

The indexation and monitoring of the modern transborder processes

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Abstract

In the presentation are analysed the phenomenon of transborder processes, are identified the main levels of its vertical structure. In order to adequately reflect the objective reality of modern transfrontier processes, the author distinguishes within the multi-layered concept of 'transfrontier' three levels as far as spatial dimensions are concerned: macro, mezzo and micro. The proposed definition of the nature and types of modern cross-border processes has the great theoretical and practical significance. This is evidenced, for example, in the work on quantitative and qualitative assessment of transborder processes. Presented the basic notions of the developed system on indexation and monitoring of transborder cooperation at the new Eastern border of the European Union.

Keywords: system methodology, transborder cooperation, transborder statistics.

1. Introduction.

Modern globalization has produced a new philosophy of spatial delimitation of states, and with it – the life of a human. We have witnessed how the highly contradictory process unfolded: on the one hand - almost complete overcoming of borders (as in the case of the European Union member states), or at least their "dilution», on the other hand - a kind of reincarnation of rigid state territorial delimitations. Given the radical political changes associated with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of new players on the geopolitical scene in Europe in the early 90s of the 20th century, communication across borders transformed significantly. It acquired a greater scale, dynamics and it became more pragmatic. As a result, border associated phenomena have an ever increasing impact on the livelihoods of people.

In view of the above mentioned the issues of borders in the past and currently caused significant cognitive interest in the society. Therefore, the scientific community advanced considerably in the analysis of specific aspects of the borders and their related phenomena. In particular, examined large sets of historical data about how the borders emerged have been examined. Various information about its nature and development trends has been presented. The veil of secrecy about the interdependence of the elements in the triad "border, war, and peace" has been raised. In short, there are significant factual and conceptual achievements in understanding of these critical phenomena of social life (Communication and European Frontiers, 2011).

The more surprising is the fact that today, in my opinion, some important issues that affect the very essence of modern borders remain unsolved. These questions are far from scholastic. Answers will allow avoiding confusion and errors in the theoretical research, hence, confusion in practice.

The aim of this presentation, hence, is the analysis of the nature of transborder processes and their conceptual reflection.

2. Results

The border is a static phenomenon. Transborder processes (TBP) (transborder phenomenon, transborder flows, transborder) are a dynamic form of border existence. Transborder processes exist ever since borders exist. They may be limited by certain parts of the state area (in particular, territory), or they can cover all its depth. Because transborder processes have been somewhat underdeveloped or exist in primitive forms,

on the one hand, and that they use to be the case mostly on the areas immediately close to borders, on the other hand – transborder communication for a long time (until the recent decades) associated with the border communication. However, with the revolutionary scientific and technical progress (in particular, the emergence of a fundamentally new means of transport and communication) and related globalization and dynamism of social development in the second half of the last century, the scope, intensity and variety of transborder processes forms increased dramatically. To relate the fundamentally new quality of transborder communication in the Procrustean bed of "border relations" ("border connections") came to be totally wrong from a scientific point of view, and counterproductive from the practical standpoint.

I believe that to adequately capture the essence of modern transborder processes we should be guided by the methodology of system study of society. This choice is due to three main reasons.

- 1) It is only the system methodology as a tool for integrative analysis that can currently adequately reflect the natural, organic unity of factors, different by nature, affecting borders - from subjective to material factors.
- 2) It is only the system methodology that provides analysis of both functional and dynamic characteristics of objects that is able to reveal the complex mechanism of transborder processes operation and development.
- 3) Finally, it is only the system methodology that has a powerful apparatus of practical developments that can translate the limologic research from primarily descriptive to the practically necessary category.

Scientists are increasingly aware that theoretical border problems should be translated into practical developments on a totally new level – from primarily one-factor analysis (Kolossof, 2005) to interdisciplinary research (Brunet-Jailly, 2005).

Based on a system vision of the object, the essence of transborder processes, in my understanding, is subjective communication, relations, interaction or natural flowing of matter, energy, etc., associated with the crossing of the state border. Thus, transborder processes (cross-border) differ from international relations. They are wider in their meaning, constituting not only a wide range of subjective interaction across the border (which is the content of international relations), but also a wide range of natural transborder phenomena - the overflow of water and air resources, migration of populations of animals (a kind of object interaction) etc. Of course, they are richer in content compared with interstate relations, the subjects of which are only public institutions.

The multifaceted system phenomenon of “transborder” by their criteria of depth of area coverage with transborder activity and their spatial scale include three levels: macro, mezzo and micro.

Macro level corresponds to transborder processes covering in scope the entire territory of the state (eg, international relations, inter-state relations, international relations of national actors, international exchange of goods, etc.). Mezzo level is formed by transborder effects that extend into regions (eg, regional cooperation of state bodies and local communities, barter, natural processes, etc.). Micro level of transborder processes is associated with the crossing of the state border (organized or spontaneous, legally or illegally) by specific actors (representatives of government, civil society organizations, groups or individuals), or barter, natural events at the local level.

Proposed understanding of transborder processes, is of course, presented in a somewhat schematic form. However, in my view, it adequately reflects the essence and structure of transborder effects.

The above approach to the essence of transborder processes and reflecting it generic notions also allow to more accurately depict the content of derivative, narrower by scope, transborder phenomena and related specific notions. First, it refers to transborder cooperation (TBC), which in the present context has ever increasing practical importance.

