

## News / Information

### **The Challenges and Rewards of EU Integration International conference on CEE Economic Development in Celebration of the 425<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vilnius University**

Vilnius University, founded in 1579, is thought to be one of the oldest universities in the Central and East European region. This year, in commemoration of the 425th anniversary of the university and the 200th anniversary of the establishment of economic studies at the university, the Economics Faculty hosted an international conference, entitled “Catalysts and Impediments of Economic Development in Central and Eastern Europe,” held on October 14-16, 2004.

The anniversary could not have come at a better time. With the accession of ten new member states to the European Union, scholars and practitioners throughout the region had much to consider and debate. What does EU membership mean for the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries? What are the impacts of policy changes for the economies of these countries? Will EU membership result in a shift in competitiveness in the region? Which countries will benefit most and why? What are the benefits and challenges associated with the new Europe and how will these affect investment, labor, and the public sector, for example? Although reforms in the CEE countries have been ongoing for well over a decade, it is apparent that we have still only scratched the surface and have much yet to learn about and from one another. Just under 100 participants from 25 countries gathered to discuss the impact of EU membership on the economies of the newly admitted countries. Lively discussions centered on six main themes:

- Fiscal and monetary policies: impacts on growth
- Competitiveness: changes, trends and factors of influence
- Social policy and economics of the public sector
- Influence of economic sciences on economic development
- Prospects for business
- Marketing theory and practice

Attendance by scholars from throughout the world illustrated the importance of EU enlargement not only for the CEE countries. Among distinguished guests at the conference were the Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas, who provided a thorough overview of Lithuania’s road to EU integration, the

obstacles already hurdled and the challenges that still lie ahead. Key speakers included Professor Erik Berglof, of the Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics, who stressed the importance of the financial sector in fostering transition, with his paper entitled, “Convergence Revisited – Lessons from ‘New European’ Capitalism,” Professor Jorgen Drud Hansen, University of Southern Denmark, who highlighted the institutional aspects of EU integration in his paper “A Political Economy Analysis of the Eastward Enlargement,” Professor Michael Thomas of Strathclyde University, “Measuring Performance in Marketing,” and Professor Povilas Gylys, with a paper entitled, “Two Paradigms of Economic Development in CEE countries.”

A wide range of high-quality presentations and vibrant discussions under each of the conference themes focused on relevant issues of integration. Among the main policy topics were the influence and consequences of uniform taxation policies on the growth of the transition economies and means for attaining stability in the financial sectors of the CEE countries. Sustainable agriculture, labor issues and health sector reforms were the focus of the social policy track. The competitiveness theme welcomed high quality papers on foreign investment trends, entrepreneurship, competitiveness of industries and the internationalization of firms and attractiveness of the CEE countries. Information technologies, high technology SMEs and financial services were the focus of the track “Prospects for Business.” And of course, EU integration brings with it new challenges for reaching and attracting consumers, through adapted advertising strategies and an understanding of the environment of each potential market, which were the highlighted themes of the Marketing track.

For more information about upcoming events and conferences in Lithuania, please contact:

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## **The Third International Conference on International Business in Transforming and Emerging Economies of Central and Eastern Europe**

The Third International Conference on International Business in Transition Economies, originally founded in Lithuania, took place on September 9-11, 2004, in Riga, Latvia. This time, the Conference was organized by the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, the Center for International Business and Economics Research (CIBER) in Vilnius, Lithuania, and the International Business Economics (IBE) Group at Aalborg University, Denmark in a collaboration with its international partners. It marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SSE in Riga and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IBE group in Aalborg. This year's theme was: International Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Competitiveness in the Transforming and Enlarging Europe.

Mr. Ainars Slesers, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia opened the Conference. In his opening speech, Mr. Slesers addressed the issue of building vibrant democratic market society in Latvia and stressed the importance for Latvia and the whole region being increasingly open to and integrated into the European and global economic sphere.

The Conference attracted over 100 participants from 28 different countries including the United States, Canada and Japan, i.e. the number of participants nearly double since last time, just like to years ago. As many participants noted, it was a high quality event with an impressive diversity of scholars, which offered a great opportunity for learning and future research collaborations. Another important feature of the Conference is that each time selected conference papers are published in a special issue of an international journal.

