

FORWARD LOOK CONSENSUS CONFERENCE

Central and Eastern Europe beyond Transition: Convergence and Divergence in Europe
16 –17 February 2011, Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB), Germany

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Introduction to Sessions

THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2011

The second day of the Berlin conference will begin with a 'scenario analysis' exercise, in which we discuss four 'scenarios'.

On page 4 of this document, you will find an explanation of how scenario analysis works in helping set forward-looking research agendas.

When you arrive at the conference, your conference pack will also contain a copy of one of the four scenarios, which we would like you to discuss in Parallel Session I on the second day of the conference. The important characteristics of each scenario will be highlighted at the beginning of the scenario document, followed by a longer and more imaginative account of how Europe *might* develop in a way that produced this scenario.

On the day, what will happen is this:

9.00 Thursday 17 February: Instructions for Parallel Sessions

There will be a presentation explaining how the scenarios will be used, including some of the information in this document.

9.30 Thursday 17 February: Parallel Session I

The meeting will split into four interdisciplinary groups; each group will discuss one scenario (which you received in your conference pack), and consider its implications for social science research on CEE.

In this session, we would like you to ask the following questions:

- How can this scenario be made more plausible? (Even if you think that it may not be the most likely)
- Are there aspects of the scenario (as it was presented) that need to be changed?
- Are important things missing from the scenario? (especially elements that are important subjects for sociology, economics, politics, local governance)
- Is the scenario sufficiently distinctive to give it its own name? What would that be?
- What are the implications of the scenario for your own areas of work: if this scenario is a plausible future, what does this mean about the research that should be undertaken?

- Can the top 10 aspects of this scenario important for each area of CEE social science be listed (maybe 3 per discipline – economics, political science, local governance, sociology)?

Your group will have one formal 'rapporteur', but please take notes about the following points so that you can then discuss in Parallel Session II:

- Indicate the name you give this scenario
- Note any critical modifications to the original outline
- List the top 3 or 4 ways that this scenario is important for your area of CEE social science (economics, political science, local governance, sociology)

11.00 Thursday 17 February Parallel Session II

The meeting will split into four disciplinary groups (economics, political science, local governance, sociology), and helped by the conclusions from Parallel Session I, each group will discuss the implications of different scenarios for future research agendas.

In this session, we would like you to ask the following questions:

- Given the range of possibilities for developments in CEE (and in Europe as a whole and globally), what are the implications for research in your discipline (not what research will we be doing in 2020, but what should we be pressing for now?)
- What are the key **areas** for research - how far do the areas noted in the 'future research directions' documents circulated before the conference (with this document) seem relevant?
- What does this imply in terms of action around **methodological** issues such as comparative studies, large datasets, development of capabilities and research infrastructures?
- What does this imply in terms of action around CEE research **relationships** - within the CEE region, with social science in other regions (BRICS, W. Europe, North America etc), and with other stakeholders (policymakers within CEE and transnational organisations)?

Parallel Session I

POST-COMMUNIST CAPITALISMS IN CRISIS: *Scenarios for Central and Eastern Europe*

Introduction

For nearly a decade the European Science Foundation has been conducting Forward Looks that chart the future prospects and opportunities of different scholarly fields in Europe. For this Forward Look, however, the challenge is slightly different in that the academic field it will address – social science – covers the basic developmental processes of society itself. It asks, what are the important social, economic and political issues that are likely to come to the fore in Central and Eastern Europe and in what way can we prepare a relevant research agenda? Yet, to answer this question we need first to ask nothing short of the question, how will these societies actually develop over the next five to ten years? The paradox is that the nature of this Forward Look challenges us to examine first what the broad development trends in Central and Eastern Europe will at all be during the next decade in order then to identify more specific issues to be researched so that we can better deal with those trends later on.

It is with this challenge in mind that the Forward Look has adopted a number of foresight methods in its work, one of which is the construction of developmental scenarios in order to stimulate new thinking and perspectives about the future. The scenarios on their own are not supposed to formulate the research agenda. However, they should help us think outside the usual academic box and reflect on what trends might be possible given one or another set of conditions.

The details of the scenarios will be presented during the Consensus Conference in Berlin. The purpose of this initial memo therefore is to introduce briefly the methodology of scenario building as well as to lay out the broad parameters (or “drivers”) that will be used in the scenarios. Because scenarios are often complex analytical constructions, it is important to understand first the scope conditions being proposed as part of the process of building scenarios.

