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## **Transfer of best practices from the transition period of the forest sector in new EU member countries to the Russian forest sector reform**

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The transition process from the planned economy in the forest sector involves a number of political and macroeconomic reforms, which have a much larger impact on the progress towards a market economy than changes in any other sector. The major goals at the beginning of the transition process were more or less the same in most countries. Nevertheless, countries started the process at different level of economical development, in different internal political situation, different cultures and national habits and at the different level of the forest sector development. All of these pre-existing conditions led to the present situation, wherein countries are at different stages of the transition process. Ten countries of Central and Eastern Europe have successfully accomplished the first phase of the transition from planned to market economy that has lead also to their EU membership. They have accumulated lot of experiences and lessons learned which could be used to support the forest sector reform in Russia.

The best practices and benchmarks of the new EU member countries, from the point of view of their use in the Russian forest sector reform, were analyzed in four areas:

Forest policies and their instruments supporting sustainable forest management

State forest administration and institutional framework

Management of state owned forests – state forest services

Financing sustainable forest management

The most common aspects of the transition are: that it is a long term process which took up to 10 years in all countries and it has not been considered finished yet and that the most crucial issue for the success of the process is capacity building, education and training of personnel.