

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLISH AND BELARUSIAN ACCESSION TO BROADER INTEGRATION PROCESSES: A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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Poland and Belarus are bordering countries that participate in two divergent integration processes: Poland joins the European Union, while Belarus integrates with the Russian Federation. These integration processes have had varied impacts on the development of the regions in the two countries. Polish regions differ a lot in their inner potential, internal and external factors that have been facilitating or impeding the adjustment to new circumstances. Accession to the EU would bring further challenges to regional economic performance. The impacts of the EU enlargement and the integration with Russia have not been even in Belarusian regions as well. This study presents the comparative analysis of the impact of the broader integration process on the development of regions in Poland and Belarus.