

**wiiw**  
**SPRING SEMINAR**  
**1997**

**Transition and International  
Economic Integration:  
Diverging Experience of  
Reform Countries**

**Friday, 11 April 1997, 9:00 a.m.**

**Bank für Arbeit und Wirtschaft AG  
Veranstaltungszentrum Hochholzerhof  
1010 Vienna, Tuchlauben 5 (1<sup>st</sup> floor)**

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**9:00 Welcome address**

by a Member of the Managing Board  
Bank für Arbeit und Wirtschaft Aktiengesellschaft

**Overview and Outlook for the Region**

Growth rates level off in advanced transition countries and take a turn for the worse in Romania and Bulgaria. Stabilization may be in sight in Russia and Ukraine.

**Discussion**

**L. Podkaminer**

**Learning from Mistakes: Lessons of transition failures**

Instability and lack of growth can be symptoms of transition failure, policy failure or severe crisis. A look at the role of initial conditions and policy mismanagement in the F.R. Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary; and what to do to avoid failure in the future.

**Discussion**

**R. Dobrinsky,  
V. Gligorov and  
G. Hunya**

**11:00 Coffee break**

**Five Successful Transitions: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia**

The five CEE leaders show more differences than similarities. Some are catching up with the EU, some show high levels of foreign investment, some are struggling under increasing current account deficits. Over all, inflation is slowing down, remaining however at a relatively high level; integration with the West continues at a healthy pace as democratic institutions take root.

**Discussion**

**J. Pöschl**

**Would an Expanded EU Really Work?**

Surprisingly, rapid growth has brought little structural change to East-West trade. However – intra-industry trade has increased rapidly. Will competition from the East threaten EU wages? What will and will not change: a look at the long-term prospects for a whole-Europe economic union.

**Discussion**

**A. Smith\*)**  
(guest speaker)

**13:00 Buffet luncheon**

**14:00 Finding a Niche: Reshaping industry for an international market**

While the entire European economy realigns, fledgling CEE industries are finding a market. Patterns of restructuring are revealed, as are price/quality gaps and wage and productivity hierarchies, with implications for corporate behaviour and labour markets throughout Europe.

**The Competitiveness of Central and Eastern Europe**

Labour is still a bargain in Central and Eastern Europe - at least for now. A look at productivity and labour costs by manufacturing sector; identification of export competitive sectors; and emerging trade specialization patterns by country and industry.

**Discussion**

**M. Landesmann**

**P. Havlik**

**15:00 Coffee break**

**Adapting to Market Economics: Patterns of industrial specialization in the transition countries**

While the post-1989 transition brought rapid structural change, the CEE economies continue to look quite different from the West. Developments vary widely among individual countries. The adjustment process is gaining momentum, though specialization is often still along existing patterns, and new lines are rare.

**Discussion**

**W. Urban**

**Good News, Bad News: The changing world of work**

More service jobs, more visible unemployment, and many former workers simply staying home. A study of shifts in the structure of employment in Central and Eastern Europe.

**Discussion**

**H. Vidovic**

**16:30 End of Seminar**

**18:00 Informal gathering at a Viennese 'Heurigen'**

to continue the discussions and give us all a chance to get better acquainted. Urbani-Keller, Am Hof 12, 1010 Vienna

\*) Alasdair Smith is Professor of Economics and Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex, England.