

INTAS Final Report

The Role of Regions in Transforming Post-communist Societies: Belarus, Georgia, Russia and Ukraine as cases of comparison.

97 – 2025. 1st of January 1999 – 31st of December 2002.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND KEY REFERENCES

- **The Role of Regions in Transforming Post-communist Societies: Belarus, Georgia, Russia and Ukraine as cases of comparison. 97 – 2025. 1st of January 1999 – 31st of December 2002.**
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- Provide a description of the **results** of the research.
- The network project concentrated on the development of research activities about the role of regions in the four NIS countries Belarus, Georgia, Russia and the Ukraine. This interest resulted in the common draft of the joint proposal “Regional Responses to Global Change in Eastern Europe”. The steps and achievements of the INTAS network project were the milestones leading to this joint project. The initial milestone started at the first meeting (Mehrerau, Lake of Constance) with the discussion of the role of regions in comparison between the countries of Eastern Europe. There was an exchange of informations and communications about the modern concepts of transnational regions in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. As the essential aspect of the regional factor we focused on its role as trigger and promotor of participation, civic values and forms of self-empowerment of local people. These aspects became guidelines for the further communications within the countries and between the groups. The second milestone during the Tbilisi meeting focused on insights into the cases, mainly to Georgia, as the case in the most difficult situation of all partner countries. The comparison between the Georgian case and the conditions for regionalism, participation and civic activities in Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine helped to understand the state and future chances for nation specific developments. The third milestone was the final meeting (additionally organised) in Minsk. There a preliminary theory and the work programme for the joint project were discussed: The teams of the four NIS countries propose a joint empirical contribution to the challenge of the global changes concerning the regions and its reactions to these changes in a comparative perspective.

- Summarise the impact of the results, i.e. how and in which areas they may potentially be applied:
- The general aim of the network project was to create an intensive communication between the four teams of the countries of the NIS in order to stimulate continuous research on the topics. Looking back to the project steps the four partner institutions are – together with the Western partners – the cores of a multinational competence network able to realise research on the topics of region, civic and political participation, civic society and social change. It was possible to create spill overs: the Georgian team is carrying out the project “How Georgians view Democracy?” promoted by the SCOPES (Swiss Foundation for the Promotion of Research) which was stimulated and initiated by the INTAS network. The team leader of the Russian partner, Tatiana Vorozheikina, was invited as guest professor (Peter Heintz Awards) to the University of Zurich by the World Society Foundation. The INTAS network project could profit from these contacts and opportunities for exchange. The teams of the partners enlarged the contacts and communications to other scientific and public institutions in their countries. So the joint project involves new academic and scientific partners within the countries.

- List up to 10 references of key papers resulting directly from the project.

The Role of Regions in Transforming Post-communist Societies: The Cases of Belarus, Georgia, Russia and the Ukraine Compared:

– Newsletter I, Nr. 1, June 1999.

Introduction and work programme

– Newsletter II, Nr. 2, February 2000.

Country specific summaries and concepts of regions discussed at the Mehrerau meeting.

– Newsletter III, Nr. 3, June 2002.

Summaries of the contributions and papers of the Tbilisi meeting.

– Newsletter IV, Nr. 4, January 2003.

Joint proposal: “Regional Responses to Global Change in Eastern Europe – A comparative project of Belarus, Georgia, Russia and the Ukraine” (Preliminary theory and work programme).

See contributions in the book: Postsocialist Transformations and Civil Society in a Globalizing World, Nova Science Publishers, Inc., New York

http://www.novapublishers.com/return_search.asp?fieldCategory=Europe&offset=10

– Nikolay Churilov, Olexandr Stegnyj et al. (2002), The Regions in the Ukraine. Perceptions, Fears and Hopes of Population, in: Meier-Dallach, H. P., Juchler, J. (Ed.), Postsocialist Transformations and Civil Society in a Globalizing World, Nova Science Publishers, Inc., New York, 159-188.

– Hans-Peter Meier-Dallach (2002), The Civil Society between Globalization, Nations und People’s Mind – A Comparative Outlook, in: Meier-Dallach, H. P., Juchler, J. (Ed.), Postsocialist Transformations and Civil Society in a Globalizing World, Nova Science Publishers, Inc., New York, 207 - 228.

– Rainer Münz (1999), Über die Grenze, Schweizer Monatshefte, 11, Zürich 1999, 9-11.

– Tatiana Vorozheikina, Civil Society and the State: Russia through a Latin American Lens, in: Meier-Dallach, H. P., Juchler, J. (Ed.), Postsocialist Transformations and Civil Society in a Globalizing World, Nova Science Publishers, Inc., New York, 33-53.

– Merab Pachulia, Hans-Peter Meier-Dallach, René Schaffhauser (2001), How Georgians view Democracy? Civil society, regional diversity and democracy in the population. Paper Research Proposal, SCOPES, Tbilisi, St. Gallen, Zürich

René Schaffhauser (2000), Essential Features of Regional State Policy in Switzerland, University of St. Gallen.

- Is there additional information available on INTERNET? If yes, give the addresses
- www.culturprospectiv.ch/regions
- www.demographie.de/forschung
- www.unisg.ch/org/irp/web.usf/
- www.wsf.unizh.ch
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