

Cross-border Cooperation at the EU Internal and External Borders

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Europe has seen several changes in the positions and interpretations of state borders ever since her birth. Calculating with 51 countries located in Europe, we may establish that state borders are interpreted in as many as 102 ways. Some see the border as a success, and some see it as a limit. Some understand it as a perfection, while others understand it as a scar. Some say borders either encourage or block co-operation. It all depends on the circumstances and potentials that accompanied the birth of the state's borders. The European Union with its border policy endeavours at healing the scars and strengthening the perfections. The legal settlement of cross-border issues and the financial assistance provided for the improvement of cross-border relations lead to the successful management of borders along the internal and the external borders of the European Union.

Half a Century of Cross-border Cooperation in Europe. Insights from the Cases of the EUREGIO and the EMR

Willem MOLLE

Abstract. *European Integration has profoundly changed the situation of regions at the internal borders of the European Union. From peripheral regions in a national context they could develop into more central regions in a European context. In this article we analyse the development over a period of more than half a century of two cases. First the very first Euregio created (Twente-Oost Gelderland, Westmuensterland and Grafschaft Bentheim) and second the Maas-Rhine region (around Maastricht, Aachen and Liege). The success of their pioneering work has resulted in 1990 in the taking up of cross-border cooperation (INTERREG) in European Cohesion Policy making. Cross-border cooperation is difficult; we describe how the success of our two cases depended on the good interplay of the main actors from the private, public and knowledge sectors. We also show that success depended critically on long-term financial support. We finally show the shift in focus from socio-cultural-economic issues to regional innovation system development.*

Key words: *Euregio, Interreg, University-business cooperation*

Directions of Cross-border Cooperation Intensification in the Framework of the Euroregion ‘Upper Prut’: Ukrainian-Romanian Borderlands

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Abstract. *Cross-border cooperation is an effective instrument, aimed at establishing close partnerships between adjacent border areas of neighbouring countries and increasing their level of economic development. The closest and most effective interactions within cross-border cooperation in the European Union are being established within the institutionalized forms of cross-border cooperation, particularly the Euroregions. In Ukraine cross-border cooperation is being developed along the entire perimeter of the border focusing in this on cross-border partnership and cross-border projects, whereas Euroregions play insignificant role. Accordingly, the level of their development and efficiency of cross-border cooperation don't affect significantly on the development of the Ukrainian border regions. The modern development of Ukrainian-Romanian borderlands on the example of the Euroregion ‘Upper Prut’ is studied in the article. This Euroregion is one of the oldest but not too effective Euroregions with the participation of Ukrainian border regions. In order to determine the effectiveness of cross-border cooperation with the participation of this Euroregion, the peculiarities of border rural areas development and the impact of cross-border projects implemented in their development are analysed. The comparative evaluation of the quality of life of rural residents in regions of Ukraine is given. Analysis of institutional and organizational and financial bases of development of Euroregion ‘Upper Prut’ allowed identifying the main obstacles which hinder its effective functioning. On the basis of generalization of foreign experience of institutionalized forms of cross-border cooperation and analysis of their effectiveness in Ukraine there are proposed the directions of intensification of Euroregional cooperation in the framework of the Euroregion ‘Upper Prut’. This paper focuses on the new opportunities that will arise after Euroregion transformation towards choosing the optimal forms of Euroregional cooperation. The research is based on using the methods of structural and statistical analysis, classification, econometric method and questionnaire survey.*

Keywords: *Euroregion, Euroregion ‘Upper Prut’, Euroregional cooperation, cross-border cooperation, the Ukrainian-Romanian cross-border region, border rural areas, directions of intensification of Euroregional cooperation.*

Cross-border Cooperation through Mass Media Representation. The Case of Russia-Estonia Border

Maria GÄVÄNECI

Abstract: *The aim of this article is to study the processes that lead to a more efficient cross-border cooperation by analysing how the mental barriers are constructed in the people's mind, through discursive practices and mediated images. For the complex relation between the EU and Russia it is important to understand how different factors and mechanisms influence the significance of borders, and can encourage or block the cooperation. By analysing the case study of Russia-Estonia border we will investigate in this study the relationship between the mediated images from border regions and the institutional practices in trans-border cooperation. The analysis will be conducted at the historical level following the impact of mediated history on the cross-border co-operation process, in connection with framing of current events. How does this create a space for cooperation or for perpetuation of stereotypes and conflicting positions? Do they create a degree of familiarity useful for the cross-border cooperation? What is the historical representation of the Other in the Estonian-Russian border region and how did this change in time? What traditions of cooperation exist and how was this constructed at the mass media level? What is the dominant representation of the borders, how are these influenced by history of cooperation or conflict? These are the few questions that will be answered in order to understand the impact of mass media in changing and framing the meaning of borders at EU's external frontiers.*

