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## **CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AS A FACTOR OF DEVELOPMENT OF BORDERING TERRITORIES**

### **WSPÓŁPRACA TRANSGRANICZNA JAKO CZYNNIK ROZWOJU OBSZARÓW SĄSIEDNICH PAŃSTW**

### **ТРАНСГРАНИЧНОЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО КАК ФАКТОР РАЗВИТИЯ ПРИГРАНИЧНЫХ ТЕРРИТОРИЙ**

#### **Abstract**

*The paper is dedicated to the role and place of cross-border cooperation in supporting sustainable development of neighboring bordering territories of the Carpathian region and member-states of the European Union. The comparative analysis of the indicators showing social and economic development of the regions of neighboring states from the countries on both sides of the border has been conducted. The ethnic affinity is underlined as an important element of development of cross-border cooperation. The need is substantiated in activation of cross-border cooperation through boosting integration and convergence processes with aim to provide balanced development of bordering territories.*

**Keywords:** *cross-border cooperation, integration, convergent processes, neighboring states, bordering territories.*

#### **Streszczenie**

*W artykule opisano rolę i miejsce współpracy transgranicznej w zakresie wspierania zrównoważonego rozwoju sąsiednich państw odnośnie terytoriów graniczących z regionu karpackiego i krajów członkowskich Unii Europejskiej. Przeprowadzono analizę porównawczą na podstawie wskaźników przedstawiających społeczny i gospodarczy rozwój regionów sąsiednich państw w obszarach przygranicznych. Wskazano, że kwestia pochodzenia etnicznego ludności jest istotnym czynnikiem rozwoju współpracy transgranicznej. Autorka sugeruje potrzebę aktywizacji współpracy transgranicznej poprzez pobudzanie procesów integracji i konwergencji w celu zapewnienia zrównoważonego rozwoju obszarów graniczących sąsiednich państw.*

**Słowa kluczowe:** *transnarodowa współpraca, integracja, procesy zbieżne, sąsiednich państw, terytoriów graniczących.*

#### **Аннотация**

*В статье обоснованы роль и место трансграничного сотрудничества в обеспечении устойчивого развития смежных приграничных территорий*

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*Карпатского региона и стран-членов Европейского Союза. Осуществлен сравнительный анализ индикаторов социально-экономического развития областей сопредельных государств по обе стороны границы. Отмечено весомую составляющую развития трансграничного сотрудничества - этническую близость населения приграничных территорий. Обоснована необходимость активизации трансграничного сотрудничества усиления интеграционных и конвергентных процессов с целью обеспечения сбалансированного развития приграничных территорий.*

***Ключевые слова:** трансграничное сотрудничество, интеграция, конвергентные процессы, сопредельные страны, приграничные территории.*

**Introduction.** The processes of integration and convergence of Central European countries into the European Union caused the changes of geopolitical and geo-economic situation at the European continent. This necessitates adjustment of the EU policy concerning the countries of the ultimate neighborhood. From this point, renewing of strategic perspectives of cross-border cooperation development of the EU acquires special importance. In particular, this concerns the new strategy of cross-border cooperation between neighboring territories of the countries of the Carpathian region, based on European principles, including the implementation of requirements providing for sustainable ecologically balanced development of the territories. The task of developing new instrument for supporting and financing joint cross-border projects is especially urgent for bordering regions of the Carpathian region and their communities, as since May 2004 they have gained a status of ultimate neighbors of the enlarged EU. The Southwestern regions of Ukraine have the similar status since 2007 when Romania and Bulgaria became members of the EU, as well as Croatia in 2013.

**Results of study.** The Carpathian region has a special role in forming approaches to cross-border cooperation, while Transcarpathia may be come a launch area for working out possible mechanisms and forms of cooperation between Ukraine and the EU. It is caused by the fact, that since 2004 Transcarpathia is situated at the border with three member-states of the EU (Hungary, Slovakia and Poland), and since 2007 – with the fourth state (Romania), which gained the membership.

Bordering territories of Transcarpathia and neighboring states, from the point of geography,

comprise a compact cross-border euro region, united with complementary structure of economy, traditional ethnic and external economic connections, both as with common problems, in particular in the context of balanced development, which could be effectively solved due to cross-border cooperation.

