

How Permeable or Impermeable Could Be the Borders? - Introduction -

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The continuous evolution of the European unity process allowed one of the most important results of this unique economic, social and political experience that is now the European Union, a result that consists in the more and more increasing permeability of the national frontiers. Year after year the process of the opening of the national borders represented the basis of an increasing movement of economic goods, capital and, in the end, of different European citizens. Hence, the Europe of the post-communist period, especially the last decade Europe, was a more opened and a more dynamic one, both from the economic and social perspective. The economic and the social side of the European dynamism influence each other, and together they exert a fluctuating influence on national decision-making processes.

Histoire et perspectives de la coordination salariale à l'échelle de l'Union européenne

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Abstract: *At national level, the wage has historically been central to union identity. However, at European Union level, the Euro-unions relinquished the topic of pay for many years, accepting the convergence on wage restraint that emerged in the 1980s. The present article will analyse the ways in which they are now seeking to (re)construct the Europeanisation of the wage via initiatives to coordinate national collective bargaining in the sectors, and more recently, by formulating a new demand for a European minimum wage. In the times of europact and European economic governance, will these strategies enable the Euro-unions to acquire sufficient legitimacy to intervene in the field of wages at the supranational level?*

Keywords: *wage coordination, euro-syndicalism, European minimum wage, European trade union federation, European Union*

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Permeable Frontiers and Impermeable Boundaries at the Digital Level: the Digital Agenda for Europe, the EU's Electronic Frontier

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Abstract: *The electronic frontier is an abstract concept, directly tied to the issues of globalisation and ICT technologies. However, an electronic frontier is not a barrier, rather an axis which connects the virtual world, the World Wide Web, to the real one and helps push boundaries of technology further. Besides its innovative concerns, the electronic frontier is a type of socio-economic frontier, which, acting as an axis, can bring economic benefits to a society and create social inclusion, as it is based on cooperation and collaboration. This article explores one such electronic frontier, the document known as the Digital Agenda for Europe, part of the EU's Europe 2020 strategy for growth, inclusion and economic governance. By analysing the EU's official documents, this paper conceptualizes the concept of electronic frontier and argues that the Digital Agenda aims to push impermeable socio-economic boundaries, such as lack of access to the Internet, in order to create economic growth for the EU and promote social inclusion among European citizens. The exploration of the Europe's 2020 strategy for smart growth at the digital level will bring about the conclusion that the Digital Agenda for Europe is the EU's electronic frontier and, through its actions and objectives, it can be a meaningful solution for EU's progress both internally and internationally.*

Keywords: *borders, frontiers, electronic frontier, European Union, Digital Agenda for Europe, globalisation, ICT*

Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability from a Global, European and Corporate Perspective. Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Governance

*Lutz Michael BÜCHNER*⁵

Abstract: *Shareholder value, financial crisis, turbo capitalism, fair products, risk management, management compensation, compliance management, employer branding – are terms that are on everyone's lips at the moment. More and more the fields of action of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), often called soft skills, become clear to management and its stakeholders. Investors take notice of these aspects as well. Companies that neglect to fulfill their social responsibility towards workers, customers, society and environment at large will not be successful in the long term. The article gives*

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an overview about the principles of CSR, the institutional framework of corporate social and sustainable management and its contents. Companies, practicing just shareholder value and neglecting the stakeholder dialogue will more and more loose market shares compared with those which develop a holistic strategy on corporate responsibility. But CSR is not just part of marketing or public relations. The European Union's strategy on CSR is enlarging this approach on all kind of organisations.

The contribution describes the different approaches of the European Union, the Global Compact, the OECD and the ILO on CSR, describes the principles of the Global Reporting Initiative and the recent ISO standard 26000. It goes into corporate codes which obligate companies on CSR. Finally it shows the relevance of CSR for trade unions and employee representatives.

Keywords: *Corporate Social Responsibility; sustainability (CSR); EU-strategy on CSR; corporate culture; stakeholder dialogue; CSR strategy*

Permeability (Goods) and Impermeability (Services) in EU Internal Market: a Liberal Perspective

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Abstract: *European single market for goods is a reality for almost 20 years. EU internal borders are no more an obstacle to trade. However in case of services the situation is quite different. A real and effective single market has still to be created. The reason relies with the removal of the state of origin principle from the Services Directive. This principle is of basic importance in making permeable the EU internal frontiers to services providers. Affected by global crisis the EU is looking for more growth. Services represent the 75% of aggregate GDP of EU27, around 9 trillion euro in 2011. However less than 0.7 trillions are traded through the EU borders, namely 7.4%. Europe needs a much more integrated service market in order to improve its growth performance. The main drawback of the Service Directive is the alteration of the level playing field. Indeed a contradiction of the single market logic. Masked under the alleged reason of avoiding social dumping, the attempt to maintain rent seeking sector has been successful, but just for a tiny minority of privileged agents at the expenses of the huge majority of European citizens. The sine qua non condition is the implementation of the deleted country of origin principle. But there is no move in this direction.*

