

INTERNATIONAL JEAN MONNET CONFERENCE

Regional Development at the Borders of the European Union

International Conference Programme

**05-07November2019
Oradea, Romania**

This conference was financed through the Jean Monnet Programme no. – 599689-EPP-1-2018-1-RO-EPPJMO-MODULE with the topic *Development of the border regions in Central and Eastern Europe countries* (DBRCEEC)

Considering the background of the last enlargement of the European Union to 28 Member States, the development of the areas located close to the internal or external borders is directly influenced by the degree of rigidity or flexibility of boundaries, by the complex realities inside the Member States and also by the opportunities offered by the process of European integration and the smart, inclusive and sustainable growth strategies. The actors involved in this process (local public authorities, local community, business environment, civil society, local academics) are all invited to take part in building a regional identity meant to attract investors and highly qualified work force. For regions located at the borders of the European Union, the specific objective of the regional development – the creation of new jobs, the increase of human capital, competitiveness, economic growth, the improvement of life quality and sustainable development – are especially important given the gap that needs to be recovered. Socio-economic and geopolitical relations in Central and Eastern Europe create a context in which factors and endogenous determiners of regional progress must be carefully identified and instruments of regional policy implementation efficiently used for obtaining outcomes, which will lead to the strengthening of socio-economic cohesion within the European Union.

During the two-day conference, experts, professors, researchers, PhD candidates, post-doc fellows, students, civil society activist, consultants, policy advocates and many more will exchange their interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary views upon the modernization and development of the Central and Eastern European border regions, where the historical, socio-economic and geopolitical factors are actively present in the development process, while migration of people and workforce is a severe phenomenon.

Panels:

Panel 1. Regional development: contemporary approaches and future perspectives

Panel 2. Border regions: area of cooperation and good neighbourhoods

Panel 3. Development of European Union's Central and Eastern border regions

Organizers:

University of Oradea

Department of International Relations and European Studies

Institute for Euroregional Studies Oradea-Debrecean, Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence

Partners:

Romanian Association of International Relations and European Studies

ECSA România

Museum of Oradea City. Cultural Complex

Whizcoffee Pick Up, Smile & Go

Association of Students from International Relations and European Studies (ARISE)

Organizing Committee

Coordinators

Members of Jean Monnet Module *Development of the border regions in Central and Eastern Europe countries* (DBRCEEC):

Florentina Chirodea, Lecturer PhD - Module Leader

Lumiņa ȘOPRONI, Associate Professor PhD

Constantin - Vasile ȚOCA, Lecturer PhD

Members:

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Scientific Committee

Ioan HORGA, Professor PhD. (Romania)

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Klara CZIMRE, Associate Professor PhD (Hungary)

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Florentina CHIRODEA, Lecturer PhD (Romania)

Constantin - Vasile ȚOCA, Lecturer PhD (Romania)

Cristina DOGOT, Lecturer PhD (Romania)

General Programme

Tuesday, 5th November 2019 – Arrival of the Participants

Tuesday, 5th November 2019

14.30 Opening of the International Conference

15.30 – 17.30 Plenary session

19.00 Dinner – Continental Forum Hotel

Wednesday, 6th november 2019

10.00 – 13.00 Working sessions

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch (Oradea Fortress, Building “G”)

14.30 – 17.30 Working sessions

19.00 Dinner - Continental Forum Hotel

Thursday 7th november, 2019

10.00 Conclusions of the international conference

10.30 – 12.30 Doctor Honoris Causa Ceremony – Professor
Richard Sakwa, University of Kent, United Kingdom

13.00 Lunch (University of Oradea Restaurant)

15.00 Guided city tour – Oradea

Detailed Programme

Tuesday, 5 November 2019

13⁰⁰– 14³⁰–Registration of the participants
Oradea Fortress, Building “E”, Conference Room, 1st floor

14³⁰–15³⁰ – Opening of the International Conference

Introductory remarks:

Lecturer **Florentina CHIRODEA**, PhD, Jean Monnet Module Holder

Greetings:

Professor **Constantin BUNGĂU**, PhD habil., Rector of the University of Oradea

Associate Professor **Vasile-Aurel CĂUȘ**, PhD, President of the Senate of the University of Oradea

Ioan MIHAIU, Prefect of the Bihor County

PÁSZTOR Sándor, President of the Bihor County Council

Mircea MĂLAN, Deputy Mayor of Oradea City

Professor **Ioan HORGA**, PhD, Dean of the Faculty of History, International Relations, Political Sciences and Communication Sciences, University of Oradea

Plenary session

15³⁰– 17³⁰ Oradea Fortress, Building “E”, Conference Room, 1st floor

Chairman – Associate Professor Ekaterina MIKHAYLENKO, PhD

Anders FORSELL Karlstads University, Sweden. **Magnus LINDH**, Karlstad University. ***How to preserve and create peaceful cross-border relations in the context of differentiated integration***

Ioan HORGA, University of Oradea, Romania. **Universities and Border Regions from EU’ Eastern Borders**

Anatoliy KRUGLASHOV, Chernivtsi Yuriy Fedkovych National University, Ukraine. ***Region – regionalism - regional policy: Ukraine’s shaping itself from within***

Lucia PANTEA, “Babeş – Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. **Mircea BRIE**, University of Oradea Romania. ***The sustainable development strategy of Bihor County. The role of international cooperation.***

19.00 Dinner – Continental Forum Hotel

Wednesday, 6th november 2019

Panel I

10⁰⁰ – 13⁰⁰ Oradea Fortress, Red Cave

Chairman - Associate professor Luminița ȘOPRONI, PhD

Raluca VIMAN - MILLER, University of North Georgia, USA. *Russia, good neighbor, bad neighbor? The Russian foreign policy and its global partners*

Mirela MĂRCUȚ, University of Oradea, Romania. *Discussing the digital opportunities and challenges of regions in Central and Eastern Europe*

Khymynets VOLODYMYR, Uzhgorod National University, Ukraine. Ganna Tsimbolynets, Uzhgorod National University, Ukraine. *Involvement of migration capital to ensure sustainable development of the United Territorial Communities*

11¹⁵ - 11⁴⁵ – Coffee Break

Sergii SHVYDIUK, Chernivtsi Yuriy Fedkovych National University, Ukraine. *Prospects of the cross-border cooperation intensification of the Chernivets Region in the decentralization context.*

Cosmin CHIRIAC, University of Oradea, Romania, Florentina CHIRODEA, University of Oradea, Romania. *Monocentric administrative units, polycentric border areas? A look at the Bihor – Hajdú-Bihar Euro-region.*

Zsolt RADICS, University of Debrecen, Hungary, Enikő HARMAN, University of Debrecen, Hungary, Krisztina CZUCZOR, University of Debrecen, Hungary. *The tourism in regional development at the centre part of Hungarian-Romanian border.*

Réka FRIEDERY, HAS, Centre for Social Sciences, Institute for Legal Studies, Hungary. *Regional development and emigration from Hungary*

13⁰⁰ – 14³⁰ Lunch - Oradea Fortress, Building “G”

Panel I

14³⁰ – 17³⁰ Oradea Fortress - Red Cave

Chairman - Professor Anatoliy KRUGLASHOV, PhD

Ganchimeg GOMBODORJ, University of Debrecen, Hungary, **Erdenechuluun TUMUR**, Wageningen University of Research, The Netherlands.
Global meat trade and its impact on the livelihood

Donika MALOKU, Debrecen, Hungary. ***Recent hiring trends in precision agriculture: global trends***

Cristian BERGMANN, “Babeş – Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
Swiss Contribution to the Enlarged European Union

15⁴⁵ - 16¹⁵ – Coffee Break

Reuf SHKODRA, University of Debrecen, Hungary. ***Profitability of dairy farms in Central Kosovo.***

Vivien GUTI, University of Debrecen, Hungary, **CSAPÓNÉ RISKÓ Tünde** University of Debrecen, Hungary. ***Intercultural issues in the Hungarian – Italian business relations***

TRÓN Zsuzsanna, University of Debrecen, Hungary, **TÓTH Eszter**, University of Debrecen, Hungary. ***How the EU’s regional policy works: development of the outermost regions as good examples.***

Panov VOLODYMYR, Faculty of International Economic Relations, Uzhgorod National University, ***Cross-border cooperation of Transcarpathia in the 90s of the 20th Century: Achievements and Lost Opportunities***

19.00 Dinner – Continental Forum Hotel

Wednesday, 6th november 2019

Panel II

10⁰⁰ – 13⁰⁰ - Oradea Fortress, Building “E”, Conference Room, 1st floor

Chairman - Associate Professor Gabriela GOUDENHOFT, PhD

Ekaterina MIKHAYLENKO, Ural Federal University, Russia. *EU-Russia cross - border cooperation: prospects of development*

Cristina DOGOT, University of Oradea, Romania. *Border cities in romania and their participation in cross-border cooperation programmes and projects*

Nino TABESHADZE, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State Unievrsity, Georgia. *EU border: divider or unifier?*

11¹⁵ - 11⁴⁵ – Coffee Break

POLGÁR István, University of Oradea, Romania. *Intercultural dialogue and corporate identity. Tools for promoting cross-border employment in the Romanian-Hungarian cross-border region*

Vladislav VOLKOV, Baltic International Academy, Latvia. *Interethnic communication in Latvia: resources and restrictions*

Dorin DOLGHI, University of Oradea, Romania. *The EU approach in supporting the cross-border emergency situations management*

Palinchak MYKOLAN, Uzhgorod National University, Ukraine. Inna SHUMLIANSKA, Uzhgorod National University, Ukraine. *Peculiarities of legal regulation of cross-border cooperation in the countries of the European Union*

