
20 years of Farming and Rural Transition in Eastern Europe: what have we learned?

**Invitation to a conference
organized by Rural'Est and
SFER**

**20-21 October 2011, Agrosup Dijon –
26 Bd du Dr Petitjean – BP 87999
21079 DIJON Cedex**



INVITATION TO SFER-RURAL'EST MEETING 20-21ST OCTOBER 2011

Rural'Est and SFER (French Society of Rural Economics) warmly invite you to attend their conference ***'20 years of farming and rural transition in Europe: what have we learned?'*** the 20-21st October 2011, at Agrosup Dijon, Dijon, France.

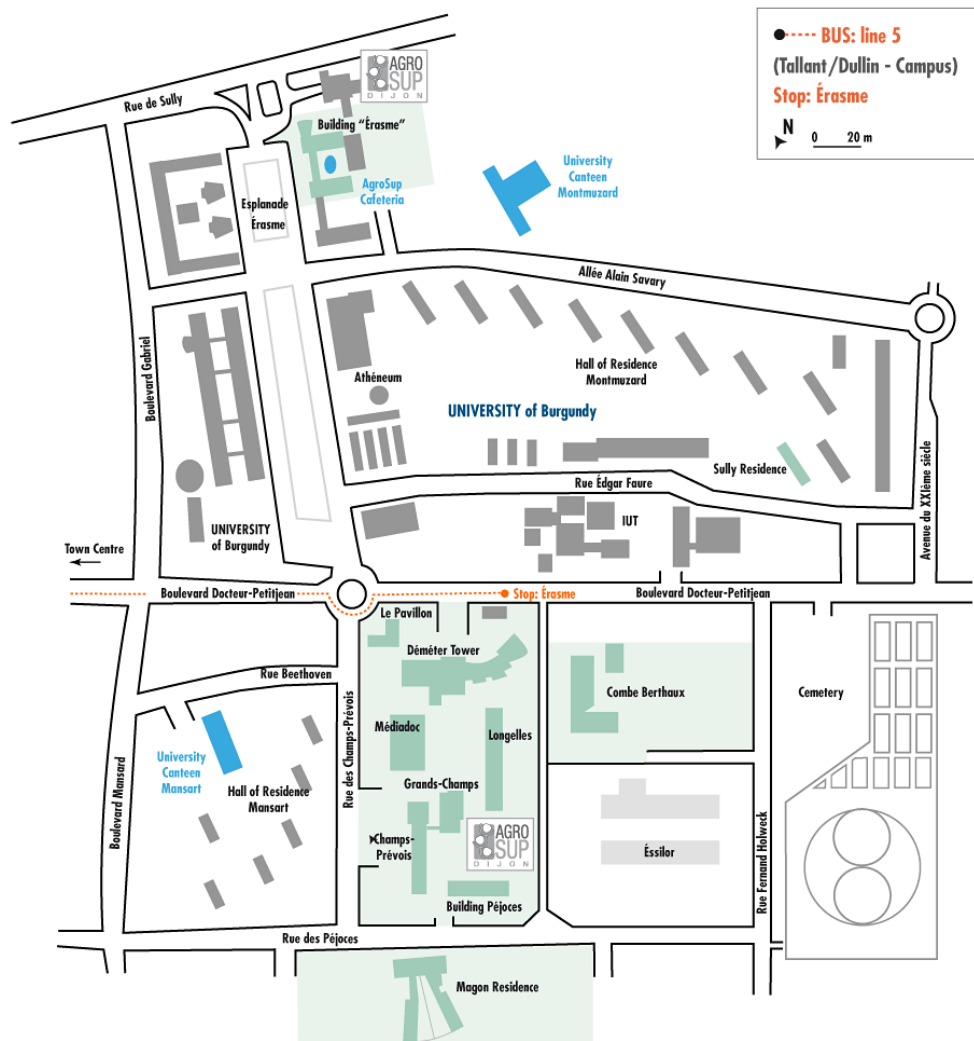
The meeting will cover a variety of subjects concerning the last 20 years of rural transition in Eastern Europe, and the first day is dedicated to articles published in the special issue of *Economie Rurale* with the same title as the meeting.

Researchers will present their work in French or in English. Simultaneous translation between the two languages will be provided.

The cost of the two days, including conference dinner, is 120 **Euro**. Please complete and send the application form on page 7 to: **SFER - 19 avenue du Maine - 79732 PARIS Cedex 15 France**

Tel: 01 45 49 88 40 –

Fax: 01 45 49 88 41 - E-mail: marie.dezert@engref.agroparistech.fr



"20 YEARS OF FARMING AND RURAL TRANSITION IN EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?"

