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SOME GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES OF A CROATIAN BORDER REGION ALONG THE CROATIAN-SLOVENIAN BORDER (THE ČABRANKA-KUPA VALLEY)

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Abstract:

Once the Republic of Croatia gained its independence in 1991, its border regions became an interesting, as well as essential, subject of geographic research. Many common elements of neighboring border regions were weakened or completely abolished with the drawing of state borders. Many new problems have emerged which the new border regimes have yet to solve. Their solution will be more successful if previous scientific research is conducted into their origins. The objective of this work is to analyze the cross-border ownership (and the elements tied to it) in the border region of the Čabranka-Kupa Valley (upstream from Brod na Kupi) along the Croatian-Slovenian border.

Key Words:

border, border region, cross-border ownership, natural environment, multiethnic composition

GEOGRAFSKE ZNAČAJKE HRVATSKOG POGRANIČNOG PODRUČJA UZ HRVATSKO-SLOVENSKU GRANICU (DOLINA ČABRANKE I KUPE)

Izvadak:

Kada je Republika Hrvatska dobila nezavisnost 1991., njezina granična područja su postala zanimljiv i bitan predmet geografskog istraživanja. Crtanjem državnih granica oslabljeni su ili sasvim ukinuti mnogi zajednički elementi susjednih područja. Pojavili su se mnogi novi problemi koji se tek moraju riješiti. Njihovo rješenje će biti uspješnije ako je potrebno znanstveno istraživanje krenulo od početka. Cilj ovog rada je analiza vlasništva u susjednoj državi (i elemenata povezanih s njim) u pograničnom području doline Čabranke i Kupe (uzvodno od broda na Kupi) duž hrvatsko-slovenske granice.

Ključne riječi:

granica, pogranično područje, vlasništvo u susjednoj državi, prirodna sredina, višetnički sastav

INTRODUCTION

Out of the 2,028 km of land borders of the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian-Slovenian border accounts for approximately 546 km. The majority of this border was already established in the twelfth century, with only minor changes and adjustments before and after this century. Thus, this border can be referred to as one of the oldest in Europe. Only two minor portions of this border were established in more recent times, i.e. during the twentieth century. These encompass the border in the Međimurje region (after World War I, with minor adjustments after World War II), and in Istria (after World War II).

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Borders have been the topic of much research in geographic literature. However, most of this literature concentrates on establishing the character of borders as regions of division or connection between two neighboring states and cross-border penetration in the border regions. Most often the openness or possibility of borders is studied, so that they are characterized as "closed," "partially closed" or "open." According to one study (B. BELEC, 1993/4), the Croatian-Slovenian border is very passable, and according to border models, it is a "bridge-type" border. The border regions themselves, or rather, their socio-geographic characteristics, are much more rarely the subject of research, although they form the basis and conditions for the degree of cross-border penetration into neighboring border regions. In addition, characterizing some borders as "bridges" does not mean that they have this "bridge" character along their entire length. Individual segments of the border may differ from one another considerably, which is the case with the Croatian-Slovenian border. The goal of this study is to establish the socio-geographic characteristics of the Čabranka-Kupa

Valley (upstream from Brod na Kupi), the oldest and physically and geographically most unique inhabited section of the Croatian-Slovenian border.

Research on the regional-geographic problems of border regions are becoming increasingly necessary all throughout Europe. This need has been provoked by the political changes in Europe in the last ten years, particularly those that lead to more marked processes of European economic and political integration. Such integration essentially cause significant changes in the organization and use of European territory. These factors are particularly manifested in changes to the geopolitical character of borders and the economic importance of border regions. Up to the present, a number of borders have already become "soft," some have completely disappeared and many are subject to processes of adapting to new political relationships.

In terms of political changes, here it is most relevant to mention those that also caused changes in the organization and use of space. These are: the unification of the two German states (an unprecedented event in recent history), the collapse of artificially-created state structures (the USSR, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia), the end of the confrontation between Eastern and Western Europe, and, most importantly, the establishment of the European Union on 1 January 1993. The European Union is an alliance of a large number of European states with limited sovereignty (a part of the sovereignty of individual member states was transferred to the Union) with soft internal borders (between individual member states) but very well-defined external borders of the Union in relation to neighboring countries.

