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THE HISTORICAL CONDITIONS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE EASTERN SLOVAKIA AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

The Eastern Slovakia and neighbouring regions share a common destiny and peripheral character, although marginal, they became only after 1848. The geographical location and natural conditions have confirmed the rural character of their settlement and relatively similar economic and social development. In the past a region characterized by late industrialization, lagging agriculture, poor infrastructure and specific social stratification. Almost non-conflict and co-existence and cooperation opportunities promoted multinational complement and various religion structure of population. Many parallels with neighbouring regions will create favorable conditions for cross-border relations and cooperation.

Keywords: history, the Eastern Slovakia, the cross-border cooperation, the geographic and demographic factors, economic development, social structure, political conditions.

The territory of modern Eastern Slovakia, as well as the modern territory of Transcarpathian region of Ukraine and North-Eastern Hungary, which are also border regions, during the XXI century became a part of Hungarian Kingdom. It laid the basis of their historical destiny for almost eight centuries, which established scalene relations and population's communications at the institutional and interpersonal level. After Mogach defeat in 1526, though, began the process of formation of the Habsburg monarchy, ruled by the powerful Habsburg, but neither the Turkish occupation of large parts of the country, nor the power Janos Zapoiiiai's ambitions and his successors did not take the East-Slovak county and Unhskyi county from the historical Hungary. This situation did not change any of the uprising of states, or even the appearance of the Austrian Empire in 1804, though, the effect of Vienna then increased significantly and

the joint Hungarian identity in Transleitaniia weakened as Hungarian nationalism, and national liberation movement of the Slavic peoples, as well as the Romanians in Transylvania [15, c.102-109].

While the preservation of eastern Slovak and southern Carpathian counties in Hungarian part of the state continued after Austro-Hungarian Empire (1867), a new form of coexistence of regions was set up after its dissolution, when on the initiative of the Ruthenian communities in the USA and with the consent of the internal political representation was Saint-Germain agreement of September 10, 1919, on which the territory of south-carpathian Ruthenian joint to the Czechoslovak state. In November 1938, based on the decision of Vienna Arbitration was the southern part of Subcarpathian Rus and the east-slovak districts Rozhnava, Moldava, Koshitse, Karlovskiy Hlmets and Velyki Kapushany jointed to Hungary.

The common destiny of border regions of Eastern Slovakia, however, ended in March 1939 with the proclamation of Slovak State and Carpathian Ukraine with further Hungarian occupation. In April 1939 to Hungary was joined Sobransky district and a part of Snynsky district, other districts of the region included into the Sharysko-zemplinsky and Tatransky's county, became a part of Slovak Republic [16, pp. 373-375]. The liberation of Subcarpathian Rus and eastern Slovakia, however, hasn't led to the re-unification of the regions in a single state association, because of the treaty between USSR and Czechoslovakia on June 29, 1945 Subcarpathian Rus became a part of the Soviet Union [2, pp. 68-69]. The eastern districts of Slovakia were included in Czechoslovak Republic until the emergence of Slovak Republic on January 1, 1993. Now in its frameworks are Preshov and Koshitse regions.

Usual characteristic of the Eastern Slovakia as lagging and marginal territory of Hungary and later of Czechoslovakia, and finally of Slovakia is valid only for the period of recent history. Archeological findings confirm the permanent prehistoric settlements and historical monuments, powerful castles and fortified royal cities argue that especially in the Middle Ages it was economically developed, socially important, culturally and politically important region. Its positive development was specified by a favorable location

near the powerful religious centers (Eger, Estergom, Krakow, Premushl, Lvov, Mukachevo, Uzhhorod). On the territory of the Eastern Slovakia were important trade routes that combine the Baltic and Adriatic Seas or Krakow, Budapest and Constantinople. There were lowlands, foothills and mountain areas, and the deposits of important raw materials, such as stones, sand, wood, clay, marble or chalk-stone. But this doesn't mean that the historical development of Eastern Slovakia in the Middle Ages had no its peculiarities [13, p.11].

A significant change was after the revolution in 1848, especially after the industrial mass production, which Eastern Slovakia didn't suffer. This area has always been relatively distant from political and economical centers of the country (Vienna, Budapest, Prague and Bratislava), there was a lack of raw materials and energy resources that are necessary for modern industry (coal, oil, iron ore), and also skilled workforce and transport infrastructure. Deposits of ores for production of cooper, lead, mercury, magnesium and manganese were small in the region, usually they were used only for mining and primary processing, while their final processing and realization were outside [6, pp. 207-210]. During this period significantly decreased the military importance of cities, and thus their impact on governance.

