



ESPON on the Road International Conference

# ONE REGION MANY STORIES

Transformation Experience and Development Perspectives  
of the Central and Eastern European Countries  
10 Years After the 2004 EU Enlargement

29th October 2014

Centrum Konferencyjne Zielna,  
ul. Zielna 37, Warsaw Poland

Organised by:



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## Conference Programme

9:00-9:30 Registration of the participants

9:30-10:00 **Welcome and scene setting**

### **Welcome statements**

dr Jacek Kucharczyk, Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

dr hab. Agnieszka Olechnicka, EUROREG, University of Warsaw, Poland

Karla Wursterová, International Visegrad Fund

### **Setting the scene with ESPON Atlas**

Volker Schmidt-Seiwert, Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR), Germany

10:00 **Key note speech**

### **10 years of Central and Eastern European countries in the EU – successes and failures of strategic thinking**

dr Michał Boni, Member of the European Parliament, former Minister of Administration and Digitization, Poland

10:30 **Thematic Panel 1**

### **How are we recovering from the crisis?**

Although Central and Eastern European countries faced similar transition experience and joined the EU at the same moment, they have not been affected by the economic crisis in the same way. While some of them were considered “green islands”, resistant to the consequences of the crisis, others were faced with financial difficulties comparable to those of the Southern EU Member States. What is it, therefore, that makes the CEE countries react to the crisis so differently? What have we learned during the crisis and recovery? How did the EU membership influence the crisis and recovery in the CEE region? To what extent did the relative autonomy of domestic financial markets and strong internal market orientation of the CEE economies account for the internal protection against the negative impact of the crisis?

**Facilitator: Rafał Woś**, „Dziennik Gazeta Prawna”, Poland

## ECR2 – Economic Crisis: Resilience of Regions in the Central and Eastern Europe

prof. dr hab. Iwona Sagan, University of Gdańsk, Poland

### Panel discussion

**Vladimír Bartovic**, director of EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy in Czech Republic and a former director of Strategic Planning and Analysis in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic

**dr Sándor Gallai**, the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT), Hungary

prof. dr hab. **Grzegorz Gorzelak**, EUROREG, University of Warsaw, Poland

**Grzegorz Gromadzki**, Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

12:00 **Networking with coffee and tea**

12:30 **Thematic Panel 2:**

### How do we cooperate in the cross-border areas?

Accession to the EU was a major challenge for the CEE countries. Once under -invested buffer zones, the cross-border areas in the CEE region were offered an unprecedented opportunity for development, following the accession to the Schengen area. Located in the peripheral areas of the Central and Eastern Europe, itself a peripheral macro-region of the EU, the cross-border areas are faced with both challenges and opportunities concerned with the establishment of the new development models. What are, therefore, the patterns of integration and cooperation in the CEE cross-border areas? Has abolition of formal borders left “mental boundaries” as barriers to cooperation? Are we already dealing with the “regions without borders” in the cross-border areas of the CEE? What are the characteristic features of the CEE cross-border areas located within the European Union and those neighbouring with the EU CEE Member States?

Facilitator: **Agnieszka Lichnerowicz**, Radio TOK FM, Poland

### Cross-border cooperation through Polish-German experience

dr **Katja Sarmiento-Mirwaldt**, Brunel University London, Germany

### Panel discussion

**dr Márton Péti**, Office for National Economic Planning, Hungary

**dr Agnieszka Łada**, Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

**Tomaž Miklavčič**, The Ministry of Infrastructure and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

**Łukasz Wenerski**, Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

14:00 **Lunch**

## What are our perspectives for the future?

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Central and Eastern Europe is without doubt one of the fastest growing regions in the EU. With significant increases in their GDPs, the CEE countries are among the fastest catching-up EU economies. On the other hand, the problem of the so called “broken regions” in the CEE, characterized by the dynamically developing core economic zones, usually surrounding the capital cities, and the peripheral areas lagging behind, is becoming increasingly visible. Apart from the challenges related to the economic development, the CEE countries are often confronted with the issues in the fields of demography, social inclusion, migration, knowledge-based economy and global competitiveness. What are the visions and scenarios for development in the Central and Eastern Europe? Is it still reasonable to treat the CEE area as a single macro-region?

