

3RD EU MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES WEEK

7-11 MARCH 2022

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The Ukrainian Presidency
of the EU Strategy
for the Danube Region





SPATIAL STRATEGIES SUPPORTING GREEN AND JUST TRANSITION IN EUROPEAN MACRO-REGIONS

08 March 2022



The Ukrainian Presidency
of the EU Strategy
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EU Strategy for the Danube Region

- The EUSDR addresses a wide range of issues and topics divided among four Pillars and 12 thematic Priority Areas:

PA 1a Waterway mobility
PA 1b Rail-Road-Air Mobility
PA 2 Sustainable Energy
PA 3 Culture and Tourism
PA 4 Water quality
PA 5 Environmental Risks
PA 6 Biodiversity and landscapes, quality of air and soil
PA 7 Knowledge society
PA 8 Competitiveness
PA 9 People and Skills
PA 10 Institutional Capacity and Cooperation
PA 11 Security





EUSDR Action Plan & Strategic Topics

85 Actions in
the EUSDR
Action Plan

36 Strategic
Topics

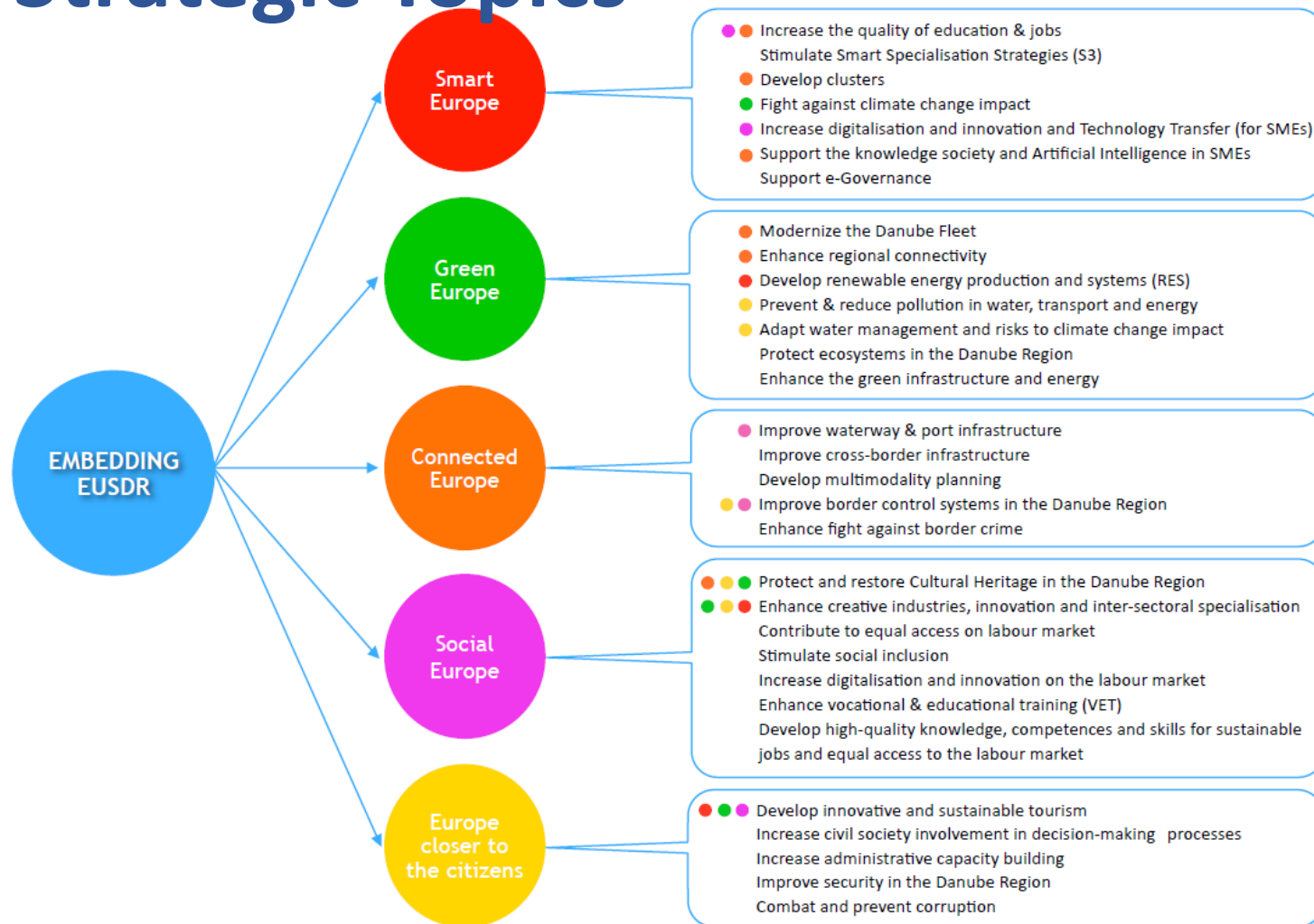
TOP 5
Strategic
Topics

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With the revision of the [EUSDR Action Plan](#) in 2020 (SWD(2020) 59 final), a better compatibility of the defined Actions and targets with programmes and funding instruments was achieved. This allows a targeted embedding into the programmes' objectives and to define potential synergies and complementarities.

The core EUSDR stakeholders agreed on a shortlist of concise strategic (transnational) topics, providing a consolidated and concise guidance for 'project pipelines'.

TOP 5 strategic topics among programmes include energy efficiency, decarbonisation, climate change, green infrastructure etc.





EUSDR contribution to EU Green Deal and Just Transition

The active commitment of the EUSDR to environmental protection and climate change as well as the continuity of this thematic focus was assessed as very positive in the EUSDR Policy/Impact Evaluation, that is currently being conducted by Spatial Foresight. The Interim Report highlights that the potential **contribution of the EUSDR to the objectives of the EU Green Deal is high** and refers to two impact areas:

