

Transformations of the Ukrainian-Polish border regions: experience of Ukraine

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Received on 20-02-2022, reviewed on 15-04-2022, accepted on 20-05-2022

Abstract

The paper addresses the issue of the state border. It emphasizes the fact that the state border is a multi-component and multifunctional phenomenon. It was proved that a legally established and internationally recognized border acquires a sign of politicality. The political boundary is a holistic and dynamic phenomenon, inherent in the internal logic of development. The issues of functioning and institutional support of state borders were generalized. The influence of state borders on the development of border territories was revealed. A scheme for the development and integration of contact border areas has been developed. The factors of contact border regions development were studied, as well as the process of various types of regional socio-economic systems formation under the condition of the predominance of state border certain functions. The importance of the functioning of state borders and the development of border regions for the formation of various types of ties, the level of stability of the border and the formation of a political environment have been clarified.

Keywords: *state border, contact-making border areas, the USSR, Poland, Ukraine*

Rezumat. Transformarea regiunilor de la granița ucraineano-poloneză: experiența Ucrainei

Lucrarea abodează chestiunea granițelor statale, subliniind faptul că granița este un fenomen multifuncțional, ce cuprinde mai multe componente. S-a dovedit că o graniță recunoscută la nivel internațional și stabilită legal capătă în timp un statut politic. Granița politică este un fenomen dinamic și holistic, inalienabil în logica internă a dezvoltării. Chestiunea funcționării și suportul instituțional pentru granițele statale au fost generalizate. Influența granițelor asupra dezvoltării regiunilor din zona de graniță a fost dezvăluită și s-a propus o schemă pentru dezvoltarea și integrarea zonelor de graniță. Au fost analizați factorii care condiționează dezvoltarea zonelor de la graniță, precum și procesul pentru formarea diferitelor sisteme socio-economice ținând cont de condițiile predominante și funcționalitatea acestora. S-au adus clarificări cu privire la importanța funcționării granițelor, dezvoltarea regiunilor de graniță și formarea anumitor tipuri de legături, precum și gradul de stabilitate al granițelor și formarea unui mediu politic corespunzător.

Cuvinte-cheie: *granițe de stat, zone de la contactul cu granița, URSS, Polonia, Ucraina*

Introduction

The state border defines the spatial boundaries of the state territories and the scope of its sovereignty. Authors would like to draw the attention on some differences in the definition of state borders that exist in Ukrainian and Western scientific thought. Ukrainian scientists understand the state border as a legally and actually established artificial line (on land and water) and a vertical surface passing along this line in the subsoil, waters and airspace. Such a definition of the border is established by the Ukrainian law. Western scholars like Anderson and O'Dowd (1999, p. 595) argue that boundaries are "constitute imprisonment; a kind of gate with the "outside world" and perform the functions of: protection and areas of opportunity and / or danger; areas of contact and / or conflict; cooperation and / or competition". The theory of international relations states that state borders must be properly guarded, the territory must be indivisible, and the state must have full control over its delimited territory. However, in practice the boundaries are not always well-defined and coherent. Nowadays, due to globalization and regionalization, borders are often

being changed and transformed. All this affects the development of contact border regions (territories). And they, in turn, affect the level of political stability, economic security, civil liberty, form stable types of ties, affect the level of socio-economic development. A comparison of the development and transformation of contact border regions in different historical periods can be of specific scientific interest. This question is addressed in the study, focusing on the example of Ukraine and Poland, as two adjacent states, and in different time periods and under different political regimes.

