

VASAB Annual Conference

“Integrated Approach to Spatial Development of Europe – Meaning of Territorial Cohesion”

7-8 February 2011, Warsaw, Poland

Towards territorial cohesion in the North-Eastern part of Europe, the EU-FI-RU border

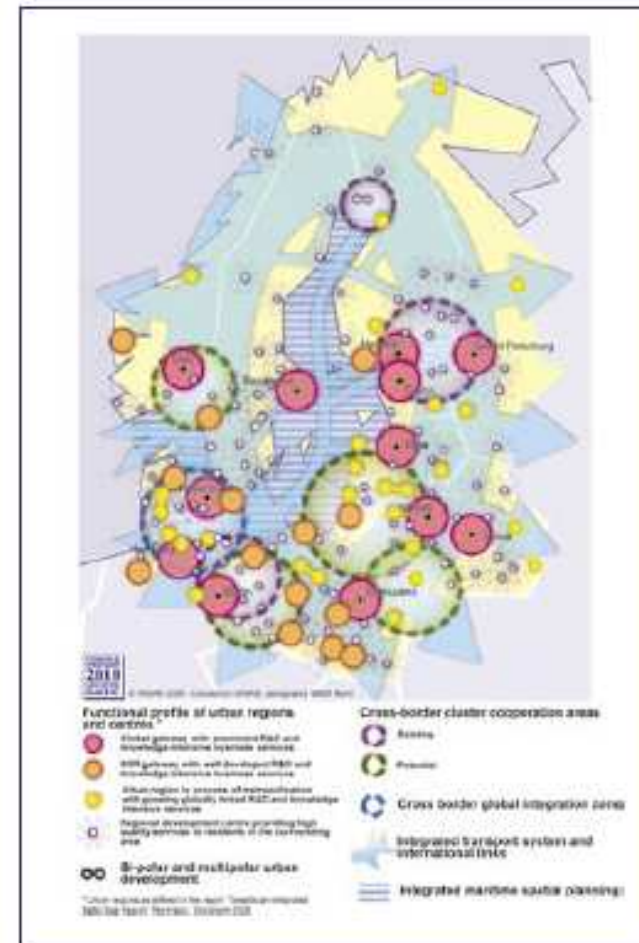
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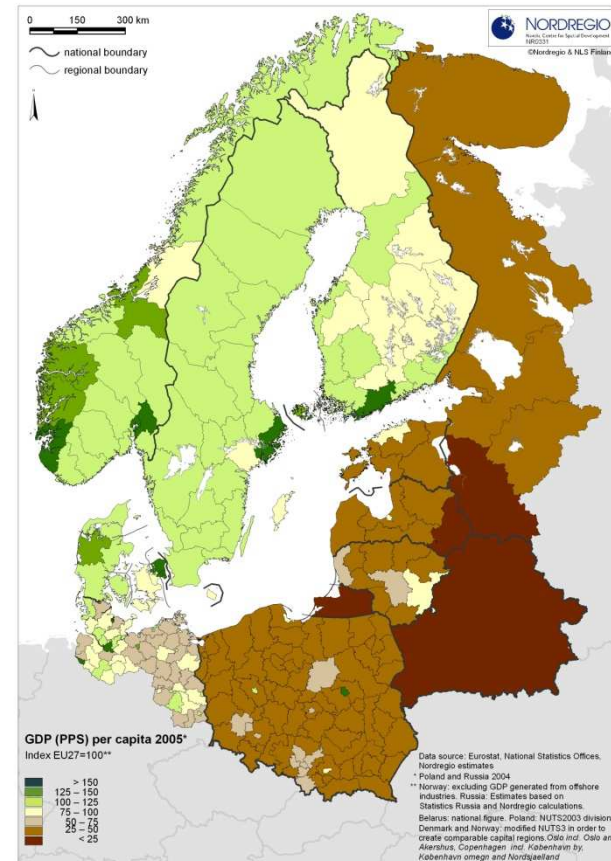
1. Introduction

- Territorial cohesion
- EU's territorialisation process
 - internal dimension
 - external dimension



2. EU's Eastern Border Regions

- Double peripheries
- Lines of exclusion as arenas of cooperation?
- Coordination of internal and external dimensions of territorialisation in EU policies?



