



SLOVAK RESEARCH
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Recent Challenges and Perspectives of Slovak-Ukrainian Cross-Border Cooperation

International scientific conference

Venue	Hall of the Evangelical College (Hlavná 137, Prešov, Slovakia)
Date	20-21 October 2025
Organizer	Institute of Political Science, Faculty of Arts, University of Prešov (IPOL)
Languages	English and Slovak (with simultaneous translation)
Support	This conference is supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency within the research project APVV-21-0057
Aim	The main aim of the conference is to discuss findings of the research project entitled "Slovak-Ukrainian cross-border cooperation amid and after COVID-19 pandemic: factors and perspectives, impact on policies" that has been implemented by the Institute of Political Sciences (IPOL - Faculty of Arts, University of Prešov) with the support of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (project no. APVV-21-0057). The project aimed at identifying impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the Slovak-Ukrainian Cross-Border Cooperation (SK-UA CBC). It looked for opportunities and limits for SK-UA CBC brought on by, first, changing institutional framework for relations between the EU with Ukraine, as well as governmental policies of Slovakia and its relations with Ukraine; second, factors of perceptions and preferences of regional and local cross-border cooperation actors amid and after the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the recent war, influencing their capacity to take an advantage of existing and presumed opportunities.

Scientific committee

Dr. h. c. prof. PhDr. Peter Kónya, PhD.
prof. PhDr. Beáta Balogová, PhD., MBA
prof. PhDr. Alexander Duleba, CSc.
doc. PhDr. Irina Dudinská, CSc. univ. prof.
doc. PhDr. Vladislav Dudinský, PhD.
doc. Mgr. Annamária Kónyová, PhD.
doc. Nataliya Maradyk, PhD.
doc. Ing. Martin Lačný, PhD.

Organizing committee

Mgr. Michal Cirner, PhD.
PhDr. Róbert Király, PhD.
Mgr. Gabriel Székely, PhD.
PhDr. Matúš Žac, PhD.
RNDr. Daniel Kamenský

Agenda

20 October 2025 (Monday)

Arrival and accommodation of foreign participants (Hotel Carpe Diem, Jarková 40, Prešov)

19:00 **Welcome dinner** (upon invitation; Restaurant Átrium, Floriánova 4, Prešov)



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21 October 2025 (Tuesday)

8:30-9:00 **Registration of participants**

9:00-9:15 **Welcome and introductory remarks**

***Beáta Balogová**, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Prešov*

***Irina Dudinská**, Professor and Director, IPOL, University of Prešov*

9:15-10:45 **Panel I. Borderlands in Times of Uncertainty: Challenges and Perspectives**

Chair: ***Martin Lačný**, Associate Professor, IPOL, University of Prešov*

Speakers: ***Jussi Laine**, Professor, Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland*
Cooperation Across Contested Spaces: Rethinking Borderlands as Site of Resilience

***Marcin Dębicki**, Professor, Department of Sociology of Borderlands, Institute of Sociology, University of Wrocław*
Polish Borderlands in Times of Uncertainty. A handful of Socio-cultural Images and Reflections

***Ján Kubiš**, Advisor to the President of the Slovak Republic on Foreign Affairs and International Policy*
Impact of the Russia's Invasion of Ukraine on Slovak-Ukrainian Relations

***Alexander Duleba**, Professor, IPOL, University of Prešov and RC SFPA*
Scenarios for Ukraine's European Integration in 2030

Q&A

10:45-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-13:30 **Panel II. The EU-Ukrainian Borderlands: Resilience and Cross-Border Cooperation**

Chair: ***Michal Cirner**, Assistant Professor, IPOL, University of Prešov*

Speakers: ***Melinda Istenes-Benczi**, International Relations Coordinator, Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI), Budapest*
The Tisza EGTC as a Resilience Tool for Cross-Border Cooperation

***Myroslava Lendel**, Professor and Vice-Rector, Uzhhorod National University*
Practitioners' Views on the Current State of CBC in the Transcarpathian Region of Ukraine

***Martin Lačný**, Associate Professor, IPOL, University of Prešov*
Research Into the Human Aspects of Resilience: Life Satisfaction Index for Border Regions

***Gabriel Székely**, Assistant Professor, IPOL, University of Prešov*
Slovak-Ukrainian Cross-Border Cooperation in Times of Uncertainty: Insights from Citizens' Perceptions

Q&A

13:30-13:45 **Concluding remarks**