

## BORDER STUDIES / BORDERS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION VOL. 1

In the current crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, borders have again become a central issue of the European Union (EU): re-bordering has been the first response of almost all Member-States for the protection against the virus. De-bordering is again on the agenda, as free movement in Europe means mobility and mobility means economic recovery. However, the main actors of this crisis were the national states, not the EU, nor local or regional stakeholders at the border. The apparent failure of a "Europe without borders", the lack of reactivity from the EU institutions and the paralysis of cross-border actors has resulted in a general questioning of European Integration. But do we really understand the role of borders in European Integration? And how does cross-border cooperation function in reality, in the different EU border regions? Does it contribute to European Integration and if it does, who are the main players and what are their motives, objectives and tools?

This Critical Dictionary on Borders, Cross-Border Cooperation and European Integration takes up the challenge to answer these questions. It is the first encyclopaedia which combines two so far not well interconnected interdisciplinary research fields, i.e. Border Studies and European Studies. Organised in an alphabetical order, it contains 209 articles written by 124 authors from different countries and scientific disciplines which are accompanied by 66 maps. The articles deal with theory, terminology, concepts, actors, themes and spaces of cross-border cooperation at European borders and in borderlands of and around the European Union (EU). Taking into account a multi-scale perspective from the local to the global, the Critical Dictionary follows a combined historical-geographical approach and is co-directed by Birte Wassenberg and Bernard Reitel, with a large contribution by Jean Peyrony and Jean Rubio from the *Mission opérationnelle transfrontalière* (MOT). The Dictionary is also part of four Jean Monnet activities supported by the Erasmus+ program of the EU for the period 2016-2022: two Jean Monnet projects on EU border regions, a Jean Monnet network (Frontem) and the Franco-German Jean Monnet excellence Center (University of Strasbourg), as well as the Jean Monnet Chair of Bernard Reitel on borders and European integration (University d'Artois). Rather than being designed as an objective compilation of facts and figures, it should serve as a critical tool for discussion between researchers, students and practitioners working in the field of borders, cross-border cooperation and European Integration.

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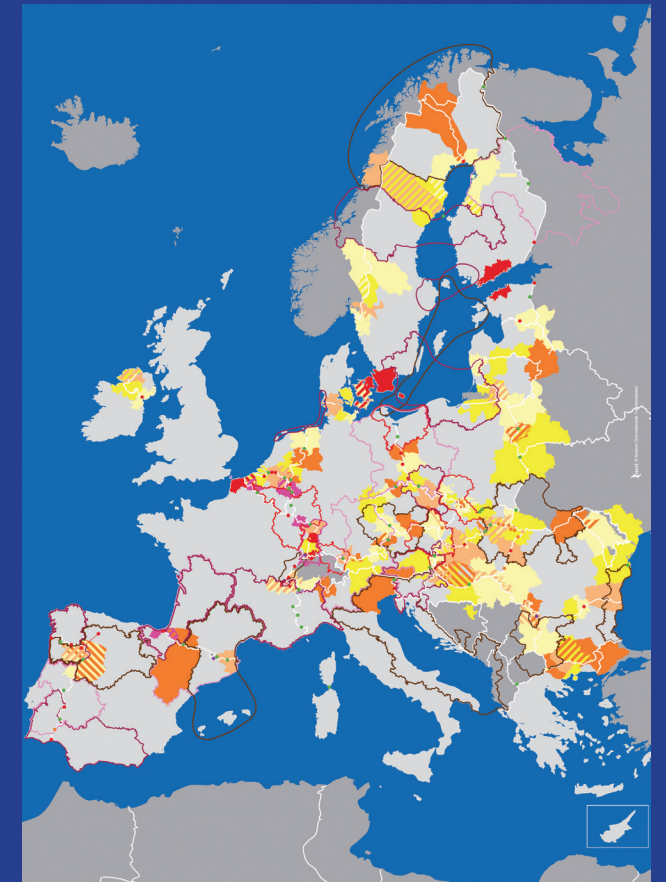
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