

Abstract

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This diploma thesis deals with the topic of cooperation between border regions of the Czech Republic and Austria since the opening of the common border in 1989 until the Czech Republic's entering the European Union in 2004. The aim of the thesis is to observe the influence of the opening of the border on the regions and the development of the cooperation in the following years. The introduction presents the development of the interstate relations between the Czech Republic and Austria in 1989-2004. The following chapters focus on three areas of cooperation of border regions that have been selected in order to monitor the intensifying of the regional cross-border cooperation. The first chapter concentrates on the initial contacts between the inhabitants of the regions on the occasion of cross-border encounters and cultural events. It also deals with the positive and negative effects of opening the border for the border regions. In the second chapter, attention is given to the efforts of Czechs and Austrians living in the neighborhood of the border to understand each other, as well as to the prejudices and stereotypes that contributed to misunderstandings between the neighboring nations. The last chapter discusses the economic cooperation along the Czech-Austrian border. It examines the ways in which actors from both countries participated in the labor market on the other side of the border, how they benefited from opening the borders, and last but not least, what difficulties and obstacles they faced. In addition, model examples are included in all chapters to support the findings about the situation in border regions.