

# EPRC



## **European territorial visions: examples from Central and Eastern Europe**

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*What European territory do we want?*  
*Workshop preparing a political debate on Territorial Scenarios and*  
*Visions of Europe for 2050*  
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# EPRC Key territorial development challenges in CEE

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## National 'catching up'

- GDP, household income <EU average
- Convergence but impact of crisis

## Regional differences

- Areas of high unemployment
- Entrepreneurship and innovation territorially concentrated

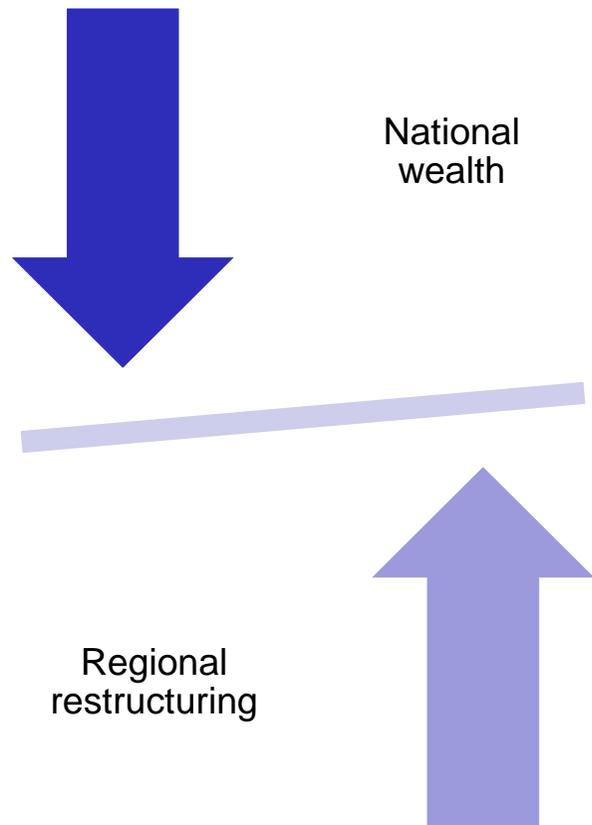
## Intra-regional differences

- Urban/rural dimension
- Demographic issues etc.

	Old paradigm	New paradigm
<b>Problem recognition</b>	Regional disparities in income, employment	Lack of competitiveness,
<b>Objectives</b>	Equity through balanced development.	Competitiveness and equity
<b>General policy framework</b>	Compensating for location disadvantages	Tapping underutilised potential
<b>Theme coverage</b>	Sectoral approach, limited set of sectors	Integrated development
<b>Unit for policy intervention</b>	Administrative areas	Functional areas
<b>Time dimension</b>	Short term	Long term
<b>Approach</b>	One size fits all	Context-specific

### Role of Cohesion policy in CEE:

- New policy management models and culture, territorial strategy-building
- Early strategies had generic approach, weak conceptual basis, lack of specific objectives, few quantified targets, lack of coordination (e.g. sectoral/territorial)
- Progressive improvements over time, strategic planning, assessment of needs.
- Focus on domestic territorial visions in CEE driven by post-2020 considerations



- Ensure the legacy of Cohesion policy
- Institutionalise **domestic** regional development policies
- Set out clear domestic objectives and scenarios
- Find balance between national growth and territorial cohesion objectives.

# EPRC Institutionalising territorial development strategies

- Strategies already exist in CEE.....

Country	Regional development strategy/framework	Period
BG	National Strategy for Regional Development	2012-2022
	National Spatial Development Concept	2013-2025
CZ	Regional Development Strategy 2014+	2014-2020
EE	Regional Development Strategy	2005-2015
	National Spatial Plan 'Estonia 2030'	2012-2030
HU	National Spatial Development Policy Concept	2014-2020
LV	National Regional Policy Guidelines	2014-2020
	Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030	2010-2030
LT	Regional Policy Strategy of Lithuania	2005-2013
	Programme for Reduction of Social & Economic Differences of Regions	2011-2013
PL	National Strategy for Regional Development	2010-2020
	National Spatial Development Concept	2010-2030
RO	Strategic Concept of Spatial-Territorial Development - 2020	2008-2030
SK	National Strategy for Regional Development	2010-2030
SI	Slovenia's Development Strategy	2014-2020

- ..... the challenge is to ensure that they don't exist only on paper

# EPRC Characteristics of territorial development strategies

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- Common identification of growth centres and their functional areas
- Range of functional spaces reflects varied CEE contexts:
  - urban hierarchies (e.g. HU: metropolitan region/urban centres of (potential) international importance/urban centres of national importance).
  - areas characterised by a concentration of negative phenomena (e.g. SI - 'demographically endangered areas').
  - towns and urban areas in need of revitalisation (e.g. CZ former military areas).
  - rural areas (e.g. EE)
  - border areas
  - multi-regional strategies (e.g. PL)
- Varying timeframes:
  - some are aspirational, with a longer timeframe (e.g. Slovakia)
  - some creating development visions for the short to medium term (e.g. Slovenia)

# EPRC Implementation challenges

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**Cohesion policy provides valuable models, experience, capacity in programming, monitoring, evaluation etc.**

- central governments play horizontal and vertical coordinating role
- growing role for sub-national bodies: Cohesion policy programmes, ITIs, committees, other fora
- vertical coordination mechanisms (e.g. territorial agreements, territorial observatories)

**Institutional factors constrain strategic territorial approaches :**

- organisational instability
- variable use of monitoring and evaluation as management tools
- politicisation of resource allocation decisions
- focus on short-term, financial rather than long-term, 'strategic' absorption
- weak coordination at national level and limited engagement of sub-national level

### **What are the long-term territorial development objectives?**

- the role of CEE in the European space, balance between national growth, territorial cohesion

### **Who decides?**

- top-down versus bottom up development of visions and strategies

### **Will they be real strategies?**

- appropriate instruments and funding sources post-2020 - going beyond strategic documents?

### **How to overcome the bottlenecks?**

- investment in institutional capacity – stable organisations, human resources, systems, procedures

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Thank you for listening