

Czechia – The aesthetics of modernisation, industrialisation and urbanization

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Central Europe: Politics and Society

Central Europe - Mitteleuropa

- Cultural traditions
- Philosophy
- Avantgarde literature
- Social theory and science
- Poetry
- But most of all the common capacity of irony
- victimhood





Lieu de mémoire

- site of memory
- Material, symbolic and functional
- Lieu vs milieux de memoire
- Forgetting
- Rituals



Ruins

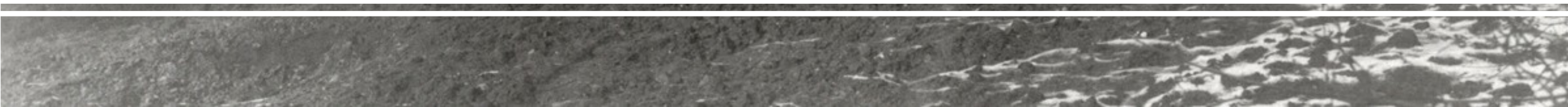
When one looks at something that has existed for more than two thousand years and has been altered so diversely and thoroughly by the changing times, yet is still the same soil, the same hill, indeed often the same column and wall, and in the people still some vestiges of their ancient character, one becomes a participant in the great decisions of fate. And such conditions make it difficult from the outset for the observer to decipher how Rome follows on Rome, and not only the new on the old, but also the various epochs within the old and new Rome on one another. (Goethe 1994: 107; my emphasis)



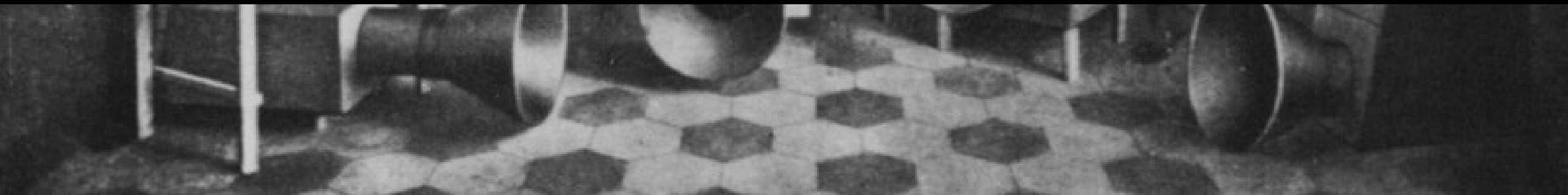
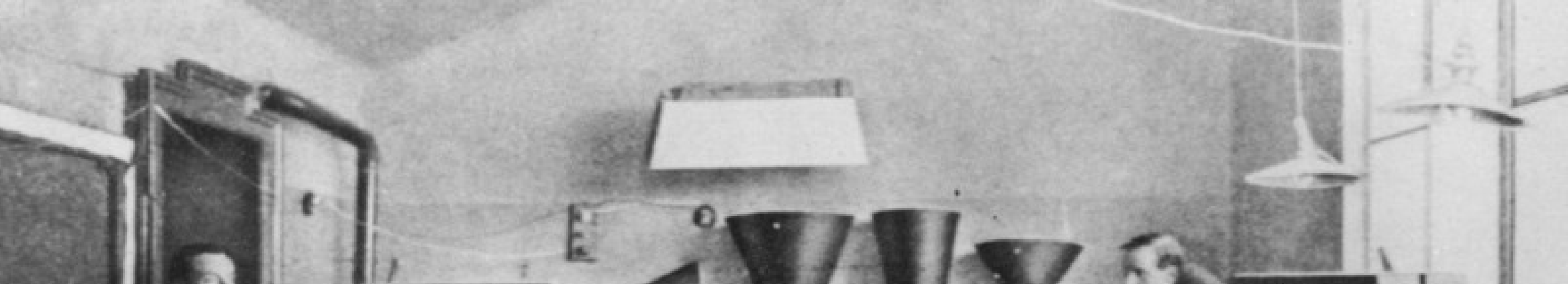
Modernisation, Industrialisation and urbanization