1. The EUSDR can bring in added value to relevant activities and investments related to the green transition at national level through facilitating **coordination** in decision-making and action, **cross-sectoral approaches**, **multi-level governance** and **stakeholder involvement**.
2. The EUSDR plays an important role to **transfer** the EGD priorities and **objectives to the third countries in the Danube Region**, in line with the role of EUSDR in **European integration**. For example, the relevance of the EGD is already highlighted in the 'Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans'.



EUSDR contribution to EU Green Deal and Just Transition

Examples of thematic contribution:

- **Counteracting Climate Change** is an important **horizontal objective** of the EUSDR Action Plan.
- The topic and relevant measures are mentioned under **several PA Actions**, such as actions to **slow down global warming** and for a **better adaptation and increased resilience, securing water supply** for people and agriculture, coping with increasing and more frequent **natural hazards**, preserving and restoring **biodiversity** etc.
- Actions related to climate change and the transition to an emission free society can be found especially under PA 2 and PA 5, with contributions brought also by PA 1A, PA 1B, PA 3, PA 4, PA 6, PA 7, PA 9 and PA 10.
- Also, the EUSDR **Presidencies** have put environmental protection high on their agendas, e.g.:
 - In 2020, the HR PCY put an important focus on **Environmental protection and sustainable economic development**.
 - The following SK PCY considered **climate change and the protection of biodiversity** as two key challenges.
 - The UA PCY has put high on their agenda **Sustainable Development through Decarbonisation and Economic Transformation**.

