

Stability of transborder cooperation on the example of Polish borderlands

The main objective of the project is to identify conditions and mechanisms of stability of transborder cooperation on the example of Poland's borderlands. The basis of the analysis will be a comprehensive research of transborder cooperation projects under the European Territorial Cooperation and European Neighbourhood Instrument programs implemented on the Polish land borders (on both sides) in 2007-2013 and 2014-2020.

Research conducted within the project will consist of four main parts taking into account the context of stability of cooperation: analysis of conditions, analysis of the character of transborder cooperation on Poland's borderlands, analysis of cooperation networks (with the use of Social Network Analysis) and qualitative analysis of cooperation in light of surveys and interviews with selected beneficiaries. The comparison of the obtained research results for the 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 the EU programming periods will be of key importance for the implementation of the project objectives.

So far, research shows the lack of a single, universal pattern for the development of cross-border cooperation, which results, among other things, from the fact that its formation on different borderlands takes place in a different way, because entities involved in it are embedded in different conditions and therefore difficult to compare. Research carried out as part of the project will allow for the assessment of the importance of cooperation stability in areas with different conditions and it will enable responding to the question whether it is not a crucial, necessary and at least partly universal factor for the development of borderlands. This arises from the fact that it should potentially have an impact on the integration processes and the effectiveness of cooperation in the long-term perspective. Confirmation of the existence and the role of this factor would significantly broaden the state of knowledge in the field of research on the development of borderlands.

An important element of the planned research will be to take into account the network perspective and the use of a network analysis. It will enable precise and measurable determination of stability (or its lack) of cooperation and incorporation of aspects that cannot be investigated by other research methods.

The project will allow us to better understand the conditions for stability of cooperation, its diversification and relationships with the effects of cooperation. In this way, it will deepen knowledge in the field of political and socio-economic geography.