

Eurolimes – End of the Road or a Necessary Reset

Ioan HORGA

Abstract: *On the 15th anniversary of the first issue of Eurolimes and 30 issues, we aim, on one hand, to make a retrospection of the conception and direction of research of the authors that have published in the journal. Thus, these have evolved from a balanced optimism – specific of the years before the European economic boom and the ending of Enlargement – to a moderate optimism – developed in the context of economic crisis and the period after (2012–2019). On the other hand, in recent years and particularly, in the context of Crimea annexation and the war in Donbas, the refugees' crisis and the assault on the EU external borders, it can be noticed a slight shift to pessimism in approaching the issue of European borders. The pessimistic approach is increasing in the last 2 years with the effects of pandemic crisis on the internal and external borders and we are in the situation to ask is our perspective about EU borders is at the end of the road or to keep still an optimistic perspective, our approach must be reset.*

Key words: *Eurolimes, EU borders, balanced optimism, moderate optimism*

European Studies at the Eastern EU Border. The Role of Universities in Transforming Communities Borders

Ioan HORGA

Abstract. *Universities have always been pivots of knowledge and development, especially in sensitive areas such as borders. Our study reveals the impact of European Studies on the EU's eastern border, seen as a vector of knowledge and action to contribute to the transformation of border communities. The study has two parts: From local initiatives of cross-border academic cooperation to integration into the European Area of High Education and the role of universities in transforming communities from border regions/CBC borders from proximity communities to communities in the process of integration.*

Keywords: *Universities, EU Eastren Border, European Studies, Border Communities, European Neighborhood Policy*

The Jean Monnet Projects Carried Out in Countries at the Eastern Border of the European Union

Luminița ȘOPRONI

Abstract. *This chapter analyses the Jean Monnet projects carried out at the eastern border of the European Union in the period 2000–2019, in both member countries and in partner countries. Such academic initiatives have demonstrated that the external border of the European Union is not only a line of political and administrative demarcation, but also a space for cooperation, knowledge and innovation. Considering the objectives pursued and the actions realised through the Jean Monnet programme, the programme represents an important tool that complements the EU's internal and external communication strategy, by facilitating the communication to the third countries of uniform and coherent messages related to the actions and policies of the EU.*

Keywords: *Jean Monnet projects, EU external border, communication, cooperation*

Does Erasmus+ Mobility Involving Universities from the EU's Eastern Border Play a Role in the Contouring of Cross-Border Academic Communities?

Edina Lilla MÉSZÁROS

Abstract. *The current research is aimed at evaluating the potential of student and academic mobility undertaken at universities from the CBC area (at the EU's Eastern border) in fostering the formation of cross-border academic communities. In order to reach the set objectives, following a brief presentation of the Erasmus+ mobility programme and its particularities for the countries from the Eastern Partnership, we have structured our research in five major directions, analysing the Erasmus+ mobility and of jointly developed projects between universities from the EU's Eastern border: firstly assessing the Romania-Republic of Moldova, then the Romania-Ukraine, the Poland-Ukraine, Poland-Belarus, and finally the Poland-Hungary-Slovakia-Ukraine nexus. As measurable outputs we took into consideration the existence of collaboration agreements, mobility schemes and the frequency of mobility, the number of jointly organized scientific events and commonly developed CBC projects.*

Keywords: *cross-border academic community, CBC, Eastern border, Erasmus+*

EU Studies Curriculum at the EU Borders

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Abstract. *EU Studies represent an important field of interest at educational level, plenty of scholarly work dealing with analysing the importance, but at the same time the streamlining of this field of study. Through our methodological approach, we will study the impact of EU Studies on the eastern border of the European Union, our research sample targeting 6 European countries, of which 3 are EU members and 3 are non-EU members, and a total of 15 universities. The main research directions that we will examine in the target universities will refer to the disciplines with European themes that are found in the university study programs, focusing on the nine major fields agreed by the European Commission. The research methodology will focus on the method of content analysis of official, public, digital and non-digital documents, with which we will identify a series of indicators: number of European disciplines, EU Studies Curriculum, Study Programmes, courses addressing Border Studies, and based on them, we shall make a series of interpretations. The main objective of the research, is in the first phase to carry out an evaluation of the European-themed courses that are found at the level of the 15 target universities, so that we can visualize the degree of attention that universities pay, in order to offer solutions, examples of good practice, to develop the implementation of European courses in university study programs.*

