

The Narrative Construction of the Ukrainian-Russian Border

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- 1. Soft borders, narrated borders**
- 2. Making sense of the Ukrainian-Russian border**
- 3. Narratives of the Ukrainian-Russian border**
- 4. Regional narratives: Euroregion Slobozhanshchyna**

Borders as hard and soft facts

Klaus Eder (2006)

- Hard borders are institutionalized borders, written down in legal texts and demarkated on the territory
- Soft borders are shaped by identities, representations, memories and stories
- Soft borders are narrative constructs

Who borders?

- International actors: EU, US, NATO, IOM...
- national actors
- border regions, local actors
- transborder actors (Euroregions)
- state (MFA, State Border Service...)
- local self-administrations
- business
- NGOs
- political parties and organizations
- media
- academics

Two meta-narratives on the Ukrainian-Russian border

- Narrative of security
- Narrative of integration

WWII Prokhorovka memorial- Soviet and Russian



„Ukraine and Russia are predestined to cooperate“



Narratives of the Ukrainian- Russian border

Ukraine

Pro-Russian

Nationalist

National-democratic

Russia

Neo-imperialist

Nationalist

Liberal-democratic

The Chapel of Slavic Unity on the Prokhorovka Field



Regional narratives: Slobozhanshchyna

Regional actors use local symbolic resources to re-invent the identity of the cross-border region and to legitimize projects of cross-border cooperation