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*Local Europeanism projects at the southern and eastern
Polish borderland*

This article discusses various ways in which Europeanization is understood by local communities in the southern and eastern Polish borderland. Four types of Europeanism projects were identified on the basis of analysis of in-depth-interviews: 1) general cultural (internal) projects which define Europe as a conglomerate of various cultures linked together by common tradition and history and the ensuing values of tolerance and openness; 2) religious (Christian) projects which also refer to the cultural criteria of Europeanism but treat them exclusively and essentialistically; 3) EU projects according to which the European Union is what determines Europe, its borders and shared cultural features; and 4) external (western) projects where Europe is treated sceptically, as something unfamiliar and external with respect to the interviewee's situation.

The author found that Europeanism was intensely experienced rather than reflected upon by the interviewed representatives of local borderland elites. Different manifestations of the different Europeanism projects in different urban communities may be interpreted

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in terms of mobilization of the southern borderland and demobilization of the eastern borderland. In the former case, internal and external symbolic resources are mobilized. At the eastern border there is no project for Europe, and hence no project for oneself within Europe, on a local scale. This can be interpreted as an unwanted consequence of transformation of Poland's eastern border into the European Union's external boundary.