Keywords: *EU studies curriculum, Eastern Europe, EU border studies*

European Studies in Ukraine: Major Trends and Patterns

Roman KALYTCHAK

Abstract. *Ukrainian scholarship on the European Union has undergone substantial changes over the last decades and requires a thorough examination of its different aspects. Based on the analysis of dissertation production on the EU-related topics, the purpose of this study is to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how the field of European studies advanced in Ukraine, expanded in response to domestic needs or external events and evolved in terms of its key topics and dominant disciplines.*

Key words: *European Studies, Sociology of Knowledge, Dissertations, Ukraine, European Union*

Borders and Security in the Time of Pandemic

Dionysios TSIRIGOTIS

Abstract. *What do territory and territoriality mean and how are they evaluated in the Covid-19 pandemic era? What are the main schools of thought in IR theory regarding the issues of territoriality and sovereignty, especially about “the function of states in a debordering world?” What does Covid pandemic bring to the interchangeable link between state borders and security? This study deals with the aforementioned questions, trying to understand and explain the multiple gradations of the notion of territoriality in the covid 19 pandemic era. It is the interchangeable link between borders and security and the undisputable function of the former as the most effective mean of inhibiting covid 19 that brings back the debate of the significance of territory “at all times and in all geographical contexts.” Accordingly, the spread of the covid pandemic worldwide, like natural disasters and economic austerity, poses an existential threat to people’s survival, contradicting with the globalization literature of a borderless and deterritorialized world. In this manner I will discuss the trivial issue of borderless/rebordering world as a logical conclusion of the asymmetric effects of the covid pandemic on all aspects of state structure.*

Keyword: *borders, territoriality, security, sovereignty, pandemic*

Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Cross-Border Cooperations: Focusing on Local Products and Values

*István Krisztián SIMON
Constantin-Vasile ȚOCA
Klára CZIMRE*

Abstract. *The COVID-19 pandemic has several effects not only on our daily routine but also on world economics, politics and the environment too. The long term-effects of the pandemic are unpredictable yet. Preferences of online shopping were predictable and obvious. To avoid crowded shopping centres many people chose the advantages of online shopping. The new situation changed the buying behaviours and the selling behaviours too. The relations between the countries have also been re-evaluated, thus cross-border co-operation has changed. The present study discusses how the pandemic changed the situation of local production and its distribution especially in the field of cross-border co-operations. The authors briefly describe the impacts of COVID-19 on local values, which is coherently linked to local products and local foods.*

Keywords: *local food, local products, local values, COVID-19, pandemic, online shopping, cross-border co-operations*

An Overview of Romania's Pandemic Measures and their Effect upon Travel across the Romanian-Hungarian Border

Enya-Andrea TĂMAȘ

Abstract. *The coronavirus broke out in Europe in January 2020, throughout February and March, the number of pandemic-related measures increasing significantly. The crisis leads to the introduction of unprecedented restrictions across Member States, and the variety of national responses intensified with the evolution of the pandemic. In terms of internal measures, the most common choice was the introduction of a lockdown, while external measures generally included travel and entry restrictions and the reintroduction of border checks. Restrictions and bans on travel have an especially important meaning in the Schengen Area, the 'borderless' part of Europe. The article aims at making a radiography of government measures introduced in the fight against the pandemic in the European Union, with a special focus on Romania the effects of the restrictive measures on cross-border travel behaviour and patterns across the Romanian-Hungarian border. To achieve this, an online survey was conducted to analyse to what extent restrictive measures targeting travel affected cross-border travel towards Hungary. Both Romania and Hungary have followed the EU trend in their measures, and it seems that these, more or less, had an impact only on the frequency of travels across their shared border. Other aspects, such as changes in border-crossing process and citizen's acceptance of their domestic restrictions are also analysed here.*