Over twenty years have passed since the fall of the Wall and the beginning of the process called "Transition" in Central and Eastern Europe countries (CEEC). Two major events marked this historical episode from the beginning: the transition toward democratic systems, and the adoption of a free market system in the perspective of a liberal politico-economic model. As an immediate consequence of these rapid developments and of the breakdown of all major economic and political balance of the East, the initial dramatic recession of the 90s hit all sectors in Eastern countries. This situation was particularly reflected by the highest unemployment rates ever achieved, especially in rural areas away from major urban or trans-border employment areas.

Then, in a context of gradual recovery, a significant proportion of countries in Central and Eastern Europe entered the double pre-accession and accession steps to European Union during the beginning of the 2000s. The aim was to reach and appropriate the *acquis communautaire* in the fields of agriculture: management of institutional structures, control systems (sanitary for all food chains, but also administrative and financial), markets organizations, rural and industrial infrastructure...

These evolutionary phases were accompanied by a severe diagnosis when focusing on the agricultural and rural sector in the East. Depending on the country, and taking as a reference the presented-as-positive trajectory of modernization of agriculture in West-European from the late 40's to 70's. The need for urgent reform was emphasized whilst considering the specificities of the Eastern farming sector: in some regions, late modernization and low labor productivity of small family structures, in a context where agriculture appears as a survival strategy face to general crisis ; in some other regions, low technical performance and management problems in macro-cooperatives or State farms ... Everywhere was observed the need and difficulty of implementing land reforms to restore private agricultural property, presented as necessary to establish trade at parity with Western European countries.

In this context, different processes were first predicted. Structurally, with significant variations across countries, macro-state farms or cooperatives, often integrated into food complexes, were initially expected to give way to private family-like farming systems oriented toward technical development, productive specialization, capital intensity and market-orientation of the production. This horizon of convergence also concerned small subsistence or semi-subsistence family farms, which were expected to give way to larger family farms perceived *a priori* as more efficient. Economically, the early stages of market opening drove western countries to fear the new competition with Eastern agricultural products, potentially cheaper because of lower production costs.

The return on these twenty years of evolution invites to ask different questions:

- What progress of developments in the Eastern countries over the past two decades? Did the evolutionary models initially proposed prove adequate, beyond the teleological character of the notion of "transition" used to describe the on-going processes? How does the close observation of empirical facts - economic, political, social ... - invite us to renew the understanding of trends and of the contemporary situation?
- How to characterize these twenty years of agricultural and rural transformation in the CEECs: what do we learn today when looking back at this period of history, regarding to the forms of land property and farms structures, to the characteristics of markets, to the renewal of the elites and institutions? Ultimately, how to describe the specific trajectory of each of these countries?
- Are the phenomena of concentration of land property and of speculation really at work? Are there also strategies of resistance to these phenomena, both private and public? What are the results of such opposite dynamics?
- What are the contemporary social conditions of work in agriculture and in rural areas? Again, did the concentration phenomena announced really occurred? In a context where migration opportunities have profoundly altered the forms of rural family-like multi-activities, what are today the dynamics at work, not only in terms of strategies for the choice of professional activities, but also of economic transfers? What are the structural effects in the Eastern regions dominated by micro-structures?
- Finally, what are the new lessons of this current structural modernization process, after the implementation of supports from the two pillars of the CAP? What are the technical, structural and economical models now at work, at the scale of both the agricultural production sector and of the upstream and downstream sectors? How do different types and sizes of farms use this funding? How are power relationships consequently modified, when considering market equilibrium, struggles for access to land, or the development of diversified rural activities?

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM 20TH OCTOBER 2011

PRESIDENT OF THE 1ST DAY: PR GILLES BAZIN (AGROPARISTECH)

09:30	Welcome, coffee and introduction from the President (Pr Gilles Bazin (Agroparistech))
10:15	Introduction Alain Pouliquen
11:00	Coffee
11:15	Session 1: Moderated by Zbigniew Floriańczyk (coordinator of the European Rural Development Network) 1) Bazin & Bourdeau-Lepage " <i>Agriculture in the Central and Oriental countries of Europe: continuity and adaptation</i> " 2) Streith " <i>Back to the future</i> " 3) Maurel & Lacquement « <i>Trajectories of a recomposed rurality in Central Europe</i> » 4) Le Gallo & Duboz, " <i>Agricultural change and specialization in enlarged Europe: the weight of the CAP?</i> " (reserved)
12:45	Lunch (Buffet)
14:15	Session 2: Moderated by Daniela Giurca, (General Director of Agricultural Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Bucharest) 1) Darrot & Von Hirschhausen " <i>The CAP and agricultural transition in Poland and Romania: the new terms of the process</i> " 2) Ciolos-Villemin & Andreff & Montaigne, " <i>The marginalization of minifirms: the case of viti-vinicultural minifirms in Romania in the face of European and national policy</i> " 3) Lezéan, " <i>Russian Agriculture in transition: between stagnation and post soviet modernisation</i> " 4) Gaborean, " <i>Decollectivisation and property relations in a Romanian village</i> " (reserved) 5) Esteve, Barjolle & Paus " <i>Perspectives and limits of development of filières under Geographical indications in the Balkans</i> "
16:00	Coffee
16:30	Session 3: Moderated by Lise Bourdeau-Lepage (Economist, University Paris 11) Cecilia Alexandri (Institute of Agricultural Economics, Bucharest) "Markets and economic issues" : open to proposals and undergoing selection by the scientific committee) 3-4 papers 15 mn + discussion
18:00	Close