Since ancient times, the eastern Slovakia was characterized by the low population density, and this problem, after an extreme decrease population during epidemics and wars, the rulers resolved by colonization, which promoted to its economic development and influenced the ethnic complement of the population of the whole region. In the end of XIX and in the beginning of XX century, when culminated the Hungarian's industrial base, its northeastern counties, strikes a large emigration of the working population, especially in overseas countries. Though, then the lowest population of growth had Oravska county, after it followed the Sharyshsk, Spisska and Zemplinska counties. While the population growth in Slovak was 5.2%, in the east – only 2.5%. The migration decline in general scale was 19.6%, but in Eastern Slovak was 30.5% [18, p.50].

In the period of Slovak state, especially during military situation, although there was a certain recovery of industrial

production also in the Eastern Slovak, namely, in connection with construction activities in the public interests and building up networks, on the other hand, the wood and food industries were in stagnation. The reduction of investment and the significant decrease of the labour force in the period of war greatly limited the other development opportunities. Operation of partisans and crossing a front through the eastern Slovak territory, which lasted for almost six months, causing very serious losses to the region, especially in its northern districts; even in the implementation of two-year plan for the restoration and development of the national economy they can not completely get rid of losses [5, pp.33-46].

The implementation of the economy's planned management and with realization of five-year plans, made possible an intentional industrialization of Eastern Slovak, but the change of priorities in the interests of political goals, the lack of market principles, constant violation of the profitability principle, a price control, and also personnel policies of party structures led to economic imbalances in the region, to create industrial facilities, non-existing conditions and needs, in a fact, to an artificial employment and prosperity. Thus, in the east of the republic there were several so-called monoindustrial districts which were characterized by mostly medium-size enterprise of a branch in the district centre, with several supply factories in the near territory, as well as with the related institutions of social or public security. Proportional development of all regional components during the planning began to be taken into account only in the eighties of the past century [19, p. 153]. However, similarly was industrialization in Transcarpathian region of the USSR, which was reflected in the structure of party organs established cooperative relations between both regions in the seventies and eighties of the past century.

However, a return to regulation of the market mechanism, the loss of traditional markets, limitation of barter trade, and especially the collapse of supply and consumer relations between countries of so-called Eastern bloc, organized in the *Council of mutual economic assistance*, after 1989 caused the absolute collapse of industrial production and further recession with fatal consequences in the social sphere and in everyday life of resident population [1, p.46]. The

organization of State had the highest inertia, so together with administrative resistance against all that were directly or indirectly connected with the USSR, actually led to the economic cessation and social contacts between both regions. The creation of new economic relation on the basis of equality and mutual economic benefits was gradually by overcoming protectionism and legal barriers, existing still the times of the state centralism.

The common denominator that supports the cross-border cooperation of Eastern Slovakia with the neighbouring regions, there are some identical features of the development of agricultural production, that were in the period of the abolition of serfdom, and in north-eastern Hungary combined with a relatively greater share of landlords categories and with experience of feudal elements and indebted farmers. That's why the situation of agricultural in the region for many years characterized by the fragmentation of lands, a small number of large landholdings with more intensive production and low agro technical levels of smallholder farms [8, p.185].

Collectivization in Eastern Slovakia in comparison with the emergence of collective farms in Transcarpathia have been late only for three years, it realized by administrative way and led to similar conflicting results, although the land ownership was legally solved by another way. These processes between landless peasants and small farmers had positive reviews, they contributed to the increase of production efficiency of crop and livestock production and reduction of the number of people, working in the sphere of agriculture, on the other hand, they also led to the separation producers from the land, sometimes less efficient use of means of production or labour force, a relatively high subsidies in this sector and other government assistance in agricultural work [14, pp.47-53]. The touted exchange of harvesters and their staff during the harvest cooperatives or state households in eastern Slovakia and in Transcarpathia had a matter of political nature than real economic cooperation of border regions. At the present time, agriculture in the east of Slovakia fights with the rising prices of raw materials, while wholesale prices kept at a minimal level, and thus, causing farmer's losses. Negative role is also playing a frequent significant fluctuation in weather and gradual change of climatic conditions in Central Europe.