Keywords: *market, services, country, origin, trade.*

Trade Effects of Borders' Elimination. The Case of Poland

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Abstract. *Borders have not only physical, cultural and mental meaning, but first and foremost an economic one. From the economic point of view, borders serve as protection of the internal market and aim to limit the development of economic contacts between countries. Therefore elimination of borders between countries serves business transactions, help to increase international trade, investments flows and migration of the workers. The main goal of this paper is to analyse how the elimination of border protection under the free trade agreement and single market programs helped to develop trade turnover between Poland and the EU partner countries.*

Keywords: *Polish economic development, economic frontier, liberalisation of Polish market, economic growth*

Cross-Border Labor in the EU: between Trans-Nationalisation and Renationalisation of Social Rights

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Abstract: *Because of its sheer scale, cross-border labor in the EU constitutes an epiphenomenon that reveals the extremely low permeability of EU economic borders in terms of the labor market. As they have become more numerous over time, this category of atypical workers has made visible the complex construction of transnational norms by the EU that seek to reduce the legal barriers and unequal treatments that are a natural outgrowth of heterogeneous national institutional frameworks. Although EU-wide intervention grants special status to this category of workers and limits the risks of discriminatory treatment in terms of access to social benefits, attempts made by some member-states to renationalise these benefits reveal the fragility of EU guarantees. Motivated by budgetary or nationalist trends, renationalisation strategies have increased since the burst of the last crisis, encouraging cross-border representatives and EU institutions to counteract these strategies in more or less consistent ways. By focusing on institutional dynamics and actor's strategies governing the construction or partial deconstruction of cross-border workers's rights, the paper proposes to offer insights into one dimension of the transnationalisation process that participates to the EU integration.*

Keywords: *EU internal migration, cross-border labor, transnationalisation, renationalisation, labour and social rights.*

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“Institutional Permeability” and Employment Relations in Europe: a Comparative Perspective on HR Policies in MNCs in France and the CEECs

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Abstract: *The purpose of this paper is based on a field survey conducted by the author and others on behalf of France’s Ministry of Employment within 8 French Multinational Companies (MNCs) present in the CEECs (Hungary, Romania and Slovakia). We analyse one singular aspect of this work, revealed by corporate strategies of MNC and consisting in the ability of head management to adjust industrial relations to strategic and operational objectives. The notion of “institutional permeability” of employment relation is put forward and discussed for understanding this phenomenon. At a general point of view, this notion is defined as a gap between the rules and the representations, practices and strategies of actors they are meant to regulate. In this contribution, this notion is apprehended at two levels: first, at an “institutional gaps” level, revealed locally by the practices and the devices of management set up by the directions of firm. It follows an erosion of the power of regulation by existing legal and normative frameworks; second, at an “institutional rules” level, set up and adjusted by States themselves with the aim to build of a new institutional frame able to guarantee a certain spatial and temporal cohesion between international strategies of firms, territories of setting-up and employment relation within the European Union. This dynamic is essentially based on a re-intermediation of the employment relationship via a repositioning of the State in the sphere of relationships by MNCs in territories they invest in.*

Keywords: *multinationals firms, labor-management relations, HR policies, institutions, comparative analysis France-CEECs*

La crise de la zone euro peut elle faire surgir de nouvelles frontières en Europe centrale et orientale?

*Maurice GUYADER*²

Abstract: *Eight years after the enlargement of the EU to 10 new Member States, in 2004, the balance sheet of this event is positive. In spite of the economic crisis in the EU, the economic and social situation of many of the new Member States is rather encouraging regarding other States in the Union. During four years after the accession they had a significant growth, they are fully integrated in the European trade, till 2009, FDI inflows have been in constant growth, there are not important migration flows after*

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the opening of boundaries, students are migrating through countries, agriculture is adjusting with the market, tourism exchange is increasing, there are improvements in social matters. But after 4 years, banking then, Eurozone crisis were there. Some countries have been affected. After Ireland, Portugal and Greece, Spain and Italy are infected, some of the new Member States also. If Poland is the only European country to have always known growth of its GDP, some other new Member States are not in the same situation. Flows of FDI slow down in many countries. The socio economic situation is not better, in the Balkan area and in the countries of the Eastern partnership. Turkey is one of the few countries to emerge. European external boundaries have been pushed away to the east, enlarging the stability zone, but also increasing sensitiveness of Eastern economies to the fluctuations of the Eurozone.