It should be kept in mind that there are considerable differences, especially economic, between individual states, even those within the European Union. Therefore, new developments do not automatically lead to greater uniformity or unity among European states,

including those within the European Union. This requires numerous adaptations and measures to foster mutual linkage, particularly in the economic field. The necessary adaptations are already largely under way. Many earlier economically peripheral border regions are gaining economic importance, while simultaneously, even the earlier "economic cores" of individual states are beginning to stagnate. This is because only the economically developed border regions of a country can successfully meld with the border region of a neighboring state.

The aforementioned changes are also valid for Croatia, which wants to become a member of the European Union. However, for the time being it will probably remain a bordering state on the southeastern periphery of the European Union. Therefore, Croatia must focus greater attention on the economic development of its border regions, especially those which border Slovenia and Hungary as (the most likely) neighboring countries that will join the European Union sooner.

In Croatian geographic literature, there is not one regional study on any border region along the Croatian land border, including the Croatian-Slovenian border. In contrast, Slovenian geographers have published several shorter studies on this border. The Croatian-Slovenian border is covered in one wider review of the border regions of the former Yugoslav federation (V. KLEMENČIĆ, 1989), while the political past of this border is shown on a map in an article on the borders of Slovenia (M. BUFON, 1993-94). More detailed studies only cover the Slovenian border territories along the northeastern part of the Croatian-Slovenian border, and this in a study of ownership as a developmental factor in Prekomurje as a border region (L. OLAS, 1976), in a monograph on Lendavske Gorice (V. BRAČIĆ, 1988) and in studies on Ljutomersko-ormoške Gorice (B. BELEC, 1968) and the spatial differentiation of northeastern Slovenia (B. BELEC, 1978).

The land-ownership relations and employment between Slovenia and Croatia are the subject of two works by B. BELEC (1992, 1993-94).

CHARACTER OF THE BORDER UNDER STUDY

The Croatian-Slovenian border was, like all inter-republic borders of the former Yugoslav federation, even up to 1991, when the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia became independent, actually a state border, which was particularly true after the promulgation of the federal Yugoslav constitution of 1974. Despite this, it integrated both the economic and social life on both of its sides to a great degree, primarily because these two neighboring countries were part of the same social-political system. Life and development on both sides of the border was determined by the policy and legislation of the respective republics, but many aspects were common. A new border regime emerged with the independence of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia. Many elements of the previous unity weakened or they were abolished, even though the new border regimes were not yet finalized. Their finalization will especially require the passage of legislation on border area traffic and cooperation.

A series of problems emerged with the establishment state borders which have to be solved through an interstate agreement that will cover infrastructure, economy, social and environmental issues and sports. However, since the Čabranka-Kupa Valley is an preponderantly agrarian region both on the Croatian and Slovenian sides, it is particularly important to regulate cross-border ownership of land, i.e. the use of land owned by persons with permanent residence on the other side of the border. A solution to this problem which will be as successful as possible for owners on both sides of the border will require the determination of the number of such owners and the surface area

of the property that they own on the other side of the border. This task is the objective of this work.

NATURAL FEATURES OF THE VALLEY

The deeply cut, at places almost canyon-like, Čabranka-Kupa Valley lies between two markedly mountainous, isolated, economically underdeveloped and sparsely populated areas: Gorski Kotar in Croatia and Dolenjsko and Notranjsko (parts of the former Carniola province) in Slovenia. Such surroundings have had the effect of isolating the valley itself. The Čabranka-Kupa Valley is a relatively isolated part of the Croatian-Slovenian border in terms of transit, because it is quite far from the principal roads between Croatia and Slovenia (which in turn go farther on to Central Europe and Southeastern Europe) that lead across the Zagreb-Ljubljana route and the Rijeka-Ljubljana route. Not one international transit corridor passes through the Čabranka-Kupa Valley. There is only a highway which connects two peripheral settlements: Delnice in Croatia and Kočevje in Slovenia. This road passes through the valley along its southeastern edge at Brod na Kupi, in which there is an international border crossing.

