

## Dear Readers,

It is less than a year since we said goodbye to our late colleague Dr Barbara Weber who edited our periodical since its very beginning, i.e. 1993\*. Just how difficult it will be to replace her – if at all – can be noticed in the imperfections of the previous issue (2007/13) and no doubt in the current issue (2008/14) of *Eastern European Countryside* which you are now looking at. Those shortcomings will remain permanent evidence of Barbara's invaluable contribution to the periodical which she devoted the last 15 years of her hard-working life. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those of you who expressed your sympathy to the editorial office after Barbara's death and to ask you to, please, continue supporting us in our efforts to keep our periodical on the market.

Due to Barbara's death and also to Professor Ryszard Borowicz's resignation from membership on the editorial board we have had to reinforce the EEC Editorial Board. We have invited Professor Irèn Szörényè Kukorelli from the Hungarian Academy of Science – Centre for Regional Studies in Győr; Professor Michal Lošťák from the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague and Dr Monika Kwiecińska-Zdrenka from the Institute of Sociology, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń to work with us.

We have decided to entrust Dr Monika Kwiecińska-Zdrenka with the position of deputy editor, i.e. that previously held by Dr Barbara Weber. Monika Kwiecińska-Zdrenka is a sociologist who deals with issues of education and youth in rural areas. I trust that with such a team it will be easier for us to maintain the high editorial standard which Barbara always saw to.

I hope that the changes in the editorial team will not cause any fundamental changes in the profile of the periodical. We shall endeavour to continue fulfilling the duty of documenting the course of change in the legislative, organizational, economic and socio-cultural sphere of the rural areas of Central and Eastern Europe and providing information about interesting publications, conferences and events in the area of social sciences connected with this part of our continent. A novelty is the introduction

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\* See Dr Barbara Weber's biography in *In Memoriam* on p. 147.

to the section Research Reports and Materials in a far broader dimension than hitherto, of materials illustrating the results of research undertaken in and for the rural areas of our region of Europe, in the framework of various EU programmes which, in our opinion should meet with the interest of a growing group of readers on other continents too.

Andrzej Kaleta  
Managing Editor