

SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE AS AN AREA OF INTERDISCIPLINARY EMPHASIS FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

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Abstract: During the past twenty years dramatic political, economic, and social changes have affected Eastern central and especially Southeastern Europe. The Balkan War having caused heavy destructions, tens of thousands of dead and injured and having given rise to huge streams of refugees from the theatre of War to Western-Central-european countries like Austria and having cut off hundreds of thousands of European Tourists from their traditional vacational destinations on the Adriatic Sea all of a sudden bestowed this region that kind of attention again which it would have deserved before due to its historic background. This renewed interest naturally did not pass the field of sciences although scientific contacts between the former communist Balkan states and Austria never were completely interrupted. New and better possibilities for mutual scientific contacts, travelling liberations and slowly improving economic conditions have created a beneficial climate for the intensification of the relations between the University of Graz and partner institutions on the Balkans. This very positive development was supported by the fact that, simultaneously, Southeastern Europe as a consequence of its political, ethnic, and religious turbulences has been moved again into the center of worldwide interest. Austria, and especially the University of Graz due to her historic roots and long lasting relations have meanwhile rediscovered Southeastern Europe as an area of interdisciplinary emphasis for knowledge exchange and regional development.

Key words: Southeastern Europe, historical bonds, Balkan War, Scientific cooperation, networks

1. Introduction

Regional development needs a fostering soil to flourish. Among its nutrients there should be mentioned the real-political background, and culture with its spiritual surroundings or milieu whether it unfolds in an open or closed socio-cultural system. A decisive component of culture is education. Hence it seems appropriate to ask about the role a university can play in supporting regional development processes.

The University of Graz, founded in 1585 is the southeastern most German speaking University of Central Europe. Economic and cultural connections of the city of Graz with the easterncentral and southeastern countries of the continent date back to the early Habsburg monarchy when huge parts of this area had formed one united multiethnic state and thus might have functioned as a forerunner of today's European Union.

Between 1379 and 1424 Graz became the residential city of the interior part of the Habsburg empire including Styria, Carinthia, Krain, parts of Istria and Trieste. From 1440 until 1493 Graz was the capital city of the Holy Roman Empire under the rule of emperor Frederic III.

The role of being twice a capital city with a European dimension although this era altogether did not last more than 98 years formed the basis of a flourishing socio-cultural development. The protestant nobility and intellectual elite from the empire gathered around the court and it stimulated the demand for both intellectual and material goods. Thus, as a consequence of the catholic counter-revolution the Jesuits settled down in Graz and under the auspices of archduke Charles II founded the first university in the city.

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The history of Graz University, of course, had its ups and downs. During the counter revolution the university was of eminent importance for the distribution of knowledge and catholic faith in the Christian part of Southeastern Europe. It hosted students from Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Northern Italy and from the German-speaking parts of Romania. In the 18th century the position of the university suffered from a steady decline. It was downgraded to a Lyceum in 1782 and only in 1827 raised again to a university. By the end of the 19th century its international reputation and that of its teachers were excellent. During the rule of the national-socialists from 1938 until 1945 and in the post-war-period the situation again worsened. However, beginning in the mid-sixties of the last century a continuous uptrend started. Although the contacts to Southeastern Europe never had been completely interrupted it was the breakdown of the communist block in the 1990ies that had led to a complete political reorientation in the eastern half of Central Europe and on the Balkan peninsula. For the university of Graz this was a new chance to re-establish its historic role as a gravity center for the exchange of knowledge and scientific collaboration in Europe's southeast.

The representatives of our university know very well that a high quality level of education based on a comprehensive, well equipped primary and secondary school system, international knowledge transfer, and students' and teachers' exchange are fundamental preconditions for economic growth, social, and political stability.

Hence it is clear that synergetic effects between scientific activities, those of the local and regional economy, and political – administrative authorities deserve greatest attention.

2. Some remarks on the conditions for scientific cooperation with former communist countries

As mentioned before there exist deeply rooted historical bonds between Graz and Southeastern Europe which go far beyond the fact that until the end of World War I the northeastern section of today's Republic of Slovenia for around 750 years was part of the Austrian province of Styria.