13⁰⁰ – 14³⁰ Lunch - Oradea Fortress, Building “G”

Panel II

14³⁰ – 17³⁰ - Oradea Fortress, Building “E”, Conference Room, 1st floor

Chairman - Lecturer Dorin DOLGHI, PhD

SZABOLCS Mátyás, National University of Public Service in Budapest, Hungary.
Possibilities of cross-border cooperation in tourism safety

Alina BRIHAN, University of Oradea, Romania. *The development of the local level of governance in border regions. Case study: Bihor County*

Daniela CĂLINESCU, Department of European Affaires and International Relations. Institutional Coordination, Prefecture of Bihor County, Romania
Mircea MOLDOVAN Department of European Affaires and International Relations. Institutional Coordination, Prefecture of Bihor County, Romania. *RO-HU Safe Border; Safer Life*

15⁴⁵ - 16¹⁵ – Coffee Break

Sonila CELA, Epoka University, Albania. *Enhancing development by promoting cooperation of Western Balkans countries in the tourism sector*

Dan APĂTEANU, University of Oradea, Romania. *Cross-border cooperation for increasing youth employment in EU*

Irina POP, University of Oradea, Romania. *Xenophobia and racism in a trans-borders public sphere*

Ioana BORDEIANU, Oradea Border Police School, Romania, **Delia PĂTROC**, Oradea Border Police School, Romania. *Professionalism and cooperation in border guards (police) training area*

Klára CZIMRE, University of Debrecen, Hungary. *Cross-border cooperation between border settlements in the Hungarian-Romanian border region: the only way to survive?*

19.00 Dinner – Continental Forum Hotel

Panel III

10⁰⁰ – 13⁰⁰ - Oradea Fortress, Building “G”

Chairman - Lecturer Constantin-Vasile ȚOCA, PhD

Reina Zenelaj SHEHI, Epoka University, Albania. Dea BASHKURTI, Epoka University, Albania. ***Regional security and conflict management revisited: the experience of Western Balkans***

Loretta SĂLĂJAN, University of Oradea, Romania. ***Ontological insecurity and imagined borders: a study of attitudes towards immigrants in Central-Eastern Europe***

Małgorzata MYL, University of Silesia, Poland, Bogdan-Nicolae MUCEA, University of Bucharest, Romania. ***National borders – limitation for human rights protection?***

11¹⁵ - 11⁴⁵ – Coffee Break

MÉSZÁROS Edina Lilla, University of Oradea, ***The Visegrad Group: the new growth engine of the EU?***

Afrim HOTI, University of Prishtina, Kosovo, Bardhok BASHOTA, University of Prishtina, Kosovo. ***The ambiguity of the idea of border change between Kosovo and Serbia as an option for a comprehensive solution***

Eglatina FARRUKU, Epoka University, Albania, Salih ÖZCAN, Epoka University, Albania, Shkelqim LLAGACI, Lutenant Cornel, Ministry of Defense, Albania. ***Forms and factors of child exploitation in Albania***

Małgorzata DZIEMBAŁA, University of Economics, Katowice, Poland. ***The role of the EU cross-border programmes in promotion of inclusive growth - the case of the Polish borderland***

Craig WILLIS, European Centre for Minority Issues, Germany. ***National minorities and regional development: a comparative overview of the three Baltic States***

Jean-François CLOUZET, University of Geneva, Switzerland. ***The Swiss involvement in the Schengen space: a model to operationalize the Brexit?***

13⁰⁰ – 14³⁰ Lunch - Oradea Fortress, Building “G”

Panel III

14³⁰ – 17³⁰ - Oradea Fortress, Building “G”

Chairman - Lecturer Cristina DOGOT, PhD

Luminița ȘOPRONI, University of Oradea, Romania. ***The competitive agglomeration, pole of economic growth***

Aurelia-Florina DUMITER, Bihor County Council, Romania, Daniel NEGRUȚ, University of Oradea, Romania. ***Cross-border Cooperation European Policy, from a structural funds perspective. Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary CBC Programe***

Alina STOICA, University of Oradea, Romania. ***Cultural networks platform for cooperation in the European Union borders.***

15⁴⁵ - 16¹⁵ – Coffee Break

Gabriela GOUDENHOFT, University of Oradea, Romania. ***Towards more social legitimacy in the European Union: addressing inequalities at the Eastern Border of the EU.***

Nicoleta Emilia NEGREA, “Babeș – Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. ***Security of personal data at the level of the European Union member states and institutions***

Constantin-Vasile ȚOCA, University of Oradea, Romania. ***Evaluation of the regions at the Romanian - Hungarian border***

Simion ROȘCA, Moldavian Institut of International Relations, Republic of Moldova. ***The impact of European cultural capital on the***

modernization and development of cross–border areas between the European Union and the Eastern Partnership countries.

Diana STEBLAK, Uzhgorod National University, Ukraine. ***The role of a religious factor in US politics***

Richard SAKWA, Kent University, United Kingdom, **Cristian NIȚOIU**, Loughborough University, United Kingdom, **Florin PĂȘĂTOIU**, University of Craiova, Romania. ***Europe and models of global order. Vision of social change***

19.00 Dinner – Continental Forum Hotel

Abstracts

Alina BRIHAN, University of Oradea, Romania.

Abstract. *The development of the local level of governance in border regions. Case study: Bihor County.* The present paper aims to approach the local level of the EU multilevel governance, as the existence of different decision-making levels (European, national, regional and local) makes the national actors (public authorities, civil society, business enterprises), but also the citizens, to be confronted with challenges regarding the efficient exercise of their competences, in a *sui generis* political system.

In this regard, it will be analyzed the case of legitimate political actors from the North – West Region of Romania – namely the county counsellors from Bihor county, through the place and role of the County Council in the structure of local public administration, but also its participation in different structures at regional, national and European level. The objective is to determine the ways and degree in which the county counsellors from Bihor county involve in the European decision-making process, as well as the way in which it positions itself in the European Union's multilevel governance structure. Therefore, a particular focus is on the identification of the most efficient means of communication and collaboration between the county counsellors from Bihor county and the different actors at local, regional (North – West Region), national and European level (citizens, civil society groups, local and national public authorities, Romanian parliamentarians, etc.), regarding the exercise of the role that local public administration authorities play in the European decision-making process, following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty (2009), but also in the context of debates, at European level, regarding the future of Europe, the strengthening of the role of local democracy and regions within the EU democracy - by reforming the EU's way of working and promoting an "active subsidiarity", as well as in the context of exercise, for the first time, by Romania, of the Council of the EU's Presidency, between January and June 2019.

Cristian BERGMANN, "Babeş – Bolyai" University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Abstract. *Swiss contribution to the enlarged European Union.* Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Program, specific to the border region between Hungary and Romania. The presentation aims to depict the Swiss-Romanian

Cooperation (SRC) Program in general. The Swiss financial contribution's target is to reduce the economic and social disparities within the European Union and between different regions of development of beneficiary countries. The amount of money destined for Romania in particular, under the SRC Program, is 181 million Swiss Francs for a commitment period of 5 years and a disbursement period of 10 years in total, starting in 2009 and ending in 2019. Theoretically, it is a win-win-situation for both involved parties, Romania will enjoy a higher standard, the citizens will enjoy a better life and hopefully gain more trust in the governmental institutions, which is an important predisposition for a state to grow, improve and prosper. Switzerland on the other side, will benefit from a more developed and stable Romania. It will develop a stronger market and a better civic society. All these benefits, will eventually contribute to the European cohesion and a general strength of the single market and the European idea.

According to the Swiss Federal Bureau of Statistics, 60% of the exports of the year 2018, went to the European Union and around 70% of the imports came from the European Union. As a comparison, the next big and important trading partner is the USA, with 12% of the exports going there and 7.05% of the imports coming from China, both in 2018.

But the presentation will also highlight the situation of the border region between Romania and Hungary in particular. There are people, who do not necessarily want to leave the place for working abroad, due to lack of language skills or other reasons, how is the program helping those? We will have a look at the projects and programs developed specifically for this region, benefiting directly from the Swiss financial help and see, how the interaction works between the two countries. Are there any positive developments and spill-over-effects or are there only disadvantages? How are the relations between the two regions? Do the people help each other or is the border still dividing them?

Daniela CĂLINESCU, Department of European Affairs and International Relations. Institutional Coordination, Prefecture of Bihor County, Romania,
Mircea MOLDOVAN Department of European Affairs and International Relations. Institutional Coordination, Prefecture of Bihor County, Romania

Abstract. RO-HU Safe Border; Safer Life. Public institutions in Bihor-Hajdu-Bihar region need to improve their capacity to better respond to the challenges brought up by migration, whether it is migration within the EU, due to the free movement of people, or the migration from third countries. Illegal migration presents great risks to the security and public order within the EU area and, according to studies, the phenomenon has increased with almost 30% in

2017 compared to 2016 at the Ro-Hu border. In over 90% of the cases, illegal smuggling is facilitated by organized crime networks, which are flexible and resilient, adapting to any new law enforcement actions. On the other hand, the migration that occurs in Bihor-Hajdu-Bihar region as a result of the free movement of people within the EU is a phenomenon that escapes official statistics, although it impacts the development of the region in several domains: employment, social services, public health, European funds absorption. Mr. Fabrice Leggeri, Executive Director of Frontex, stated in the Preface of the Annual Risk Analysis for 2017 that “as migration management goes far beyond border control, only a comprehensive strategy will make it effective.” Our project aims at improving RO-HU cross-border cooperation of institutions in migration management in the Bihor-Hajdu-Bihar cross-border region. We expect that the implementation of the project will enhance the administrative capacity of each partner institution in managing migration and will offer new information regarding the process of migration and its impact on the area, making it safer. For that purpose, the project develops a RO-HU common framework for theoretical and practical training and exchange of best-practices for the personnel involved in border management and public order activities. Moreover, the partners of the project cooperate in developing a diagnosis on migration in this border area. Also, the number of information activities addressed to people living in the area, affected by migration will be increased. The main outputs of the project are: 3 cross-border training facilities developed, one info-point on migration established, 6 training modules delivered, 33 surveillance equipments acquired, 1 diagnosis on migration in Bihor-Hajdu-Bihar region, and 1 website created. The direct beneficiaries will add up to over 1500 border management services providers over the next 5 years, both in Hungary and in Romania, who will be better trained and equipped to combat illegal migration. Moreover, the beneficiaries of the project will be **a)** the public administration, as it will have better instruments to shape its own public policies and development strategies according to the new acquired data, **b)** the migrants travelling within the EU, who will be better informed about the country of destination and how to avoid risks related to illegal employment and human trafficking **c)** the general public, as the area will be safer. The originality of the project is stemming from its comprehensive approach and elaborate partnership. as It is for the first time that the issue of migration is approached in such a large, cross-border partnership, tackling on the complex aspects that it involves. The project creates the first cross border info-point on migration, and also, it is for the first time that a joint RO-HU training is organized for the police workers from Bihor-Hajdu-Bihar region on the issue of migration.