The Čabranka-Kupa Valley consists of two parts: the section along the Kupa River (which has its source at Kupičko Lake, elevation 397 m) and the section along its tributary, the Čabranka River (its source lies at an elevation of 546 m). However, its appearance is that of an unified morphological unit, which is why it is here called the Čabranka-Kupa Valley. It cuts deeply into its Paleozoic and Mesozoic (primarily Triassic and Jurassic) base (dominated by carbonates and clasts), so that it is 500 to 700 m below the surrounding plateaus. It is approximately 40 km long, out of which the Čabranka accounts for 18 km, while the Kupa accounts for 22 km (up to Brod na Kupi). The

valley is composite as it consists of five wider extensions and five narrower portions, some of which give the valley the appearance of a canyon. The valley's slopes are quite steep, particularly on the Slovenian side, so that the valley has an asymmetrical cross-section. The Croatian portion is somewhat more spacious and thus more densely populated; it has a greater number of settlements and inhabitants.

Soils can be found on the valley floor in the direct vicinity of the waterways, and they are quite shallow. The part along the Čabranka River was carved directly out of the stone base so that there are almost no alluvial plain. The alluvial plain is slightly more spacious along the Kupa River. The soils were formed by the movement of loose materials from the surrounding slopes. The higher and considerably steeper sides of the valley are dominated by skeletal soils or bare rocky terrain. Soil erosion is great, so that cultivable surfaces are generally terraced on the slopes. The valley is in a mountain-basin climatic zone in which snows covers the ground for over 40 days with average precipitation of approximately 2,000 mm annually. The average temperature in this climatic zone in January is $-2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (along the Kupa) to $-4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (along the Čabranka), while in July average temperatures run from $+18\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (along the Čabranka) to $+20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (along the Kupa). The entire region is in the beech zone; this is the region's natural vegetation.

SETTLEMENTS AND LANDED PROPERTY

The aforementioned relief features influence the size and arrangement of settlements (29 on the Croatian side and 30 on the Slovenian side). Smaller settlements dominate. Most of them are scattered about the slopes, farther away from both rivers. A considerable number of settlements, especially those on the slopes, consist of hamlets. The settlements are divided from each other by forests and

pastures, so that they are quite isolated. They are connected to the valley, which is transversed by only one road (partly on the Croatian, and partly on the Slovenian side), by trails in relatively poor condition.

The relief and climatic conditions greatly influenced the structure of the land according to usage categories. Forests (approximately 60%) and grassy surfaces (pastures on the slopes and meadows along the river courses) predominate. Cultivated fields account for a relatively small share of the land, so that

plow-lands and gardens are only 5.7 percent, while orchards are less than 1 percent. The harsh climate precludes the cultivation of wine grapes, so there are few vineyards. The latter are scarce, generally appearing next to houses.

The settlements and their land are within eleven cadastral municipalities, of which seven are on the Croatian side and four are on the Slovenian side. They extend from the Kupa and Čabranka toward the edges of the valley, so that these river-ways are the border between Croatia and Slovenia. It should be emphasized

Tab. 1: Land according to usage categories in the Čabranka-Kupa Valley (upstream from Brod na Kupu)

Tab. 1: Zemljište prema kategorijama uporabe u dolini Čabranke i Kupe (uzvodno od Broda na Kupu)

Cadastral municipality	Total area in ha	Usage categories in ha					
		Plowed fields and gardens	Orchards	Meadows	Pastures	Forests	Other
Croatian side ¹⁾							
a) Along the Čabranka River							
Čabar	6,445	307	8	616	435	4,966	113
Plešće	1,591	177	10	218	220	906	60
Hrib	4,077	123	4	444	243	3,232	31
Total	12,113	607	22	1,278	898	9,104	204
	100%	5%	0.2%	10.5%	7.4%	75.1%	1.8%
b) Along the Kupa River							
Razloge	1,311	33	1	188	80	985	24
Turke	2,095	90	8	441	345	1,176	35
Grbajel	2,605	125	12	381	159	1,868	60
Brod na Kupu	4,192	261	14	480	311	2,999	127
Total	10,203	509	35	1,490	895	7,028	246
	100%	5%	0.3%	14.6%	8.8%	68.9%	2.4%
Croatian side	22,316	1,116	57	2,768	1,793	16,132	450
Total	100%	5%	0.2%	12.4%	8%	72.3%	2.1%
Slovenian side ²⁾							
(along the entire valley)							
Žurge	1,334	90	-	224	494	504	22
Osilnica	944	125	-	109	359	326	25
Bosljiva loka	1,807	95	-	161	1,134	348	69
Kuželj	4,170	310	-	497	1,987	1,178	116
Total	8,170	620	-	988	3,974	2,356	232
	100%	7.6%	-	12.1%	48.6%	28.8%	2.9%
Overall total	30,486	1,736	-	3,756	5,767	18,488	682
(1 + 2)	100%	5.7%	-	12.3%	18.9%	60.6%	2.3%

