

News / Information

Proposal for a special Panel on Transition to Market in Eastern Europe, CIS and China for the AIB Midwest U.S.A. Chapter Annual Conference

March 12 - 14, 1997, Chicago, Illinois

What concerns the content of the panel in the Academy of International Business Midwest USA Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois, USA on March 12-14, 1997 on Transition to Market in Eastern Europe, CIS and China it is as follows:

Made by:

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Introduction:

Since 1989 a process of transition to market orientation has started in Eastern Europe (EE) and the countries that came into existence from the disintegration of the former Soviet Union. The new states formed a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Transition in China with liberalization of economic policy started in 1980s.

The transitional processes in EE and CIS are based on changes in the way in which the state economies function starting from abandoning the command system of central planning. Several major elements can be pointed out in these processes. Ownership of productive assets has been in continuous change since the start of the reforms. The state owned enterprises have been privatized with domestic and foreign capital. Foreign investments have started playing significant role in greenfield investment processes. The business support structures, totally eliminated during the communist regimes, have started to appear. Considerable changes have been observed in both domestic and export markets. The monopolistic structure in the domestic markets has been dismantled and competition introduced. All these have had its implications in changes of managerial practices that required transfer of knowledge and changes in the business educational processes on all levels. Lots of problems and difficulties have been observed in the process. The aim of the proposed panel is to give some insight in the transitional process towards market orientation in the

newly emerging democracies, to distinguish the characteristics of this process in context and to possibly give some guidelines for better implementation of the process.

Panelists:

Ronald Savitt, Ph.D., John Beckley Professor of American Business, The University of Vermont, School of Business Administration, Burlington, Vermont 05405, tel.: (802) 656-0502, fax: (802) 656-8279, e-mail: reavitt@emba.uvm.edu.

Considering his five years experience in EE and CIS Professor Dr. Savitt will speak about the challenges of developing a market orientation in transformed, indigenous enterprises in those regions. He will point out to the barriers, elements and the expectations in the area of consumer orientation, competitor orientation and interfunctional orientation. Dr. Savitt is not going to provide the answers but to provoke discussion with the questions he will ask.

Svetla Marinova, M. Sc., MBA (Warwick), Ph. D. Student at Aston University, UK.

Address till December 10, 1996: Marketing and Law Group, Aston Business School, Aston University, Birmingham B4 7ET, United Kingdom, tel.: + 44 121 359 3611 ext. 4426, fax: + 44 121 333 4313, e-mail: marinost@alpha.aston.ac.uk.

Address after December 10, 1996: to the address of panel organizer (see above).

Mrs. Marinova will cover the issues of the needs of match between the motives, intentions and expectations of investors, host companies and host governments in the privatization processes in EE. Based on her doctoral research, she will present a model for analysis at different stages of the investment process. Mrs. Marinova will compare results from privatizations with domestic and foreign capital in several EE countries. This will provide a basis for comparisons and discussions.

Jorma Larimo, Ph.D., Professor of International Business, Faculty of Business Administration, University of Vaasa, P.O. Box 700, 65101 Vaasa, Finland, tel.: + 358 61 3248 286, fax: + 358 61 3248 251, e-mail: jorma.larimoC&macpost.uwasa.fi.

Professor Dr. Larimo will analyze FDI behavior and its implications in EE and CIS. Currently he is participating in several research projects that will provide preliminary data for discussion. Dr. Larimo is also studying advertising in CIS and the Baltic States and will provide data of different approaches of companies in various environments and in relation to the nationality of the owners of companies that advertise. Some considerations for successful investment and advertising practices will be analyzed.

Gerald Watts, M.Sc., Director of Business Development Unit, The Management School, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YX, United Kingdom, tel. : + 44 1524 593901, fax: + 44 1524 381454, e-mail: ged.watts@lancaster.ac.uk.

Mr. Watts has very extensive experience in organizing business education in EE and CIS, including his teaching experience at Vienna Summer School, Prague International Business School, University of Lviv in the Ukraine, etc. He has participated in the restructuring of many companies in CIS and EE. His contribution to the panel will be in two aspects. From educational point of view, Mr. Watts will stress on the areas where acting and future managers in EE and CIS need most education and training. From practical point of view, he will discuss the successes and failures in company restructuring.

Cherrie Zhu, Ph.D., Associate Lecturer of Human Resource Management, Department of Business, Monash University, Caulfield Campus, Melbourne, Victoria 3145, Australia, fax: + 61 3 9905 5412, e-mail: cherrie.zhu@buseco.monash.edu.au.

