



Lisbon strategy, competitiveness and ERA

Maja Bucar

Centre of International Relations

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of
Ljubljana

maja.bucar@fdv.uni-lj.si



Content

- o Lisbon strategy: main objectives
- o Achievements by end 2007
- o Competitiveness, ERA and Lisbon
- o Experience of new member states
- o Relevance of experience for SEE



Lisbon strategy: main objectives

- EU is to become “the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion, and respect for the environment by 2010”.
- To achieve this, EU needs to:
 - Improve the use of ICT: eEurope
 - Single market, financial services
 - Promotion of entrepreneurship
 - ERA and innovation
 - Labour market reforms



Achievements by end 2007: launching of the new cycle 2008-2010

- Economic growth up from 1.8% in 2005 to 2.9% in 2007!
- Almost 6.5 million new jobs
- Lower unemployment, the employment rate at 66% has moved much closer to Lisbon target of 70%.
- Less successful in R&D investment, even though most member states still commit to 3% target!
- Simplified and less expensive to start a business in most Member States, but not yet a dynamic entrepreneurial culture.
- Labour market: flexicurity approach only partially successful.



New cycle 2008-2010

Actions in four priority areas:

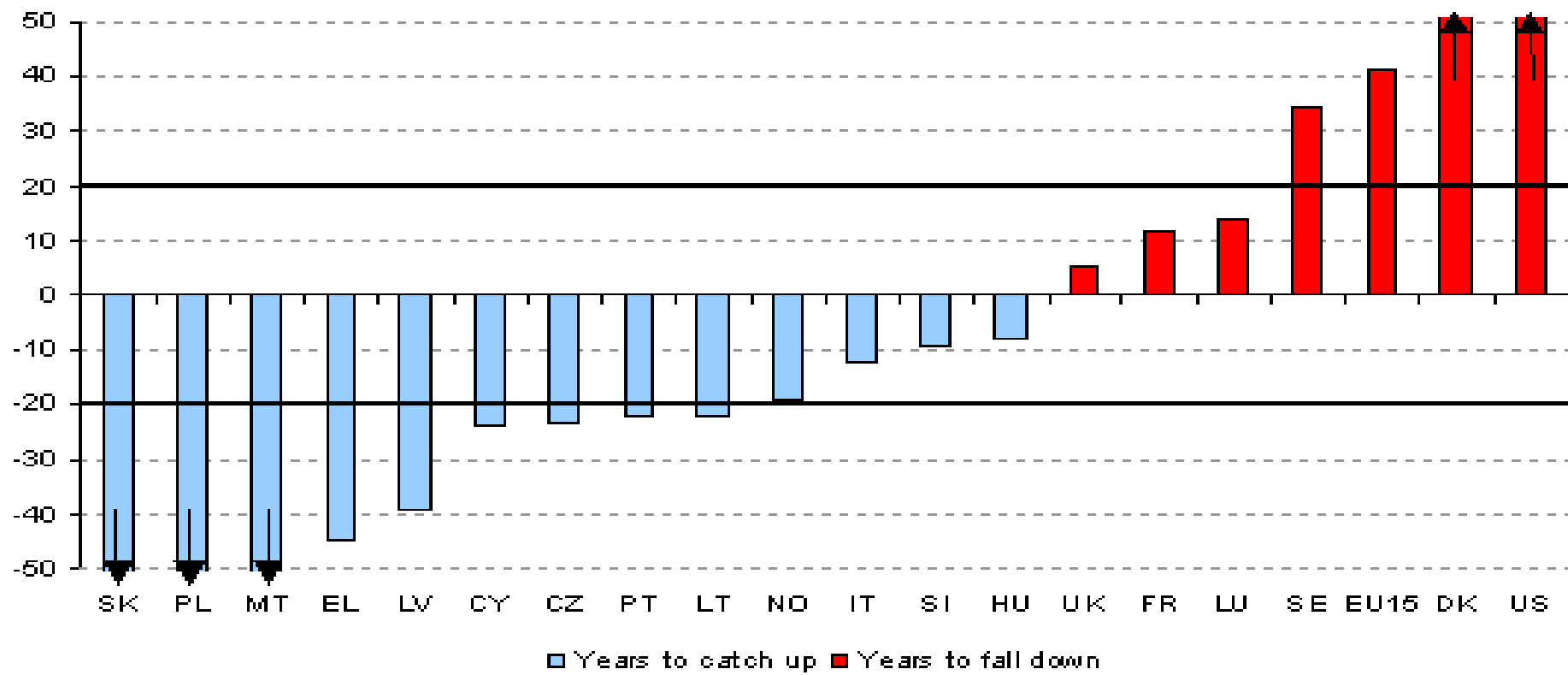
1. Investing in people and modernising labour markets
2. Unlocking the business potential, especially of SMEs
3. Investing in knowledge and innovation
4. Energy and climate change



EU competitiveness and ERA

- Knowledge-based society= increased investment in R&D, innovation and education
- Barcelona target: 3%; EU 2006: 1.84%; USA: 2.5%, Japan: 3%> at the current rate of increase of investment, target achieved in 2050!
- Fifth freedom: the freedom of knowledge> genuine European research area:
 - Joint research infrastructure; free movement of researchers, complementarity of EU and national programmes; openness and common priority areas, even launching common calls for projects> ERA Green Paper, 2007.

Experience of New Member States- catching up to EU25 average (EIS, 2007)





Implementing Lisbon Strategy in NMS: example of R&D and innovation

- R&D and innovation as key source to long-term competitiveness: starting levels of R&D activity especially in business sector much below average EU.
- Several targets difficult to achieve due to complexity of the reform process.
- Still, all countries accepted a 3% target!
- Some NMS surpassing innovation laggards among the “old” members.



Cont.:

- PLUS: Numerous instruments and measures introduced, mostly copied from best practices in more developed “old” member countries.
- MINUS: Low R&D and innovation awareness among politicians and consequently insufficient attention to policy or allocation of resources.
- MINUS: Lack of coordination of R&D and innovation policies and measures among different government departments.



Relevant lessons from NMS for SSE

- Valuable policy directions, but need to be integrated in national priorities.
- NMS: Lack of ***sufficiently qualified human resources*** at all levels and in all surroundings.
- Attainment of ***governance capacity*** for the implementation of reforms is a ***long-term process***.
- ***Coherence and coordination are highly demanding characteristics of governance capacity.***



Cont.: impact of Lisbon reforms

- “Europeanization” of policies:
 - Positive: setting of long-term priorities, awareness raising, transfer of concepts and mechanisms.
 - Negative: relying on “import” of concepts, without reflection on own capabilities
- Capability to ***adjust the measures and instruments*** best practices to own environment and circumstances!!



Lisbon: success or failure?

- Objective assessment: all of the goals will not be implemented: some because they were not planned well, some because of the lack of commitment of the Member States and others because their implementation needs more time.
- National Reform Programmes and the Implementation Reports: compliance with the Commission or national assessment of economic and social policy? Question of the identification with Lisbon goals!
- Need to involve the stakeholders, especially business sector, not just the governments.