



Lithuania – Latvia – Poland

Annotated bibliography

Document title, year of publication	Specifics and Methodological Guidelines for the Assessment of Economic and Social Development of the Lithuanian-Latvian Border Region (2012)	
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	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.
Content and main findings	<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>
Remarks	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.

Document title, year of publication	Business Cooperation in the Cross-border region of Klaipeda region and Latvia(2012)	
Complete bibliographical references, access (DOI), if possible	Šimanskienė, L., Burgis, D., Lūduma, D., & Zeltiņa, M. (2012). Verslo Bendradarbiavimas Klaipėdos Regiono Ir Latvijos Pasienyje. <i>Regional Formation & Development Studies</i> , 6, 137–146.	
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>The article examines the cooperation of organisations in border regions and presents the results of a survey conducted among organisations in the Klaipeda region regarding cooperation with Latvian organisations. Insufficient cooperation was found but there are several organisations interested in such collaboration. To determine the factors hindering cooperation development, it has been established that a foreign language cannot be considered a significant obstacle, as its lack of knowledge causes problems for only a small number of organisations in the region. The main obstacle is the lack of information on business development opportunities and cooperation with Latvian organizations. To address these obstacles, it is proposed to pay more attention to disseminating information on cooperation opportunities in the region.</p>	
Content and main findings	<p>The authors react to the global trend of decentralising economic regions. The study aims to investigate the theoretical foundations for cooperation between organisations in the border regions of the Klaipeda region and Latvian organisations, identifying obstacles and suggesting ways to enhance collaboration. 159 organisations in the border regions were analysed.. Only 18.2% of the organisations had relations with Lithuania-Latvia, which clearly shows that businesspeople are seeking to establish relations with countries with larger markets which are more economically lucrative, such as the Russian Federation or those in the EU.</p> <p>The authors made valuable observations about language. Only 27.7% of respondents stated that not knowing a foreign language hinders cooperation with Latvian organizations. The authors note that small countries today are compelled to learn a foreign language. Traditionally, the older generation speaks Russian, while the younger generation mostly speaks English, providing ample communication opportunities for business organisations. Interestingly, as many as 67.9% of the organisations participating in the survey indicated that</p>	

	they lack information on the conditions for establishing businesses in the cross-border region and expressed a desire to receive such information in their native language. The authors conclude that a greater coordinating role of the institutions of both countries should be established, horizontal networks of cooperation between state, education and business organisations should be created, and partners from Latvia could participate in the activities of network organisations.
Remarks	The fact that only 27.7% of people believe that language is an issue does not pose a significant obstacle to building cross-border relations. Major languages dominate, and this is the reality for small countries. It makes perfect sense that there is no need to learn Latvian when successful business can be conducted in Russian or English, two languages that can facilitate cross-border and global communication. It is interesting that respondents would like to receive training in their native language, which reflects their insecurity about foreign languages.

Document title, year of publication	Assessing the Attractiveness of Business Development in Border Regions from the Infrastructure Aspect. (2012)	
Complete bibliographical references, access (DOI), if possible	Sabonienė, A., & Zykiene, I. (2012). Verslo Plėtros Pasienio Regionuose Patrauklumo Vertinimas Infrastruktūros Aspektu. <i>Economics & Management</i> , 17(4), 1410–1416. https://doi.org/10.5755/j01.em.17.4.3007	
Type of publication (please select)	Scientific article	theoretical
Language(s)	Lithuanian	
Key words	cross-border region attractiveness, infrastructure indicators, impact of infrastructure on business development attractiveness	
Abstract	During an intensive globalisation process, cross-border regions acquire a new important role in managing a country's political and economic strategy.. The specifics of cross-border regions typically result in a lower investment flow, necessitating stimulation by the government. Promoting business growth in cross-border regions is one of the main strategic initiatives because successful	

	<p>economic activity in a region not only attracts residents and tourists but also ensures good living conditions.</p>
<p>Content and main findings</p>	<p>The authors analysed Lithuanian-Latvian cross border collaboration based on the research performed during the project “Formation of methodological framework of regional business growth promotion (LT-LV)” (LV-LT/1.1/LLIII-152/2010), implementing the Lithuania–Latvia cross border cooperation programme, 2007-2013. This paper analyses how economic and social infrastructure influences the attractiveness of business development in cross-border regions. While the authors present a detailed set of direct infrastructure indicators (such as infrastructure, education, financial literacy, population and languages), which influence business development, they also broaden the analysis of cross-border regions to include the indirect impact of infrastructure development on business attractiveness in a region (such as population density, consumption habits, need to enhance infrastructure, etc).</p> <p>An interesting observation is made regarding educational potential. Typically, skilled labour forces choose central regions of countries rather than border regions, which diminishes the attractiveness of the region. The authors conclude that increasing awareness about Klaipeda University would attract more talented students and lead to better infrastructure and investment potential, not only for the city of Klaipeda but also the entire border region. Furthermore, the authors highlight the inefficient use of the European Union support for maintaining, renewing and developing economic, social and tourism infrastructure. Quality infrastructure would attract more investors, improve the quality of life and become one of the criteria for attracting tourists.</p>
<p>Remarks</p>	<p>The significance of the article lies in the fact that strengthening educational potential often directly influences the development of the entire region. Stronger educational ties may increase regional competitiveness levels and serve as a starting point for developing necessary connections. This presents a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with vocational schools in the area to enhance their cross – border attractiveness.</p>