Dr. Zhu has been researching the transitional aspects of HRM in China for many years and has been consulting companies worldwide that have joint ventures in China. The topics that will be covered by her are related with the changes and challenges of in China under the transition of its economic system.

Gus Geursen, Senior Researcher in Accounting, SYME Department of Accounting, Monash University, Caulfield Campus, P.O. Box 197, Caulfield East, Melbourne, Victoria 3145, Australia, tel.: + 61 3 903 2222, fax: + 61 3 9903 2957.

The difficulties and problems in the changes of accounting system in China and the most appropriate ways to overcome them in other transitional countries will be discussed.

Elynor Davis, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics, Georgia Southern University, Georgia, Office Telephone: (912) 681-5437, home Telephone (912) 587-5216, e-mail address: edavis@gsaix2.cc.gasou.edu.

Dr. Davis has done extensive research in the experience of US firms involved in international business in the areas of EE, CIS and China. She will talk about successful exports of small US firms from southeastern USA in the emerging markets of these regions. Success factors in the internationalization of these firms as choosing a target market, mastering language and culture, dealing with distribution problems, establishing long-term relationships, etc. will be covered.

John Marangos, Ph. D. student at the Department of Economics, Monash University, Clayton 3168, Australia, Telephone: + 61 3 9905-2473, fax: + 61 3 9905-5476, e-mail: john.marangos@buseco.monash.edu.au.

Mr. Marangos will cover the topics of approaches and models used in the transition of CIS and EE countries towards market economies. Questions like: what should the end stage of transition be?; what means should be used on macro and micro level to induce the reforms?; what elements of the existing structures should remain and what should be replaced and how?; etc. will be analyzed.

Marin A. Marinov, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

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Erfolgreiche Durchführung des Internationalen Wissenschaftlichen Symposiums Management und Entwicklung 3/96

Im Kongreßzentrum der Hotels Bernardin wurde in der Zeit vom 09. bis 11. Mai das internationale wissenschaftliche Symposium Management und Entwicklung - Mer 196 abgehalten. Das Symposium wurde von dem Institut für Unternehmertum und Management von Kleinunternehmen, EPF, Universität Maribor und dem Institut für Betriebswirtschaftslehre der Klein- und Mittelbetriebe, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien veranstaltet. Gewidmet war das Symposium Themen zur Theorie und Praxis der Unternehmen mit Besonderheiten der Klein- und Mittelbetriebe.

Fast 300 Teilnehmer wirkten am Symposium mit. Beteiligt haben sich Referenten und im voraus vorbereitete Diskussionsteilnehmer aus fünfzehn (überwiegend europäischen) Ländern. Sie kamen zusammen von mehr als fünfzig Universitäten, Fakultäten, Akademien und anderen angesehenen Institutionen; teilgenommen haben aber auch Vertreter von Unternehmen, Banken, Versicherungen und aus anderen Einrichtungen.

Vorbereitung und Realisierung des Symposiums wurde von drei Komitees geleitet (Programm-, Organisations- und Ausführungskomitee), in denen 50 Fachleute aus verschiedenen Teilen Europas mitgearbeitet haben. Die Vorbereitungen auf das Symposium verliefen über anderthalb Jahre, begonnen wurde im Oktober 1994.

Bereits vor Beginn des Symposiums wurde ein 368 Seiten umfassender Sammelband herausgegeben. In diesem sind Beiträge von 138 Autoren veröffentlicht. Neben den erwähnten Beiträgen sind in dem Sammelband auch das Ausführungsprogramm des Symposiums sowie eine namentliche Übersicht der Autoren mit grundlegenden Angaben über ihre Beschäftigung ausgewiesen.

Inhaltlich vertiefte und erweiterte Beiträge werden in einem Sonderband (beim Verlag Versus in Zürich) und in der Fachzeitschrift Nase gospodarstvo (Unsere Wirtschaft) Nr. 41(1996) 4 herausgegeben. Für diese Veröffentlichung kommen nur die besten Texte in Frage. Das Erscheinen beider Sammelbände ist für September dieses Jahres vorgesehen. Alle drei Sammelbände können beim Organisator des Symposiums an der EPF bestellt und gekauft werden.

