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Gunnar Myrdal Lecture, Palais des Nations (Room XIX), 11 February 2004, 2.30 p.m.

This year's Gunnar Myrdal Lecture will be delivered by Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz, 2001 Nobel Laureate in Economics. The topic will be "The Process of European Integration and the Future of Europe".

Joseph E. Stiglitz was born in Gary, Indiana, USA in 1943. After a distinguished academic career at MIT, Yale and Stanford, he joined the Clinton administration in 1993 as member (later Chairman) of the Council of Economic Advisors and subsequently served as Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist of the World Bank. He is now Professor of Economics and Finance at Columbia University in New York.

The accomplishments of Professor Stiglitz are numerous: he helped create a new branch of economics, "The Economics of Information," exploring the consequences of information asymmetries and pioneering such pivotal concepts as adverse selection and moral hazard, which have now become standard tools not only of theorists, but also of policy analysts. He has also made major contributions to macro-economics and monetary theory, to development economics and trade theory, to public and corporate finance, to the theories of industrial organization and rural organization, and to the theories of welfare economics and of income and wealth distribution. In the 1980s, he helped revive interest in the economics of R&D. His work has helped explain the circumstances in which markets do not work well, and how selective government intervention can improve their performance.

Recognized around the world as a leading economic educator, he has written textbooks that have been translated into more than a dozen languages. He founded one of the leading economics journals, *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*. His latest book, *The Roaring Nineties*, contains an account of his time at the White House during the Clinton boom years.

The Lectures are named in honour of Gunnar Myrdal, first Executive Secretary of the UNECE (1947-1957), who himself received the Nobel Prize in economics in 1974. This is the second in a new series devoted to major international economic problems. The UNECE 2003 Myrdal Lecture was given by Nobel prize winner Professor Douglass C. North.

It's just happened …

Discussing policy options in mainstreaming gender into economic policies

Heads and representatives of national gender machineries as well representatives of line economic ministries discussed policy options in mainstreaming gender into economic policies at the Regional Symposium organized in Geneva (28-30 January 2004) by ECE and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. The discussion focused on progress made, good practices and trade-offs in four areas of economic policies: access to finance and assets; women's employability and employment; gender budgets; and pension systems. Among concrete measures discussed was the EU draft directive on equal access to goods and services; mechanisms of gender budgets at both national level and municipality level based on the experiences of Lithuania and the city of Basel, respectively. The Symposium, a UNECE contribution to the Beijing + 10 process, aimed at supporting national efforts to implement the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the recommendations of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly (Beijing +5) especially within the region-specific priorities agreed at the UNECE Regional Meeting for the 5-year Review of Implementation of the Platform for Action (Geneva, 2000) (ewa.zimny@unece.org).

Off the press …

This report contains an overview and main findings of two UNECE meetings on industrial restructuring held in April 2003 – the Workshop on Policy and Regulatory Options for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in the UNECE Region, and the Conference on Innovation as a Vehicle for Industrial Restructuring. The meetings had as their major objective to identify and better understand the impediments to economic recovery and sustainable industrial development faced by a number of transition economies. At an advanced stage of transition, industrial restructuring comes to the forefront of the reform agenda; this consists in the short term of dismantling and/or transforming uncompetitive enterprises, and in the long run correlates with the broader issue of structural change and efficiency growth, a process which concerns all countries of the UNECE region, including the developed market economies.
For more information contact Iouri Adjoubei (iouri.adjoubei@unece.org).

Coming up soon …

9-10 February	Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation
9-11 February	Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD Work Session on Statistical Metadata
11 February	Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring
12-13 February	Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development

Facts and figures:

Registered unemployment rates, end-of-period
(per cent of labour force)
selected East European and CIS countries

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003*
Albania	18.2	16.9	14.6	15.8	15.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina [a]	39.0	39.4	39.9	42.7	43.8
Bulgaria	16.0	17.9	17.9	16.3	13.2
Croatia	20.8	22.6	23.1	21.3	18.9
Czech Republic	9.4	8.8	8.9	9.8	9.9
Estonia	6.7	7.7	7.7	6.8	6.0
Hungary	9.6	8.9	8.0	8.0	7.8
Latvia	9.1	7.8	7.7	8.5	8.5
Lithuania	10.0	12.6	12.9	10.9	9.7
Poland	13.1	15.1	17.5	18.1	17.6
Romania	11.5	10.5	8.8	8.4	7.2
Serbia and Montenegro	27.4	26.6	22.5	*25.0*	…
Slovakia	19.2	17.9	18.6	17.4	14.2
Slovenia	13.0	12.0	11.8	11.3	11.0
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	44.0	45.1	41.8	45.3	45.4
Eastern Europe-15	**14.3**	**14.8**	**15.3**	**15.5**	**14.7**
Armenia	11.5	10.9	9.8	9.1	9.9
Azerbaijan	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4
Belarus	2.0	2.1	2.3	3.0	3.1
Kazakhstan	3.9	3.7	2.8	2.6	1.9
Kyrgyzstan	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.9
Republic of Moldova	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.3
Russian Federation [b]	12.2	9.8	8.7	8.8	8.6
Tajikistan	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.5
Ukraine	4.3	4.2	3.7	3.8	3.5
CIS-12 [c]	**8.3**	**7.1**	**6.4**	**6.5**	**6.6**

Source: UNECE Statistical database based on national statistics

Notes: * November 2003
a/ For 2003: September 2003
b/ Russian Federation: unemployment figures are based on monthly Russian Goskomstat estimates according to the ILO definition.
c/ Excluding Georgia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

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