

## PREFACE

The processes of the transformation of national borders, intensively taking place in the whole world in the 21st century, cannot leave behind Eastern and Central Europe. These processes are inseparable from such phenomena as postindustrialization, integration, informatization, globalization, regionalization, etc. In this case, globalization and regionalization are basically those two phenomena, which are very different but closely interacting with each other. Postindustrialization and informatization induce the processes of integration and globalization, while these ones develop regionalization, which is taking place in two main directions. The first one is the uniteness of geographically neighbouring separate national countries into large regions, overstepping national limits and becoming the multinational ones. The second one is the formation of the inside-national regions, which are only under little influence of changing national borders, affected by social, cultural and economic processes.

The Lithuanian-Polish-Belarusian borderland nowadays draws the attention of the researchers, emerging as particularly interesting due to its current social, political and cultural processes in the context of regional cooperation of these countries. Close interdisciplinary contacts of Lithuanian, Polish, Belarusian, Ukrainian, Hungarian researchers open many new perspectives to work actively and effectively, investigating the Eastern and Central European regions and to provide an excellent opportunity to reach new insights, analysing the challenges of Euro-integration and globalization to post-Soviet countries. In this issue of *Limes* the authors develop multi-aspetic and various researches of Lithuanian-Polish-Belarusian borderland and come to the conclusions, raising new aims and encouraging interdisciplinary academic projects that help to solve the main problems of cultural regionalistics.

The theme of national borders transformations in the European and worldwide context, developed in this issue, includes three different rubrics, which complement each other. The first one is attached to analyse the main Lithuanian post-Soviet identity problems, arising through the intensive Euro-integration processes. These problems are solved, including three structural parts: Lithuanian self-identity and its new estimation criteria (Andrius Konickis), Lithuanian nationality and the influence of Parliamentary system on its development (Saulius Arlauskas), the role of the Catholic Church after the restoration of independence of Lithuania (Valdas Pruskus).

The second rubric is allotted to discuss the transformation processes of national borders on the scale of Eastern and Central Europe. The beginning of this rubric is appointed to the transformations of Lithuanian-Polish-Belarusian borderland (Basia Nikiforova), then the specificity of the economic system of post-Soviet countries is researched in the background of information / knowledge society (Jakub J. Macewicz). Finally, the main forms of artistic activity are analysed, which are found in these countries and are treated as the most important functions of civil society (Katarzyna Niziołek).

The third rubric discusses the problematics of Eastern and Central Europe from the perspective of globalization. In the beginning of this rubric the tendencies of the present-day locality, nationality and globality are examined, which are interacting with each other (Wioletta Małgorzata Kowalska). Then it is investigated how the social networks are established and developed in the conditions of contemporary information and communication technologies. It is shown how these social networks form “the world without borders” phenomenon and have influence on different generations, born between the 1960s and 2000s (Rasa Levickaitė). Finally, from the socio-cultural standpoint, an idea is raised, that nowadays the present world, even being treated as global due to these technologies, induces the tendencies of regionalism and acquires some locality connotations and connects distant regions (Jovilė Barevičiūtė).

The editors of this issue are thankful to the authors for their activity, developing contemporary research, and they cherish a hope, that close cooperation of the researchers from all Eastern and Central Europe will become invaluable contribution to the field of cultural regionalistics.

*Jovilė Barevičiūtė*