Economic dynamics in border municipalities of AP Vojvodina: perspective of regional development (2011-2022)

This research paper explores the economic dynamics of border municipalities in Vojvodina within the context of Serbia through an analysis of the labour market, with a specific emphasis on regional development. Border municipalities, as specific geographical entities, face challenges arising from their proximity to the country's borders, which further impact the economic characteristics of these areas. Through comprehensive research, employing a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods of data analysis, the study examines the influence of various factors on employment, unemployment, and overall economic activity in Serbian border municipalities from 2011 to 2022. By focusing on the labour market, a deeper understanding of the specific economic structure of these municipalities is gained, taking into account local and regional characteristics. The study investigates factors affecting employment, such as the educational structure of the population, the availability of education and training, as well as investment attraction. The dynamics of unemployment are also analysed, considering its relationship with seasonal variations and structural changes in the labour market. Additionally, the paper explores the connections between the labour market and broader regional development, examining how economic activity in border municipalities contributes to or restricts overall regional development in Serbia. In this context, the focus will be on border municipalities with Croatia, including Sombor, Apatin, Odžaci, Bač, Bačka Palanka in Bačka, and one municipality in Srem, Šid. Identification of key challenges and opportunities for improving the labor market in these municipalities can provide a foundation for the development of policies aimed at enhancing regional economic stability, especially considering the sensitive position of border municipalities in Serbia.

Keywords: border municipalities, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, labour market, regional development, unemployment