

Editorial

This current issue of *South-East Europe Review (SEER)* – ‘Borderland III: The Black Sea region – Romania, Moldova and Ukraine’ – builds on the experience with ‘Borderland I’ (*SEER* Vol. 7 No. 1) and ‘Borderland II’ (*SEER* Vol. 9 No. 3). The first focused on the complex relations between Greece, Albania and FYR Macedonia; while the second covered Bulgaria and Turkey in a regional perspective.

‘Borderland III’ is moving towards the new external borders of the EU. By extending to the direction of the Black Sea, it covers the region where Moldova, Ukraine and Romania meet, including also the internationally-unrecognised Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic (Transnistria). It is widely anticipated that this region will become more important for Europe in the next few years.

The current publication adopts a similar approach to that applied in ‘Borderland I’ and ‘Borderland II’ and can be regarded as a continuation of this unique endeavour, possessing a different style to the usual issues of the *SEER*. The way in which this issue came into being is also similar to that of the two previous ‘Borderland’ issues: Jens Becker, who is a member of the *SEER* Editorial Board, together with a film documentary maker from Germany, Achim Engelberg, conducted a study trip on behalf of the ETUI across the region in the early summer of 2008. Their journey resulted in them writing some accounts of their travels, collecting their general impressions and reporting on their travel experiences from the perspective of a western observer, often with a literary interpretation, while their accounts also give a contextual overview of the complex set of problems the region faces. They have also interviewed several experts, intellectuals and representatives of NGOs, who report their views of the difficulties of the situation in the ‘borderlands’ of Europe in the Black Sea region. Finally, they collected scientific analyses from authors in the region on specific country-related topics and cross-border issues.

The following introductory article by Jens Becker who is one of the co-ordinators of this issue, along with Achim Engelberg, gives more insight into its structure and content.

Bela Galgoczi

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