

# THE KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY IN CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES:

## Exploring the New Policy and Research Agenda

School of Slavonic and East European Studies (London)

### General informations:

Organising Committee (OC): Prof. George Kolankiewicz, Chairman of the OC; Director of SSEES, UCL, Prof. of Sociology, with special reference to Central Europe, several monographs and numerous research articles, participated three times in the British Academy exchange fellowship with the Polish Acad. of Sciences; Prof. Philippe Aghion, Univ. College London, Dept. of Economics (Prof. of Public Policy) & Harvard Univ., Dept. of Economics, economist at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Managing Editor, *The Economics of Transition*, Council, European Economic Ass., co-creator of the Endogenous Growth Theory; Dr. David Dyker, Univ. of Sussex, Europe in EURO Dept.; Dr. Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Vice-President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, former Governor of the National Bank of Poland; Dr Tomasz Mickiewicz, SSEES, Social Science Dept., Dir. of Centre for the Study of Economic and Social Change in Europe at SSEES; Dr. Krzysztof Piech – Secretary of the OC, Honorary Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at SSEES, Social Science Dept., Chevening-FNP Post-Doctoral Fellow, Warsaw School of Economics, Economic Policy Dept., The Knowledge Inst. (Warsaw), President, co-ordinator of publishing the *Polityka Gospodarcza (Economic Policy)*, scientific magazine in Poland, Polish Economic Ass., Head of Economic Policy Section in PEA Warsaw Branch; Dr. Slavo Radosevic – Scientific co-ordinator, SSEES, Social Science Dept., intern. known scholar in area of technology and innovation studies in CEECs, leader of the project *The Emerging Industrial Architecture of the Wider Europe: the Co-evolution of Industrial and Political Structures* within the ESRC Progr. *One Europe or Several?*

Supported by: SSEES–UCL (London), MB Grabowski Fund (London), Emb.

### Rationale

After the transition-dominated 1990s, the issues of growth and development are back on the research and policy agenda for the Central and East European countries. Within this new – old agenda, the knowledge and restructuring of the CEECs towards knowledge-based economies has become one of the key concerns of researchers and policy makers.

At a time when the European Union has given itself the objective of becoming the most knowledge-based economy in the world, the issues of knowledge based growth in CEECs have become even more important. Will the accession facilitate this shift or will CEECs become a liability to this objective?

Based on the rationale, the conference aims to address three key issues:

1. How the transformation of CEECs during the 1990s has affected knowledge-based activities, in particular software, electronics and other information and communication technology sectors.
2. How the economic integration of East and West has affected the knowledge-based sectors and whether it will shift CEECs towards or away from knowledge-based activities.
3. Will CEECs be able to transform their economies towards the knowledge-based economy given their inherited but obsolete and newly acquired technological and human assets?

### Thematic scope

1. The knowledge-based economy in CEE-measurement issues: results and methodologies in the areas of:
  - innovation surveys,
  - patents,
  - ICTs diffusion,
  - R&D,
  - knowledge management in enterprises,
  - vocational training,
  - e-learning,
  - e-economy.
2. ICT and restructuring of CEECs: empirical contributions, which analyse suppliers' and users' ICT sectors in CEE from the perspective of growth and restructuring, especially:
  - software,
  - electronics,
  - internet,
  - telecommunication.
3. Social and economic determinants of digitalisation of CEE: contributions, which:
  - assess the diffusion of ICTs,
  - their use and determinants,
  - social and business absorption of ICTs.
4. Research & Development in CEE: empirical contributions, which consider:
  - the state of R&D systems and
  - their capacity to meet requirements of knowledge based growth.
5. Policy issues arising from a knowledge-based growth agenda: an inventory of current policy practices in areas of:
  - competition,
  - innovation,

of the Republic of Poland (London),  
Found. for Polish Science (Warsaw),  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
(London), The Knowledge Inst.  
(Warsaw).

- R&D,
- education,
- intellectual property rights,
- e-commerce policies and their assessment,
- opportunities and limits to the transfer of the EU best practices.

Date: April 28-29, 2003.

### Participation

Place: School of Slavonic and East  
European Studies, Univ. College  
London, Senate House, Malet Street,  
London WC1E 7HU;  
tel: +44 (0) 20 / 7862 / 8540;  
fax: +44 (0) 20 / 7862 / 8642;  
www.ssees.ac.uk/knowledge/  
e-mail: k.piech@ssees.ac.uk.

The colloquium will gather a number of Polish and UK scholars in the area of the knowledge-based economy and related fields to present their papers especially when based upon empirical research results to discuss these issues.

However, participation is open to all those who can make an interesting contribution to understanding the knowledge-based economy of the CEECs. The conference is open to those who wish to participate in the discussion. As the conference room has limited capacity, early registration is advised. Participants should send the following information, as well as papers to Krzysztof Piech:

Deadline for submission: January  
20, 2003.

Contact: Krzysztof Piech:  
k.piech@ssees.ac.uk.

1. Title and name
2. Institution (and its subdivision)
3. Contacts (e-mail, telephone, fax, postal address)
4. Paper title (if applicable)
5. Remarks (if any)

The conference is organised on a non-profitmaking basis. However, funds are limited and in order to cover the costs, we may require some payment from participants.

### Participation fee:

- Free for the following: members of OC, invited guests, speakers (with papers), SSEES staff members, selected SSEES students
- 25-40 GBP (the exact amount will be calculated and given ca. two months before the conference) for: persons not listed above

SSEES is able to give a receipt for the participation on request.

SSEES and the colloquium-supporting institutions usually fund several grants to cover the cost of accommodation in London, the return ticket to London, and participation fee. This will be done on the basis of paper choice, as selected by the OC. Participants will be informed about this decision.

The conference papers will be published in London. The editing and publishing process usually takes a few months, but should be completed by the end of 2003.

### Time schedule

- January, 20 – submission of abstracts,
- abstracts should be in Word or PDF file,
- be up to 500 words long,
- should have information about the author, i.e. name with title, institution(s), most important facts of professional career, address (both postal and e-mail), telephone, and fax
- February, 10 – decision about acceptance of the papers will be taken and put on the web site as well as sent to the authors; abstracts approved will be published on the web site
- March, 20 – submission by authors of draft version of papers
- April, 10 – submission of complete papers prepared according to editorial guidelines

### Editorial guidelines

The conference will be in London and papers are expected to be presented in English only. SSEES reserves the right to edit any papers before publication.

The papers should be:

- up to 8 000 words as Word file,

- with abstract, key words,
- with full English style references,
- information about the author in the left-hand corner of the first page,
- references in the text should refer to the name and date of publication,
- you are requested to provide pictures, graphs in separate, original files, if possible.

### **Venue**

The conference will be conducted in central London, at the University College London. A map of the location will be provided later.

SSEES is located between Russell Square and Malet Street, near the British Museum. The best way to get to UCL/SSEES is by underground: Russell Square station on the Piccadilly Line or Gode Street station on the Northern line.

All those interested in the conference are advised first to read the site. If further information is required, please contact Krzysztof Piech, preferably by e-mail.