**Facilitator: Edwin Bendyk**, “Polityka”, Poland

## Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Central Europe

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**prof. dr hab. Jacek Szlachta**, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

### Panel discussion

**prof. Mark Boyle**, National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, NUI Maynooth, Ireland

**Grażyna Cieślak**, City of Warsaw, Poland

**Andrzej Klesyk**, PZU Group, Member of the Programme Board of the Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

**dr hab. Agnieszka Olechnicka**, EUROREG, University of Warsaw, Poland

**Wojciech Przybylski**, "Res Publica Nowa" and "Visegrad Insight", Poland

**Ádám Radvánszki**, Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR), Germany

**Tomáš Strážay**, Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Slovakia



**Vladimír Bartovic**, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy in Czech Republic

Vladimír Bartovic is the director of EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy and a former director of Strategic Planning and Analysis in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. He holds a degree in international trade and international politics at the Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Prague. He studied also at the Universidad de Granada, Faculty of Political Science and Sociology. His main areas of expertise are: EU institutional issues, EU enlargement with the focus on Western Balkans, Slovak foreign and domestic policy as well as economic issues.

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**Edwin Bendyk**, "Polityka", Poland

A writer and a journalist of a Polish opinion-forming weekly magazine "Polityka." He is interested mostly in topics revolving around the theme of social transformations. His research is focused on how developments in science and technology impact our culture and social life, our politics and the economy. Bendyk teaches at Warsaw School of Social Psychology and Center for Social Studies at Polish Academy of Sciences topics concerning social networks, knowledge management and digital culture. He also heads the Center for Future Studies at the Collegium Civitas in Warsaw, he also His pieces can also be found in various magazines, including "Res Publica Nowa," "Przegląd Polityczny," "Krytyka Polityczna," "Zeszyty Artystyczne."

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**dr Michał Jan Boni**, Member of the European Parliament, former Minister of Administration and Digitization, Poland

Polish politician and expert in cultural studies. Member of the European Parliament since May 2014. Minister of Administration and Digitization from 2011 to 2013. Member of the Cabinet of Poland from 2009 to 2011. Chief of the Prime Minister's Strategic Advisors Team and editor of a report "Poland 2030. Development Challenges" (published in 2009). Minister of Labour and Social Policy in 1992. Deputy to Sejm, the lower chamber of Polish Parliament, from 1991 to 1993.

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**prof. Mark Boyle**, National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, NUI Maynooth, Ireland

Mark Boyle works in the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis. Following the completion of his PhD thesis on the role of the festivals of the European cities of culture in the regeneration of European cities, he has focused his research on urban geography, in particular on the politics of urban development in older industrial cities. His more recent research focuses on the theme of diaspora-centred development and various ways in which diasporas contribute to the development of homelands.



**Grażyna Cieślak**, City of Warsaw, Poland

Grażyna Cieślak she has been working for Warsaw City Council since 2007 and is an expert in Warsaw Social Strategy steering committee. Her main responsibilities include coordination of participatory processes regarding Warsaw Social Strategy - its implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Her interests include theoretical considerations of regional development, urban and social policy at different spatial scales as well as ways of modeling development.

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**Sándor Gallai**, The Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT), Hungary

Sándor Gallai obtained his university degrees in political science and economics. He earned his PhD in the Doctoral School of International Relations at the Budapest University of Economic Sciences (now called Corvinus University of Budapest), where he teaches as an associate professor. Between 2011-14 he also served as the Director General of the Institute for Public Policy Research in Hungary. Currently the Director General at the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade in Budapest. His main areas of research include governance, public policy, transitions and CEE politics.

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**prof. dr hab. Grzegorz Gorzelak**, EUROREG, University of Warsaw, Poland

Director of the Centre for European Regional and Local Studies (EUROREG) at the University of Warsaw. Currently also a coordinator of the GRINCOH project within EU FP7 Framework Programme. Professor of Economics, with scientific experience in applied research on economic, social and territorial development, spatial planning and EU policy development in these fields. Author of numerous publications on regional development and regional policies in Central and Eastern European countries.

