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INTRODUCTION

This book is the third in the series *From Plan to Market. Selected Problems of Transition*. The series includes papers by assistants and candidates for a doctor's degree of the two cooperating schools: The Viadrina European University and The Poznań University of Economics, delivered at the annual seminars. This publication consists of the papers presented during the fourth meeting of the young staff of the a/m universities, held in Lubniewice in October, 1998.

The papers dealt with the subjects conference participants were most involved in. They represented different fields of knowledge and therefore their presentations were diversified. The variety of themes enabled them to look at the complex issues and mechanisms of functioning of the transforming economies both from macroeconomic and microeconomic points of view and it was a good background for the exchange of views of the young research workers. Some of the papers delivered dealt with the subject of essential political and economic transformations; their range, potential difficulties and future prospects of the proposed solutions. There was also a number of papers focusing on the development of banking systems in the countries undergoing economic transformations. The next group of papers concentrated on privatisation of companies and their functioning in the new economic situation whereas the others dealt with the agricultural sector of economy and the new trends in development of wholesale and retail trade.

A considerable number of conference participants as well as their involvement in the discussions which very often went on outside conference rooms seem to indicate the need for organising such meetings. They do not only create an opportunity for participants to improve their own skills of presenting the results of their own research but make it possible for them to make new acquaintances which may in future result in common research projects. Therefore, the next seminar of the young research workers is scheduled for 1999.

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