Die Finanzierung des Symposiums erfolgte vor allem aus folgenden Quellen:

- Mittel des Forschungsprojekts -Beherrschung der Entwicklung der Klein- und Mittelbetriebe-,
- Mittel der Europäischen Kommission Phare ACE Programme 1995,
- Mittel des Rektorfonds der Universität Maribor,
- Mittel des Schirmherr (Stadtgemeinde Velenje) und anderer Gastgeber

Nach öffentlicher Einschätzung der Mitglieder des Programm- und Organisationsausschusses sowie auch einiger anderer bedeutender Beteiligter des Symposiums wurde dieses mit gutem Erfolg abgeschlossen. Auch uns als Organisatoren wurden großzügige Glückwünsche und Anerkennung ausgesprochen. Bestätigt wird dies durch die schriftliche Anerkennung der Universität Maribor, verliehen an Prof. Dr. Josef Mugler, Prof. Dr. Stefan Kajzer, Prof. Dr. Jean-Paul Thommen, Prof. Dr. Marjan Senjur und Prof. Dr. Janko Belak. Die Anerkennungen wurden für qualitative Ausführung des Symposiums, für außerordentliche Beiträge zur Entwicklung von Wirtschafts- und Geschäftswissenschaften und auch für die Erweiterung der internationalen Zusammenarbeit zwischen den Universitäten verliehen.

Auf der Abschlußsitzung wurden unter anderem auch die Ausgangspunkte für das Symposium MER'98 bestimmt; Die Programmleitung übernahm Prof. Dr. Jean-Paul Thommen aus der Schweiz, die organisatorische Leitung verbleibt weiter in Maribor.

Janko Belak, Vorsitzender des Organisationskomitees Mer'96, Universität Maribor

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International Conference on Marketing and Corporate Culture - Report

The first international conference on marketing and corporate at St. Petersburg's University of Economics, Business and Finance from 24th to 26th of September 1996 brought together around 70 practitioners and scientists from Russia, Germany, Tatarstan, Ukraine and Bulgaria. Additionally papers were included in the conference proceedings by colleagues from the United States, Sweden, England, France, Finland, Lithuania, Austria and Switzerland. The conference was organised by the St. Petersburg University of Economics and Finance with the assistance of the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Higher Education, the Russian Academy of Management, the International Academy for Higher Education in Russia and the Technical University of Chemnitz- Zwickau. The idea was to integrate the topics of marketing and corporate culture and to show especially the influence of cultural factors towards decision making, organising and developing marketing structures and processes in transformation processes

The first day of the conference was devoted to five plenary speeches, delivered by A.I. Muravjov, the head of the organising committee, St. Petersburg, (Importance of Marketing and Corporate Culture for the development in Russia), Kruglov (St. Petersburg Region in the Transformation period in Russia), R. Lang Chemnitz, (Role of Managers in the Process of Changing Corporate Cultures), J.N. Golubiev, St. Petersburg, (Role of Technology in the Russian Economic Development), G. Leidlich, Wiesbaden, (Benchmarking as an Instrument of Marketing) and V.V. Tomilov, St. Petersburg, (Problems of Organisational Culture in the System of Business).

It turned out that the national, regional and partly the special corporate culture could be seen as important factors influencing marketing processes, structures and instruments of marketing in Russian enterprises. While Kruglov was focusing on international influences on Russian national and business cultures with a special attention to the Petersburg region, Lang showed the limited influence of charismatic or transformational leadership for cultural transformations by examining result from empirical studies from East Germany. Golubiev delivered an interesting development picture of Russia showing the stage of technologically driven decline of the industry starting in the early 80ies. He underlined the important role of technology also for the future developments in Russia. Leidlich stated that benchmarking could be used as an instrument also for Russian firms to gain competitiveness. It should include the development to a learning organization who frequently control their products and processes. Tomilov as the least speaker of the first day pointed out that decisions of co-operation with Russian firms should include the knowledge of the regional

culture which is in the north-west region more Scandinavian like as it is in the Region around Moscow which is seen as closer to German or American culture.

The next day started with a contribution of G.L. Bagiev, Petersburg, who speaks on the development of the theoretical and methodological view of marketing as an integral part of enterprise-management in Russia. He claimed that now at least in the scientific discussion marketing is seen as an important and integrated part of modern management with a strong focus on customers needs as it is in the West. Other speakers dealt with the market entry strategies of western firms, marketing of investment objectives in project management, the changing role and importance of commerce in Russia. By discussing the historical development of Russian business charity E.I. Nesterenko, Moscow, brought in interesting view into the debate: a special kind of social responsibility in Russian business culture of the past, which can probably used for the development of business ethics and ethical behaviour of Russian managers.