Analysis of scientific research and publications about the studied topic

The analysis of research and publications on the subject regarding the state border functioning and development of the cross-border areas demonstrates high interest from various fields, involving political science, history and geography. Alaev (1983), Bielenkyi et al. (2002), Bohorad, Teveliev, Padalka, Pidmohylnyi (2004), Baklanov&Hanzei (2008), Dolhov (2013), Hranberh (2000), Kolosov (1985; 2003), Kolosov&Myronenko (2001), Mochernyi et al. (2002),

Vermenych (2003), Yaromenko (2009) and many other scholars demonstrate a great interest in the subject within their works. Current situation about functioning of state border and possible ways of cross-border areas development, especially in the field of cross-border cooperation was deeply studied in works of such scholars as Antoniuk&Papish (2019), Barthel (2021), Gryzenko (2010), Krasnikova, Filatov &Krasnikov (2016), Kravtsova et al (2009), Stokłosa (2012), Varnaliia (2007), Wolczuk (2008). Moreover, Kotsan (2017a; 2017b; 2017c) raised some issues on the state border functioning and development of the cross-border areas between Poland and Ukraine. In this area foreign investigations are also quite significant. Newman (2006, p.146), in his work "Lines That Continue to Divide Us: Borders in Our World Without Borders", describes the Renaissance of a scientific interest in the study of border problems: "The study of borders has revived in the last decade. This is reflected in a large list of conferences, seminars and scientific publications". A similar view was expressed by Hagen (2021): "At the turn of the XX century, the study of borders experiences a period of revival," and added that, ironically, this "renaissance" coincided with the flowering of theories of "world without borders". Moreover, "reflecting the growing scientific interest in frontier research, a number of research centres and associations have been set up to disseminate information, encourage research and organize conferences on border issues." Ukrainian scholar Kotsan (2021, p.31) says that "In nowadays Ukraine, research institutes, organizations and institutions, independent scientific centers are systematically engaged in border research, among which the National Institute of Strategic Studies (which studies security issues), the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, the Center for Peace, Conversion and Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (Kyiv), Institute of Regional and European Integration Studies "EuroRegionUkraine" should be singled out". However, the issues of dynamics, development and transformation of border areas, specifics of contact border space, factors of its formation, peculiarities of state borders functioning and significance of this process for neighbouring states in general and for Ukraine in particular need further clarification and deep analysis what became the main reason for the researched topic studied in the article.

Methods of research

The following methods have become important in the study of Ukrainian-Polish border regions and the processes associated with their transformation: chronological, periodization, retrospective and perspective method, comparative-historical method. Thus, regularities, contradictions and connections of certain events and processes in chronological order

were revealed on the basis of research of their appearance, formation and development. In addition, they allowed to identify the primary information that provides a basis for further theoretical reflection and construction.

Obviously, all real-world objects change, have certain phases and stages of development. The chronological method allowed to carry out a thorough analysis on the formation of the border under certain domestic political conditions and external factors, to study the dynamics of its functions changes. This method, together with the diachronic method, became the basis for highlighting specific stages and political features of the border areas of Ukraine and Poland. In the research, periods and stages of development and transformation of the Ukrainian-Polish border regions were selected on the basis of the following criteria: branching of the institutional and legal framework; political features of the border functioning; functional component of the border. For each period and stage of border regions development, the name of the border type and the type of border area was proposed. The influence of the political system on the functioning of the border was taken into account; the impact of border functions on the development of border areas, the degree of stability of the political, economic and social situation in the region, etc. The names of the periods are closely related to a certain historical period (for example, "Interwar", "Military") and have a clear definition within the years. The names of border types reflect the predominant functions and their effect on borders accordingly. The names of the types of border regions show the degree of interaction of different states' neighbouring territories; the level of states' relations, regulated by their governments and determined by their national interests; the degree of integration of the border with adjacent territories of the neighbouring country.

Such methods as analysis, synthesis, induction and deduction, retrospectives and perspectives were also used, which allowed us to get a comprehensive picture of the nature, features and patterns of transformation of the Ukrainian-Polish border areas in historical retrospect and perspective.