Abstract. *Enhancing development by promoting cooperation of Western Balkans countries in the tourism sector.* European integration remains the primary agenda for the Western Balkan countries. There is a solid willing to include the WB countries in the EU map from both sides, WB and EU. However, their development and fulfillment of membership conditions are crucial. Conditions include strengthening their democracies, comprehensive and convincing reforms in critical areas, particularly on the rule of law, competitiveness, and regional cooperation and reconciliation. (European Commission). Required regional cooperation has both economic and political aspects, thus for healthier growth and readiness for joining the EU area, a regional development approach is necessary for these countries. Nonetheless, the regional development approach needs strong regional cooperation.

This study proposes a regional cooperation approach from the perspective of a common tourism market. Tourism is considered one of the main pillars of the economy in all the countries of the Western Balkans. As such the cooperation in this sector is believed to bring development in the Balkan region. Recent research considers tourism as a contributor to the growth and development of a country. Tourism may bring many benefits like economic value, build and improve the country's brand value, image and identity. It goes beyond attractive destinations that attract visitors; it is an important contributor to economic growth.

Considering some of the countries among western Balkans have overcome ethnic and political conflicts and problems with their identities are still evident. There is a strong trust that tourism may overcome these problems. Different researchers argue that tourism is an enabler for peace and development since it encourages the exchange of ideas, research and facilitates the awareness of the diversity of cultural backgrounds and break barriers for a multicultural understanding.

This study applies a qualitative approach. By analyzing the current regional cooperation in the western Balkan countries in the last EU integration reports and the countries' tourism strategies it will propose a regional tourism cooperation approach. Even the tourism data shows that the region of the Balkans significantly improved its performance in the European and world rankings, there is still needed regional cooperation in the sector of tourism. Tourism sector collaboration may facilitate the exchange of human capital, free movement of the people enabling the break of the barriers in the post-conflict area. Cooperation of the governments may facilitate the collaboration of tour operators which by offering bundle tourism packages the tourists can find

stronger unique destinations. As a result, a high number of tourists contributes to the growth of this sector which contributes directly to the GDP. A strong economy, strong regional cooperation with low political and identity barriers facilitates EU integration.

Cosmin CHIRIAC, University of Oradea, Romania, **Florentina CHIRODEA**, University of Oradea, Romania

Abstract. *Monocentric administrative units, polycentric border areas? A look at the Bihor – Hajdú-Bihar Euro-region.* The Bihor and Hajdú-Bihar counties, from both sides of the Romanian – Hungarian border are, in different degrees, monocentric administrative units, as it is shown in this paper. Each one has an administrative centre that is also demographically and economically dominant. They were important urban centres in most of their history and have remained important during the communist era that has dominated Eastern Europe for half a century. In that era, polycentrism was a debated concept revolving around autonomy and control. In this century, Polycentricity is another debated concept, promoted by the European as a means of achieving territorial cohesion throughout the EU.

In this paper, the main question revolves around how much the permeable borders of the EU, though sometimes confronted with national interest, can pave the way to polycentric areas. After a look at the speciality literature to explain the concept and to identify ways to measure it, empirical research will provide an answer to the question of whether the Bihor – Hajdú-Bihar Euro-region is or can be a polycentric area.

Jean-François CLOUZET, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Abstract. *The swiss involvement in the Schengen space: a model to operationalize the Brexit?* Since the advent of the free movement, the task of securing mobility within the EU has shifted the attention of analysts and practitioners from borders between Member States to the external borders of the Schengen area. While the EU external borders are subjected to intensive scholar scrutiny, internal borders remain understudied.

The Schengen area, which is defined by both its internal and external borders, is therefore intrinsically based on a hiatus. For more than 30 years, this space has been built on a series of compensatory measures – permanent or temporary – in the field of security; and two major developments, the enlargement

to 26 members – four associated countries including Switzerland – and the communitarisation of the Amsterdam Treaty.

The internal borders's control constitutes a full domain of the public action; and the border a meeting place of national territories where multiple tensions are applied between the sovereignty and the authority of States. It's the object of an intense reflection both from the point of view of the academic debate¹, think tanks and national central administrations. Above all centred on the outside borders of the European Union, the studies led by the central political authorities focus on the control of the borders and on the consolidation of the usual elements of the compensatory measures - strengthening of the protection of the outside borders-.

The internal borders of the Schengen area, as for them, remained for a long time the poor sibling of the debate concerning the security. This is all the more paradoxical as the Schengen area created de facto the space of internal borders and constitute the place of daily criminality realization.

In the perspective of the Brexit, the security of the internal border area gives rise to multiple options and the opportunity to rebalance this hiatus between free movement and security within this space ². Within this phenomenon of security, Switzerland apply a complex framework of security cooperation; and didn't wish to implement an agreement of cooperation for all borders but choose to define a peculiar agreement to every country.

Based on the methodological framework of action research, and registered in the theoreticalframework of the critical security studies, this paper defends the hypothesis that Switzerlandcan offer a model of cooperation with the European Union in the field of the security whichcould be used in the case of the Brexit by the UK authorities: the security cross-bordercooperation proposes a particular field of the security marked profoundly by the bilateralismand allows us to have a laboratory where the governance of security and crisis reconstruct itselfin a constant way.

Klára CZIMRE, University of Debrecen, Hungary

Abstract. *Cross-border cooperation between border settlements in the Hungarian-Romanian border region: the only way to survive?* Political borders are definite scars which in most cases intensify the sense of separation and division. As a consequence of the favourable political and economic changes taking place in the Central and Eastern European space, borders are no longer regarded only as negative phenomena. In recent years, people living in the border regions got closer to each other, they built good neighbourly relations and they

started to share what they have both physically as well as mentally. This is manifested in various ways and the paper focuses on the results of a research about the intensification of cross-border co-operation along the Hungarian-Romanian border in the past fifteen years. The accession of Hungary and Romania to the European Union in 2004 and in 2007 affected not only the composition of the population living in the border regions but also the accessibility and the development of the settlements. The author calls attention to the most specific area of these border regions, namely the border settlements, namely the settlements which are connected to the border with Romania. The social and economic changes affecting the settlements are examined in the light of the joint projects revealing weaker and stronger relationships in the various fields of cross-border cooperation. There are 53 settlements located directly along the Hungarian-Romanian border with a total population of approximately 150 thousand and an average unemployment rate of 8.2% (2017). The general objective of the Hungary-Romania Cross-Border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013 was to bring the different actors closer to each other, and also to improve the competitiveness and attractiveness of the border area. Altogether 453 projects were financed along the Hungarian-Romanian border of which the border settlements are involved in 115 cases (either as partners or as target settlements). The research looks at the types of projects and their potentials in particular from the aspect of the changes possibly generated by the projects. What are the trends in the changes? What are the causes behind the changes? What are the characteristics of cross-border co-operation in the border region? How did/do cross-border co-operations affect these statistical data? Did/Do they have any impact all? The paper focuses on these issues and tries to offer an explanation on the successful and unsuccessful elements of cross-border co-operation in the Hungarian-Romanian border region.

Cristina DOGOT, University of Oradea, Romania

Abstract: *Border cities in Romania and their participation in cross-border cooperation programmes and projects.* Living in border regions could be a different experience both for citizens and for the public administration of the cities. From west to east, the border cities of Romania are Satu Mare, Oradea, Arad, Timișoara, Drobeta Turnu Severin, Giurgiu, Călărași, Constanța, Mangalia, Tulcea, Galați, Iași, and all of them could benefit by cross-border cooperation programmes are, usually, are involved in cross-border cooperation projects, though not each of them knew the same dynamic in what concerns their participation in these programmes and projects. Amongst these border cities, four

are situated on waterside border and have not terrestrial borders with neighbour states (Drobeta Turnu Severin, Giurgiu, Constanța, Mangalia) or very near by a waterside border (Tulcea), and the programmes dedicated to them, as their projects imply some different characteristics, goals, partnerships, and dynamics. This study will follow the specificities of cross-border cooperation programmes they benefit and projects they are part in of these border cities and their actual dynamic in this process of cross-border cooperation.