Scenario analysis

The first essential point about scenarios is that they are **not** predictions about the future. They are an elaboration of different permutations of the future given different combinations of input factors. In this respect, our task in analyzing scenarios at the Consensus Conference is not to judge whether one or the other is more probable, but rather whether each scenario “hangs together” in its own terms. The question in our mind should always be: if we take background conditions A and B as given, what will the consequence of these be in the areas of X, Y and Z? Do the effects we foresee for X, Y and Z logically fit together? Are we able to use what we know scientifically about how societal processes influence each other to trace a plausible chain of consequences and inter-relationships given a particular set of macro-conditions?

To this end, participants in the Consensus Conference will be asked initially to examine only one of the given scenarios in order to scrutinize its specific structure and consistency. Later, during a second working session, groups will be organized according to scholarly discipline in order to see how research issues compare across the four scenarios but within the same scientific field. This multiple set of perspectives should yield new impulses and ideas in terms of defining a future research agenda.

Scenario drivers

In the beginning of this memo it was stressed that the current Forward Look is unique because it deals with such a broad and fundamental set of scientific phenomena. At the same time, our Forward Look is much more limited in scope because (again in contrast to previous studies) it is focused on a single geographic region, Central and Eastern Europe. This particular aspect actually greatly facilitates the constructions of scenarios.

The first point to make is that Central and Eastern Europe is politically, economically and socially embedded in a broader geographic context, that of the European Union. The future development of the region will be fundamentally influenced by how the European Union itself evolves. To be sure, most of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe are members of the EU and will therefore have a say in how the Union develops. However, they are nevertheless set in this broader context, which from the perspective of scenario-building for the region means that the level of **future EU**

Parallel Session I

integration or disintegration becomes the first important driver in our exercise.

The second broad influential variable to be considered involves the varying prospects for **economic growth or collapse** across the European continent. The choice of this driver is equally not very surprising given the severity of the financial crisis of 2008-2009 as well as continuing uncertainties about being able to sustain the current green shoots of recovery. It could be argued that all of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will be dealing with the economic, political and social effects of this crisis for many years to come. Hence, whether crisis at the European (and even global) level will finally pass or rather dip again will determine how CEE societies will fare as well.

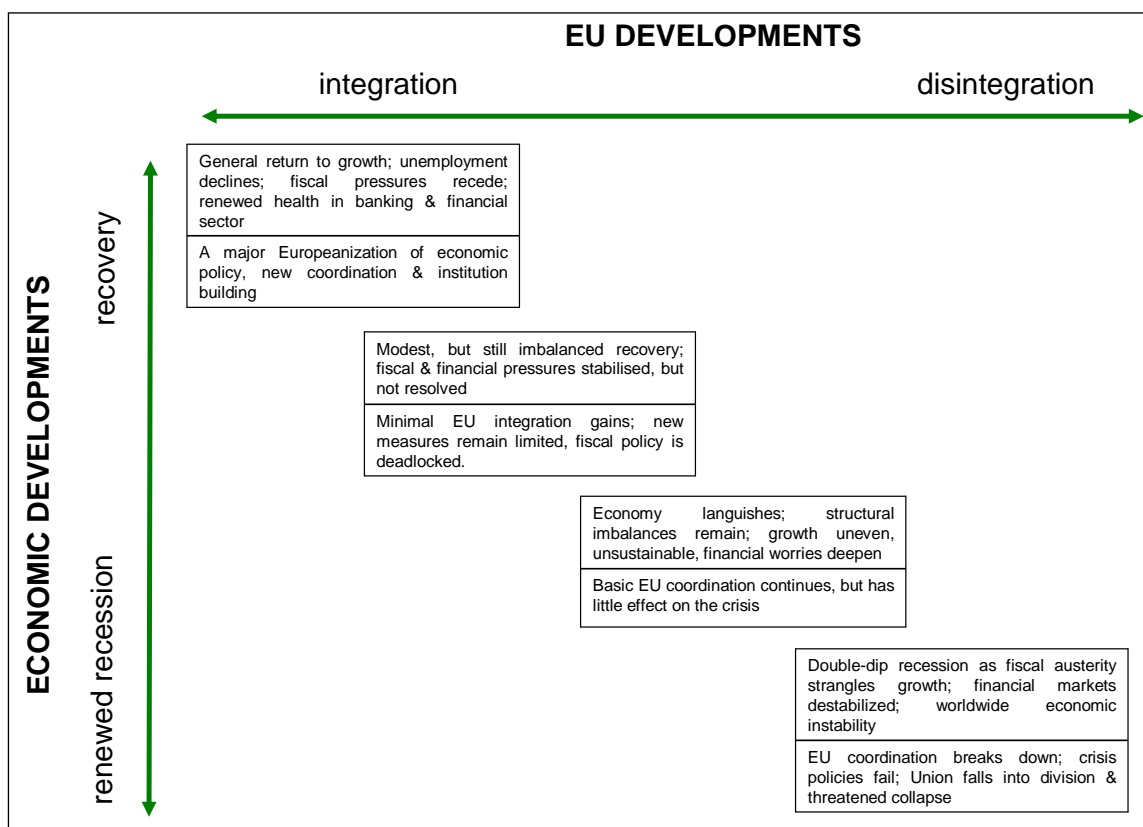
The matrix resulting from a combination of these two drivers is not difficult to imagine. It remains merely to decide what the different amounts of each driver should be in each scenario. The figure below outlines the four combinations which will be taken as the basis for our scenarios. The characterizations are approximate; more extensive details will be presented at the Conference.

