



13 Cross-border regions in Europe

Marjan van Herwijnen

ESPON 2013 Programme

Workshop on the potential of small and medium cities in
cross-border polycentric regions

Luxembourg
30 June 2015



Content of presentation

- Ulysses – Targeted Analysis
- Results filtered on:
 - polycentric regions and small and medium cities (workshop)
 - governance, funding opportunities and common development strategies (session 3)
 - economic development, innovation and research (c)
- Overview Ulysses
- Data fact sheets
 - Example: Duna-Koros-Maros-Tisza Euroregion
- Multi-thematic Territorial Analyses
 - Example: Upper-Rhine
- Practical Guide for cross-border territorial development strategies
 - Example: Rhein-Waal Euregio
- Impulse statements

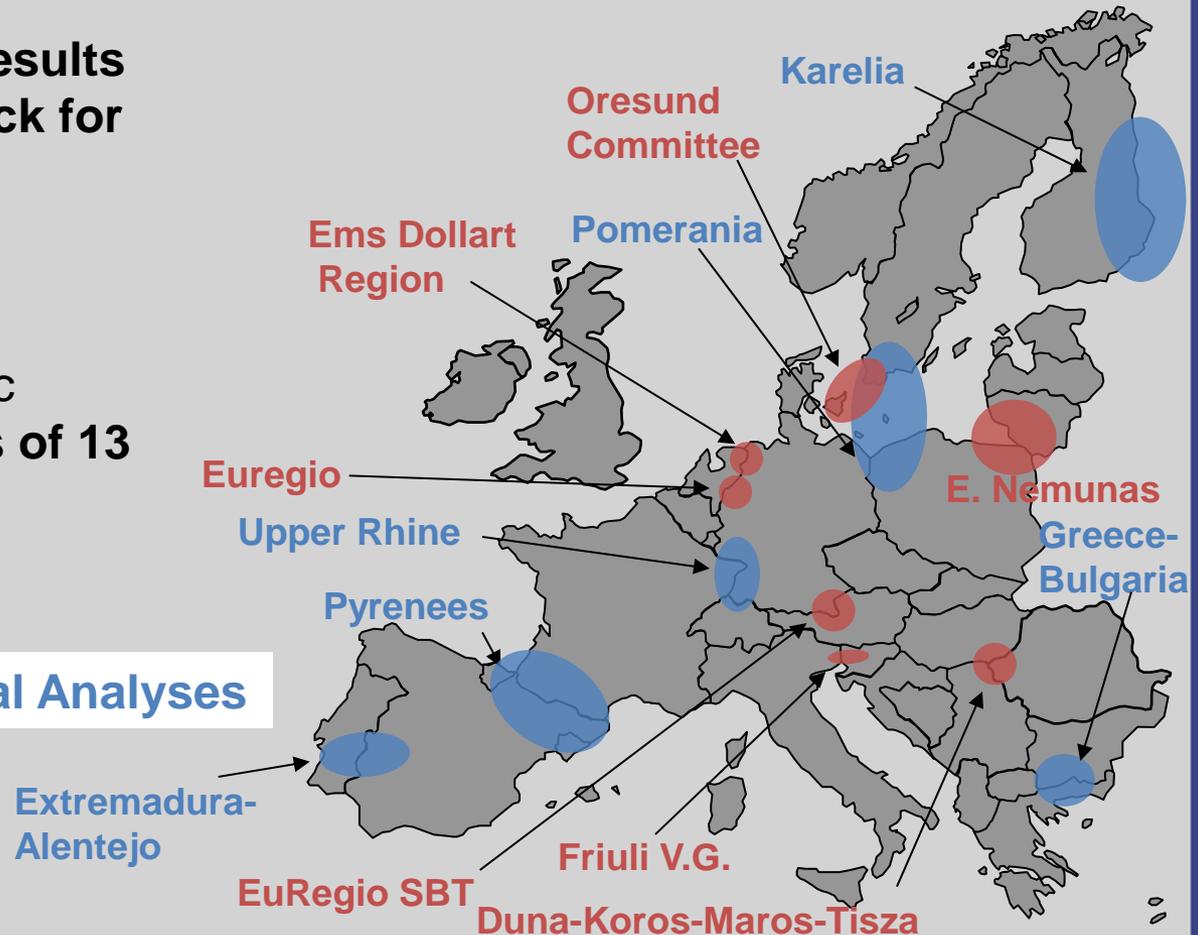
Ulysses project (2010-2012)

