



Special Session Proposal

Progress, regress and change in European cross-border regions

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Abstract

Border regions have been a popular research object in regional science for quite some time. Regional labor markets, households' shopping and leisure habits or their residential location choices may be international in border regions. In the course of the European integration, administrative borders have lost some of their barrier effects while other remain.

On the one hand, border regions vividly show progress and advantages of European integration, e.g., in cross-border labor markets, study programs or mobility of goods, people and services. On the other hand, neighboring states still differ in terms of their institutions, organization and framework conditions yielding frictional costs in several aspects of cross-border working, living, studying – hence cooperation. Not to mention ubiquitous issues of regional science such as competition vs. cooperation, borrowing size vs. agglomeration shadows or NIMBYism.

All of these issues, both individually and jointly, have gained new momentum in the light of the current Corona situation and its implications on cross-border working, living and studying. Thus, both basic research cross-border analyses and cooperations between regions and institutions are of great relevance for regional science, policy and practice.

This special session aims to bring together current research about European cross-border regions. Although it is not a specifically Corona-related session, a few side notes on Corona-related temporal or permanent shifts within one of the following

topics could be interesting for the discussion of “Progress, regress and change in European Cross-border regions”.

- Current and future cross-border regional labor markets
- Competition for and sharing of skilled students and labor force in European cross-border regions
- Temporal and permanent cross-border migration
- Cross-border regional working, living, studying
- Economic impacts of temporal and permanent interruptions in cross-border regional flows
- The role of “Euregios”
- Best practices of cross-border cooperation
- Sustainability and sustainable development in border regions
- NIMBYism and competition within and across border regions

This Special Session also provides the opportunity to present current European cross-border projects and their respective objectives, approaches and outcomes. It similarly provides room for presenting, discussion and relating basic research and practical experiences regarding European cross-border topics.