The essence of the question is: what will be the economic, political and social challenges that the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will face given one or another of the driver combinations above?

Scope conditions

A final methodological point about the way in which the scenarios will be constructed derives from the fact that we are dealing with countries and societies, which have a very unique history. Put in another way, there are specific scope conditions in which the proposed drivers will operate, and it is important therefore also to factor in their effect.

Moreover, these conditions are sometimes common and sometimes divergent across Central and Eastern Europe. For example, taking a condition that is common to the region, a number of scholars are stressed the fact that Central and Eastern Europe is at base situated in a position of *dependent development* in relation to Western Europe and international capital more broadly, given the region's considerable reliance on external investment for growth and the diminished degree of national sovereignty and policy choice that such a situation engenders. (Nölke and Vliegenthart 2009) In other words, we can not see the way in which Central and Eastern Europe will develop as purely one of market competition and advancement.



Parallel Session I

A divergent scope condition that will be captured in the scenarios involves the degree to which different *varieties of capitalism* have tangibly emerged in the region. That is, while noting that development in all these countries has been dependent on interactions with transnational capital, scholars have also identified clear patterns in terms of how CEE policy-makers have navigated these interactions as well as taken advantage (or not) of whatever industrial and other economic endowments they might have inherited from the communist era in order to undergird their new economies. (Bohle and Greskovits 2007a, 2007b; Drahoukoupil and Myant 2010; Myant and Drahoukoupil 2011) These varieties have generally been labeled as neo-liberal, embedded neo-liberal and neo-corporatist. Depending on which pattern a country represents, it will face the dual challenges of economic growth and European integration in different ways.

On a political level, convergent scope conditions include the fact that democracy is more or less consolidated in all of the countries in the region and there is no direct threat of outright democratic breakdown (e.g. military takeover or authoritarian putsch). At the same time, the countries diverge in terms of the strength of their party systems and the stability of their governing institutions. (Lane and Ersson 2007; Müller-Rommel, Schultze et al. 2008; Tavits 2008)

Lastly, any set of scenarios must take into account the fact that across the region the level of civil society organization is low and trust in institutions is equally weak. By contrast, only some CEE countries have major issues with out-migration (Poland, Latvia, Lithuania); others do not (Hungary, Estonia, Czech Republic). (Kahanec and Zimmermann 2010) Likewise diverse are the types of ethnic minority issues and ethno-political controversies that different CEE countries face. Whereas some countries have few if any minorities (e.g. Poland), others have sizeable historical minorities (e.g. Hungarians in Slovakia or Romania, as well as Roma in a number of countries), while still others have minorities created largely by the communist era (e.g. Russians in the Baltic States).

Summary

Reflecting on the key social science challenges for Central and Eastern Europe requires sketching out ways in which these societies will develop as such over the next 5-10 years. Scenario building can be a useful tool for this task, and at the Consensus Conference four scenarios for Central and Eastern Europe will be presented based on two main drivers and a set of relevant scope conditions. Participants at the Conference will be asked to assess the integrity of these scenarios as well as reflect on what kinds of research issues may arise from them.

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DISCUSSION PAPER

Foreword

The Forward Look 'Beyond Transition' aimed to provide foresight about future directions of social science research in and on Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) to national and international research funding and research performing organisations for their consideration when establishing future directions for their activity. Previous initiatives by the European Science Foundation (ESF) looked at the research infrastructure in CEE rather than the content of research agendas (e.g. the report 'Status and Developments of Social Science Research in Central and Eastern Europe', and the Member Organisations in Central and Eastern Europe - MOCEE project). A rethinking of the CEE social science research agenda complements therefore other efforts to overcome the structural and resource challenges faced by researchers from the CEE region and to integrate research from and on this region with the European mainstream.

