

# University cooperation in the Czech-Saxony borderland area - a partial reflection



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# Personal relation to the topic

- Academic interest - intensively around 2000 (bachelor's, master's thesis, publications), now only partial
  - Topics: institutional dimension of the cross-border labor market, cross-border interaction
- Today rather as an academic institution representative - dealing with cross-border partners, conferences, collective initiatives
- Participation in several cross-border projects



# Czech/Saxony cross-border U2U cooperation – since 1990

Personal incomplete view, only limited information, especially about the first stages of the cross-border cooperation, differences in specific border land areas

Schematic two time periods:

- Until 2000 - stage of the contacts renewal, importance of the personal connection, overshadowed by the general processes of academic internationalization
- After 2000 - driven of more significant financial initiatives, professional and research community links, many ad hoc topics

# Actual situation and conditions

## **Positive aspects:**

- Activities depend on available resources, quite a diverse range of projects and initiatives, wider spectrum of actors (municipalities, NGOs, private sector)
- Relatively available financial resources
- Descending barriers (language, socio-cultural, institutional, ...)

## **Problematic aspects:**

- Unbalance and professional diversity of academic departments in borderland area
- Prevailing academic prestige of the national (or supranational) oriented schemes
- The nature of academic work requires personal proximity on daily basis ( "in house") and world wide contacts and relations, rather low pressure on interregional dimension

# What should we do better...

- Qualitative shift of relationships (personal, departments) in order to limit their "dependency" on the available financial resources
- Better cooperation with municipalities, a both-side interest in solving the problems of their development and governance in the context of local conditions (relatively big cities, urban polycentric system, post-industrial spaces, ...)
- Acquisition of the most prestigious research projects for participation of both sides border partners
- Research contribution to analysis and solving real problems in the borderland area (e.g. the cross-border labor market, but also sensitive topics like criminality, extremism etc.)



Thank you