

Research Area on Structural and Institutional Change in Eastern Europe within the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy

The European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy is a pan-European organization assembling economists of different orientations. It was founded in 1989. The structure of Research Areas corresponds to different interests of the members of the Association. Their objective is to enable cooperation between the researchers in distinguished fields. The coordinators of Research Areas organize the networks of exchange between the members. Their particular task is to organize sessions on annual conferences of the Association, both special sessions around a chosen subject and on the general research subjects of the Area.

The Research Area on Structural and Institutional Change in Eastern Europe works on the issues that reveals transition to market economy of previously socialist economies and, more broadly, of countries developing their market economies. Created in early 1990s it focused on the most important problems in the evolution of east-European and other transition countries: privatization, foreign investment, changes of formal and informal institutions, changes of labour markets, and of wider society.

The coordinators of the Research Area on Structural and Institutional Change in Eastern Europe always try to adjust to the topic chosen for each annual conference of the Association, which correspond to the most important issues of that time.

The Annual Conference in Rome, in 2008, took place just before the twenties anniversary of the first transition of a socialist country to market economy, in Poland in summer 1989. To commemorate this anniversary, out of some of the contributions to the sessions of our Research Area, a special section to the Italian journal *QA - Rivista dell'Associazione Rossidoria* was prepared (forthcoming). In the same line of making a point on the outcome of transition, the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy organized jointly with the University of Hertfordshire in October 2008 a Symposium entitled *The Transformation of Post-Soviet Economies Twenty Years On*.

The next Annual Conference, in Amsterdam in 2009, was devoted to *Institutional Solutions for Economic Recovery*. The Research Area on Structural and Institutional Change in Eastern Europe worked in two directions. One was focused on specificities of economic crisis in post-socialist countries. The other direction was devoted to broader reflections on the trajectories of development of those countries, and on their similarities and differences as compared to developed and developing economies.

The title of the most recent Annual Conference, in 2010 in Bordeaux, was *The Economic Crisis and the Renewal of the European Model(s). Revisiting the debate on varieties of capitalism*. The debate that the members of our Research Area had on the special sessions focused on painful experiences that the post-transition countries lived during the economic crisis and equally painful strategies of recovery. The problem of robustness of different models of capitalism applied in those countries came to the fore.

The Research Area on Structural and Institutional Change in Eastern Europe is coordinated by Maria Lissowska from Warsaw School of Economics (Poland) (lisso@sggw.waw.pl) and Caroline Vincensini from IDHE-Cachan (France). If you are interested in cooperation with our Research Area or just wish to be on the mailing list to obtain current information, please contact us.