

# Preface

This is the third publication in our five year joint project “Road to a Multi-dimensional Ethnic Symbiosis: The Mid-Danube Region and EU Integration” (April 2013 - March 2018) which was realized with the constant cooperation between Slovakian, Hungarian and Japanese researchers. The publication mainly consists of papers read at the international workshop at Selye János in Komárno on 12 September, 2016. It has the title “Transboundary Symbiosis over the Danube: III. Re-thinking the meaning of Symbiosis - Past, Present and Future” with eight papers that cover both historical and contemporary topics. It also contains one record and one report.

During the five years of the project we realized 10 regular meetings (twice a year), three publications including this one,<sup>1</sup> two week-long field research projects, and three international workshops, twice in Slovakia (Komárno) and once in Japan (Tokyo and Osaka). Above all we organized a panel at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies on 4 August 2015, in Makuhari, Japan. All our plans were executed, some of them with results that went beyond our expectations (please see the report of the joint project of this publication).

We are first of all grateful to those who participated in our joint project, contributed to our publication, and gave us valuable advice and inspiration.

Five years ago when we started our joint project, we chose as the keyword for our research the word “symbiosis”. Unfortunately, during these five years the trend of universal public opinion seems to have shifted in the opposite direction to embrace intolerance and narrow-mindedness. We believe, however, that the results of our five year joint project still show us the appropriate choices we should make in future.

Editors

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1 “Transboundary Symbiosis over the Danube: EU integration between Slovakia and Hungary from a local border perspective” (Slavic Eurasian Studies, No. 27, Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, March 2014, 136 p.); “Transboundary Symbiosis over the Danube (Part II): Road to a Multidimensional Ethnic Symbiosis in the Mid-Danube Region” (Slavic Eurasian Studies, No. 29, Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, July 2015, 198 p.)