3. Finnish-Russian Border

- 1st land border between the EU and Russia - a pilot case
- Legacy of history relatively problem-free
- 1300 km long – different regional/local situations (St. Petersburg/Leningrad Region, Karelian Republic, Murmansk Region)
- Only one "twin town" (Imatra/Svetogorsk), cross-border v. interregional co-operation

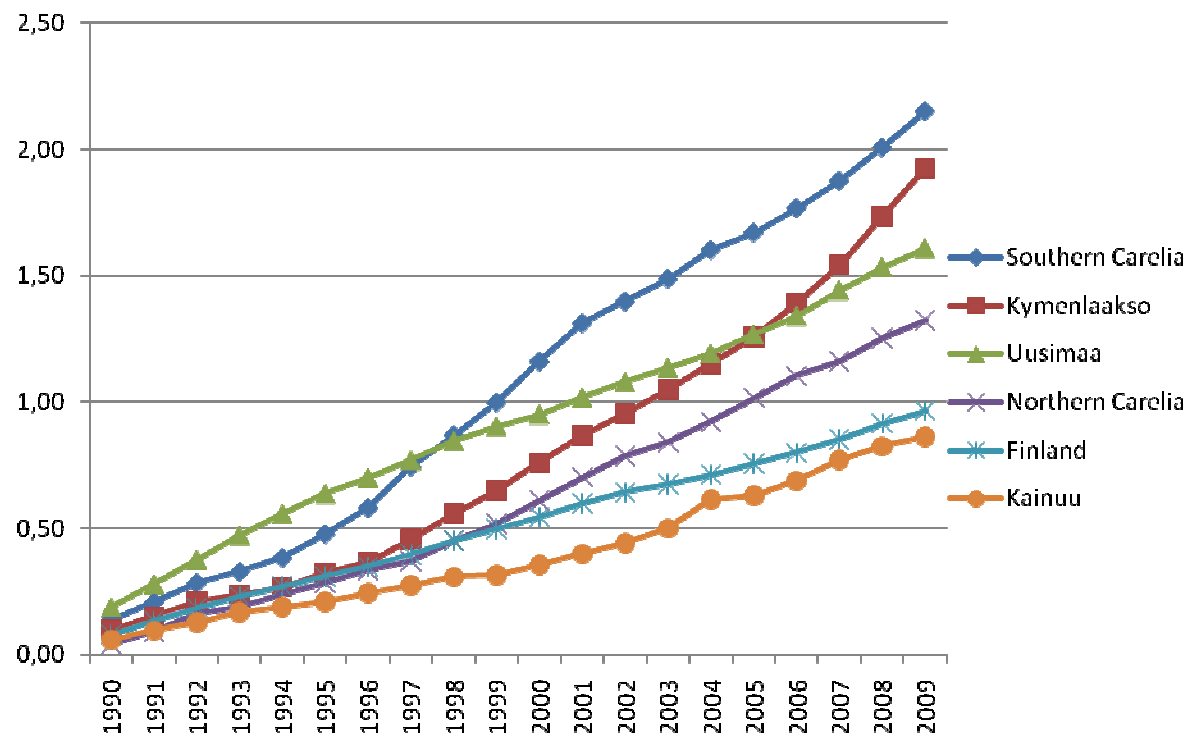
4. Brief history of CBC

- In the 1990s: Finnish and EU co-operation initiatives: technical assistance and humanitarian aid to Russian municipalities, public institutions and NGOs
- Private contacts, e.g. migration > a growing trans-border bicultural community
- Euregio Karelia



Growth of Russian-speaking residents (NUTS 3), 1990-2009

Russian-speaking population of the total population, %

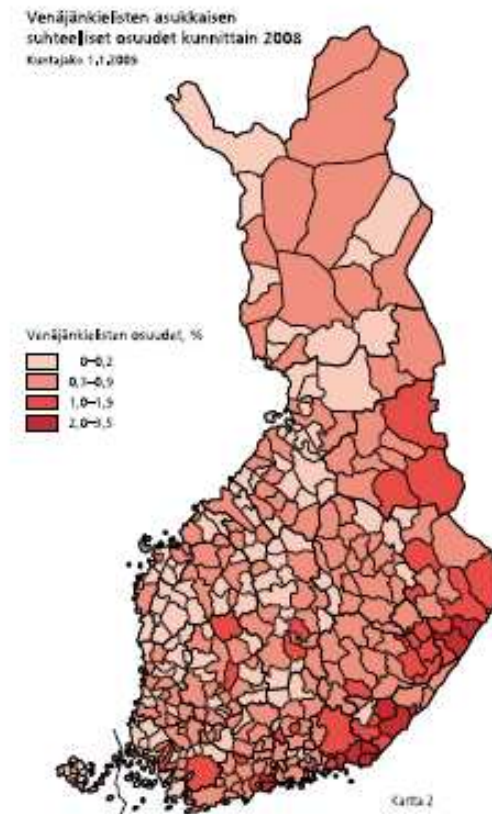


More recent experiences

- Uncertainties and tensions in the geopolitical context
 - Russia: protectionism v. modernisation
 - Problems with ENP
- However,
- Co-operation at a regional and local level continues
 - Market-based cross-border flows grew rapidly until 2008 (e.g., up to 25 per cent Russia's total imports via Finland)

5. Eastern border regions in Finland

- Policy focus on functional regions at various scales
- Cross-border links as key part of territorial capital in border regions
- Specific transport needs



6. Conclusions

- Geopolitical frame: EU-Russia
- Regionalisation contexts such as BSR important
- Towards territorial cohesion?

Thank you for your attention!

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