

Locality and Ethnicity in the Periphery Border Region as the Separate Political Layer

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Abstract

Citizens' political behavior in the border regions of Central European periphery, which includes Western part of Ukraine, Eastern part of Slovakia and Poland, North-East of Hungary and Romania, is influenced mainly by the agenda and patterns of local politics contrary to the national political agenda or European one in case of all countries besides Ukraine. From theoretical point of view, specifics of local politics is defined by the narrow physical and social space of the certain community with the local government as the center of the public competencies and resources. Thus, local politics in the communities of above mentioned region is mainly the relations between politicians who, at the same time, are neighbors, relatives or are linked by informal political institutes as clientelism, religious confessions, ethnicity. This phenomenon is explained besides other reasons by the historical and cultural factors, i.e. by the complicated trace of the national states formation in this part of Europe, rapid change of the border lines, multiethnic population in the whole region. Taking into account also the visible role of the church that is often defining the ethnic self-identification of the person, we can state that locality and ethnicity in the periphery borderland of four Central European countries and Ukraine is forming the separate political layer influencing the functioning of the formal political institutes and processes.

Author information

Myroslava Lendel is a Professor of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration and Vice-Rector for Academic Policy and Research at the Uzhhorod National University. Her research and analytics focus on the international relations in Central Europe, including the interregional and cross-border aspects. Special stress is made on the investigation of the economic, social factors on the international situation in the region, its links with Ukraine in the context of its European Union inspirations and military conflict with Russia. Second focus of the research interest is made on the processes of the regional/local development in the Carpathian region.

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Wednesday, 23 June - Session 14 - **14,00-16,00 CET (Webex)** - APH Forum for young scholars on "Identities"

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