¹⁾ Data obtained from the Cadastral and Geodetic Office of the Čabar Municipality and the Delnice Municipality;

²⁾ Source: *Gemeindelexikon von Krain, Volkszählung 1900*. Wien: K.k. Statistischen Zentralkommission, 1905.

that the majority of the Čabar cadastral municipality consists of settlements on the peripheral plateau along the Gerovo-Tršće-Čabar road. If 6,000 ha of the Čabar municipality are subtracted from the total surface area of the seven Croatian cadastral municipality, then the Croatian part of the valley would account for a little over 60 percent, while the Slovenian side for a little less than 40 percent of the valley's total surface area, which is a consequence of the valley's already mentioned relief asymmetry.

PROPERTY IN CROSS-BORDER OWNERSHIP

Data from the Cadastral and Geodetic Offices of the Čabar and Delnice Municipalities (to which the Croatian side of the valley

belongs, along the Čabranka River in the Čabar Municipality and along the Kupa River in the Delnice Municipality) show that out of all landowners in the seven Croatian cadastral municipalities, 5.6 percent are owners with permanent residence in Slovenia, and that these owners own only 1.4 percent of the land in these cadastral municipalities (see Table 2). The number of owners and plots of land owned by persons with permanent residence in Slovenia is, therefore, not large. This is true both for the entire Croatian side of the valley as well as for individual Croatian cadastral municipalities. The data from the Geodetic Bureau of Slovenia show that cross-border ownership relations on the Slovenian side of the valley are similar to those on the Croatian side. According to these data, 235 persons with permanent residence in Croatia own less than 1 percent of

Tab. 2: Land in the seven Croatian cadastral municipalities owned by persons with permanent residence in Slovenia
Tab. 2.: *Zemljište u sedam hrvatskih katastarskih općina koje posjeduju osobe sa stalnim boravkom u Sloveniji*

Cadastral municipality	No. of owners	Ttl area in ha & m ²	Out of this (ha and m ²)					Ttl area in cadastral municipality	% of land owned by persons in Slovenia	
			Plowed fields and gardens	Orchards	Meadows	Pastures	Forests			Other
1. Along the Čabranka Valley										
Čabar	78	71/8379	8/9548	-/4353	21/9270	16/0229	24/725	-/4254	6,445	1.1
Plešće	84	96/3824	14/3618	2/1699	15/9962	22/6200	40/3329	-/9016	1,591	6
Hrib	34	42/8617	3/3564	-/665	5/0685	4/6460	29/6799	-/544	4,077	1
Total	196 ¹⁾	211/820	26/6730	2/6117	42/9917	43/2789	94/853	1/3814	12,113	1.7
		100%	12.6%	1.3%	20.3%	20.4%	44.8%	0.6%		
1) The total number of all owners is 2,334, which means that owners who have their permanent residence in Slovenia account for 8.4 percent										
2. Along the Kupa Valley										
Razloge	8	7/5240	1/2916	-/1065	5/3561	-/6187	-/644	-/867	1,311	0.6
Turke	33	77/8405	6/7816	-/5883	37/8341	13/7640	18/5800	-/2925	2,095	3.7
Grbajel	14	14/9304	2/9004	-/2194	5/3421	-/4499	5/9217	-/969	2,605	0.6
Brod na Kupu	20	13/221	3/983	-/521	5/1805	3/5022	1/815	-/1075	4,192	0.3
Total	75 ¹⁾	113/3170	14/719	-/9663	53/7128	18/7348	25/6476	-/5836	10,203	1.1
		100%	13%	0.8%	47.2%	16.1%	22.4%	0.5%		
2) The total number of all owners is 2,531, which means that owners who have their permanent residence in Slovenia account for 3 percent										
Total 1)	271	324/3990	40/7449	3/5780	96/7045	61/6137	119/7329	1/9650	22316	1.4
entire valley		100%	12.6%	1.1%	29.8%	19%	36.9%	0.6%		

1) The total number of all owners in the seven Croatian cadastral municipalities is 4,865, which means that owners who have their permanent residence in Slovenia account for 5.6 percent

Source: Cadastral and Geodetic Office, Čabar Municipality and Delnice Municipality.

the total surface in four Slovenian cadastral communities of the Čabranka-Kupa Valley.

