

Summaries

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Participation of local municipalities in Euroregions in Central Europe

It has been extensively discussed whether Euroregions – here defined as formalized cooperation initiatives between sub-national authorities, often including private and non-profit actors, located close to a border in two or more countries – constitute an example of newly emerging governance structures at the local level. As the number of these initiatives has grown rapidly in the last decades, discussions around what may influence their chances for long-term viability have intensified. The paper addresses one dimension of institutionalization, the ability of Euroregions to attract local governments in the area where they are operating. Various factors that have been suggested in the literature are synthesized into one comprehensive theoretical framework and tested through a case-study of Komárom-Esztergom county in Hungary. In-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with representatives of virtually all the local governments there. The factors that are usually put forward to explain cross-border cooperation (financial incentives, socio-economic pressure to overcome obstacles for economic development or reduce costs for service provision, cultural proximity, externally induced ideational support for European integration, etc.) are assessed by local representatives and set against the local context of other conditions determining decisions. Our findings indicate that besides historical socio-cultural and ethnic proximity across the border, access to external funding, converging or conflicting project plans, cognitive perceptions of distance as well as current or previous administrative borders are important determinants for the formation of Euroregions.

Mátyás Jaschitz

Jointly or separately? Attempts to reveal the spatial structural weight of the twin cities of Komárno–Komárom after the millennium

The study makes an attempt to define the central potential of the twin city of Komárno–Komárom in the Slovakian-Hungarian border area after the new Millennium. The main method is the special gravitational model by Reilly. I compared two extreme assumptions: I analysed the totally isolated and the completely joint relations of the two cities. I tried to define the spatial planning impact of the results.

Lóránt Bali

Main cooperation aspects of Croatian-Hungarian cross-border cooperation – case studies of Barcs és Zala counties

Until the dictates of the Treaty of Trianon, our country and our neighbour to the south was only separated by an administrative border. Between the two World Wars, the transit and the economic co-operation was unimpeded. It was common that the citizens of the neighbouring country owned a significant amount of land across the border. This has changed significantly during state socialism. The hostile relationship in the fifties was followed by the resumption of coopera-

tion in the sixties, which manifested primarily in agriculture and trade. The civil war after the system change stopped the preferred tendencies for a short period of time, and it happened only after the turn of the Millennium, with our approximation to the EU, then with the Hungarian accession that the cooperation gained new momentum. In the paper, two case studies are presented; one about Barcs and one about the Croatian-Hungarian-Slovenian triple border in order to introduce the features of the borderlines and their future development opportunities, which will require the accession of Croatia to the EU and to the Schengen zone.

Szabolcs Szanyi

“Natural values of Szatmár-Bereg plain” – Plan to establish an international Biosphere Programme

The Szatmár-Bereg plain includes neighbouring territories of three countries, representing a transitional belt between the biogeographical regions of the Carpathians and Pannonian lowland. According to recent floristic and faunistic surveys, it exhibits an outstanding level of biotic and landscape diversity. Its scientifically valuable nature-like core areas should be protected together with the conservation of the surrounding traditional mosaic landscape matrix. The planned habitat conservation network can be optimally implemented in frames of a Biosphere Reserve. The potential core areas together with their buffer zones are listed in both Hungarian and Ukrainian sides of the Szatmár-Bereg plain.

Dóra Egervári

Information flow without borders – Chance and possibility to access information and documents in Baranya and Slavonia

In my study, I make suggestions about how the basic rights of minorities can be enforced in this area. I also touch upon the possibilities of the internet and the digital and virtual libraries and the chances of the Bibliobus in Pécs in the future.

Ferenc Szilágyi

Strategic re-evaluation and potential future status of Érmellék, a border small region

Érmellék is one of the most characteristic Hungarian regions beyond the Hungarian border. From a geostrategical point of view, it has become a border region since the Peace of Trianon, and its geographical position was disadvantageous for the people living here. Due to the integration processes in the future, it will be possible to reduce the isolation of this region and to reorganize the relationship with the neighbouring Hungarian regions and with the former centre of gravitation: Debrecen. Specific processes like this can help the integration of the states of the European Union.

András Ricz

The effects of cross-border programmes on the regional development of Vojvodina – further development potential of spatial cooperation based on them

The opportunities for allocating EU resources as development funds in Serbia, and especially in Vojvodina have become available since about 2005. So far these have been opportunities that enabled realisation of programs and projects with cross-border effects in neighbouring countries. The term of border is defined and the effects of previous cross-border programs are examined in the study. Based on them, it can be ascertained that Serbia and especially Vojvodina are still not properly prepared for utilising development funds from the European Union.

From the analysis of the projects, it is highlighted that realised cross-border programs are mostly from the soft fields – human resources, contacts and projects of economic character – while the development of infrastructure is played down. Certain realised projects mainly support the progress of local micro communities, especially emphasising the development of human resources in rural areas.

Tímea Tünde Csetnek

Capacity and institutional development in the Romanian – Hungarian cross-border area

In my research proposal, I recommend to analyze the effect of cross-border projects on institutional capacity building. The target is the creation of a new instrument “the cross border indicator” that can measure the level of institutional capacity building in organizations that participate in cross-border projects. The topic of the research is the impact of PHARE CBC/INTERREG IIIA Programme and the effect of these projects for the institutional development. The role of cross-border cooperation and capacity building is analysed through a study realized in Satu Mare (Romania) and Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg (Hungary) and finally with the elaboration of a cross-border index with their components.

The study is structured as follows: in the first part, I provide information about the institutional capacity building. In the second part of the study, the results of the research based on questionnaires and interviews in the two border counties are presented.