Functionalism







- **Welcome to Thomas Mann (English)**

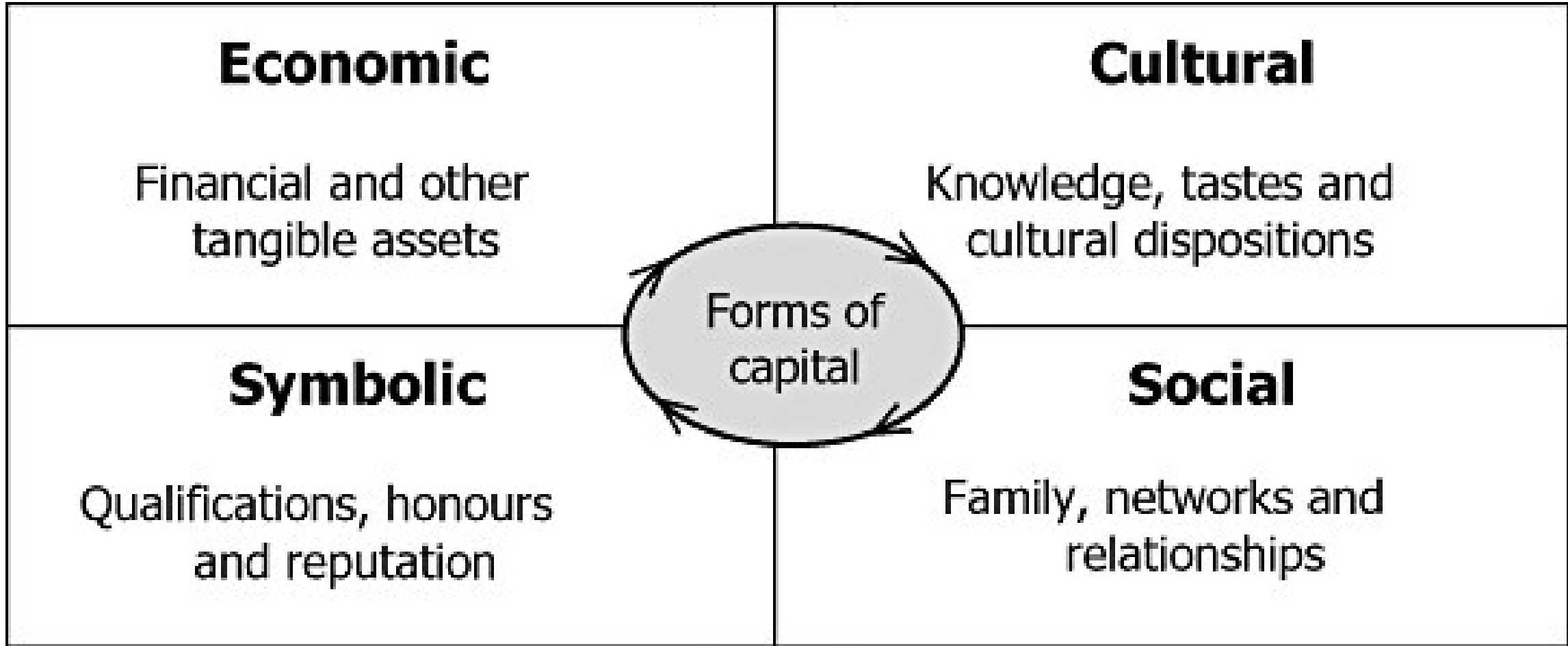
- Just as the child, by sleep already possessed,
Drops in his quiet bed, eager to rest,
But begs you: "Don't go yet: tell me a story,"
For night this way will come less suddenly,
And his heart throbs with little anxious beats
Nor wholly understands what he entreats,
The story's sake or that yourself be near,
So we ask you: Sit down with us: make clear
What you are used to saying: the known relate,
That you are here among us, and our state
Is yours, and that we all 'are here with you,
All whose concerns are worthy of man's due.
You know this well: the poet never lies.
The real is not enough; through its disguise
Tell us the truth which fills the mind with light
Because, without each other, all is night.
Through Madame Chauchat's body Hans Castorp sees:
So train us to be our own witnesses.
Gentle your voice, no discord in that tongue;
Then tell us what is noble, what is wrong,

Lifting our hearts from mourning to desire.
We have buried Kosztolányi: cureless, dire,
The cancer on his mouth grew bitterly,
But growths more monstrous gnaw humanity.
Appalled we ask: More than that went before,
What horror has the future yet in store?
What ravening thoughts will seize us for their prey?
What poison, brewing now, eat us away?
And, if your lecture can put off that doom,
How long may you still count upon a room?
Ah, do but speak, and we can take heart then.
Being men by birthright, we must remain men,
And women, women, cherished for that reason,
All of us human, though such numbers lessen.
Sit down, please. Let your stirring tale be said.
We are listening to you, glad, like one in bed,
To see to-day, before that sudden night,
A European mid people barbarous, white.

- [Watkins, Vernon](#)

CEU identity

- If you ask me what is my native country, I answer: I was born in Fiume, I grew up in Belgrade, Budapest, Pressburg [Bratislava], Vienna and Munich, and I have a Hungarian passport; but I have no fatherland. I am a very typical mix of old Austria-Hungary: at once Magyar, Croatian, German and Czech; my country is Hungary, my mother tongue is German. (quoted in Rupnik 1990: 251)
- There are some [...] who think that such a destiny should precisely confer on me a feeling of identity. I do not believe any of this. Not because I am only half-Jewish but because I have lived and am still living in several cultures, in several languages, in several countries. (quoted in LeRider 2008: 158)





HAVEL

nkos
sek köz
!