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM 21 OCTOBER 2011

PRESIDENT OF THE 2ND DAY: PR JEAN-PIERRE BOINON (AGROSUP DIJON)

08:45	Welcome, coffee and words from the president Pr Jean-Pierre Boinon (Agrosup Dijon)
09:00	Session 1: Transition in the East: contemporary perspectives Moderated by Marielle Berriet-Sollicec (Director of CESAER, Agrosup Dijon), Marek Wigier (Director of research, Institute of Agricultural Economy, Warsaw, Poland) 1) Imre Kovach <i>"Civil society and demography in Central and Eastern Europe"</i> 2) Daniela Giurca (avec la collaboration de L. Luca et D. Ciolos) <i>"A 20 year-search for coherence in the agricultural policies from Romania"</i> 3) Pr Paun Otiman et al., <i>(Title of presentation to be confirmed)</i> Pr Bernard Chavance, <i>"The process of post soviet transformation, which results?" (reserved)</i>
10:30	Coffee
11:00	Session 2: Rural Development and Social issues in the east Moderated by Michel Streith (Chargé de recherches CNRS) and Catherine Darrot (maître de conférences Agrocampus Ouest, co founder of Rural'Est) : open to proposals and undergoing selection by the scientific committee) 3-4 papers 15 mn + discussion
12:30	Lunch (Buffet)
14:00	Session 3: Land market issues in the east Moderated by Jean-Pierre Boinon (Emeritus Professor, Agrosup Dijon), Frédéric Courleux (Head of the Office of Evaluation and Economic Analysis at the Centre for Studies and Forecasting, Ministry of Agriculture, Paris) open to proposals and undergoing selection by the scientific committee) 3-4 papers 15 mn + discussion
15:30	Coffee
16:00	Round table: CAP 2013- which issues, which perspectives for rural development in the central and oriental countries of Europe? Closing debate, moderated by Christian Mouchet (Emeritus Professor, Agrocampus Ouest) 1) Representative from DGVI (to be confirmed) 2) Alexandre Martinez (Poland) – and/or Pierre Schwartz (Romania) – Agricultural attaches at the French Embassy 3) Samuel Feret – Group "PAC 2013" 4) Hannes Lorenzen, <i>advisor to the Greens / EFA in the European Parliament (under reserve)</i>
18:00	Close



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Agrosup Dijon – 26 Bd du Dr Petitjean – BP 87999 21079 DIJON Cedex
20 – 21st October 2011

Surname.....
Name.....
Organisation.....
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Invoice address.....
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Tel. Fax
E-mail.....
Web.....

CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

Applications will be processed in the order in which they arrive and will be permanent where accompanied by the correct payment and where the event is not yet full.

Hotel and travel costs are the responsibility of participants. Lunch is included in the cost of participation, the evening meal for the 20th is optional within the application.

VAT does not apply to this meeting

SFER, Société Française d'Économie Rurale, 19, avenue du Maine, 75015 PARIS, tel : 01 45 49 88 40, fax : 01 45 49 88 41

Mail : dezert@engref.agroparistech.fr

Application costs (Including conference participation, lunch, coffee and the visit on the 20th October)

☐ Participation in farm visit <http://www.fruirouge.fr/> le 20 October 2011

☐ Application **without** conference dinner 20 October.....**90 €**

☐ Application **with** conference dinner 20 October**110 €**

☐ Discount (where applicable) **without** dinner 20 October**40 €**

☐ Discount (where applicable) **with** dinner 20 October**60 €**

Methods of payment

☐ Cheque or postal order in Euros made payable to SFER or postal en € made payable to : SFER

☐ By bank transfer to : SFER La Banque Postale - Centre Financier de Paris - 75900 Paris cedex 15 - France - Établissement : 20041/ Guichet : 00001 / N° de compte : 0710151J020 / Clé RIB : 26

☐ By invoice addressed to SFER

Organisation.....

Head of department.....

Date and signature

Please send application form to:

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