiated meanings
  - structural correction of "overindustrialised" economies (general)
  - modernisation process, "post-industrial society" (C-P)
  - a symptom of peripherisation (C-P)
- Neglect of the third phenomenon in social and scientific discourse
- Inequal distribution of positive and negative outcomes

### De-industrialisation 1990-2008 (1990=100%)



#### Patterns of de-industrialisation

- Transformation recession
  - lighter in Visegrad group, Slovenia and Croatia
  - severe is Serbia, Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina
- A core issue: the preservation of human capital
  - long-term unemployment
  - black/grey economy
  - emigration
  - wartime disruption
  - temporary ruralisation
- The "post-industrial" periphery:
  - dissolution of industrial specialisation
  - loss of productive traditions
  - the "homogenisation of space"

More serious losses in SE Europe

low-level equilibrium?

#### Patterns of de-industrialisation II.

- Post-industrial but underdeveloped:
  - Bosnia-Hercegovina, Noth-Eastern Montenegro, South Serbia, North-Eastern FYROM, Kosovo: low rate of return to the formal economy
  - Serbia's industrial centres, 1996–2008 (Zeković 2008):

■ 20-50 ths. employees:  $8 \rightarrow 1$  (Novi Sad)

■ 10-20 ths. employees : 17 → 4 (Pančevo, Kragujevac, Niš, Subotica)

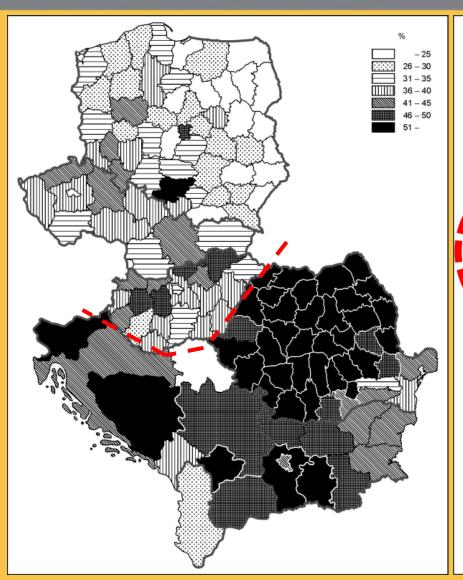
■ 5-10 ths. employees:  $26 \rightarrow 18$ 

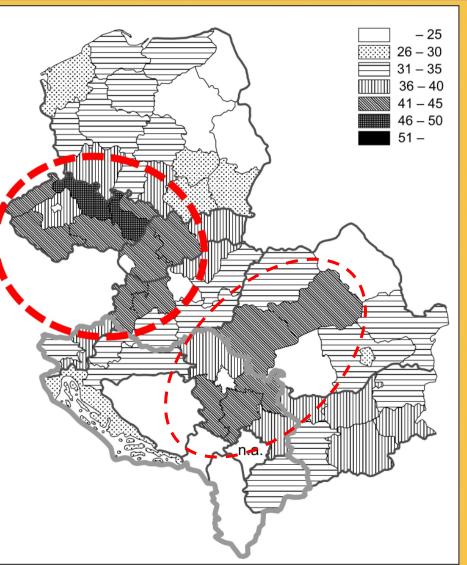
■ 1-5 ths. employees:  $125 \rightarrow 55$  (without Kosovo!)

Bosnia-Herzegovina: military industry complex, chemical and metal industry

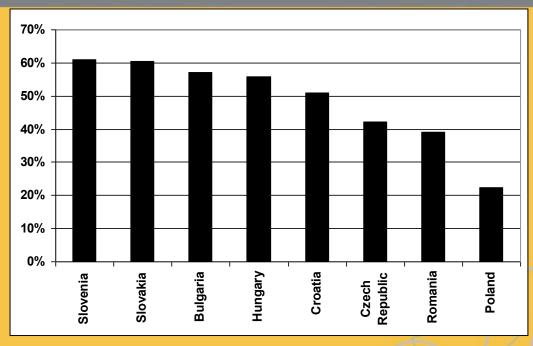


## Regional restructuring patterns: industrial employment in 1990 and 2008





### The concentration of advanced business services in central regions



- Financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities
- Tied to the urban network (monocentric vs. polycentric development)
- Split between industrial production and industry-related services
- Strong agglomeration of added value
- high tertiary employment does not imply a developed service economy