The last day was starting with a speech of D. Rohe, Bernburg. He showed based on new statistical data and 120 interviews with managers the development of a strong export orientation of East German food companies towards the East especially to Russia

In his final remarks Bagiev proposed to continue the co-operation. Between the participants on the topic. It was recommended to develop research and teaching programs as well as institutional preconditions focusing on cultural issues of marketing

G.L. Bagiev, E.V. Pesotskaia, V.V. Tomilov University of Economics and Finances (St. Petersburg); R.. Lang, TU Chemnitz Zwickau

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Interuniversitäre Zentrum für Unternehmer-Ausbildung in Bulgarien

Das dito wurde im Oktober 1995 an der Universität für National- und Weltwirtschaft (UNWW), Sofia gegründet. Es ist das erste Zentrum dieser Art in Bulgarien und eines der wenigen in Osteuropa. Die Eröffnung von drei Lokalzentren an den Universitäten von drei anderen bulgarischen Städten - Plovdiv, Weliko Tarnowo und Swistow - ist für Herbst 1996 Jahres vorgesehen.

Es ist geplant, an kleinen und mittleren Unternehmen, Finanzinstitutionen, Beratungsgesellschaften und andere Organisationen anzuknüpfen, die im Umkreis von Kleinunternehmen Entwicklung tätig sind.

Die Gründung dieser Zentren ist ein wichtiger Bestandteil der Aktivitäten, die im Rahmen des TEMPUS Projekts "Ausbildungsprogramm und Ausbildungszentrum im Bereich des Unternehmertums" laufen. Die Hauptpartner bei der Realisierung des Projektes sind Institutionen aus Bulgarien, Nordirland, Spanien und Belgien. Der nationale Koordinator des Projekts in Bulgarien ist Dozent Kiril Todorov, UNWW, der auch der Leiter des Zentrums ist.

Das Hauptziel des dito ist die Unterstützung von Unternehmertum und Kleinunternehmen in Bulgarien im Bereich der Ausbildung, Beratung, Forschung und Informatikunterstützung. Für Unternehmer, die jetzt anfangen, vermittelt das Zentrum wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Grundlagen, sowie das Erarbeiten und Finanzieren von Business-Plänen. Für schon etablierte Unternehmer organisiert das Zentrum spezielle Kurse, die den Teilnehmern das notwendige Wissen über Management und Entwicklung von funktionierenden Firmen beibringen. Solche Kurse gibt es in Management, Marketing, Buchhaltung, Finanzen u.a. Die dritte Zielgruppe umfaßt Unternehmer, deren Firmen nach Wachstum streben und das nötige Potential dafür haben. Das sind Firmen, die schon genügend Erfahrung akkumuliert haben, denen es aber an Wissen und Fähigkeiten mangelt, um das Unternehmenswachstum zu managen.

Eine andere Richtung, in die sich das dito entwickelt, ist die Beratungstätigkeit. Das Ziel ist, daß ein Teil der im Zentrum Ausgebildeten weiter mit dem Zentrum an konkreten Aufgaben arbeitet. Außerdem bietet das Zentrum Beratungen im Bereich der Erarbeitung von Business Plänen, Privatisierung, Umstrukturierung und Sanierung von Unternehmen, Gründung und Entwicklung von verschiedenen Formen von strategischen Allianzen.

Die Informatikrichtung umfaßt die Gründung von Informationsdatenbanken, die im Ausbildungsprozeß benutzt werden (Ausbildungsmaterialien, Spiele, Filme, die auf dem multi-medium-Prinzip entwickelt worden sind). Das Ziel ist, auf der Basis von Fallstudien für kleine und mittlere Unternehmen (solche Fallstudien sind schon vorhanden) und von Business Plänen für tätige oder jetzt startende Unternehmer eine Informationsbasis von Daten zu gründen. Sie kann weiter im Ausbildungsprozeß benutzt werden und zwar mit dem Ziel, verschiedene Business Situationen zu simulieren und analysieren.

Die materielle Basis und das Personal, über die das Zentrum verfügt, spielen eine außerordentlich wichtige Rolle für die erfolgreiche Realisierung der genannten Ziele und für die Entwicklung des Zentrums zu einer Leitstelle in der Unternehmer-Ausbildung in Bulgarien und Osteuropa. Das Zentrum verfügt über 20 Computerarbeitsplätze mit mehreren Laserdruckern, die in einem

heterogenen Lokalnetz verbunden sind und die mit den anderen Lokalnetzen an der Universität und mit dem Internet in Verbindung stehen.

