

# Some geographical issues in transitional economy: a case study of the Czech Republic

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*8th April, 2009*

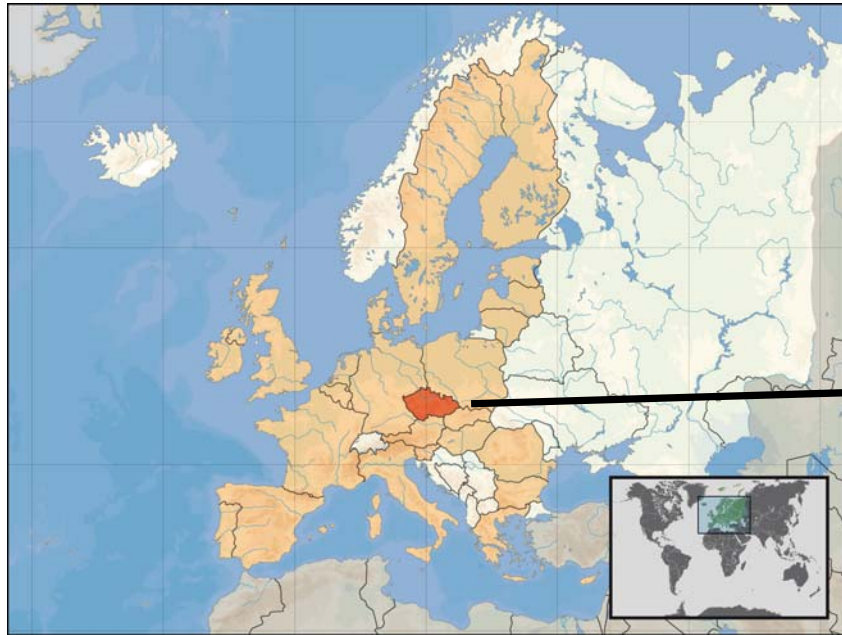
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*„Czech borderland after Schengen: a distinct, oscillating and/or transit area?“ (2009-2012, AV0/IA)*

# Presentation on:

- 1) My country, city and the University intro
- 2) Basic demographical data on the Czech Republic
- 3) Change of geopolitical location (focused on border dynamics)
- 4) Discussion: future cooperation possible?