Dorin DOLGHI, University of Oradea, Romania

Abstract: *The EU approach in supporting the cross-border emergency situations management.* Within the EU integration process, the borders of the member states have radically changed their meanings, especially related to the physical/territorial conditions on how people, goods and services can be benefit from it. One of the positive experiences represents the capacity of the Union to develop policies and specific mechanisms related to the civilian protection and the EU emergency response capacity. The fundament for an effective crisis management lays on the capacity of the member states to organize its own national specialized structures for intervention and management in a manner that make this resource available to be used beyond the national frontiers, within the EU and its partners. A critical condition in organizing the emergency situations national systems implies the capacity of rapid response and deployment which suggest the potential transnational/cross-border character. In this matter, EU has strongly supported a coherent set of policies and programs, but there are the member states, regional and local authorities, NGO's and other cross-border actors that must approach their needs according to the particular regional/cross-border set of threats, risks and vulnerabilities based on the principle of solidarity as well as the mutual interest.

The paper will focus on the main cooperation legal frameworks, the role of the key institutions and authorities, the common projects, training and simulations, as well as the good practices, although suggesting that there is still much more to do. I propose to present, as a case study, the readiness and the challenges of the Romanian authorities in this matter.

Małgorzata DZIEMBAŁA, University of Economics, Katowice, Poland

Abstract. *The role of the EU cross-border programmes in promotion of inclusive growth- the case of the Polish borderland.* Today the challenge for the EU and its regions is to promote the inclusive growth. As it was

stated in the Europe 2020 strategy “inclusive growth means empowering people through high levels of employment, investing in skills, fighting poverty and modernising labour markets, training and social protection systems so as to help people anticipate and manage change, and build a cohesive society” (Europe 2020, p. 16). The concept of inclusive growth is multidimensional and the key dimensions of inclusion are as follows: economic, spatial and territorial (World Bank 2017). The inclusive growth should be particularly promoted in the cross-border areas which are characterised by different socio-economic potential on each side of the border. The integration of border regions gradually evolves and five stages of their integration could be distinguished (from the closed border regions to the cross-border stage). Each stage is characterised by the gradual intensification of the socio-economic relations in the cross-border area which should also boost the economic growth (Wróblewski 2017). The socio-economic development of the cross-border area seems to be the challenge for the EU cohesion policy. There are investments focusing on the promotion of inclusive growth which are implemented within the European Territorial Cooperation objective and co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund. They cover the following areas: employment and entrepreneurship, health, education and vocational training and others.

The main aim of the paper is to discuss the issue of inclusive growth related to cross-border area and the role of EU cross-border programmes in its promotion on the Polish borderland. The following methods has been used: critical review of the literature and statistical methods.

Eglatina FARRUKU, Epoka University, Albania, **Salih ÖZCAN**, Epoka University, Albania, **Shkelqim LLAGACI**, Lutenant Cornel, Ministry of Defense, Albania.

Abstract. *Forms and factors of child exploitation in Albania.* Since the early 1990s child exploitation has become a highly sensitive issue of national concern. The political transition and changes occurred to the Albanian market economy influenced widely child exploitation issue and made the children a major target for exploitation. As they come from poor families, children and their families are attracted by the fake promises of the exploiters for a better life. Exploitation represents serious threat to the wellbeing of children as their rights and dignity is violated.

This research will highlight and analyses some major points. First, the paper aims to emphasize severity of child exploitation in Albania. Second, it will analyze the forms of child exploitation. Third, the study will examine the factors

contributing to child exploitation in Albania. Furthermore, suggestions will be pointed out to raise awareness on this issue.

This study is based on combining qualitative and quantitative research through data published by the state institutions and other NGOs, media coverage, books, annual reports and official statistics. Furthermore, a survey of 452 participants has been conducted to different target groups involving representatives from central and local government, NGOs, judiciary, academia and media.

The research finds out that there are few officially registered cases of child exploitation. However, the numbers remain so insignificant and unclear, because most of the cases are not identified and registered. In fact, it is quite difficult to calculate the precise number of children exploited as they have been reported differently by NGOs and by the state institutions.

The study concludes that there is a need to reinforce the existing legal framework and the responsible public institutions should develop appropriate policies and programs and implement them efficiently.

Anders FORSELL, Karlstads University, Sweden, **Magnus LINDH** Karlstad University, Sweden

Abstract. *How to preserve and create peaceful cross-border relations in the context of differentiated integration.* As the Brexit process shows, questions on how to preserve and create sustainable peace and friendly relationships in conflict-ridden border regions have come to the fore in the debate of European integration. In a theoretical context of differentiated Europeanisation that acknowledge the dynamics between centralization, functionality and the territorial dimension (Schimmelfennig 2012), this paper explores the mechanisms that may foster more peaceful and harmonious relationships between neighboring communities in cross-border relations.

Building upon historical evidence, on how the breakup of the union between Sweden and Norway in 1905 evolved from a very hostile climate, close to war, to what is now commonly understood as a “border of peace”, we identify important mechanisms that may be of general interest in similar cases of cross-border hostility. Of particular importance to us is how the relationship between neighboring communities between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland may develop in the event of Brexit, and if a “hard border” between the two countries will be realized.

In a report to the Irish Central Border Area Network (2018), individuals on both sides of the Irish border speaks of fear what will happen after Britain has

left the European Union. As the voices from the survey shows, many people fear that old conflicts will rise again, and that the European identity connected to the EU-membership will be replaced by the old national and religious identities, leading to the conflict to erupt once again.

Even if we empirically focus on a particular border region the aim is to contribute to the general debate on how functionally differentiated border-regions in Europe may adopt different strategies on how to develop safe and sustainable neighborhoods.

We use a methodological approach that, as Bartolini (2005), distinguish between “boundaries”, as an analytically concept more narrow than “borders”. Boundary identifies both territorial groups as well as membership groups. This term allow actual physical frontier of historical states that relates to centralized politics of territorial jurisdiction and sovereignty.

Our approach is multidisciplinary in the sense that we acknowledge that political science may benefit from historical knowledge. The case of the breakup of the union between Sweden and Norway shows that former enemies can evolve to friendly neighbors. The history of the border region between Sweden and Norway is marked by wars and conflicts from the middle ages up to the 20th century. In 1814, Norway was forced in to a union with Sweden. In 1905, the Norwegians held a referendum on secession from the union and the anti-unionist side won a landslide. This victory led to a crisis with military rallying at both sides. After negotiations in the late summer 1905, the Swedish government agreed to a breakup of the union. Following some critical events, as the Second World War, Norway joining the NATO and Sweden became a member of the EU, the border is today perceived as “a border of peace” with mutual gains from both sided.

Réka FRIEDERY, HAS, Centre for Social Sciences, Institute for Legal Studies, Hungary

Abstract: *Regional development and emigration from Hungary.* The paper gives an overlook about emigration from Hungary as a factor with changing effects on the country's regional development. Following the EU enlargement, the EU 8 countries' and in 2007, the acceding Romania's and Bulgaria's majority of citizens showed intense interest in the potential working in the EU-15 states. Among Hungarians, there were no particularly keen interest, migration remained relatively modest. The economic potential, the opening borders resulted in a moderate increase, and the lack of mobility was explained by the public opinion with the especially immobile character of the Hungarian population. However, changes in the economic and social situation resulted in rapid responses in the

previously seemingly immobile Hungarian population, refuting the earlier explanation of the immobile character.

At the end of 2010 it seemed that migration decreases which were due to both by the crises affected shrinking job opportunities and the expectations of the Hungarian election, but it appeared to be only short-term and temporary. In addition to the experience of accelerating emigration in 2011, this break merges into the ever-accelerating trend as an almost imperceptible small wave.

It is important to look at which regions of Hungary are involved in migration. First of all, it is striking that Western Hungary is strongly affected by foreign labour work, which is related to the prevalence of cross-border commuting and the overall preference of Austria. On the other hand, there is relationship between the regional labour market status and migration. The accelerated migration also meant that the sources of migration diversified, the emissive regions changed.

Furthermore, according to the 2018 statistical data of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, labour demand has continued to grow last year. Employers reported 79.4 thousand vacancies in the first quarter of 2018 that were vacant, with administrative and service support continuing to account for the largest number of vacancies. There is also a shortage of labour in manufacturing, in trade and in construction. Among the reasons are the shortage of students enrolled in upper secondary education, the wages, and the lack or low rate of atypical forms of employment (e.g. fixed-term contract work, part-time work).

Gabriela GOUDENHOFT, University of Oradea, Romania

Abstract. *Towards more social legitimacy in the European Union: addressing inequalities at the Eastern Border of the EU.* Even in terms of procedure the EU's legal *acquis* and the primacy of union law is fully legitimized and it's rebound it is to be found due the mechanisms of its multi-level governance system, there are some doubts regarding economic inequalities in terms of income, living conditions and working conditions in several regions of the EU. Citizens from the EU, in the name of democracy, in a formal legitimacy mandate their state to negotiate supranational policies, laws and regulations in their behalf.

The European Social Model, where social dialogue has been entrusted with the role of a central pillar, endured some challenges lately and therefor needs to make big efforts balancing the inequalities and addressing a lot of issues as it is youth unemployment, solidarity, poverty and life quality, inclusiveness and so on.

Europe new social agenda and EU social future means has to find way to sustain standards of living, to create more and better jobs, to promote cross-border movements of people regulating social security rights for mobile citizens, on cross-border health care and last but not least recognition of diplomas. A more social Europe means that EU would support Member State action in the area of social convergence for better outcomes.

