

The Social Impact of Informal Economies in Eastern Europe

Edited by **Rainer Neef**, *Universität Göttingen, Germany* and **Manuela Stănculescu**, *Institutul de Cercetare a Calitații Vieții, Romania*

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In State socialist societies, informal economies were essential for the functioning of the economy as well as for household provision. Since the beginning of social transformation they have been flourishing better than ever before. They are a main outlet on the market for the newly emerging middle classes, stabilize the situation of many workers and pensioners, and in countries on the downward slope they are essential for the survival of large impoverished groups.

Presenting recent research on the social importance of informal economies, especially in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Russia, the editors give a short introduction for each country, and a common compilation of basic economic and social data follows in the appendix. Household strategies in the 'shadow', groups of informal winners and losers, informal employment in town and countryside, outcomes from informal activities, the macro-economic importance of informal economies, and researching methods are all investigated.

CONTENTS: Foreword, *Raymond Pahl*; Observations on the concept and forms of the informal economy in Eastern Europe, *Rainer Neef*; Patterns of participation in the informal economy in East-Central Europe, 1991-1998, *Claire Wallace* and *Christian Haerpfer*. **Bulgaria:** Bulgaria, *Nikolay Nenovsky* and *Darina Koleva*; The informal economy in Bulgaria: historical background and present situation, *Tanya Chavdarova*; Practices and strategies of managing everyday life in a village in socialist Bulgaria, *Klaus Roth*; Informal farm work in North Western Bulgaria and Eastern Serbia, *Milena Benovska-Sabkova*. **Romania:** Romania, *Constantin Ciupagea*; Romanian households between state, market and informal economies, *Manuela Stănculescu*; Informal activities in rural areas – family situations in informal farming and day labouring, *Esther Golibrzuch*; Formal and informal incomes of the Romanian households, *Simona Ilie*; Economic functions of informal activities in Romania, *Constantin Ciupagea*. **Hungary:** Hungary, *Endre Sik* and *János István Tóth*; Hidden economy in Hungary, 1992-1999, *János István Tóth* and *Endre Sik*; Informal labour market-place on the Moscow square, *Endre Sik*. **Russia:** Russia, *Alexander Nikulin*; Informal economy of rural households: restructuring of family networks and strategies, *Olga Fadeeva*, *Alexander Nikulin* and *Valerij Vinogradsky*. **Methods of Research:** Of methods and findings on the informal economy, *Philippe Adair* and *Rainer Neef*; Appendix: country tables of socio-economic data; Name index.

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