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## **Together or separately? Problem of social capital in Central Europe**

The role of social capital in the management of a region is a relatively new problem. In particular, in the management as a whole the emphasis is put on human capital (qualifications and capabilities of individuals), while the issue of building and developing trust-based relationship networks is treated marginally. Social capital is a desired feature of the social structure, lies in social relations, and denotes the ability of people to collaborate within groups and organizations to pursue common goals. Its basic forms that allow increasing the efficiency of collective actions include power relations, mutual obligations, expectations arising from the assigned social roles, sanctioned social norms, and trust. Social capital

undoubtedly interconnects the economic, social and political spheres. Due to the fact that management is a social form of activity, social capital may affect economic results. Social relations that are formed among people in the process of goods manufacture and distribution make up the economic base of society, while social capital determines to a large extent the quality of these interactions, contributing thereby to improvement in the effectiveness of management.

Central Europe has a deficit of social capital - in the territorial terms the basis of social capital is formed by informal relationships. The population of Central Europe consists of people with shallow rooting. The sense of "WE" - the territorially defined identity is the feeling of a deficit of social

capital, own identification. This paper will present the causes of the deficit of social capital in Central Europe (with particular emphasis put on the European Copper Basin as a key location on the map of Europe). The reasons for the deficit in the Central Europe can be found in the heritage of the previous system. Firstly, the devastation of the social environment (including the deportation of the population) caused by the war. Secondly, the post-war translocation of entire populations caused by the geo-political situation, and thirdly, the countries of Central Europe underwent a flawed process of industrialization (which in Western Europe had taken place a hundred and more years ago) coupled with the massive migration of people from rural areas to cities. The presence of the communist system meant next decades of inhibition of natural social processes, which could not develop in an organic way (frozen by the totalitarian regime). Natural processes started again when the communist system collapsed. Key factors strengthening the social capital in the examined region will be presented. The aim of the paper is to present an empirical model of build-

ing/strengthening/creating the social capital in Central Europe.