

# Introduction WP5 Permeability and impermeability of socio-economic frontiers within the European Union

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## WP5 Permeability and impermeability of socio-economic frontiers within the European Union

### WP5 Description and objectives

This WP focuses on the issue of permeability and impermeability as parameters to examine changing European borders in an increasingly globalised world. This study was conducted from an economic perspective. First of all, it aimed to determine the role of borders in offering solutions to economic crises, either through an increased impermeability of states, or through new approaches to permeability within a changing international order. Secondly, it looked at borders via a costs-benefit analysis in order to assess the economic benefits of the dismantling of borders and the economic costs connected with 'functional' borders. Finally, it summarised the practices and perceptions of the economic function of the borders in situating a country in the wider context of trade and competitiveness at regional and global level, as well as the costs connected with existing borders and benefits from abolished borders.

### WP5 Coordinator – University of Wrocław

The University of Wrocław has a rich history of more than three centuries. Founded by Leopold I Habsburg, the university evolved from a modest school run by Jesuits into one of the biggest academic institutions in Poland. At the beginning of the 19th century the university had five faculties: philosophy, catholic theology, evangelical theology, law and medicine. Later it was expanded with the addition of numerous sections, laboratories and a natural museum, which still exists today. After the Second World War a group of Polish professors, formerly from Lvov, started teaching and research activities at the University of Wrocław. Initially they created the faculties of law and administration, arts, natural sciences, agriculture, veterinary science, medicine, mathematics, physics and chemistry. Today the primary focus of the University of Wrocław is scientific research. Scholars have numerous links with their fellow researchers from other higher education institutions in Poland and throughout the world. The University of Wrocław is currently the largest university in the region and teaches over 40 000 students and around 1 300 doctoral students in 10 faculties. 9 000 students graduate from the university every year. The Faculty of Law, Administration and Economics is one of the largest in Poland. Its tradition dates back to the Prussian law school established in 1811. Over 12 000 students are taught in this faculty by 200 scholars and 170 students are enrolled in PhD programmes. The faculty offers international exchange programs and is proud to host international students from Europe, Russia, Kazakhstan and African countries. Students can become members of clubs and societies and participate in national and international conferences and symposia.

List of contributors to this WP:

<http://borders.cvce.eu/working-group-5>