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*Cultural patterns of development of local international  
cooperation at the borderlands*

Three patterns of cooperation can be identified in district and county international relations: 1) “stitching” the borderland together, 2) “ordinary” abroad and 3) “our” abroad. Cultural factors, i.e., the sense of shared heritage and cultural kinship, play an important role in all three patterns.

In the first pattern, mutual relations are based on the reuniting of a once artificially separated whole. Development of new attachments is accompanied by the sense of revival of lost unity. In the second pattern, “abroad” is permanently incorporated in daily practices and is where people do their shopping, cool out and cooperate economically. Former “strangers” are now slightly different “ones of us”. The border is scored out by the ostentatious mundane. These two patterns are very typical for the southern border.

The third pattern, i.e., “our” abroad, is most conspicuous in the east. Here, development of relations with the former USSR is viewed as local self-governments’ obvious specialization or even mission.