Using applied research results from ESPON as a yardstick for cross-border spatial development planning

Targeted analysis: specific request from stakeholders of 13 cross-border areas:

6 Multi-thematic Territorial Analyses

7 Data Fact Sheets



Data Fact Sheets (1)

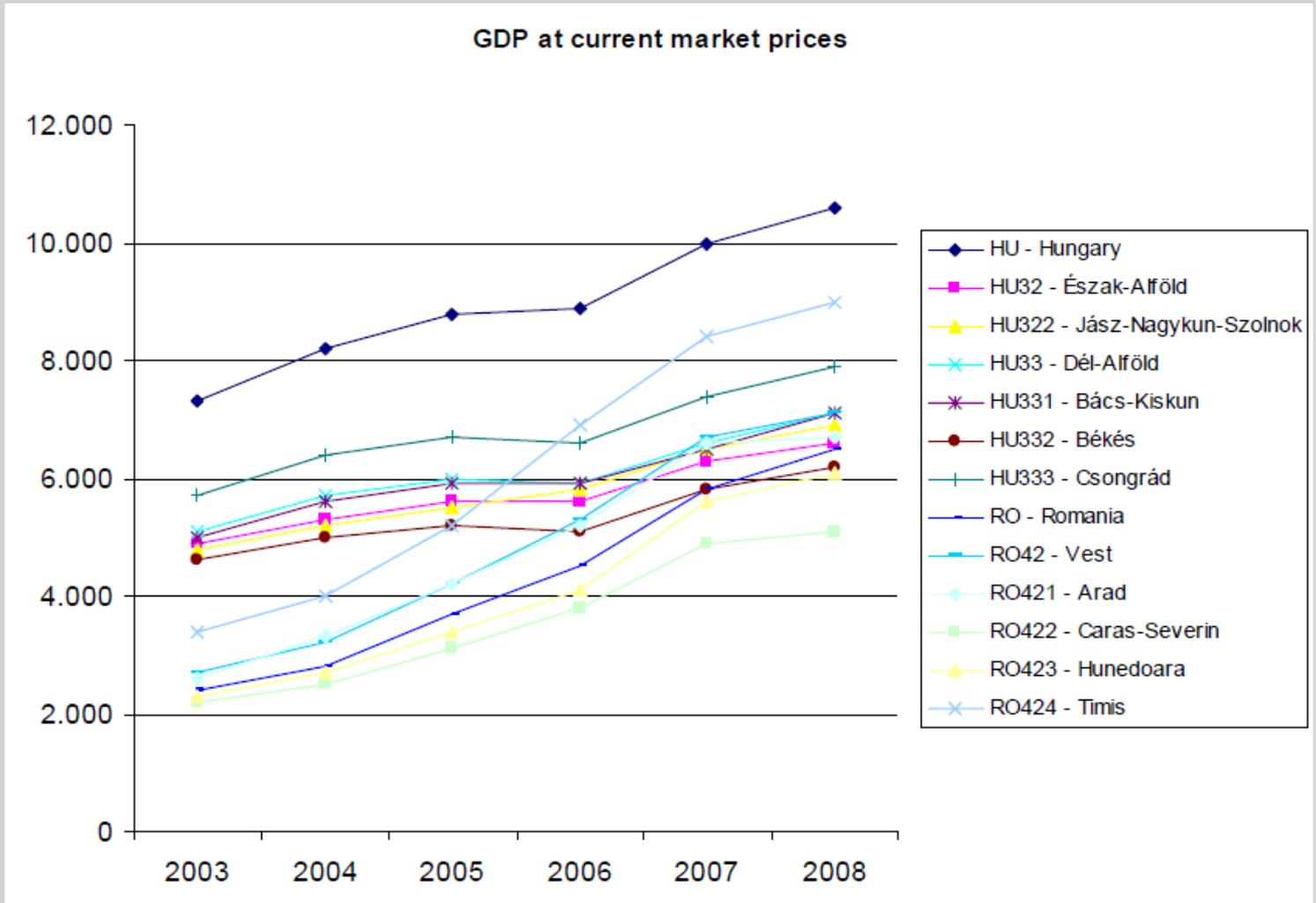
- Set of **indicators** chosen covering the main topics mentioned by **Territorial Agenda** and according to **relevance** and **data availability**. Indicators are related to:
 - Demography, Polycentric development, Urban-rural relationship, Accessibility and connectivity, Europe 2020 strategy and sustainable development (Gothenburg)
- **NUTS 3** level when possible
- **Sourced by** ESPON, EUROSTAT and 5th Cohesion Report databases). **Data gaps** covered by stakeholders

