



Volume XL-4/W3

Int. Arch. Photogramm. Remote Sens. Spatial Inf. Sci., XL
 www.int-arch-photogramm-remote-sens-spatial-inf-sci.net
 doi: 10.5194/isprsarchives-XL-4-W3-83-20
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Transcarpathia – Ukrainian border region at the edge of representations

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Keywords: Borderland studies, regional development, regional identity

Abstract. Starting from 1918, multiethnic Transcarpathia changed after centuries frequently its political affiliation and is since 2004 a Ukrainian border region. European Union neighbour countries belong since 21.12.2007 to the Schengen area, the southern neighbour Romania is for the time being not yet.

After a phase of relatively open borders and relatively intensive neighbourly relations, by the Schengen regime the situation for Transcarpathia changed again. The intensified by the Schengen entry of Romania, is likely to

What does this mean for Transcarpathia as well as for the wider region in the Carpathian Basin? Which factors are determining the development in Transcarpathia? Which position matters? How does it look at Kiev and how is it looked at by Kiev and the cis-Carpathians?

The paper deals under these aspects with economic development in Transcarpathia, its role in the continental transportation network, the identity of the region, regionalism, also with the position of the large Hungarian minority in the region.

The paper is based on a larger research project completed and published by Klemenčič (2011: Transcarpathia – Bridgehead or Periphery?), but adopts also the results of the author (Berenike Ecker) as well as results of more recent research.

It is found that shaping by Hungarian history, borderland location and multiethnicity are essential components of Transcarpathian identity. Its economic potentials are

wood, its pleasant landscape and mineral waters, its location in the European
bridge function, the rich language skills of its population, the region's Central
industrialisation (wood processing, food industry, electrotechnical industry) and
the Hungarian minority the region was able to make some progress during the
escape its economically peripheral position. Major obstacles for a better development
market-conform agriculture, in the Schengen regime cutting Transcarpathia off
well as in Ukrainian regional governance structures enforcing centralist
administration.

[Conference Paper](#) (PDF, 461 KB)

Citation: Jordan, P.: Transcarpathia – Ukrainian border region at the e
representations, Int. Arch. Photogramm. Remote Sens. Spatial Inf. Sci., XL-4/V