

From the Editor

The idea of creating a journal dedicated to different social phenomena and processes occurring in rural areas of Eastern Europe was born a few years ago. A group of sociologists from different parts of Europe, including of course representatives from this region, who had been meeting for some time at congresses and seminars organized by the European Society for Rural Sociology decided to attempt a systematic publication of the presentation of these processes.

Shortly after this, a booklet was published announcing the first edition of the journal, and on this basis the first subscribers were found. The publication of the first number was delayed due to financial and organizational problems. Stormy political changes (which are taking place currently over the eastern half of the European continent) caused, among other things, a positive development, in that social research was undertaken which had hitherto been ignored. But at the same time various institutions and structures ceased to exist. New ones did in fact arise to take their place, but access to them is not always easy. For this reason, we were not able to realize all our desired goals with regard to the contents of the first edition of Eastern European Countryside.

Today we are presenting the first so-called 'zero' edition of our journal. It will be distributed free of charge. We hope it will be positively received. It is our intention that the next edition will appear within a year's time. It will be dedicated primarily to rural issues and problems in the three Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.