

Cross-border Cooperation in EU Member States: Theoretical Studies and Best Practices

Ioan HORGA

Contemporary border studies reflect continuity and change in scientific thought as well as innumerable contributions to the conceptualization of social space and its workings. The field of border studies has opened up possibilities for questioning the rationales behind everyday border-making by understanding borders as institutions, processes and symbols. The concept of border politics raises a series of interesting questions regarding the power relations involved in the making of borders; this manifests itself, for example, in tensions between the local constitution and external determination of borders in society. The EU's border politics is a complex array of programmes, policies, and imaginaries of political community in which borders are used as resources for different specific aims. Cross-border cooperation is a prominent instrument of the EU's border politics.

European Studies Research in the Sphere of Border and Cross-border Cooperation Development with Special Overview at the EU's Eastern Borders whit Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine

Ioan HORGA

Abstract. *This paper we will try to give answers to the following questions: which was the path towards European Studies approach of the CBC? Is there in the field of European Studies a sufficient background to talk about a specific CBC approach? Which is the role of research in the field of CBC at the Eastern border of EU in the development of European Studies?*

Keywords: *European Studies, Cross-border Cooperation studies, Border Studies, EU' Eastern Borders, Central and Eastern European Countries, EU's Neighbourhood Countries*

Shifting Focuses in European CBC Modelling: Theories Influenced by space and Time

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Abstract. *Researches related to borders, border regions and cross-border co-operations in Europe have undergone substantial changes throughout history. The focus of the theoretical approaches shifted not only as a matter of time but also depending on the geostrategic position of the nation states, state borders and border regions. The study of the theory of borders and border regions has been pushed into the background for a long time. It was mostly due to the widely accepted notion that all borders and border regions were unique. The processes and events of history and economic life, nevertheless, proved that there are many similarities between each border region. As a result of this, the harmonisation of the activities in the border regions was started, and the facilities for cross-border co-operations began to improve. The co-operation along the certain border regions, however, differed in many respects. Consequently, researches and studies related to the individual borders may be compared and categorised on the basis of the nature of the co-operation. In addition to the historical perspective of the theoretical development of borders, the paper concentrates more thoroughly on the second half of the twentieth century. Comparing the focuses of border theories reveal that the accelerating integration process in the early 1990s led to a shift more and more eastward, and regionalism, and more specifically cross-border regions, appeared as a new research area providing a basis and scope for several studies and researches. The researches related to cross-border co-operations affect a great variety of disciplines, thus, a complex conclusion may be only drawn with the evaluation and combination of the existing research trends. Most authors apply either a multi-, inter- or transdisciplinary approach during their research activities. Nevertheless, it may be established that most papers published on the topic are rooted in only a few disciplines. The influential power of time and (geographical) space is explained with the help of a comparative analysis of existing models and finally a complex model is suggested for the better understanding of the functional role of cross-border co-operations in Europe.*

Keywords: *European borders, cross-border co-operations, theoretical approaches, border and cross-border models, European integration*

Cross-border Cooperation Projects under INTERREG in the EU-15 Member States in 2000–2020

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Abstract: *The European integration process has already played an important role in reducing the negative consequences of territorial, legal, and administrative*

discontinuities in border regions and in developing the socio-economic potential of cross-border areas in the EU. This is primarily within the scope of cohesion policy and is well reflected in financial tools such as INTERREG. The aim of this paper is to present the main areas of financial support under cross-border projects within the framework of INTERREG in the EU-15 Member States in 2000-2020. The paper consists of two main parts, the first of which introduces the issue of cross-border cooperation in Europe with a special focus on the INTERREG programme, followed by an analysis of INTERREG Cross-Border Cooperation projects implemented in the EU-15 in the analysed period.

Keywords: *cross-border cooperation, INTERREG, European Union, EU Member States, EU-15*

The Development of the Lower Silesia Region on the Example of the Implementation of Cross-border Cooperation Programmes between Poland and Saxony 2007–2013

Agnieszka KŁOS

Abstract. *The article presents the problems revolving around sustainable development in borderland regions on the example of the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland–Saxony 2007–2013. It explores the issues of developing borderland areas covering cross-border cooperation between the citizens and the institutions in the neighbouring regions, i.e. Lower Silesia and Saxony. It also outlines the main problem areas in those regions and provides an assessment of projects implemented in the years 2007–2013. Finally, the author presents the current objectives that promote sustainable development in the above-mentioned territories and aim to strengthen economic and social cohesion.*

Keywords: *European Union, cross-border cooperation, transnational cooperation, interregional cooperation, European Territorial Cooperation*

University of Oradea, actor in Cross-border Cooperation at the Romanian – Hungarian Border (2000–2018)

