

Enlargement of the European Union with a number of East European countries is a result of fundamental changes in the economic, legal, political and social environment in these countries. The process that has led to these changes has attracted the interest of scholars representing a multitude of academic disciplines. A broad spectrum of analytical perspectives have been used to help gain a better understanding of the transition process and serve as a base for political decisions regarding this or similar processes. A majority of the research projects are unidisciplinary in character and primarily focus on developments on the macro level. With reference to this, The Centre for European Research at Göteborg University asked a group of researchers who represent the fields of economics, economic geography, law, political science and sociology to design a multidisciplinary project that would open up for analyses of the transition process on the macro as well as on the micro level. The project was also, to a large extent to be based on empirical analyses, which would focus economic, legal and political reform activities and their consequences for the state, its institutions and citizens.

Recognizing the enormous amount of research on core aspects of transition, such as democratization and market liberalization, this project takes a somewhat different approach, aiming at bringing together, in one single volume, analyses of the consequences of political, economic and social change in Central and Eastern Europe from the different perspectives of the five disciplines involved. The wide array of transnational aspects covered in this volume will hopefully add to the empirical knowledge and to the further development of theories on transition.