Ensured middle class

- High salary and property
- High social and cultural capital
- ICT and language knowledge
- Mostly middle age
- Specialists in various fields, managers, directors
- Big cities
- 22%



Incoming cosmopolitan class

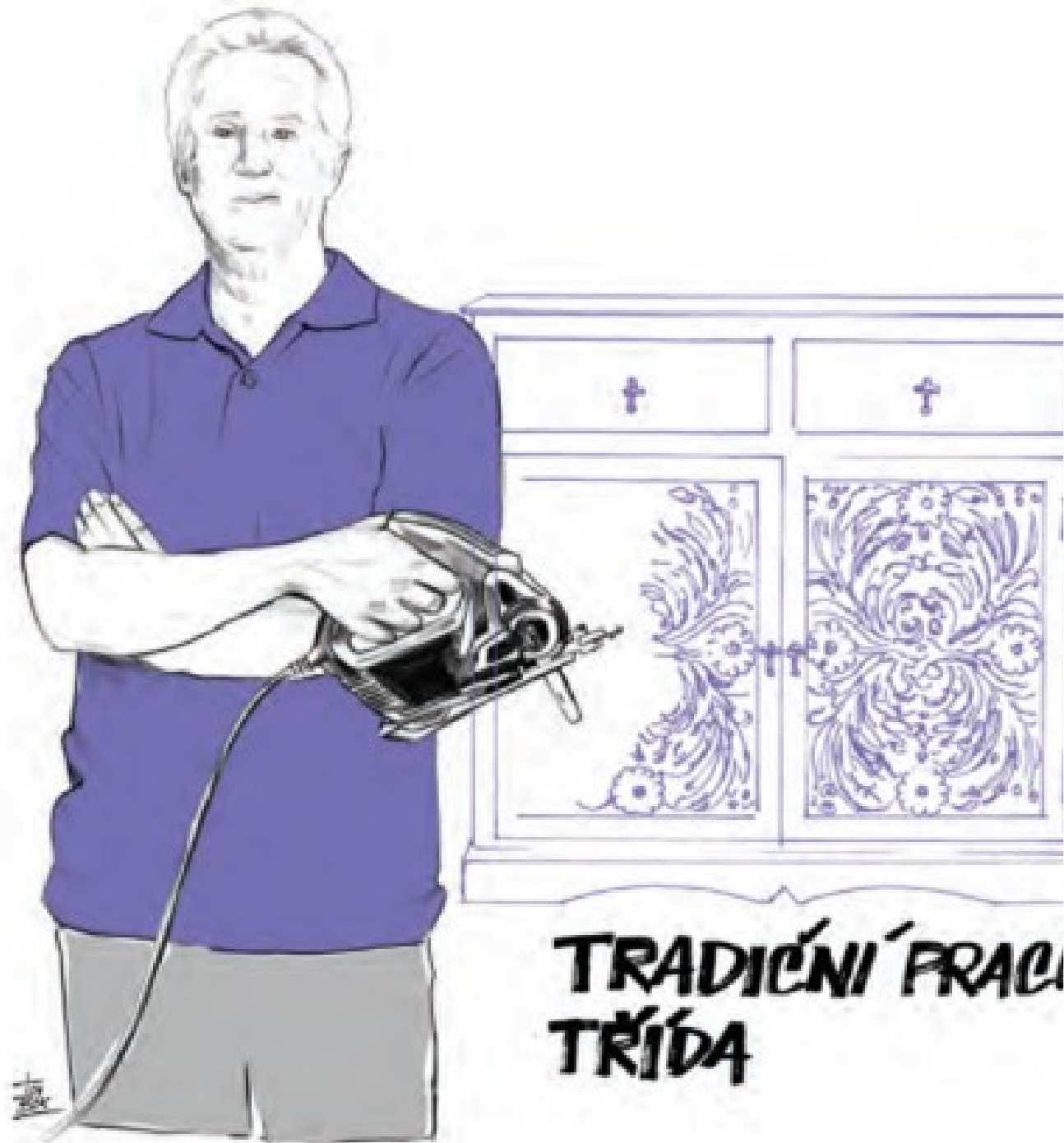
- All types of capital very high except they do not own properties
- Strong contacts and help from family, also prestigious contacts
- High level of language and IT skills
- Big cities – urban lifestyle
- Future elite
- 12%



**NASTUPUJÍCÍ
KOSMOPOLITNÍ
TRÍDA**

Traditional working class

- 14% blue collar
- Relatively decent property and salary and own property (house, flat)
- Small cities and villages
- Manual jobs
- Small social capital in prestigious contacts
- Profited from the economic growth



Class of local relations

- 12% primarily villages
- Over average property ownership and social capital, live in their own
- Elder cohort, quiet lifestyle
- Not high salary but not high expenses
- No knowledge about IT for the future



Class in danger

- 22%
- Lower middle class
- Under average salary and properties but high level of contacts
- Opposite of blue collar
- Employed in services or admin
- Women 62%
- Potential to grow but also danger to fall



Class in need

- Urban class, women (60%)
- No capital
- In regions with structural problems
- Low qualification
- High unemployment rate - 6%
- Retired people and people without accumulated money and properties



- Thank you for your attention
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MijdnbxcJuQ>