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REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: The Corporative Mechanisms in the NGO Interest Representation in Eastern Europe

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Comments: -

Session Abstract (up to 250 words): After WWII state socialism put an end to the possibility of free organization in Eastern Europe. The revival of the civil sector in the 1990s was promising, but turned out to be a struggle with various problems.

These organizations usually try to create a corporative body for common interest representation, but these efforts in most cases eventually end with the deconstruction of the same bodies. The life cycle of these corporation is very short, and their rise and fall show particular dynamics. In our session we examine these corporative bodies, looking for the symptoms of failure. These corporative bodies could have a significant role connecting the local politics to the social economy, but this is seldom successful. The Eastern European NGOs have a strong urge for corporativism, there are personal overlaps in these situations and from the local governments there is a tendency to help these corporative actions to legitimize their decisions through such bodies that are under strong political control. From the other side, we can witness the increasing readiness of the civil society to participate in local power, which is contrasting with the traditional function of the NGOs. The aim of the session is to present different sociological explanations of these tendencies.

In our session an important question that how did the Western NGOs influence the self-picture, structure and relations of their Eastern European counterparts during the post-

socialist transformation, and to what extent could the Eastern Europeans adapt the patterns that were suggested by the West.

General information

During each afternoon of the congress, there will be room for a large number of parallel regular sessions. Each session is 90 minutes long and consists of an oral presentation of 4 to 6 papers. Session conveners are expected to administer and chair their session at the 2009 IIS World Congress.

Starting in mid-December, calls for papers to participate in approved sessions will be posted on the website. Interested participants will contact the session convener (you) directly with an abstract no later than February 28, 2009. The session convener should take in all submissions and select the best 4 to 6 papers to be presented and forward this information, including e-mail addresses of accepted authors, to the IIS Secretariat no later than March 15, 2009.