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REGIONAL POLICY

Urban-Rural divide and partnership in Europe

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Urban-rural partnership: where does it come from?

- ESDP, 1999: polycentric spatial development and a new urban–rural relationship
- Territorial Agenda, 2007: « We need new forms of partnership and territorial governance between rural and urban areas»
- Green paper on territorial cohesion, 2008:
 - Concentration, connection and co-operation
 - Questions for debate: definition; scale and scope of action; better co-operation; better coordination; new partnerships; improving understanding of TC



Urban-rural partnership: where are we now at EU level?

- 3 seminars on Urban Rural linkages
- 3 seminars on territorial cohesion

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/consultation/terco/index_en.htm

- Action Plan of Territorial Agenda: action 1.1a (coord CZ)
 - ES: « Urban and rural narratives and spatial development trends in Europe » MCRIT for ES presidency

http://www.mcrit.com/urban_rural/



MCRIT's conclusions (1)

- Fuziness of geographies: beyond urban and rural narratives
- Geography of flows: beyond core and periphery paradigm
- Network relationships: connexity
- Placed based development strategies: attractiveness
- Economic diversification of rural areas



MCRIT's conclusions (2)

- Territorial identity still matters
- More efficient and sustainable resource management
- Access to public services, from sensitive neighbourhoods to sparsely populated areas
- Empowering local communities and project based partnerships
- Cooperation in territories with variable geometries



- Territorial Cohesion in the Lisbon Treaty, as shared competence of EU and MS!
- But what is it about?
 - ensuring **harmonious, sustainable and polycentric development**
 - **enabling** citizens and enterprises
 - to make the most of their territorial capital
 - **to benefit from and contribute to** European integration + the Single Market
 - **wherever they happen to live or operate**

TC, territorial dimension of sustainable development

4 Key areas for fostering TC



1. Territorial programming

...at every stage of the programme cycle

Necessity to increase support

- for **integrated local development initiatives** in diverse contexts (urban, rural, urban-rural ...), based on URBAN and LEADER experience; common approach for ERDF, EAFRD, EFF
- at the appropriate geographical level, preferably **functional areas** (e.g.: TTWA,...)
- But the regional scale remains the reference for programming

Possible options

- Mandatory **territorial dimension in NSRFs and OPs**
- Providing greater flexibility in designing programmes (multi regional)
- Improving the partnership approach: more involvement of **local authorities**; global grants...



2. Cooperation between territories:

**Integrated strategies in cross-border regions and macro-regions:
territories are concerned! ...including urban rural**

Possible options

- Cooperation in **strategic policy documents (CSG, NSRF,...)**
- **Reinforced link between transnational co-operation and macro-regional strategies** (but 2 different things)
- Better **coordination** across borders of legislation, strategies and funding
- within **multi-level governance; EGTC**, eg for **cross border territories**
- Focus on **external dimension: enhancing ENPI**

Interregional cooperation:

- Linking network activities to mainstream OPs ("**RfEC** " approach)
- Enhancing **networking on territorial and urban issues**



3. Coordination of policies with territorial impact

Need for **horizontal coordination** at each level; **vertical coordination** between levels

Possible options:

- Greater territorial dimension in the **EU2020 Strategy**
- Improved alignment and **coordination of funds**; “Common EU Strategic Framework” (for ERDF, EAFRD, EFF, ESF) and NSRF, describing coordination procedures
- Territorial and urban monitoring within the **strategic follow-up**
- Integrated methodological framework to analyse **territorial impacts** (ESPON, Territorial Agenda)
- **Inter service Group** on Territorial Cohesion



4. Evidence-based policy making

- Ability to measure diverse **assets as well as constraints** of territories
- Need to go below NUTS 2
- Need for prospective studies (territorial scenarios, visions); eg: EDORA and the « urban-rural meta-narrative »

Possible options:

- Encouraging use of existing data and analysis: Urban Audit, Urban Atlas, ESPON
- **Refined data sets and new territorial indicators**, in close cooperation with **national Statistical Offices**.



