

Regional unemployment rates in the Acceding Countries in 2002

Michal Mladý

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THEME 1 – 10/2003

REGIONS

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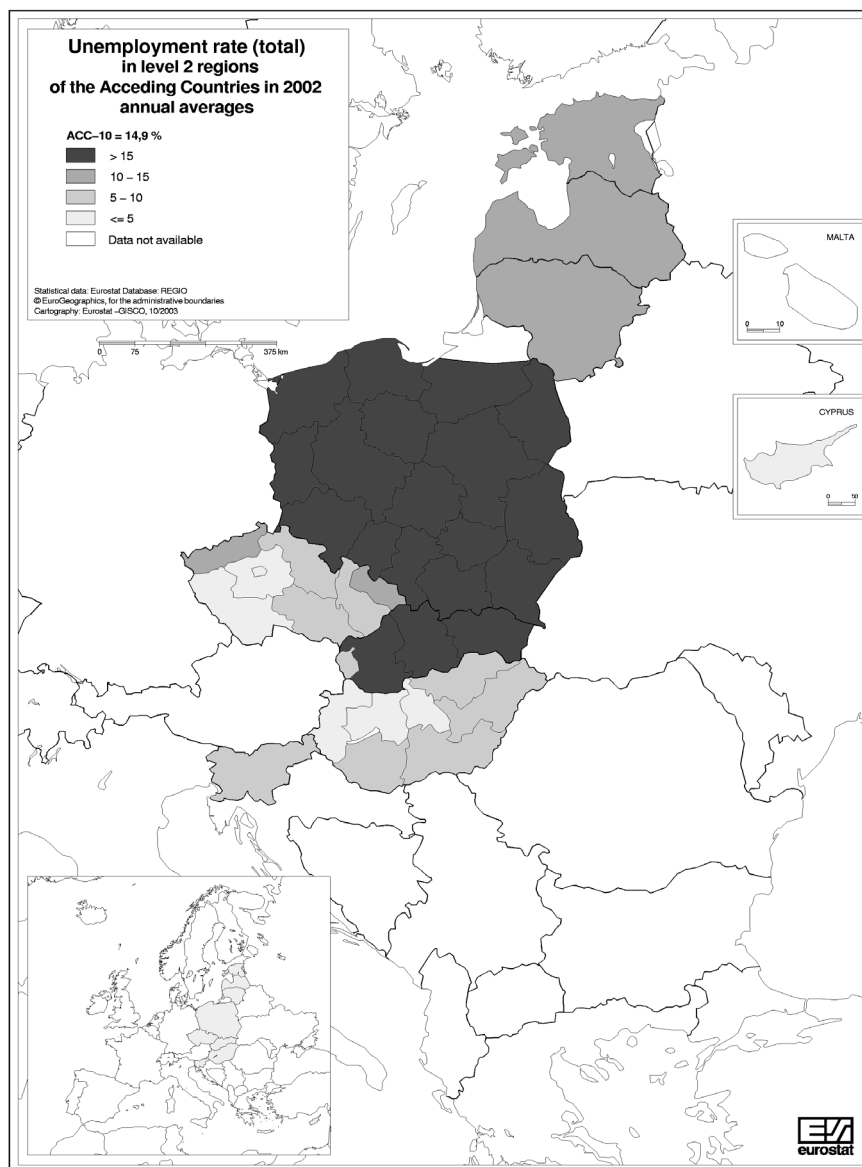


Figure 1: Unemployment rates (total) in 2002 – level 2

According to the most recent estimates, unemployment rates for the year 2002 for level 2 regions in the Acceding Countries (AC) varied between 3.3 % and 26.3 %.

In 2003 a **major reform** of the regional unemployment rates was implemented. The main focus shifted from second-quarter results to annual averages (see “Essential information – methodological notes” p. 7).



