

**Border areas in enlarged Europe – a comparative study about the Czech-Polish and Austrian-Slovenian border areas**

**Aktion Austria – Czech republic, 1st September 2010 – 31st December 2011**

1. Names of persons involved in the project:

Palacký University in Olomouc, Department of Geography, Faculty of Sciences:

RNDr. Pavel Ptáček, Ph.D. – researcher, research assistant  
Mgr. Petr Kladivo – Ph.D. student, lecturer at Dep. of Geography  
Mgr. Pavel Roubínek – Ph.D. student, lecturer at Dep. of Geography

University of Klagenfurt, Department of Geography and Regional Studies, Faculty of Management and Economics:

Dr. hab. Karen Ziener – researcher  
Mag. Roswitha Ruidisch – researcher, Ph.D. student

2. Activities:

Study and research stays:

20. – 25. 9. 2010 study stay in Vienna, meeting at the 3rd Conference of the Adriatic Forum: Regional Development and Regionalisation, September 23-25, 2010; presentation „Cross-border collaboration on Czech and Austrian borders: selected cases”

participants: dr. P. Ptáček, Mag. R. Ruidisch, Dr. hab. K. Ziener

2. – 7. 2. 2011 field research in Austrian-Slovenian borderland – Klagenfurt and borderland area in Austria and Slovenia (interviews with local stakeholders, observation and documentation of changes in the borderland) whole the team present

28.4. – 7.5. 2011 study and field research in Czech-Polish borderland – Jeseník, Nysa and Klodsko districts (interviews with local stakeholders, observation and documentation of changes in the borderland); whole the team present

27.5. – 2.6. 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> field research in Austrian-Slovenian borderland; finalization of research, discussion and synopsis of common publications (final decision about the form of publication and about publication strategy) whole the team present

23.8. – 1.9. 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> field research in Czech-Polish borderland (region of Těšín /Cieszyn Silesia); schedule for publications set, decision for concrete journals where to publish finished; whole the team present

Presentation of the project at conferences:

3rd Conference of the Adriatic Forum: Regional Development and Regionalisation, September 23-25, 2010; presentation „Cross-border collaboration on Czech and Austrian borders: selected cases” (presented by P. Ptáček)

4th Conference of the Adriatic Forum Zadar, Croatia, September 16-18, 2011: Cross-border Cooperation in the Austrian-Slovenian and Czech-Polish Border Areas: Conditions, Development and Perceptions (presented by K. Ziener)

International Conference "Czech borderland after Schengen in Central European context"; Jindřichův Hradec, Czech republic, presentation "Perception of the Czech-Polish borderland by citizens of Praděd euroregion after the entering into the Schengen space" (presented by P. Ptáček, P. Roubínek)

#### Publications:

The original aim was to publish a monograph co-financed by Aktion project. After discussion it was decided to publish the results of this research in 3 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Two of them are on web of science and the next is on Scopus database. This was the main reason: the impact and the dissemination of the research will be than bigger one. All articles will be published in English language.

#### Article titles (preliminary titles):

Article 1: "Austrian-Slovenian and Czech-Polish borderland - similarities and differences in development" published in: Moravian Geographical Reports (Scopus database)

<http://www.geonika.cz/EN/research/ENMgr.html>

submitting: February 2012 (draft version of the article enclosed)

Article 2: "Austrian-Slovenian and Czech-Polish borderland before and after Schengen" published in: Sociologický časopis/Czech sociological review - web of science, IF 0,389

proposed submitting: March 2012

Article 3: "Historical and socio-cultural determinants of cross-border realtions at Austrian-Slovenian and Czech-Polish borderland: comparative study"

published in: Mitteilungen der österreichischen geographischen Gesellschaft (web of science, IF 0,345), proposed submitting: Mai 2012

#### Shifts in the budget:

There were originally allocated in the budget 30 000 CZK for printing and editing costs. After approval of Czech Aktion office (dr. Hanžlová) and approval of Vice-dean for science and research at the Faculty of Sciences, Palacký University (prof. dr. T. Opatrný) this money was spent for following purposes:

1. literature (books):	16.216 CZK
2. participation at the international conference in J. Hradec	5.916 CZK
3. financing of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> journey to Klagenfurt (without stipend in Austria)	7.868 CZK
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30.000 CZK</b>

#### Purchased books:

Handbook of Evolutionary Economic Geography	4.352 CZK
Handbook of Industrial District	3.670 CZK
Die Habsb. Monarchie 1848-1918, Band IX, (Teil 1, Teilbände 1,2 und Teil 2)	8.194 CZK
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16.216 CZK</b>

The extra journey to Austria was carried out in September 2010.

All items are present in the project account approved by the Head of department of economy affairs, Faculty of Sciences

#### 4. Evaluation of the collaboration and its perspectives

The collaboration between our institutes started thanks to Erasmus student exchange program in 2007 and it was originally initiated by senior professors of our Departments. Shortly after we have met at the 1<sup>st</sup> Adriatic forum conference in Koper, Slovenia in December 2008 and realized our common research interests in cross-border collaboration research. During the next meeting, at Deutsches Geographentag in Vienna in September 2009 we decided to make the next step for strengthening of our collaboration and Aktion program was optimal for it. After the first unsuccessful submitting of the research project in autumn 2009 we submitted it in the next call in spring 2010 and we were successful. Since then the collaboration is much deeper and broader and it has its solid base – the common research grant. Despite its relatively small size (in terms of the budget) there was achieved quite impressive amount of common meetings, presentations at the conferences, common aims and methodologies of the student's field works. And of course the tangible results will be three common publications in peer-reviewed journals. Without Aktion project we are pretty sure that we would never achieve such a level of collaboration between our institutes. For the future collaboration we plan to go on in the topic of human geography. We would also like to use the opportunity for our students in the framework of excursions to Austria/Czech rep. in the framework of Aktion project.

#### 5. Photographs from common meetings and field works



The field research in Austrian Carinthia part of the borderland (February 2011)



Project partners brain storming after field research – Slovenj Gradec (February 2011)



The Schengen border at Loibel/Ljubelj pass – the main road between Klagenfurt and Ljubljana (Slovene side of the tunnel, February 2011)



Informal meeting with Štefan Merkač, Carinthian Slovene and one of the key persons of the cross-border collaboration and projects in Bad Eisenkappel/Železna Kapla, South of Carithia (February 2011)



Field work in May 2011: Czech-Polish border near Jeseník (divided village Velké Kunětice/Slawniowice)



One of the most curious parts of Czech-Polish border: divided village and divided church in Bílá Voda (near Javorník ve Slezsku), field research in Mai 2011