*Florentina CHIRODEA
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Abstract. *Higher education institutions in many parts of Europe are in a changing stratus. First due to their inability to respond quickly to the rapid changes in society, generated by globalization and the fourth industrial revolution. Other causes that most universities face are acute lack of funding, problems with maintaining the quality of research and education, changing generations of teachers and researchers. In such circumstances, the need to identify alternative sources for financing education and research becomes more and more prominent, which gives the university a new function, that of "bridge" between the global flows of knowledge, science and technology, on the one hand and the local needs of economic development, on the other hand. The case study presented in this paper start by looking at data from specialized literature, in order to establish the theoretical framework on the evolution of the role played by universities in the global context created by the four industrial revolutions. Next, we shall identify the role and degree of involvement of the University of Oradea in the development of cross-border cooperation between Romania and Hungary, one of the mechanisms.*

Key words: *universities; development; border regions; cross-border cooperation;*

Features of the Formation and Functioning of value added Chains in the EU-Ukraine Cross-border Area

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Abstract. *In today's globalised world, the key to a successful development of the country is its entry into the global value chains (GVCs). The processes of globalisation cause competition that is not only between the countries of the world, but between regions, cities and even companies. The European integration intentions of Ukraine, which were updated with the signing of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU, opened the door for greater access of Ukrainian enterprises to the world market. Ukraine has had the opportunity to participate in certain stages of production chains, including large multinational corporations. In this context, the article analyses theoretical principles and practical recommendations for increasing the participation of cross-border regions of Ukraine in GVCs.*

The article deals with various scientific approaches to the evaluation of the participation in GVCs. The classification of GVCs is proposed. The place of Ukraine in the world according to separate indicators of the World Competitiveness Index, which concern the participation of countries in GVCs, is outlined. The research of foreign economic activity of the largest enterprises of the border regions of Ukraine has been carried out. Special attention is paid to their cooperation with Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Belarus and Moldova. The role of clusters, including cross-border ones, in GVCs has been outlined. Recommendations for activating the participation of cross-border regions of Ukraine in GVCs are proposed.

Key words: *cross-border space, global value chains, cross-border clusters, globalization, cross-border cooperation*

Peculiarities of Socio-economic Development of United Territorial Communities: The case of Carpathian Border Region

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Anna MAKSYMENKO***

Abstract. *A municipal self-government reform called as decentralisation of power in Ukraine has been arising. During 2015–2018 there was the First Stage of decentralisation of power in Ukraine. This reform provides the establishing of the united territorial communities (abbreviation in Ukrainian "OTГ" or amalgamated hromada). New united territorial communities have new responsibilities. In this article the peculiarities of social and economic development of united territorial communities have been investigated. During November 2018 an expert survey among authorities of local self-government of Carpathian region was conducted. The expert survey covered 70 united territorial communities of the Carpathian region (which includes Transcarpathia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Chernivtsi oblasts). United territorial communities which had been created during 2015–2017 took part in a survey. 78 % response rate was achieved. In this survey we have estimated which changes in infrastructure occurred and how the authorities of the united territorial communities have provided services for their citizens. One of the objectives of the survey was to assess the problems faced by the communities after establishing. The least major topics were related to the lack of cooperation between united territorial communities and the most urgent problems concerned the human capital of the community. Also we have analysed growth tools which were used by united territorial communities for their development.*

Key words: *united territorial communities, border region, economic development, decentralization, Carpathian region, Ukraine.*

Cross-border Cooperation Stigmatised: Why Upper Prut Euroregion Activity goes down Still

Anatoliy KRUGLASHOV

Abstract. *Foundation of the new Euroregions around Ukraine–Romania–Moldova borders have been treated with all countries involved from somewhat different perspectives. Romania considered them as a venue of making stronger its ties with compatriots abroad and as a tool of expanding greater influence to the neighbouring borderland territories in the end of 1990th – beginning of the 2000th. Ukraine and Moldova had thought with some suspicions about this initiative of Bucharest, keeping in their mind some possible irredentists' threats from the regions concerned. After some years of somehow tense negotiation the contracted parties had agreed to constitute two new Euroregions, Upper Prut and Low Danube namely.*