Theoretical foundations of the border regions study

The established state border obtains political features and legally determines cross-border regime. Moreover, border area rules affect the process of defining and consolidating certain norms, rules, status and roles as well as developing them into the system that will operate in order to ensure state interests. The institutionalisation of borders takes place. The border becomes a multifaceted and multifunctional phenomenon and in broader sense a

systemic one. The political border is a multifunctional phenomenon, it performs not only principal functions, but also specific functions, such as political, social, cultural, economic and identifiable (psychological) ones, which can be also called boundary-communication functions.

The main functions of the state border include barrier, joining and filtering; secondary ones are separation, regulation and comparison. Depending on the geopolitical situation in the system of international affairs, either one of these functions prevails, or all of them are performed simultaneously (Malynovska, 2001).

A particular state provides relationships with the international world system through border's execution of the main and secondary functions. The state border acts as a barrier, a common zone as well as a filter of interstate interaction including the political, economic, cultural and other fields.

One of the principal functions of the border is a barrier one. It is significant as each country has a full and exclusive supremacy in its state territory (Malynovska, 2001).

As a linear form, the border limits the growth of socio-economic phenomena that characterise neighbouring states. As a result, these aspects develop in different political, economic, historical and cultural contexts, which were formed in different sides of the border. Therefore, a barrier function of the border involves creating a specific barrier between the states that is exhibited by various restrictions on its crossing as well as restrictions on activities in the states' border areas.

A barrier function of the border is expressed by the ability to reduce or even suspend cooperation between neighbouring states. A property of the border to promote the interaction indicates its joining function. The correlation of state border properties directly depends on the model of management of foreign economic relations and the political regime.

The state and its authorized state bodies are exclusive subjects in the centralised model. In this case, border allows external cooperation only in the context of interstate and international agreements and programmes. Border does not make any contacts within all other interactions. In terms of a decentralised model, the situation alters radically. Primary economic elements, such as enterprises, cooperatives, associations, research institutions, etc., are the subjects of foreign economic activity. Thus, barrier qualities are not represented by fundamental impossibility of foreign relations of the main economic elements, but are in the form of administrative, economic, border and customs restrictions on direct exporters and importers. These restrictions perform as a set of measures in order to ensure national economic interests. The barrier may be shown through limitations on both sides, the conditions for

the emergence of flows between countries and the conditions under which they operate.

In the first case, the barrier is reduced to reflection, filtering of flows and setting a threshold for flows that cross the border. In the second case, the barrier is reduced to the outlay for the border crossing.

The reflection is exhibited in the creating of unfavourable conditions in order to spread any phenomenon or process in the border area. Border filtering is demonstrated in the selective capacity of flows (goods, services, passengers) across the border. It is carried out through various governmental, administrative and economic methods of control over external relations: licensing, tariff and non-tariff restrictions, visa and passport regime, exchange rate, currency turnover, etc.

The threshold is shown in the fact that to cross the border it is necessary to overcome the difference in the potential of neighbouring countries. In economics, overcoming such a threshold can be expressed in cost form: if the cost of overcoming is too high, the border will be impenetrable.

The implementation of the barrier function requires significant infrastructure costs, that is, building border constructions, maintaining border and customs services. Being a barrier, the state border plays a separation role. However, this fact is influenced by the level of economic and political "merger" of the neighbouring countries.

There are two cases within the barrier function: a restricted or an open border. A case of the restricted border is represented by non-friendly countries or it is applied by the state that wants to preserve its people from the external impact. At the border, a required minimum of crossing points remains; border frontiers are reinforced and defence capability of the strategically vulnerable parts is strengthened (Kolosov, 2003).

The open border demonstrates friendly and neighbourly relationships between the countries. Various communications cross the border, ethnic groups at both sides of the border have access to communicate freely.

Even the case of the open border remains a hurdle, i.e. performs a filtering function, and is aimed at protecting national interests of the state, especially economic ones. This objective is implemented by the work of border and customs services. The border filters flow of people, goods, investments and information. Control over the flow of people involves using different visa types, such as for tourists, government officials, business people, migrant workers etc. Ideally, states can sign bilateral or multilateral agreements or visa-free border crossings. Transportation of goods across the border is regulated by setting of tariffs on different product categories or by applying of various licences and

quotas. Since the flow of capital must be transparent, international banking systems are responsible for the movement of non-cash funds, the movement of cash, gold and other valuables can be normalized and declared. Quarantine, environmental and other restrictions are also imposed.

