Implementation of Territorial Cohesion in Sweden

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Concentration of population in the Nordic countries
The democratic system in Sweden

**National level**
- Elections to the Riksdag (Swedish parliament)
- The Riksdag elects the Prime Minister, who forms a government

**Regional level**
- Elections to the County Council Assembly
- The County Council Assembly elects the County Council Executive Board

**Local level**
- Elections to the Municipal Council
- The Municipal Council elects the Municipal Executive Board

20 County Councils
21 Counties
290 Municipalities
Functional regions – labor markets based on commuting
Terminology related to Territorial Cohesion

- Spatial development / spatial planning ("l'aménagement du territoire", "town and country planning", "raumplanung")
- Territorial development / Territorial Cohesion / Territorial Agenda
- Regional development / regional growth

Other related terms:

- Place-based approach
- Cross-border and cross-sectoral development
- Multi-level Governance
The institutional settings

- The EU Commission (DG Regio / TCUM) + stakeholders (CoR, CEMR, CPMR, AEBR etc.)
- MS-cooperation (NTCCP, UDG and DG-meetings)
- Informal ministerial meetings
- Different ministries in different countries
- VASAB (Baltic Sea Region)
- Nordic Council of Ministers (EK-R)
- Evidence base from ESPON, Nordregio, etc

In Sweden:

- Ministries and state agencies
- Regions and municipalities
What is the aim of Regional/Territorial Policy?
• Handle the regional challenges / problems
• Releasing the territorial potentials of all regions

Key question: Are there underperforming regions in relation to their assets and potential?

What is the aim of the governance system?
• Doing the right things / find the right priorities
• Doing things right / efficient governance
The Swedish view on Territorial Cohesion (1)

Not a new policy but, a method within Cohesion Policy for a more integrated approach to territorial development based on the principle of subsidiarity.

Cross-cutting in three dimensions:

- Over geographical administrative borders - cross-border
- Between sector policies - cross-sectoral
- From EU-level to local - multi-level governance
The Swedish view on Territorial Cohesion (2)

• All regions **territorial potential** should be released and developed in an efficient and sustainable way
• The right policy mix adjusted to every region's territorial possibilities and assets – a **place-based policy** approach
• A **flexible, functional and cross-border** regional perspective
• **Territorial specificities and regional balance**
Why cross-sectoral coordination and coherence?

Each sector policy can more efficiently meet their goals if different territorial specificities are taken into account.
Examples of cross-sectoral coordination in Sweden

- **Thematic groups of agencies** based around the priorities in the national strategy for regional competitiveness, entrepreneurship and employment
- **The National Strategy to strengthen the development in rural areas** aims at including the rural perspective in all policy areas
- **Regional coordinators** dealing with the effects of the financial and economical crisis met the State Secretaries from different ministries regularly
Why multi-level governance?

**Issues have different geographical scales and boundaries, often covering territories in two or more countries**
Examples of multi-level governance in Sweden

• National forum on regional competitiveness, entrepreneurship and employment is a platform for political dialogue among national and regional representatives

• The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region as a way to addresses multi-level, cross-cutting and horizontal topics that are not necessarily linked to specific policies or sectors
The Regional Development Plan for the Stockholm Region (RUFS 2010)

- A polycentric and dense urban structure supported by a developed traffic network, new companies setting up and an attractive range of education, culture and services.

- A vision for a larger functional region of East Central Sweden with an urban structure linked together with rail transports as a basis.
Thank you for your attention!

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