The breakdown of the Austro – Hungarian monarchy has marked a decisive cut in the economic and cultural development of the hence amputated province and its capital city. Being surrounded now by the new communist successor states Yugoslavia and Hungary which at least in the case of Hungary secured their boundaries by the so-called iron curtain and severely hampered the free exchange of persons and goods. Graz and Styria were forced to newly orientate their primary interests to the western parts of Central Europe.

Although neither the provincial and the city governments nor the universities of the country ceased completely to cooperate with their historic hinterland in Southeastern Europe the intensity of the mutual relations deceased substantially. Let me underline this by some examples from my personal experience.

Peoples' revolts against communist dictatorship in Hungary, 1956, and Czechoslovakia, 1968, causing tens of thousands of refugees to flee from the regimes' oppression after the bludgeoning of the riots to Austria, reports on bad living conditions, restrictions of human rights, and political freedom, vexatious border controls within the former so called Eastern Block had impressed on the memory of many Austrians. It is, therefore, not very astonishing that also with academic teachers and students there was only very little interest until the breakdown of the communist regimes in Eastcentral Europe in closer personal and/or scientific contacts or cooperation.

Apart from the author hardly any staff member of the Geography department of the University of Graz before the 1990ies ever offered excursions, seminars, or even lecture courses

on the countries of Easterncentral Europe. Most field trips in that time lead to former Yugoslavia because of the attractivity of the Adriatic coastland and a more liberal attitude of Tito's regime towards Western tourists who were an important economic factor, and to Hungary where Kadar Imr s so called "gyulas communism" attracted many tourists especially from Austria and Western Germany to enjoy cheap and good food and the joyful Hungarian way of living despite the regime's disadvantages and inconveniences. Nevertheless students preferred to visit Southern and Western Europe instead of partizipating in a field trip to then "Eastern Europe". In figures, among 800 to 1000 geography students at the Graz geography department during the 1970ies and 80ies only between six and ten of them on the average could be motivated to register such an excursion.

Even among Austrian university professors of geography those who had closer contacts with colleagues or scientific institutions in the former Eastern Block were a small minority. At the Academies* of Sciences level the situation was better though. Maybe that apart from some well-known and distinguished scientists from former socialist countries many of their colleagues were stamped with prejudices like living and working under a communist regime meant that they, necessarily, had to be communists too, or that the former rather poor quality of publication means there was transferred to that of their contents. It is astonishing that even today such stupid prejudices still exist among academic teachers.

Fortunately such mental attitudes are not the rule at our university as the following report on projects of scientific cooperation with Southeastern Europe clearly demonstrates.

3. Southeastern Europe as a centre of interest for scientific cooperation

Austria's interest in Southeastern Europe which more or less covers the area of the Balkan peninsula has got historic roots. Many of them until today are deeply impressed upon the mind especially of the elder generation in Austria and they still play an important role in Austria's Balkan-policy. To mention some highlights of the relations between Austria and the Balkans in the past which were by no means frictionless we should remember:

- The invasion of the Osman empire forming the at least superficial basis of ethnic and religious conflicts of the recent past
- The expansion of the Habsburg empire and its struggle for hegemony with Serbia resulting in the assassination of the Austrian successor to the throne Franz Ferdinand which caused the outbreak of World War I
- The decay of Tito – Yugoslavia resulting in the recent desasterous Balkon War from 1992 to 1995
- the formation of Yugoslavia's independent successor – national states
- and the latest extension of the European Union making Slovenia a new member state and integrating Romania and Bulgaria possibly in 2007.

4. Present networks, projects and cooperations between the University of Graz and partners in Southeastern Europe

4.1. Approved CEEPUS networks with partizipation of the University of Graz (2004/05 & 2005/06)

The University of Graz is involved in several CEEPUS¹ networks which, for the study years 2004/05 and 2005/06 are listed below (Tab. 1).

