

Volume 28, Issue 32**Conference Announcement****Institutions in Transition**

Location : Otocec, Slovenia

Organizers : IMAD - Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development

Major Topics : Institutions and economic performance, Institutions and EU Enlargement

Conference Dates : 7/13/2001 to 7/13/2001

Submission Deadline : 3/31/2001

Send Submissions To : conference.imad@gov.si

Sponsoring Organizations :

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Transition from socialism to the EU is often perceived as an endeavour of a group of countries to become as similar as possible to the shining example of the most successful countries in the world. However, this view of transition as a one-way process is too simple for two reasons. First, new sets of institutions cannot be imposed on transition countries without taking into account the existing informal institutions, e.g. social norms and ideologies. Second, the outcome of transition depends crucially on interests and influence of different actors involved in the process of creating institutions, and on the constraints faced by them. On the other hand, developed countries as well will have to adapt themselves to the new reality brought about by transition. The aim of the conference is to discuss transition (from socialism and to the EU) as a complex process of institutional innovation in which outcomes cannot be known or prescribed in advance. Any paper corresponding to this broadly conceived theme of the conference will be welcome. However, the organizers would especially like to encourage contributions discussing any of the specific topics outlined below. 1. The changing role of government: division of competences between national, regional and EU governments and the pros and cons of EU becoming a federation the changing role of government in the "new economy" and the relative importance of macroeconomic vs. structural and competition policies. 2. Fiscal institutions and fiscal performance: how do institutions governing the budgetary process - preparation of the budget and efficiency of using it - affect fiscal performance impact of fiscal decentralization on performance. 3. Social cohesion, democracy and economic development: experiences demonstrating impact of human resources, social capital and degree of democracy on economic development effectiveness of structural EU policies for social and economic cohesion. 4. Institutional restructuring of enterprises, financial sector and public sector: impact of different privatization models and ownership structures on governance and performance influence of financial intermediaries and capital markets on restructuring reforms in the public sector, especially health care reform.