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ABSTRACT

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Border Security – Societal Vulnerabilities and the Disadvantages of Resilience

The EU is notorious for taking a technocratic approach to border security. Its institutions and agencies pay lip service to the mutual dependency of technology, organisational dynamics, legal issues and human factors, but its practice emphasises the use of legislative and technical resources. The social realities of life in its borderlands are consequently neglected even though they play a critical role in preventing the EU from meeting its objective of intelligent surveillance and enhanced border security. This paper uses the role of non-EU border guards to explore two linked challenges to effective EU-style border security: societal vulnerabilities and the resilience of security organisations.