At the same time, the scientific sources do not give strict division in the levels of the regions of the state sunder cross-border cooperation, therefore suggesting the classification of the regions under this cooperation is appropriate [B. Dyachenko, M. Palinchak, M. Gazuda, L. Gazuda 2010, s. 114-122; V. Miklovda, L. Gazuda, B. Dyachenko, O. Lyzanets 2012]:

- *First level* – neighboring bordering regions of bordering states according to their administrative units;
- *Second level* – regions located beyond the bordering regions of the first level;
- *Third level* – regions located beyond the territories of the second level of neighboring states;
- *Fourth level* – regions of next countries beyond the borders of the neighboring states.

The study of neighbor ship of bordering regions of the first level of states bordering with Ukraine (except for the south-western part) [O. Osaulenko 2014, s. 23, 310, 499-500] shows that the area of Hungary is more then 6,5 times smaller than the area of Ukraine. The bordering regions of the first level of cross-border cooperation include Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén regions. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg region is situated in the north-eastern part of the Republic of Hungary and borders with three countries: Slovakia on the

north (5 km of border), Ukraine on the north-east (136,6 km), Romania at the south-east (93,5 km). The area is more than 5,9 thousand of square kilometers, that is 6,4 % of the total area of the country and the sixth place respectively among the regions of Hungary. There are 229 settlements at the territory of the region. The density of population was 99 persons per 1 square kilometer that is 10 persons less than the average state level. 47,0 % of population lives in cities, low natural growth of population is typical for the region. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén region somewhat exceeds the Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg region as of the territory and number of population.

Second level of cross-border cooperation includes four regions of the Republic of Hungary-Hajdú-Bihar, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, Heves, Nógrád, and the third level includes the rest regions of the country.

The borders of Transcarpathian region coincide with the state border of Ukraine and Slovakia with the total length of 98,5 km, and the area of Slovakia is 12,3 times lesser than the territory of our country. Kosice and Presov bordering regions neighboring Ukraine are located in the eastern part of Slovak Republic. Note that most of the territory of Slovakia is covered with mountains – The Western Carpathians [V. Yurkivskyj 2010, s. 142], while in Transcarpathia Eastern Carpathians occupy 80 % of the area [G. Grynyk 2013, s. 23].

The total territory of regions is 1,05 thousand square kilometers, which is 2,2 % of the area of the state. The number of population living at the territory of the named districts is 1,11 million, and density is 105,7 persons per square kilometer. At the total decrease of population in Slovakia by 0,5 thousand people, the number of habitants of the studied regions on the contrary, has grown by 4,4 thousand.

The border between Poland and Ukraine is 520 kilometers length, stretching from the Carpathians to the river Sanvalley, and then through Roztocze to the Boh and farther along it. By the territory, Poland occupies the ninth position in Europe after Russia, Ukraine, France, Spain, Sweden, Germany, Finland and Norway [P. Lutsyshyn, D. Klimont, S. Fedoryuk 2000, s. 10]. In total, the area of Ukraine exceeds the area of Poland by 1,9

times.

Subcarpathian region (Województwo podkarpackie) is located at the south-east of the Republic of Poland and borders with Slovakia (131 km) and Ukraine (235 km), including the Transcarpathian region (33,4 km), at this occupying the area of more than 17,9 thousand square kilometers (or 5,7 % of the Poland's territory). Area of Subcarpathian and Lublin districts comprises 43 thousand square kilometers or 13,8 % of the territory of the state. The number of population of two regions is 4,3 million people, or 11,1 % of the total population of the country, while the density is 117,3 and 87,6 persons per square kilometer, that is less than the similar average indicator for the country.

Bordering districts of Satu-Mare and Maramures referring to the first level of cross-border cooperation are situated at the north-west border of Romania. They are neighboring Ukraine on the north (Transcarpathian region), Hungary on the west (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg region). The area of the first is 4,4, the second – 6,3 thousand square kilometers, or 1,8 and 2,6 % of the territory of the country respectively, with more than 900 thousand of habitants, or 4,5 % of the total population of Romania. The population density of the analyzed districts is 84,1 persons per square kilometer, which is almost the same as the average of the country. For both districts, as well as for the whole Romania, narrowed reproduction of population is typical.

