

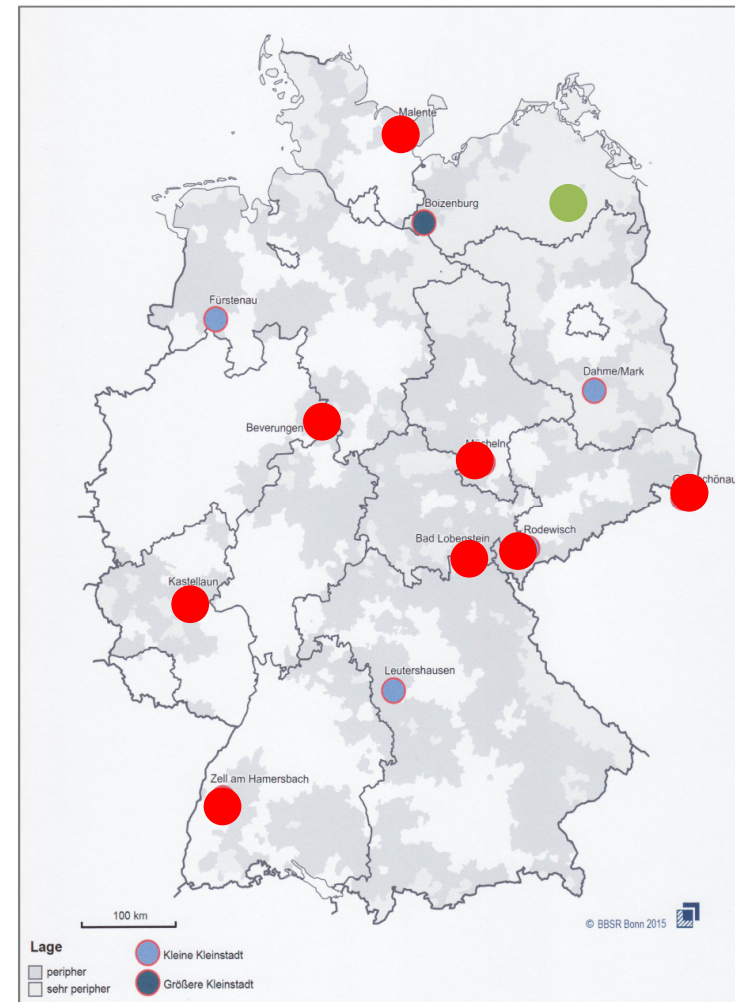
Scenario planning for small cities in Germany

Experience and results

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Our mission

- identification of new potentials of small towns in peripheral areas
- methodological framework for scenario processes in eight cities
- implementation of the process and assessment of the results
- February 2016 – September 2018