Ganchimeg GOMBODORJ, University of Debrecen, Hungary, **Erdenechuluun TUMUR**, Wageningen University of Research, The Netherlands

Abstract. *Global meat trade and its impact on the livelihood.* The livestock sub-sector is a traditional economic sector of Mongolia, and this sub-sector plays crucial role in the national economy until recent days. The share of livestock sub-sector accounts 10.7 percent at Gross Domestic Products. Meat is second primary cash income source of herders' households which counts 39.0% percent of annual cash income of rural households. On the other hand, meat is the primary consumption food product of both rural and urban households. At the national level, livestock meat is one of the potential export products after cashmere. Meat export of Mongolia has been increasing rapidly since 2014; it has reached its record in 2018, the highest in the last twenty-eight years. Mongolia has earned 160 million USD from 54.9 thousand tonnes of total meat export in 2018, which in terms of live animals were 4-5 million animals slaughtered for export purposes. Mongolia exported meat and edible meat offal to 17 countries in the period between 2013 - 2018. According to the average figures of this period, China, Iran, Vietnam, Russia are top meat importing countries from Mongolia. In 2018, the share of Mongolia's meat export was more than 70% to China, 11.5% to Vietnam, 6.9% to Russia and 11.6% to other countries. The government of Mongolia supports meat export in two folds, i) increase export income, and ii) improve rangeland degradation issue to decrease the number of livestock that passed already carrying capacity threshold. At the Global level meat export is not only economic decisions of Mongolia. According to the contemporary regional economics theory the country as an economic unit of the global economy, a new growth center of the world. In this context, livestock meat trade of Mongolia interdependent from its trade partner countries as well as Global meat trade. In this context, this study objective to investigate meat export impact on households' livelihood in Mongolia. The objective will interrelate to test which countries are essential for livestock meat export of Mongolia. The research hypothesizes: a) meat export enlargement supports household's income, b) high meat price has a positive impact on herders' household's income but negative

impact on urban household expenditure. The study used secondary data from the national statistical office of Mongolia and Customs office of Mongolia. Twenty-one years' data used for time series, dynamic regression analyses thus model tested against the research hypothesis as selected variables impact on household livelihood. The research results show that increasing export income support both rural and urban household income. Rural households benefit high meat prices in both international and domestic while urban households face difficulties in this price increase. The export potential of Mongolian meat sector will not be successful without support of the Government of Mongolia in area of legal and regulatory frameworks to ensure sufficiently healthy animals and safe products. Investment in improved quality and health of livestock is vital to have high value of meat and meat products in international market. High valued meat export will support livelihood of people in Mongolia.

Vivien GUTI, University of Debrecen, Hungary, **CSAPÓNÉ RISKÓ Tünde**, University of Debrecen, Hungary

Abstract. *Intercultural issues in the Hungarian – Italian business relations.* In a globalised world, even the smallest company has international connections. Input materials come from import; products or services produced by the company can be exported or can serve as input to other products that are sold in a foreign country. In today's business environment, the company has no choice but to face international competition. In this globalised world it is not enough to be a well-trained businessman, thorough knowledge of the specialities and similarities of international markets and foreign cultures is also essential. International managers and marketers often face a dilemma in terms of international and intercultural competence.

As regards the recent WTO statistics (WTO, 2019), Italy was the 9th leading exporter and 11th leading importer in world merchandise trade in 2018. As regards the world trade in commercial services in 2018, Italy was the 14th leading exporter and 12th leading importer. As regards the main export and import partners of Hungary in merchandise trade in 2017, Italy was the 3rd most important export and 8th most important import partner (KSH, 2018). Almost 2.500 Italian companies are operating in Hungary, but cooperation in the field of education and culture have also been continuously improving between the two countries. In 2016 the Hungarian export to Italy amounted to 4,5 billion EUR, while the Italian export to Hungary amounted to 4 billion EUR (Magyaridők, 2017).

The aim of the study is to review the culture and business culture of Italy and Hungary, to explore and analyse the cultural differences between the two

countries based on the culture models of Hofstede, Hall and Lewis. In-depth interviews have been carried out at seven companies in Debrecen (Hungary) having active Italian business connections, partners. The interviews included 25 questions and were carried out in 2018. Results of the in-depth interviews mainly supported the findings of the literature review, but in some cases the results were contradictory.

Ioan HORGA, University of Oradea, România

Abstract. Universities and border regions. Case study: European Union Eastern frontiers. Following the evolution of the border-regions, it can be observed that they have evolved from communities divided by the frontiers to proximity communities. Between these communities there are numerous contacts materialized in socio-economic infrastructure development projects, for knowing the communities situated on both sides of the border, through cross-border tourism or people-to-people projects. These communities from the border regions which were analysed in depth are far from becoming veritable cross-border communities. For reaching a superior level, there is a need for soft-type actions in order to development a veritable socio-professional cross-border community. One of the key actors, in terms of innovation, the creation of socio-professional communities and, not least, in cross-border culture, are the universities.

Starting from these theoretical approaches, in this research we will try to highlight the importance that the universities have in the development process of a veritable cross-border communities at the East side of EU.

Afrim HOTI, University of Prishtina, Kosovo, **Bardhok BASHOTA**, University of Prishtina, Kosovo.

Abstract. The ambiguity of the idea of border change between Kosovo and Serbia as an option for a comprehensive solution. Involving the European Union (EU) in the process of facilitating the negotiation process for the normalization of Kosovo-Serbia relations is one of the most complex activities ever undertaken by the European External Action Service (EEAS). Although the baseline to be followed carefully during this process consisted in not addressing Kosovo's status, nevertheless the format of these negotiations and their final outcome was never known. So, although it was initially warned that this dialogue would be of a technical nature, in the meantime the air slipped into a political format. This situation imposes the need for a specific approach, known as 'creative ambiguity'. Applying this approach had become key to reaching some

politically sensitive agreements, such as the 2013 Normalization of Relations between the two countries, which also envisioned the creation of a legal entity of Serb-majority municipalities in Kosovo. Thereafter, it is argued that when the parties reached an additional agreement in 2015 clarifying the establishment of this entity, then political circumstances within Kosovo arose that called for blocking the implementation of this agreement. Following the stagnation of the process of normalizing relations between the two parties, the EU and other actors like the US began to urge the parties to reach a comprehensive agreement, even with the potential for territorial implications. The launch of the idea of changing borders as an option for a solution between the two sides has produced controversial attitudes on the part of both the EU and the parties to the dialogue. At present such an idea seems to have lost its relevance.

Anatoliy KRUGLASHOV, Chernivtsi Yuriy Fedkovych National University, Ukraine

Abstract. Region-Regionalism-Regional policy: Ukraine's shaping itself from within. Ukraine's statehood faces with a lot of challenges. Overcoming them requires making its regional policy well-defined and consistent. However, the country lacks this policy efficacy and efficiency up to day. The presentation aims at tracing back the way Ukraine travelled from 1991 till now with regard to its domestic policy towards regions and regionalism. The author makes an accent on socio-political and ethno-political dimensions of State-building process vis-à-vis regional threats and demands. He tries to analyze the heritage of Soviet era regional division of the country and Soviet regional policy and their legacy's meaning for nowadays' processes. East-West dichotomy as well as more accurate country divisions' criteria are applied to the studies of Ukraine's regionalization.

Main stages of regional policy reforms, undertaken during last decades, including the failed attempts of changing the administrative-territorial structure of the country have to be generalized. Finally, the most important currentsof decentralization process in Ukraine are regarded also, with pros and cons of preliminarily results of them evaluated. The author applies Europeanization concept and makes some comparison of Ukraine's experience with some other CEE countries. It's important in order to reach conclusions on what Ukraine does gain on its way of making a new regional policy successful, and whatkind of problems remained unresolved as far as country moves closer to the EU.

Donika MALOKU, University of Debrecen, Hungary

Abstract. Recent Hiring Trends in Precision Agriculture: Global Trends. Precision farming is predicted to have a positive impact on increasing the farm output and creating a sustainable production around the world. Precision farming technologies such as: GIS, remote sensing, global positioning system and weather data will need adequate knowledge and skills in order these technologies to be used in an exact manner. Similarly, integration of technology in agriculture has generated new job positions in the market. Hence, through this paper I aim to examine the recent hiring trends in precision agriculture area in a global basis and present the main required job positions offered in the precision agriculture field, considered as the cutting-edge industry in the marketplace. In order to demonstrate the recent hiring trends in PA, the recent job positions posted on LinkedIn employment oriented website were analyzed. Consequently, 654 job positions were used to analyze the recent job positions trends offered in precision agriculture area. As a result, precision agriculture is being recognized more in North America and less in other regions. United States leads in offering jobs in precision agriculture accounting for 85% from the total number of precision agriculture jobs that were offered in LinkedIn. On the other side, France leads in offering jobs in EU. Simultaneously, 64% of precision agriculture offered jobs are entry-level and 65% of precision agriculture offered jobs are full time jobs. Cross tabulation tool was used to analyze the relationship between country and employment type. We can observe that except the USA, in all other countries, jobs offered in precision agriculture area are only full-time positions. On the contrary, in the USA, precision agriculture companies are also offering precision agriculture jobs with contract, part-time, temporary and internship positions. Due to the increase in the use of precision agriculture technologies, there is a high demand for precision agriculture specialists and sales specialists. These two job positions are commonly demanded nowadays, and same results were also shown based on the data on LinkedIn.

