
The Concept of a Dual-System Model of Life and Conducting Business in Cross-Border Relations

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Abstract:

Purpose: The aim of the article is to present the assumptions of the concept of a dual-system model of life in border areas. The article also aims to indicate the motives for choosing a cross-border area for settlement or business. The aims of the article are to fill a gap in the theoretical approach to the whole issue of permanent settlement or temporary residence of people in border areas.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The article applies a systems approach to generalize social and economic phenomena observed in border areas, primarily focusing on the Polish-German border. The author's earlier research and fieldwork provide the basis for most of the observations. Similar phenomena can be found in the German-Dutch, German-Swiss, and Polish-Czech borders. The scientific content of the article is particularly relevant to the internal borders of the European Union and countries with open borders that allow free movement of people and goods. The research method is a descriptive model based on research and a literature review.

Findings: The dual-system model of living and economic activity posits that people settle on both sides of the border due to the numerous advantages derived from the disparities between the two countries. Individuals or households select countries based on their own interests, creating a living model that incorporates the characteristics and resources of both systems. In terms of the economic system, these advantages encompass better job opportunities in terms of wages, taxes, benefits, working conditions, and flexibility. Additionally, the economic system enables individuals to engage in cross-border business activities, taking advantage of market disparities, taxation differences, labor resources, and costs. Residents on both sides of the border also benefit from the diverse range of trade and services available in the neighboring country. Furthermore, the study reveals that there are social and cultural benefits associated with living on the other side of the border. People gain exposure to their own indigenous culture while experiencing the cultural offerings of the neighboring country, leading to enriched experiences and new impressions. Consequently, individuals adopting this dual-system approach acquire a new set of advantages and disadvantages compared to the traditional model of functioning within a single country.

Practical Implications: Understanding the mechanisms and motives of the dual-system way of life and settlement based on the balance of benefits provides a foundation for creating cross-border strategic documents and development policies for these areas. Examples include Polish cities divided by the Odra and Nysa Łużycka rivers, as well as the large port city of Szczecin (Stettin), whose influence extends beyond national borders, gradually forming a cross-border metropolitan area.

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Originality/Value: *The concept/model of dual-system motives for settlement, lifestyle, and economic activities has not been widely discussed in scientific literature. In some publications, definitions referring to hybridity or cross-border regions can be found, but often the focus is on a more detailed examination of only one of the neighboring countries or regions.*

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1. Introduction

The article combines theory, description, and empirical research on the Polish-German borderland and border studies literature. Its main thesis proposes a dual-system model of life and economic activity in cross-border areas. Residents near the border adopt different socio-economic systems from neighboring countries, resulting in a hybrid and dual-system way of life. The choice of residence creates a balanced approach that maximizes benefits. Over time, this may lead to the emergence of a distinct transitional territory or region between the two countries.

The aim of the study is to capture complex cross-border relations in a universal descriptive model based on the author's research and the literature on cross-border regions. The model facilitates the understanding of the complexity of cross-border areas from a cognitive perspective but also aids decision-makers and policymakers in comprehending complex cross-border relations. It highlights the need for creating joint cross-border development policies, spatial planning, integration actions, and facilitates argumentation for obtaining European funding from INTERREG programs.

The article is contextualized by historical events in Europe that have contributed to the intensification of movement and settlement in border areas. These are deepening processes of integration, the creation of a common market, and the Schengen Agreement. The Schengen Area spans over 4 million square kilometers and has around 420 million inhabitants, including 27 countries (23 EU member states) and members of the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland).

Approximately 3.5 million people cross internal borders daily for work, study, or visits. Among them, around 1.7 million individuals live in one Schengen country

and work in another. This freedom of movement, especially in border areas, holds significant importance.

Notably, the freedom of movement has implications not only for states but also for regions and smaller administrative units located at borders. Hence, the Schengen Area exhibits a regional dimension with frequent and permanent population flows near the border.

The article focuses on border studies, an interdisciplinary field that goes beyond traditional scientific disciplines. It brings together geographers, sociologists, anthropologists, historians, economists, international lawyers, philosophers, and political scientists. According to Newman, border studies have experienced a renaissance and increased interdisciplinary nature.

