

SITE Press Release

2011-09-12

New Policy Brief Series on Eastern Europe and Emerging Economies

<http://www.freepolicybriefs.org>

Today we launch the FREE Policy Brief Series, a joint initiative by seven leading research institutes on transition and emerging markets. The aim is to provide short and informative analyses on current economic policy challenges based on academic research relevant to countries in Eastern Europe and in emerging economies more generally.

This fall marks the 20th anniversary of the collapse of the Soviet Union. The transition process that followed drastically changed society with far reaching consequences for its populations. How to understand and navigate this process, involving reforms as well as the creation of economic and political institutions, was much debated at the time and has subsequently lead to a whole field of research in “transition economics”. Even though the use of this term has become less fashionable the underlying issues of understanding large economic and political transformations of society are still highly relevant. Remaining challenges in this region as well as recent events in the Middle East and North Africa are clear illustrations of this.

It is against this background that we launch the FREE Policy Brief Series. The Forum for Research on Eastern Europe and Emerging Economies (FREE) is a joint initiative by SITE (Stockholm), BEROCC (Minsk), BICEPS (Riga), CEFIR NES (Moscow), CenEA (Szczecin), ISET (Tbilisi) and KEI (Kiev). Since the late 1980s SITE has been a leading research institute on transition economics. As part of its mission SITE has also contributed to building a network of economic research institutes in the region. Today, this group of institutes host leading academic experts doing research and policy work on topics that are relevant for a broader set of countries.

The FREE Policy Brief Series is designed to provide short and informative analyses on current economic policy challenges. The writings are based on academic research papers or policy work by the researchers at the different institutes. The ambition is to bridge the gap between ongoing academic research and policy making, to stimulate and contribute to the global debate as well as to intensify the interaction among researchers, policy-makers, and business representatives. We hope you will find our writings interesting and useful.

The Policy Brief Series are published online with a new brief appearing every Monday: <http://www.freepolicybriefs.org>

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