Role of polycentric development and capital cities in the future prosperity of Central Europe

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“(25) We stress that polycentric and balanced territorial development of the EU is **key element of achieving territorial cohesion**. Where the most developed cities and regions within Europe cooperate as parts of a polycentric pattern they add value and act as centres **contributing to the development of their wider regions.**”

(26) At the same time we aim at polycentric development at the macro-regional, cross-border and also on national and regional level in relevant cases. Where possible, it is important to avoid **polarization between capitals**, metropolitan areas and medium sized towns on the national scale.”

Territorial Agenda 2020
Should we focus on large capital cities only? Are smaller cities and rural areas doomed?

NO!

- „Fat tail” effect: together they make a significant contribution
- Important centers of jobs, public and private services
- Provide links to innovation centres and global value chains
Some OECD findings

Figure 2.4. Larger metropolitan areas are more productive, 2010

Figure 2.7. Less fragmented metropolitan areas have experienced higher growth
Annual average GDP per capita growth, 2000-10

Figure 3.16. Economic growth increases with proximity to large cities
ESPON Territorial Scenarios

Vision for 2050:
Making Europe Open and Polycentric

Scenarios for 2050:

A: Market based growth favouring large metropoles
B: The promotion and networking of cities
C: The promotion of small cities and less developed regions
Gross domestic product (GDP) per inhabitant, in purchasing power standard (PPS), by NUTS level 2 region, 2013 (*)

(% of the EU-28 average, EU-28 = 100)

Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO © Tarkistat
Cartography: Eurostat — GISCO, 05/2015

(*) Germany: only available for NUTS level 1 regions. Switzerland: only available at national level. Norway: 2012.
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: nama_1or_2gdp and nama_10_pc)
Identifying development poles and axes at two levels:

1. **rank**: capital cities, regional centres
2. **rank**: regional and local centres
NDTC - National Development 2030
EU cohesion policy 2007-2013
EU cohesion policy 2014-2020
Share of the CHR-component on the territorial impacts the spending

(Source: Effects of EU Funding on Territorial Cohesion, HÉTFA Research Institute, 2013)
Age dependency, 2013
Regional state aid
Questions

Can development centres lead the change?

How can we enhance positive spill-over effects?

How to foster cooperation between different territories?
Thank you for your attention!

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