

Eastern region – Wages and collective bargaining 2022

December 2022

At a meeting of industriAll Europe's meeting in the Eastern region in November, some significant economic data was presented for each country in the region.

Slovenia:

- GDP growth forecasts: 6.4% in 2022 and 0.8% in 2023
- The inflation rate was 10.3% in October 2022
- Unemployment level: 4.2%
- Minimum wages have increased from 734 euro to 1,074 euro since 2010, a nominal growth of 46%
- Three collective agreements have been signed by SKEI in 2022 with a pay rise of 3-5%. The demand for the following negotiations will be 6%.
- SKEI also demands effective measures by the government, such as further increases of minimum wages, higher pensions, and benefits for the socially endangered.

Hungary:

- GDP growth forecasts: 5.5% in 2022 and 0.1% in 2023
- The inflation rate was 21.9% in October 2022
- Unemployment level: 3.6%
- Public debt forecasts: 81% of GDP in 2022 and 76% in 2023
- Employers' tax burden was decreased by 4% in 2022.
- Negotiations for minimum wages in 2023 are about to start. The government's policy is not to raise wages over the level of inflation as it would further fuel inflation.

The Czech Republic:

- GDP growth forecasts: 2.5% in 2022 and 0.1% in 2023
- The inflation rate was 15.5% in October 2022
- Unemployment level: 2.4%
- There is widespread dissatisfaction due to increasing poverty and unions have staged massive manifestations to demand improvement
- Unions demand an anti-crisis plan to be set out by the government together with the social partners.

Slovakia:

- GDP growth forecasts: 1.9% in 2022 and 0.4% in 2023
- The inflation rate was 14.5% in October 2022
- Unemployment level: 6.1%
- Nominal wage increase in 2022 is 8.3%, real wage increase – 3.6%
- Manifestations staged for higher wages as part of European campaign

Poland:

- GDP growth forecasts: 4.0% in 2022 and 0.7% in 2023
- The inflation rate was 16.4% in October 2022
- Unemployment level: 5.1%
- Minimum wages are raised from 1 January 2023 by 15.9% and from 1 July 2023 by 19.6%
- Employment of foreigners: At the end of September 2022, 1.05 million foreigners had pension insurance in Poland, of whom 72% were Ukrainians

Edited by industriAll Europe