Quality of life and interrelations across the border – Evidence from the Saxon-Polish border region

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Quality of life and cross-border interrelations

Assumptions

- Border regions are disadvantaged due to their location and barrier effects of the border

- But: Peripheralisation is no ‘geographic destiny’

- Process of European Integration as a chance

► Strong cross-border interrelations can compensate disadvantages

► Specific ‘territorial capital’ of border regions
Quality of life and cross-border interrelations
The Saxon-Polish border region: a rural area

- Map / geographical location
- Project information

Source: TU Dresden 2013
Quality of life and cross-border interrelations

Research questions

-To what extend does the border have an effect on quality of life in border regions?

-How intensively developed are cross-border interrelations in the different fields (labour market, education, health services etc.)?

-What are possible barriers that might hamper cross-border interrelations?

-Can a delineation of functional border regions be derived?
Quality of life in the border region

Survey:
“What influence does the proximity to the border have on your quality of life?”
Quality of life in the border region

Survey: “Do you think quality of life in the future ...”
Survey: “To what purpose and how often do you cross the German-Polish border?”

Source: TU Dresden 2013
## Cross-border interrelations

### Research design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of analyses</th>
<th>Possible indicators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>– Number of residences of foreigners from the neighbouring country</td>
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<td></td>
<td>– Removals close to the border</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail and services</td>
<td>– Flows of clients in retail</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– Flows of clients in services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>– Cross-border commuters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economy, trade, finances</td>
<td>– Economic clusters</td>
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<td>– Branches of enterprises in the neighbouring country</td>
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<td></td>
<td>– Cross-border trade flows</td>
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<td>Culture</td>
<td>– Cross-border catchment areas of cultural facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>– Cross-border attendance of services and pilgrimages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation, sport, tourism</td>
<td>– Cross-border utilization of recreation, sport and touristic facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education and qualification</td>
<td>– Pupils, students etc. from the neighbouring country</td>
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<td></td>
<td>– Native teachers from the neighbouring country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport and mobility</td>
<td>– Intensity of cross-border traffic</td>
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</tbody>
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Cross-border interrelations - regional differences

Share of Polish doctors on all practising doctors in Saxony (in %), data from 2012
Cross-border interrelations - regional differences

Employee with Polish nationality working in Saxony (covered by German social insurance) and living abroad – year 2012

Entwicklung der Anzahl sozialversicherungspflichtig Beschäftigter mit polnischer Staatsangehörigkeit mit Arbeitsort in Sachsen und Wohnort im Ausland zwischen 2006 - 2012 (in %)

Datenbasis: baza danych
Geodaten © OpenStreetMap
Statistik der Bundesagentur für Arbeit
Cross-border interrelations - over time

*Share of Polish employees on all employees covered by German social insurance*

![Graph showing the share of Polish employees covered by German social insurance over time. The graph includes data from 2009 to 2012, with a significant increase from 2010 onwards. A vertical line indicates the date 01.05.2011, marking the implementation of free movement of workers. The graph includes data for Sachsen and Landkreis Görlitz. The source is TU Dresden, UE Wroclaw.]*
Cross-border interrelations - over time

Number of students who have received their certificate of access to higher education in Poland studying at Saxon universities

Source: TU Dresden/ Statistics Agency Saxony
Cross-border interrelations
Methodology and data availability

• Gathering of existing data and sources

• Evaluation of data quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation criteria</th>
<th>Verfügbarkeit</th>
<th>Aktualität</th>
<th>Periodizität / Jahr der Ersterfassung</th>
<th>Regionalisierte Daten (LK, Kommunen)</th>
<th>Flächenhaftigkeit</th>
<th>Verlässlichkeit</th>
<th>Vergleichbarkeit DE-PL (Symmetrie)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>availability</td>
<td>up-to-dateness</td>
<td>periodicity / year of first data collection</td>
<td>regionalised data (county, municipality)</td>
<td>data covering the whole district</td>
<td>reliability</td>
<td>comparability DE-PL</td>
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</table>
Cross-border interrelations

Conclusions

- Lack of data on cross-border interrelations (due to data privacy, business secret, absence of compulsory registration etc.)
- Complexity of variables influencing cross-border interrelations
- „variable geometries“

- Basis for delineation of functional areas are still too weak
- No general process of integration, development differentiated according to different sectors
- Rural context as a hindering factor for this border region (e.g. economic development, salary levels, concurrence with other regions) – leapfrog effect
Contact

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Source: Stadt Aachen