The objectives were to define the extent to which research agendas need to address issues that are specific to the CEE region, and the extent to which pan-European research agendas need to pay more attention to the specific dynamics of change in this region. The project made no initial assumptions about the extent of convergence or divergence in Europe. The great challenge of this foresight exercise is related to the rather broad scope of the Forward Look. Yet it was the simultaneous transition of politics, economics and society that made the democratisation of CEE such a unique process, and the legacy of these changes, and the future responses necessary, cannot therefore be usefully assessed without recourse to the full range of social sciences.

The Scientific Committee of the Forward Look has organised three workshops looking at possible future directions for social science research on Central and Eastern Europe. These focused on Economics, Political Science, Local Governance and Sociology, and were conducted using a mixture of foresight methods, keynote speeches and discussion. Brief summaries of potential directions for future research in these fields in the coming years that emerged during the workshops have been prepared, and these are presented in the next pages. The aim of the conference, especially of discussions in break-out groups in parallel

sessions, is to invite comments on these from participants, as well as new ideas.

What is the Issue?

Since the regime changes in CEE took place with rather unexpected speed, research agendas have frequently been reactive. Research priorities of major transnational projects have also frequently been determined externally with a normative assumption that convergence with Western Europe is the goal of social development in CEE. Now that the period of rapid change in CEE has ended, it is necessary to reassess the convergence and divergence between the formerly communist states and Western Europe.

In the 1990s, which could be referred to as the transition phase, the major focus was democratisation and economic transformation. Although the fall of communism per se initially attracted most attention, much comparative work later in the decade was concerned with analysing the character of the changes that followed the fall of communism. In economics, discussion focused on whether rapid liberalisation and privatisation would themselves create the conditions for people to change their economic behaviour and reorient to a commercial and profit oriented outlook, or whether institutional change was a necessary prerequisite for capitalist development. In political science and sociology there was a debate on whether the revolutions were part of the 'third wave' of democratisation including Latin America and southern Europe, while some transnational studies attempted to compare CEE to western European states. At an empirical level research focused on the development of the new institutional framework of democracy, the changing character of elites and their influence over economic and political change, the relative weakness of civil society development, the social welfare consequences of economic change, and changes in popular culture and attitudes towards the old and new regimes.

In the 2000s, which could be referred to as the consolidation phase, the European integration process began to dominate the research agenda. While EU enlargement had been a peripheral research topic at the point when detailed negotiations commenced in 1997-1999, within a few years it became the framework within which much social science research was conducted. Harmonisation and conditionality were viewed as leading forces driving political and economic transformation, with some underlying assumptions that convergence with Western Europe was the

Parallel Session II

benchmark for assessing development. Further new empirical concerns included questions of different types of capitalism, migration across Europe, problems of corruption and international crime, ethnic identities and their relation to political consolidation and the promotion of social justice according to EU norms, and social policy reforms and their meaning in terms of the character of social policy regimes in different countries in the region.

In order to understand the future direction of Europe, it is thus of vital importance to reassess societal development in the current post-communist member states. Looking at social science research funded by ESF Member Organizations in and on Eastern Europe one can, on the one hand, state that there are systematic differences between social science research funded in Western and in Central and Eastern Europe as in the latter case research projects more often deal with problems that are still consequence of system transformation and communist legacies. On the other hand, there is a trend to convergence because societies in the CEE region have been impacted by the process of European integration, and, as a result, the researchers operate in a similar context and tackle the issues related to the integration process, often within the framework of Europe-wide international projects.

Why is it Important for Science and Society in Europe?

Research on societal, political and economic developments in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as on new challenges for the social sciences resulting from the profound changes that have been taking place in this region for 20 years since the collapse of the state socialism, is important for a number of reasons:

- Developments in CEE not only profoundly influence populations in CEE but are also critically important for the future of European society at large. CEE breaking free from the Soviet empire, which after fifteen years resulted in the membership of many states in the EU, has been one of the most important processes shaping the 21st century in Europe (and elsewhere).
- Developments in CEE are too many, on too many levels, and are too complex to be creatively studied without reference to strategic visions of where CEE is heading. Without being backed by such visions future

research may slide into endless preoccupation with local details.

- Developments in CEE are unique in providing an opportunity to evaluate future consequence and limits of social constructivism (introducing and shaping social order by 'big bang' instant political decisions rather than allowing for its autonomous self-forming evolution).