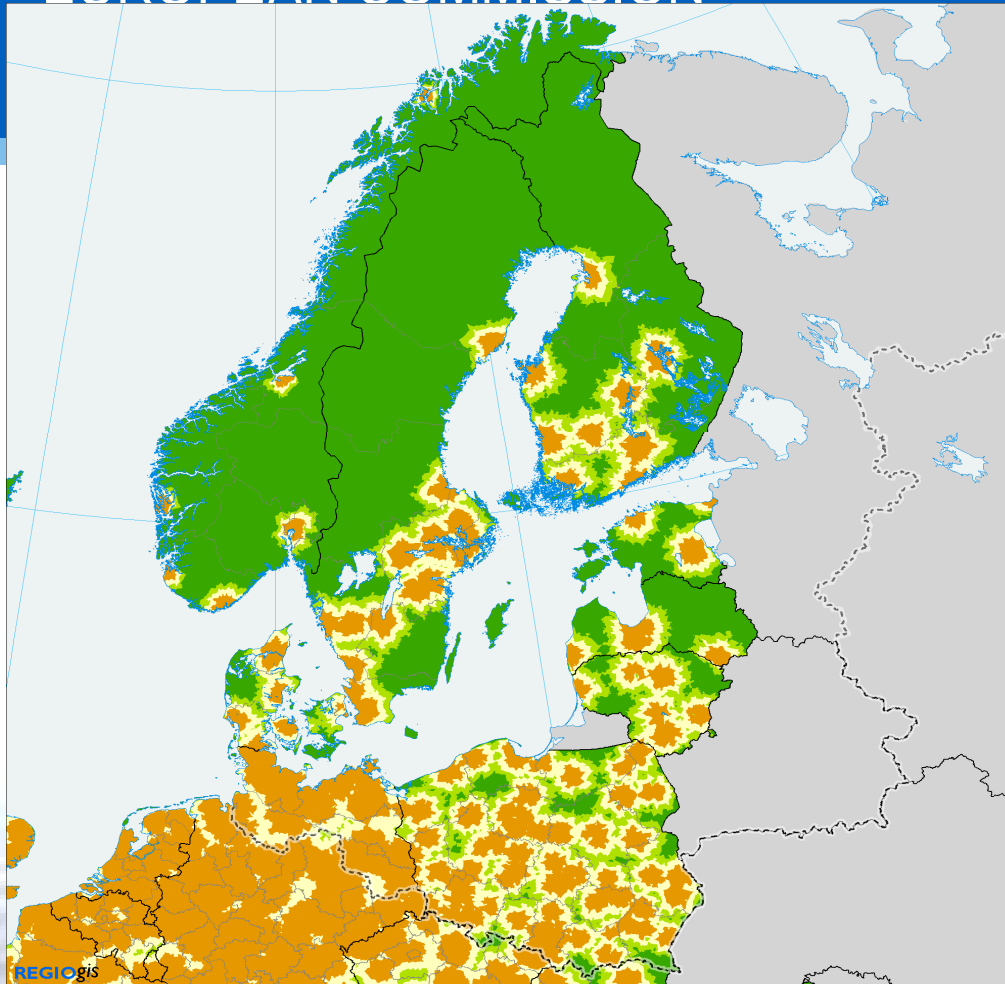
And in the Baltic Sea Region ?

- Transnational co-operation: Article 6.2.b: « Sustainable urban development: strengthening polycentric development at transnational, national and regional level. Actions may include: the creation and improvement of urban networks and urban-rural links; strategies to tackle common urban-rural issues(...) »
- VASAB and the Baltic Sea Strategy: what role for spatial planning?