Keywords: *EU enlargements, Central and Eastern Europe Economic Catching-up, economic crisis, migrations.*

Investigation of Peripherisation in Northeastern Hungary by Spatial Demographic and Income Tendencies with Special Attention to the Roma Population³

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Abstract: *In the current paper, the spatial distribution, demographic trends and income processes of the Roma population were investigated in Northeastern Hungary. The analysis based on an own data collection that covered 999 settlements. The number of Roma population was collected from the representatives of local governments and from local Gypsy minorities of the settlements. The ratio of the Roma population was more than 15 percent of the whole population in Northeastern Hungary by this method. The territories with a significant ratio of Roma population constitute an almost complete overlapping with the backward areas of the investigated regions. The Roma population has faced cumulative problems of employment since the mid 1980s and this terrible labour market situation became even worse after the millennium. The categories of settlements created by the ratio of Roma population reflected the higher natural increase and higher migration loss of settlements with high percentage of Roma inhabitants. This process leads to the accelerating ethnic exchange with the outmigration of non-Gypsy inhabitants and the higher natural increase of Roma population. The largest fall of the relative income appeared in the case of the settlements with the highest ratio of Roma inhabitants after the political transition. The correlation between the ratio of Roma population and income poorness became significantly stronger during the last few decades. The investigations drew the attention to the formation of territorial ghettos with great extended romaification in Northeastern Hungary that cannot be stopped without a comprehensive and integrated social-economic intervention.*

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Keywords: *demographic tendencies, ethnic change, income, Northeastern Hungary, peripheries, Roma population*

From Socio-Economic Frontiers to Identity-Based Divisions: The Social Pattern of European Populism

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Abstract: *This article reinterprets the rise of populism in Europe, which has typically been examined from a political angle, from a social perspective. It highlights two social distinctive features that have contributed to fuel illiberalism as well as populism. The first one deal with the inability of the Social State, as increasingly configured to respond to competitiveness and attractiveness, to offer adequate protections to the groups that are the most affected by the new socio-economic insecurities triggered by globalisation. The second one - a point often neglected –refers to the crisis of the social democracy (or industrial relations), a crisis partly masked by the expansion and increasing mobilisation of “social dialogue”. It stresses the growing instrumentation of social dialogue from dominant actors, to legitimate unpopular reforms at macro-level, and serve managerial needs at micro level, and its incidence in terms of narrowing the expression’s channels for social demands. This state of affairs has ultimately fuelled disillusionment that is as political - against governments, and the elites in power - as it is social.*

Interrogating the intricate connections between the political and the social, this article construes populism as part of a political operation intended to convert social issues into a question of identity. Behind the ambition to lump social demands under the lone banner of the “people,” populism operates within new internal boundaries that are frequently ethnic, as well as external boundaries that include nationalism and protectionism, while in the process weakening the vitality and creative potential of the political process.

Keywords: *populism, illiberalism, social democracy, welfare state, social state, social dialogue.*

Twentyfive Years of Europe: a Balance Sheet?

*Isabel Maria FREITAS VALENTE*⁸

Review of Portugal-Europa. 25 anos de adesão, coord. de Maria Manuela Tavares Ribeiro, n.10 da Colecção Estudos sobre a Europa, Coimbra, Almedina, 2011, 112p., ISBN 978-972-40-4571-9.

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The Integration of Eastern and Central European Countries in European Union – a Successful Story

Anca OLTEAN

Review of: Magdalena Góra and Katarzyna Zielinska (eds), *European Integration in Central and Eastern Europe*, Jagiellonian University Press, Kraków, 2011, ISBN 978-83-233-3208-4, 318p.

Keywords: *integration, elites, East and Central Europe, politics, democracy.*

Development of European Studies Curriculum. Economic and Social Factors of Influence

Florentina CHIRODEA

Review of: *The Romanian Journal of International Relations and European Studies* (ROJIRES), Vol.1, Issue No.1/2012, ISSN 2284-9882 (Bucharest, 2012), 147p.

Keywords: *European studies curriculum, European academic system reform, European economic and social politics*

A More Democratic World. The Role of the Council of Europe

Cristina-Maria DOGOT

Review of Denis Rolland (et al.), *Construire l'Europe, la démocratie et la société civile de la Russie aux Balkans. Les Écoles d'Etudes Politiques du Conseil de l'Europe. Entretiens / Building Europe, Democracy and Civil Society from Russia to Balkans. The Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe. Interviews* (Paris, Éd. l'Harmattan, 2011), 348p.

Keywords: *international democracy, civil society, Council of Europe, state building, European governance*

Initiative and Constraint in the Mapping of Evolving European Borders

Ioan HORGA, Mirela MĂRCUȚ

The University of Oradea, in collaboration with 14 other partner institutions from within the European Union and at the external borders of the European Union, have embarked upon the task of creating a framework for the analysis of voluntarism versus determinism as key factors in the creation and evolution of borders/frontiers. These parameters are the basis and the main objective for the project entitled „Initiative and Constraint in the Mapping of Evolving European Borders”, whose results will offer recommendations for constructive neighbourhood relations and for a thoughtful external communication of the EU.