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**CHANGING PATTERNS OF ENTERING WORKING LIFE IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

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**PLENUM 4: THE ‚GREAT TRANSFORMATION‘ OF POST-SOCIALIST SOCIETIES**

Labor market entry marks a major step in individuals' life courses. The pace and smoothness of this process shapes young adults' occupational biographies as well as other life domains. The transition from school to work is influenced both by individual characteristics and institutions of the educational and employment system. The transition process differs significantly between modern societies. In the case of Central and Eastern European societies, rigorous changes of the economic, political, and social institutions have deeply affected young adults' working life experiences. However, the former state socialist societies took different pathways of societal transition. After presenting selected results from previous research on the transition from school-to-work in Central and Eastern Europe, I will have a closer look at the Russian case. In Russia, the transformation process has been shaped by the co-existence of a capitalistic economic order and traditional authoritarian institutions. Data from the "Education and Employment Survey for Russia" show that, while the process of entering working life has become more risky, traditional linkages between educational qualifications and positions in the employment hierarchy continued to exist. The empirical results underline the assumption that, in Russia, the different logics of administrative and economic power have had a specific impact on the labor market entry process, resulting in ambiguous patterns of continuity and change in young adults' early labor market careers.

**Literature**

Bühler, Christoph and Dirk Konietzka (2008): *The Transition from School-to-Work in Russia During and After Socialism: Change or Continuity?* Rostock, MPIDR Working Paper WP-2008-018.