MÉSZÁROS Edina Lilla, University of Oradea, Romania

Abstract. The Visegrad Group: the new growth engine of the EU? Recently, Viktor Orbán, the prime minister of Hungary in one of his speeches argued that nowadays Central Europe (including the Visegrad 4 countries) is not only the fastest growing prominent region of Europe, but also the most important one, with a bright future ahead. He has based his affirmations on the prevailing statistics, which show a sharp increase in the economies of the so-called Visegrad group, registering an average of 3.57% GDP growth, contrasted with only a 0.5%

GDP growth in case of Germany and a 1.5% GDP growth in case of Austria. Moreover, in recent years, the V4 countries have strengthened the existent partnership amongst them, deliberately adopting common agendas and a common stance, attempting on various occasions to make their voices heard at Brussels. Accordingly, the current article is aimed at assessing whether the Central European quartet that makes up the Visegrad Group has the potential of becoming the new growth engine of the European Union, turning into a regional economic cluster with a distinct sub-EU identity? We shall attempt to evaluate the potential of the V4 by using the *small states theory* contrasted with the *cluster* and the *regional development theories*. In our endeavour to realize a genuine assessment of the economic performance of the countries making up the V4, we shall further take into consideration the existent criticism formulated by various specialists on regarding only the GDP as the key indicator to express the economic growth within a state or a region, also considering factors related to societal development, such as the HDI or the purchasing power parity. The analysis will be carried out on multiple levels, assessing: the economic performance of the group, the flow of FDI; its defence expenditure and stance on defence related issues and migration; its power-broker and negotiating capacity within the EU institutions (see also current EU elections); its level of cohesion according to the EU Cohesion Monitor; the rate of absorption of EU funds; the initiation of various extra-EU economic collaborations with countries like China, India and Japan) and position towards Russia. This multi-level analysis is imperative if we want to see the long-term sustainability of the V4 group's economic growth and even its potential of turning into a powerful regional brand.

Ekaterina MIKHAYLENKO, Ural Federal University, Russia

Abstract. *EU-Russia cross-border cooperation: prospects of development.* Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) is a key element of the EU policy towards its neighbours. It supports sustainable development along the EU's external borders, helps reducing differences in living standards and addressing common challenges across these borders. In January 2019 the Russian Federation and the European Union signed Agreements on the financing and implementation of cross-border cooperation programs "Russia - Lithuania" and "Russia - Poland". Program budget for the period 2014 - 2020 is 88 million euros. Thus, the number of cross-border cooperation programs between Russia and the EU increased to seven (in 2016, programs were signed with Latvia, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Estonia).

Relations between the EU and the Russian Federation have deteriorated sharply amid Russian interference in Ukrainian affairs, starting in 2014. Mutual distrust increased, while many activities on the development of cooperation were disrupted. The aim of the paper is to analyze what type of cross border cooperation exist between Russia and EU; how the cooperation in this field has changed since 2014; what factors influenced on the Russian-EU cross border cooperation; and which areas were particularly affected by and which were more resilient? The article argues that cross-border cooperation remains one of the important forms of EU-Russia cooperation and can become the basis for the development of future dialogue between the EU and the Russian Federation as a whole.

Małgorzata MYL, University of Silesia, Poland, **Bogdan-Nicolae MUCEA**
University of Bucharest, Romania

Abstract. *National borders – limitation for human rights protection?*

The migration phenomenon has been present since ancient times in Europe, in recent times, migration to Europe has increased and discussions at a high level have started to become tense. The discussions were held not only in the scientific or political field but also in the media field. Some of the leaders in European Union states sought to use the issue of migration to stoke fear and increase their support at the poll. It seems that the simple truth was forgotten – the central point of the discussion should be the human being values such as human dignity, life, security or freedom. Migration is an integral part of the globalization process and world leaders need to face an uneasy task – to ensure that migrations are carried with full respect for human rights. It must be guaranteed that fundamental rights are fully respected and protected at national borders.

Raluca VIMAN - MILLER, University of North Georgia, USA

Abstract. *Russia, good neighbor, bad neighbor? The Russian foreign policy and its global partners.* Vladimir Putin strives to regain the West's recognition of what he calls 'geopolitical relevance'. While strengthening relations with non-Western partners, on the Western side he engages in a more assertive foreign policy determined to demonstrate the power he can project at continental level. Russia and the West have obvious conflicting foreign policy goals. While Russia perceives the West as noncollaborative and unwilling to team up, the Western partners see Russia as a newly developing threat not only for the borders of the challenged European Union but for the rest of the global status-quo. The Russian, European, Atlantic relations post Medvedev's presidency entered a new era and they must be redefined and analyzed given the changing

context of a European Union weakened by an economic crisis followed by the migration crisis, a US electoral cycle that brought to power a populist candidate whose message was to withdraw the US from ‘unnecessary’ overseas involvement and a Russia redefined by the Putin presidency with assertive gestures not only in the Middle East (Syria) but close home in its regional backyard, Ukraine (Crimea). Russia acts domestically and internationally as an entity under ‘attack’ and proclaims that the recent Western economic sanctions do nothing else but prove the intentions of this new Cold War. In the case of the US-Russia relations the direction intended at normalizing relations initially declared by the two leaders took a different path leading to new sanctions against Russia triggered by its behavior in the international arena. In Europe, Russia plays a two-path game maintaining a working relationship with the EU yet opening doors and encouraging populist candidates whose message is one anti-migration and Euroscepticism. The energy dependent European partners maintain a dialog despite Russia proven interventions in their domestic electoral process. Meanwhile NATO continues to increase its presence on the outskirts of the former USSR territory and conducts strategic exercises with Eastern partners on regular bases. A natural consequence is Russia’s turn to non-Western partners and increased efforts at creating new economic and military alliances meant to strengthen its position in the world. These new developments are a clear attempt of Russia to connect with allies that value its intent at preserving its re-found great power status and its interests geared at preserving the traditional values of the nation-state in an increasingly globalized world. Russia’s read of the new global agenda sets it in a difficult position. Its economic dependency on natural resources and hence, the prices dictated by the global markets coupled with sanctions trigger domestic economic crises. These in turn send mixed signals internally which then develop consequently a wave of support for power strong attitudes proven by the landslide win of the illiberal forever executive branch representative Vladimir Putin. How much responsibility should the rest of the global actors take regarding the Russian attempts at recreating its power presence in the global arena?

Lucia PANTEA, “Babeş – Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, **Mircea BRIE**, University of Oradea, Romania

Abstract. *The sustainable development strategy of Bihor County. The role of international cooperation.* Methodologically, our work aims to be an analysis directed on two main levels: regional development and international cooperation. This theoretical and conceptual analysis is performed by conducting

a case study on Bihor County. Thus, in the center of our debates we place the strategy of sustainable development for the period 2021-2027, with references having evaluation roles over the previous period of 7 years. Our interest is to follow and explain the role of international cooperation in the process of regional development in more detail, at county level, but also in a cross-border context (considering the geographical positioning in the proximity of the border). At Bihor County level, the Strategy for sustainable development of Bihor County for the period 2014-2020 is still being implemented, with a view to a unitary and coherent development and objectives established with the consultation of the public and of the administrative-territorial units. It is now imperative to draw up the strategy for the next budgetary programming period of the European Union. To implement this document, it is necessary to ensure an internal budgetary management and programming of the institution, together with the subordinated units, for the medium term. In order to achieve the objectives, set and the implementation of the activities, it is also imperative to have a well-trained staff, with a high level of knowledge and experience, and with skills and abilities that are constantly developed.

One of the strategic objectives of the Bihor County strategy for sustainable development 2014-2020 was defined as “Development of public services and administrative capacity”. This can be achieved both by increasing the quality of the services offered by the local and county public institutions, as well as by promoting the collaboration between the public and the private sector. To the same extent, in addressing transversal issues, the County Council can assume the role of facilitator for creating partnerships between institutions and structures that address such challenges in an integrated and efficient way.

The next step in performing strategic management is the ability to implement the strategy and meet the strategic goals set. The Institutional Strategic Plan (ISP) will be a management and internal budget programming document of the Bihor County Council, developed in accordance with the Bihor County Sustainable Development Strategy, targeting the period: 2021-2027.

In this paper we propose to develop a plan for a guide on developing international relations / cooperation. The purpose of this guide is to provide an instrument for enhancing the theoretical and practical competencies regarding local, regional, interregional, transnational, cross-border, international partnerships and cooperation development.

POLGÁR István, University of Oradea, Romania

Abstract. *Intercultural dialogue and corporate identity. Tools for promoting cross-border employment in the Romanian-Hungarian cross-border region.* During the process of integration and development, a set of functional values were being built in the European Union, from which freedom has assumed the role of polarization of all normative and institutional approaches within the community.

Along with the enlargement process of the European Union, there have been numerous transformations, regarding internal, respectively external borders, socio-economic and political transformations. These changes not only reveal new horizons and opportunities in the regional development process, but also come with many potential problems and tensions.

In an enlarged Europe there is a need for long-term commitments, there is a need to support local and regional cross-border cooperation initiatives. All of this can be achieved through comprehensive cooperation that transcends political, economic and cultural lines of separation and addresses socio-economic disparities, political tensions and potential conflicts of interest.

The new research perspectives have contributed to a different perception of borders, which are now largely understood to be multi-faceted social institutions, rather than simple markers of state sovereignty.

The geographical mobility of the labor force in the EU member states, both in terms of transnational migration and cross-border transport, has remained relatively low so far. The theme of labor market mobility is of particular importance in border regions, as it is part of the daily life of citizens to cross the border, either to reach their jobs or for leisure purposes.

Irina POP, University of Oradea, Romania

Abstract. *Xenophobia and racism in a trans-borders public sphere.* The study attempts to figure out the content of the xenophobia and racism in a trans-borders region Western Romania - Eastern Hungary a trans-Schengen area, and a special common public sphere structured by a common culture, with roots in the same language, the Hungarian and with a public culture influenced by the Hungarian tendencies.

Firstly, it defines the major themes related with the xenophobia and racism' revival, their European patterns, and stages, with the striking literature related with them, at the global level.

Secondly, tries to monitor one of them, namely *Immigration and Identity*, in the two small villages situated across the Schengen border, in West Romania and East Hungary. The villages are chosen to be out of the influences of relocation of the Romanians in Western Hungary. They are: *Valea lui Mihai* and *Vámospércs*.

