

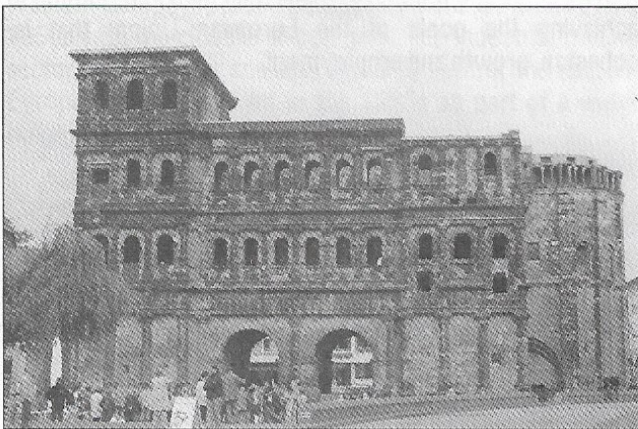


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## CONTEMPORARY GERMAN GEOGRAPHY (55<sup>TH</sup> GERMAN GEOGRAPHY DAYS VIEWED BY THE CZECH PARTICIPANTS)

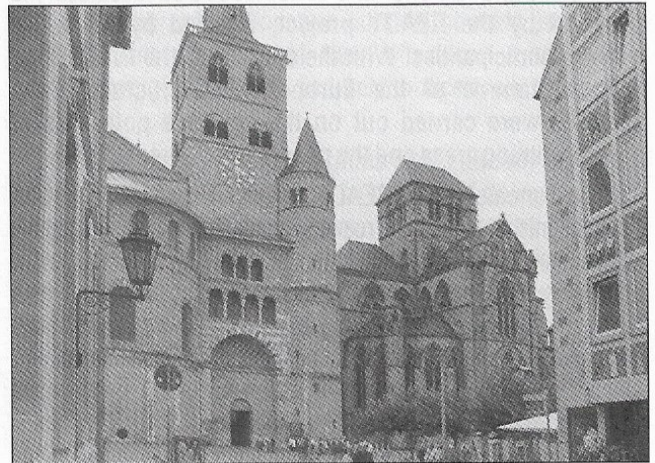
The German geographers gathered already for the 55th time in Trier in October 1-8, 2005. The meeting point in the German city of Trier was very symbolic in relation to the main topic "boundaries, border values, values". The city of Trier which is proud of its historical monuments listed under the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage is on the borders of Germany, France, Luxembourg and not far from Belgium. It is rich in history, important with its present position and preparing for the future with the activity "The Future of Trier 2020". There is a university with 13 thousand students, established in the 15th century and reestablished in 1970. The German Geography Day has been taking place in the university campus. The main organiser was "German Society for Geography" in cooperation with local committee (Fachbereich Geographie, Geowissenschaften, Universität Trier, [www.geographie.de](http://www.geographie.de)) under the auspices of the prime minister of the region Reinhold-Westfahl.

From the merital point of view there can be boundaries in the economic, cultural, social but also scientific disciplines as well as in the planning policies and strategies. There have been sessions focused on the main topics, 35 professional workshops, 15 special actions, 22 working roundtables, 7 working groups, 57 posters, 34 field trips and the meeting of young geographers Altogether more than two thousand participants registered for the Day. There have been 5 key themes to open the floor for balanced socio-economic geography, physical geography and environment. The contents of the Day can be explained in two ways. One of them is to introduce the titles of plenary sessions and then the overview of the topics in the workshops.



### Titles of plenary sessions:

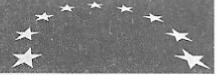
- Europe without borders?/Borders in europe as elements of social and economic arrangement
- Limits of increase and decrease/ Determination of the process of increase and decrease in Germany
- Relativity of the borders and territorial units
- Indications of global chnages of the environment
- Sustainability: movement between sustaining the resources and their degradation/Discussion on sustainability from the global point of view



### Overview of the topics in the workshops:

- Cross-border labour market in the case study of the Polish season workers in Germany (B. Glorius/session: Cross-border survey and mobility,
- Europe in our minds - border regions in the teaching of geography in the case study of SaarLorLux (Ch. Meyer and G. Schulz/session: Europe in the teaching of geography,
- Integration or periferisation\_ Tendencies of cross-border cooperation and regional development of the east Polish borders, after the enlargement of the European union (A. Haase/session: Internal and external borders of EU 25: aspects of cross-border cooperation in regional development),
- Life at the borders: prospects of young people in the case study Guben-Gubin (German-Polish border) (A. Holen/session: Border cities and borders of the cities),
- Transport in the border land - example of Euroregion Maas-Rhein (B, D, NL) (R. Juchelka/ session: Cross-border transport - examples from research and practice),





- Cross-border economic cooperation between the Sloviniens in Corinthia and Slovenia - results from the qualitative survey (K. Ziener and P. Hoessi/session: Ethnic minorities in border land under the impact of globalisation),
- Ethnic minorities under the impact of globalisation: Serbian and Ukrainien minority in Rumanian border regions Banat and Dobrudža to 1989 (C. Anderl, A. Sallanz/session: Ethnic minorities in border land under the impact of globalisation),
- Cross-border Mapping - geodata and geonames (S. Witschas in poster session)
- Cross-border cooperation in protection against flooding (S. Seeling and I. Gellweiler in poster session).

It is highly positive that also the representatives of the Czech Republic have been taking part. In one of the sessions the topic of the Czech-Polish-Slovak border land in the period between post-socialism and EU enlargement has been presented (P. Rumpel and P. Wiliam) that will also be published in the mono-thematic issue of german prestige journal *Europa Regional*. In the poster session the research projected supported by the EU Interreg project "Borders are opening - chances and risks form the point of view of the citizens in Saxon-Czech border land" (H. Kowalke and O. Schmidt from TU Dresden in cooperation with M. Jeřábek).

The organizers of the 55th Geography Days consider this form of the meeting as too classical. the next meeting should more structured and oriented towards different participants (e.g. teachers, researchers, students, practitioners). The meeting in 2007 will be in the Bavarian city of Bayern where the good contacts with the schools of geography in the Czech Republic (Plzeň) have long tradition.

#### References:

*Kulke, E., Monheim, H., Wittmann P.* (Hrsg.) 2006. **Grenzwerte / Tagungsbericht und wissenschaftliche Abhandlungen.** Berlin, Leipzig, Trier, 747 Seiten, ISBN 3-9808754-2-3.