

Ostrava region: drugs against the crisis

Author: SF / pb | Published: 24.03.2009

At the discussion breakfast of Stavební fórum, organized in Ostrava's Atom Hotel under the name "Macroeconomic 2009 - Current Status and Perspectives", its participants, especially representatives of the state administration, local governments and the business sector, thought about the impacts of the present economic recession on the whole Ostrava region. According to them, the answer to the slowdown in economic growth should be investments in infrastructure as well as measures on the labour market to alleviate the growing unemployment rate. In Moravia-Silesia, unemployment rate grew by almost 1% in February alone, S. Baďurová from the Employment Bureau said at the seminar; at the end of this month, it reached 10.5%, which significantly exceeds the nationwide average. The EU's operational programmes should help solve this situation, and Ostrava has had experience with their implementation. "However, the labour market is very inflexible, people are not too willing to move to get a job," Baďurová pointed at a big problem, which has already spread throughout the nation. That is one of the reasons why the intensity of trading on Ostrava's residential market is very low - in the end, even those showing willingness for mobility run against a housing problem.

The lower intensity of business and economic activity in the region, e.g. Multidevelopment has more or less "frozen" the broadly publicized and appreciated Nová Karolina project worth CZK 10 - 15 billion - should be offset by a larger volume of budget finance flowing into infrastructure construction not only in Ostrava, but also for example in the nearby Mořnov. According to the representatives of the Ostrava City Hall, the new integrated urban development plan should be a major instrument for these activities - the plan, published at the city's webpage some time ago, was introduced to the seminar participants by Jan Dvořák. Some of its key features are e.g. completion of the city's general sewerage system, construction of a football stadium and development of the Vítkovice region. Another important investment will be the revitalization of the area around the Ostrava-Svinov railway station, which accounts for 70% of railway passenger service in the North Moravian capital today.

24.03.2009 08:00, SF / pb