In modern context, there is an increasing tendency to intensify the joining function of the borders. It reflects objective processes of internationalization of the economic life, the development of multilateral relations among the states, the establishment of interstate and cross-border cooperation. The effect of the joining function is vividly exhibited within the cross-border regions.

We should note that there are many interpretations of the category "region" in terminology (Karymova, 2006, Bezverkhniuk, 2007, Symonenko, 1997). The term "cross-border region" implies a region that is characterised most significantly by the presence of the state border as well as by wide opportunities for interregional and cross-border cooperation with neighbouring regions and states (Yaromenko, 2009).

In the monograph "Theoretical and methodological issues of historical regional science in Ukraine", Vermenych (2003, p.66-67) addressing the essence of the notion "cross-border region" states that: "Nowadays, there continues the process of determining the place of cross-border regional science within both economics and regional research or regional science as a field of scholar work based on the interdisciplinary approach that is aimed at studying the patterns of regionalization of the country taking into account natural, geographical, historical, ethno-cultural, economic, socio-demographic factors, as well as the study of regional development of border zone in its relationship with the principles of public administration and the main courses of state building".

The term "cross-border region" is used both for the geographical content and for the economic characteristics of the region. Quite often, the term "border area" is used instead, as it is considered to be more flexible and appropriate in the case of developing projects, programmes, models and concepts of borderland development.

In addition, scholars define the cross-border region as an administrative unit that is on the next level after state and it is located directly along the state border. This definition is based on the definition of the term "region" proposed by the Assembly of European Regions. "A region is a territorial unit-subject of public law, formed at a level that is immediately lower than the state, and endowed with the right of political self-government. The region will be recognized as a national constitution or legislation that guarantees its autonomy, identity, power and

organizational structure" (Assembly of European Regions, 1996).

Although this definition is not official, it became a part of the terminology of the Council of Europe and the European Commission. Some authors summarised the definitions above and they consider that "cross-border region is a part of the economic zone of an independent state which borders with one or more countries and it is characterised by geographical integrity, specific natural, climatic, economic and social conditions, location and development of productive forces, participation in cross-border cooperation and international division of labour" (Milashovska, 2010).

Nowadays, cross-border regions can independently solve their issues, establish interregional relations or ties with foreign states within the framework of national legislation. Each region, including the cross-border region, has its own approaches to using natural resources, peculiarities of its location, national and historic features, specific structure of the economy, level of economic development, specialisation (Zakony Ukrainy, 2001). Their harmonised socio-economic growth enhances economic independence of the country as well as increases its competitiveness among other states.

The principal features of harmonised socio-economic growth of cross-border regions are:

- optimal, economically and environmentally justified use of the region's resources;
- rational sectoral and territorial structure of the economy which must meet social and environmental requirements;
- close relationship with adjacent areas of the neighbouring states and the need to coordinate their socio-economic development programmes (Milashovska, 2010).

The concept of "cross-border region" implies that an area belonging to it is under the influence of the state border. Moreover, cross-border region is a territory that covers one or more administrative units of a state and adjoins the state border (Mikula, 2004).

Functioning of the border affects the development of the adjacent border region, therefore, quite often scholars argue the establishment of the so-called "contact-making border area". The concept of "contact-making border area" serves as a special historical and spatial category as it studies two objects, the processes of interaction and functioning between contacting groups and centres over a certain time frame, and the processes of presentation of the "border image". Furthermore, interpretations of the political and economic contexts within contact-making border areas are not limited only by peculiarities of the borders. So, the study of "contact-making border areas" is relevant and significant.