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**Grzegorz Gromadzki**, The Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

An expert in Eastern policy. He studied history at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL). He was the director of the programme of international cooperation at the Stefan Batory Foundation. He used to work in the foreign department of one of the leading Polish daily newspapers, „Gazeta Wyborcza,” as a correspondent from Belarus, Lithuania and Ukraine. He specialises in the following topics: EU-Eastern Partnership and EU-Russia relations, European institutions as well as EU energy policy.

## Conference participants - background information



**Andrzej Klesyk**, PZU Group, Member of the Programme Board of the Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

President of the Executive Board in PZU S.A. since 2007 and Partner and Managing Director at the Boston Consulting Group in Warsaw. He is an active member of the Programme Board of the Institute of Public Affairs. Creator and Managing Director of Inteligo and Handlobank. Previously also a Senior Engagement Manager at the London branch of McKinsey. He worked in the Ministry of Ownership Transformations. Graduated from Harvard Business School.

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**dr Jacek Kucharczyk**, Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

Sociologist and think-tanker. Jacek Kucharczyk received Ph.D. in Sociology at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. In 1994-1995 a fellow at the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research in New York. Earlier studied at University of Kent at Canterbury (M.A. in Philosophy in 1992) and Warsaw University (MA in English Studies). One of the founders and board member of Policy Association for an Open Society PASOS, an association of think-tanks from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Author and editor of numerous policy briefs, articles, reports and books on democratic governance, foreign policy, EU integration and transatlantic relations.

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**Agnieszka Lichnerowicz**, „Radio TOK FM, Poland

A journalist of Polish Radio TOK FM”, where she is a chief of the foreign desk and a host of „Światopogląd” programme focused on international affairs. Above all she is a reporter, currently a correspondent of Radio TOK FM from Ukraine. She has published also in Gazeta Wyborcza and Metro. She received Polish Press Agency Ryszard Kapuscinski Award in 2012. She graduated from Warsaw School of Economics.

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**dr Agnieszka Łada**, The Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

Head of the European Programme and a senior analyst at the Institute of Public Affairs in Warsaw. She holds a PhD in political science at the University of Warsaw, and has studied political science in Warsaw and Berlin as well as psychology of organisation in Dortmund. She currently pursues an Executive Master of Public Management Programme at the Hertie school of Governance in Berlin. Member of the Council of the Polish-German Youth Exchange, as well as the Western Institute in Warsaw and the Copernicus Group. She specialises in the following areas: institutions of the European Union, especially the European Parliament and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Germany and Polish-German relations, Polish foreign and European policy, the perception of Poles abroad and foreigners in Poland.

## Conference participants - background information



**Tomaž Miklavčič**, The Ministry of Infrastructure and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

Tomaž Miklavčič holds a Master degree in geography from the Faculty of Arts at the University of Ljubljana. He has also completed postgraduate interdisciplinary studies in urban and spatial planning at the Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering at the University of Ljubljana. Currently responsible for the establishment of territorial monitoring system in Slovenia.

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**dr hab. Agnieszka Olechnicka**, EUROREG, University of Warsaw, Poland

Agnieszka Olechnicka is an assistant professor at the Centre for European Regional and Local Studies (EUROREG), University of Warsaw. Her professional experience regards research in the field of regional and local development, with particular attention given to the knowledge economy issues and innovation-driven development problems. Highly experienced in the analysis of the links between science and business using both quantitative (including the rarely used bibliometric data) and qualitative data.

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**dr Márton Péti**, Office for National Economic Planning, Hungary

Márton Péti holds a PhD in geography. He is also the Head of Department at the Hungarian Office for National Economic Planning. As a contact point of ESPON Programme he has contributed to and coordinated various national, regional, and cross-border territorial planning or evaluating activities. His research deals with sustainable territorial structures and territorial planning methodology.



**Wojciech Przybylski**, "Res Publica Nowa" and "Visegrad Insight", Poland

Editor-in-chief of "Res Publica Nowa" – a journal on culture and politics and "Visegrad Insight" – a magazine on Central Europe. Political commentator and a visionary social entrepreneur. He has started several public campaigns such as City DNA – promoting public engagement in urban communities, Free Speech Partnership – networking editors of culture and opinion journals, and most recently New Europe 100 - a list of innovative challengers from Central and Eastern Europe. He graduated from the Interdepartmental Individual Studies in Humanities at the Warsaw University.



