

Working Group 2. The management of rural land

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Academic Conferences Scheduled

- 22 & 23 sept 2006 : Zaragoza (Spain). “The impact of markets in the management of rural land”
- 2007 : Rennes (France) “Models of agricultural specialization”
- 2008 : Lund (Sweden) “Levels of production and productivity”

Call for papers Academic Conference “**The impact of markets in the management of rural land**”, Zaragoza, 22 & 23 sept 2006, University of Zaragoza (Spain) and Cost Action A-35. Programme for the Study of European Rural Societies The interplay of markets and other institutions, such as peasant families, local communities, capitalist firms or states, has traditionally occupied a central position in the historiography of rural Europe. As a result, the development of rural societies in Europe is usually understood as a process linked to the parallel development of nearby cities and other, more distant markets. In the last centuries, more specifically, industrialization destroyed some of the traditional peasant activities, but also provided some new options. Farm specialization was fostered by the growth of urban markets and, even more importantly non-peasant activities (in industrial and service sectors) gained a greater role. The outcome was a clear trend towards diversification in rural societies and the spread of capitalist labour relations (based on the wage mechanism). Such transformations have had a remarkable impact on the rural territory. This conference aims at exploring how the involvement of rural populations and communities in different kinds of markets (for agricultural commodities, labour, land, capital) has influenced the management of rural land in Europe. Micro-level, farm-based analyses are welcome, as well as papers that deal with this topic from a higher level of aggregation (we suggest regional levels, but are also open to comparative analyses of different regions or countries in Europe). There is no particular focus in any historical period – in fact, we hope to get papers that range from the Middle Ages to the present day and help us to gain a better understanding of the historical evolution of rural Europe.

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