Contemporary border studies support this view, as significant events like EU enlargement, integration processes, Schengen Area expansion, the refugee crisis, border closures during the pandemic, Brexit, and issues beyond Europe (e.g., the United States-Mexico border, cross-border capital flows triggering the eurozone crisis, and conflicts in North Africa and the Middle East causing the migration crisis) have drawn attention to European integration, globalization's impact on EU member states, and borders. These issues are not only discussed among journalists and politicians at different levels but also among scientists.

2. Literature Review

Border regions are significant areas for researching changes in human social organization and economic relationships. The article's review of relevant literature in border studies focuses on indirect or direct references to the topic. It is worth noting that border studies have a rich body of literature, covering various regions worldwide.

The abundance of publications stems from the expansion of research areas, the interdisciplinary interest from different scientific disciplines, and the dynamic nature of border-related issues over time.

The publications primarily address local relations, such as cities and regional dynamics, as well as international (inter-state) aspects. Researchers from diverse disciplines, including political science, law, regional studies, geography, economics, cultural studies, history, demography, and tourism, find border issues intriguing.

Relatively similar to the definition of a cross-border system for open borders is the concept or term hybrid area. The hybrid nature of cross-border areas refers to situations where the border between two countries or regions does not constitute a clear barrier and the inhabitants of these areas share cultural, linguistic, ethnic, and economic characteristics found on both sides of the border.

In such places, the cultures, languages, and traditions of the two countries are often mixed, creating a new hybrid identity.

The inhabitants of these regions often have the ability to communicate in several languages, and their culture and customs are often a mixture of elements from both countries. The term hybridity is used by Newman argues that, depending on social and political conditions, borders undergo processes of opening or closing, reflecting the degree to which there is cross-border separation or contact. The opening of borders leads to the creation of cross-border regions (CBRs), i.e., areas where borders are crossed, differences meet and, in some cases, hybrids are created.

This applies both to territorial spaces near physical state borders or urban neighbourhoods, and to social and cultural borderlands where religious and ethnic groups or economic categories meet (Newman, 2016). The hybridity of cross-border areas in Newman's terms is substantiated in empirical publications, e.g., in a study (Drevon *et al.*, 2018) in which the authors investigated a hybrid commuting pattern between the place of residence in Luxembourg and the place of work in Germany, France and Belgium.

The authors typified commuters into five groups due to their behaviour when moving between residence and work. The context of hybridity in border relations was addressed, for example, in the issues of common policies between neighbouring countries in the Baltic Sea.

This area of research is addressed by Joas *et al.* (2007). They explain political hybrids as more or less institutionalised interactions between autonomous and interdependent actors on both sides of the border. Networks – political hybrids can be a nexus of connections between public and private partners, networks between governmental actors and civil society. Such hybrid networks include actors from different levels of government (national, local, or regional). Hybrid networks are better suited to address existing problems in the region than networks consisting solely of governmental or non-governmental actors.

In the literature on border studies as systems, the notion of resilience and stability appears relatively frequently. This problem was addressed i.e., by Urbančíková and Zgodavová, (2019). The authors proposed a Regional Resilience Index (RRI) based on three domains of resilience:

- (1) Entrepreneurship domain, which includes sub-indices of economic diversity, entrepreneurship, unemployment, and savings opportunities;
- (2) Socio-demographic domain, whose sub-indices are ageing and population health;
- (3) Public infrastructure and settlement stability domain.

An interesting thesis of this publication is the indication that cross-border areas develop less well than other areas. Which may provide an intriguing canvas for

polemics and analysis. The issue of the resilience of border areas appears relatively frequently in the literature. Some interesting examples include the work on urbanising cross-border regions and the common threats to these areas.

Adrot *et al.* (2018) draws attention to this due to natural hazards and shortcomings in the coordination of activities and in the development of cross-border critical infrastructure. Lack of critical infrastructure is currently a major threat to cross-border regions. In addition, the authors propose a broader view of the issue (holistically) also considering the behaviour of border residents, which remains uncertain due to history and coexisting cultural differences and environments.