It is monitoring the media that impacts the two villages' Public spheres during the immigration crisis October 2015 and October 2019. It is trying to decipher the messages sent – anti-immigration in general, Islamophobic and anti-Semitic.

It measures the levels of xenophobia in two types of the public attitudes among the two linguistic spheres: a) the expression of the anti-immigrants, anti-Islamic and anti-Semitic' feelings in the social media, forums especially; b) the votes for supporting the political parties or movements which call to xenophobia and racism.

The findings expected are: that the trans-borders confluences take the linguistic roots and then the proximity's roots; that they go not only to the pro-European values, but also against them.

Simion ROȘCA, Moldavian Institut of International Relations, Republic of Moldova.

Abstract. *The impact of European cultural capital on the modernization and development of cross-border areas between the European Union and the Eastern Partnership countries.* The culture – taken in a broad sense everything that defines one's own image, or in a more accessible form as a summation of our expressiveness – flourishes based on the tension caused by political and social changes. The task of modern government is to encourage political or private exploitation of culture, in its forms and variations, without using it to agitate the potential for the division of culture for political purposes. Along the way, culture can make a significant contribution, even if incidentally, to the economic and social well – being of the state. It can be a useful industry. It is the heart of humanistic education. It can glorify times and inspire daily life. It can be preservative of the patrimony, in a private or in a collective way. Culture cannot do everything governments want and rarely as quickly as they want, but without the cultural tools the task of improving the quality of life would be endlessly difficult. Culture is at the heart of the European project and is the key to the principle of "unity in diversity" of the European Union. Respecting cultural diversity combined with the ability to gather around common values has been the guarantee of the peace, prosperity and solidarity

that the European Union enjoys. In the age of globalization, culture can make an unique contribution to an European strategy for smart, environmentally friendly and inclusive growth, promoting stability, mutual understanding and cooperation at the borders of the European Union with the Eastern Partnership countries.

SZABOLCS Mátyás, National University of Public Service in Budapest, Hungary

Abstract. Possibilities of cross-border cooperation in tourism safety. Possibilities of cross border cooperation in tourism safety. As you know, cross border cooperation has many types. Despite the fact that hundreds of thousands of tourists travel from the neighbouring countries, tourism safety is one of the least analysed fields of cross border cooperation. This is particularly true of Hajdú-Bihar – Bihor Euroregion. The tourism in both county centers represent significant portions of thier national tourism, as both counties have spectacles that attracts tourists from the neighbouring countries, too. The large number of tourists coming from the neighbouring countries urges both Hungarian and Romanian authorities to ensure these tourists feel safe, since tourists not feeling safe can have very negative effect on tourism and economoics, too. Therefore, the police headquarters of Hajdú-Bihar and Bihor counties have had a multivariuous law enforcement cooperation since decades. One of the most significant forms of the cooperation is the presence of patrols from the neighbouring countres in the tourist season in both counties.

Loretta SĂLĂJAN, University of Oradea, Romania

Abstract. Ontological insecurity and imagined borders: a study of attitudes towards immigrants in Central-Eastern Europe. This paper draws on the interdisciplinary literature of ontological (in)security to analyze the attitudes towards immigrants, exhibited by some European Union (EU) member states from Central and Eastern Europe since 2015. Ontological security has been concerned with the dynamic processes by which individuals, communities and states seek to articulate consistent selves through time and space, as well as seek to have those selves verified or recognized by others. States try to secure themselves by promoting self narratives, which offer meaning for past and current behaviour. Research has shown that ontological security is as crucial to states as physical security. Consequently, state insecurity and anxiety stem not only from potential physical threats like armed conflict or material losses. Such fears also derive from prospective change and new developments that challenge a state's identity and self narratives.

The surging phenomenon of international migration and the refugee crisis have questioned the ontological security of EU members, particularly that of border states. The reason is that ontological (in)securities remain closely linked to a “national fantasy” where borders have been imagined as bounded space, despite ample evidence to the contrary (Cash and Kinnvall, 2017). The varying degrees of negative attitudes towards immigrants are responses originating in ontological anxieties about change and how the influx of people will affect the states’ long held narratives. These negative reactions have been very intense in the case of some EU members from Central and Eastern Europe, since postcommunist societies struggle more so with social change in general. The newer EU members have had less time to consolidate their identity narratives and tend to have more homogenous communities, which makes them especially prone to ontological insecurity when confronted with change and difference.

Reina Zenelaj SHEHI, Epoka University, Albania, **Dea BASHKURTI**, Epoka University, Albania

Abstract. *Regional security and conflict management revisited: the experience of Western Balkans.* This paper discusses the importance of incorporating conflict management methods as part of the Western Balkan countries security policy strategies in order to construct long- term, sustainable peace and regional cooperation. IR mainstream theories suggest that national security is the prior goal of each state and nation state is the main actor in international affairs. However, the current developments in the region and the EU enlargement approach requests from countries to redefine their security not on limits of nation- state interests but on regional basis.

The literature on international conflict management proposes that characteristics of parties and the existence of intractability may define the course of conflict management. Furthermore, it argues that rivals of protracted conflict do not often welcome the diplomatic efforts of third parties as mediators.

The historical background of the Western Balkans, state’s bilateral relations and inter community ties favored short term nation- state interests at the expense of long term regional stability and reconciliation. Thus this paper developed the hypothesis that Western Balkan states do not still have the capability of involving conflict management methods within national security strategy frameworks on their own due to their problematic past relations and still very high nationalistic feelings, however they can realize it as a precondition of EU accession process. Western Balkans state behavior against disputes with any of their regional partners from 2013 until mid 2019 have been analyzed and coded

under categories of conflict management theories. It identified all cases in which bilateral and multilateral methods have been applied and also look at in how many of these cases states have done it as a requirement of the EU integration process or through the direct involvement of EU representatives.

Findings give contradictory results. More specifically, EU intervention proved to make a positive impact in Greece- Macedonian conflict, it faced with numerous critiques and challenges in regard to Serbia- Kosovo situation. As a conclusion, while variables of intractability and third party mediator are the same, it is the characteristics of the parties that make the difference in the outcome. Thus, regional conflict management cannot happen with a third party intervention alone, unless an internal conflict transformation process happens.

Sergii SHVYDIUK, Chernivtsi Yuriy Fedkovych National University, Ukraine

Abstract. *Prospects of the cross-border cooperation intensification of the Chernivets Region in the decentralization context.* The Chernivtsi region borders Romania and Moldova, so the main cross-border contacts and cooperation take place with these countries. However, it should be noted that since the late 1990s, the development of cross-border cooperation (CBC) in the Chernivtsi region has developed sporadically, usually on the basis of bilateral contacts and on the predominant initiative of the Romanian and Moldovan parties. Such an institutional form of CBC as the “Upper Prut” Euroregion has proved to be an ineffective tool for productive interaction, at least for the Ukrainian side.

Nevertheless, in some local communities CBC was quite intensive. Chernivtsi region has been partaking into a number of technical assistance projects under PHARE, TACIS, as well as the current EaPTC Moldova-Ukraine Cooperation Program and Romania-Ukraine Joint Operational Program, after the implementation of the latter. However, most part of the local communities, their representative and executive bodies did not use the CBC capabilities at full. The reasons for this were:

- communities are used to solve problems by getting state subsidies;
- weak motivation of them to look for new forms of attracting resources, including technical assistance;
- the project approach, and especially participation in cross-border projects, was the exception rather than the rule for their management;
- lack of qualified personnel, accordingly specialists with required knowledge and practical skills of preparing and implementing of CBC projects;
- communities face with a deficit of their own resources in order to contribute a mandatory share of funding;

- quite often the decision of the authorities on co-financing is made too late for the sake of the project.

Therefore, most projects in the Chernivtsi region were prepared, won and implemented by public organizations or institutions, such as hospitals and NGO's, to a lesser extent by local state administrations or self-government bodies.

During the first phase of decentralization, which is currently underway in Ukraine in the Chernivtsi region, 37 amalgamated territorial communities (ATC) have already been formed. Among the direct benefits of unification for their residents are the direct relationship with the state budget, as well as influx of some additional financial resources, which increase their own revenues, alongside with the governmental infrastructural subsidies.

The cross-border cooperation can be an indirect advantage for ATC.

We believe that the prerequisites for intensification of CBC are the following:

- availability of resources for co-financing of projects in ATC;
- the community's human resources have to be increased;
- ATC participation in CBC programs and projects increases the number of beneficiaries, which rises up the chances of such projects to get funding.

At the same time, this potential can be reinforced, should a set of conditions will be met, namely:

- Solving the problem of project management in communities. In particular, there is a hope that ATC are interested in participating in various training programs and workshops on project preparation and management.

- Inclusion of the problems supported by the operational programs to the ATC Development Strategies. It is worth noting that not all of communities have developed and adopted their Development Strategies. Those ones already adopted them have paid little attention to CBC.

- State coordination of CBC, in particular within the framework of governmental regional policy, should become more effective. In this context the adoption of a new Regional Development Strategy of the Chernivtsi region for 2021-2027, which has to be developed on the basis of smart specialization is serious a challenge. Monitoring the progress of its development in the Chernivtsi region shows that the very procedure of developing this document has little to do with the principles of smart specialization and it is difficult to predict how good this document will be.

At the same time, it should be noted that considerable interest in the successful development of ATC capacities, including CBC issues, is identified and observed with practical assistance by the Ministry of Regional Development,

the Local Government Development Center, the U-LEAD Program “Ukraine with Europe”, the Regional Development Agency, and of course our partners from Romania and Moldova.

