



Special Session Proposal

Borders and Borderlands – Integration and Cohesion in (Central) Europe

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Abstract

Borders and borderlands are central conditioning factors of development and cooperation in Central Europe (broadly defined). They have undergone particularly dynamic processes in recent years with unprecedented cross-border flows prior to the Covid pandemic. And despite Covid, borderlands have proved resilient, eliciting some support for facilitating local border-crossings. This contrasts with the situation at the EU's edges, where border porosity has in some cases (e.g. toward Ukraine) worsened.

This session welcomes contributions that deal with the differential as well as changing impacts of borders on regional development, cross-border flows and cooperation. It is open to theoretical and empirical foci, comparative and case studies, as well as qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Some more specific topics:

- Borders as development resources and as conditioning factors for Central European development;
- Central Europe as a Borderland;
- Socio-economic cohesion within Central Europe (geographies of CE discontent);
- Macro-regional strategies (Danube, Carpathian) and spatial imaginaries (i.e. Carpathian Basin);
- European integration, europeanisation & changing geopolitical thinking in CE;
- Central European neighbourhood (Germany/Austria, Eastern borders, Western Balkans).

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