Close to the hybridisation and permanence-bivalence, social relations, connections, institutions, and policies towards border areas is the concept of cross-border region and identity. According to Eder (2009), there are three models of cross-border identity in Europe, i.e., narratives and actions that combine different national histories into a common one. Indeed, we have supranational capitals (Strasbourg, Brussels, and Luxembourg) where distinctive European rituals, summits and activities are organised to unite nation states.

A post-national identity model based on the merging of national histories into a single European one, implying a reflexive attitude relating different national viewpoints across borders, for example by combining the discourses of winners and losers when approaching European history. And a third model of transnational identity transcending relationships between communities embedded in national groups by emphasising the existence of hybrid identities located in certain specific multicultural sites - regions.

The existence of this type of European identity, the "new regional" orientation, and the role played by European cross-border regions in its formation are analyzed, among others, by Lamour (2020), Pereira Carneiro Filho (2012), Rückert (2012), and Terlouw (2008).

Particularly noteworthy are the studies on the Polish-German borderland by Rudewicz (2017) and Balogh (2014) because the observations contained in these works pertain to the settlement of Poles on the German side and mutual perceptions and reactions of mistrustful residents, which nevertheless normalize and provide hope for the emergence of a cross-border region in the future.

The above-mentioned studies are part of an interesting trend towards a new regionalism. The decline of the state-regulated economy in the wake of increasing globalisation has prompted states to reorganise the regulation of their territories. The new regionalism is a multidimensional phenomenon, involving decentralisation, localisation policy, European integration, political networks, inter-city cooperation, urban alliances, instead, there is a multitude of co-existing networks and

partnerships at different spatial scales, etc. Cross-border regions are part of it, (Tuziak, 2022; Keating, 2008; Deas and Lord, 2006; Perkmann and Sum, 2002).

Perkman (2003) identified 70 cross-border regions (CBRs) in Europe under the names of Euroregions, Euregions, Working Communities. This author contrasted Raich's (1995) definition, saying that cross-border regions are not fully developed and autonomous, but should be regarded as territorial units that share common historical, socio-economic, and cultural characteristics and are tentatively forming their own regional identity and autonomous institutions.

The existence of similarities is not a necessary element of CBRs regions on either side of national borders can be understood as territorial units for which regional unity may result from the use of borders to exploit legitimate and illegitimate income opportunities or differences in wages, prices, and institutional norms on either side of the border. And a cross-border region should be seen not only as a functional space, but as a socio-territorial unit endowed with a degree of strategic autonomy based on certain organisational arrangements.

Cross-border regions are often seen by researchers as "laboratories" in which the progress of the European integration process can be measured and evaluated (Bufon, 2008; Knippenberg, 2004; O'Dowd, 2002). A cross-border region can be explained as a territorial unit that consists of contiguous subnational units from two or more nation states (Perkmann and Sum, 2002).

The regionalisation process can be understood as a political project aimed at shifting decision-making to the regional level and thus promoting regional cooperation and competitiveness. This process has a dual character in that it is initiated internally through its regional actors and is also fostered by European integration policies. In a sense, it is a return to historical, medieval Europe, where regions were the main political units, as opposed to nation states (Anderson, 1996; Applegate, 1999; Paasi, 1986).

This process involves the takeover of a political project driven by local elites with a new regionalism, a bottom-up (autonomous) action involving bottom-up forms of governance in which the state is no longer the main policy maker. Regional and local, official, and unofficial development actors, organisations that are involved in regional development strategies and their implementation, form hierarchical cross-border networks (Putnam, 1992).

The new regionalism has broader connotations and interpretations, humanists believe that contemporary regionalism is a new formulation of cultural distinctiveness and identity. It results from conscious human action in the natural environment, the transformation of which 'will be a means of self-identification', it will also be a kind of sign of one's own local tradition, and this is essential in the

formation of a local mythology, in which it is the human community that finds and perpetuates its collective identity' (Pietraszko, 2016).