Keywords. *Pandemic measures; travel restrictions; entry ban; Covid-19; Romanian-Hungarian border*

Research in the Field of Humanities and Social Sciences during the Pandemic. Limits and Incentives, Boundaries and Freedoms

Cristina-Maria DOGOT

Abstract. *The onset of the SARS-COV-2 crisis came with many challenges and produced a huge impact on both the various fields of activity and the individuals, according to the particularities of different states, regions, institutions, etc. The initial reversal of the general situation, materialised in a lockdown, seemed to generate astonishing revelations about life before the pandemic and about the changes that appeared necessary to apply in the future. The field of education, regardless of the level but to varying degrees, was one of the first to be affected by the pandemic, the lockdown having the main effect the closure of schools at all levels. At first, it was thought that the situation would be short-lived, but the evolution of the pandemic made lockdown a general policy and isolation a way of life for many weeks and working/teaching/learning at home became the normality. Research was also deeply affected by the pandemic, almost regardless of the field. Hence, in the large pandemic context, the interrelation between the*

fields of university education and research was ignored in most cases, the emphasis falling (absolutely understandable) on the pedagogical act, while research activities and researchers in academia were almost ignored in terms of specific needs, especially for the areas of research that, at least in the initial stage of the pandemic, did not seem to have a link with its study, although they were largely influenced by the pandemic, as they were humanities and social sciences. This article provides an overview of the challenges and effects that the pandemic has had on academic research, as it is not yet possible to advance definitive conclusions about the quantity and quality of research in the humanities and social sciences and about its impact on managing the Covid-19 crisis.

Keywords: *humanities and social sciences scientific research; pandemic and academic research activities*

Religion during the Pandemic

Emilia Nicoleta ȘCHIOP

Abstract. *After various global crises began to recover, the challenge posed by the coronavirus, the unseen enemy, diverted attention from other issues considered less urgent. The paper will focus primarily on the description of the article by Giorgio Agamben, who is one of the greatest philosophers alive today. The article deals with the way in which science and medicine have become the “religion” of our times, especially in the context of current challenges, such as the pandemic. In the modern West, three major belief systems have coexisted and, to some extent, still coexist Christianity, capitalism, and science. In the history of modernity, these three “religions” have often intersected, coming into conflict from time to time, only to reconcile in various ways, until they have gradually reached a kind of peaceful and articulate coexistence, if not to true and adequate collaboration in the name of common interest. According to Cătălin Raiu, Europe has not only a venerable Christian tradition but also political structures born of or in relation to Christianity. Secondly, the paper is analyzing the right to health, but also to religious freedom, observing the border between the two. Later the paper is observing in the case studies how some countries approached religion during the pandemic. There have been many cases of churches suing the state that closed them, recently in Madrid and California. This topic is a topical one, currently feeling the effects of restrictions on the religious phenomenon in a negative sense. Regarding the methodology, the article starts with the presentation of the context in order to create an overview of the phenomenon (the sources being both general and special, to highlight elements from several areas), but it does not neglect elements of originality resulting from the analysis of the legislation (official sources providing objective points of view through document analysis) and its implementation, but also from case studies (both by examples of good practice and by negative examples).*

Keywords: *pandemic, religious freedom, cultural freedom, human rights*

Innovation and Human Capital in a Knowledge Economy

Yaroslav DROZDOVSKY

Abstract. *“The knowledge-based economy” is an expression coined to describe trends in advanced economies towards greater dependence on knowledge, information and high skill levels, and the increasing need for ready access to all of these by the business and public sectors. The development of a knowledge economy is a key priority for innovative progress and for ensuring the country’s competitiveness through the efficient use of intellectual resources and human capital. Our paper is focused on the influence of human capital in providing innovative development and the formation of knowledge economy, to develop measures for its formation, accumulation, preservation, reproduction in order to increase national competitiveness at the world market. The foundation of the knowledge economy is productive knowledge and quality education that contribute to the intellectual capital embodiment into productive activities. A detailed analysis of the current state and problems of the innovation and human capital spheres has been carried out, international ratings have been analyzed and the place of Ukraine in them is determined in the article.*