¹ CEEPUS = Central European Exchange Program for University Students

Tab.1: Networks with participation of the University of Graz

Projects 2004/05:

- **A-0105-04/05 Mineralogy and Petrology/Geology and Paleontology** (coordinated by Prof. Volker Höck, University of Salzburg, Austria)
 - University of Graz (Austria)
 - University of Innsbruck (Austria)
 - University of Vienna (Austria)
 - Masaryk University of Brno (Czech Republic)
 - Palacky University Olomouc (Czech Republic)
 - Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest (Hungary)
 - University of Zagreb (Croatia)
 - Jagiellonian University (Poland)
 - University of Silesia, Sosnowic (Poland)
 - University of Wrocław, Wrocław (Poland)
 - Cluj-Napoca University (Romania)
 - University of Iasi, Iasi (Romania),
 - Technical University of Kosice, Kosice (Slovak Republic),
 - Bratislava University (Slovakia)
- **A-0128-04/05 Slavonic Studies** (coordinated by Dr. Peter Deutschmann, Institute of Slavic Studies, University of Graz, Austria)
 - University of Bratislava, Department of Russian Language and Literature (Slovakia)
 - University of Bucharest, Department of Russian Language and Literature (Romania)
 - University of Ljubljana, Department of Slavistics (Slovenia)
 - University of Olomouc, Department of Slavic Studies (Czech Republic)
 - Charles University Prague, Institute of Slavonic and East European Studies (Czech Republic)
 - University of Sofia, Faculty of Slavic Studies (Bulgaria)
 - University of Warsaw, Institute of Western and Southern Slavic Studies (Poland)
 - University of Zagreb, Department of Croatian Language and Literature (Croatia)
- **H-0076-04/05 Teaching and Learning Bioanalysis** (coordinated by Department of Analytical Chemistry and Institute of Bioanalysis, University of Pecs, Hungary)
 - University of Graz, Austria
 - Technical University of Graz, Austria
 - South-West University Neofit-Rilski, Bulgaria
 - University of Sofia, Bulgaria
 - Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic
 - Eötvös Lorand University, Hungary
 - University of Debrecen, Hungary
 - University of Zagreb, Croatia
 - University of Warsaw, Poland

- Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca, Romania
- University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Romania
- Comenius University Bratislava, Slovakia
- Constantine the Philosopher University, Slovakia

- **PL-0110-04/05 Analytical Chemistry** (coordinated by Department of Building Materials, AGH University of Science and Technology, Poland)
 - University of Graz, Institute of Analytical Chemistry, Austria
 - University of Pardubice, Pardubice, Czech Republic;
 - University of Maribor, Maribor, Slovenia
 - University of Split, Croatia
 - Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava, Slovakia

- **RO-0130-04/05 Borders and Boderlines in Cultural Anthropology in the university education** (coordinated by Prof. Antoaneta Olteanu, Bucharest University, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Romania)
 - University of Graz (Austria)
 - Kliment Ohridski University Sofia (Bulgaria),
 - South-West University Blagoevgrad (Bulgaria),
 - Charles University Prague (Czech Republic),
 - Szeged University (Hungary),
 - Zagreb University (Croatia),
 - Jagiellonian University Cracow (Poland),
 - University of Bucharest, Faculty of Letters (Romania)
 - Ljubljana University (Slovenia),
 - Comenius University Bratislava (Slovakia)

Genehmigungen für 2005/06:

- **CII-AT-0037-01-0506 Slavonic Studies** (coordinated by Dr. Peter Deutschmann, Institute of Slavic Studies, University of Graz, Austria)
 - University of Bratislava, Department of Russian Language and Literature (Slovakia);
 - University of Bucharest, Department of Russian Language and Literature (Romania);
 - University of Ljubljana, Department of Slavistics (Slovenia);
 - University of Novi Sad, Institute of Serbian Language and Linguistics (Serbia and Montenegro);
 - University of Olomouc, Department of Slavic Studies (Czech Republic);
 - Charles University Prague, Institute of Slavonic and East European Studies (Czech Republic);
 - University of Sofia, Faculty of Slavic Studies (Bulgaria);
 - University of Trnava, Institute for Slovak Language and Literature (Slovakia);
 - University of Warsaw, Institute of Western and Southern Slavic Studies (Poland);
 - University of Zagreb, Department of Croatian Language and Literature (Croatia)