Occurring under the acronym CBRs (Cross-border regions), they are the subject of many empirical studies, or sectoral studies, for example, tourism as a region-building force. A study by Stoffelen and Vanneste (2017) is comparing the institutional development and environment of the tourism business and its role in cross-border regionalisation in the Czech-German and German-Belgian border area can be mentioned here.

The German-Czech area is characterised by identity, institutional and linguistic contrasts, and cross-border cooperation was only initiated after the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989.

The second is a more mature cross-border region, where contrasts are rather moderate and experiences of cross-border cooperation are more long-lasting. Similar studies of tourism destination in the context of historical background, the open internal EU border between Finland and Sweden and cross-border regionalisation have been conducted (Prokkola, 2007).

The sectoral or focused view of cross-border relations also concerns the diffusion of information and cooperation in innovation, areas of cross-border cooperation are called Cross-Border Regional Innovation Systems. Within Europe, such systems in Scandinavia are well described in the literature (Makkonen *et al.*, 2017; Hansen, 2013; Lepik *et al.*, 2010). Scientific cooperation is an important element of cooperation between border regions, especially in R&D-intensive sectors.

According to many political leaders, the abolition of borders within the EU has weakened traditional competences of the nation-state, such as physical border control, control over capital, or monetary self-determination. Events of the past decade have heightened political tensions, sparked calls for the restoration of border controls, and strengthened politically-focused groups aimed at internal consolidation.

The EU has not only expanded its membership but also reinforced a network of differentiated association agreements with non-member European states.

It has eliminated internal borders through the establishment of a single market, a common currency, and the Schengen area of free movement, while also reducing external barriers to global trade and capital mobility. However, as argued by Schimmelfennig (2021) regarding the EU's external borders, processes of rebordering, which involve strengthening and solidifying borders, are on the rise.

The author also notes that the external borders of the EU, through customs unions and association agreements, could further integrate the EU with the international

environment. These processes and events present a contrasting background to long-standing processes within the European Union, where debordering is taking place, meaning the elimination of physical borders and a certain tightening of cross-border cooperation and further diffusion of culture and development of border contacts.

The concept of borders and "bordering" includes the creation and management of borders. It involves debordering, which opens borders, reduces border control, and decreases border congruence. On the other hand, rebordering refers to actions that close or limit borders, increase border control, and enforce stricter border measures (Popescu, 2011).

3. Methodology

To achieve the goals of the article, a systemic approach and modeling were applied as elements of systemic analysis. Systemic analysis is a field of knowledge concerned with understanding organizational systems and their functioning. It enables the integration of knowledge from different scientific disciplines around selected problems (holism). It has an interdisciplinary and synthetic nature.

Among the characteristics of systemic analysis, such as interdisciplinarity, an engineering character, and complexity, the focus was placed on the latter two: modeling as the basis of analysis and a high degree of intuitiveness.

Modeling as the basis of analysis involves constructing abstract structures that reflect reality in a simplified manner. Analyzing the behavior of the model (depending on the parameter values that symbolize the states of the environment) allows for drawing conclusions about the response of the studied part of reality to changes occurring in its environment (Swadźba, 2009).

In describing any system, it is important not only to indicate its goals, functions, processes, inputs, and outputs (for an open system) but also to present the system's structure. This structure is represented by its form and internal organization. The form of technical or physical systems, as well as production (organizational) systems, is determined by specifying the functions and properties of the system's elements that create its boundaries.

This is why the term "external form" is also used. When analyzing the form of a system, attention should also be paid to the internal structure of the environment itself, which constitutes the external background of the system.

The internal structure of the system is expressed by its division into subsystems (at different levels) until reaching the smallest indivisible components from a particular point of view, called elements (Stabryła, 2006). A model is a set of assumptions adopted in a particular field of study to facilitate the solution of a research problem. It is a hypothetical mental construct that serves as a simplified representation of the

investigated fragment of reality, where irrelevant elements for a specific purpose are omitted.

Models are introduced into science due to their usefulness in building scientific theories. They help reduce the complexity of phenomena under consideration to a level that allows for their understanding. Models facilitate the comprehension of past phenomena and enable the prediction of future phenomena.