Contact-making border areas, including frontier and interstate areas, have been performing important

functions within the past and modern development of the state. They are a sort of "membranes" that regulate exchange (economic, political, cultural, demographic, etc.) and decrease the impact of the "external factor" on the state. Contacting space in these zones is inhomogeneous and multi-vector. Depending on the political and economic situation it can transform either in a "barrier" or a "filter". In general, there are three types of objects that influence the formation of contact-making border areas. They are: area (territory), boundaries (outlines) and capital centres. It is an important fact that within these zones, infrastructure develops intensively, enterprises are created and designed to use raw materials, labour, materials from the neighbouring regions and countries as well as they are export-oriented. However, they depend on external sources of raw materials as well, so they are vulnerable to military or isolationist influences from abroad. Hence, the main tasks of "contact-making border areas" are the stabilization of the supranational geopolitical system, the accumulation of integration, historical experience of compromises and exchange of achievements. In order to attain these objectives, the border must implement the joining function.

Formation of contact-making border areas depends chiefly on the influence of political, historical, natural and geographical factors and in particular on the events of political history, ethno-cultural features, social and religious relationships in the region. Moreover, the political regime of the state, administrative policy, socio-economic and demographic capacity of the region, ethno-cultural integrity impact on the progress of contact-making border areas. Intensity of the socio-political processes in contact-making border areas hinges on the geopolitical development and strategies of cross-border interaction. In one case, an "isolated borderland" is formed, in another one an "integrated border zone" of neighbouring states can be created (Kotsan, 2018).

If barrier or filtering border functions dominate in contact-making border areas of the neighbouring states, "isolated" border areas are formed. Therefore, they are influenced by national political and economic system and have weak ties with foreign countries. A certain "image" of the border as well as the attitude to one's own territory with a specific level of socio-economic development, to border policy in particular and policies in general, to the political regime, etc. are formed within these regional socio-economic systems. Historical events, misapprehension and conflicts with neighbouring territories on the other side of the border, ethnic peculiarities, social, religious and other types of relations are accumulated on these realities. All mentioned above affects the establishment of loyalty or disloyalty to the border.

Most often, within the "isolated" border areas performance of the specific (boundary-communication) functions leads to formation of an unstable socio-political environment which is exhibited by violation of cross-border regime and border area rules.

In these cases, border areas create solid relations (political, economic, cultural, etc.) with the adjacent territorial entities of the same level, which enhances their role in the state, increases the level of socio-economic development and forms a stable political environment.

Development and transformation of Ukrainian-Polish border regions

Ukrainian-Polish border regions are parts of the economic territory of Ukraine and Poland, which are separated by a border, but are characterized by geographical integrity, similar natural and climatic conditions, specific socio-economic potential, location and development of productive forces. In addition, these are the border administrative parts of Ukraine (regions) and Poland (provinces), which take an active part in the international division of labor, border and cross-border cooperation. The Ukrainian-Polish border regions have a common history, ethno-cultural origins, social and religious relations. Therefore, it is quite interesting to consider their transformation, as well as the influence of the border on this process not only at the current stage, but also in retrospect. After the First World War in 1921, a boundary was established between the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (the Ukrainian SSR) and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (the RSFSR) on the one hand, and with the Republic of Poland (the RP) on the other side. Thus, the interwar period of frontier formation and development of Ukrainian and Polish border regions began (Table 1).

This period is divided into two stages based on a number of criteria, such as institutional and legal framework, political features, functional component of the border. At the first stage of "establishment and institutionalization" (1921-1924), the border was established with successive phases of allocation, delimitation, demarcation. The artificially marked Soviet-Polish frontier had a low level of stability, socio-political loyalty of the population to it, which affected the instability of socio-political relations in the cross-border regions. It was also superimposed on the political regimes of both states, their efforts to control and dominate in the region. This fact impacted the features of the border functioning with the predominance of sabotage, provocative and investigative work. Under these conditions, both sides were forced to strengthen the borders, create institutions for border security, execute operational, counter-sabotage activities and form a legal basis for

them. The boundary was a filter, while the border areas were semi-isolated.

