

The Social Frontiers of Europe. Introductory Study

Mircea BRIE, Dana PANTEA

A study of the nature, structure, form and image of the social borders reveals the complexity of the European social space. From this perspective, the European society, both from transverse and longitudinal standpoints, seems to be a social mosaic. Thus, without a socially uniform society, Europe appears in the picture as an area of social borders, often identified through discontinuities and social cleavages. These social borders, along with other types of borders like the cultural, ethno-linguistic and religious, and identity borders were named by us on other occasions symbolic or ideological borders. Even if these borders are not reflected as well as classic borders, the social borders can act as an “axis of intolerance” and there might be unfortunate association with nationalism and racism (see Brie and Dărăbăneanu).

*The present volume, *The Social Frontiers of Europe*, includes a selection of scientific works grouped in three sections (*Welfare and Social Inclusion; New Paradigms of Social Frontiers in the EU; Ethnicity and Social Frontiers*) followed by *Focus*, which content the key paper of the volume. Each group of works approaches the problems of social frontier from a different perspective.*

Social Frontiers in Hungary in the Mirror of the Centre-periphery Dichotomy of Incomes

János PÉNZES, Gábor PÁLÓCZI, Szabolcs PÁSZTOR

Abstract. *The current analysis aimed to illustrate the centre-periphery dichotomy of Hungary on the level of settlements using the personal income approach for investigation. Income represents a special indicator correlating with lots of other social-economic variables. The income database is appropriate to illustrate the post-socialist transformation of the Hungarian economy and society with territorial consequences. The comparative overview of the regional level income per capita processes drew the attention to the differing development paths of regions forming two polarised groups. Income inequalities were calculated by the Hoover index and the weighted form of mean logarithmic variation. The rapidly growing inequalities started to stagnate after the mid 1990's and slight convergence appeared by the time of the millennium. One more stage was reasonable to divide – in 2008 with the blast of the global financial and economic crisis. The development stages of income inequalities provided the basis for aggregating the results of the local spatial autocorrelation calculation. The mapping of these results drew the income frontiers and their alterations during the last two and half decades. The boundary of the groups of settlements with similar high or low values formed the income frontiers that can be regarded as a special social frontier. This frontier determines more socio-economic processes and the regional policy should consider these to treat the significant social problems with their territorial consequences.*

Keywords: *frontiers, income, spatial autocorrelation, territorial inequalities*

Persons with Disabilities and Eliminating the Social Barriers

Melania-Gabriela CIOT

Abstract. *The European Social Model (ESM) is a model of integration policy, a dynamic model whose development is influenced by global, European and national processes, including EU enlargement. The ESM is the model of **unity in diversity** and that includes not only cultural minorities. People with disabilities represent a group of persons for which social barriers still persists. Attitudes, beliefs and misconceptions of society constitute a major barrier for people with disabilities. The present study presents the main representations of disability in written Romanian media as vector of public opinion change.*

Keywords: *disability, social barriers, integration, diversity, changing attitude*

Welfare States in Europe or the European Welfare State

Bogumiła MUCHA-LESZKO, Magdalena KAKOL

Abstract. *The subject of this study is the retrospective comparative analysis of empirical models of the welfare state in Europe. It was preceded by a theoretical introduction, presenting the most important concepts of combining the advantages of the market mechanism with social protection. It follows from empirical analysis that in Europe the development of welfare state evolved into two basic models: 1) the redistributive and more egalitarian (interventionist), 2) the liberal model based on the dependence of social rights more on contributions to insurance schemes i.e. incomes and lesson inflows of taxes to the budget. The collapse of material bases of the welfare state in Europe in 1970s and 1980s resulted in the necessity of reducing its costs, which applied especially to the redistributive model, while the introduced systemic reforms impacted the growing importance of the liberal model supported by coordination policy in different forms and at different economic levels. However, the convergence of national models of the welfare state in the EU does not mean that it is the factor facilitating enough the possibility to introduce the common welfare state model. The study contains a long list of factors limiting the implementation of the European social model and it is apparent that social borders in Europe are still heavily marked and will be difficult to remove.*

Keywords: *European social models, doctrines, stages of development, reforms*

Social Inclusion and Social Frontiers in the Digital Age - How Can EU's Digital Agenda Help?

