



V. CENTRAL EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

The Price of Transition; the Experiences of Change

Rajk László College for Advanced Studies, Budapest

Date: April 19-25, 2004

Location: Rajk László College For
Advanced Studies, Horánszky ut.20,
H-1085, Budapest.

Deadline: March 19, 2004

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The *Rajk László College for Advanced Studies* is one of the colleges of the Budapest University of Economic Sciences and Public Administration (www.buespa.hu). It has about 90 members, all of whom are studying at the Budapest University of Economic Sciences. Our college is celebrating the 34th anniversary of its foundation in the year 2004. The institution has very old traditions of organising various lectures and conferences. The *Central-European Conference* is also one of our traditional events.

Details about the Conference

The concept of the conference is based on the idea of approaching the past 15 years of transition in the post-socialist states of Central Europe from a practical point of view in order to examine the impact of the experiences of these countries on economic theory. In other words the conference is to point out the importance of system approach in the case of a period of transition.

We believe that it is high time to evaluate the road the region has taken for 15 years, as a form of the professional work during the event we promote the form of interactive debates (in the company of invited lecturers) instead of simply presenting our scientific work on the specific topics.

The accepted applicants will participate in one of the four sections during the event and will examine the three section topics. The main purpose of the conference is to place our focus on long-term consequences of the transition process besides the study of short term ones.

We are also inviting experts, who are going to hold lectures on interesting topics for all participants. We are going to organise team-games. And we can have fun together at evening-parties, at excursions and other amusing events.

In order to apply you need to send a

- curriculum vitae;
- motivation letter;
- 5-8 page paper on one of the three topics on any of the following four sections.

Section I: Economic Policy

Privatization – is there such as optimal timing?

Privatization in the transitional countries was an obvious prerequisite of the new economic and social system, and in the countries of the Eastern European region we have seen a wide range of solutions in terms of methods and timing. We would like You to express your opinion of what You think about these or how You think they fit to or collide with the theoretical ways of privatization and transitional economics.

...or

...The Transition of the Banking Sector – Money for Nothing?

The banking sector is obviously one of the most important sector in the transitional countries. However, different countries choose different ways of stabilizing and privatizing their banking sector. In some countries the foreign capital, supported by know how, simply invaded the banking sector, other countries refused to privatize this branch. We would like You to write down how and to what extent You think the method and way a country chose might have affected this country's economic performance in the post-transition era.

or...

...Are there Eternal Truths in the Economic Policy?

During the transitional events and the following period many basic theories of economic policy and decision making were put to probe; some proved to be false in this case, others right. We would like You to express what implications You derive from the »Eastern European story« and what lessons You think other countries – those still before these harsh periods – should learn from us, so that their way would be easier.

Section II: Sociology

The situation of civil organizations in Central and Eastern Europe. The role of foreign organizations in the activities of civil organizations. What are the possibilities of becoming independent of the state? What issues cannot be delegated to the civil organizations and what others have to remain in the competence of the state?

or...

...EU-Skepticism. The Roots of Resistance and the Perspectives after Joining the EU

or...

...The Issue of Extremist Groups in the Region

In which forms do extremist groups appear in the society? The role of extreme organizations in political life.

Section III: Political Economics

Crisis tolerance of societies under transition – the acceptance of reforms during the nineties and today

or...

...Types of economic systems in the region – the influence and intervention of state and lobby groups in the economy

or...

...The relationship of old and new elites – in politics, the economy and the public sphere

Section IV.: Business

How do regional companies in Central Eastern Europe contribute to the international network of companies?

or...

...What decisive factors have determined the success of ex-state-owned companies (in CEE)? What strategic decisions and management tools allowed them to develop into a regional multinational company?

or...

...How do you see the importance of business ethics in managerial decision-making in CEE? How has it changed during the last fifteen years?