Keywords: *cross-border cooperation, mass-media, Russia, European Union, Estonia*

Importance of Migration and Border Management Issues for the Cross-border Cooperation Poland–Belarus–Ukraine in the Period 2014–2020 under the European Neighbourhood Instrument

Marta PACHOCKA

Abstract. *Following Poland's accession to the EU its borders with non-EU Member States became at the same time the EU's external borders. In the east Poland borders Belarus and Ukraine. The length of Poland–Belarus border is 418.24 km and of Poland-Ukraine border – 535.18 km, which totals 953.42 km, and constitutes 27% of the whole length of Polish borders. The aim of the article is to discuss briefly the place and importance of migration and border management issues within the cross-border cooperation at Poland's eastern border (and the EU's eastern external border) under the European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland–Belarus–Ukraine 2014–2020 to draw a cross-section picture of the current situation and*

its circumstances. The programme for the years 2014–2020 identifies four priorities for cooperation in the geographic area concerned, among which the last one focuses on promotion of border management and border security, mobility and migration management.

Key words: *Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, European Union, EU, European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland–Belarus–Ukraine 2014–2020, border management*

EU Cross-border Cooperation in Eastern Europe

Vasile CUCERESCU

Abstract. *The paper presents research results of the EU's cross-border cooperation initiatives in the Eastern Europe, especially in the countries of Eastern Partnership. Considering the implementation history of cross-border cooperation projects, the European Union initiated, developed and follows up the policy of dialogue with its Eastern European neighbours in a short and long run. The focus strives at presenting the framework of cross-border cooperation of the European Union in the Eastern Europe, especially with the Eastern Partnership countries; the initiatives and good practices in the field. The results of EU cross-border cooperation in the Eastern Europe display differentiation of collaboration and development in peculiar aspects of common interest for participating countries.*

Keywords: *European Union, cross-border cooperation, Eastern Europe, Eastern Partnership, dialogue, development*

Considerations Regarding Cross-border Cultural and Academic Cooperation Programs between EU and the South and Eastern Mediterranean Countries – The Case of Cultural and Academic Exchanges

Lucian JORA

Abstract. *The EU and its history – from the post-war history to the waves of unification and enlargement over old dividing lines – is the best proof that cooperation and cultural encounter can do miracles. External relations (including cultural ones), thus*

relations between states, have become 'internal'; the texture of living together, of creative interaction, of fertile inspirational competition, of sharing, of knowledge, of mobility has become rich and solid, colourful and paradigmatic. Learning from this experience would empower EU-cultural external relations thinkers and planners.

Keywords: *Cross Border International Academic Exchanges, Development Studies, European Studies, European Governance, EU Technical Assistance, European Union Development Programs*

The Evaluation of Police Cooperation between Hungary and Romania in the Fight against Cross-border Financial Criminal Activities

Edina Lilla MÉSZÁROS

Abstract: *Cross-border crime is a component of organized crime, which can be defined as the totality of actions committed by criminal groups in several states, organized with the aim of undertaking illicit actions to obtain illegal profits at high levels. Globalization facilitates the spread of different forms of transnational organized crime, such as trafficking in human beings, arms, drugs, counterfeit of goods, illegal migration, smuggling, money laundering etc. It may be ascertained that today the transnational / cross-border organized crime represents one of the biggest threats to peace and to global, EU- and national security and the ubiquity of these threats justifies the development of various forms of police cooperation in the European Union. The current article evaluates the effectiveness of police cooperation in the fight against cross-border financial crime between Romania and Hungary, focusing mostly on the collaboration between the twin counties of Bihor and Hajdú-Bihar.*

Keywords: *Europol, transnational economic crime, organized crime, SWOT analysis*

Impacts of Study-driven International Migration on Cross-border Co-operations – Case Study: Debrecen-Oradea