Mathematical models, which describe objects using the language of mathematics and formal logic, are particularly significant in contemporary science. Models are also hypothetical constructs that encompass a set of assumptions adopted in social sciences, such as economics. Their goal is to capture the most essential features and relationships occurring in each economic process.

Among models, there are several types: numerical models – expressed through formulas, logical models - expressed through logical expressions, graphical models – represented as charts, diagrams, drawings (Falkowski and Francuz, 1994). Such models are commonly used in spatial planning, where they assist planners in simplifying and delimiting phenomena on plans and maps.

An example of graphical models for cross-border regions are spatial-functional linkage schemes, as seen in works like "Border regions: forms of entrepreneurial interconnection across borders" by Krätke (Ciok, 2008; Krätke, 2007).

The theoretical framework of the territorial social system was employed to construct the conceptual foundations of a dual-system model of life and economic activity. On the ground of Polish science introduced this concept Parysek (2015) and Chojnicki (1988). The territorial social system has two layers with smaller components. The first layer includes residents engaged in economic, cultural, and political activities.

The second layer encompasses the material foundation for human existence, consisting of natural and artificial elements. Natural elements comprise animals, plants, as well as natural resources, energy, and matter. Artificial components consist of infrastructure, technical systems, buildings, and structures intentionally created or transformed by humans.

Territoriality within the territory signifies the power and control between human collectivity and the material foundation grounded in the political system. The territorial social system exists within an external environment of other hierarchical systems (Berry, 1964).

4. Research Results and Discussion

The dual-system model of life and conducting business in border areas is a way of functioning that involves utilizing the opportunities offered by neighboring countries

or regions. People living in such areas often engage in economic, educational, and social activities on both sides of the border. Within this model, residents of border regions have the opportunity to access services and resources from both countries, which can be beneficial from an economic, social, and cultural perspective.

For example, residents of such an area may work in one country while participating in cultural and social life in the other country, creating a spatial continuum despite the existence of a border and enabling better utilization of the resources of both countries.

The conditions for the existence of the dual-system model of life can be divided into political, legal, technical, and infrastructural, economic, mental, and cultural aspects. The initial assumption of the concept of the dual-system model of life in border areas is the existence of an open border enabling the free movement of people and goods, as well as agreements to avoid double taxation between neighboring countries.

Essential conditions include agreements and diplomatic cooperation between neighboring countries at both the central and local levels. Important considerations are the legal regulations that allow for temporary or permanent residence on both sides of the border.

They should not create a secondary border barrier that hinders settlement. Internal borders between European Union countries covered by the Schengen Agreement exhibit such characteristics. The dual-system model of life in border areas requires the proper functioning of transportation connections (road, rail, cycling infrastructure, etc.).

The success of cross-border cooperation projects depends on infrastructure – bridges are not only symbolic but also practical. It should not pose a significant barrier or spatial resistance. There are no quantitative or qualitative restrictions on the transportation of goods and people, nor regulations on goods based on citizenship. It also requires appropriate infrastructure and availability of services in both countries so that residents can access diverse services and resources on both sides of the border.

Time is a factor that influences the balance of benefits and drawbacks in a cross-border life model. Market transactions, purchases, and sales are conducted using a currency acceptable to both sides and with an exchange rate. The barrier to conducting transactions is also reduced by the compatibility of banking systems.

Neighboring countries do not restrict the freedom to engage in economic activities and employment. The barrier in the form of social behaviors, hostility, and suspicion towards outsiders does not play a significant role in the decision-making process regarding living and moving to border territories. Social programs and support

encompass residents from the neighboring country who settle on the other side and meet the necessary requirements. Tax residency is divided into economic residency and family residency in the case of working or residing in the neighboring country.

The cross-border lifestyle often involves moving between countries or regions for work, education, leisure, shopping, or other purposes. Residents of these areas often can speak both languages of the countries, which facilitates movement on both sides of the border. The cross-border area, where processes characteristic of the dual-system life model take place, does not have a defined delimitation. The benefits derived from dual-system settlement may decrease in intensity as one moves away from the national border. They, therefore, have a fuzzy nature. Transborder lifestyle can have both positive and negative consequences.