The total area of the studied districts of Carpathian region is 56,6 thousand square kilometers, or 9,4 % of the total territory of the country, and the population is 6,2 million people respectively, or 13,4 %. Transcarpathian region has the advantage among the studied regions because of having borders with the territories of all four countries, while Ivano-Frankivsk region borders with Romania only, Lviv region – with Poland, and Chernivetski – with Romania and Moldova.

According to the given classification, Transcarpathian region refers to the group of bordering regions of the first level of cross-border cooperation relating to four neighboring states, Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv regions – only relating one of these countries, Chernivetski – two. The survey shows that areas of bordering

administrative territorial units of Hungary, Poland and Romania exceed the Ukrainian significantly. In particular, the territory of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Beregregion (Hungary) is 1,8 times as large as the territory of Lviv region and three times larger than Transcarpathia.

Similar situation occurs in regional territorial dimension in Poland, where Subcarpathian district exceeds the total areas of all regions of the Carpathian region (1,9 times), including Lviv region – 5 times, Transcarpathian – more than 8,5 times. Even more differences shows the analysis of Lublin district, a sits area comprises 25,1, while Subcarpathian has 17,9 thousand of square kilometers.

The Romanian regions exceed the Ukrainian ones in their territory. Thus, Maramures district is 1,8 times larger than Lviv region and thrice larger than Transcarpathia.

At the same time, the districts of Carpathian region differ from bordering regions of neighboring countries in number of population. In particular, 6,1 million people inhabit four bordering regions of Ukraine (Transcarpathia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Chernivtsi), while the next analyzed districts of Poland have only 4,3, Romania – 0,9 million people.

Preconditions for social cooperation are formed with ethnic affinity of population livin

gat bordering territories, with most of people speaking language or languages of neighboring states, having close personal contacts, affinity of elements of social phycology and culture. Such factors determine the process of cross-border cooperation. Western regions of Ukraine have special role in development of cross-border cooperation. It is explained by the fact, that they are occupying special positions in development of cross-border cooperation.

Transcarpathia has a special place in Carpathian region, as it is under much strong influence of factors of cross-border cooperation in comparison with other regions. The base for development of this process is in availability of real conditions of frontier and cross-border cooperation. They are: ideal geo economic location of Transcarpathia, which has borders with Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland on the west, gained experience in frontier relations, higher comparatively with other regions integration infrastructure, relatively high level of culture in market relations of the population, caused significantly by the factors of behavioral type, economic information and gained economic knowledge of ethnic groups of population, densely inhabiting bordering regions of Ukrainian Carpathians (table 1).

**Table 1. Distribution of population by the most numerous nationalities in regions (oblasts) of the Carpathian region\***

| Nationalities     | Total, thousand | % to the total number of population | Regions (oblasts), thousand people |                   |         |               | For reference: Ukraine |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|---------------|------------------------|
|                   |                 |                                     | Trancarpathian                     | Ivano-Fran kivska | Lvivska | Chernivets'ka |                        |
| Population, total | 6185,7          | 100,0                               | 1254,6                             | 1406,1            | 2606,0  | 919,0         | 48240,9                |
| <i>including,</i> |                 |                                     |                                    |                   |         |               |                        |
| Ukrainians        | 5541,4          | 89,6                                | 1010,1                             | 1371,2            | 2471,0  | 689,1         | 37541,7                |
| Hungarians        | 151,5           | 2,4                                 | 151,5                              | -                 | -       | -             | 156,6                  |
| Romanians         | 146,8           | 2,4                                 | 32,2                               | -                 | -       | 114,6         | 151,0                  |
| Moldavians        | 67,2            | 1,1                                 | -                                  | -                 | -       | 67,2          | 258,6                  |
| Russians          | 186,4           | 3,0                                 | 31,0                               | 24,9              | 92,6    | 37,9          | 8334,1                 |
| Polacks           | 22,3            | 0,4                                 | -                                  | -                 | 18,9    | 3,4           | 144,1                  |
| Belarusians       | 6,9             | 0,1                                 | -                                  | -                 | 5,4     | 1,5           | 275,7                  |
| Jews              | 1,4             | -                                   | -                                  | -                 | -       | 1,4           | 103,6                  |
| Roma              | 14,0            | 0,2                                 | 14,0                               | -                 | -       | -             | 47,9                   |
| Slovaks           | 5,7             | 0,1                                 | 5,7                                | -                 | -       | -             | 6,4                    |
| Germans           | 3,6             | 0,1                                 | 3,6                                | -                 | -       | -             | 33,3                   |
| other             | 38,5            | 0,6                                 | 6,5                                | 10,0              | 18,1    | 3,9           | 1187,9                 |