Mirela MĂRCUȚ

Abstract. *The present article analyses social frontiers in the European Union by putting them in connection with the ever-growing network society we are experiencing nowadays. It builds upon the classification of borders as barriers and resources in order to explain the role of technology, especially the Internet, within the social development of the European Union. Technology, namely access to it and having skills to use it, can create social rifts by excluding certain social categories, and the European Union's efforts in this direction aim at both reducing this digital divide as well as harnessing the power of technology in the name of economic growth and cohesion. On the other hand, social frontiers in the digital age act also as community builders because they are focused on improving communication. Also, the increasing influence of technology in society has created several challenges, which can hinder both community development and social inclusion.*

Keywords: *Electronic frontier, social inclusion, European Union, Digital Agenda for Europe*

Social Borders at the Edge of EU. Canary Islands, Réunion, Guiana and Azores

Alina OROS, Alina STOICA

Abstract. *Maximum current topic in ultra-contemporary epoch and especially within the EU, the issue of borders is approached from numerous perspectives. The present study allocated space only to the social dimension of them. Our interest focuses over some of the most distant spaces of the EU, and we refer to four autonomous provinces: the Canary Islands, Réunion, the Azores and French Guiana. We presumed that each of these Outermost Regions represents a social group with certain traits that make distinctions among them, but the differences also approach them to other social spheres, especially to the proximity. Our major objective is to demonstrate how these outermost regions fall within social borders category, highlighting their potential in relation to the global sphere.*

Key words: *Outermost Regions, social frontiers, Canary Islands, Réunion, Guiana (French Guiana), Azores.*

The Social Impact of the Eurozone Crisis on European Integration: Emerging Social Frontiers in the European Union?

Sedef EYLEMER

Abstract. *The Eurozone crisis has had crucial social implications for the member states and citizens of the European Union turning the financial and economic crisis into a social crisis. The divergences between the core and the periphery countries, the Northern and Southern member states in the general sense, have notably increased during the crisis period bringing the risk of the emergence of social frontiers within the EU. Although the debates in Europe have focused on further integration as a solution to the crisis, it would be questionable how to achieve this in a Union marked by social frontiers in case of unmanageable divergences. The social indicators deteriorating particularly in the so-called periphery countries pose significant challenges for the attainment of the goals of a socially inclusive and cohesive Europe. Furthermore the social impact of the crisis on the European Union citizens leads to growing pessimism and decreasing trust in both the national political institutions and the European Union bearing the risk of undermining the credibility and legitimacy of the European project. Hence, in order to restore the confidence and promote further integration, the European Union needs to use its full capacity to solve problem of growing social divergences in the process of recovery from the crisis.*

Keywords: *European Union, Eurozone crisis, EU public opinion, European social crisis, Trust in the EU*

Real and Imagined Borders in the Multiethnic States – The Republic of Moldova Case

Natalia PUTINĂ

Abstract. *Eastern Europe, and in particular Moldova, have been abundant in different kind of borders and divisions, most of them having an ethnic issue. Some of them remained immaterial: psychological, socio-cultural, linguistically - others took geographic shapes; in all cases, the mental reality of these borders has influenced the region on virtually all areas of social life in the past 25 years. This paper firstly will focus on the overview of ethnic landscape in Moldova, by underlining the main cleavages generate on the level of national minorities and analysing the state efforts to diminish the any kind of borders appeared in the Moldovan society groups. Obviously, the regulation of interethnic relations, harmonisation and their reclamation can be successful only if the state is really a main instrument of unity within the ethnic variety, constituting the fundamental premise of effectively solving all other problems of coexistence for the ethnic groups in a multiethnic society. Perception of the state as promoter of the interests of all ethnic groups inhabiting is the primordial ethnic cohesion and free affirmation of each human individual. When it is*

anchored within a single ethnic community aspiration, above the whole society, sustainable development perspective can be questioned or even in danger.

