

Working group 3. Peasant societies

1. Participants: Jaroslaw Dumanowsky, Anne-Lise Head, Geir Inge Orderud, Erich Landsteiner, Bjorn Poulsen, Peter Pozsgai, Jürgen Schlumbohm, Ernst Landsteiner.

2. Before the opening of the discussion, it was stressed that the objectives of PROGRESSORE were to understand the changes of present day rural societies in the light of their historical experience and to provide decision-making tools for policy makers. Consequently, the workgroups should endeavour to include changes which have occurred up to the present days.:

3. The discussion was first centred on the potential existing within the group and each participant suggested the main subjects on which our pillar should concentrate from his/her point of view. The following topics were proposed:

- -labour relations and labour organisation in their economic and ecological context;
- -material culture: conditions and cost of living, peasant education, peasant wealth, rural artisans, household equipment, imitation processes;
- -network analysis: social networks, credit flow in rural societies;
- -inheritance practice, family and marriage strategies according to the social hierarchy in central European societies compared to the western European model;
- -migration and the possibilities of access to the land, mobility and the labour market, rural depopulation.

4. Five propositions were made for organising one of the meetings by one each of the following countries: Austria, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Switzerland. It also seemed appropriate to take into consideration the suggestions made by members representing the three other pillars in order to respect European geographical diversity. As a result Austria, Poland and Hungary are each to organise one working group meeting since Germany and Switzerland are already present in the fourth pillar).

5. Meetings schedules:

First meeting: September 2006 in Austria (Erich Landsteiner)

The articulation of the ecological and economic sphere of rural societies with special reference to labour relations. It was suggested that in case the Austrian colleagues should not be able to organise the first meeting, Georg Fertig would organise a meeting in Münster on network analysis.

Second meeting: September (or June) 2007 in Poland (Jaroslaw Dumanowsky)

Wealth and poverty in Europe from the Middle Ages to the present days: material culture, consumption and level of living.

Third meeting : May 2008 in Hungary (Peter Pozsgai)
"Inheritance and Marriage from the 16th to the 20th Century".

6. Questions were asked with regard to the financing of the meeting .

Each meeting can count on a maximum of Euros 10.000. That means two things:

A. according to the COST rules at most two persons per country can be financed to attend a meeting

B. BUT since COST A35 includes such a large number of countries, this means that not all participant countries will be able to send one/two representatives to a meeting, unless some additional financing can be found, for instance the journey being paid by the country/university of the participants.

7. I would like to remind those responsible for the first workshop that they must send an outline draft of their workshop to Gerard Beaur by the 15th September at the latest.

8. Email addresses of the group members

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Other interested colleagues who could not be present:

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