- **CII-AT-0038-01-0506 Mineralogy and Petrology/Geology and Paleontology** (co-ordinated by Prof. Volker Höck, University of Salzburg, Austria)
 - University of Graz, Graz, (Austria)
 - University of Vienna, Vienna (Austria),
 - University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck (Austria),
 - Masaryk University of Brno, Brno (Czech Republic),
 - Palacky University Olomouc, Olomouc (Czech Republic),
 - Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest (Hungary),
 - University of Wrocław, Wrocław (Poland),
 - University of Silesia, Sosnowiec (Poland),
 - Jagiellonian University, Cracow (Poland),
 - Uniwersytet Warszawski, Warsaw (Poland),
 - Comenius University, Bratislava (Slovak Republic),
 - Technical University of Kosice, Kosice (Slovak Republic),
 - University of Iasi, Iasi (Romania),
 - Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca (Romania),
 - University of Zagreb, Zagreb (Croatia),
 - Univerzitet u Beogradu, Belgrade (Serbia)
 - Univerza v Ljubljani, Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- **CII-HR-0045-01-0506 New Technologies in the undergraduate and postgraduate education of medical biochemists** (coordinated by Prof. Dubravka Juretic, University of Zagreb, Croatia)
 - University of Graz, Graz (Austria)
 - Medical University of Sofia, Faculty of Medicine, Chair of Clinical Laboratory and Clinical Immunology, Sofia (Bulgaria),
 - Charles University in Prague, First Medical Faculty, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Praha (Czech Republic),
 - Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Pharmacy, Praha (Czech Republic),
 - Pecs University, Faculty of General Medicine, Department of Clinical Chemistry, Pecs (Hungary),
 - University of Szeged, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Biochemistry, Szeged (Hungary),
 - University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Pharmacy, Chair of Clinical Biochemistry, Ljubljana (Slovenia),
 - University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Rijeka (Croatia)
 - Medical University of Warsaw, Chair of Biochemistry, Warsaw (Poland)
- **CII-HU-0005-01-0506 International Law-European Law-Domestic Law: Convergence of legal systems** (coordinated by Dr. Adrienne Komanovics, University of Pecs, Hungary)
 - Department of European Legal Studies, University of Graz, (Austria)
 - Faculty of Law, Babes-Bolyai University, Kolozsvár (Romania),
 - Faculty of Law, University of Novi Sad (Serbia and Montenegro),
 - Faculty of Law, University of Maribor (Slovenia)

- **CII-RO-0014-01-0506 Borders and Boderlines in Cultural Anthropology in the university education** (coordinated by Prof. Antoaneta Olteanu, Bucharest University, Romania)
 - University of Graz, (Austria)
 - Charles University, Prague (Czech Republic),
 - Comenius University, Bratislava (Slovakia),
 - Kliment Ohridski University, Sofia (Bulgaria),
 - Jagiellonian University, Cracow (Poland),
 - Ljubljana University, Ljubljana (Slovenia),
 - South-West University, Blagoevgrad (Bulgaria),
 - Szeged University, Szeged (Hungary)
 - Zagreb University, Zagreb (Croatia)

There existed five blocks of international networks in 2004/05 namely in the fields of mineralogy and petrology/geology and paleontology, in Slavonic studies coordinated by the Institute of Slavic studies of the University of Graz, in teaching and learning bioanalysis, in analytical chemistry, and in the study of borders and borderlines in cultural anthropology in university education. Especially the latter topic would deserve greater attention by geographers, too. Borders, trans-border-relations, and their effects on cultural landscape structures and regional development have been an important field of investigations among Austrian geographers for a long time, so also for the author of this presentation (W. Zsilincsar, 1972, 1990, 1993, 1996¹, 1996², 1996³, 1997, 2003¹, 2003², 2004¹, 2004²).

In the study year 2005/06 the networks in Slavonic studies, in borders and borderlines, and in mineralogy/geology will be continued and new ones like "New technologies in the undergraduate and postgraduate education of medical biochemists", or "International Law – European Law – Domestic Law: Convergence of Legal Systems" will be started. Especially the latter topic increasingly concerns geographical research. Nature protection, regional planning, transportation policy, economic development, regulations on the labour market, etc. largely underlie EU Law. This is especially true for the European Concept for Regional Development (EUREK = Europäisches Raumentwicklungskonzept) that has been accepted by the European Commission in 1999. This concept aims at a well – balanced, and sustainable regional development at the territory of the EU, focuses on economic and social development, at the conservation and management of natural resources and cultural heritage, and on strengthening the conditions for competition.