Keywords: *ethnic minority, socio-political borders, minority 'inclusion, multiethnic society, coexistence of ethnic groups etc.*

Ethnic Identity and Social Borders. The Case of the Roma in Romania

Mircea BRIE, Dragoş DĂRĂBĂNEANU

Abstract. *A debate on social borders in terms of ethnic identity is a complex issue that requires attention, including scrutiny of the socio-cultural or mental kind. Then the discussion reaches the issue of a certain relativity induced by the identification of individuals with the ethnic group. Whether talking about hetero or self-identification, the membership to the ethnic group has to do also with the image or status of that community. The possibility that some people may not identify with the peripheral communities to which they belong is real and widespread. The discussion tackles also the mechanisms of identity construction in relation to which ethnic belonging is defined. On the one hand, the reference to the peers is done through association to the like, and on the other hand, through individual and collective reactions to opposition elements specific to other community groups. Beyond utopian ideals regarding the equitable distribution of resources and wealth are numerous communities, including ethnic ones, which can be easily included in the category of peripheral communities, marginal and with low status. Around these communities, whether indigenous or non-indigenous (we include immigrants here), there are obvious forms of social cleavage in relation to the rest of the population. To connect a social condition to the ethnic nature of a community and vice versa, the ethnicity of group holding a certain social position is a delicate matter, dangerous in the construction of mental models, often generating stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination. On the other hand, the approach is needed to unveil those levers, policies and programmes necessary to the breaking of this association, particularly in the case of the socially marginalised communities.*

Keywords: *ethnicity, Roma, social border and frontiers, discrimination, Romania, peripheral communities*

The “Frontiers” of Roma’s Social Integration in the EU. Case Study: The Roma Issue(s) in France

Claudia Anamaria IOV

Abstract. *The Roma, initially considered a minor social issue on the EU agenda, have become, in the context of EU’s successive enlargements towards Central - Eastern Europe (2004 and 2007) and excessive media coverage, a matter of social security with*

ample social, political and economical reverberations. The study analyses the situation of the Romanian Roma from France with focus on the poverty – security relationship. As we may see, the research intends to draw relevant conclusions in terms of European social integration using a transnational project based on the collaboration between the origin (Romania) and the host state (France). The question we start from is: Should social integration be supported/must it be encouraged within the host or the origin state? We will find the answer in the following pages.

Keywords: *Roma people, minority, transnational cooperation, security, social integration.*

Social Frontiers between the Roma Minorities and Mainstream Population in Southeast Europe (The Rough Ways of the Roma Integration)

István SÜLI-ZAKAR, Klára CZIMRE, Ágnes PÁLÓCZI

Abstract. *The approximately 10-12 million Roma populations constitute the largest ethnic minority of the European Union. Geographically, they are mostly located in the South Eastern European EU Member States, and the solution of the Roma question constitutes a quintessential problem in the home affairs of these countries. Most of the countries are already members – or candidate members – of the European Union but their joining to the Western market economies is not lacking problems. As a consequence of the current financial and economic crisis, the EU has become even more “two-speed”. In this crisis situation the situation of the Roma population living here has become particularly hopeless. The rapid increase in the number of the Roma population in South Eastern Europe living among the conditions of the demographic explosion, as well as their geographical expansion, intensify the sensitivity of the mainstream society regarding the questions of the transforming coexistence. The shift in the ratio within the population sharpened and magnified the differences between the dissimilar lifestyle and the philosophy of life respecting the two major social groups which led to sharpening tensions. Of course, the deeply desperate Roma population makes more and more attempts in order to be able to migrate from the South Eastern European countries to the richer regions of Western Europe and North America in the hope of an easier life. They, however, face more and more obstacles. The social and economic integration of the Roma population in Southeast Europe is mainly hindered by the low level of education, the high unemployment rate, criminality and the existing prejudices against them experienced in the mainstream society. In Europe, there are many social frontiers between the mainstream and the Roma society, and the weakening and eliminating of these frontiers is a common European interest and challenge.*

Keywords: *social frontiers, two-speed countries, Roma minorities, Roma integration, prejudices*

International Tertiary Students: Is Rome an Attractive Destination?