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Baseline scenario

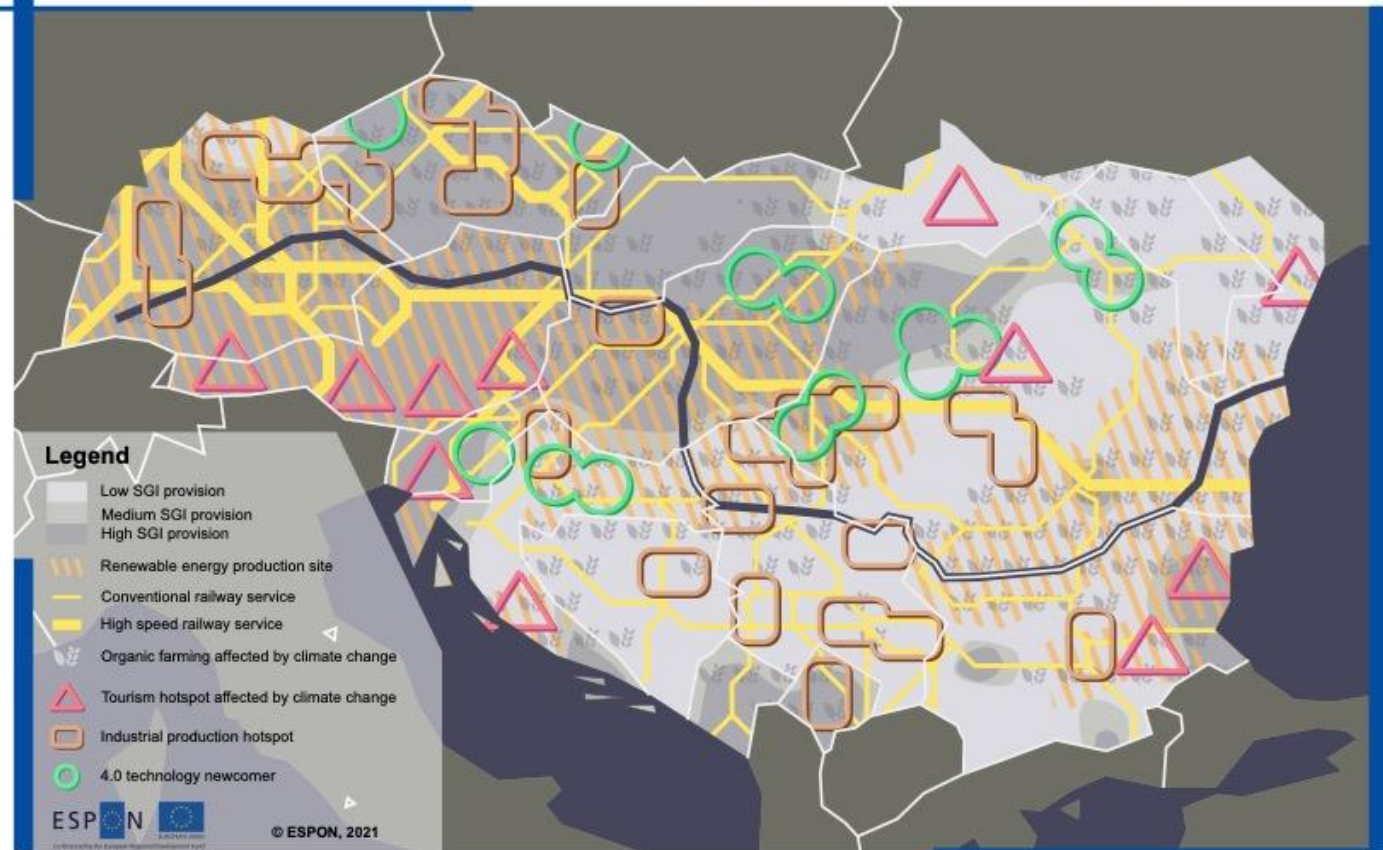
Development Trends:

- Transition to sustainable economies
- Dealing with depopulation
- A digital divide
- EU integration under development

Territorial consequences:

- Disparities in the Danube region:
- Places adapted early to climate change, transformed their economy and society, and reap the benefits of digitalisation.
- At the same time, some territories could not use their full potential due to biodiversity loss, lack of energy or reduced competitive levels for industry.

The territory of the Danube Macro-regional Strategy in 2050 - Baseline scenario



Source: ESPON TEVI 2050 project, Spatial Foresight, 2021
Origin of data: based on different quantitative and qualitative sources, such as Eurostat data, ESPON reports, national and regional studies
Spatial Foresight for administrative boundaries