### Industrial or service-based competitiveness?

	Agriculture (NACE A – B)	Industry & C. (NACE C – F)	Services (NACE G – Q)
Non-central regions	-0.47	0.42	0.30
Visegrad countries + Slovenia	-0.49	0.71	-0.10
South-Eastern countries	-0.10	-0.14	0.21
Central regions	-0.62	-0.58	0.76

- Correlation analysis: sectoral employment rate ←→ GDP/capita
- In Visegrad countries, competitiveness in central regions is mainly service-based; outside them, it is industrial ←→ South-East: slower structural change, weaker capitalisation, role of traditional industries
- Implications → differentiated meaning of industry

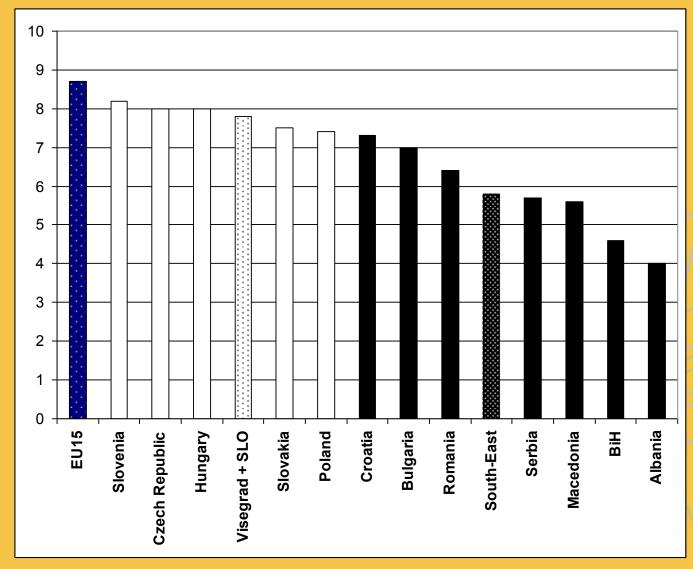
### Regional restructuring patterns II.

- Lower share of industry in Gross Value Added (statistical, but not structural similarity to the EU average) ←→ Visegrad group, heavier industrialisation, weak business services
- Comparative advantages of low- and low-medium tech industries
- Comparative disadvantages in high-GVA segments, trade deficit highest here
- Strong external dependency and low VA in international value chains (textile industry)
- Differentiated integration forms across regions:
  - dynamic central regions, strong tertiary functions and high-VA industry
  - robust intermediate regions too few
  - weakly integrated peripheries
  - hollowed-out (depopulating) super-peripheries, distant regions

### Forms of industrial reorganisation

- Post-2000 reintegration:
  - strenghtening common characteristics
  - catching-up in per capita FDI
  - slow progress in factor intensity (labour → scale → knowledge), both higher and lower forms are found
- Very strong relationship between FDI and export performance
- Weak preparedness for knowledge-based development; Croatia's similarity to Visegrad group. Disrupted research and innovation networks, lack of strong domestic corporate research.
- The spread of EU-influenced development policy
  - special economic zones, industrial estates
  - cluster development

### Example: Knowledge Economy Index in selected countries (1 – 10)



### Example: the free trade zone & industrial estate network in Croatia and Serbia



Forrás: Author's construction

### Conclusions

- Deeper disruption of industry, disadvantageous forms of deindustrialisation
- National differences are stronger than sub-national ones (Croatia)
- Re-emerging historical development gaps and core areas; advantages of national capitals
- Lower inflow of FDI, but convergence towards the Visegrad group
- Strong duality of industry, lower embeddedness ("cathedrals in the desert"?), weak opportunities for endogenous development
- Increasing EU-integration with persisting development gaps
  - strongly path-dependent, but "going in the right direction"
  - → will the crisis have a long-term effect on the region?