Additional analysis requested by stakeholders for:

- Tourism related indicators, separate analysis of modes of transport (railway, road, air) and employees with social insurance obligations (by EuRegio Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land-Traunstein)
- Population movements within the CBA (Oresund Committee)
- Cross-border commuting (Oresund Committee)
- Tailor made analysis of population in FUAs (EUREGIO)

Data Fact Sheets (2) - Duna-Koros-Maros-Tisza Euroregion

- GDP growth
- Most growth in RO
- RO-Timis ends up highest of CBA
- HU-CBA less than HU-country



Data Fact Sheets (3) - Results

Polycentric development

- In general terms, population in FUAs (Functional Urban Areas) as a share of total population has not varied largely from 2001 to 2006.
- Slight variations are found in the Ems Dollart Region and EUREGIO (here population in FUAs has increased in the German sector and decreased in the Dutch sector)

Europe 2020 Strategy

- GDP has grown in all CBA from 2001 to 2008,
- alongside a noteworthy increase in R&D expenditure.
- The economy of most CBA is service-oriented.
- Broadly speaking, unemployment rates (long-term and youth unemployment) are lower in the analysed CBA than the corresponding country and EU averages.
- The same holds for the population at risk of poverty and infant mortality rates.

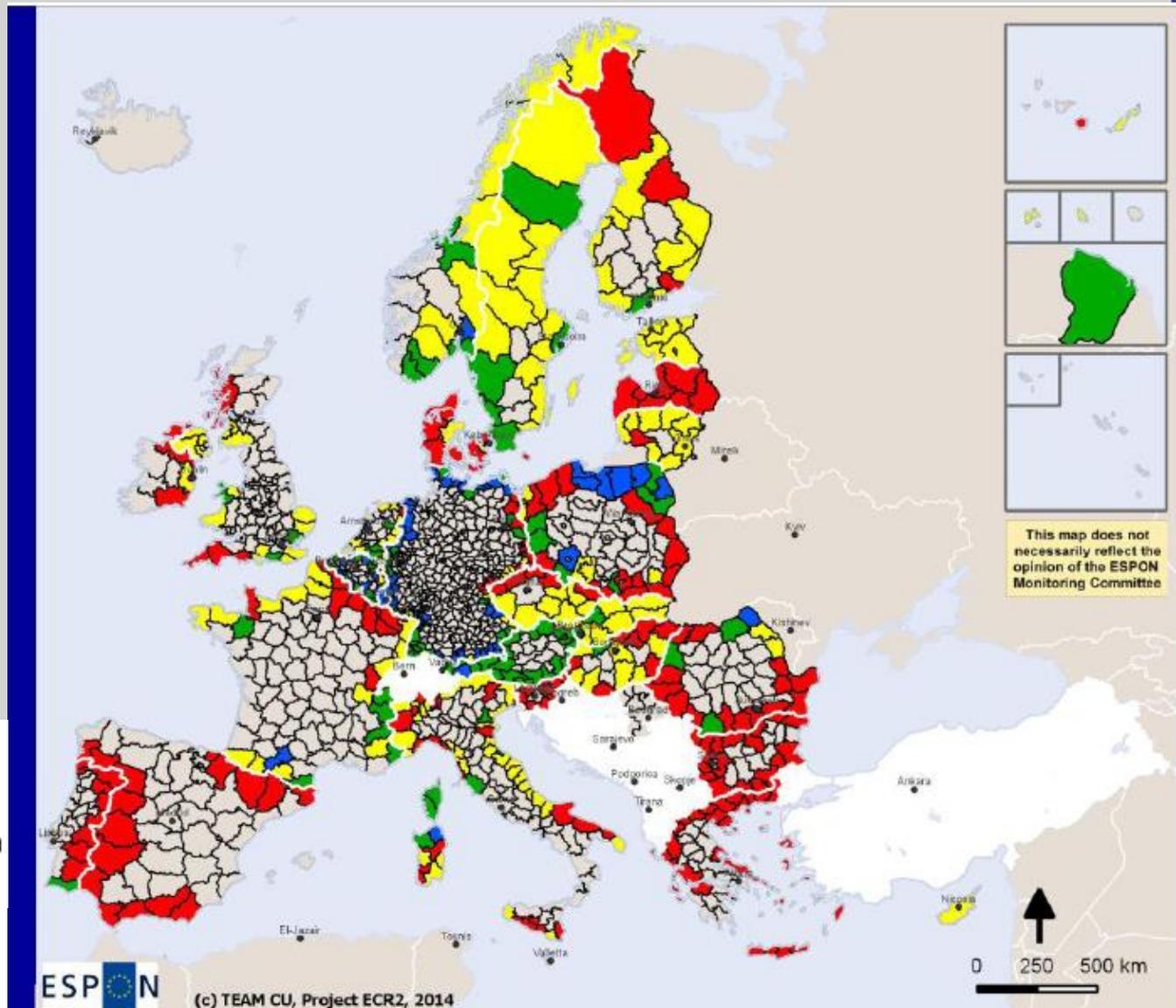
ECR2 - Economic Crisis: Resilience of Regions