While CEE countries are, of course, very diverse in terms of culture, size, industrial structure, etc., a number of factors relevant to Europe as a whole can be highlighted, such as:

- Ongoing transition (two decades) and emerging social and economic political structures have highly uncertain implications; shared transitions are experienced in diverse ways;
- There is not necessarily convergence (within the CEE region, or with Western Europe) except in certain cases (EU rules, imported policies and ways of life);
- Comparative study across CEE has great potential and is underdeveloped: responses to challenges vary, thus there is scope for, though lack of, comparative work within CEE;
- The nature of capitalism in CEE is changing, which involves exploring different types of capitalism in CEE (varieties of capitalism);
- There are important welfare issues and lessons for future transitions;
- Studying development paths and questions of cohesion in Europe is of vital importance.

The project has focused on the states of Central and Eastern Europe that are currently in the EU (where there are generally ESF member organisations) because the understanding of developments there could be particularly relevant in the longer term with regards to future enlargements. It should be noted that the EU currently embraces 27 states, of which ten formerly had some form of communist rule. Three of five current candidates are post-communist states. All four potential candidates in the Western Balkans were once communist, and all the European states included in the European Neighbourhood Policy are post-communist. Consequently, it is possible that – were enlargement to continue at its present speed - by the end of the next decade, almost half EU member states will have had a protracted communist interlude in their past, and that this proportion will increase.

ECONOMICS



The context – major uncertainties about the developments pertaining to economy in CEE in the next 5-10 years:

- Limited sustainability of present welfare system and uncertainty concerning the outcome of the pension reforms in face of substantial increase in the old age dependency ratio
- How will CEE retain its “knowledge workers”?
- Uncertainty related to the energy markets
- Different “flexibility” to react to global events due to their smaller size and “leveraged effect” of capital inflows
- Uncertainties about comparative advantage in the global economy, e.g. uncertainties associated with international competition from some emerging countries (impact of rising East-Asian economies: India, China)
- Uncertainties associated with energy-related power-game – changes in energy policies

Proposed research directions

1. Economic growth in the CEE region

Understanding the factors influencing mid- and long term economic growth and development as well as issues related to innovation, competitiveness and long-term sustainability of CEE economies

- Ability to increase labour productivity and to cope with challenges posed by the entrance of new competitors into global markets
- Knowledge-based economy
 - ability to create and/or absorb new technologies and organisational innovation and to participate in the international innovation and production system effectively enterprise behaviour, innovation and technological upgrading
 - lack of institutional framework and weak private support for commercialisation of innovation
 - issues associated with property (industrial, intellectual) protection rights
- Core-periphery(ies) transformation and stabilisation, i.e. European cores and peripheries within globalising economies: ways of preventing CEE from becoming dependent periphery in a globalised economy
- Effects of structural funds on growth

2. Financial crisis and macro-monetary imbalances

Understanding diverse responses to global crises; issues of stability in face of external shocks (issues related to macro-policies and macro-models implementation)

- Taxation system, public debt management
- Dependence on EU and FDI investments
- Effects of European Monetary Union (EMU) on Central and Eastern Europe

Parallel Session II

3. Migration

- Balance of emigration and immigration
- Impact of fund remittance. Impact of remittances on the financial stability in the region
- Slowdown of population growth (aging) and sustainability of CEE economies
- Knowledge transfer (brain-drain, brain-gain)

4. Public sector and its role in development

- Policies and economic solutions to relax pressure on retirement and pension and health system
- CEE capacity to produce income for sustaining aging population
- Ability to design effective models for allocation of public resources (infrastructure insufficiency)
- Overhauling higher education systems and education reform
- Scarcity of financial resources allocated to research and development activities

5. Further issues related to the major societal challenges

- Energy, climate change and environmental challenges: energy insufficiency and lack of domestic know-how in green energy development
- Social uncertainty and risk management; movements of economic inequality: old and new inequalities, causes and impacts of income inequality and poverty and unemployment

6. Overreaching interdisciplinary topics between sociology and economy

- Specificity of the region: historical legacies and path-dependency (for example while studying corruption)
- CEE as a (low-cost) laboratory of European Union enabling testing, both intellectually and practically. Mobility can serve as an example here; getting precise knowledge is easier in the case of CEE migration compared to studying migrants from e.g. India
- Socio-economic impacts of migration
- Political economy and modernisation and policy change
- Relations between markets and institutions
- Importance of articulating social science with system reform, i.e. not only the right social science, but also leveraging policy responsiveness to the challenges which are identified
- Micro-macro levels and multiple methods
- Large data sets

Parallel Session II

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Most social science research on Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) examines issues that have political aspects, since in rapidly changing societies political decision making has an impact on the trajectories of societal and economic development. The discussions of political scientists involved in the project therefore both looked specifically at, for example, political institutions and political communication in Central and Eastern Europe, and at broader societal changes that have political aspects. The aim was both to identify areas where new research agendas specific to all or some groups of CEE states should be pursued, and to identify European or global trends which present new challenges to political science research conducted in CEE.