Reuf SHKODRA, University of Debrecen, Hungary

Abstract. Profitability of dairy farms in Central Kosovo. This research is conducted with a sample of dairy farmers in Central Kosovo, respectively in the region of Pristina, beneficiaries of direct payments for milk quality. It is aimed to provide a better understanding of the operations of those farm, and also to measure their competitiveness by using profitability ratios.

In Kosovo the average production goes up to 3050l, while in the sampled farms the average was 4480l. Holstein Frisian and Simmental are the most used cow breeds in Kosovo, and also in this study. Sample is derived from list of beneficiaries' farms of direct payments for milk quality in the Central Kosovo, respectively region of Pristina. Results showed that mid-size farms (10-25 heads) and large farms (25< heads), tend to have the higher profitability and efficiency then small farms (1-10 heads). Generally, all farms had low labour productivity, and low asset turnover. Feed cost has the highest share in total cost (up to 72%). With given cost of production (av. 0.25 Euro), and selling price (av. 0.30 Euro), direct payments contribute with 21.4% in incomes from milk sold.

Alina STOICA, University of Oradea, Romania

Abstract. Cultural Networks platform for cooperation in the European Union Borders. The transition of culture from classical and conservative aspects to assuming the role of socio-economic cohesion factor, felt especially in the last period, changes the agendas of many actors on the international stage. Among them, the European Union includes culture among the areas for which it develops policies and creates tools that ensure cultural development. However, these initiatives are influenced by the issues and interests of the Member States, on the basis of the subsidiarity principle, according to which national policies prevail over cultural competences.

The diversity of forms of expression and the interdependence of the different components of culture, such as essays and the case of cultural networks, generate bridges between the layers of society (vertically) or between communities (horizontally). These allow individuals or groups to envision a future in relation to the past and present or to redefine the "architecture of the value model". We are not referring to the "hard core of fundamental traits", but to the

"related values" influenced by the universalization and uniformity of images and ideas promoted by the media and cultural industries. The fundamental values are not touched by the phenomenon of cultural homogenization; instead, their permanence contributes to maintaining cultural diversity in Europe.

In this context, the study aims to highlight a mechanism for creating cultural networks within the framework offered by the European Union.

Luminița ȘOPRONI, University of Oradea, Romania

Abstract. *The Competitive Agglomeration, Pole of Economic Growth.* The global competition determines the states and regions to follow the industrial policy based on the competitive agglomerations (clusters), which supports and increases their economic competitiveness. The cluster policy allows the consideration of local development conditions and the implementation of growth programs that contribute to the economic growth and the establishment of a balanced social environment. Therefore, it is obvious that current economic policies are reorienting towards the microeconomic elements of development, as the economic climate and the legal framework are no longer sufficient to achieve economic progress.

Nino TABESHADZE, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia

Abstract. *EU Border: divider or unifier?* In the world of increased liberal democracies and witnessing the growth of strong civic institutions we see many countries striving to be part of European Space. From birds-eye view European Union might look as a homogeneous organization seeking partners in like-minded states. However, European Union as an international organization encompasses 28 different countries with diverse culture and ethnic backgrounds. At first glance, one might assume that the border of European Union is strictly defined but the activity of EU in Eastern region, makes eastern countries hope for having a chance for membership one day. European Union supports the concept of inclusive growth via developing of different institutions of vital importance. In this sense the border of EU becomes divider of the countries of Europe from other non-European space. But if we look at the EU border from different perspective: it is a unifier of many different communities under one umbrella of shared values, open market and respect for human rights.

In this regard, Georgia has been striving to develop its democratic institutions and market policy as well as to give equal opportunities to every citizen. Additionally, I will discuss the tangible results of Regional Development

Program 2015-2017, which was the first of its kind strategic document on regional policy in Georgia co-financed through the budget support scheme by the EU. Implementation of the Program allowed for realization of many concrete projects increasing capacity to growth of regions outside Tbilisi and Adjara and contributed to increase in institutional capacity of Georgian Administration especially in such areas like programming interinstitutional coordination and monitoring of regional policy implementation; Georgia as a serious regional actor presents the forerunner in many reforms in Caucasus region. Regional policy in Georgia is now gaining momentum as an important area of cooperation under the Association Agreement and the Single Support Framework 2017–2020, which define the priorities for EU support in Georgia.

The path of Georgia has been determined long before, in 1999 when back then parliament speaker Zurab Zhvania pronounced historical words 'I am Georgian and therefore, I am European'. This became the first step towards Georgia's road in European Union.

TRÓN Zsuzsanna, University of Debrecen, Hungary, **TÓTH Eszter** University of Debrecen, Hungary

Abstract. *How the EU's regional policy works: development of the outermost regions as good examples.* We were interested how EU's regional development works in reality in the regions lagging behind. We have found a special group of regions, where the EU could help the most. These regions were the "ORs", the most remote regions of the European Union (known as the outermost regions, ORs). They are an integral part of the EU, although they are located at a significant geographical distance from the European continent. The *acquis communautaire* is fully applicable in their territory: they have to comply with the obligations and responsibilities of EU membership and have to play according to the rules of the common policies of the European Union. They do not, therefore, apply to the European Development Policy (which seeks to foster the sustainable development of developing countries outside the EU) but rather to the EU's regional policy or cohesion policy (which aims to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion). The purpose of this study is to examine how the EU policy can help regions with special needs and our findings can be a valid asset for any other cross-border cooperation inside the European Union.

Constantin-Vasile ȚOCA, University of Oradea, Romania

Abstract. *Evaluation of the regions at the Romanian - Hungarian border.* The Romanian-Hungarian border was a closed one before 1989. With 1990 the Romanian-Hungarian border acquires other connotations, which can be quantified through an opening border and we can discuss the transition to cross-border collaboration relations. Thus, at the border between Romania and Hungary, new forms of cross-border cooperation are emerging, these being the Euroregions: Bihor Euroregion - Hajdu Bihar, Carpathian Euroregion, Danube Euroregion – Criș – Mureș - Tisza. At the Romanian-Hungarian border we can identify a different elements of cooperation through: Regional Development Policy, Cross-Border Cooperation Programs or EGTCs. The Regional Development Policy offers a number of possibilities for cross-border cooperation, especially after Hungary 2004 and Romania 2007 become member countries of the European Union and cross-border programs are implemented: Hungary - Romania Cross-border Cooperation Program 2007-2013, Interreg VA 2014-2020.

One of the newest forms of territorial cooperation since 2004 is the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC). Our approach to study the Romanian-Hungarian border will be oriented through the analysis of territorial territorial units such as: development regions, counties, cities / communities and Euroregions (but this is not considered a NUTS).

Based on the research I will try to demonstrate through the results identified at the level of the analyzed units the degree of cross-border cooperation that aims at sustainable development in the area, as well as increasing the quality of life of the citizens in the studied area.

Vladislav VOLKOV, Baltic International Academy, Latvia

Abstract. *Interethnic communication in Latvia: resources and restrictions.* The purpose of the article is to show the resources and restrictions interethnic communication in Latvia. The sociological research was part of a project "Gender, Culture and Power: Diversity and Interactions in Latvia and Norway" (2016). For Latvia, as a traditional multi-ethnic country, the question of influence of different ethnic groups' identities on the common sphere of public communication, including disputes about the issues of the state ethnic policy, is extremely relevant. Interethnic communication is a very complex social phenomenon. On the one hand, it is an important way of achieving mutual understanding between ethnic groups, when these groups communicate as equal partners. In order to ensure such equal dialogue, ethnic groups are guided by the

principles of political equality and universal moral norms. But on the other hand, interethnic communication expresses the status differences between ethnic groups and institutionalized differences between the ethno-national majority and ethnic minorities. The expressed ethno-social stratification stimulates the fragmentation of civic culture and enhances the relativity of morality depending on the evaluation of "us" and "they". However, interethnic communication does not fully reflect these fixed statuses of various ethnic groups. It is dynamic and selective, facilitating only part of the content of the institutional differences between ethnic groups.

Inter-ethnic communication is not only aimed at forming solidarity among the representatives of different ethnic groups based on the recognition of their equal status in a pluralistic society. Such communication also reproduces institutional differences between the ethnic majority and ethnic minorities, which very often limits the possibility of recognizing the identity of ethnic minorities as a form of national identity. The conducted sociological research shows that the public consciousness in Latvia is more focused not on the recognition of the equal status of the identities of the ethnic majority and minorities, but on the reproduction of institutional differences between them. The most important indicator of full inter-ethnic communication is the discussion, and not the neglect of problems in ethnic equality, which claim any ethnic groups. The materials of sociological research suggest the opposite. In the minds of the ethnic majority there is no expressed need to discuss problems with ethnic equality that accentuate ethnic minorities.

Craig WILLIS, European Centre for Minority Issues, Germany

Abstract: *National minorities and regional development: a comparative overview of the three Baltic States.* This article is a mapping exercise of the minority communities in the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, with regard to the regional development within the countries. Using census data combined with a series of regional development indicators from Eurostat and OECD Regional Well-Being, an overview of each of the countries' regions at the NUTS Level 3 is provided, as well as a comparison across all three. This research finds, through a series of bivariate regression analyses, that within and across all three countries, there is no statistical linear relationship between the percentage of minority population in a region and multiple indicators of regional development – including GDP. Rather, the main dividing line is between capital city regions and the rest of the country/s. Yet, in peripheral regions, the regional development indicators show that regions with a large minority

population are not necessarily any worse off than other peripheral regions which have a low minority population – particularly the case in Lithuania. This offers some evidence that a large minority population is not a hindrance to a region's development. Nonetheless, the research provides an overview of the challenges in which many regions home to a large percentage of minorities possess, particularly in the areas with a high ethnically Russian population percentage. Thus, this article concludes by identifying patterns and outliers of regions in order for intensified and comparative further case study research at the micro level.