Southeastern Europe comes up in a very appropriate way to the peculiar characteristics the EU attributes to territorial identity namely a great cultural variety within small territories. European policy should guarantee and preserve regional identities. But how can we reach that goal in view of a growing demand for integration and adjustment on the one side and increasing opposition towards these trends among large parts of European population manifesting itself in scepticism against the processes of European integration and expansion, in hostility against foreigners and minorities, and at least with parts of the population in the revival of nationalist feelings and ideologies on the other side.

The Balkan peninsula for centuries has been a crucible of different ethnical groups, nationalities, cultures, languages and religions. Peaceful living – together on the Balkans must also be seen in the light of a very differentiated geographical landscape structure which was always an obstacle in obtaining an equilibrium between centrifugal and centripetal forces. The bubbling steamboiler Balkans could be kept quiet only during the strict centralistic governments

of the Osman and Habsburg empires, and by the integrative and powerful leadership of Yugoslav dictator marshal Tito.

The decay of the Yugoslav state with all its well – known dramatic consequences once again put the Balkans in the center of international attention. It reminded the Austrians also on this region's historic role as a powder – barrel besides being one of their favourite holiday destinations. This newly awaked interest in Southeastern Europe has seized the scientific community too.

In the fields of geography, economy, regional, and social sciences a great number of new questions arose

Within Austrian and SE-European Scientific cooperation which demanded international cross – border, solutions. Among these questions and topics there should be mentioned:

- new regional policies focusing on territories including new trans-European transportation networks
- new forms of polycentric spatial development including a new relationship between urban and rural entities
- finding ways to make cities in densely populated areas attractive and ready for competition to stabilize the national labour market
- how to create manifold and strong rural areas that can guarantee a sustainable natural, economic, and social development to reduce emigration
- rural – urban partnership to balance regional disparities
- how to secure an equal access to knowledge and infrastructure for everybody
- how to improve the transportation network in favour of a polycentric spatial development.
- how to guarantee the sustainable usage of natural and cultural resources including the creative treatment of cultural landscapes and with our cultural heritage

Topics of territorial development in a European dimension are:

- changes in European urban networks namely those on the Balkan peninsula as a consequence of the new political structures there
- changes in urban economy, urban administration and city management
- how to handle urban territorial growth, social and ethnic segregation following politically and economically motivated migration
- how to improve living quality in urban and rural areas
- how to react adequately to the changing function of rural areas due to de-agrarisation, out-migration, over ageing of the rural population, growing unemployment rates, functional drying up, etc.
- how to adopt spatial planning to the new situation in favour of a future-orientated economic development
- site and situation conditions of European transportation and development corridors

4.2. Special projects that have been realized between members and institutions of the University of Graz and foreign partners focusing on Southeastern Europe since 1998 (a selection)

To give a short survey on cooperative projects between the University of Graz and partner institutions in Southeastern Europe which in one way or the other directly or indirectly deal with regional development or have a geographical background we shall now refer to some selected projects.

ARGE Alpen Adria, the association of Alpine and Adriatic states and regions, in cooperation with the rectors' conferences from Austria, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Croatia, and Slovenia and partly with institutions from Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Hercegowina finances research activities of Styrian universities with that region in the amount of € 14.540,- annually.

The COIMBRA Group Winter School in Split is a network of European Universities which among other fields of interest concentrates in law, political sciences, economy, and international relations,

The "Enlarged Graz Process" in connection with the stability agreement for Southeastern Europe coordinates national (Austrian) activities supporting the stability of that region.

In 2001 a program was started for post-graduate students from Southeastern Europe which shall prepare them for finding solutions in case of disputes and questions concerning regional integration.

The University of Graz for more than 20 years promotes scientific partnership and educational networks with the Universities of Zagreb (HR, 1981), Pécs (H, 1991), Ljubljana (SLO, 1990), Maribor (SLO, 1992), Shkoder (AL, 1994), and Sarajewo (BiH, 1996).

Since 1993 the University of Graz supports the University of Shkoder in Albania in its endeavours to build up and modernize its research and educational facilities, among others in the field of geography.

A "Center of Competence Southeastern Europe" has been institutionalized at the faculty of law of Graz University in the year 2000 fostering interdisciplinary and coordinated cooperation between jurisprudence, economy, and social sciences.