On one hand, residents of border areas can benefit from a greater number of resources and opportunities, enriching their lives culturally and diversifying their experiences. On the other hand, the transborder model of living can lead to issues related to cultural and national identity, as well as conflicts among residents of different countries or regions. The fundamental assumption for the stability of such a system is the prevalence of benefits over drawbacks for settlement, resulting in a positive balance. The set of benefits is diverse, creating an individual balance of advantages for each person.

The lifestyle model in border areas, based on two open socio-economic systems of both countries, is the result of attractive forces that encourage settlement and staying in the border area. This force of gravity metaphorically represents the balance of benefits offered by the border location. From the range of possibilities within their own country, individuals gain the option to choose a set of benefits from the neighboring country. An example of such a model is purchasing cheaper properties on one side and commuting to work on the other side.

The strengthening of flows in the transborder region is driven by the proximity of a larger city or metropolitan area, such as the Polish-German border and the city of Szczecin (Stettin). Residents of municipalities on the German side benefit from the services and cultural offerings provided by the larger urban center (with a population of 400,000), including higher cultural events such as philharmonic concerts and large outdoor events (Rudewicz, 2017).

Conversely, residents on the Polish side benefit from educational offerings in the town of Löcknitz, where children attend school together with German students. This provides greater opportunities for children to learn both Polish and German languages.

In the case of Poland, where many citizens migrated for political and economic reasons, residing in the cross-border area allows them to access the pension system while living close to family and friends and benefiting from developed

infrastructure. Remaining in the Polish-German border area, the freedom of movement for citizens of both countries enhances the tourism offering. This applies to day trips, activities such as cycling, or longer stays in cities or resort areas.

Daily contacts and movement involve shopping, where according to survey research, German citizens more frequently take advantage of services that are cheaper on the Polish side. On the other hand, Poles purchase cheaper houses and apartments on the German side, which experienced significant depopulation after the reunification of Germany. The entire relationship can be based on the existence of intersecting asymmetries that individuals can configure according to their needs when choosing a place of residence.

Settlement in border areas requires individuals who undertake this endeavor to exert more administrative and legal effort, courage, cultural flexibility, and language learning skills. Similarities in dialects, a high level of English language proficiency, and understanding of cultural codes facilitate interactions. The border acts as a filter for permanent settlement, giving the diaspora of settlers on the other side certain pioneer-like characteristics that encourage further migration to the neighboring country.

The differences between the systems in the model - Figure 1 - are divided into two subsystems: economic and social. The economic subsystem pertains to mutual asymmetries and the balance of benefits for businesses of various sizes.

Observations indicate that they can take advantage of the business environment, laws, preferences, and subsidies in one country while benefiting from the labor market of the other country. Another motive for locating economic activities is access to the neighboring market, more favorable financing (banking and local support), or the image of the country in which the business is located.