Since the moment of the foundation, Upper Prut Euroregion passed through some stages of their development and faced with several challenges. Firstly, analysing the reasons behind the process of the slowing down of the pace and effectiveness of CBC in the given region one has to take into account the growing disparity of the three components of the region. While Suceava region has made some obvious advancement with somewhat lagging behind Botoşani region, the northern districts of Moldova remain under much worse social and economic conditions. Chernivtsi and Ivano-Frankivsk regions are in-between position, but they have been overwhelmed with a narrow agenda of mere survival recently. Secondly, institutional structures and mechanisms of cooperation in the Euroregion are grounded predominantly on the ability and good will of regional administrative elite to outline the agenda of CBC and then set it in motion. Thirdly, the dependence on the good-will and readiness of making a certain contribution toward moving forward this 'joint venture' seemed a dominant trait there. Looking at this dimension of the Euroregion activity it's reasonable to state certain lack of the true devotion and incentives that were applied towards the betterment of its institutional capacity and operational mode. Still, some attempt of reviving the activity of CBC and Euroregion took place last years. Once again Romanian and Ukrainian counterparts took a lead in this process. Finally, the activity as well as mechanisms and instruments of CBC in the framework of Upper Prut do require concerted affords in order to make them functioning duly. Otherwise the whole structure of the Euroregion will be rather a sort of a mausoleum of vanished hopes and groundless aspirations.

Key words: *Cross-border cooperation, Euroregion Upper Prut, security challenges, stagnation.*

The role of the Border Regions in the Regional Development. The case of Northern Transylvania Region

Luminița ȘOPRONI

Abstract. *Border regions, with their unique characteristics, with specific human, economic and social resources, are new forms of association established by market-driven and private-sector principles which imply multiple interactions between non-state actors. In this context, the state is complemented by other actors, operating in a more complex environment. The state functions are largely transferred to regional bodies and private companies, both engaged in cross-border competition to attract the resources needed for development. The decisions of these actors are influenced by the actions of other firms and governments in their proximity.*

These regions have specific resources, working methods and tools capable of generating economic growth and creating unique advantages that allow them to differentiate, develop and impose on the global market, in the fierce competition for attracting investors, labour force and tourists. At the same time, they play an essential role in the economic growth and improvement of the image of the country they belong, constituting a motor of growth and development.

Keywords: *border region, state-region, territorial brand, development*

A la recherche de récits d'identité du lieu dans une logique transfrontalière. Etude de cas sur les Capitales Européennes de la Culture pour l'année 2021

Corina TURȘIE

Abstract. *Pour les Capitales Européennes de la Culture provenant de nouveaux États membres de l'Union Européenne ou de pays candidats, le titre est une occasion précieuse de vaincre les anciens complexes d'infériorité par rapport aux États membres plus anciens et de faire valoir leur sentiment d'appartenance à l'Europe, en utilisant différentes stratégies de place making. Cette opportunité a été encore plus attrayante pour les CEC provenant de régions frontalières. Cette étude propose d'analyser les récits identitaires et aussi que d'inventorier les projets ayant une dimension transfrontalière présentes dans les dossiers de candidature de Timișoara et Novi Sad, afin de conclure sur l'intérêt pour la coopération transfrontalière parmi la culture, en tant que moyen d'intégration européenne de proximité.*

Mots-clé : *Capitale Européenne de la Culture, frontière, intégration, identité*

Smart Cities – Opportunities for Cross-border Cooperation

Mirela MĂRCUȚ

Abstract. *This article explores the relationship between the smart city model and cross-border cooperation in an attempt to find new ground to tackle digital challenges that exist within the European Union. First, the article offers theoretical and institutional views on smart cities in order to decipher the main markers that can be explored within CBC programs. Then, the practical part regards tracing the markers of smart cities in the priorities of Romanian-Hungarian and Romanian-Bulgarian cross-border cooperation programs.*

Keywords: *smart cities, cross-border cooperation, digital economy, digital society*

Moldovan Framework of Cross-Border Cooperation: Legal and Historical Approaches

Vasile CUCERESCU

Abstract. *The paper focuses on Moldovan experience of cross-border cooperation from legal and historical perspectives. Cross-border cooperation initiatives refer to the European Union, Romania and Ukraine. The research investigation examines legal instruments of cross-border cooperation between Moldova and its neighbours, cross-border cooperation programmes and the impact of cross-border cooperation projects towards sustainable development in adjacent areas by helping to reduce differences in standards and by addressing common specific challenges across Moldovan state border. The results and impact of cross-border cooperation are scrutinized through the prism of goals' achievement and de facto engagement leading to learned lessons by actors and revised design for improvement strategy.*

Keywords: *cross-border cooperation, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, European Union, Euroregion, cooperation programme.*

Carpathian Euroregion. The Specific Character of the Euroregion and the Financing of its Activities, based on the Example of Poland as a Party