AC unemployment rates vary between 3.3 % and 26.3 %

Region	Unemployment rate
CYPRUS	3.3
PRAHA (CZ)	3.6
KÖZÉP-MAGYARORSZÁG (HU)	4.0
NYUGAT-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	4.1
JIHOZÁPAD (CZ)	4.9
STŘEDNÍ ČECHY (CZ)	5.0
KÖZÉP-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	5.0
⋮	⋮
KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE (PL)	21.5
POMORSKIE (PL)	21.5
VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO (SK)	22.2
WARMINSKO-MAZURSKIE (PL)	25.9
ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIE (PL)	26.0
DOLNOŚLASKIE (PL)	26.1
LUBUSKIE (PL)	26.3

Table 1: Level 2 regions of the AC with the lowest/highest unemployment rates in 2002 (in %)

The unemployment rate in the Acceding Countries, i.e. the ratio of unemployed persons to the total economically active population, stood at 14.9 % in 2002. At regional level, there were some remarkable deviations from this average.

Table 2 additionally gives some idea of regional differences within the countries, where Slovakia shows the widest gap between regions.

AC	Level 2 regions with minimum value		Level 2 regions with maximum value	
CZ	PRAHA	3.6	MORAVSKOSLEZKO	13.4
HU	KÖZÉP-MAGYARORSZÁG	4.0	ÉSZAK-MAGYARORSZÁG	8.9
PL	MALOPOLSKIE	16.2	LUBUSKIE	26.3
SK	BRATISLAVSKÝ	8.7	VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO	22.2

Table 2: Range of unemployment rates in level 2 regions of the Acceding Countries in 2002

Taking only level 2 regions into consideration, the unemployment rates varied between 3.3 % in Cyprus and 26.3 % in the Polish region of Lubuskie. Interestingly, this range is quite similar to the range of the European Union, where unemployment rates for NUTS level 2 regions varied between 2.0 % and 29.3 % in 2002.

Recent trends in the EU Member States are similar to those in the AC. In the EU, the unemployment rate rose from 7.5 % in 2001 to 7.8 % in 2002. In 2001, the AC recorded a rate of 14.5 %, in 2002 of 14.9 %.

Of the 40 level 2 regions under consideration, five had an unemployment rate below 5 %. A further 11 regions fell below 10 %. These regions can be found in Hungary (5), the Czech Republic (4) and Slovakia (1). Also under 10 % is Slovenia. At the other end of the scale, 10 regions exceeded 20 %; these were in Poland (8) and Slovakia (2). Compared to 2001, when six regions were above 20 %, this is a notable increase.

Table 1 lists the regions with the lowest and highest unemployment rates in 2002.

Slight increase of unemployment in three countries – decrease in six countries

The trends that can be observed at regional level are also reflected at national level. Total unemployment rate rose between 2001 and 2002 from 14.5 % to 14.9 % for all AC combined. There was a notable increase for Poland (1.7 percentage points), whereas the increase for Hungary (0.2 percentage points) and Slovenia (0.1 per-

centage points) was more moderate. On the other hand, two Baltic countries, Lithuania (-2.8 percentage points) and Estonia (-2.3 percentage points), recorded the biggest decreases. Unemployment rates decreased slightly in Latvia, the Czech Republic, Cyprus and Slovakia.

Female unemployment rates similar to male unemployment rates

Region	Female unemployment rates
KÖZÉP-MAGYARORSZÁG (HU)	3.9
CYPRUS	4.2
NYUGAT-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	4.2
PRAHA (CZ)	4.5
KÖZÉP-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	4.7
JIHOZÁPAD (CZ)	5.9
DÉL ALFÖLD (HU)	6.5
⋮	⋮
KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE (PL)	22.0
ŚLASKIE (PL)	23.2
POMORSKIE (PL)	23.7
DOLNOŚLASKIE (PL)	25.6
ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIE (PL)	26.3
LUBUSKIE (PL)	26.7
WARMINSKO-MAZURSKIE (PL)	27.7

The breakdown by gender shows that the range for female unemployment rates is similar to the range for men, i.e. between 3.9 % for the capital region of Hungary (Közép-Magyarország) and 27.7 % for the Polish region of Warminsko-Mazurskie.

For the European Union NUTS level 2 regions, this range is, at 1.8 % to 35.6 %, wider than for the AC. From that perspective, it could be concluded that the role of men and women in the AC labour market is more equal than in the European Union.