## Conference participants - background information



**Ádám Radvánszki**, Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR), Germany

Ádám Radvánszki holds a degree in economics from the Budapest University of Economic Sciences and Public Administration, with specialization in the economic policy and settlement development. He works at the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) in Germany, where he led the research project on the role of metropolitan areas in the implementation of the Europe2020 strategy. He also coordinated the preparations for the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in terms of territorial cohesion. Currently a project leader of the ESPON Transnational Networking Activity “ESPON on the Road”.

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**dr hab. Iwona Sagan**, University of Gdańsk, Poland

Iwona Sagan is the Head of Department of Economic Geography at the University of Gdańsk. She has participated in numerous European research projects dealing with regional development issues, cross-border cooperation and post-socialist transformation in Central and Eastern Europe. Her research focuses on urban areas and regional development, urban and metropolitan policy as well as social and economic transformation of post-socialist countries.

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**dr Katja Sarmiento-Mirwaldt**, Brunel University London, Germany

Katja Sarmiento-Mirwaldt is a lecturer at Brunel University in London. She holds degrees from the University of York and Essex University. Specialising in European politics and policy, she is particularly interested in research on European borders, in particular the Polish-German border. Her research on Polish-German border covers cross-border cooperation and development of citizen relations in the region after the end of the Cold War. Her research has been published in numerous journals, including Political Geography, Europe-Asia Studies or Regional Studies

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**Volker Schmidt-Seiwert**, Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR), Germany

Volker Schmidt-Seiwert works as project coordinator in the field of European spatial and urban development in the Bundesinstitut für Bau- Stadt-und Raumforschung (BBSR), the scientific part of the Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung (BBR). His research focuses mainly on monitoring the European system of BBSR and covers GIS based and statistical regional analysis of European spatial structures and developments. In this contexts, he is particularly interested in the regional competitiveness and regional development. He is also engaged in the cartographic representations and visualisation concepts of spatial phenomena.



**Tomáš Strážay**, Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Slovakia

Tomáš Strážay works as a senior research fellow at the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA), where he heads the program Central and Southeastern Europe. He has also been an editor of the International Issues & Slovak Foreign Policy Affairs quarterly. He received his PhD from the Institute of Political Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw.

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**prof. dr hab. Jacek Szlachta**, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Jacek Szlachta is a professor at the Faculty of Development Economy at the Warsaw School of Economics. He is also a vice-chairman of the National Spatial Planning Committee at the Polish Academy of Sciences as well as a member of Scientific Council of Statistics in the Central Statistical Office of Poland. A leading expert and evaluator of dozens of macro-regional strategies and regional and urban programmes, both in Poland as well as abroad. Author of numerous publications in the fields of European cohesion policy, regional development, regional policy making and socio-economic development programming.

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**Łukasz Wenerski**, The Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

Analyst and project coordinator in the European Programme at the Institute of Public Affairs in Warsaw. A graduate of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (BA, International Relations and European Studies) and Warsaw University (MA, European Studies). His areas of expertise include relations between the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries and Russia as well as Polish Eastern Policy.

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**Rafał Woś**, „Dziennik Gazeta Prawna”, Poland

A journalist of the opinion-forming Polish legal and economic daily newspaper „Dziennik Gazeta Prawna.” He wrote articles for Polish daily newspaper „Gazeta Wyborcza,” weekly magazine „Polityka” and the Polish edition of „Bloomberg Businessweek.” One of the recipients of the Kazimierz Dzierżynowski Prize awarded by the Polish Journalists Association in 2013. A graduate of law and international relations from the Warsaw University and the University of Hamburg.

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**Karla Wursterová**, International Visegrad Fund, Slovakia

An Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund (IVF), responsible for the implementation of the objectives of the Fund. Before joining IVF, she worked as Director of the Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. She was also the Second Secretary with Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Prague. Prior to her engagement in Prague, she worked as Deputy Director in the Office of the State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. She holds a degree from University of Economics in Bratislava and Ecole Nationale d'Administration Publique in Paris.