Results of ECR2 (2012-2014):

- Territories with internal borders exhibit a stronger propensity to have recovered from the effects of the crisis
- Territories with external borders exhibit the weakest levels of resilience

Legend

- Not recovered: upturn
- Not recovered: no upturn
- No Data
- Resistant
- Recovered



Multi-thematic cross-border Territorial Analyses (MTA)

A comprehensive diagnosis for each of the six selected CBAs has been made using:

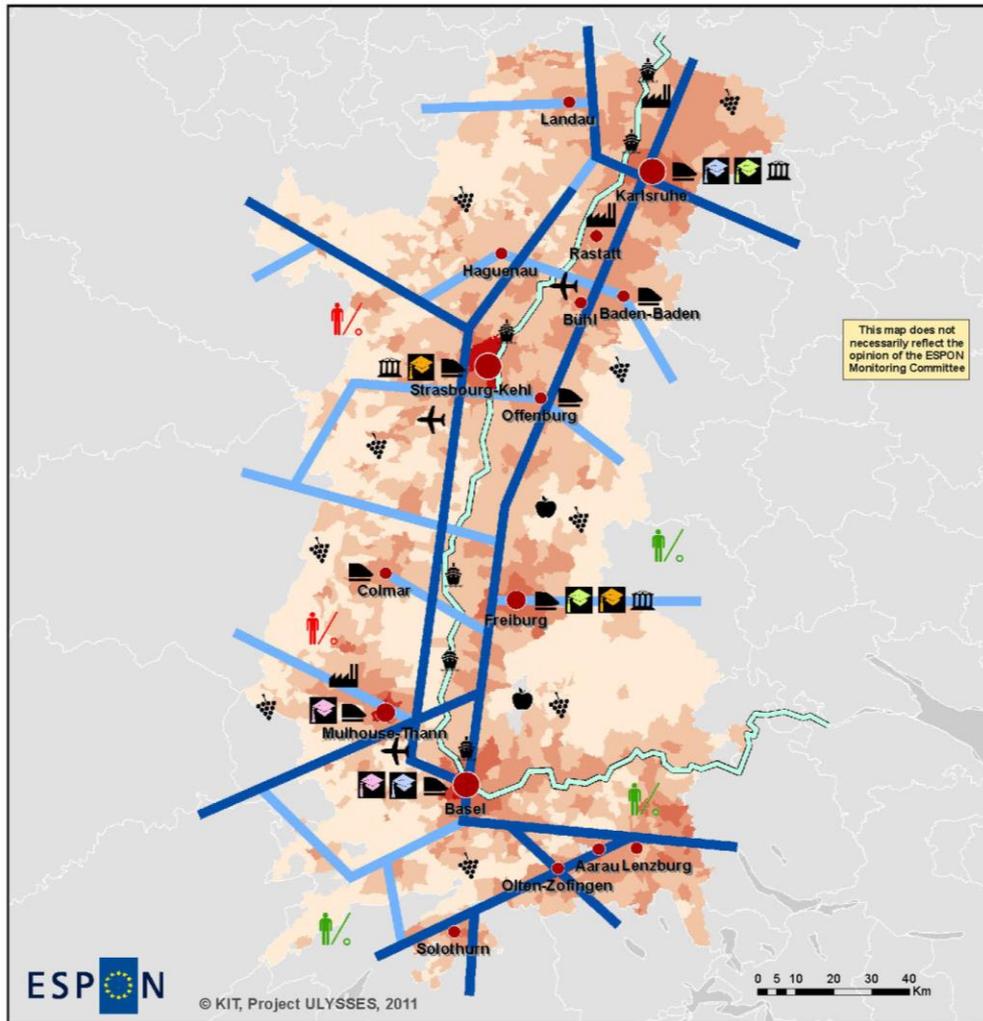
- Territorial analysis, focussed on the main topic of the Territorial Agenda
- In-depth statistical analysis followed by a more qualitative approach
- Cross-border institutional performance analysis

