

Review of Andrzej Miszczuk. ed. *Wyzwania rozwojowe pogranicza polsko-ukraińskiego.*

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Edited by Andrzej Miszczuk monograph *Wyzwania rozwojowe pogranicza polsko-ukraińskiego* [Development Challenges for Polish-Ukrainian Borderland] is an attempt to show the theoretical and practical problems for the development of Polish-Ukrainian Borderland. Monograph is dedicated to the Ukrainian Professor of statistics and economics at the University of Lviv and the Director of the Lviv region Statistical Office, Semen Matkowski, involved for many years in the creation of the Polish-Ukrainian cross-border statistics. Professor Semen Matkowski is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Regional Barometer. Monograph consists of 11 chapters and most of authors are also associates of the Regional Barometer.

In Chapter 1 “The Application of Taxonomic and Econometric Methods for the Analysis of Socio-Economic Development Level of Cross-Border Regions” Kowerski, after the review of taxonomic methods and econometric techniques and their applications to the regional analysis, formulates the hypothesis that they can be a good tool for the analysis of cross-border area consisting of the regions within the countries that are members of the European Union and their neighbors do not have membership including the Polish-Ukrainian cross-border area. However the efficient use of these methods, requires compatibility of statistics systems and, above all, the comparability of data, which is still a major challenge for statistical services, especially those neighboring countries at regional level.

In Chapter 2 “The Competitiveness of the Polish-Ukrainian Borderland on the European Background” Jakubowski and Bronisz present the overview of the concept of regional competitiveness and on the basis of created 3-factor model of competitiveness, the competitive position of the Polish and Ukraine border regions, through their positioning in comparison with regions of the 28 member states of the European Union (NUTS 2 level) and Ukrainian regions.

In Chapter 3 “Cross-Border Clusters as Drivers of Development and Cooperation in the Conditions of an Open Market Economy” Oleński verifies the thesis stating that in the based on knowledge, open market economy, the development and competitiveness of regional economies can be ensured by organizing economic sectors in these regions in the structure of clusters, in particular transborder clusters. As the empirical area of the thesis verification of decisive role that clusters can play in the based on knowledge regional economy the Carpathian Euroregion was selected.

In Chapter 4 “Demographic Situation as a Determinant for the Development of Polish-Ukrainian Transboundary Areas” Flaga, Pantylej, and Łoboda identify the basic problems within demographic development of the Polish-Ukrainian transboundary areas: progressive ageing of the population and increase of the demographic burden of the population. These elements of the demographic situation are one of the primary importance for general socioeconomic development of the transboundary areas.

In Chapter 5 “The Impact of the Dynamic Movements of Population on the Socio-Economic Development of Polish-Ukrainian Cross-Border Areas” Cierpiał-Wolan carries out analysis on the basis of an integrated system of surveys which has allowed the delimitation of the border areas and showed a great influence of unregistered spending of the citizens of Ukraine on the economic processes in the mezo- and macroeconomic scale in the Polish regions.

In Chapter 6 “Higher Education as a Factor of the Polish-Ukrainian Cross-Border Cooperation” Bronisz concentrates on one of the major areas of the cross-border cooperation which is the sector of science and higher education, analyzes the initiatives realized till now and the possible development prospects. Author presets a list of projects carried out in the 2007–2013 under the Transborder Cooperation Programme Poland–Belarus–Ukraine in which the beneficiary were universities located in the Polish-Ukrainian borderland.

In Chapter 7 “Challenges of Tourism Development on the Polish-Ukrainian Borderland—The Case of Roztocze” Grabowski and Kałamucki present the influence of the border on the development, of tourism in Roztocze. The tourist traffic is variable in spatial and temporal terms. The Polish-Ukrainian border has been negatively affecting the economic development and tourism in Roztocze over more than 70 years of its functioning. Now Roztocze is estimated to be visited by approximately 800 thousand tourists every year. The highest number of tourists visits Lviv, Zamość, as well as Roztocze Tomaszowskie and Roztocze Szczebrzeszyńskie. A chance for tourism development in the near-border zone is offered by among others the restoration of the railway connection between Lublin (Zamość) and Lviv running along Roztocze, opening pedestrian and cycling border crossings, facilitating customs clearance on border crossings, more active promotion of the entire Roztocze, and obtaining financial resources for cross-border activities.

In Chapter 8 “Transport development challenges of Polish-Ukrainian borderland” Komornicki and Kowalczyk evaluate the development of transport networks on the Polish-Ukrainian borderland (Polish side). They describe the present state of road and rail infrastructure, as well as the distribution of road traffic (2010). The potential accessibility analysis was used to present the changes of transport situation caused by the construction of new road (with the support of the European Union). Separately the dynamics of Polish-Ukrainian border traffic of people and vehicles was described. The study confirmed that the Polish-Ukrainian borderland is a peripheral region from the transport point of view. The situation, however, is dynamic. It is the result of several overlapping processes. Authors observe the polarization in terms of the transport accessibility caused by spatially selective, EU supported, investment processes. As a result, southern (Podkarpackie) part of the borderland quickly improved level of accessibility in the national and European scale, while changes in the northern part (Lubelskie) were much slower.

In Chapter 9 “The Administrative Reform in Ukraine as the Condition of the Development of Polish-Ukrainian Borderland” Kuczabski presents goals, mechanisms and course of the current reform of administrative division at the local level in Volyn and Lviv provinces (oblasts). Features of budget decentralization on example of comparing the structure of local government revenue are characterized. The problems and threats faced by the organizers at the present stage of reform are revealed.

In Chapter 10 “Statistical Information as a Factor of the Development of Polish-Ukrainian Borderland” Jakubowski and Miszczuk analyze experiences of the Polish and Ukrainian statistical offices in the field of statistics of cross-border areas and to assess the role that it plays in the development of Polish-Ukrainian borderland. They present the list of the statistical publications on the Polish–Ukrainian cross-border cooperation published in the years 1995–2016.

In Chapter 11 “Development Challenges of the Polish-Ukrainian Borderland in the Light of Strategic Documents” Kawałko make an attempt to analyze and evaluate the developmental challenges policy adopted for the Polish-Ukrainian border region in the context of strategic documents. The analysis covered national and regional documents regarding socioeconomic and spatial development programmes, including links between national and regional development policy. The article focuses mainly on analysis of the types, scope and forms of records concerning developmental challenges for the border region from the perspective of the experiences of the Lublin Voivodship.