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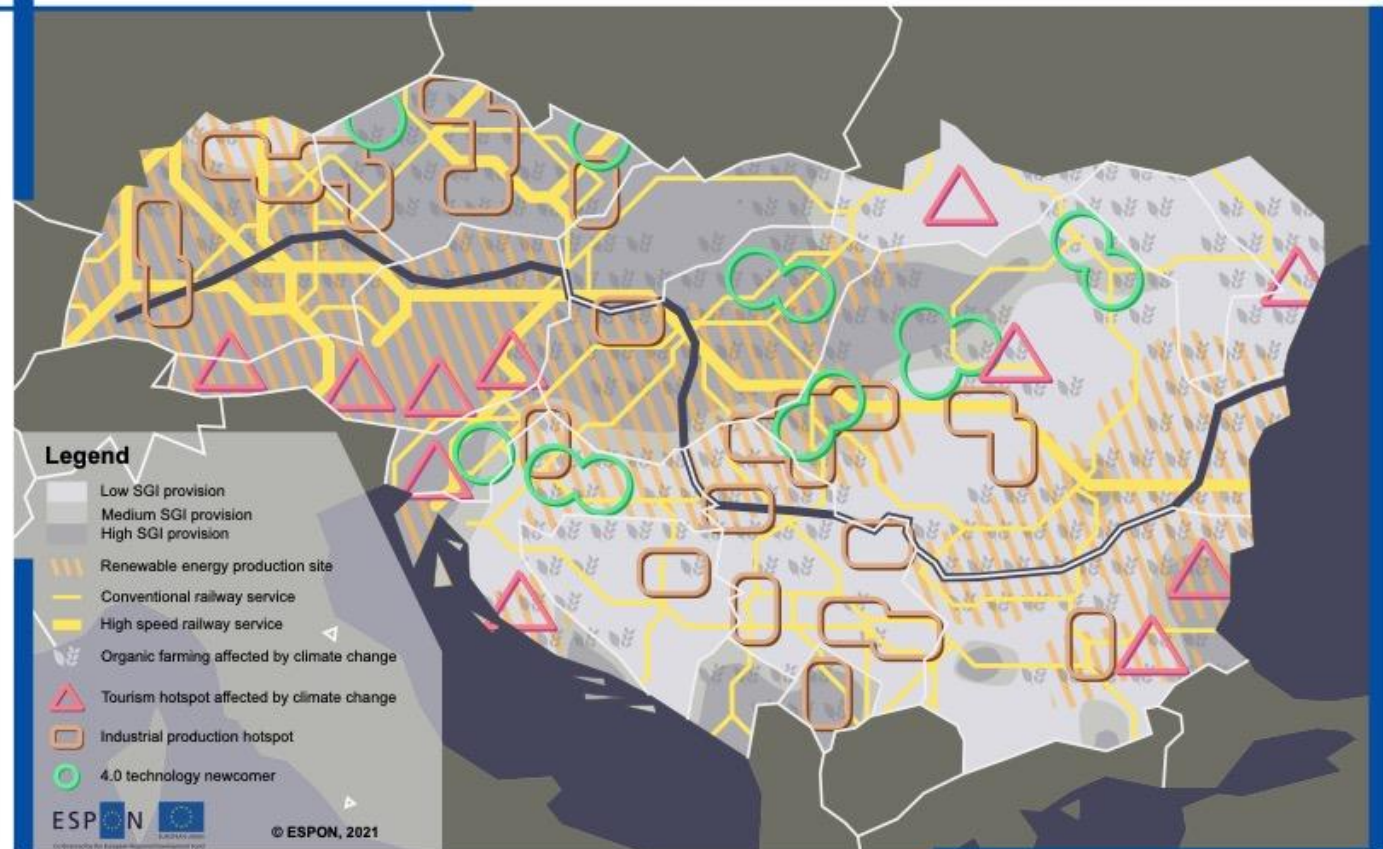
TEVI 2050

Baseline scenario

Conclusions:

- In the Danube region, natural, tourism, agricultural and industrial areas are among the territories facing most challenges.
- A complete transition to sustainable economies can only succeed if all territories are living up to the objectives of the European Green Deal.

The territory of the Danube Macro-regional Strategy in 2050 - Baseline scenario



Regional level: n.s.
Source: ESPON TEVI 2050 project, Spatial Foresight, 2021
Origin of data: based on different quantitative and qualitative sources, such as Eurostat data, ESPON reports, national and regional studies
Spatial Foresight for administrative boundaries

