



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DES ECONOMISTES AGRICOLES

P.O. Box 29703, NL-2502 LS The Hague, The Netherlands
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Jerzy Wilkin

Professor Jerzy Wilkin has made very important contributions to the agricultural economics profession in Europe in general and to the EAAE as an organization.

Professor Wilkin is a distinguished economist, teacher and policy advisor. Currently he is Professor Emeritus at the University of Warsaw and a Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Over the course of a forty year career he has made very important and successful contributions to the academic community and in public service. As such his work has been very influential not only for scholars of agricultural economics but also for regulators and policy makers.

A Distinguished Economist

He has written on a wide variety of issues in economics, always trying to address the most urgent issues at the time. In his 65 articles, 124 books and book chapters, and more than 70 other publications he insightfully dealt with such issues as the process of transition from a centrally planned to a market economy, the process of European integration, and the future of the Common Agricultural Policy.

His research reflects a masterful blend of applied economic theory, detailed institutional analysis, and interdisciplinary methods and focus. From the very beginning he has been fusing fine economic analysis with insights from other disciplines. Wilkin's knowledge of the discourse and methods of economics, sociology and philosophy is extremely comprehensive. He has published with a number of co-authors, almost evenly divided between economists and scholars from other fields. In an era when economics has been dominated by mathematics and econometrics Wilkin has been consistently drawing important generalizations from careful study of qualitative as well as quantitative evidence.

As a consequence, his influence reached far beyond the boundaries of agricultural economics. His textbooks 'Public choice theory' (where he was the editor and contributor) and 'Economics for lawyers' (where he was one of the two authors) have become the main point of reference in these fields.

Wilkin was also one of the first to introduce Polish students and academic colleagues to the New Institutional Economics.

Dedicated Service to the Profession and the EAAE

Over the course of several decades Jerzy Wilkin has produced highly successful public service for the Association.

He served on the EAAE Board for three terms: from 1990 to 1999, and played a very important role in the integration of Central and Eastern European agricultural economists in the EAAE. He was actively involved in the preparation of three EAAE Congresses (in The Hague, Stresa and Edinburgh). He was the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee of the 1999 EAAE Congress in Warsaw (the second ever Congress in Central and Eastern Europe). He was a co-founder of EuroChoices. He served for many years on the editorial board of the European Review of Agricultural Economics.

In addition to his contributions at the international level, Jerzy Wilkin has tremendously helped to increase the importance of agricultural economics in Poland. He was a founding member of the Polish Association of Agricultural and Agribusiness Economists. For two terms he served as the Chairman of the Agricultural Economics and Rural Development Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Since many years he has been the director of the Department of European Integration in the Institute of Rural Development and Agricultural Development of the Polish Academy of Sciences.



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An Influential Policy Advisor and Communicator

Jerzy Wilkin's research has not only advanced economic knowledge, it has also contributed directly to the design of regulatory policy. Over a long and active career, Wilkin has served a critical role translating and disseminating his knowledge to a broader, non-academic audience, including policy-makers and practitioners.

He played an important advisory role in many task forces and contributed to influential reports both at the national Polish level and at the international scene. He advised the European Commission, the World Bank, the OECD and a number of ministries in Poland. At the OECD, he was a member of the Ad Hoc Group on East/West Relations in Agriculture during much of the 1990s, and later of the Global Forum on Agriculture.

He was also a founder, and for many years the editor, of the cyclical publication 'Rural Poland. The Rural Development Report' which provides one of the most comprehensive pictures of the Polish agriculture and rural areas, making it at the same time accessible to a broad audience, both domestically and abroad.

A Dedicated Teacher and Student Mentor

While Jerzy Wilkin's research and public service have been remarkable, his enormous contribution to the profession is also his role as a mentor to many young agricultural economists, both in Poland and in other countries. Wilkin's record in attracting and inspiring graduate students is truly outstanding.

In his four decades at the University of Warsaw, he was primary advisor for 18 PhD students and has been a teacher and advisor to several generations of economic researchers. He has participated in more than 100 PhD and Habilitation committees. Many of his younger colleagues have been introduced to international research only thanks to his involvement, encouragement and enormous kindness.

Awards and Recognitions

His many contributions have been recognised in numerous awards and honours including: An honorary doctorate at the University of Bia?ystok. An honorary professorship at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. The Award of Merit of the Polish Association of Agricultural and Agribusiness Economists. The Gold Cross of Merit, awarded by the Polish State. The Knight of the Order of Polonia Restituta, awarded by the Polish State.

In Summary

For all these contributions, I am proud to nominate Jerzy Wilkin for the election of Fellow of the European Association of Agricultural Economists. His election would recognize a career of great service to scholarship, to policy, to the agricultural economics community in Poland and in Europe, and to the EAAE.