Magdalena PROCZEK

Abstract. *Despite their location in the peripheral areas of countries, by engaging in local cooperation border areas contribute to the development of the regions, and consequently of European countries, especially in social terms. The complexity of Euroregions as entities and the way in which they function encourages in-depth research and makes them an interesting research area. The main subject of the analysis is the Carpathian Euroregion as an example of socio-economic cross-border cooperation, in particular the characterisation of its genesis, objectives and tasks, institutions and specific nature. Since the Carpathian Euroregion Interregional Union is not an organisation in the meaning of international law and has no legal personality, but is only a form of political cooperation, it performs its tasks formally through the activities of national structures. Despite 26 years of activity of the Euroregion, only the Polish, Slovak and Ukrainian sides have a legal structure enabling cooperation and therefore its effects are visible on the Polish and Slovak sides, as well as on the Polish and Ukrainian sides of the Euroregion. They are essentially only bilateral in nature, and are usually socially, less often economically oriented. The financing of projects with the participation of the Polish side is possible due to the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland, which makes financial resources, mainly from the EU budget, available to local entities for the implementation of micro-projects for the development of tourism, ecology, culture, science and education. The Association also raises funds for the implementation of its own projects, especially those aimed at technical assistance for project recipients and promotion of the Euroregion.*

Keywords: *Carpathian Euroregion, Euroregion, cross-border cooperation, financing of projects, micro-projects*

The ways to Strengthen Socio-economic Cooperation in the Ukrainian-Romanian Cross-border Region

***Yaroslava KALAT
Olha DEMEDYUK***

Abstract. *Cross-border cooperation is an efficient way to boost good-neighbourhood relations between adjoining countries. It possesses the necessary set of tools to address the most urgent issues at the level of regions and local communities and is the encouraging factor to urge state authorities to promote cooperation with neighbouring countries in institutional and financial aspects. Cross-border cooperation within Ukrainian-Romanian cross-border region provides numerous opportunities to its residents, business entities and communities in*

general to improve their living standards, however local and state authorities should have the strong will in creating favourable functioning environment. The paper aims to examine the current condition of Ukrainian-Romanian cross-border region's socio-economic development and to suggest the ways to activate it.

For this matter, the authors examine current institutional environment of Ukrainian–Romanian cross-border region's functioning and its legal foundation. Special attention is paid to the major priorities of Ukrainian–Romanian cross-border region development in the context of 2016–2020 State Program of Cross-Border Cooperation Development of Ukraine. Economic situation in Ukrainian-Romanian cross-border region is studied based on the GDP per capita and average monthly wages and pensions rates in the adjoining “oblasts” and “județ”. The authors also emphasize the role of such cross-border cooperation instruments as participation in CBC ENI Programs and in institutionalized forms of cross-border cooperation as far as the region is eligible for three CBC Programs and has four Euroregions established at its territory.

Keywords: *Ukrainian-Romanian cross-border region, socio-economic development, European integration processes, Euroregions, cross-border cooperation programs*

Problems of Cross-Border Cooperation Development along the EU External Borders

Nataliya NECHAYEVA-YURIYCHUK

Abstract. *This article is dedicated to the problems of cross-border cooperation in a constantly changing world. The events which occurred in Ukraine in 2013–2014 had a huge influence on political polarization. New format of “political game” which was suggested by Russian Federation by Crimea annexation led to the new reality where Ukraine is in the centre of geopolitics; and a number of events which are occurring within the EU are connected with it. The problem of security, especially in information sphere, is actualized nowadays. And only coordinated efforts can help to avoid a global crisis.*

Keywords: *cross-border cooperation, Ukraine, the European Union, information warfare, identity.*

Social Representations on the Border

Alina STOICA

Review of: Sylvie Considère, Thomas Perrin (eds). *Frontières et représentations sociales. Questions et perspectives méthodologiques*. Académie L'Harmattan, 2017. ISBN 978-2-8061-0327-7

The Cross-Border Cooperation of Ukraine – Current Evaluations and Directions for Future Development

Alina-Carmen BRIHAN

Review of: *Cross-Border Cooperation of Ukraine with the EU Countries: Current Challenges and Possibilities: Monograph*, edited by Khrystyna Prytula, Lviv: SI „Institute of Regional Research named after M.I. Dolishniy of NASU,” 2019. ISBN 978-966-02-8889-8.

The Integration of Eastern Neighbourhood of the European Union on the track of Public Administration Reforms

Anca OLTEAN

Review of: “Public Administration and Practice of local Development in the Countries of Eastern Partnership,” edited by prof. dr. sc. Liudmyla Prykhodchenko, *Cross-border Journal for International Studies* (Galați: Galați University Press) 3, no. 2, Special issue (2018). ISSN (print): 2537-3676, ISSN (online): 2601-1638.

Keywords: *Eastern neighbourhood, integration, EU, association agreements, Eastern Partnership.*

EU views from Caucasus

Dianna MLHAMYAN

Book review of *Georgian Journal for European Studies*, Institute for European Studies of Ivane Javakhashvilli Tbilisi State University, N 1, Tbilisi 2015, N 2-3, Tbilisi 2018, N 4-5, Tbilisi 2018-2019: Ivane Javakhashvilli Tbilisi State University Press. ISSN 2346-7827