Some issues to launch the discussion

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**Baltic Sea Area :
Accessibility by road to cities with at least 50 000 inhabitants**

- 0 - 30 minutes
- 30 - 45 minutes
- 45 - 60 minutes
- > 60 minutes

Sources:
OECD, Eurostat, EuroGeographics,
EEA, JRC, REGIO-GIS

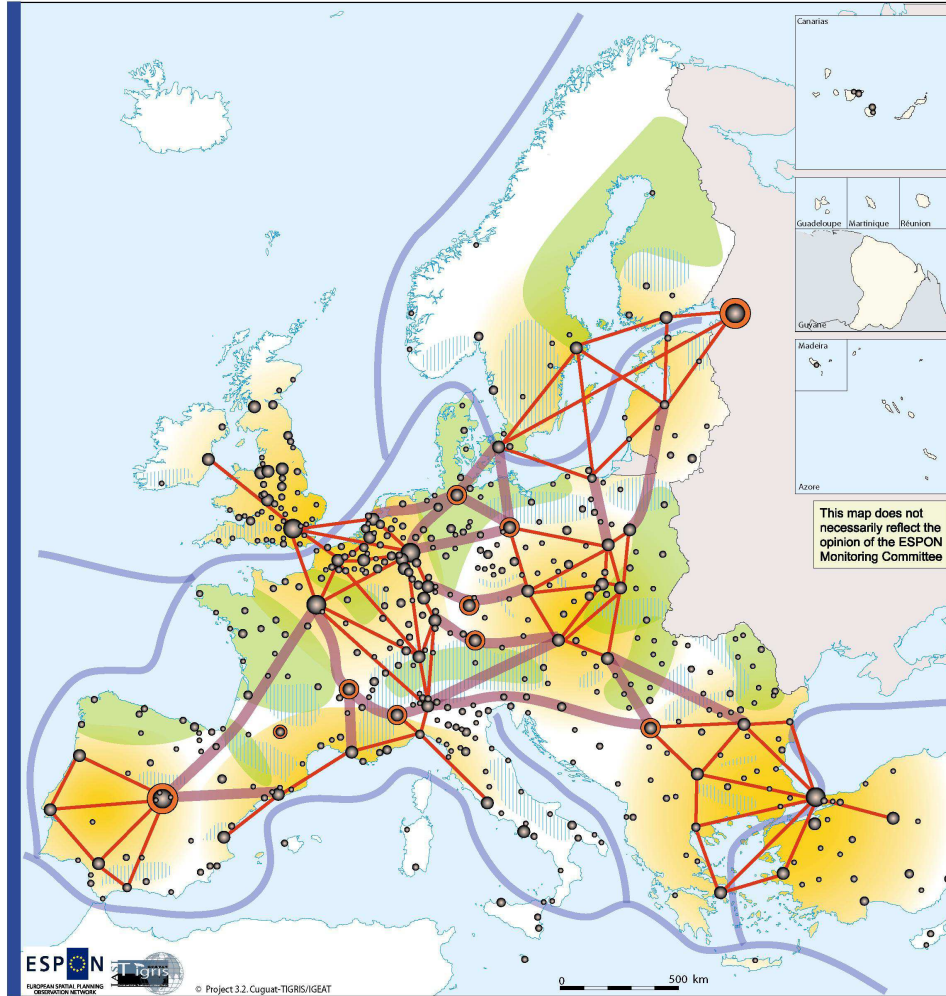
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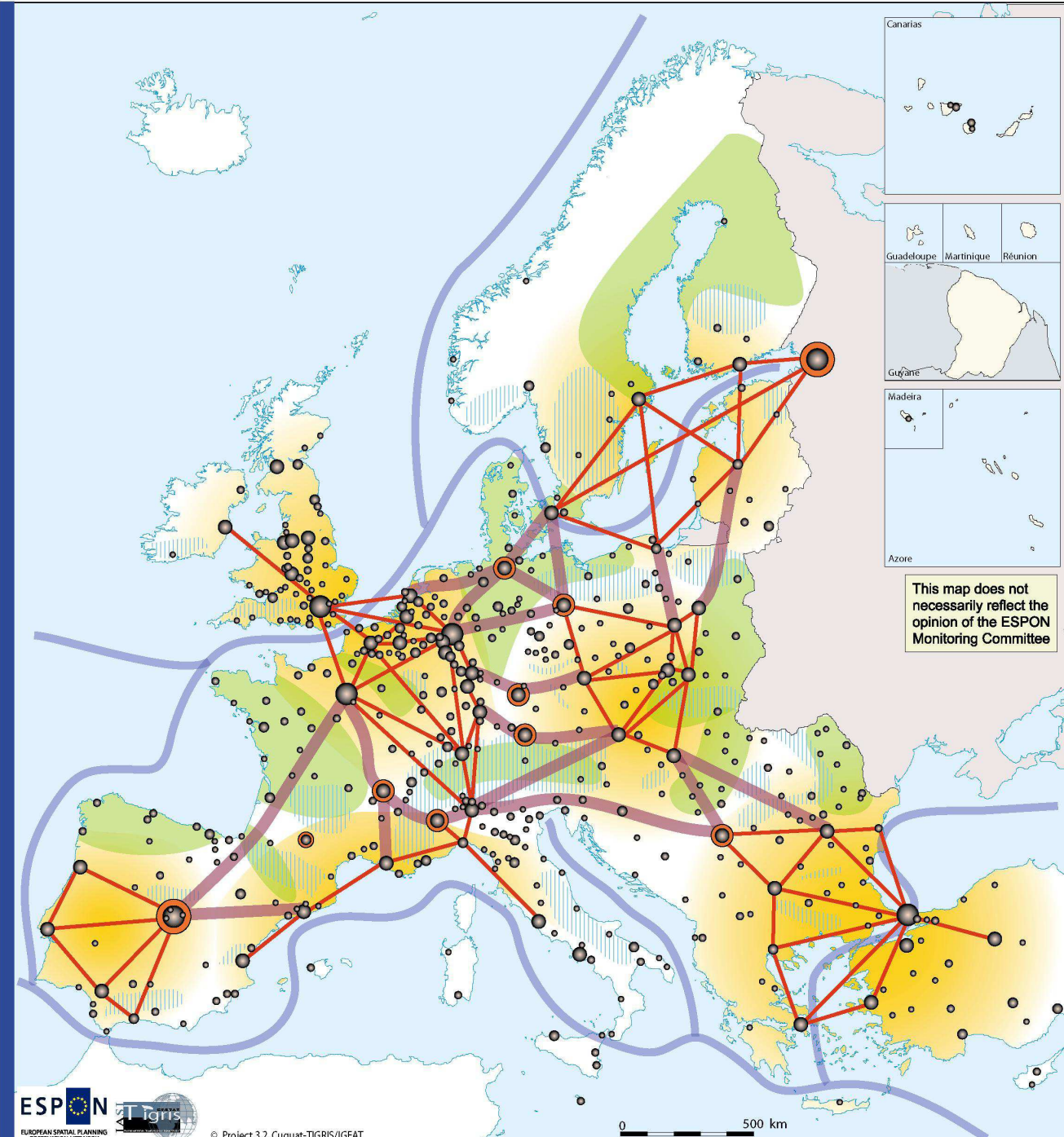
Roll Back Proactive Scenario - Image 2030



-  Area of economic integration
-  Major urban network
-  Link between areas of economic integration
-  Linking city
-  Major maritime freight route
-  Biomass production area
-  Area with dynamic residential economy



Roll Back Proactive Scenario - Image 2030





Next steps

- November 2010: 5th Cohesion report
- 31/01-1/2 2011: Cohesion forum
- Spring 2011: financial perspectives 2014/2020; draft regulations
- 1st semester 2011: HU Presidency: TA revision (in coordination with the UDG, as decided in Toledo)
- 2nd semester 2011: PL Presidency: TA Action plan; link with future Cohesion policy ?



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Thank you for your attention!

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