Department of  
Geography

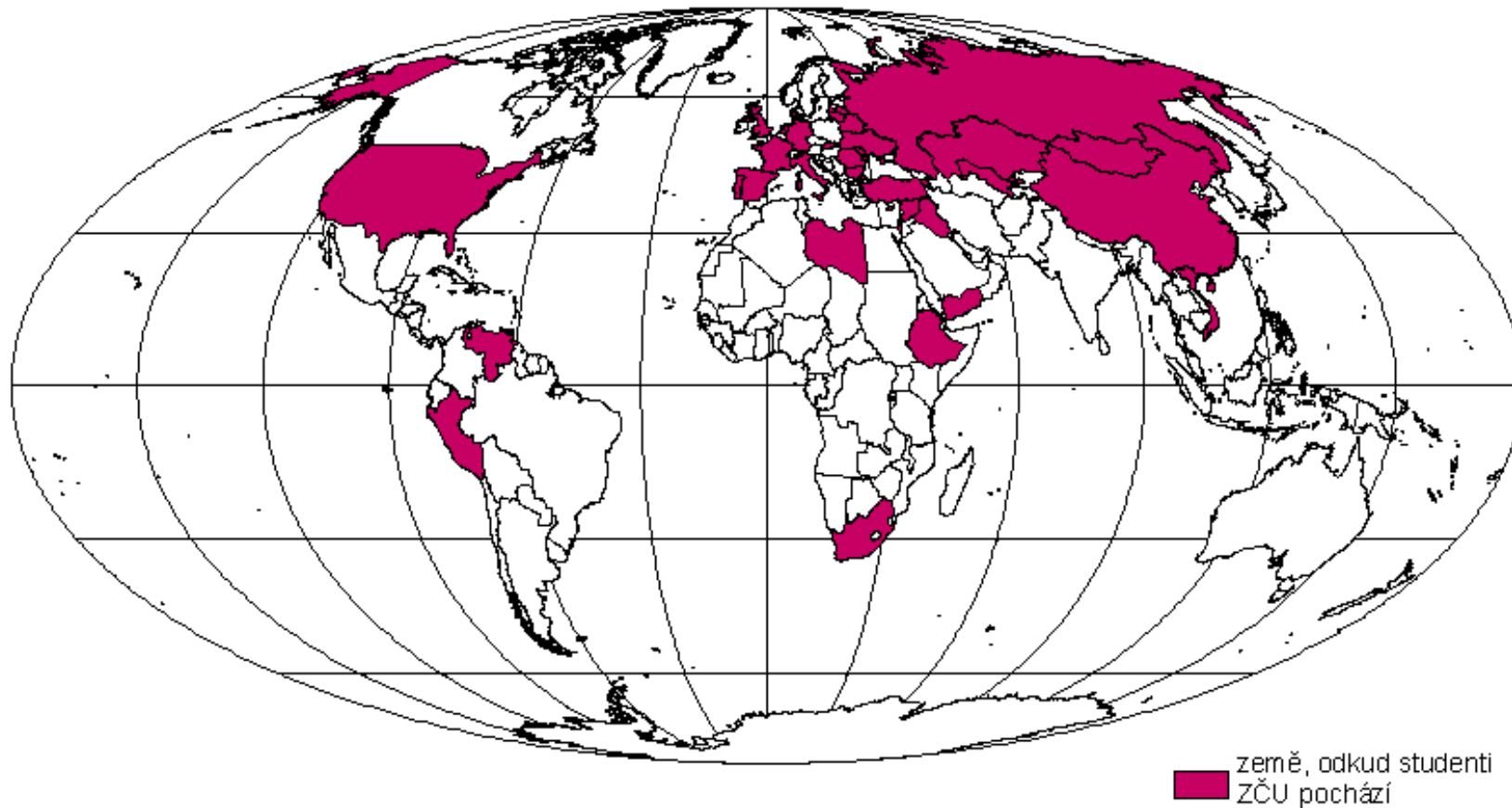


Modern and old  
buildings of the  
University in Plzen



Where are students of the WBU from?

Zahraníční studenti na ZČU



Source: Geography of Plzen, 2007

# Structure of WBU

<u>Faculty/Institute</u>	<u>Founded</u>	<u>Departments</u>
Applied Sciences	1991	5
Economics	1990	6
Electrotechnic engineering	1949	5
Philosophy	1999	10
Education	1953	16
Law	1993	12
Mechanical engineering	1950	6
Medical Studies	2008	3
Art ad Design ( <i>inst.</i> )	2004	-
New Technologies ( <i>inst.</i> )	2000	-

Source: WB Uni websites, 2009

# Geography department



- Staff – 10 people
- Areas of the research:
  - Borderland space - dynamics between CZ and Germany, Austria (GAAV, GACR)
  - Quaternary glaciology (GAAV), Hydro-ecology,
  - Amenity migration (GACR), phenomenon of „small cities“
  - Geography of islands (Iceland, Azores, Canary Islands expeditions)
  - Transformation of Economy, Medical Geography (HIV/AIDS)

# What could be possible?

- Mobility of students – recently study programmes for students from Vietnam and Uzbekistan
- Department cooperation (projects in borderland or medical geography researches) – staff mobility
- Summer Language School (3 weeks including culture experience, traveling in CZ, new friendships...)





# Czech Republic



Former Czechoslovakia (in 1993)