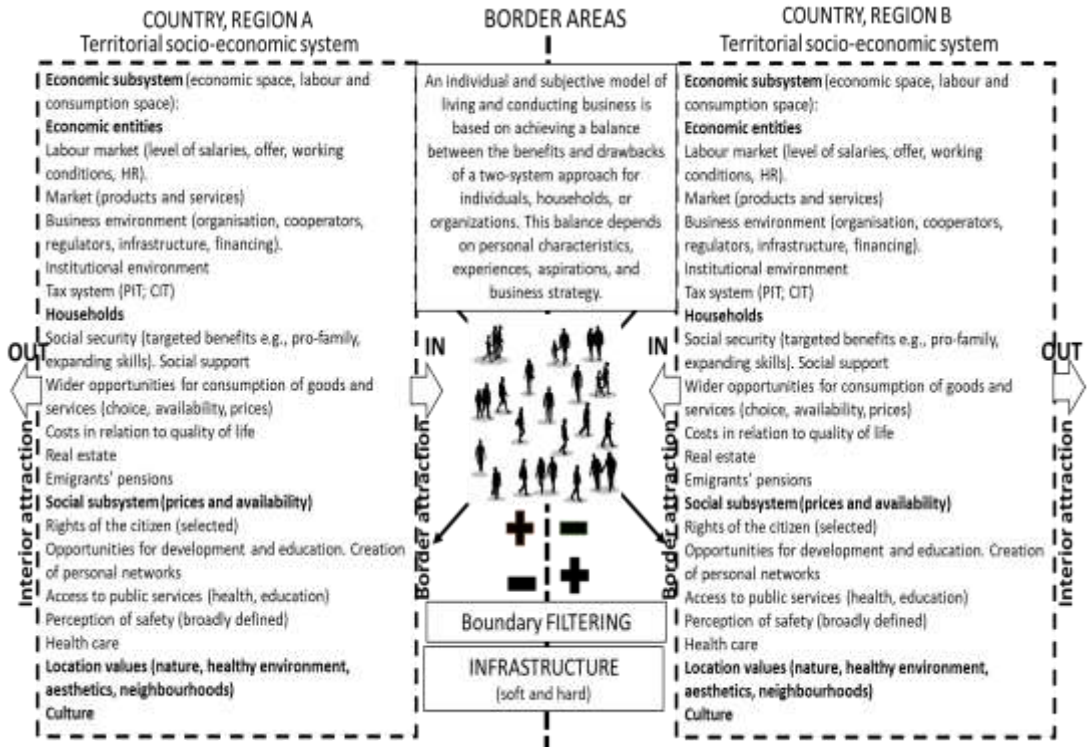
Another factor is the higher level of entrepreneurship of a particular nation resulting from age asymmetry, demographic potential, and higher wages. In the social subsystem, the higher level (or better adapted for individuals) of public services such as healthcare, education, child benefits, and social security plays a significant role in the balance of benefits for choosing migration to the border zone.

Maintaining emotional connections with both the country of origin and the country of settlement is also important, as individuals do not lose their ties while being in a different social environment. In summary, these factors can be reduced to a consciously chosen configuration that contributes to personal/family quality of life.

In the dual-system model of living and conducting economic activities in cross-border areas, the attractiveness of the natural environment, its impact on environmental health, and the surrounding landscape also play a role. It should also be mentioned that residing in a cross-border area is influenced by the balance of

benefits offered by living, working, and experiencing life within the country, as well as the gravitational pull of other interior centers such as large cities, industrial regions, and tourist destinations.

Figure 1. Dual-system model of living and conducting business in a cross-border region.



Source: Own elaboration.

5. Conclusions

When considering the dual-system model of living and cross-border regions, the sustainability and resilience of such arrangements come into question. Closing borders during events like the Covid-19 pandemic disrupts the lives of residents in border areas, hindering their access to work and homes. Further research is needed to explore other factors that impact the system's vulnerability and durability, such as economic changes including currency exchange rates, inflation, GDP, consumer demand, and wages. Imbalances and polarization, not just economically but also politically and culturally, may arise over time.

Thus, cross-border regions require special attention, political sensitivity, and decision-making. The long-term perspective of these regions, the fading of national differences, and the emergence of cross-border identities are also interesting aspects

to consider. Concerns about one side dominating due to demographic, economic, and cultural potential may be valid. The development of cross-border regions can take various paths, coexistence, domination, or hybridization.

Borders often run near major urban centers, and the influence of these centers on the model requires further research. It could follow examples like the city of Szczecin and the Transborder Metropolitan Area project (TRMSz), where the German side sees it as an opportunity for development, or like cross-border region Greater Copenhagen & Skåne Committee (Øresund). These conclusions emphasize the need for common policies in cross-border areas, which not only benefit the participants directly but also foster the development of border regions, giving rise to hybrid regions.

Despite the internal openness within the European Union, differences in cohesion and potential persist. These differences encompass economic and social development, resources, demographics, and infrastructure, influenced by historical and geographical factors.

They are not solely determined by economic factors such as wages, unemployment rates, or competition, but also cultural, linguistic, mental, legal, and political differences at national and regional levels. Understanding the incentives and barriers for individuals choosing to live in border areas is a compelling and developmental area of research.

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