



Lithuania – Latvia – Poland

Annotated bibliography

Document title, year of publication	<i>Specifics and Methodological Guidelines for the Assessment of Economic and Social Development of the Lithuanian-Latvian Border Region (2012)</i>	
Complete bibliographical references, access (DOI), if possible	Bruneckienė, J., & Palekienė, O. (2012). Lietuvos - Latvijos Pasienio Regiono Ekonominės -Socialinės Plėtros Vertinimo Specifika Ir Metodologinės Gairės. <i>Economics & Management</i> , 17(3), 952–962. https://doi.org/10.5755/j01.em.17.3.2120	
Type of publication (please select)	Scientific article	theoretical
Language(s)	Lithuanian	
Key words	Economic and social development of the regions, cross-border region, indicators of economic and social development	
Abstract	<p>This article analyses the challenges of evaluating the economic and social development of the Lithuanian-Latvian cross-border region, identifying the specifics of the cross-border region and presenting methodological guidelines based on theoretical analysis of the development of the Klaipėda (Lithuania) and Kurzeme (Latvia) regions. The model for evaluating the economic and social development of the Lithuanian and Latvian cross-border region is presented, which serves as the methodological background for the formation of a unified system consisting of 46 economic and social indicators. The article also presents a scheme for evaluating the economic-social development of the Lithuanian-Latvian cross-border region. The methodological background provided is useful for drawing conclusions about cross-border economic-social development, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the cross-border region, and discerning overall socio-economic trends. These are prerequisites for promoting strategic decisions aimed at stimulating the development of the cross-border region, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of their implementation.</p>	

<p>Content and main findings</p>	<p>Bruneckiene and Palekiene stress the importance and the need for cross-border collaboration between the Klaipeda (Lithuania) and Kurzeme (Latvia) regions. While many countries often seek the most profitable and rapid economic and social development, cross-border regions should not be ignored even if they have low rates of competitiveness. Economic relationships between cross border regions are often marked by cultural, spacial, political and institutional obstacles, yet identifying mutual benefits may strengthen not only the economy of the border regions but the whole country.</p> <p>The article's analysis of the two regions revealed that the economic centres of importance are distant from the borders in the Klaipeda (Lithuania) and Kurzeme (Latvia) regions. Moreover, the educational level, population density, aging population, low salaries, low expenditure and consumption levels, and infrastructure of the border regions are not conducive to commerce. The presence of numerous protected nature reserves in the region adds to the complexity of economic relationships, unless common environmental protection goals are considered. The authors noted that there is greater readiness for collaboration on the Lithuanian side, whereas there is less interest from the Latvian side.</p> <p>In the article, language-related and cultural differences were noted, yet not explained. The authors conclude; however, that there is a growing interest among business people and scientists to analyse the needs and potential for cross-border communication. Both countries use similar criteria to evaluate the needs and obstacles and highlight the many common (environmental issues, infrastructure similarities, population density, education levels, etc) as for the most part similar and as strengths in this context.</p>
<p>Remarks</p>	<p>Language similarities between Lithuanian and Latvian are obvious from the linguistic point of view. Both languages belong to the same language family and are fairly closely related, yet the article failed to place more emphasis on the importance of language training for socio-economic development. The importance here lies in the authors' observation that there are not economically strong and influential cities and districts in the border region, as large universities and schools tend to be located in the centre of the countries.</p>