

Research Project:

The Northern Dimension - Changing the European Economic Space by the cross-border regional cooperation between the Enlarged EU and Slavic Areas

Abstract of Research project:

Russia has been treated as an “ outsider of Europe ”, as accession negotiations of the EU have been separated from external affairs. But the EU policy to Russia is changing as Eastward enlargement of the EU goes on. Now the EU is going to create “ Wider Europe ”, in which the EU and Russia are ever-closer partners and the functions of the borders are changing. The Northern Dimension is aiming at the cross-border regional cooperation between the enlarged EU and its outsider- Russian northwest regions. Regional bodies (for example Euroregion Baltic, Euregio karelia) as well as Governmental actors take part in the Northern Dimension. It is the unique framework that combines the new regional dynamics in “ Wider Europe ” with the EU regional policy (INTERREG3A,B). It could play the vital role for creating “ The Common European Economic Space ” between Europe and Russia. Its concept would be applied to the cooperation with WNIS and eventually could contribute to build “ Europe without dividing ”.

From this prospect, we study the cooperation within the Northern Dimension, focusing on followings:

- 1) The framework of the Northern Dimension, in which the EU regional policy is linked with its European Neighbourhood policy ”.
- 2) The changing role of the regions and the developing network of cities in “ Wider Europe ”.
- 3) The possibility and limits of “Europe of the regions”.
- 4) The changing of the European Economic Space including Slavic areas.

Duration:

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