Transnational regionalism.
Transnational regionalism as a grassroots demand for building governance institutions across the
italo-slovenian border.

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List of abbreviations

CBC  Cross-Border Cooperation
CCIAA  Camera di Commercio Industria Artigianato e Agricoltura
EU  European Union
FVG  FVG
ISTAT  Istituto nazionale di statistica
SORS  Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
SPSS  Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
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Abstract

“If the nature of regionalism is always open to question, always tentative and provisional because it is a highly contested process, we can at least be sure of one thing. The very fact that we continue to debate the meaning of “regions” and “regionalism” suggests that, ..., sub-national territorial allegiances show no sign of withering away”.
Kevin Morgan, 2004:872

“...However, it has a big battalions on its side. National, transnational, regional and local authorities, academics, consultants and journalists are devoting enormous efforts to convincing their audiences of the New Regionalist picture of the world”.
Lovering, 1999:380

This research conducts an empirical exploration of transnational regionalism in the Italo-Slovenian border. It assess the existence and the nature of transnational regionalism in the area concerned and then answers the research questions of which factors, and to what extent, they are important for its existence.

By following a deductive logic the research set out three hypotheses which claim first that the ethnic/linguistic heterogeneity hampers transnational regionalism, second the sense of autochthonism among a certain group of people engenders this phenomenon, and third the socio-economic decline nurtures transnational regionalism.

The research uses primary and secondary data in order to verify the hypotheses. The primary data obtained through a fieldwork in Gorizia, Tarvisio, Nova Gorica and Kranjska Gora yield a total of 134 completed questionnaires, verify the first and second hypotheses as well as the presence of transnational regionalism. While the secondary data consist of socio-economic indicators of different level of administrations test the third hypothesis.
The analysis of the data enables the research to verify the hypotheses and then to answer the research questions as follows.

The ethnic/linguistic heterogeneity (first hypothesis) as a whole does not, or very weakly and negatively, influences transnational regionalism, hence this hypothesis is refused because this factor does not hamper the phenomenon. In contrast, the sense of autochthonism in a certain group of people (second hypothesis) as a whole strongly and positively influences transnational regionalism, hence this hypothesis is confirmed. The socio-economic decline (third hypothesis) is excluded from a statistical analysis because of the inconsistency of the data available. However, the indicators depict a modest socio-economic decline that occurs along with the presence of the phenomenon, albeit no conclusion can be drawn.

Overall, the research carried out on the basis of the empirical data claims there exists transnational regionalism along the Italo-Slovenian border which is strongly and positively influenced by a sense of autochthonism among a certain group of people.
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Miscellaneous.


