

## Introduction WP1 European identity frontiers and the geography of EU symbolic borders

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### **Description and objectives**

The main research objective of WP1 is the examination of European identity frontiers as well as that of the evolution of EU symbolic geographical borders over time. Such approach involves an analysis of public perception, historical perspectives, media discourses and communication tools. More specifically, the research focus was developed in three different directions: First of all, clarification of the evolving meaning of borders in contemporary Europe. Secondly, an in-depth study of the roots and implications of different European policy notions which refer to European evolving borders, such as absorption capacity, fortress Europe, neighbourhood, cordon sanitaire, territorial glacis, third countries, exclusive borders, key-regions of Europe and so on. Finally, we attempted to determine the more efficient tools for a thoughtful external communication of the EU taking into account the causes and consequences of borders changes in the continent.

### **WP Coordinator – The University of Oradea**

The University of Oradea has been involved in a process of dynamic development, thus becoming a higher education institution at a European standard both due to its numerous partnerships with universities worldwide and the committed teaching staff, and the top equipment it provides. Lying in the county seat of the Bihor County, our institution has a favourable geographical position, as Oradea is considered to be Romania's Western Gate. The University of Oradea is a supporter of continuous development and has as its core duty to respond to the needs of those willing to pursue their professional education in an exceptional academic environment. As a continuator of the academic tradition of the higher education institution in the field of Philosophy established in Oradea in 1780, and turned into the Faculty of Law in 1788, the University of Oradea is now known for its international opening. The great number of students coming from abroad, who have chosen our university to complete their BA, MA, or doctoral studies, as well as the students from Oradea, who benefit from the Lifelong Learning Programme (which includes sub-programmes such as: Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig, and Jean Monnet) funded by the European Union support this opening.

List of contributors to this WP:

<http://borders.cvce.eu/working-group-1>