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Anneli Ute Gabanyi

Rumäniens Beitritt zur EU – 2007
oder 2008?

Wim van Meurs / Stefani Weiss

Kosovo's Post-Status Status and
EU Conditionality



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Geographische Regionalforschung in
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Anneli Ute Gabanyi

Rumäniens Beitritt zur EU – 2007 oder 2008?

In December 2004, Romania concluded its accession negotiations with the European Union, the Accession Treaty with Romania and Bulgaria was signed on April 24, 2005. In order to cope with the difficulties encountered by the two Southeast European countries on their path to integration, the European Commission introduced a new safeguard procedure that will enable the European Union to trigger special sanction mechanisms in case one or both countries will be considered to have missed their obligations under the 2005 Treaty. In this case, their accession will be postponed by one year from 1 January 2007 to 2008.

While analyzing the inherent structural and political problems encountered by Romania on its road to transposing the EU *acquis communautaire*, the author doubts whether delaying the country's access to the EU will actually benefit Romania and/or the EU-25. She argues that, due to the specifics of the latest wave of EU enlargement of 12 countries, a possible one-year postponement will fail to benefit to the current crisis-ridden EU member countries, while being clearly counterproductive for Romania.

Wim van Meurs / Stefani Weiss

Kosovo's Post-Status Status and the Status of EU Conditionality

On 24 October 2005, the UN Security Council decided to open the long-awaited negotiations on the future status of Kosovo before the end of 2005. Bypassing the inevitable setbacks and intricacies of the actual negotiation process that is nevertheless scheduled to take less than one year, the article analyses the outcome: Kosovo's post-status status. The EU seems ready to take the lead in managing both the post-status status for Kosovo and the stabilisation and transformation process for the region of the Western Balkans as a whole. Yet, the past few months have seen unexpected but contradictory changes in the EU's strategic approach. The assumed pull of the EU perspective is increasingly questioned and a decoupling of standards and status seems to have taken place, not only for Kosovo but also for the region as a whole. The paper reflects on the new meaning of conditionality and the gaps in the EU's strategic toolbox.

Horst Förster
Aktuelle Probleme geographischer Regionalforschung in Südosteuropa

The author presents current topics of geographic research in Southeastern Europe within the framework of present political, economic and social transformations. After a brief introduction of the concepts and methodology, the most important areas of transformation research are discussed. The center of interest lies in the regionalisation of research with a focus on urban, agricultural and industrial issues. As a specific case, the Donau-Kreisch-Marosch-Theiss Region (DKTM) is presented.

Wolfgang Höpken
Zwischen „allgemeiner Geschichtswissenschaft“ und historischer Regionaldisziplin: Die südosteuropäische Geschichtswissenschaft heute

The changes in East and Southeast Europe since 1989 have raised the question how the historical research of the Balkans positions itself in relation to the general discipline of historical science and in relation to neighbouring disciplines. Can the historical research of the Balkans claim to be a separate “regional science” anymore or does it have to integrate itself more into the general historiography and become a “normal” historical science dealing just with a particular region? The paper discusses the relation of historical research of Southeastern Europe to overall theories and questions in historiography during the last three decades and how both can be brought closer together within a more general perspective of European history.

Klaus Roth
Vom Nutzen der Kulturwissenschaften – Aufgaben und Perspektiven volkskundlich-ethnologischer Südosteuropa-Forschung

The social relevance of the humanities has decreased over the last years in favour of the natural sciences, economics, or political studies – a shift that has also affected Southeast European Studies. Contrary to the focus of politics on economy and technology, the paper argues that the problems of transformation, EU enlargement and globalisation render the study of culture all the more necessary. This is particularly true for Southeastern Europe with its specific historical experience and position in the EU. The neglect of socio-cultural and mental factors (shaped by foreign rule and socialism) in the process of EU enlargement will have negative consequences.

The paper points out six aspects demonstrating that the study of culture is of great relevance for the understanding of Southeast Europe: (1) In no other European region has folk culture had such an impact on society and on the formation of nations. (2) Traditional folk culture provided the means for coping with religious,

cultural, and linguistic diversity in the most heterogeneous part of Europe. (3) Folk culture was instrumental in the construction of the “own” in the processes of nation-building and also in socialism. (4) The fusion of traditional patriarchal folk culture with Western culture has produced unique forms of contemporary everyday culture, e.g. the “rurbanization” of cities. (5) Southeast European work migration has brought elements of traditional culture to Western countries. (6) The post-socialist transformation has led to processes of re-traditionalisation which run counter to the principles of civil society and the EU. From these facts and findings certain tasks and perspectives result for the cultural sciences, particularly for ethnology.