Table 3: Level 2 regions of the AC with the lowest/highest female unemployment rates in 2002 (in %)

Wider range of youth unemployment

Region	Youth unemployment rates
CYPRUS	7.7
STŘEDNÍ ČECHY (CZ)	8.5
KÖZÉP-MAGYARORSZÁG (HU)	8.8
NYUGAT-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	8.8
JIHOZÁPAD (CZ)	8.9
PRAHA (CZ)	9.4
KÖZÉP-DUNÁNTÚL (HU)	10.3
⋮	⋮
OPOLSKIE (PL)	45.3
PODKARPACKIE (PL)	45.7
ŚWIETOKRZYSKIE (PL)	48.7
LUBUSKIE (PL)	50.1
DOLNOŚLASKIE (PL)	50.2
WARMIŃSKO-MAZURSKIE (PL)	52.2
ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIE (PL)	54.6

The youth unemployment rates show a wider range than the total or female rates. They varied between 7.7 % in Cyprus and 54.6 % in the Polish region of Zachodniopomorskie.

Compared to youth unemployment rate within the European Union, the trend is also similar: whereas last year none of the regions of the AC exceeded 50%, now four Polish regions surpass 50 % and nine more regions (Poland: 7, Slovakia: 2) show a youth unemployment rate of above 40 %.

Youth unemployment rates increased only in Hungary (+1.3 %) and Poland (+3.0 %). Lithuania (-7.9 %) and Estonia (-5.6 %) recorded the biggest decreases.

Table 4: Level 2 regions of the AC with the lowest/highest youth unemployment rates in 2002 (in %)

