

# Voices and challenges from Central and Eastern Europe

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# The traditions

- Demographically dominant rural population
- The agrarian question – pressure of modernisation - policy interventions
- National and rural
- Intellectual and political movements

# The traditions

- **Rural sciences before 1945**
  - Early starting - ethnography, statistics, history
  - Csajanov – theory of peasant economy
  - The Polish Schools – theoretical, methodological and thematic complexity
  - D. Gusti – field-work methodology, village monographs
  - F. Erdei – embourgeoisement, de-peasantisation
  - I. A. Bláha – village monographs , K. Galla – cooperative movements, Z. Ullrich - suburbanisation

thanks to Michal Lostak

# Socialist area

- Ideology and science
- Marxism or formal Marxism hegemony but opponent theories from 70ies
- „Structuralism” - paradigm
- Registration of rural modernisation
- Institutionalisation of rural sociology
- Separation from the West 1945 - 1980

# Integration

- From 80ies
- Mission of ESRS
- Integration and co-operation from 90ies
- Institutional adjustment
- Emerging publication activity
- EU membership

# Research and intellectual challenges

- Management of post-socialist re-structurisation
  - Land ownership and land use
  - From collectivisation to private, family farming
  - From co-operatives to co-operation
  - Self-governments, new power relations
  - Diversification of rural economy, decline of agriculture and concentration of production together with modernisation
  - De- and re-peasantisation of CEE countryside
  - New urban – rural relations
  - Gender
  - Community and cultural studies

# Research and intellectual challenges

- Management of EU integration
  - Multi-nationalisation, globalisation and their responses
  - New regionalisation, new governance
  - The LEADER in CEE
  - CEE farmers in the SYSTEM
  - Project proliferation
  - Sustainability, climate change, environment – revival of peasant „relation” to the nature ?
  - Cultural renaissance

# Research and intellectual challenges

## – Rural poverty

- Unemployment – privatisation, liberalisation, agricultural decline
- Ageing small villages
- Social and ethnic conflicts

# Research and intellectual challenges

- Specificities of CEE rural (?)
  - One third of EU rural population
  - Retardation, underdevelopment or different structures and development paths ?
  - Geographical, historical and cultural heterogeneity and complexity
  - Problems of terminology and common language
  - Necessity of comparative studies
  - Uneven EU and intellectual integration
  - Missing paradigm and missing theory of Central – Eastern Europeanism