Das Computer-Laboratorium bietet Möglichkeiten für Business Planung, Finanzanalysen, Verhandlungsführung, elektronische Kommunikation, Arbeit im Computernetz, Nutzung von textbearbeitenden Programmen, von elektronischen Tabellen und Datenbanken. Eine unterstützende Einheit beschäftigt sich mit der Erarbeitung von Ausbildungsprogrammen für die Bedürfnisse des Zentrums. Zusätzlich arbeitet das Zentrum mit externen Professoren, Bankexperten und Unternehmern zusammen.

Zwei andere Projekte, an denen das Zwischen-Universitätszentrum beteiligt ist, sind "Die Entwicklung des akademischen Unternehmertums in Ländern Zentral- und Osteuropas" in Zusammenarbeit mit der Aston Business School sowie "Internationalisierung, zwischenbetriebliche Kontakte und die Entwicklung von kleinen und mittleren Unternehmen in Zentral- und Osteuropa" zusammen mit der Middlesex University, England.

Kontaktadresse:

Doz. Kiril Todorov ,Universität für National- und Weltwirtschaft
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Conference Annoucement

Snejina Michailova, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

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SCOS: 15th International Conference Warsaw July 9 - 12, 1997

The Empty Space

This is an invitation to join in the (de-)construktion of the empty space.

The Empty Space is the title of Peter Brook's (1968) book about theatre. It inspires the reader to reflect both on theatre and on other ideas of emptiness. For Peter Brook, the empty space is a bare stage the minimum site for theatre. The stage is wiped clean all the time it allows for a special openness to change; the theatrical celebration of ifs has been made manifest.

After 1989, change has ceased to be regarded as an occasional disturbance or a shift between stable states. It has become a way of life for many people in the former Eastern block and in what used to be seen as the "West" as well. Many stable states are gone, and have left a void. This void can be seen as an empty space; a stage welcoming ifs to emerge and to become the inspiration for creative vision and germininal possibilities. The empty space is also a state of mind. It opens debate on authorship and authority. It directs attention to the meaning of directions in and sites of production. It is a spiritual and poetic experience; ambiguous and powerful. As such it can be seen as a process a mode of becoming, an invitation to personal creation not defined within the imperatives of any existing form of categorisation. It embraces the power of silence and the indeterminacy, of the blank; empty space is to be interpreted and experienced by authors who enter it. It is subversive: chaos that can be made visible.

Call for Papers:

The conference, SCOS's first in Eastern / Central Europe, and the twelfth in Europe; aims to provide a space for exploring how we feel and think about a variety of changes in contemporary culture and organizing. The following sub-themes will be embraced as fields of inspiration:

- Political collapse(s): the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the collapse of the welfare state end of the culture of sacrifice (the so called 'Japanese model');
- Shifts in the meaning and the role of communication: the globalization and intensification of communication not as means of interaction but as interaction by its own rules;
- Spirituality and immateriality as a way of becoming in the empty space;
- Virtual organization and virtual reality, the opening of material doors, to an immaterial reality;
- Science fiction and role-playing games, as a way of living in the empty space;
- Poetics as resistance, disorganized ideas and systems, the authoring of empty spaces;
- The theatrical metaphor in organization studies, management as theatrical performance not „essences“ but „arts“ of organizing.

Abstracts of no more than two pages are due by November 1st, 1996.

Please send abstracts to:

Dr. Monika Kostera and Prof. Andrzej K. Kosminski
Academy of Entrepreneurship and Management
Jagiellońska 59
00-987 Warszawa, skr. poczt 240
Poland

Abstracts can also be faxed to: +48 - 22 - 11 30 68

Conference Information:

The conference will begin with a reception on Wednesday evening July 9; and conclude on Saturday July 12. The conference fee (inclusive SCOS membership, vol 4 of Studies in Cultures Organizations & Societies and conference „events“ opening reception, Jazz concert & supper in Lazienki Park & Palace, Gala dinner at the Royal Castle) will be £300.

The price of hotel accommodation will vary between +/- £20 per night for university accommodation inclusive private bath & Telephone (Sokrates Hotel - to +/- £90 {Jan III Sobieski}) inclusive private facilities, Telephone, TV, mini-bar and +/- £130 (Marriott) inclusive all luxuries (all prices include breakfast but are exclusive of 7% VAT). Please let us know your preference as soon as possible and indicate if you require a single or double room- doubles are slightly more expensive. In all cases there are two or three grades of rooms (standard / superior or regular / superior / executive); we would be pleased to inform you of further details.

We are endeavouring to arrange that LOT will be the official conference airline (providing a reduction).

For further information contact Marcin Jozefowicz (Conference Manager) or Małgorzata Bandurska (Conference Secretary) tel. +48 (0)22 11 30 61 to 63 & fax +48 (0)22 11 30 68.