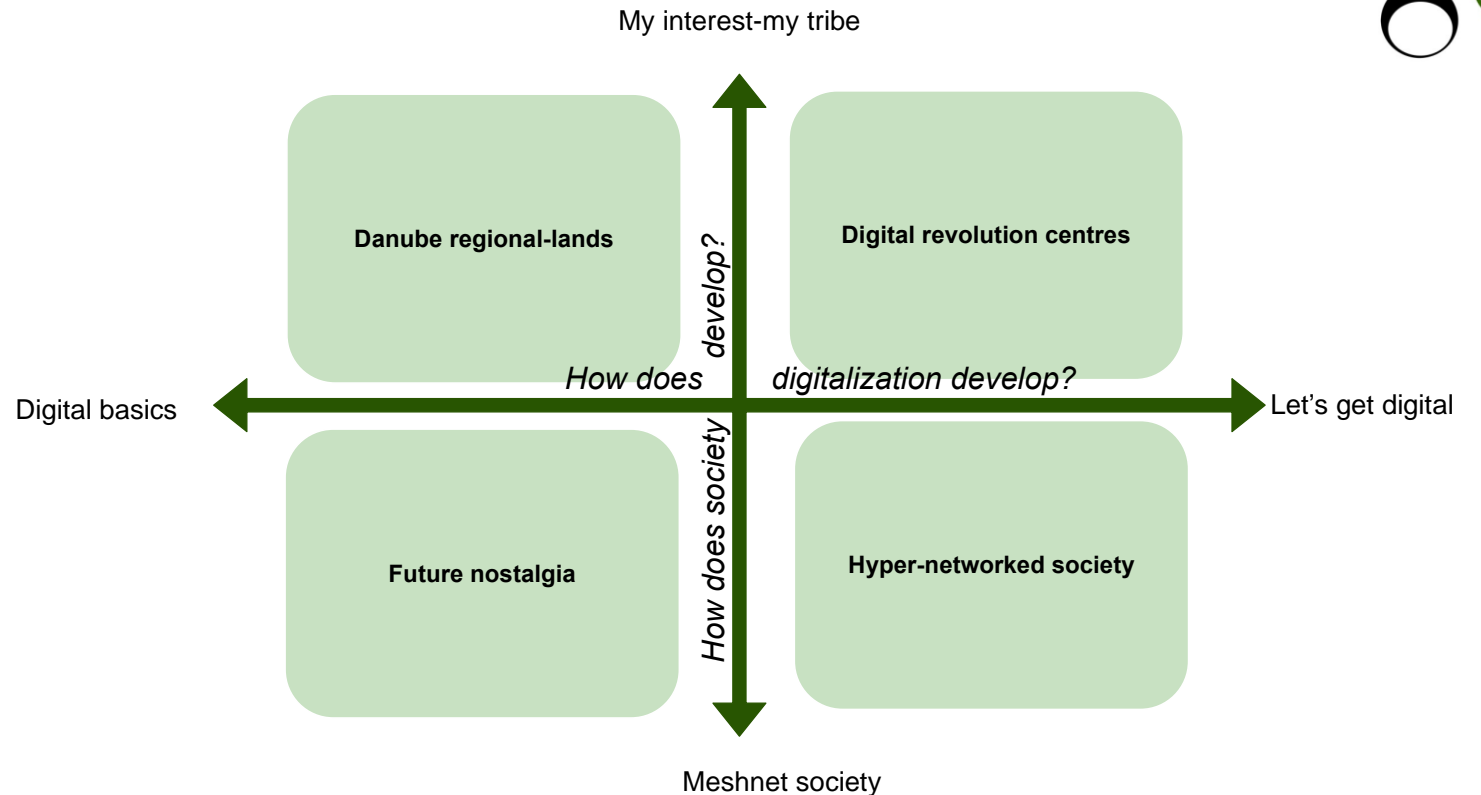
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Towards alternative scenarios

- Scenarios are not about predicting the future, but rather serve as eye openers and stimulate out of the box thinking to facilitate more structured or systematic discussions about the future.
- It is up to the **policy makers** to filter the information they need from the different narratives, develop their strategies and objectives and **create a desirable future**.
- EUSDR scenario matrix: four narratives, depending on how society and digitalization develop.