The most of economic problems of Eastern Slovakia depended on a bad traffic situation, which was a trig during its efforts to balance with other regions of the country. The traditional north-south direction of transport communications since the days of Hungary gradually able to replace the union in east-west direction, as it was necessary after the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic. Compactness of railway network in Eastern Slovakia was always low and to the present time still remains five east-slovak districts without a railway track. During the decades roads have been in a very poor state, and during the World War II, in connection with the aggressive plans of Nazi Germany, and after it, the situation has improved in this direction. In the context of cross-border cooperation remains a very big problem of lack of motorways and highways, leading to the border with Poland and Ukraine in the northeast and the east of Slovakia that unites the Eastern Slovakia with Hungary is already in the construction stage [3, pp.27-29].

The social complement of population usually develops in a certain dependence on the development of economic structure of the region, although there are some artificial intervention, especially as a result of migration and important policy changes that affect on social development. The first break in the eastern Slovakia was after the Mongol invasion, when with the intensive colonization in agricultural settlement penetrated mining, handicraft and commercial elements, usually of foreign origin, that, in turn, inversely affected on its economic development and in the Middle Ages stimulates prosperity. Wallachian colonization in the XIV-XVII centuries strengthened and expanded livestock production in this region and brought new ethnic, linguistic and cultural elements, which brought together with eastern regions of Hungary and promoted its specific data, including fundamental role of cross-border cooperation after the World War II [10, pp. 181-224].

Important changes in the social structure of Eastern Slovakia were after the abolition of serfdom in 1848, when undeveloped industry is not able to “absorb” free labour force, caused a massive emigration of the working population and conserved its almost medieval social structure. That’s why, after the formation of Czechoslovakia wasn’t only skilled workers, but also intelligentsia:

teachers, doctors and officials, in particular through a significant degree of magyarization of this population. Share of workers in the economically active population has increased in the interwar period, although the classical social structure with the corresponding group of intellectuals actually formed already in the time of Slovak state.

The beginning of the social system, which was accompanied by Marxist ideology and totalitarian practices created another organization of society, which in the east of state completely lacked the consistency. Till then dominant agricultural population transformed into workers in a very fast pace, and social group of intellectuals, and also representatives of so-called freelancers together with political and government bureaucracy dissolved in a layer of so-called staff with very different educational and cultural profile, as well as political influence. A new almost social class became cooperative farmers. At the beginning of cooperative relations between organizations, institutions and bodies of east-slovak region and Transcarpathian region USSR in the sixties of the last century showed that social stratification in both regions has many parallel features facilitated their implementation and future prospects. In both regions also lagged the process of changing rural society to urban society for 15-20 years [4, p. 10].

The political conditions also influenced positive which began to change significantly in 1939. It was a certain advantage in comparison with the situation in north-eastern counties which until 1918 belonged to Hungary. In the north-eastern Hungary until this time used general hungarian political system, which, in spite of the liberal elements, had centralized character, and it was the same in Hungarian state. But in Czechoslovakia could act not only national political party and the coalition, but also regional political groups, expressing the specific interests and needs of smaller units. Changes in the administration division of the country and the powers of public authorities and governments, especially in the central and regional government during the post-war Czechoslovak Republic in 1948, 1960 and 1968 influenced on the political preconditions for the activities of cross-border cooperation [7, pp.124-127].

Tolerance is one of the important prerequisites for the success of cross-border contacts of Eastern Slovakia, and during the historical

development it has multinational character. In addition to the Slavic population from which formed Slovak people lived in the south also Hungarians, in the XII century came the German colonists, in the XV century were Ruthenians, and especially from the XVIII century were Jews. However, the share of these nationalities in total population changed. Ethnic complement of the population of Eastern Slovakia during centuries is shown in table №1 and №2 [17, p.218; 12, p. 19].

TABLE 1

Ethnic complement in 1910

Nationality	Percentage of population
Slovaks	37,1 %
Hungarians	43,8 %
Ruthenians	9,0 %
Germans	7,3 %
Others	2,8 %

TABLE 2

Ethnic complement in 2010

Nationality	Percentage of population
Slovaks	86,25 %
Hungarians	5,65 %
Roma	3,05 %
Ruthenians and Ukrainians	2,10 %
Czechs	0,56 %
Germans	0,13 %
Poles	0,05 %

The cultural situation of Eastern Slovakia also contributed to the development of cross-border contacts with neighbouring regions. As a native language already un the Middle Ages, especially in rural areas, of course, depending on ethnicity, also Hungarian, German and Ruthenian dialects. Their significance and use in specific areas of public life were related with the language of official communication. During the development changed one another Latin, German, Hungarian and since 1918 the literary form of Slovak language. This situation in the Eastern Slovakia in 2001 shows the table №3 [9, p. 29].