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Abstract. *The number of study-driven international migrants is dynamically increasing all over the world. Nowadays, the number of tertiary (higher education) students enrolled outside their country of citizenship is an estimated 5 million (UNESCO, 2014). The highest number of international students is found in the countries of Europe, while the countries with high population number are the leading sources of international students (China, India). Following the millennium, Hungary enrolling more than 25 thousand international students was also marked on the map of international student mobility. The number of Hungarian students enrolled abroad was substantially below this value (8–9 thousand students), with target countries including Austria, Germany, Denmark and the United Kingdom. Debrecen in Northeast Hungary plays a specific role in the study-driven international migration of the Central European region. Year by year approximately 4 thousand international students are present in the higher education institutions of the city. The study-driven migrants may be divided into two distinct groups on the basis of their motivations (origins). The minorities living in the neighbouring countries have been represented by a stable one-third ratio (900 students) within the higher education students since the millennium. The other large group of international students (3100 students) is constituted by the university students from Europe, Asia and Africa taking advantage of the internationalisation of higher education. Approximately 80% of them are enrolled for the English Faculties of Medical Sciences (Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Dentistry, Faculty of Health) as a result of the relatively cheap but high quality training. The increase in the number observed after the millennium has clearly stagnated in the case of the Hungarian minorities living in the neighbouring countries (due to demographic reasons, and extended opportunities for studying in their mother-tongue), while it has become more intensive in the case of the students coming from more distant countries. In our study, the diploma mobility and the students enrolled for partial trainings (Erasmus) are compared with respect to the University of Debrecen and the University of Oradea. The relationship systems of the two institutions are analysed from the aspect of cross-border co-operations.*

Keywords: *cross-border cooperation, higher education, University of Oradea, University of Debrecen*

Using Digital Technologies to Strengthen Cross-border Cooperation. A Brief Evaluation of the Use of the Internet in HU-RO Cross-border Cooperation Projects

Mirela MĂRCUȚ

Abstract: *The Internet and cross-border cooperation have quite a few concepts and principles in common, such as openness and communication, and both have contributed to the reshaping of the importance of territory/space in the European Union. But what if we combine these two together? Supposedly, the Internet travels freely across borders and, among many other benefits, it helps in the dissemination of information and brings people together. In this sense, the use of Internet in cross-border cooperation projects seems like an obvious choice to further enhance cooperation between border regions, promote their common values and share project mission. In this sense, this paper aims to focus on the specific means in which cross-border cooperation projects have used the Internet. Starting with a brief overview of cross-border cooperation projects and the importance of the Internet in EU policy papers, this paper focuses on means to promote cross-border communication via the Internet. In particular, we will focus on research questions such as: what can the Internet and websites do for cross-border cooperation programs? How are these tools used in such initiatives? We will provide a survey of HU-RO cross-border cooperation projects between 2007 and 2013 to offer a quantitative analysis of how specifically the Internet was used within the project or as a means to disseminate the information via websites. In the end, we will provide quick overview of the sustainability of these websites.*

Keywords: *Internet, ICT, cross-border cooperation, evaluation, HURO program, 2007–2013*

Successes and Failures in the CBC History of East Europe (Retrospection to the Three Decades of My CBC Activities and Researches)

István SÜLI-ZAKAR

Abstract: *The idea of co-operation (mainly for security policy and economic policy reasons) came to the front in the western part of the European continent some years after the World War II. The political background of the co-operation and union were given by the German-French reconciliation. The elimination of the damage that was caused by the Second World War's terrible destruction, the needs for the reorganization of the economy and the loss of the world market's leading role helped and hastened the co-operation. The result of them was the birth of the first organs and institutions of the European Union. In Western Europe the internal borders between EU member states were*

abolished in the first half of the 1990s. By the 1990s not only in economic, but also in political and legal sense the unified Western European market came into existence. By the end of the Second World War, the region had become a crucial strategic zone for the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact as a bulwark against Western capitalism and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Post World War II Europe saw the integration of the region into the 'Soviet Bloc' and its insistence on regional security i.e. state borders were fortified and rigid with little opportunity for local cross-border co-operation and inter-regional connections. Bilateral relations between the states of the region were strictly under the control of the central governments and largely confined to inter-governmental mechanisms. It was not until the end of the Communist system that the borders of the region became more permeable and renewed opportunities for cross-border co-operation were created. The aims of the establishment of the Carpathian Euroregion were to provide a proper organisational framework for the members in the co-ordination of cross-border co-operations, to promote a more rapid regional and economic development and – of course – to create good neighbourly relations between the stakeholders. In the past decades, the socio-economic lagging behind of the regions forming the Carpathian Euroregion became more accentuated within the periphery territories of East-Central Europe. One of the most important breaking out points for the lagging regions is the diminishment of the dividing role of the state borders and the strengthening of the external relations along the borders.

Keywords: *CBC, geopolitics of East-Central Europe, Carpathian Euroregion, Institute for Euroregional Studies (IERS), DebOra project*

Frontier, Economy and Globalization

Luminița ȘOPRONI

Review of: *Mărcuț, Mirela. The Socio-economic Evolution of the European Union. Exploring the Electronic Frontier, Springer, 2016, 128 p., ISBN 978-3-319-40303-8.*

The Utility of Borders

Diana COSTA

Review of: “Le réveil des frontières. Des lignes en Mouvement.” *Questions Internationales* (Paris: La documentation Française) no. 79–80 (mai–août 2016). ISSN: 1761–7146.