This analysis captured the diversity of governance frameworks existing within each CBA by paying regard to both:

- **the structural dimension**, i.e. the overall framework that can hardly be influenced by the partners of cross-border cooperation, as well as
- **the activity dimension**, i.e. the intensity and continuity of institutionalised cross-border cooperation on the regional level.

Results - Spatially explicit conclusions from territorial analyses

Tri-national Metropolitan Area Upper Rhine



Population density



R&D core area



Economy & Services



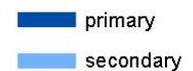
Economy & Services



FUAs & Population



Transport corridors



River Rhine



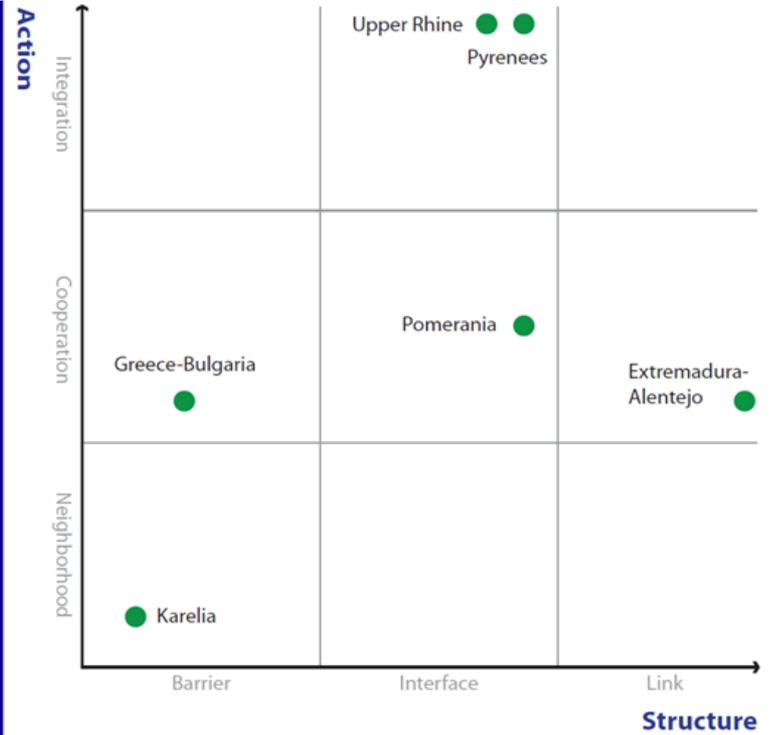
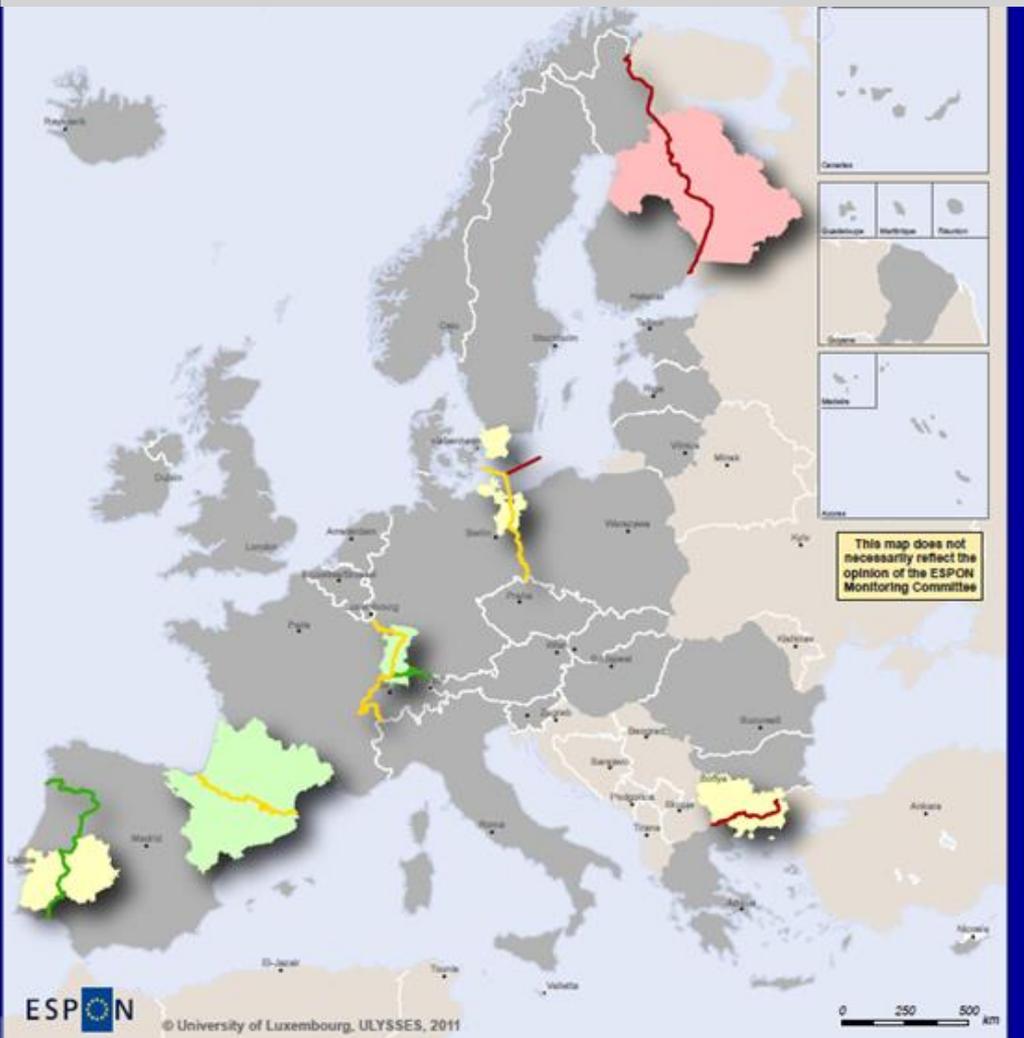
Results of MTA – Upper Rhine

- High demographic attractiveness of the CBR but strong intra-regional disparities.
- Polycentric urban system.
- High GDP per capita and low unemployment (accessibility, R&D, industry and patents)
- Great potential for cross-border research and educational activity
- High share of commuters.
- Intra-regional accessibility, esp. regarding public transport, to be enhanced (bound to national networks)
- Cross-border cooperation has a long tradition and has a diverse and differentiate governance structure with several cross-border institutions on different scales. Twofold situation:
 - They sometimes hinder each other and large time consumptions
 - Plurality of arenas, high density of stakeholders network and almost no stagnation

Overall conclusions from the MTA

1. Differences among CBAs appear to be very much a consequence of their overall EU location and not so much of their border position.
2. Borders keep playing a major role in explaining the behaviour of the different regions by dividing different national realities.
3. The border condition seems to be more relevant at the regional than at the local level.
4. Cross border commuting levels between different regions still tend to be low.
5. Borders seem to keep functioning as a limit for the diffusion effects of development poles

Results - conclusions from the governance analysis



Character of the cross-border cooperation (Activity dimension)

- Neighborhood
- Cooperation
- Integration

Character of the border (Structural dimension)

- Barrier
- Interface
- Link

Results - General conclusions from the governance analysis

1. The internal EU borders are, from a structural point of view, still more favourable for cross-border governance than, for example, external EU borders.
2. The degree of institutionalisation cannot be directly linked to any specific status or socio-economic level.
3. Socio-economic development alone does not determine cross-border governance.
4. All regions have to develop their own ways and mechanisms in order to exploit their cross-border potential.