TABLE 3

Native language in Eastern Slovakia

Language	Number of users	Percentage of population
Slovak	1 274 591	81,91 %
Hungarian	105 535	6,78 %
Roma	78 838	5,06 %
Ruthenian	53 195	3,41 %
the Czech	9 161	0,58 %
Ukrainian	6 047	0,38 %

You need take into account the fact that people with native languages, belonging to the Slavic languages always understand each other well, especially close to each other is Slovak and Czech, Ukrainian and Ruthenian, although the representatives of these nations are not necceserily fluent in them orally or in writing.

In the sphere of cultural preconditions for cross-border cooperation of Eastern Slovakia included religious structure of believers, available in all the neighbouring regions. Its developing over the last decades in the east of Slovakia show us the table №4 and №5 [17, p. 218; 11, tabl.159].

TABLE 4**Confessional structure of Eastern Slovakia in 1910**

Church, name, population centre	Percentage of population
Roman Catholic Church	50,6 %
Greek Catholic Church	24,4 %
Reformed Church	10,0 %
Jewish religious village	8,0 %
Lutheran Church	6,9 %
Orthodox Church	0,1 %

TABLE 5**Confessional structure of Eastern Slovakia in 2001**

Church, name, population centre	Number of believers	Percentage of believers
Roman Catholic Church	984 614	63,27 %
Greek Catholic Church	205 190	13,18 %
Lutheran Church	74 281	4,77 %
Reformed Church	49 886	3,20 %
Orthodox Church	45 445	2,92 %
Jehovah's Witnesses	9 729	0,62 %
Methodist Church	1 519	0,09 %
Apostolic Church	1 459	0,09 %
Church of the seventh day Adventist	1 067	0,07 %
Church of the brethren	1 063	0,06 %
Krasnyanska Church	984	0,06 %
Fraternal Union of Baptists	625	0,04 %
Jewish religious village	589	0,03 %
Old Catholic Church	373	0,02 %

In social sciences the categorical judgments are used very rarely, because the reality is usually the result of polydetermination that is the influence of many sectors, some of which with high probability, yet we may not even know. But note that Eastern Slovakia in the past and now had and has the objective conditions for the implementation and development of cross-border cooperation with neighbouring regions, and for this it has favorable conditions and be an example of the implementation of the modern trend of cooperation as the highest form of European integration. You need only hope that the subjective attitude and different ideological and political concepts will not be affected in the opposite direction.

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Historical conditions cross-border cooperation of Eastern Slovakia and their evolution

Summary

Slovakia was always the province, but has become a marginal region in the second half of the 19th century. There lacked the conditions for industrial mass production. Geographic position and natural conditions determined the rural character of the settlement and adequate economic and social development. The eastern part of Slovakia was characterized by late industrialization, agriculture backward and underdeveloped infrastructure. A similar trend is manifested in the neighboring regions. It's easier to build relationships and foster cooperation among people and among organizations. Multi Ethnic composition of the population and varied religious structure greatly facilitates the development of cross-border cooperation.

Keywords: history, Eastern Slovakia, cross-border cooperation, geographic and demographic factors, economic development, social structure, political conditions.

Исторические условия приграничного сотрудничества восточной Словакии и их развитие

Резюме

Восточная Словакия всегда была провинцией, но стала маргинальным регионом только во второй половине 19-го века. Там не было условий для промышленного массового производства. Географическое положение и природные условия определили характер сельского поселения и адекватное экономическое и социальное развитие. Восточная часть Словакии характеризуется поздней индустриализацией, остальным сельским хозяйством и неразвитой инфраструктурой. Аналогичная тенденция проявляется и в соседних регионах. Это позволило наладить отношения и содействовать сотрудничеству между людьми и организациями. Многонациональный состав населения и разнообразная религиозная структура способствует развитию приграничного сотрудничества.

Ключевые слова: история, восточная Словакия, приграничное сотрудничество, географические и демографические факторы, экономическое развитие, социальная структура, политические условия.