Our approach

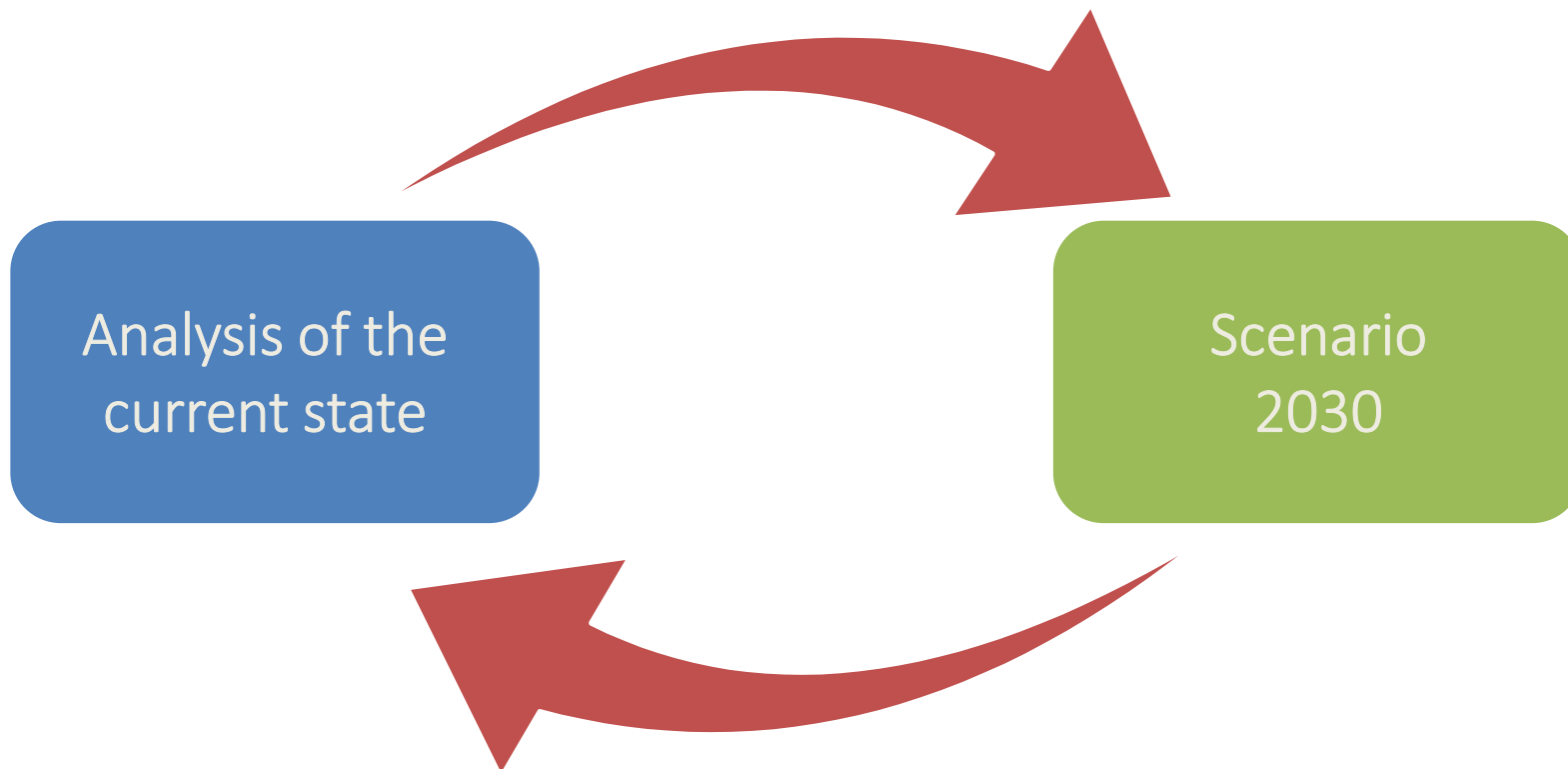
How to find new ideas for the cities?

(1) cooperation and participation, (2) use of creative techniques like scenarios

- scenario building as a intuitional participation process for the locals instead of a explorative process for experts
- holistic, integrated approach and creative step into the future
- narrative scenario as generally understandable and attractive way to present the ideas
- acceptance of the approach and the results

Phases of the scenario process

The step into the future



Transfer of new ideas into the present

Vision 2030



Our experience and results

- New potentials? familiar topics in the light of new qualities, solutions, projects – cooperation and digitalisation as part of new solutions
- currently used potential – theoretical usable potential – realisable potential
- holistic strategic orientation – transfer into strategic concepts
- chance to implement a new culture of planning and decision making
- side effects, weak outcomes: initial impulse, collective learning processes, confidence and openness
- problem continuation – process and realisation of projects

A good city tells a story.

- A narrative approach allows to provide holistic views of the future, to pick up early signals of the coming future.
- This way of scenario building can be understood as inclusive activity. It “enables actors to co-construct shared understandings of what their situation is and what can be done.” (Rasmussen 2005)
- Stories can be catalysts for change. They are not supposed to replace analytical thinking. Instead, they may be seen as a bridge between the analytically oriented planning and the creatively oriented vision making.
- Small cities as alternative to metropolises. Therefore the small cities need attention, support and new, good stories.