The first Forward Look workshop began by looking at *change drivers* which will influence future social developments in CEE and therefore also the research agendas which can produce a scientific understanding of past, present and potential future structures and changes that can inform policy makers. Using STEEPV categories (Social, Technological, Environmental, Economic, Political and Values), the political change drivers identified were in the main not specific to CEE. However, when all the major drivers identified by the STEEPV analysis were put in order by a plenary session, the political drivers considered most important were (in order): historical legacies in CEE; old & new institutional structures, interests, actors, inc. the state; and political reactions to globalisation. The CEE-specific driver – historical legacies in CEE, meaning predominantly the legacy of communist rule – was particularly emphasised. In addition, all ten most prominent issues selected from all STEEPV categories have clear implications for political science research agendas, and many were particularly relevant to the transition process in CEE (e.g. ethnic diversity, migration, citizenship; changing paradigms of economic development; public sector role in development; eastern borders, inc. geopolitics and Russian power; political reactions to globalisation).



Further debate by the political scientists identified a number of specific issues that are central to political science research on CEE:

- Governance/governability: new and old actors and challenges; quality and/or type of democracy; long-term weakness of the state.
- Sovereignty: many CEEs are small states within the EU, but relations with other organisations, such as IFIs and the World Bank, are also relevant
- State capacity in the economic crisis: impacts on social structures, interests, the welfare state etc.
- Media and politics: CEE experience has been a unique transition from total regulation to (varying degrees) of freedom and new patterns of ownership, along with pervasive technological changes.
- Historical legacies: modernisation of values, socialisation; post-communism as a common feature in CEE, leading to both innovation and inertia; change led by 'shocks'.
- Generational change: this impacts on all research areas, and is particularly marked in CEE because of discontinuity in political regimes.

Parallel Session II

Four broad areas where forward-looking political science research questions could be developed have been highlighted:

1. Minorities, migration and ethnic diversity

Is ethnic conflict in CEE a thing of the past, 'solved' with the help of e.g. the OSCE prior to EU accession? The possibility of ethnic conflict (e.g. in the Caucasus or even further west) should not be ignored, and exists also in Western Europe, but forward-looking agendas should look at rather different issues. The question of social inclusion is a salient issue: the securitization of minority rights detracts from e.g. Roma questions as right-based issues. Inward immigration into CEE will also be an emerging topic since current debate in the regions currently relates largely to social integration of indigenous minorities (citizens) or the economic effects of outward migration. A background to this is asking what it takes to build a democratic political community. Defining the 'demos' – the political and social community (including both old and new groups) – is therefore a prerequisite for research on minority or migration topics.

2. Foreign and security policy

CEE affects security policy in Europe because of the strongly pro-NATO orientations of the new EU member states. Further research on EU foreign policy involves examination of CEEs as foreign policy actors. Here rather than CEE-specific projects, transnational projects have to be framed to encompass relations between CEEs and the eastern neighbourhood.

The extent to which Russia will act as a change driver is open, and instability e.g. in Belarus has the potential to affect the EU in areas such as energy security. Does Russia export an authoritarian model which competes with EU democratization in the ENP area?

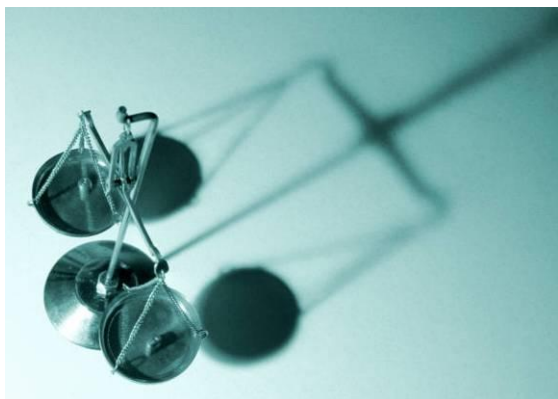
3. Leadership and representation

Populism has recently become a more frequently researched topic in recent years. This issue may be researched more broadly by looking at the failure of representation, and at new forms of representation and new institutions. Evidence-based voting patterns reflect disappointment with government performance, and while striking in CEE states this is a topic requiring EU-wide research. In the CEE context, recruitment of political elites is also under-researched and key to understanding future developments. At the same time, there are changing patterns in the understanding of sovereignty which are linked in part to Europeanisation processes.

