

METHOD OF STUDY

The work it is proposed to do involves creating a statistical database with the function of gathering all the information about the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of labour supply and demand in the Province of Venice and Slovenia. Creating the CD-ROM is the last phase in a project divided into several parts, described in full detail below.

First phase

In the first phase all the information available regarding the world of labour in the Province of Venice and Slovenia will be sought, gathered and processed in order to have as clear a picture as possible of the characteristics and problems of this sector.

To do this all the databases in Italy have been analysed (Istat, Censis, Prometeia, Isfol and others). On the Slovene side the references have been some websites, particularly www.gov.si and www.stat.si, and talks with the New Gorica Crafts Chamber and the New Gorica Chamber of Commerce, which proved to be a precious help in understanding the qualitative and quantitative features of the area on the other side of the border, so near Italy and yet in many ways still not very familiar.

Second phase

Two different types of data flow into the second phase: those provided by the New Gorica employment office, set up in Excelsior, and other more empirical information obtained through a survey of a sample of Venetian and Slovene businessmen who filled in questionnaires. The answers given provided a picture of the training needs and, on the other hand, of the professional skills that have already developed in the two areas. This field work was made possible thanks to the data provided by the New Gorica employment office, which enabled the study to define areas, sectors and professionals characterised by the highest number of recruitments: this information was indispensable in order to prepare a sufficiently representative sample.

In this way a sample was identified of 121 entrepreneurs from the Province of Venice and 133 from the Slovene regions of Goriska and Obalno-Kraska.

The Venetian firms contacted are mainly small and medium: 40% do not have more than 5 employees and 30% have from 6 to 10. At the moment 60% of those employed in these concerns are workers (mostly unskilled). The largest sectors from the point of view of numbers of firms are building and tourism, respectively 35% and 27%; there is a fair number of chemical and plastic firms (17%) and textiles/clothing/footwear (12%). The turnover of the firms interviewed also put them in the small and medium category: about 50% declared a turnover of more than €150,000 and under €1.5 million.

Two out of five of the Venetian firms stated that they intended to engage personnel for 2004.

The firms in the Slovene sample differ from those in the Province of Venice in that they are more homogeneous in size: fewer than 40% of them have under 10 employees and a significantly large proportion, 25%, have more than 25. At present there are more skilled than unskilled workers within an occupational category which is just over 50% of the total of the employees involved.

Building and tourism (each with about 30%) are the sectors mainly represented, followed by the chemical and plastic industry (13.5%) and metal and mechanical (11.5%). Almost 60% of the sample declared a turnover between € 150,000 and € 1.5 million, the same proportion as that of the concerns that plan to recruit fresh personnel for 2004.

Third phase

The third phase concentrated on the collection and further processing of the results of the empirical survey and provided a specific outline of the situation regarding demand for professional skills and job demand.

Some particular statistical sources were also analysed that enabled a forecast to be made of job opportunities for Slovenes in the Venetian labour market.

The collection and organisation of the information led to the creation of an overall database set up by subject and area. In practice, users can find labour market information

whether they are interested in the Venice or the Slovenia area, with separate access according to the language chosen: the CD-ROM has been made not only in Italian but in English and Slovene.

Fourth phase

The last phase consists in dissemination of the information on hand. For this, through the Slovene partner, the product will be promoted in both areas. The CD-ROM will also be sent to the organisations that have the opportunity to give it the widest possible distribution (Chambers of Commerce, employment offices, provincial and municipal councils, etc.). It will also be advertised in the websites of the association that promoted the study and its Slovene partner, thereby allowing a link to be set up between the two sites through a virtual situations vacant and situations wanted centre.