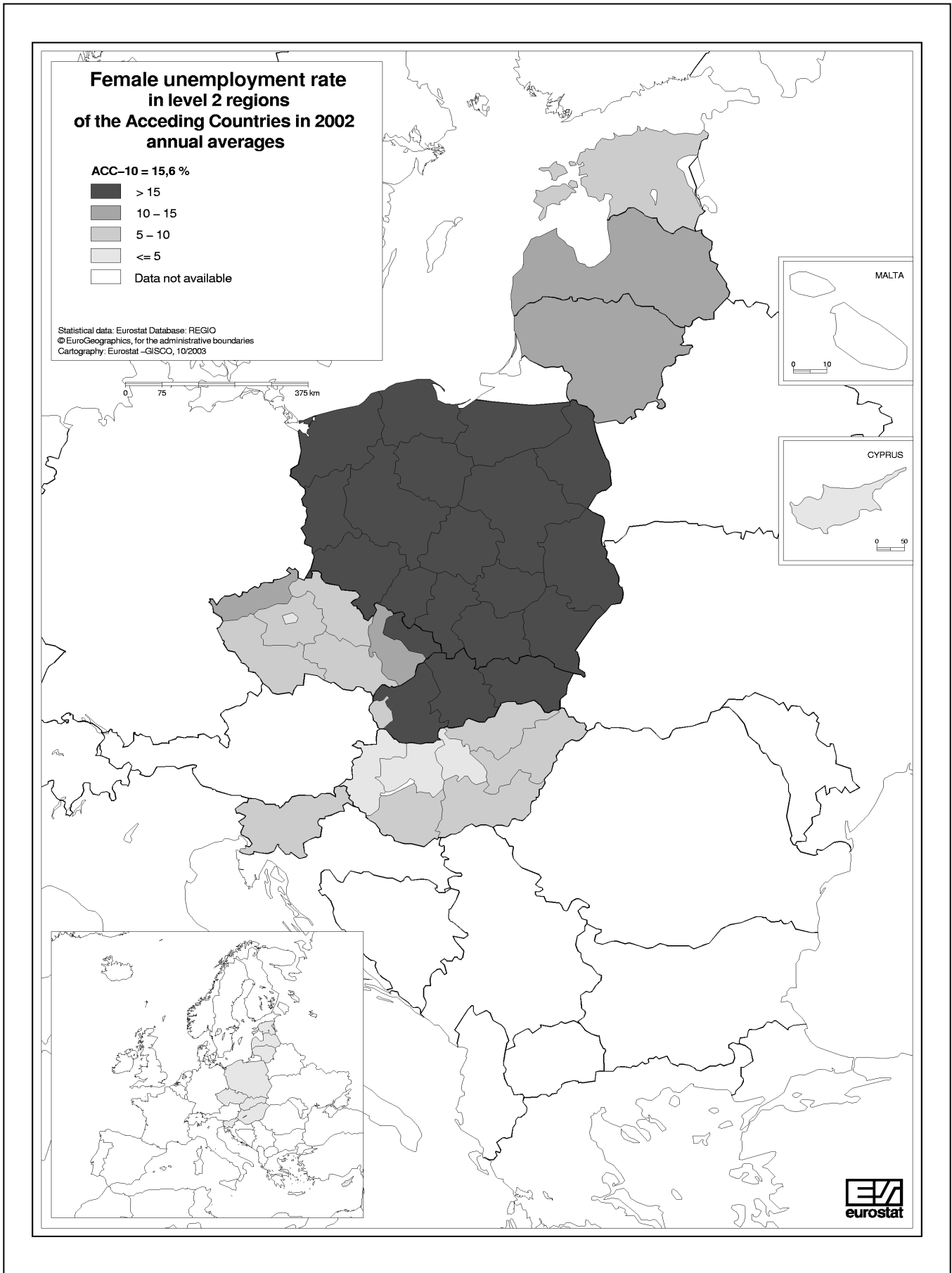


Figure 2: Female unemployment rates in level 2 regions of the Acceding Countries in 2002 – annual averages

