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## Planning Integration in European Areas of Social and Cultural Contact: a Sisyphian Task?

The article deals with the issue of planning social and spatial integration in the so-called contact areas, where different political and cultural units meet and interlace. The study of such areas copes both with persistent and immanent forms of territoriality of human beings and with more and more pronounced quest for functional social, economic and spatial integration. Both trends lead towards a multi-level and often contradictory relation between different territories and borders, which emerge from the simultaneously developing processes of social and spatial convergence and divergence. For this reason, both theory and practice of planning social and spatial (re)integration in European multicultural and border regions appear to be a difficult, almost Sisyphian task, but nevertheless central to the creation of more stable opportunities for both coexistence and development. The article provides a review of the author's considerations of the social and spatial transformations and it is based on his studies of border and multicultural areas in Slovenia and other parts of Europe. He is suggesting to promote an integrative and multilevel approach that could replace the classic "national" policies in relation to border areas development and minority protection.

Keywords: border and multicultural regions, spatial (re)integration, social planning

### *Planiranje integracije v evopskih območjih družbenega in kulturnega stika: Siziŕovo delo?*

*Članek obravnava problematiko planiranja družbene in prostorske integracije v tako imenovanih kontaktnih območjih, kjer se stikajo in prepletajo različne politične in kulturne enote. Proučevanje teh družbenih območij se sooča tako s persistentnimi in človeku imanentnimi oblikami teritorialnosti, kot tudi z rastočimi potrebami po funkcionalni družbeni, ekonomski in prostorski povezanosti. Obe težnji vodita v nastanek večplastnih in velikokrat neskladnih razmerij med različnimi teritoriji in mejami, ki izhajajo iz sočasno potekajočih procesov družbene in prostorske konvergence in divergence. Zaradi tega se tako teorija kot praksa planiranja družbene in prostorske (re)integracije v Evropi nasploh in še zlasti v njenih multikulturnih obmejnih regijah izkaže kot težavno, skorajda Siziŕovo delo, brez katerega pa bi verjetno težko zagotovili trajnejše možnosti sobivanja in razvoja. Članek obravnava problem družbene integracije kontaktnih prostorov na podlagi avtorjevih proučevanj obmejnih in multikulturnih območij Slovenije in sosedstva. Avtor se na podlagi analize procesov družbene in prostorske transformacije v teh območjih zavzema za integrativen in večnivojski pristop, ki naj presega klasične "nacionalne" politike in odnosu do obmejnih območij in varovanja manjšin.*

*Ključne besede: obmejne in multikulturne regije, prostorske (re)integracije, družbeno planiranje*

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