As is known, in the European sense, "transborder cooperation (TBC)" - «the Transfrontier co-operation (TFC)» or «the Cross-Border Co-operation (CBC)" - means any concerted action aimed at reinforcing and deepening of the good-neighbourly relations between territorial communities or authorities within the jurisdiction of two or more contracting parties and the conclusion for that purpose of appropriate contracts or related agreements (European Outline Convention, 1981). Transborder cooperation is an organized, usually institutional form of transborder processes.

For a long time this definition of the TBC was actually interpreted as being identical to the notion of "border cooperation", that is the notion depicting *cooperation of neighbouring border areas of the states*. However, real life, the practice of transborder cooperation forced to make adjustments to this interpretation. The point is that cooperative relationship also tended to get established and developed not only between adjacent regions but also between regions with no common area in between. Therefore the content of TBC was clarified. This clarification is contained in the already mentioned "Protocol number 2 to the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities Concerning Inter-territorial Cooperation" (Protocol № 2, 1998).

Hence, as of today, two types of transborder cooperation are identified: transborder cooperation covering cooperation of subjects of adjacent areas of the states and territorial (mostly regional) cooperation covering interaction of subjects of non-adjacent areas. In terms of matching the spatial levels of transborder processes, both transborder border cooperation and transborder territorial cooperation correspond to mezzo- and mini- levels of transborder processes.

The system methodology is also vital for the effective analysis and management. Unfortunately, currently in science there are no systematic studies of transborder regions and transborder cooperation. Attempt to fill this gap in theoretical reflection has been made by the Institute for Transfrontier Cooperation and its partners in the implementation of the international project "Borders for people". (Ustych, 2012).

The project was prepared by the Institute for Transfrontier Cooperation (Uzhgorod, Ukraine) with Hungarian, Slovak and Romanian partners in the framework of the European Union ENPI Program (2007-20013). It was implemented in the period between 2010-2012. Overall project objective was the optimization of transborder cooperation of the neighboring regions of Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and Ukraine. The main outcome of the project is creation of indexation and monitoring system of transborder cooperation and methods of its social implementation. Without going into a detailed analysis of it, let me point out that the transborder cooperation indexation and monitoring system (IMS) in Europe is a set of theoretical, organizational and practical measures that provides the correct analysis and comparison of common and distinctive features and trends in transborder cooperation in various regions of Europe in order to improve its efficiency, primarily by management optimization. IMS is a universal model for analysis and optimization of transborder cooperation both at the new Eastern border as a whole and in its individual segments in particular. Indexation of TFC is a tool of political analysis of transfrontier cooperation based on index construction method.

Index of TBC is an indicator (relative value, expressed in unit fractions or per cents) that quantitatively characterizes dynamics of transborder cooperation as well as serves for its comparison in various regions of Europe. General index of TBC is the indicator of the level of object development in general. Special index of TBC is the indicator of level of development of one or another group of characteristics (parameters) of an object. Single index of TBC is the indicator of level of development of specific (individual) characteristics of an object. Monitoring of TBC is the process of tracking changes undergoing within the object during specific period.

It is encouraging that the system approach to the analysis of contemporary transborder processes applied in the project was supported by the expert community. The presentation of IMS at international forums was the proof. In addition, the

methodology has been already implemented on other segments of the European border, particularly on the Norwegian-Russian, Finnish-Russian, Polish-Russian borders. For preparation and implementation of this project the Institute for Transfrontier Cooperation was awarded by the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) with the award "For outstanding achievements in European transborder cooperation".

Another international project of the Institute for Transfrontier Cooperation deals with the problems of transborder statistics. It is called "Modern transborder processes and their statistical mapping." The project is implemented within the Program of the International Visegrad Fund (start of implementation - June 2012).

The Project is based on system understanding of transborder processes. In accordance with this understanding three types of transborder statistics are proposed to be identified, corresponding to macro-, mezzo- and micro- levels of transborder processes. The national transborder statistics quantifies the subject, institutional and object interaction across the border at the state level, regional transborder statistics - at the regional level, local transborder statistics - at the local level. Regional transborder statistics and local transborder statistics are much wider in terms than the statistics of border cooperation.

The project involves eminent researchers, particularly in the past many years the Head of the Polish Statistical Office, now - Lazar University Professor J. Olenski and former director of the Research Institute of Rosstat, Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Economics and Business Professor V. Symchera.

3. Conclusions

To sum up, the following conclusions can evidently be made:

- 1) The sociological reflection of modern transborder processes must "keep up" with their most dynamic development, with constant enrichment with innovation methods.
- 2) The system methodology is an effective cognitive and transformational tool of transborder processes, allowing considerable clarifying and specifying the categorical knowledge about the transborder phenomena and structure essence.
- 3) One of the greatest advantages of the system research methodology is its practical orientation. This is proved by the findings of the international project, dealing with modern transborder processes analysis and management.

Only first steps have been made in the integral understanding of transborder processes. A lot of work for the wide range of researches and practitioner is still ahead, in particular in terms of development of the system model of transborder processes, improvement of methods of quality and quantity assessment of transborder phenomena, efficient social implementation of the information received.

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