THE ORIGINS OF CROSS-BORDER LAND OWNERSHIP

The establishment of the origins of cross-border land ownership requires an analysis of local land registries and cadastral plans and maps, which would in turn require more time and funds. However, fairly reliable conclusions on the origins of cross-border ownership can already be derived on the basis of specific data from the Cadastral and Geodetic Offices of the Čabar and Delnice Municipalities. According to the data of these offices, persons (or their ancestors) with land owned on the Croatian side of the valley but with permanent residence in Slovenia were mostly born in the aforementioned Croatian municipalities. They acquired the land by inheritance before making their permanent departure for Slovenia, most often due to marriage. There was very little actual purchase or sales of this land. It stands to reason that the majority of the cross-border land ownership held by persons in Slovenia but with permanent residence in Croatia is of similar origin.

The relatively intense familial ties between the populations on both sides of the border are indicated by the data from a survey of 118 (out of 666) households in 9 (out of 29) Croatian settlements in the Čabranka-Kupa Valley. Approximately 80 percent of the surveyed households stated that the reason for traveling across the border was to visit family members. Here it is important to note that they most often stated that these were close relatives (grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, brother, sister, cousins, aunts and uncles, etc.), i.e. the type of relatives who indicate frequent marital ties between Croats with Slovenes from across the border.

NUMBER OF CROATS IN SLOVENIAN SETTLEMENTS AND SLOVENES IN CROATIAN SETTLEMENTS

The share of visits to relatives as a reason for the cross-border traffic is very high, but the absolute number of households in this cross-border traffic is not that large, which is a result of the relatively small share of Slovenes on the Croatian side, and the small share of Croats on the Slovenian side of the border.

Tab. 3: Households of surveyed Croatian settlements on the origins of cross-border traffic with neighboring Slovenian settlements

Tab. 3.: *Domaćinstva pregledanih hrvatskih naselja na izvoru prometa preko granice sa susjednim slovenskim naseljima*

Settlement	Surveyed households		Reasons for participation ¹⁾				
	Total	Participate in cross-border traffic	1	2	3	4	5
Donji Žagari	5	5	-	1	4	5	-
Gabajel	4	3	-	-	2	2	1
Guče Selo	15	12	-	-	8	8	5
Gusti Laz	7	6	-	1	1	5	3
Hrvatsko	14	14	2	7	14	14	12
Kamenski Hrib	9	7	1	-	4	5	5
Kuželj	14	14	-	2	7	9	9
Mandli	14	14	1	1	13	14	2
Plešće	36	33	3	4	21	26	8
Total	118	108	7	16	74	88	45

¹⁾ 1 - conduct agricultural work on part of land; 2 - work; 3 - shopping; 4 - visit relatives; 5 - other reasons

Tab. 4: The share of Slovenes in the total population in 29 Croatian settlements in the Čabranka-Kupa Valley (up to Brod na Kupa).

Tab. 4: *Udio Slovenaca u ukupnom stanovništvu u 29 hrvatskih naselja u dolini Čabranke i Kupe (do Broda na Kupa)*

Year	Population				
	Total	Croats	Slovenes		Others
			No.	%	
1900	3,098	2,961	111	3.58	26
1910	3,259	3,065	151	4.63	43
1953	2,842	2,653	150	5.27	39
1961	2,677	2,505	113	4.22	59
1971	2,314	2,163	116	5.01	35
1981	1,972	1,702	132	6.69	138
1991	1,818	1,588	124	6.82	99

Source: *Vjerski i narodnosni sastav stanovništva Republike Hrvatske po naseljima* (Religious and national composition of the population of the Republic of Croatia by settlement). Zagreb: Državni zavod za statistiku Republike Hrvatske, 1991.