In the course of a "Staff Qualification Program" teachers from US-American universities are being instructed at the University of Graz about Southeastern Europe. Since at the same time staff from southeasteuropean institutions are visiting Graz for further education both groups get the chance of contacting each other and, probably, of preparing joint projects and exchange programs.

For the year 2006 an international summer university will be held in Seggau castle in southern Styria focusing on "State - Society - Religion in Southeastern Europe".

Several TEMPUS network conferences concentrating in the reform process in Southeastern Europe as to the development of market economy and societal democratisation have been held so far under partizipation of Graz University.

A project "Styria – International place for achieving competences for Southeastern Europe" has been introduced and sponsored by the Styrian provincial government. Among other topics it deals with human rights and economic cooperation, the installation of a data system concerning law – economy and environment, or regional policies in Europe under partizipation of the Department of Geography and Regional Science.

4.3. Cooperation partners of the University of Graz in Southeastern Europe

Since the year 2002 a remarkable outgoing mobility of staff members of the University of Graz in direction of Southeastern Europe can be registered. It mainly concerns teaching activities, research, congress partizipation or future contact preparation. The most frequently visited target countries were:

- Albania (14x)
- Bosnia and Hercegowina (6x)
- Bulgaria (6x)
- Croatia (7x)

Rumania (16x)
Serbia and Montenegro (3x)

5. Conclusions

During the past twenty years dramatic political, economic, and social changes have affected Eastern central and especially Southeastern Europe. The Balkan War having caused heavy destructions, tens of thousands of dead and injured and having given rise to huge streams of refugees from the theatre of War to Western-Central-European countries like Austria and having cut off hundreds of thousands of European Tourists from their traditional vacational destinations on the Adriatic Sea all of a sudden bestowed this region that kind of attention again which it would have deserved before due to its historic background.

This renewed interest naturally did not pass the field of sciences although scientific contacts between the former communist Balkan states and Austria never were completely interrupted. New and better possibilities for mutual scientific contacts, travelling liberations and slowly improving economic conditions have created a beneficial climate for the intensification of the relations between the University of Graz and partner institutions on the Balkans. This very positive development was supported by the fact that, simultaneously, Southeastern Europe as a consequence of its political, ethnic, and religious turbulences has been moved again into the center of worldwide interest. Austria, and especially the University of Graz due to her historic roots and long lasting relations have meanwhile rediscovered Southeastern Europe as an area of interdisciplinary emphasis for knowledge exchange which is one basic precondition for regional development.

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JUHOVÝCHODNÁ EURÓPA AKO OBLASŤ INTERDISCIPLINÁRNEHO ZAMERANIA PRE REGIONÁLNY ROZVOJ NA UNIVERZITE V GRAZI

Zhrnutie

Počas ostatných dvadsiatich rokov sa v strednej a predovšetkým juhovýchodnej Európe udiali dramatické politické, ekonomické a sociálne zmeny. Výsledkom Balkánskej vojny boli deštrukcie, tisíce mŕtvych a zranených, obrovské množstvo utečencov, ktorí smerovali do krajín západnej a strednej Európy (Rakúsko). Balkánska vojna zároveň znemožnila stovkám tisícov európskych turistov navštíviť tradičné destinácie Jadranského mora. Vedecké kontakty medzi bývalými komunistickými balkánskymi štátmi a Rakúskom neboli nikdy úplne prerušené. Nové a lepšie možnosti pre vzájomné vedecké kontakty, možnosť voľného cestovania a pomaly sa zlepšujúce ekonomické podmienky vytvorili prospešnú klímu pre zintenzívnenie vzťahov medzi Univerzitou v Grazi a partnerskými inštitúciami na Balkáne. Tento veľmi pozitívny rozvoj podporila skutočnosť, že región juhovýchodnej Európy ako dôsledok politických, etnických a religióznych turbulencií sa dostal do centra pozornosti na celom svete. Rakúsko, konkrétne Univerzita v Grazi vďaka svojim historickým koreňom a dlhotrvajúcim vzťahom medzičasom znovuobjavila juhovýchodnú Európu ako oblasť interdisciplinárneho zamerania pre výmenu poznatkov a regionálny rozvoj.

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