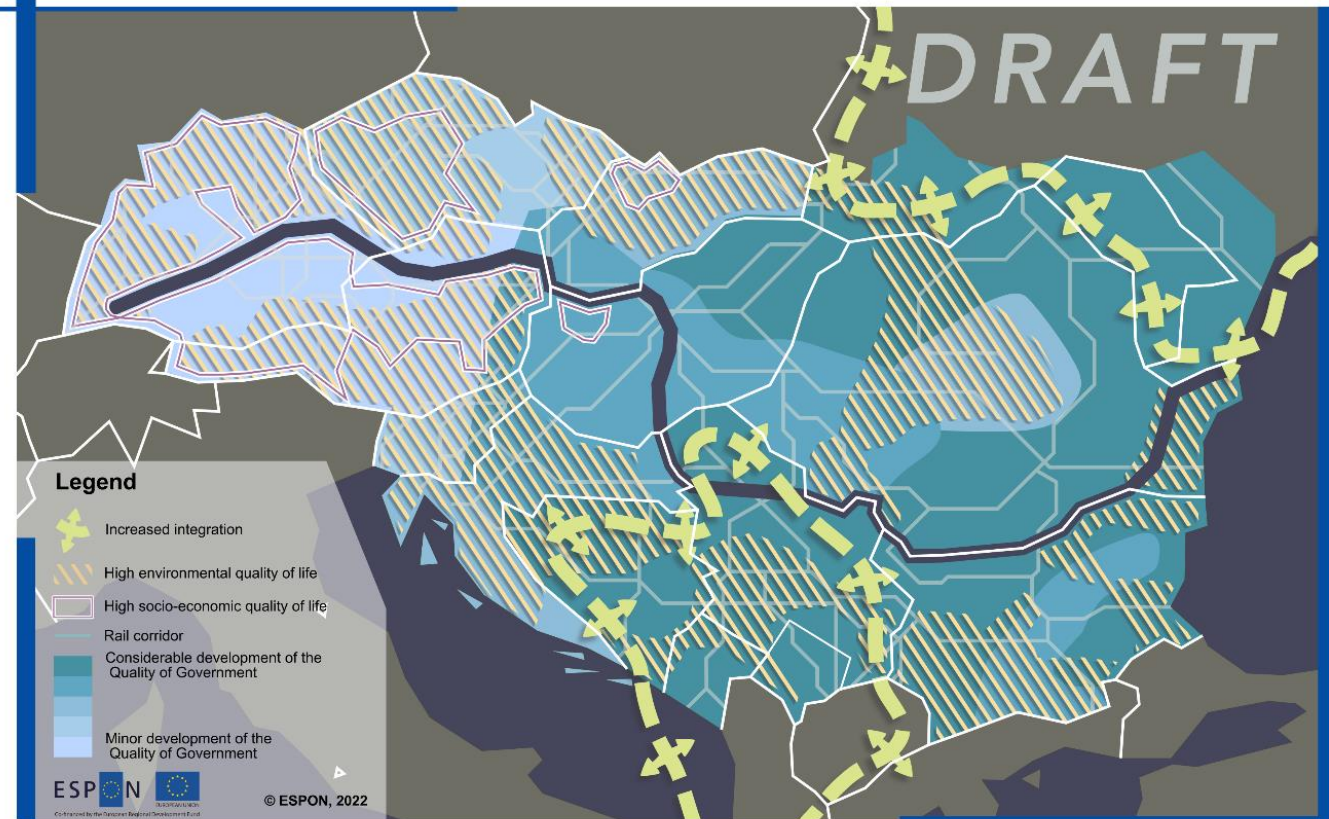
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Towards alternative scenarios

Possible alternative trends:

- **Quality of life puts focus on ecological & social wellbeing**
- **Green Deal 2.0 achieving net-zero society**
- **Including sustainable solutions in industry for industrial symbiosis**
- **Achieving a digital economy in pursuit of industry 5.0**
- **EU digitally fit for citizen policy engagement**
- **EU strategic autonomy turns EU integration a political priority**
- **Achieving a European identity with EU values**