4. Economics and politics

Interactions between economics and politics require further research throughout Europe, although distinct patterns may be present within CEE. This relates both to lobbying and to corruption. In addition, how will political systems respond to the crisis?

LOCAL GOVERNANCE



As an almost permanent periphery of empires, the governance systems of CEE countries were extremely centralised, giving less chance to develop organic local government systems. During system change legislators preferred the western self-governmental model, which provided autonomy for local societies, laying emphasis on local democracy and not on the “local state” or the local agent of local service provision.

Although CEE countries were relatively successful in completing the formal/institutional requirements for local governance autonomy and democracy, several problems concerning the structure and inefficient functioning nevertheless remain.

The original question was whether so-called Europeanisation is the only determinant of the future or of the region has special features to be considered in setting the research agenda for this field. It was agreed that the learning capacity of central and local governments needs to be strengthened by evidence-based policy instruments, special training and research/policy advice institutions. However, “evidence” is still missing: systematic research on mechanisms, staff, culture, knowledge, historical roots, objective frameworks, conditions of (good) governance in CEE. Therefore, comparative studies on local governance throughout Europe are necessary, and they could also entail valuable contributions through contextualisation – through testing paradigms and assumptions underpinning governance debate via comparative treatments of governance under different conditions for societal transformation.

Proposed research directions

1. Structure of local government systems

The initial structures and the inherited centralisation became some of the main obstacles to adapting to the regionalised/decentralised Europe and to managing public services efficiently. Many (but not all of) Central and Eastern European countries are struggling with the fragmentation of local governments which entails capacity, financial, quality and accessibility problems. The other common structural problem is the weakness or complete lack of meso/regional level governance, apart from a few exceptions, although several reform programs aimed to rebuild the regions mostly within new boundaries. This rescaling process was determined by the regime of Structural Funds. It is to be investigated how these structural problems will/could be solved in the future in a changing regime of SF and European governance in general:

- Reforms, mechanisms in consolidation of fragmented local governance.
- Changing boundaries and roles of meso-levels
- The history and progress of central- local relations
- CEE regions in European multilevel governance system
- Impact of European cohesion policy on the territorial governance in CEE

2. The provision of local public services

The provision of local public services inherited mostly from the socialist “welfare state” system has many problems. The New Public Management paradigm was unable to provide appropriate solutions in countries where the business sector is weak and the public sector is not mature enough for establishing real partnerships, and in countries where clients and civil society are too dependent on public services. It is worth exercising foresight about how these countries will respond to the neo-Weberian era of public service provision.

- New models, policies and actors of local service provision
- Budgetary mechanisms
- Local conflicts and problem solving

Parallel Session II

3. Personal, organisational, financial capacities

Personal, organisational and financial capacities are also explanations why models adapted from the West do not work or have many side effects. Efficient local/territorial leadership is a key issue in answering the question of convergence or divergence of European governance systems:

- E-governance
- Policy transfer
- Management structures
- Most appropriate modes of capacity building and learning

4. The political and administrative culture

The political and administrative culture in the CEE countries is related to deeply rooted values and norms of people's behaviour. Local society remained weak, local elite networks are not transparent, low turn out weakens legitimacy, partnership mechanisms are not a solid basis for development coalitions, and the relations between business and politics are penetrated by corruption. Comparative research is needed to understand to what extent cultural differences determine the performance of local governments.

- State of the art and processes in local democracy
- Civic participation, trust, political, economic, administrative elites
- Cognitive aspects of local decision-making

SOCIOLOGY



1. Mobility (as broader concept than migration) and (social) integration

Mobility is a broad social phenomenon which includes and reflects other processes, e.g. it identifies emerging social processes, helps to discover gaps and to determine what is needed in the future; and mobility is closely related to various kind of identity, cultural diversity and citizenship.

The objective is to show the diversity of the theoretical approaches on mobility and international migration. The intention is to demonstrate the density of theories used in different social sciences concerned with mobility and international migration and their mandatory joint efforts in researching the migration process. The fact that the European mainland has erupted as an immigration destination in the last three decades has made it almost impossible for some countries to change their status and recognize that they have become immigration countries. Immigration is a major challenge for Europe and in general a priority in governmental agendas and international organizations. Immigration policies should be linked more and more to the reality and should be the foundation stone of integration at all levels, in combination with intelligent migratory flow controls. Research on migration includes institutional and individual coping strategies, youth migration and the emergence of the first

‘European generation’ as an effect of EU integration and its impact upon of Europe (with a trend to circulation rather than brain drain, although at present the direction is still rather one-way).