During the 1925-1939 period, the Soviet-Polish boundary blocked increasingly and became a barrier in the interstate interaction. The stage of "centralisation and closure" is known for the expansion of regulatory and legal framework for the functioning of the border; reorganization of institutions for its protection, tightening forms and methods of their work; creating specialized units

within border security institutions (especially with regard to intelligence and counterintelligence activities). Barrier and filtering functions became predominant. Although specific functions lost their primacy, they did not disappear. In 1925–1939, among the prevailing activities on the Soviet-Polish border were: intelligence, counterintelligence, operational, law enforcement and other. The border became a barrier, and the border area was isolated.

Table 1: Stages of formation and development of cross-border regions of Ukraine and Poland

Period	Stage	Time frame	Type of border	Type of border socio-economic systems
Interwar	Establishment and institutionalization	1921–1924	Filter	Semi-isolated
	Centralisation and closure	1925–1939	Barrier	Isolated
War		1939–1945	**	Occupied
Socialist	Centralised functioning	1945–1989	Barrier	Isolated
Modern	Democratisation	1989–1994	Filter	Semi-isolated
	Constructive stage	1995–now	Filter	Semi-isolated with the elements of integration
Progressive	Integrated	After Ukraine's accession to the EU	Open	Integrated

** The WW2 terminated the functioning of the border
 Source: compiled by the authors

The Second World War terminated the functioning of the border. The war period began for the border areas that became occupied.

After the Second World War the boundary between the Ukrainian SSR as a part of the USSR and the Polish People's Republic (the PRL) was established on the new basis. This basis became the Soviet-Polish treaty on friendship and the border. According to this agreement, the border between the USSR and Poland was established along the so-called "Curzon line" with a deviation from it in some places from 5 to 8 km in favor of Poland. The Soviet side ceded in favor of Poland the territory north of Rava Ruska to the Bug and Solokia rivers with a depth of up to 30 km (modern Ukrainian territories). Ukrainian ethnic lands remained within the borders of Poland - Kholmshchyna, Pidlyaschya, Posyannia, Lemkivshchyna. However, in 1945, the border was not completely formed. Its clarification took place through a long-term negotiation process. Until 1948, the governments of the USSR and Poland concluded interstate agreements. For the residents of the border, this turned into significant problems: they were subject to "displacement", lost their farms, and

in result their families were separated. At that time, the border served as a barrier. In 1945 started the so-called socialist period of the development of the Ukrainian and Polish border areas, which continued till the end of the 1980s. A distinctive feature of this period was the centralised functioning of the border that was completely subordinated to the political regimes of neighbouring states. However, within this time frame, the USSR (thus, the Ukrainian SSR as its part) and the Polish People's Republic were socialist countries, so their political leaders allowed the Ukrainian border areas to establish certain forms of relationships with the Polish border regions. The forms of cross-border relations were meetings and correspondence between the representatives of party bodies, government agencies, mutual tours of art groups, 10-day meetings, art festivals, movie rentals, exhibitions, plain air works, exchange of work experience among the specialists, student exchanges, exchange of new technologies, development of cross-border trade. But these opportunities for mutual contacts were limited by strict regulations of party bodies. At that time, the border was a barrier (with a predominance of barrier and filtering functions), while

border regions of Ukraine (the Ukrainian SSR) and Poland were isolated.

The modern period of the development of the cross-border regions and the functioning of the Ukrainian-Polish boundary is a qualitatively new step in the legal and institutional maintenance of the border, democratisation of its functioning, development of all areas of cooperation, including cross-border cooperation, which was implemented in a democratic Poland and independent Ukraine. The modern period is structured in two stages: "democratisation" and "constructive stage". The first one was characterized by rapid forming of legal maintenance as well as determining of principles, mechanisms and tools of cooperation. During this period about 50 interstate documents were signed on legal and substantive issues of establishing regional, border and cross-border cooperation (CBC). At this stage, the border became a filter (with a predominance of filtering and the development of the joining functions), as the result border areas were semi-isolated.