Practical guide for CB territorial development strategies (1)

- **AEBR** had initiated the ESPON project ULYSSES with the purpose of addressing the needs of European border and cross-border areas, already experienced and those not yet having experiences.
- An important output of the ULYSSES project is a **practical guide for the elaboration of cross-border territorial development strategies**.
- The guide was elaborated by the AEBR and combined their practical cross-border co-operation experience with the main findings of the ULYSSES project.

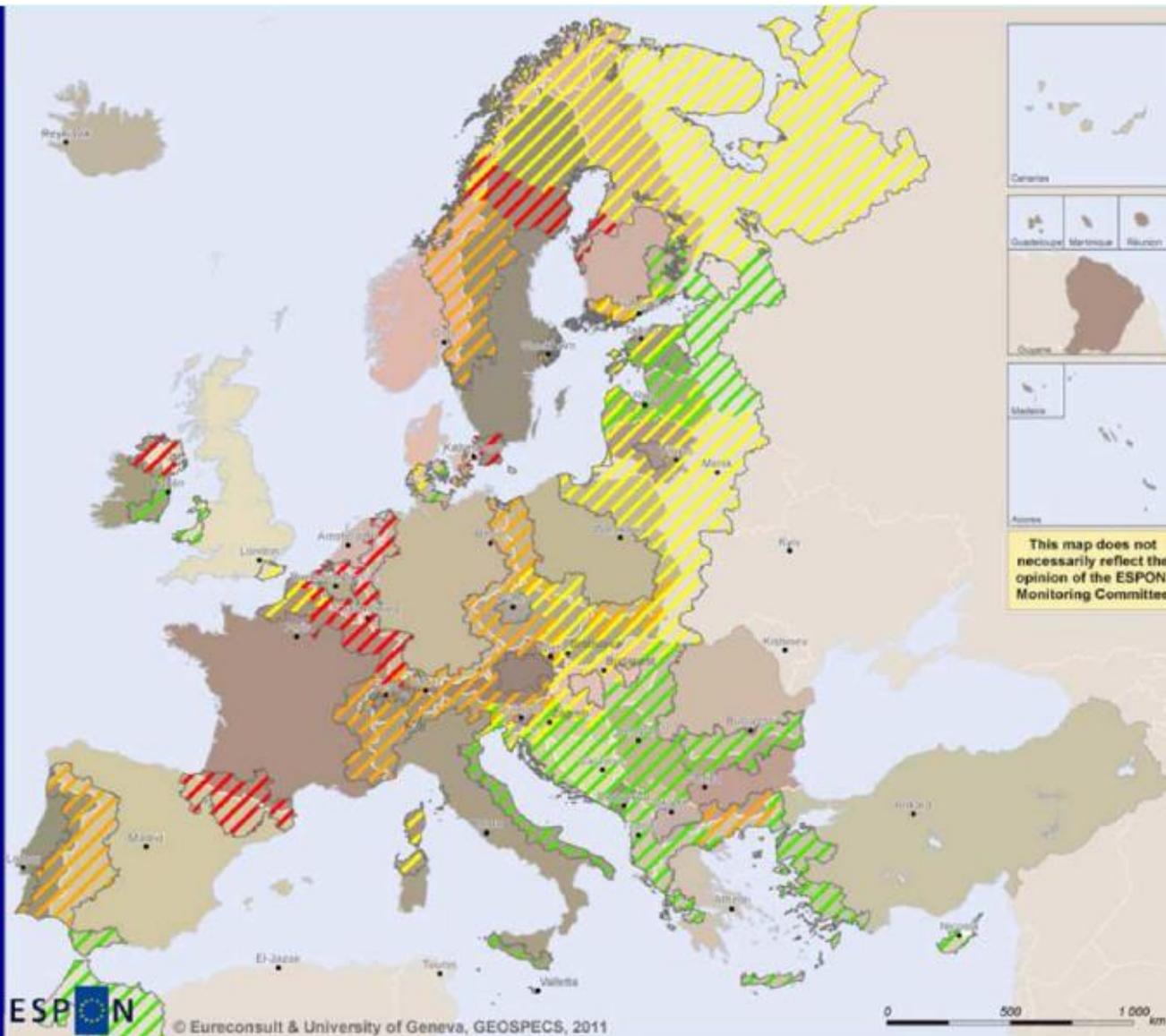
Content:

- Cross-border cooperation and territorial development strategies
- Phase I: how to carry out a comprehensive “territorial analysis”
- Phase II: elaborating a policy programme and the application framework
- Phase III: ensuring its political anchorage, realisation and validity/usefulness over time

Practical guide for CB territorial development strategies (2)

Classification of borders and CBAs

- 
 • Long-standing co-operation with a very high or high level of maturity
- 
 • Long-standing or experienced co-operation with a medium-high level of maturity
- 
 • Experienced or more recent co-operation with a medium-low level of maturity
- 
 • More recent co-operation with a low level of maturity



Practical guide for CB territorial development strategies (3)

How to put a cross-border development strategy into practice?

- Realisation through an existing cross-border co-operation structure
 - Advantages are: cross-border mindset; cross-border platform; organisational elements providing for a joint policy-level decision making; comprehensive knowledge; practical experiences
 - But ... it should not attempt to “implement” a cross-border development strategy oneself
- Realisation through EU-level support programmes
 - for elaborating the specific medium-term intervention strategy of INTERREG-programmes or ETC-cross-border programmes
 - for realising measures and project proposals suggested in their cross-border territorial development strategy (funds)
- Realisation through other local/regional or national development strategies
 - E.g. Introducing the objectives and suggestions for action of a finalised cross-border development strategy into country-wide national planning schemes

Practical guide for CB territorial development strategies (4)

Euregio Rhein-Waal:

Application framework of their "Cross-border development and action concept 2000-2010".

Based on their overall vision statement, overall development goal and other objectives, they formulated an **application framework for their cross-border development and action concept** which consists of two levels:

Level 1: "options for development & action" related to the 6 strategic development themes:

1. Spatial structure and accessibility;
2. Economy, technology and innovation;
3. Labour market and qualification;
4. Culture and tourism;
5. Nature, environment and agriculture;
6. Cross-border integration.

Level 2: "fields of actions" having a short and medium-term perspective and aiming at making the related options for action more concrete - in thematic or spatial terms.



Practical guide for CB territorial development strategies (5)

Euregio Rhein-Waal: Application framework of their "Cross-border development and action concept 2000-2010".

Strategic development theme Economy, technology and innovation:

The objective of this theme is:

- to support the economic development of the Euregio through
- using their **proximity to markets and clients**
- as well as the good provision with infrastructure,
- through maintaining and further developing **locational factors**
- and through improving the **economic structure** and the **external image**.

Practical guide for CB territorial development strategies (6)

Euregio Rhein-Waal: Application framework of their "Cross-border development and action concept 2000-2010".

The related "options for development and action" are:

- the strengthening of the area's position as an integrated and multi-functional economic space,
- the continued support to processes of structural change,
- the new location of enterprises in the area,
- the opening up of product and knowledge markets,
- the strengthening of the cross-border co-operation and cluster building,
- the increased use of SMEs potentials,
- further development of value added logistics and diminishing of the role of the Euregio as a transit area,
- the development and support to new growth-oriented technologies,
- research co-operation.

Impulse statements (1)

The following aspects are relevant for cross border polycentric regions:

- Borders, Geography, Regional delimitations, Scale, Cohesion, Diversity and Knowledge on current territorial trends
- Territorial cooperation:
 - Overarching importance of the structural funds, in particular with regard to the INTERREG programme
 - Beyond financial instruments also support from the European level is important (e.g. EGTC)
- Spatial development strategies:
 - The knowledge basis for cross-border regions is not comparable with the ones of domestic regions;
 - A stronger positioning of territorial development strategies seems to be the logic next step in cross-border cooperation
- Institutionalisation:
 - Key messages have to be institutionalised in a political way
 - Institutionalisation leads to a shared strategic objective that could be used to lobby national or European authorities in support of local actions

Impulse statements (2)

- The national level maintains a prime role in regional development despite the European effort in promoting territorial cohesion.
 - How to change this in a CB context?
- All regions have to develop their own ways and mechanisms in order to exploit their cross-border potential.
 - But what general rules / guidelines can be applied?
 - Could the ones from AEBR/ULYSSES be helpful?

Thank you for your attention

For more information:

www.espon.eu