Keywords: *knowledge economy, innovative development, human capital, intellectual capital*

Potential Impact of Cross-Border Cooperation on the Regional Development: Case Study Romania-Ukraine Border

*Marcela ŞLUSARCIUC
Volodymyr TOKAR*

Abstract. *Starting with 2003 the European Union turned its interest in developing the borders with the future neighbours at that time, out of which our interest is on Romania-Ukraine border. Since then, several generations of programs financed projects aiming to boost the cooperation between the communities living along the border, also to develop the economic and social life. The paper aim was to determine the interplay between macroeconomic indicators, export, import and gross product, of Romanian and Ukrainian administrative territories. The evaluation of the defined hypotheses showed no statistically significant influence of economic activity of Romanian regions on Ukrainian ones in G1 (Odesa and Tulcea), G2 (Chernivtsi, Botoşani, Suceava) and partially G3 cross-border regions, namely in all cases of Zakarpattia oblast and gross regional product of Ivano-Frankivsk oblast. Maramureş and Satu Mare import were significant for Ivano-Frankivsk export affecting it in different directions, Satu Mare impact was positive, while Maramureş – negative. Therefore, we can assume that Ivano-Frankivsk and Satu Mare had export-import relations. Maramureş export had negative impact on Ivano-Frankivsk export and import, while Satu Mare influence was not significant. Therefore, we can suppose that Maramureş and Ivano-Frankivsk compete for the same markets. The research results indicate that there is need to increase the efficiency of the cross-border programmes in this*

area or develop better ones to intensify the positive synergy effect on both Romanian and Ukrainian sides. The paper is first part of a larger study concerning the evolution of this border area before the pandemic period, but after each programming period.

Keywords: *cross-border cooperation, cross-border programs, regional development, Romania, Ukraine*

Fifteen Years and Thirty Aspects

Klára CZIMRE

The high activity of the Institute for Euroregional Studies has been unbroken for the next five years following its anniversary in 2015 when the twentieth issue of the *Eurolimes* (ISSN: 1841-9259) – its journal – was published. Five years passed with the active involvement of more and more researchers considering issues related to borders, border regions and cross-border co-operations very important. The papers published in *Eurolimes* are introduced and discussed in the light of the operation of the Institute for Euroregional Studies as well as in connection with its evolution during the past fifteen years. The present study is based on the results of the analysis published in the twentieth volume in 2016 (Czimre, 2016) completing them with the achievements of the next five years. In the first volume in 2006 Ioan Horga (Oradea, Romania), one of the founding fathers of the journal, posed the question “*Why Eurolimes?*” in his introductory article (Horga, 2006), and then ten years later together with István Süli-Zakar (Debrecen, Hungary), the other founding father of this international journal, they reflected saying “*Still Eurolimes!*” (Süli-Zakar and Horga, 2016). Their joint introductory paper in the twentieth volume had a multiple meaning and message. They expressed their will to devote their work for the better understanding of borders, border regions and cross-border co-operations explaining their approach representing an evolution from balanced optimism to a kind of moderate optimism. They insisted on their views that cross-border co-operations on all levels are necessary elements in the building of Europe. The volumes of the next five years represented this notion with topics relevantly discussing the most important present-day border related issues.

The European Union – From Concept to an Extended Reality

Cristina-Maria DOGOT

Review of: *Europe in a Changing World: Opportunities and Challenges. In Honorem Professor Ioan Horga*, edited by Florentina Chirodea, Constantin-Vasile Țoca, Luminița Șopron, Alina Stoica, and Klára Czimre. Oradea; Debrecen: Oradea University Press; Debrecen University Press, 2021. ISBN 978-606-10-2138-3; ISBN 978-963-490-295-9.