

Abstract of

Andrzej Jakubowski, Andrzej Miszczuk, Bogdan Kawałko, Tomasz Komornicki, and Roman Szul

The EU's New Borderland. Cross-Border Relations and Regional Development

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Routledge—the world's leading academic publisher in the Humanities and Social Sciences—published the monography: *The EU's New Borderland: Cross-Border Relations and Regional Development* devoted Polish-Ukrainian cross-border cooperation. It is pleasure to inform that authors of this monography are also authors and reviewers of articles published in Regional Barometers. Analysis and Prognosis. There is a lack of publications providing a complex analysis of Polish-Ukrainian cross-border cooperation. The presented book fill the informational gap in this area. The issue of Polish-Ukrainian relations at the international and trans-border level gained particular importance at the moment of expansion of the European Union to the east, and announcement of the assumptions of the European Neighborhood Policy in 2004. In this book the authors examine the issue of cooperation and cross-border relations on the new external border of the EU. The book's primary objective is to present the way in which the Polish and Ukrainian parties develop the bilateral cooperation, adapting to the changing geopolitical conditions, and responding to the related challenges. Book consist of four chapters.

In first chapter “Poland and Ukraine on the background of changes in Central and Eastern Europe in 20th-21st centuries” Roman Szul presents the wider Polish-Ukrainian context of cross-border cooperation in the historical perspective. The borders, geopolitics and ethnic problems are discussed.

In second chapter “The Polish-Ukrainian Borderland on the background of European regions” Andrzej Jakubowski shows the potential of Poland-Ukraine in terms of its natural environment, demography and economy. Based on cluster analysis, the author summarizes the position of the study area in the context of European regions.

In third chapter “Cross-border relations in the Polish-Ukrainian Borderland” Tomasz Komornicki and Andrzej Miszczuk present a diagnosis of existing cross-border ties and forms of cross-border cooperation in the Polish-Ukrainian borderland. In particular using statistical data retrieved from different sources they make the diagnosis of Polish-Ukrainian cross-border relations of environmental protection and management, communication, border infrastructure and border traffic, social relations, economic relations, tourism and institutional relations. They also specified the barriers of Polish-Ukrainian cross-border relations.

In fourth chapter Andrzej Jakubowski, Bogdan Kawałko, Andrzej Miszczuk and Roman Szul present and discuss “Perspectives and challenges of Polish-Ukrainian cross-border cooperation in the context of geopolitical changes in Central and Eastern Europe.”

Presented in book results of investigations and conclusions are specially important because the Polish-Ukrainian borderland is among the least developed areas in Europe, displaying clear peripheral traits in both geographical and economic aspects. Moreover, the level of development in the regions on either side of the analyzed section of the external EU boundary is marked by considerable asymmetry, to the disadvantage of the Ukrainian side. The book will be of interest to university students and other people who want to expand their knowledge in the scope of regional geography, European integration, cross-border cooperation, and international relations.