In addition to the academic proceedings, there is a tradition to start the Conference with a Roundtable discussion for invited guests and the Doctoral Seminar for selected PhD students. The purpose of the Baltic Roundtable Discussion was to encourage a dialogue between the international academic community and policy makers from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, while the Doctoral Seminar was intended to offer an opportunity for the selected group of the PhD students from the transition and developed market economies to receive high quality feed-back on the dissertation from the experienced international faculty.

The Conference would have not been possible without a generous financial support from TeliaSonera, the SEB group, and KPMG, which are the leading companies in the Baltic Region.

For further information please contact the Rector of the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, Anders Paalzow, tel +371 701 5800, andersp@sseriga.edu.lv, or Arunas Starkus at arunas.starkus@ciber.lt. Conference website: [www.ciber.lt/ibconference2004](http://www.ciber.lt/ibconference2004)



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Call for papers</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>29. Workshop der Kommission Organisation</b> <b>24./25. Februar 2005</b> <b>an der Technischen Universität Chemnitz</b></p>
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Ich lade Sie ganz herzlich zum nächsten Workshop der Kommission Organisation an der Technischen Universität Chemnitz ein. "Organisationen und Organisieren im Wandel als Herausforderung für die Organisationsforschung".

Die thematische Orientierung der Tagung richtet sich vor allem an theoretisch-konzeptionelle, methodische und empirische Beiträge zu Themen wie:

- Entwicklung und Evolution von Organisationen und Organisationsformen im Kontext von Globalisierung und Regionalisierung
- Historische Einflüsse auf die Entwicklung von Organisationen und Organisationsprozessen
- Herausbildung und Verfestigung neuer Formen und Muster von Organisation und Arbeit
- Organisationale Transformationsprozesse
- Sprache und Wandel in Organisationen
- Wandel in den Formen und Methoden des Organisierens
- Veränderungen in der Methodik und den Methoden der Organisationsforschung.

Natürlich sind in bewährter Weise auch Beiträge zu anderen Themen willkommen. Im Interesse einer weiteren Internationalisierung der Verbands- und Kommissionsarbeit würde ich mich auch besonders über englischsprachige Beiträge freuen.

Die Beiträge sind spätestens bis zum \*07. Januar 2005 \* einzureichen.

Prof. Dr. Rainhart Lang

Technische Universität Chemnitz

<http://www.tu-chemnitz.de/wirtschaft/bwl5/komorg/kms/index.php>



**Call for Papers**  
**VII Chemnitz East Forum**  
**Research on Transition – Research in Transition.**  
**Current topics and future trends in research on**  
**transforming societies.**  
**15 - 17 September 2005**

After about 15 years of transformation, a huge amount of research has been done. Currently some topics have become less relevant, especially those dealing with the situation shortly after socialism. However others, like actual or potential EU accession or East European firms entering West markets, emerge. Additionally, research on transition is influenced by current topics of organizational and societal research, like globalisation or corporate governance. In consequence research on transition itself is changing.

The VII Chemnitz East Forum will address those current as well as future trends of research on transforming societies. The various aspects of this heterogeneous research field, focused on social science based research, will be highlighted. Especially empirical studies with sound theoretical background are welcome. Furthermore, contributions addressing theoretical aspects of transformational processes should be submitted. As a tradition of the forum, a broad area of possible topics such as the following will be covered:

- Human Resource Management,
- Leadership,
- Privatisation and Restructuring,
- Expatriates and Intercultural Cooperation,
- Management Transfer and Learning,
- Corporate Governance,

- Cultural Change,
- New Organizational Forms.

We would like to give outstanding PhD-students the opportunity to present the results of their scientific work at the conference. If you would like to give a paper presentation, please send a full paper (about 8000 words) to the organisation committee via e-mail as file (doc, rtf).

Papers should contain the author(s) name(s), title/position, institution, address, telephone, fax number and e-mail address as well as the topic the paper is referring to. Additionally please provide a PhD-confirmation from your institution. Submissions should be received on or before 31 January 2005. All authors will be notified of the acceptance/rejection of their abstracts by 30 April 2005. In case of acceptance of paper presentation you should be prepared to submit a full paper before the conference.

We are currently investigating possible funding for travel grants and accommodation for applicants. Detailed information on these will be sent together with the invitation.

Please send your abstract to:

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