

France, Belgium, Luxemburg and Germany; in the course of time this area has been extended to include other areas of contact such as the Alps, the Germano-Slavic and the Germano-Celtic border regions.

Research in such areas must of necessity transcend the limits of a single scholarly discipline and the borders of a national scholarly tradition. Therefore the members of the network have always been in intensive contact with other scholars working in this area. The most visible result of this is the organization of scholarly gatherings. In 1991 the network organized a symposium „Grenzen und Grenzregionen – Frontières et régions frontalières – Borders and Border Regions“ in Saarbrücken.¹ In 1993 it cooperated in the conference „Granice i pogranicza. Język i historia [Borders and Border Regions. Language and History]“ held in Warsaw and organized by the Institute for Polish Language of the Department of Polish Studies at Warsaw University.² From May 11th to 13th 1995, the network organized a symposium „Language Policy in Border Regions“ that brought together scholars from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, and Poland in the border town Saarbrücken. The contributions to this symposium are published in the present volume.³

The first group of contributions is devoted to legal and historical aspects of the question. Legal issues are analysed in the article of Stefan Oeter (Heidelberg) „Legal aspects of language policy“. He is able to show that the international legal codification of language policy in the 20th century is mainly concentrated in two periods and in both cases is connected with matters of minority protection. The first attempt was undertaken after the end of the First World War within the framework of the Paris Peace Treaties and the League of Nations. In general the results were disappointing. The second attempt dates back to the second half of the eighties. So far the results have been rather modest, since many states involved in drafting the corresponding legislation are still captives of their traditional views regarding the necessity of ethnic, cultural and linguistic homogeneity of a state. It is therefore quite safe to predict that language policy towards minorities that are not properly protected by law will be a cause of conflict in the future. Reinhard Schneider (Saarbrücken)

1 Haubrichs, Wolfgang, und Schneider, Reinhard (eds.): *Grenzen und Grenzregionen – Frontières et régions frontalières – Borders and Border Regions*, Saarbrücken: SDV 1993 (Veröffentlichungen der Kommission für Saarländische Landesgeschichte und Volksforschung 22).

2 Dubisz, Stanisław, and Nagórko, Alicja (eds.): *Granice i pogranicza. Język i historia. Materiały międzynarodowej konferencji naukowej*, Warszawa, 27-28 maja 1993 r., Warszawa: ELIPSA 1993.

3 The contribution by W. Smoczyński (Cracow) on the „Slavicization of the Lithuanian nobility in the Great Principality of Lithuania“ was not submitted for publication. A contribution by A. Ritter (Hamburg) that was originally scheduled but could not be presented is included here in written form.