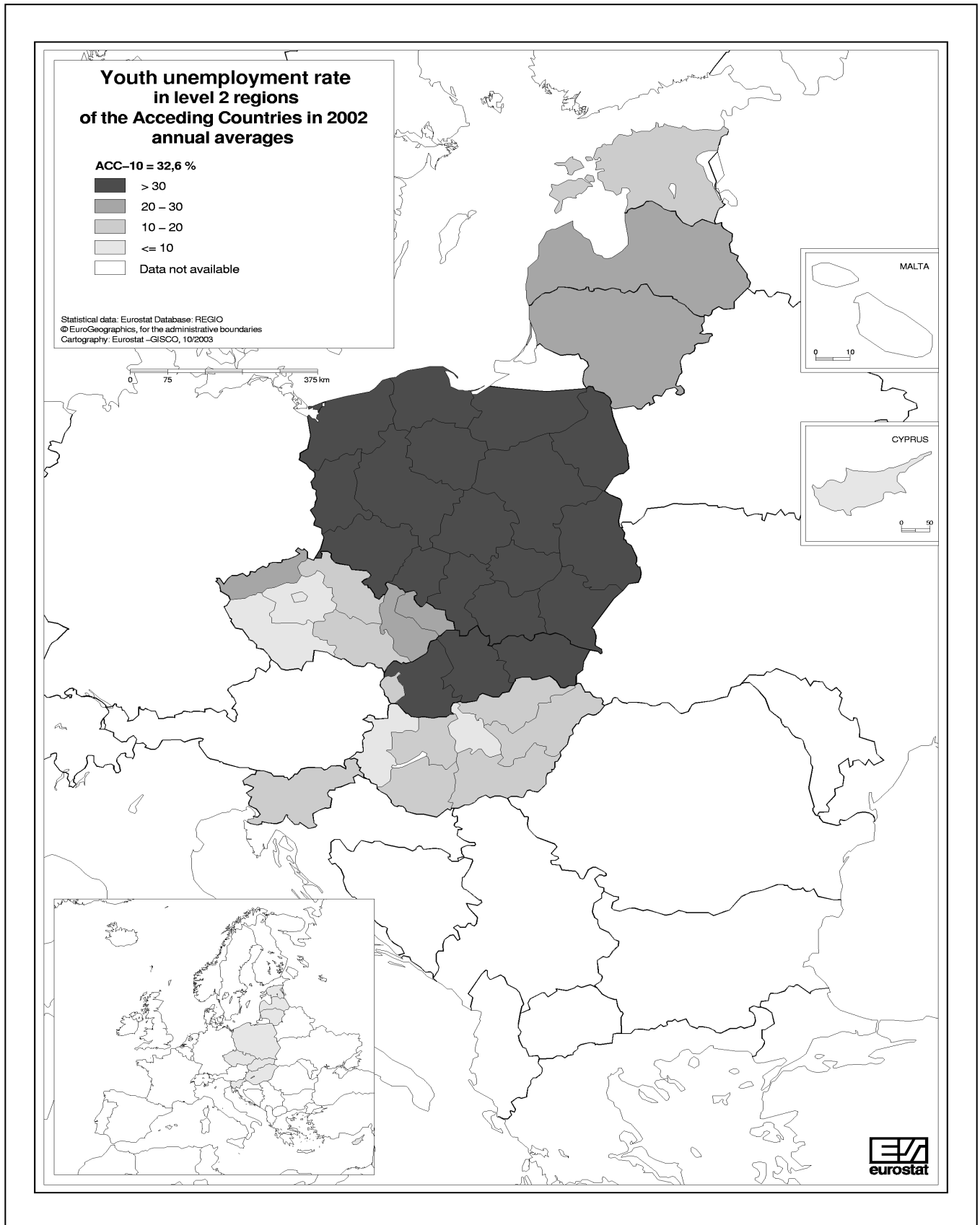


Figure 3: Youth unemployment rates in level 2 regions of the Acceding Countries in 2002 – annual averages

	Total		Females		15-24 years	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
EU-15	7.5	7.8	8.6	8.6	14.7	15.2
AC-10 ¹⁾	14.5	14.9	15.3	15.6	31.4	32.6
EU-15 + AC-10	8.7	9.0	9.7	9.8	17.6	18.1
CYPRUS	4.0	3.3	5.7	4.2	8.2	7.7
CZECH REPUBLIC	8.2	7.3	9.9	9.0	17.6	16.9
PRAHA	3.9	3.6	4.2	4.5	8.7	9.4
STŘEDNÍ ČECHY	6.8	5.0	9.3	7.4	13.2	8.5
JIHOZÁPAD	5.7	4.9	6.9	5.9	9.0	8.9
SEVEROZÁPAD	11.8	11.4	13.4	13.3	23.9	26.2
SEVEROVÝCHOD	6.2	5.4	8.4	7.1	14.6	13.0
JIHOVÝCHOD	7.8	6.8	9.1	7.9	16.8	17.0
STŘEDNÍ MORAVA	9.5	8.8	11.5	10.8	21.9	21.4
MORAVSKOSLEZKO	14.4	13.4	17.4	16.3	31.0	29.1
ESTONIA	12.6	10.3	12.2	9.7	23.2	17.6
HUNGARY	5.7	5.9	5.0	5.4	11.1	12.4
KÖZÉP MAGYARORSZÁG	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.9	8.9	8.8
KÖZÉP DUNÁNTÚL	4.3	5.0	4.7	4.7	7.0	10.3
NYUGAT DUNÁNTÚL	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.2	9.1	8.8
DÉL DUNÁNTÚL	7.8	7.9	6.3	7.1	15.7	15.9
ÉSZAK MAGYAROSZÁG	8.6	8.9	6.9	7.6	15.4	19.4
ÉSZAK ALFÖLD	7.8	7.9	6.4	7.0	13.4	14.9
DÉL ALFÖLD	5.4	6.3	4.9	6.5	11.6	13.9
LITHUANIA	16.5	13.7	13.5	12.9	30.9	23.0
LATVIA	13.1	12.1	11.5	11.0	22.9	20.8
MALTA	:	:	:	:	:	:
POLAND	18.2	19.9	19.8	20.9	39.5	42.5
DOLNOSLASKIE	23.7	26.1	25.6	25.6	45.7	50.2
KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE	20.0	21.5	21.9	22.0	39.9	43.2
LUBELSKIE	14.7	16.6	15.1	16.5	35.8	37.8
LUBUSKIE	24.3	26.3	27.6	26.7	45.4	50.1
ŁÓDZKIE	19.8	20.3	21.8	21.4	42.4	42.1
MALOPOLSKIE	13.0	16.2	14.2	16.5	33.8	37.5
MAZOWIECKIE	14.6	17.0	15.6	17.5	33.5	36.9
OPOLSKIE	18.1	19.7	19.4	21.0	43.7	45.3
PODKARPACKIE	18.0	18.2	19.1	19.2	46.9	45.7
PODLASKIE	16.0	16.8	17.7	17.1	41.3	37.9
POMORSKIE	18.5	21.5	20.2	23.7	37.1	45.1
ŚLASKIE	19.7	20.1	22.4	23.2	40.5	42.0
ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE	18.0	18.8	19.1	19.4	46.5	48.7
WARMINSKO-MAZURSKIE	23.5	25.9	26.2	27.7	48.8	52.2
WIELKOPOLSKIE	17.7	18.2	19.9	20.2	35.0	38.0
ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIE	22.4	26.0	22.7	26.3	42.7	54.6
SLOVENIA	6.2	6.3	6.8	6.8	17.8	16.5
SLOVAKIA	19.3	18.7	18.7	18.7	39.2	37.7
BRATISLAVSKÝ	8.3	8.7	8.6	9.2	21.0	18.4
ZÁPADNÉ SLOVENSKO	18.6	17.5	18.2	18.1	36.3	35.5
STREDNÉ SLOVENSKO	20.9	21.4	20.5	21.3	41.6	40.6
VÝCHODNÉ SLOVENSKO	23.9	22.2	22.8	21.7	47.2	44.4

