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**VARIETAS DELECTAT? ON THE TYPOLOGY OF NASCENT CAPITALISMS IN EASTERN EUROPE**

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

Is there such a thing as Estonian or Romanian capitalism two decades after the 1989 revolutions? If there is, do these capitalisms differ essentially? If they do, how do we know that? Do they also differ significantly from other types of capitalism in the „West” and the „South”? If there is no such thing as Estonian or Romanian capitalism yet, will these „emerging”, „transitory”, „hybrid” regimes turn into „full” ones in the foreseeable future? If they will, how will we measure „fullness” given a large variety of real and ideal types of capitalism in the „West” and the „South”? Or should Eastern Europeans forget about country types in the age of European integration and globalization?

What do we learn from the fact that at a certain point in time the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, while at another one Estonia, Slovakia and Slovenia are, in the eyes of well-informed analysts, the favourite „transforming states” or „emerging markets” in the region? Are the rankings comprehensive, sophisticated and comparable enough? Are they not biased by external (geopolitical) or internal (national) considerations? Do the typologies not mix the legal-organizational configuration of the nascent capitalist regimes with their actual economic performance? Are their cultural attributes also taken into account?

Questions like these intrigue the reader in studying the comparative literature on nascent capitalisms in the region. One finds a vacuum left behind Comparative Economic Systems, which has not been filled either by post-communist studies or by most recent concepts in comparative research such as the “varieties of capitalism” (VoC). The presentation will explore ways of adjusting VoC to the current history of Eastern Europe *without* suggesting a comprehensive typology of capitalism after communism.