The territory of the EUSDR in 2050 - Alternative scenario



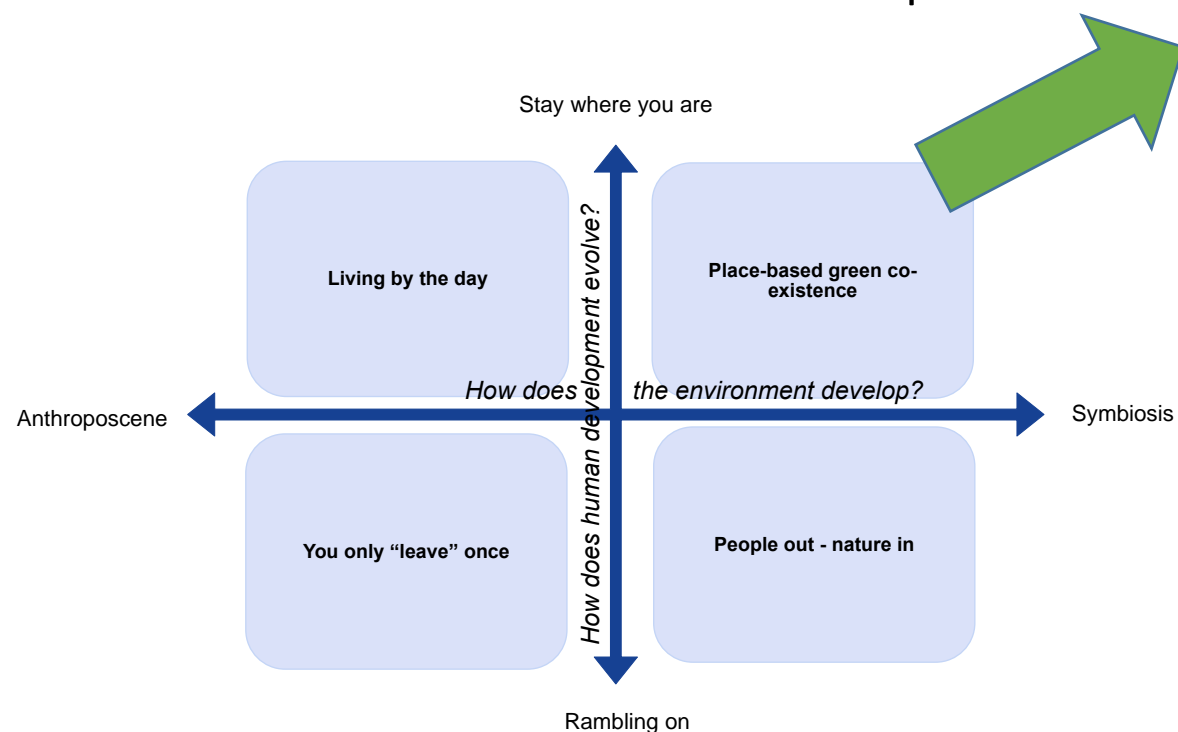
Regional level: n.a.
Source: ESPON TEVI 2050 project, Spatial Foresight, 2022
Origin of data: based on different quantitative and qualitative sources, such as Eurostat data, ESPON reports, national and regional studies
Spatial Foresight for administrative boundaries

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EUSAIR alternative scenario – example



Carbon neutrality is a fact. People's mindsets have changed. The Adriatic Ionian region has reduced its emissions and external energy capacity, **clean and renewable energies** are promoted and people and nature leave in harmony and balance. Third and fourth generation of fossil fuels family-run businesses turn their industries into renewables. Reinforced by the COVID-19 pandemic, teleworking has brought new opportunities to digital literate population in the region. People stay in the Adriatic and Ionian region and follow their **digital lives**. Organised in small settlements, people form local communities, rather self-sufficient with strong '**togetherness**' feelings. The nature preservation has helped the environment to revive, with the **land and the sea thriving**. Ecosystem services and rewilding strategies have helped the flora and fauna to restore. **Local bio production of food**, more **sustainable fisheries** and **sustainable agricultural practices** are in place. Extreme weather events still happen but to a lesser extent, while policy makers and people are better prepared. People chose not to travel. Local **public transport** is used for daily needs, while cars are heavily taxed. This polycentric regional system creates strong **small communities**, as well as **virtual networks**. Tourism has become more sustainable, making use of territorial comparative advantages, as well as **rich local products** and also rather domestic, i.e. small scale in local settlements.

ESPON, 2021: TEVI 2050. Territorial Scenarios for the Danube and Adriatic Ionian Macro-regions. Interim Report.

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Thank you!

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