Young CEE migrants in Europe develop local identities and are engaged in local communities, adding up to replacement of national identities. As an emerging factor in the new “stage” (era) of migration is an international/transnational migration. New meanings of the concept of transnationalism in the context of migration could be return migrants and their economic activities (socio-economic impacts of migration) as well as the integration of old and new minorities. As for the old minority, coping with the situation of the Roma minority remains an important problem for the future as well.

CEE has to cope with new diversity whereas multiculturalism and diversity is a new phenomenon perceived as a threat (rise of xenophobia and radically right attitudes hostile to migrants) or a challenge/opportunity improving the cultural capital of mobility. It is important to establish commitments in areas such as work, social life, security, housing, health, education and justice in a transversal perspective on the one hand, as well as regarding discrimination, gender equity, equal opportunities, citizenship rights.

2. Sources and causes of social inequalities

Even though disreputably indistinct concepts are not usually perceived as vital and functional, the term ‘social structure’ proves the opposite.

A very broad definition of ‘social structure’ is that by looking upon the relations between the main groups in society that occur at an institutional level we can establish the reason for the existence of different life chances and social psychologies among different institutionalized groups.

Moreover the definition in its broadness manages to point to the inter-dependency among social institutions and social consciousness. Recent projections from CEE clearly point to this particular phenomenon of inter-reliance, meaning that change in structure also joins the changes in the institutions and consciousness.

The process could be described in the following way: conscious groups are not passive in their adaptation to institutional changes, but in that process they indirectly affect the way institutions change. On the other hand, provoking changes in

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the institutions could bring about the rise of particular social groups which could in fact put a halt on any changes or manipulate the pattern of changes in their favor. In conclusion, if CEE wants to succeed in predicting the relations between institutions, social consciousness and structure it should try to research them as a whole.

Having the unique possibility to examine this interaction, which currently discloses itself in CEE bringing about the appearance of a newly shaped social order, could also aggravate the re-definition of the concept of 'social structure' and rising social inequalities not only in the CEE but also elsewhere.

The differentiation between structural and cultural explanations, as well as the definition that society is an interaction between divergent structural and social elements, is the traditionalist approach in construction of the idea of 'structure' usually offered in social sciences. Unlike these approaches, the undergoing processes in CEE point to the power of human agency as a merger of structure and culture.

Unlike in the West, the newly-born middle class from the pre-supposed liberal ideology in CEE is still not clear in its position, along with the issues of social sources of solidarity and stability.

In the light of what was previously mentioned, one should ask about the nature of the 'intelligentsia'/middle class/service class in CEE in the circumstances pertaining during transition: should it have any effect on corruption and social marginalization? And last but not least, will increased consumerism and individualism in CEE societies have any consequences on the increased personal opportunities and inadequate resources to assure them?

Developing the idea of transnational communities and the demands that it places on redefining basic concepts, such as the concept of family, gender equality, age, ethnicity, reproduction patterns and increasing intergenerational conflicts (young vs. old) is what social scientists will research in the future and one of the solutions we are going to search for is the social mechanism that will prevent the intensification of social divisions and conflicts.

3. Economy and security in CEE as a part of EU and global world order

Developments in CEE not only profoundly influence populations in CEE but are also critically important for the future of European society at large. Research focusing on economic problems and the role of research in society is still marginal. Are the development of the EU and large-scale social changes (etatism, protective state), especially concerning the future of the welfare state beyond the research agenda?

Sociology has to pay more attention to the influence of markets on political values and practices in societal as well as in individual life together with measuring life satisfaction and subjective well-being across EU as a locus of control. Effects of globalization and Europeanization belong to a broader research agenda, together with the emergence of new economic powers in the world and their impact on CEE. Energy security, environment protection and other security issues, including trans-border relations, are part of the general issues and challenges in sociology.

4. Cross-cutting issues

- Impact of quality of democracy, good governance, civic participation
- Quality of education and innovation
- Impact of new technologies, new modes of communication
- Methodological challenges in CEE (methodological deficits in multidisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches)
- Predominance of structure-oriented approaches in CEE
- Need for mid-range theory as a connection between general theories and empirical descriptions for the third decade of the democracy
- specialization and internationalization of academic sociology also in CEE – culturally and regionally relevant topics are disappearing