Armando MONTANARI and Barbara STANISCIA

Abstract. *The mobility of international students has increased significantly in recent decades thanks to globalisation of culture and the economy, and to more efficient and economical communication systems which allow them to stay in contact with those back home. This phenomenon, largely ignored by past research, has gained greater attention from academics and policy makers since it has been linked, partially due to the consequences of the international economic crisis, to unbalanced movement of the highly skilled between the more economically developed countries as well. To better understand the phenomenon of mobility of international students, a survey was conducted on the foreign students at Sapienza University of Rome, Italy (Uniroma1), one of the oldest universities in Europe, and with 140,000 students, the largest. The method used for this was a quantitative analysis which compared the situation in Rome and in Italy with the most important universities around the world. This analysis was performed via a survey of one hundred students, followed up by ten in-depth interviews. The results showed that SUoR was chosen for cultural reasons, the importance of Rome in world history, due to the presence of a large immigrant community and therefore for its cosmopolitan character, as well as due to the low university fees, which are the same for Italian and foreign students.*

Keywords: *international students, human mobility, Italy, Rome, Sapienza University, brain drain, brain gain, brain circulation, brain training, brain distribution.*

Citoyenneté et cosmosystème : Essais d'une théorie et d'une typologie de la citoyenneté

George CONTOGEOORGIS

Abstract. *The concept of citizen means primarily an origin and status, which determine the nature of the relationship, placing the individual in a concrete social entity. The reference to the city implies that the quality of a citizen is only compatible to the very type of society whose existence and foundation depend on the individual, who is recognised as its immediate constituent and **hetairos**. In contrast, affirming its anthropocentric nature, the city - and by extension its **politeia** - establishes a direct link between the notion of citizen and the constitutive basis of anthropocentrism, namely freedom. This comparative retrospective identifies citizenship at the interface between the traditional industrial era and the technological society. Everything seems to indicate that the trend is for the individual to move towards the status of freedom and **hetairia** able to promote more advanced forms of citizenship in the context of a second state-centric period, i.e. within the systems of relative sovereign power that announce the dynamics of*

technological reconstruction of social evolution and the “globalisation” of anthropocentric cosmosystem.

Keywords: citizen and citizenship, *hetairos* and *hetairia*, freedom, political system, state-centrism.

EU Communication Policy – Challenges and Realities

Luminița ȘOPRONI

Review of: *Communicating the EU Policies Beyond the Border*, edited by Ioan Horga and Ariane Landuyt. Oradea: Oradea University Press, 2013. ISBN 978-606-10-1162-9

Cross-border Cooperation in Balkan and Danube European Countries

Constantin-Vasile ȚOCA, Anca OLTEAN

Review of: Alberto Gasparini and Daniele Del Bianco, *Strategies and Euroregions for Cross-border Cooperation in Balkan and Danube European Countries. An Analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats*. Gorizia: Istituto di Sociologia Internazionale, 2011. ISBN 978-88-89825-28-0.

Ethnicity, Confession and Intercultural Dialogue at the Eastern Boundaries of European Union

Anca OLTEAN, István POLGAR

Review of: *Ethnicity and Intercultural Dialogue at the European Union Eastern Border*, edited by Mircea Brie, Ioan Horga, and Sorin Șipoș. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013. ISBN (10) 1-4438-4607-4, ISBN (13): 978- 1- 4438- 4607-3.

20 Years of Carpathian Euroregion

Anca OLTEAN, Constantin ȚOCA

Review of: Süli-Zakar, István. *Emlékek, Sikerek, Megújulás. Közös Múltunk – Közös Jövönk, Együtt Európáért: 20 Év a Kárpátok Eurorégió* [Memories, successes,

renewal. Common past – common future. Together for Europe: Carpathian Euroregion has 20 years old]. Debrecen: DIDAKT Kft., 2013, 499p. ISBN 978- 615-5212-18-05.

European Public Policies through Instruments, Models and Compartments in the Public Space

Mariana BUDA

The concept of public policy knows no single definition, their diversity being determined by the way the process of public policy is understood. The most common definition considers public policy a result of governmental intervention.