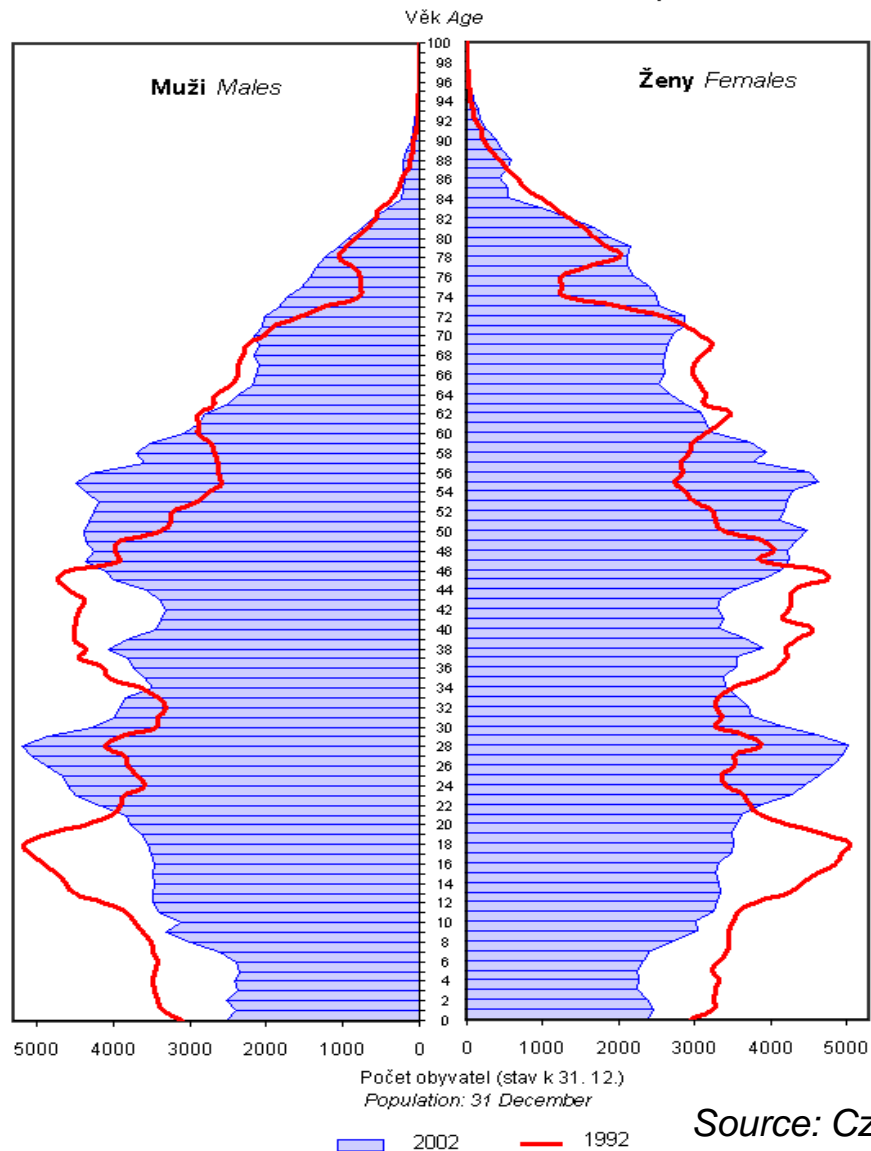
10,3 mil inhabitants

Central Europe

Major ethnic groups Czechs (+ Slovaks, Ukrainians, Vietnamese, Germans, Gypsies)

# Population

Věková struktura obyvatelstva Plzeňského kraje  
Age distribution of the population: Plzeňský region



Source: Czech Statistical office, 2009

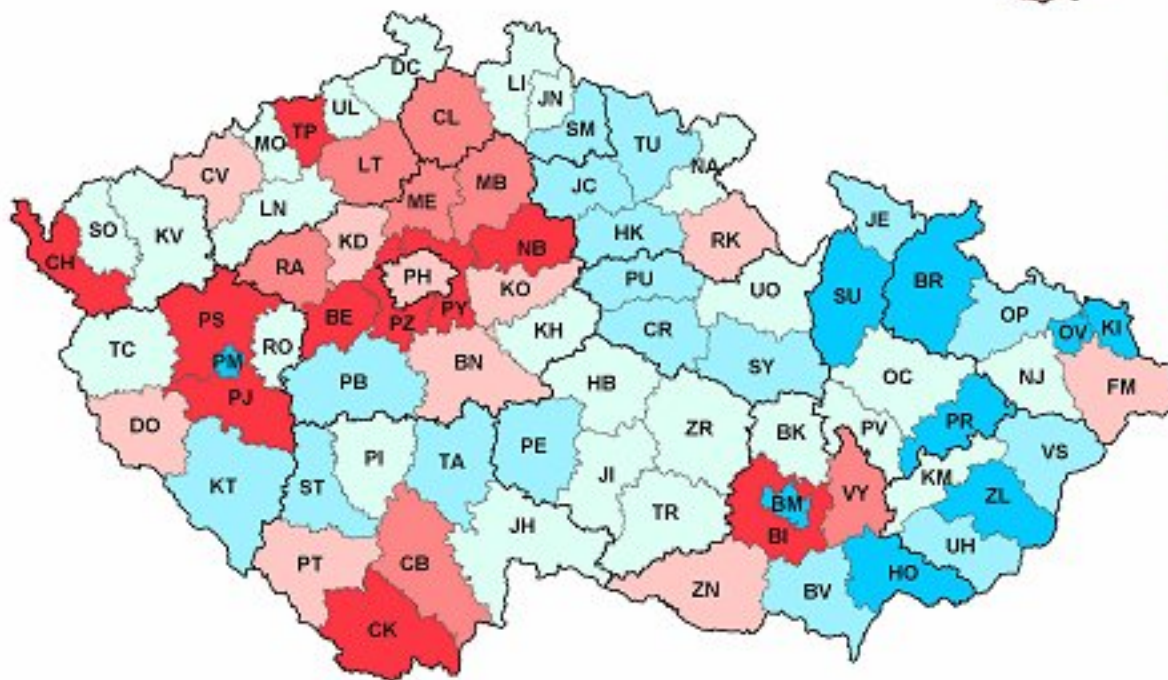
## Typical features of the population development:

- one of the lowest fertility (about 1,14 child per a woman)
- between 1995-2004 birth rate negative; typical feature of post-modern Europe
- Now population very slowly increases (baby boom of women born cca 30 years ago; international migration increase; life expectancy is higher)

# Decrease - Increase of population between 2000-2004

## Změna počtu obyvatel mezi roky 2000 a 2004 (stav k 31. 12.)

průměr ČR: -0,11  
minimum: -2,39 Brno - město  
maximum: 11,45 Praha - západ



# Change of geopolitic location



Key dates:

1989 – still behind the iron curtain

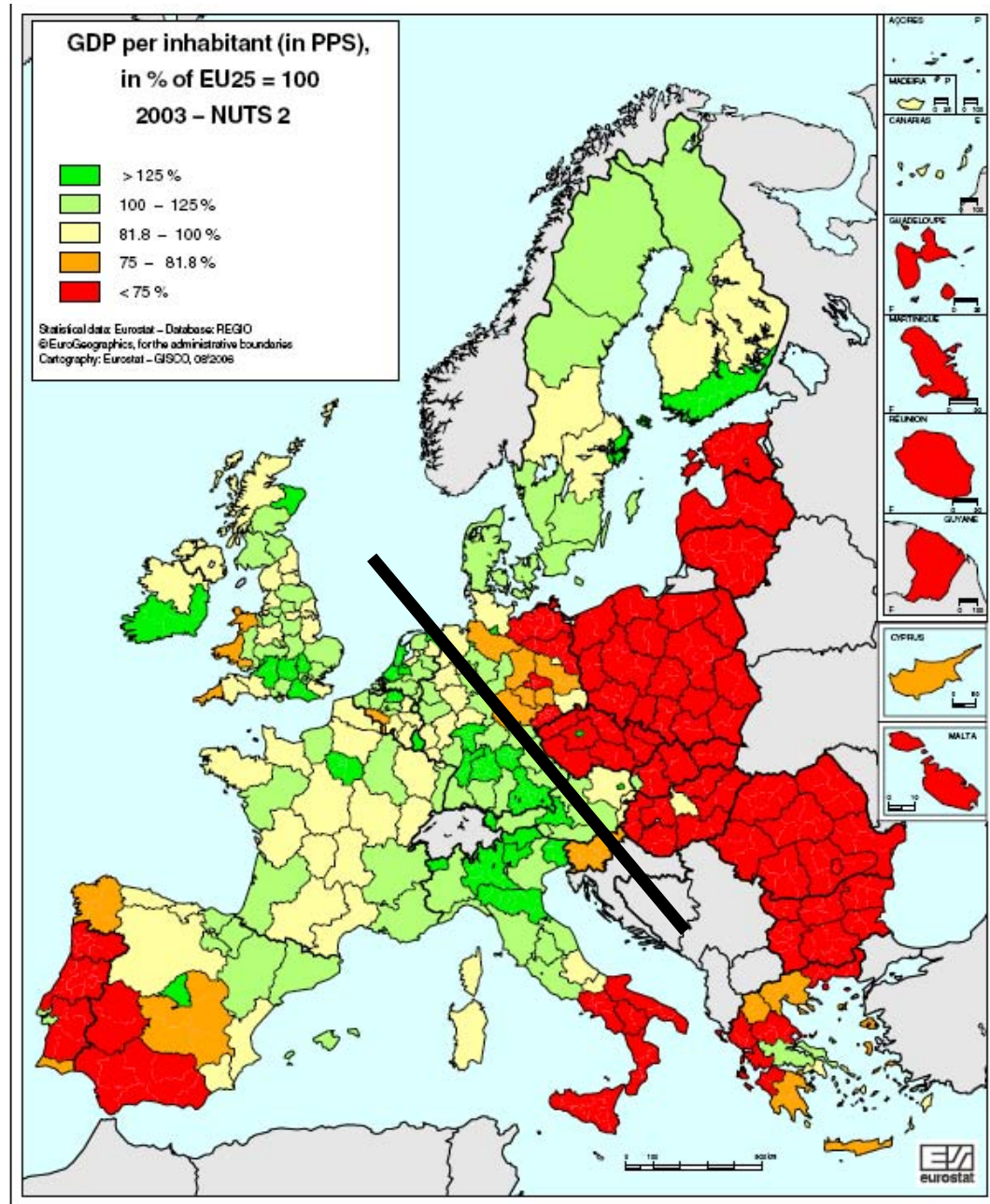
1993 – Czech and Slovians Republics

1999 – NATO

2004 – EU

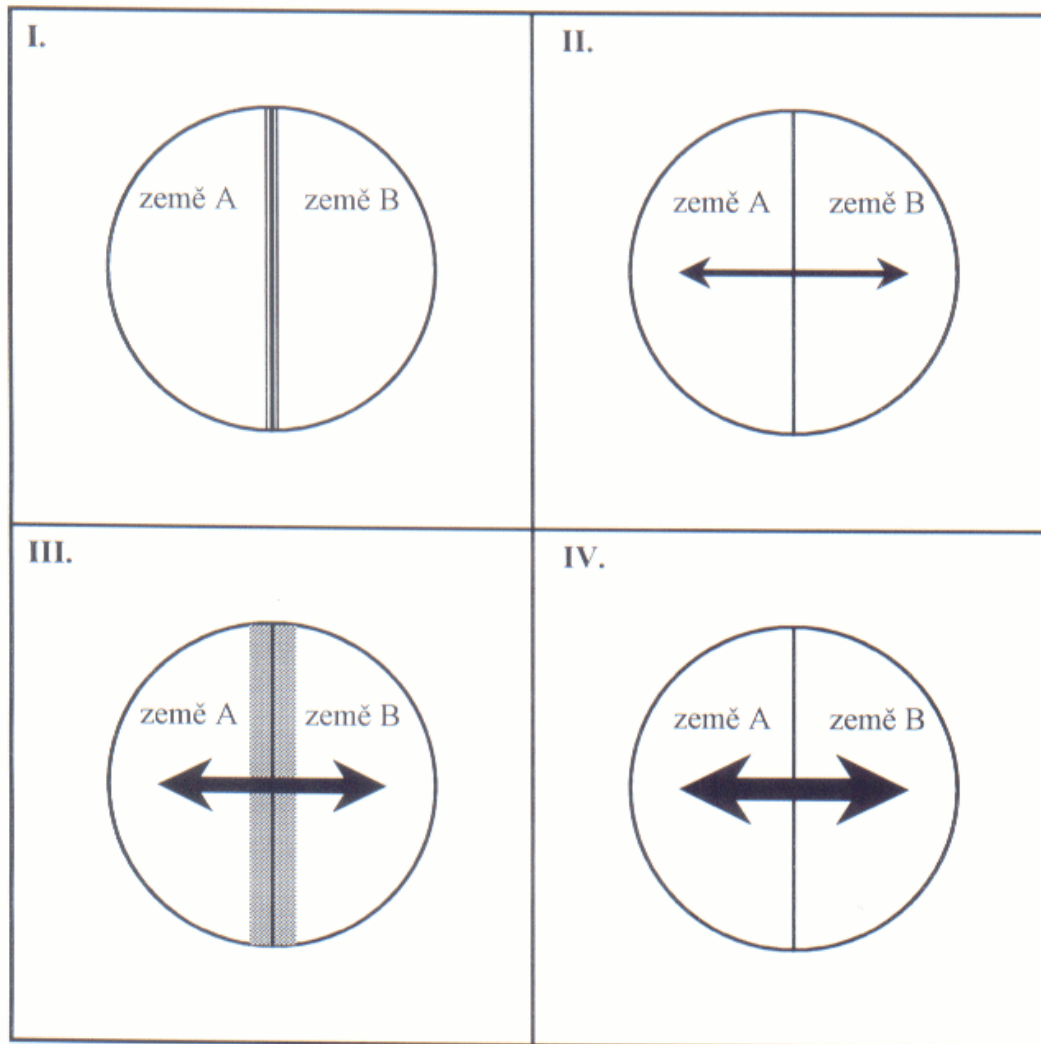
2008 – Shenghen zone

NUTS 2 division in EU:  
economic power as a  
heritage of iron curtain



Source: website of Eurostat,  
2009

# Regions divided by a border: typology

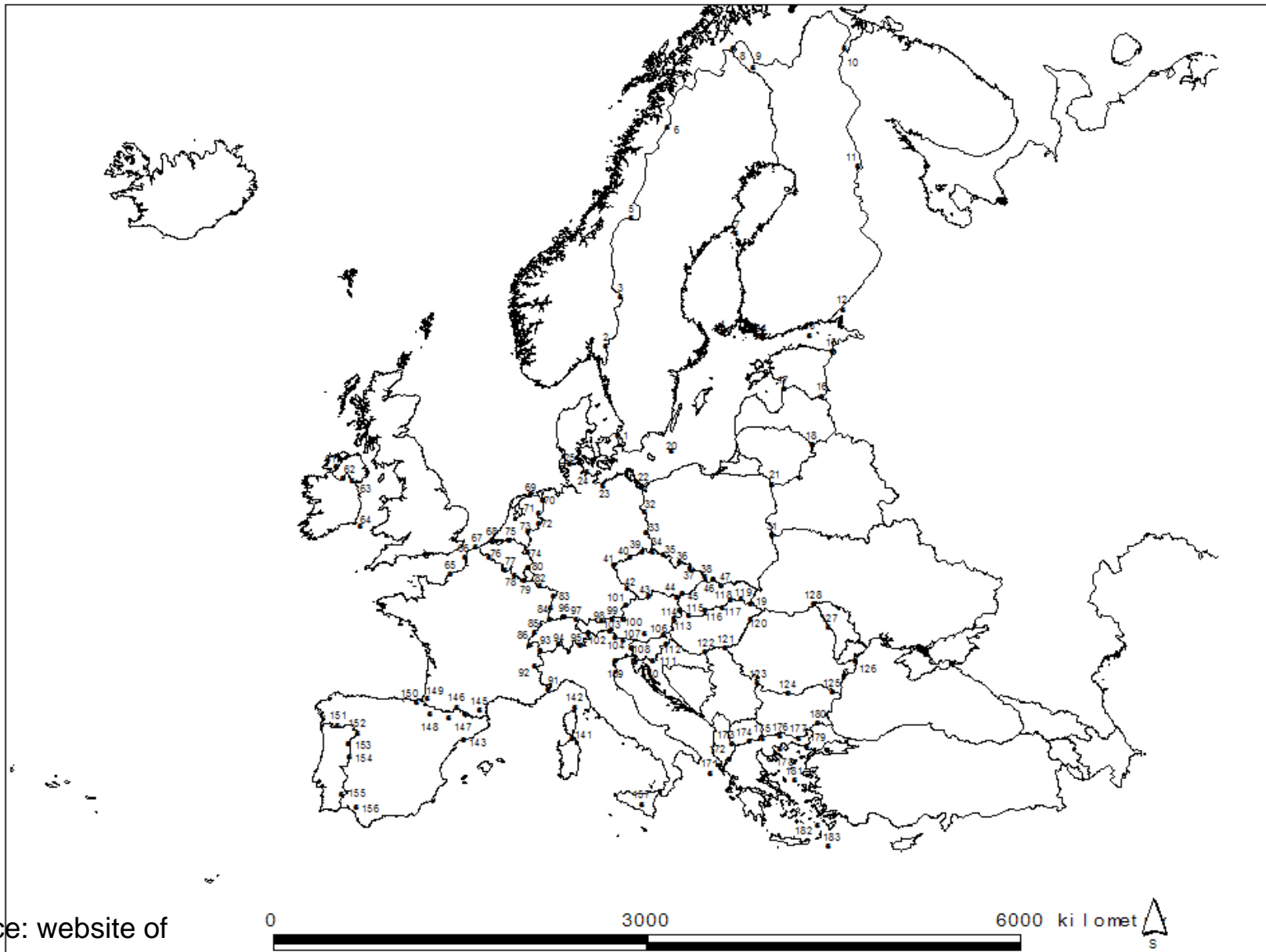


- I. Dividing of regions
- II. Co-existence of regions
- III. Cooperation of regions
- IV. Integration of regions





# Borderland cooperation in Europe



Source: website of Eurostat, 2009

## **Specifics on the Ukrainian border: discussion**

- Romania – Ukraine
- Moldova – Ukraine

Potential for future cooperation, exchange information, mutual projects

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**