\*Calculated on the base of data[L.Gubernskiy2004, s. 380-384].

The conducted survey (table 1) was generalized on the base of the first All Ukrainian census of population from 5 December 2001, and shows the following tendencies in distribution of population by the most numerous nationalities of the Ukrainian Carpathians. Ukrainians as a native population comprise more than 89,6 % of population, while average in Ukraine this indicator is only 77,8 %, including Transcarpathia – 80,5 %, Ivano-Frankivsk region – 97,5 %, Lviv region – 94,8 % Chernivetsky region – 75,0 %. Second position by the number of population is occupied by Russians – 3,0 %, while in Ukraine the average share of this nationality is 17,3 %. The biggest share refers to Hungarians and Romanians because of Transcarpathian and Chernivetsky regions. Totally, 2,4 % of Hungarians and 2,4 % of Romanians in the total number of habitants are living at the territory of the Ukrainian Carpathians. Hungarians mostly live in Transcarpathia (with 12,1 % share), and Romanians have 2,6 % in the total population of the region. At the territory of Chernivets'ka oblast the share of Romanian ethnic group is 12,5 %, Moldavians take 7,3 % of the population. Next position as to the number of population is occupied by the Polacks. Their share is 0,4 %, and they are basically concentrated at the territory of Lviv and Chervivetsky regions. Roma people, with 0,2 % share in the total number of habitants of the Ukrainian Carpathians, mostly live in Transcarpathia. This concerns Slovak and German ethnic groups either. Other nationalities have the share of 0,6 % from the population at the territory of the Ukrainian Carpathians, while the same average indicator for Ukraine is 2,5 %.

Slovakia is rather even country from the position of national content of population, as Slovaks comprise 85,7 % of population of the state. The first numerous national minority are Hungarians, second – Roma, third – Czechs, and fourth – Ukrainians-Rusins (according to official data there are 32 thousand of them in Slovakia, or 0,6 % share of the total population of the country) [S. Kuzyk 2002, s. 222].

Monitoring of this problem shows that Ukrainians are native population of Transcarpathia, and ethnic minorities of Hungarians, Romanians, Slovaks and Germans in habit rural areas. Similar situation concerning

ethnic minorities happens in Chernivetska oblast, with the overwhelming number of Romanian and Moldavian ethnic groups.

Gross domestic product and its calculation per capita is the indicator used for generalizing the level of social and economic development of analyzed neighboring new member-states of the EU. It is used in Western European regions of the European Union since the second part of XXs century, and in the regions of Ukraine it is used since 2004 (before 2004 the gross value added (GVA) indicator has been used).

The indicators of gross domestic product and gross regional product in Ukraine coincide. Thus, in 2004 GDP of Ukraine was equal to GRP and comprised 345,1 billion UAH [O. Osaulenko 2009, s. 29, 44]. Atthesametime, GDPin 2002 was 170,1 billion, and GVA–138,0 billion UAH, the difference was 32,1 billion. Therefore, before 2004 it was impossible to compare the generalizing indicators of social and economic development of bordering regions of states neighboring Ukraine. Comparative analysis [O. Osaulenko 2014, s. 519-520, 515-516; B. Dyachenko 2012] shows, that peripheral bordering regions of Carpathian region of Ukraine have negative tendencies of indicators of social and economic development. In particular:

- In terms of social and economic development, that largely concerns the sustainable development criterion, Kosicki region (kraj) is the most developed among the studied regions. It had GDP per capita in amount 55831 US dollars in 2012, while the same average indicator for the country was 25848 dollars. The next to it Presov region showed the analyzed indicator in the sum of 16827 dollars, i.e. 1,5 times less than the average for the country and 3,3 times less than that of the Kosice region. According to the ranking of neighboring bordering regions of Carpathian region Kosicki kraj has the first place, Presov kraj has the third position, and their share in the GDP of Slovakia is 13,2 and 9,4 % respectively;

- Among the districts of Hungary which are neighboring Carpathian region, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén region has outstanding social and economic parameters. Its GDP per capita in 2012 was 19692 US dollars, which is twice higher than the same indicator of Szabolcs-

Szatmár-Bereg region. According to the ranking of bordering neighboring regions these districts occupied second and fifth places, and their share in the GDP of the country was 4,8 and 3,0 %;

- The least developed in terms of social and economic parameters were bordering territories of Subcarpathian region of Poland and district of Maramures (Romania), where the production of GDP per capita was 6612 and 9260 US dollars respectively, and they had sixth and fourth positions in the ranking;

- Bordering regions of Carpathian regions, neighboring mentioned regions of the next countries, are characterized with low levels of GDP per capita indicator. In particular, for Chernivets'ka oblast it was 3432 US dollars, (tenth place in the ranking). Transcarpathia has 3038 dollars (ninth position), Ivano-Frankivsk – 5051 (eights place) and Lviv oblast– 5087 dollars (seventh place of the ranking).

Therefore, *firstly*, in 2012 the analyzed bordering regions of Slovakia and Hungary, took out standing positions among all studied neighboring regions, especially comparatively with Ukraine. At this, Kosice region had the highest development level among all regions, according to the results of GDP per capita analysis. This allows arguing its level of development corresponds to the requirements of sustainable development of regions.

*Secondly*, the absence of reliable statistical information on social and economic development of bordering regions of neighboring states makes the study more complicated. Therefore, it is advisable for the executives of the “Carpathian Euroregion” to provide generalized indicators within administrative units of the named euro region. An addition we suggest establishing cross-border contacts between regional statistical bodies of bordering regions of neighboring states and implementing programs for sustainable development, including problems of preserving and extended reproduction of environment on both sides from the border.

*Thirdly*, aiming to expand the informational data base on social, economic and ecological development of neighboring regions, in particular of the Carpathian region, it is appropriate to involve the students of “Uzhhorod National University” in cooperation of this direction. This will help to form the data

base of urgent problems of neighboring territories and life of citizen at both sides of the border, and allow to implement joint projects aimed at increasing the level of balance of the territories of neighboring states, expanding good neighbourship, border and cross-border cooperation.

**Conclusions.** The Carpathian region, including Transcarpathia, is inhabited by people of more than 100 nationalities, with the most numerous ethnic groups from neighboring states – Hungarians, Romanians, Slovaks. Ethnic affinity is an important condition for cooperation of bordering territories of neighboring states.

Activation of external economic cooperation of Ukraine in the whole and Transcarpathia in particular, with countries of Western Europe, including EU countries and countries neighboring this integration unit, have important role for economic integration and convergence, a sit provides for existence of common borders, common historic, cultural and other conditions. The attractiveness of the European Union for Ukraine is explained with its economic potential, technological capabilities, as well as with its democracy level, social system aimed at alignment and increase of living standards in all states members it.

Note, that in fact, external economic cooperation of Ukraine and regions of Ukrainian Carpathians has turned in to integration of these levels through interaction at the following levels:

-Level of enterprises and organizations, including foundation of joint enterprises;

- State level, which is confirmed by the statements of the leaders of Ukraine concerning the choice of European integration;

- Level of parties and organizations, social groups, including ethnic minorities and participation of reviewed regions in the Carpathian Euro region.

However, the full integration of Ukraine into the European Union is a rather long period and requires more active mutual economic cooperation with the EU members, with engagement of regions of Carpathian region, including Transcarpathia into cooperation with bordering regions of neighboring states representing the most powerful international union. Activating external economic

cooperation of Ukraine and regions of Carpathian region, including Transcarpathia, with countries of Western, Central Europe and members of the EU will have significant role for international economic integration and processes of convergence.

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