At the next "constructive" stage (from the middle of the 1990s till now), there was cooperation in different fields; the two countries created Euroregions as the most effective forms of cross-border cooperation, designed and implemented mutual projects and programmes at regional and local levels, which helped to solve the issues of the border areas. Thus, it increased the level of their socio-economic development and their role in the state.

When the state-members of the Carpathian and Bug Euroregions accessed the EU in 2007, the eastern border of this authoritative institution coincided with the western border of Ukraine. This fact influenced significantly the role and place of the mentioned Euroregions in the framework of Ukraine's cooperation with Poland and the EU. By that time, Euroregions with the participation of Ukrainian and Polish border areas performed a local function of cross-border integration. Now Euroregions began to play a fundamentally new role of the highest organizational form of CBC on the new eastern borders of the EU. It gave hope to Ukraine to get involved in European integration processes. The cross-border regions of Ukraine and Poland transformed into those that have elements of integration (see Table 1), while the Ukrainian-Polish boundary fulfills both joining and filtering functions. All these processes had a positive impact on establishing a stable political environment.

In our opinion, it would be legitimate to single out the "integration" stage of development of the Ukrainian and Polish cross-border regions, since the integration programmes of regional growth exist even now. Ukrainian regions require a new prospect and new tools in order to attain competitiveness. There is a determined and attractive possibility, that is the

integration to the EU as well as the implementation of the concept of regionalization, while tools are clear from the analysis of the success of individual industries in the world market. In this context, the cross-border regions that border the EU countries play an important role in accumulating the best European experience, testing of European practices in the legislative field of Ukraine with the subsequent assurance of a multiplier effect in other regions of Ukraine (Nosa-Pylypenko 2015). At the same time, the Ukrainian-Polish frontier will be open and transparent. The opening of borders can be implemented in stages. At the first stage, the economic component of the border is transformed. Border and customs control can be abolished. Visas are cancelled for crossing the border. Goods, capital, services, persons move freely. The next stage is the country's entry into the Schengen area, as a result of which passport control at the border is abolished.

The analysed open borders are possible for the section of the Ukrainian border with the EU states in general, and the Ukrainian-Polish border in particular. According to many scholars and practitioners, an important step towards open and transparent borders within Europe is the legal provisions for the development of relations within the framework of the Eastern Partnership. The European Community understands the Eastern Partnership as part of the European Neighbourhood Policy. And it, in turn, is the EU's framework policy towards neighbouring countries.

In May 2008, the Eastern Partnership initiative was presented to the EU Council by Poland with the support of Sweden. The Eastern Partnership project was launched at a special summit in Prague (May 7, 2009). For Ukraine, it became "relevant only after an unsuccessful attempt to join the NATO Membership Action Plan, with Ukraine's absolute political certainty, strong US support, criticism from Germany and France, and unfounded protests by the Russian Federation. This project is a specific Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy, based on the desire to create a favourable climate for the development of various forms of regional and subregional cooperation. This is primarily due to the desire of the EU to create a zone of stability on the new borders" (Holdun, 2009, p. 77). The EU member states, as well as Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus (the participation of which will depend on the development of its relations with the EU), and the countries of the Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia) are the participants of the program.

The main objectives of this project for Ukraine became the following: further liberalization of the visa regime; creation of a free trade zone; supporting the process of adapting the legal and regulatory framework, strengthening the institutions of partner countries; cooperation in the field of energy security;

creation of an integrated border management system (Shejko, 2020).

