

evaluation and protection of such infrastructures are basic responsibilities of the owners and operators in order to ensure their functionality, continuity and integrity. Certain types of analyses have to be conducted in order to properly assess the potential impact of different threats on critical infrastructures relevant at European level. Generally speaking, transport infrastructures located in the cross border vicinity (like highways, European roads, bridges, etc.) are considered critical infrastructure on both national and European level but conventional assessment methodologies rarely take into account the full-range strategic implication of possible outcomes of an accident. A previous risk assessment study conducted at national level for multiple hazards (RO-RISK) reveals the existence of several routes for the transport of hazardous materials, from and to neighbor countries. Most of the routes for import or export of such dangerous goods get through the Romanian-Hungarian cross-border, the main border cross points being located in Borş and Nădlac area. The present study focuses on a consequence based risk analysis of possible accidents, involving anhydrous ammonia, produced on the European road E60 and other alternative transport routes in the region of Oradea Municipality, accidents that can produce major dysfunctions on traffic and other utilities (electricity, gas, water, etc.). Specific modeling software was used to calculate the physical effects and consequences of such accidents. Based on the modeling results and a preliminary exposure assessment, digital maps were created using GIS technology to find the lowest risk route.

IT WAS JUST A DREAM REGIONALIZED DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN HUNGARY

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The paper aims to connect the general governance system and the design of regional development policy in Hungary.

As it is almost commonplace, Hungary started to go on the way of illiberal, centralised governance system which has crucial consequences both on the domestic development and European cohesion policy design and content.

The paper introduces the recentralisation process of territorial governance and the main management system of implementation of Partnership Agreement. The abolition of regional bodies and narrowing the scope of local (urban) governments' power are big risks, at least according to the author, primarily with regard to the efficient absorbing of EU and domestic money. The completely changed narrative on the EU and the role of the „good” state, however, is the opposite. The time will answer the dilemma.

THE ROLE OF MIDDLE-SIZE AND SMALL TOWNS IN EU'S CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION INSTRUMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE

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Cross-border cooperation – as Objective 3 of Cohesion Policy since the 2007-2013 programming period – plays a key role in promoting Europeanisation, which is especially important in case of Central Europe that is dominated by small national states. Target areas of cross-border cooperation are the NUTS 3 units located along the state borders, hence project generation, decision making and

implementation is overwhelmingly done on regional level, often in undeveloped and peripheral areas, with weak urban areas.

The paper focuses on two programmes – the Slovenia-Austria and the Hungary-Croatia – whose target areas are lacking large urban centres, middle-size and small towns make up the backbone of the settlement network. The involved countries are very diverse in regional governance structures. Austria is a federal state with strong regional governments. Croatia and Hungary are unitary states with limited capacities on regional level. Slovenia is a centralised state with lacking regional level. Aim of the paper is to identify how the different levels of the settlement network contribute to the overall activity and absorption of funding under these circumstances.

After presenting the premises of cross-border cooperation since and brief outline of the two programmes a quantified analysis will be presented based on primary ex-post programme data of the 2007-2013 Slovenia-Austria and Hungary-Croatia Cross-border Cooperation Programmes. Methodology-wise it focuses on descriptive statistics, how population, economic activity, proximity to the border, role in the urban structure and their development index affects activity, committed and absorbed funding, what are the similarities and differences between the four states, what organisational forms played the key roles in the different countries and on the various levels of governance.

FROM INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY PRIDE TO NO MAN'S VILLAGE - SHRINKING VILLAGES IN THE POIANA RUSCĂ MOUNTAINS

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Europe's rural areas have undergone significant demographic, social, economic, environmental and institutional transformations, mostly in recent decades. Nevertheless, while some areas have developed into highly livable and dynamic rural areas, others have experienced decline resulting in increased territorial disparities both at European and at national or regional level. Mountain rural areas are not an exception. Included in the category of regions with specific geographical features, mountain areas are paradoxical. Most of them are rich in natural and cultural resources, yet they face difficulties in diversifying their economic activities, in providing facilities and, most of all, in retaining the human resources. The Poiana Ruscă Mountains are exemplary in this respect. Located in the west of Romania, they are part of the Western Carpathians. Their geological composition is relatively simple; however, the presence of various metallic and non-metallic mineral resources (iron ore, non-ferrous metals, marble, talc, dolomite, quartz sand, coal) as well as wood resources have been driving factors for the economic development of both the mountain area and the proximate surrounding area. Exploitation and processing of iron ore since the ancient period, with a climax between the 1970s and the 1980s, and the exploitation of high quality marble since the 19th century have not only led to a gradual increase in the number of population, especially in the urban centres nearby, but also to a certain regional pride generated by their industrial heritage, vernacular architecture or worldwide famous places their industrial products were used for. Industrial decline and closures in the area after 1990, together with a general negative natural population change, a negative net migration rate, population aging and the lack of an integrated territorial approach to support economic diversification and locally based entrepreneurial activities resulted in an accelerated population decline. Our