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KARIN WIEST

WOMEN AND MIGRATION IN RURAL EUROPE

Labour Markets, Representations
and Policies



Women and Migration in Rural Europe

New Geographies of Europe

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Labour Markets, Representations and Policies

New Geographies of Europe

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Women and Migration in Rural Europe

Labour Markets, Representations and
Policies

Edited by

Karin Wiest

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Preface

The idea of this volume was developed during an international scientific conference hosted by the Federal State of Saxony-Anhalt in Berlin on 14 March 2014. Scholars and practitioners from Germany, Spain, Sweden, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and Austria participated in this event. They shared their experiences and discussed the current state of research on gender issues and recent developments in Europe's rural regions. Special focus was on interrelations between rural labour market structures and gender-related migration; changing societal values connected to living in the countryside; the significance of female commitment and entrepreneurship for local economies; and how differently young women assess rurality in a globalising Europe. With respect to regional policies there was discussion on the significance of young women as a target group in the frame of rural development strategies to counteract the negative consequences of demographic change. Contributors came from the sociological, political and agricultural sciences; there were economists, spatial planners and geographers, who all provided different perspectives on gender and rurality and revealed a differentiated picture of the living situations of young women and labour market conditions in rural Europe. This volume brings together the studies presented at the conference based on diverse, partly opposed research approaches and methods. The research issues which came to the fore were a critique of simplifying urban–rural dichotomies; an emphasis of the differentiated and individual characters of rural areas shaped within a globalising Europe; and the challenge of conceptualising gender and rurality as socially produced. The conference was held as part of the Central Europe project 'WOMEN – Realizing a transnational strategy against the brain-drain of well-educated young women'. The intention of the project was to develop concrete measures and evaluate useful strategies to counteract the brain drain of well-educated and skilled young women from rural areas in Europe (women-project.eu).

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