1) AC — Acceding Countries (without Malta)

Table 5: Unemployment rates in the Acceding Countries and their level 2 regions in 2001 and 2002 – annual averages

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

At level 2 regional breakdown considered in this publication, there are 40 regions in the acceding countries. The figures at level 3 regional breakdown and further subdivisions are available on request from the Eurostat Data Shop network.

The Acceding Countries comprise 41 statistical regions at level 2: the Czech Republic (8), Hungary (7), Poland (16) and the Slovak Republic (4). Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Slovenia are each considered a single region. Only 40 regions are considered in this News Release, as no data are available for Malta.

The unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the total economically active population. It relates to persons who are aged at least 15 at a certain point in time and can be broken down further by age and sex. The youth unemployment rate relates to persons aged 15-24.

In 2003 a **major reform** of the regional unemployment rates was implemented. The main focus shifted from second-quarter results to annual averages.

As part of a quality review of regional indicators, Eurostat established a task force on the methodology of the estimation of regional unemployment rates. This task force came up with recommendations for a revised approach to the calculation of regional unemployment rates, which is being implemented now for the first time.

To understand this new procedure, some background information is necessary: the Community Labour Force Survey (LFS) is one of the main components for the calculation. For many years, data from the LFS were available only for the second quarter. Big efforts have been made by Eurostat and Member States to change this situation, so that now for almost all countries data for all four quarters are available. As regional information is published just once a year, it would be a pity not to take this information into account - especially in view of the fact that annual averages will increase the reliability at the regional level. This new methodology has been partly applied already for candidate countries.

The new methodology is simpler and therefore more transparent than the old one. Down to level 2, the data for the number of unemployed and for the labour force are annual averages of the LFS.

- As LFS results are considered to be reliable only in a few cases down to level 3, this breakdown has to be considered separately. Any decision is made in close co-operation between Eurostat and the relevant National Statistical Office.
- Unemployment figures are regionalised either directly on the basis of reliable LFS results (e.g. by using the regional structure of a three-year average of the LFS) or by using information on registered unemployed.

Depending also on the data situation, the further breakdown to level 3 for the labour force is based either on three-year averages of the LFS as well, or on the latest available population census results, or on any other results considered to be reliable at that regional level.

Unemployment rates reflect developments in the labour market concerned. Labour market related political decisions and general political trends may therefore influence unemployment rates. The smaller the respective subpopulation, the more marked these effects will be. We can take as an example the youth unemployment rate: if low demand for labour means young people continue to go to school, the youth unemployment rate will be smaller than if they were to look for jobs. Such effects should always be taken into account when interpreting unemployment rates.

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For information on methodology

Michal Mladý, Eurostat / F4, L-2920 Luxembourg, Tel. (352) 4301 33768, Fax (352) 4301-34029,

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