

ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to evaluate the development of the present cross-border cooperation in the Prachatice district and the Freyung-Grafenau district after the year 1989. To point out the increasing role of the European Union, particularly in this border region, before and after the entry to the EU in the guarantee of the regional development.

In the frame of the given aim of the work the following hypothesis were formulated: The most important participants of the cross-border cooperation are more the institutions of the Euroregion than the activities of clubs and interest groups. The intensity of the cross-border cooperation is territorially differentiated. In the regional development the bigger towns in the district play a bigger role than small towns or villages, also thank to a bigger engagement and interest of the participants - the representatives of the authorities in the other regional, border and national institutions, and thanks to the funds from the EU. In small towns and villages the cross-border and Euroregional cooperation is, also in the regional development, declaratively discussed at many meetings, but practically there is neither potential nor its utilization. On the German side the towns and villages of the Euroregion are able to make efforts to gain the sources for the cross-border cooperation and their own development in a far more effective way than the towns and villages and the other institutions on the Czech side. This is connected with the thought that the regional development and the continuity of the cross-border contacts, including the raising funds from the EU, are influenced by the different working of the political system and a different political composition of the representatives of the self-government on the both sides of the border. Despite the fact the territory has been a part of the Schengen Area for several years (since 2007), which helps to increase the cooperating and integrating tendencies between the inhabitants of the member states, from the point of view of the individual territorial wholes, the border area is a peripheral territory.

In the theoretical introduction are mentioned the processes of changes of the cross-border cooperation in the frame of the post-totalitarian transformation, integration and Euroregional cooperation.

The survey and the verification of the relationship development was made on the base of the prepared questionnaire given to the representatives of the town and villages, which are the mayors in the model territory of the Prachatice district and in the model territory the

Freyung-Grafenau district. Consequently some of these results were compared and confronted with the results of the research of the border lands which was realized in 2004 (Jeřábek, Dokoupil, Havlíček and col.). This comparison enabled the comparison of the development in various border regions of the Czech Republic and the specification of the other proceeding and following tendencies. On the base of the achieved results, but also from my own experiences, possible perspectives of the development of the chosen model region were described.

On the base of the survey we can state that the institution of the Euroregion and its mission differs in some segments in the Czech and German sides. Its mission is the same, but the created office, in the sense of the institution, is completely different. On the German side it acts as an integral authority which is covered by its representative and contains both the advisory and consulting centres as well as an administrator of many projects. The local councils and the representatives of the Euroregion belong among the important participants of the cross-border cooperation and the regional development. The towns and villages, as the supporters of the cooperation, are able to use in the long term the experiences of our neighbours in the town and village managements, in becoming the members of European structures, in raising the funds from the structural funds, but also in the other spheres. The disparity of raising the funds among the small villages and towns arises especially from the lack of the human potential to the disadvantage of the smaller communes and the interconnecting ideas needed for the realization of project administration. In bigger towns or villages there is a bigger potential of human power for the administration of demanding administrative work that is connected with these projects procedures. Another supporting factor is the fact that bigger towns or villages usually have more disposable financial sources for the pre-financing of the projects. At the same time a co-financing share is a smaller problem for bigger towns than for small towns or villages which in most cases can't logically afford a bigger number of projects even if they were only the soft ones. This trend is very similar on both sides of the border. On the German side there is an exceptional fact that the clubs or the other volunteers like very much putting on their power and funds for the profit of various local activities with enthusiasm as well as with patriotism to their region or their town or village. On the Czech side in bigger towns or villages this fact has completely disappeared, in the small towns or villages it is rather exceptional.