The complex and dynamic security environment towards Ukraine requires changes in approaches to border management. In recent years, the state has taken a number of steps to implement a modern, coordinated border management system - integrated border management (IBM). The main problems on the way to the introduction of IBM in the modern period are the following: new threats, in particular the aggression of the Russian Federation in certain regions of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol; exacerbation of the migration crisis in the EU countries bordering Ukraine; incompleteness of measures on contractual and legal establishment of the state border; the need to introduce European standards for various types of control at the state border (border, customs and others); the need to improve international, interstate and interdepartmental cooperation on the control and passage of citizens, goods and vehicles at checkpoints.

Moreover, the Concept of IBM has already been developed and approved in Ukraine by the Cabinet of Ministers with the Decree №83 on October 27, 2010. Implementation of the IBM Concept will allow: "to introduce European standards of integrated border management; to improve international, border and interdepartmental cooperation; to coordinate the efforts of authorized state bodies of comprehensively and flexibly respond to current threats of state border security, and to ensure its openness».

The EUBAM mission is assisting Ukraine to make progress in terms of IBM. Thus, open and transparent borders of Ukraine will promote full integration of Ukrainian border regions with Polish ones and will promote the implementation of the concept of regionalization. This will help to increase the status and role of Ukraine not only in Europe but also in the world.

Conclusions and further research prospects

Ukrainian-Polish border regions have come a long way of development and transformation. Demarcated in 1921, legally delimited and internationally recognized, the border acquired signs of politics. The political border developed under the influence of many external and internal factors and was transformed. The main and secondary functions of the border were performed by state institutions, whose activities were highly politicized. The functioning of the border influenced the development of contact border areas. During the interwar period, barrier and filtering functions prevailed among the functions of the border, and "isolated" territories were

formed in the border contact territories of neighbouring states. The action of specific functions here has led to the formation of an unstable socio-political environment. Instability was indicated by violations of the border regime, which were observed throughout the interwar period, although with varying intensity. Illegal population migrations (in both directions) were significant in the first years of the border's operation and in the early 1930s. This created tensions at the border, and migrants fell victim to political repression in both countries. The political components of the border activity influenced the manifestations of specific (boundary-communication) functions: political, economic, social, cultural, psychological (identification). Therefore, the improvement of institutions (creation of special units of intelligence, counterintelligence), tightening of forms and methods of their work (in both states) influenced the "closing" of the border with the predominance of barrier and filtering functions. The border barrier existed until 1989 (but with some changes in activities and functioning), when Poland started the path of democratic development, and later Ukraine declared independence.

The current stage of development of the Ukrainian-Polish border regions can be characterized by the strengthening of cooperation, the definition of principles, tools and mechanisms of cooperation. During this period the work of institutions on border protection and functioning has changed: they have begun to act exclusively on legal grounds and in the interests of states. The attitude of border residents to the "image" of the border has changed also. From now state border opened up new opportunities for them: contacts, trade, finding new jobs, visiting neighbouring areas on the other side of the border for recreation and recreation. At this stage, the border became a filter (with a predominance of filtering and the development of contact functions), and as the result border regions became semi-isolated with elements of integration.

Implementation of the EU Council Eastern Partnership Project, visa-free regime for crossing the border with the EU, Ukraine's integration intentions open new opportunities for Ukrainian-Polish regions and their inhabitants. In our opinion, they will become more and more integrated and will become the "locomotives" that will help to integrate into the EU and show the results of the concept of regionalization. We consider that the main objective of contact-making border areas is to stabilise the supranational geopolitical system, accumulate integration, historical experience of compromises and exchange the achievements. The implementation of these objectives took place in the cross-border areas of Ukraine and Poland. As the historical background has shown, however, Ukrainian and Polish borderlands were intertwined, superimposed and had not only a

positive experience of mutual contacts, but also a negative one.

Acknowledgement

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial or not-for-profit sectors and has been carried out within the framework of the state budget scientific theme of the Department of International Relations and Regional Studies of Lesia Ukrainka Volyn National University called "Ukraine in the System of the European Integration and the Cross-Border Cooperation".

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