As seen in the data in Table 4, the number of Slovenes in the total population of the Croatian settlements of the valley since 1900 has always been below 10 percent. There are no data on the exact number of Croats in the Slovenian settlements of the valley, but taking into consideration the fact that since 1890 the Slovenes always accounted for over 83 percent of the total population in the Slovene side of the valley, it follows that Croats could not have accounted for more than 10 percent; in 1981 they were 13.7 percent (103 of 749 of the inhabitants).

Despite coexistence in relatively the same narrow valley, essentially facing one another, and a common life in the same state since 1527 (the Habsburg Monarchy), the population did not mix ethnically to a great degree, nor was a multiethnic system created. The Čabranka and Kupa Rivers have remained sharp ethnic borders between the Croats and Slovenes.

In 1991, there were Slovenes in 18 settlements out of a total of 29 Croatian settlements. But a relatively larger number of Slovenes lived in only four settlements, and this in the settlement of Turke (27 percent Slovenian),

and in the settlements of Hrvatsko and Brod na Kupa (10 percent each). In the largest settlement of the valley, in Čabar, there were only 5.5 percent. In 1981, out of thirty Slovenian settlements, Croats lived in fifteen, out of which there was a larger number in only three settlements, and this in the settlement of Sela (26%), Osilnica (24%) and Kuželj (22%).

The sharp ethnic border was maintained, despite many centuries of life under conditions of easy mutual dependency and ties. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that the population of both nationalities have the same religion (Roman Catholic) and that they understand each other relatively easily in linguistic terms. The local Croats speak the Kajkavian dialect of the Croatian language, and the Slovenian language is very similar to this dialect. All of the aforementioned elements are conducive to ethnic intermingling, yet this has nevertheless not occurred.

CONCLUSION

From the above, the following can be concluded: 1. the share of persons with property on the other side of the border (cross-border land ownership) as well as the share of the surface area of their property in the cadastral municipality in which it is located is relatively small; 2. dual ownership is largely the result of marital ties between Croats and Slovenes; 3. the ethnic border between the Croats and Slovenes, despite the stated factors which would tend to bring them closer, has remained sharply defined—the formation of multiethnic locales has not emerged, not even in the initial phases; 4. this segment of the Croatian-Slovenian border has a bridge-like character, but its significance is not overly marked; this border could be characterized as a bridge (with regard to its permeability) and static (with regard to its general degree of development).



Fig. 1 - Croatian-Slovenian border. The subject of this paper is its part east of the road Delnice-Kočevje.
 Sl. 1. - Hrvatsko-Slovenska granica. Tema ovog rada je njezin dio istočno od ceste Delnice-Kočevje.

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SAŽETAK

GEOGRAFSKE ZNAČAJKE HRVATSKOG POGRANIČNOG PODRUČJA UZ HRVATSKO-SLOVENSKU GRANICU (DOLINA ČABRANKE I KUPE)

IVAN CRKVENČIĆ

Istraživanje regionalno-geografske problematike postaje sve veća potreba, i to u čitavoj Europi. Potreba je izazvana političkim promjenama zadnjih 20-tak godina, naročito onih koji dovode do sve izraženijih procesa europske gospodarske i političke integracije, odnosno od stvaranja Europske Unije. Procesi nužno uzrokuju promjene u organizaciji i iskorištavanju prostora, naročito prigraničnih. Neke su granice već postale "mekše", druge su nestale, a mnoge se prilagođavaju novim gospodarskim i političkim odnosima. Navedene promjene nužno mora slijediti i naša zemlja koja također teži uključivanju u Europsku Uniju.

Ovaj rad je prvi pokušaj ukazivanja na neke od problema naših prigraničnih područja. Na primjeru doline Čabranke-Kupe (nizvodno od Broda na Kupu) ukazano je na osnovna obilježja njene prirodne sredine i naseljenosti da bi se detaljnije analizirali dvovlasnički odnosi poljoprivrednih površina s obe strane granice, a u okviru katastarskih općina smještenih neposredno uz granicu. Smatramo da je poznavanje tih zemljišnjih vlasničkih odnosa osnova razumijevanja ostalih socijalno-geografskih problema ovog prigraničnog područja Republike Hrvatske.