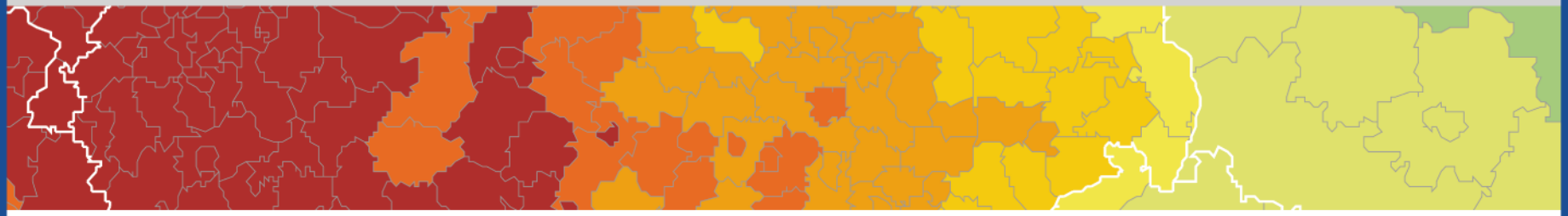
ESPON



Workshop on Territorial Scenarios and Visions
23 April 2015 in Luxembourg

Evidence input for Territorial Visioning:

ESPON ET 2050:

An Open and Polycentric European Territory

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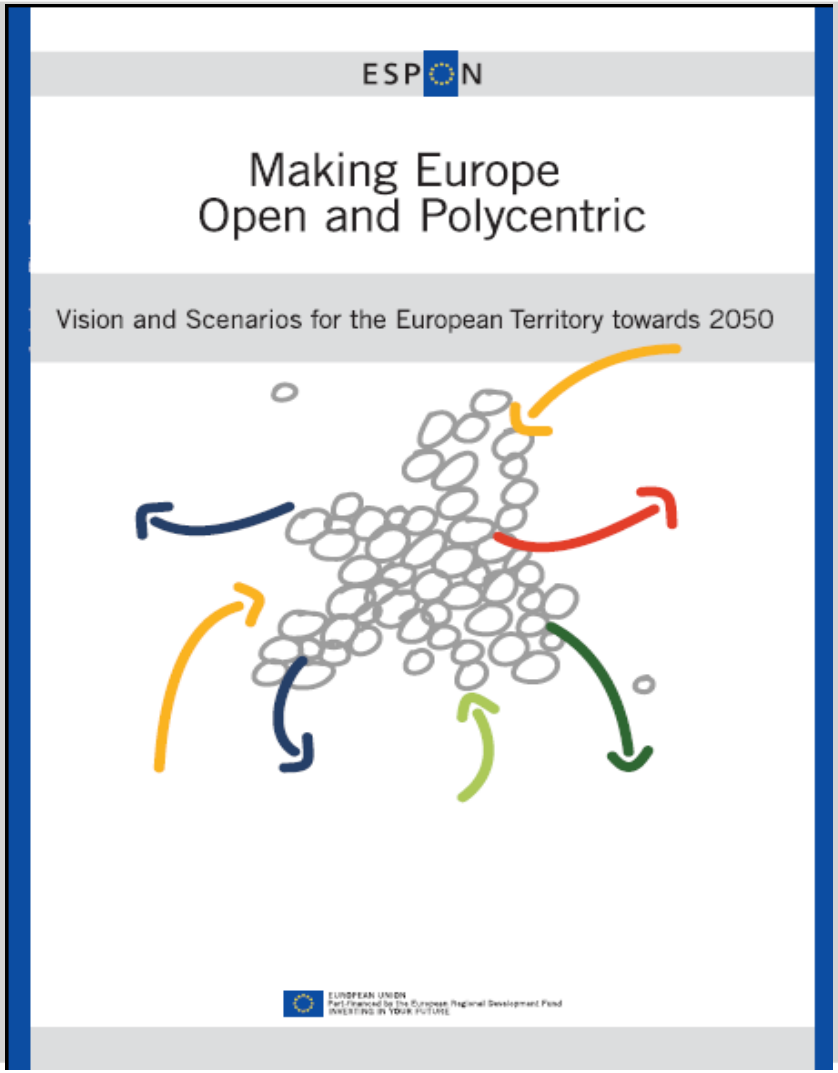
ESPON input to European Territorial Visioning



Results of ESPON ET 2050 project on "Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe 2050":

Reports and material available for policy consideration:

- Executive Summary
- Main report
- Scientific Report with 15 volumes on different related topics
- Maps
- Videos
- Participatory process reports

The demand

- The 31 countries behind the ESPON programme have asked for the ESPON project ET2050 that elaborates a Territorial Vision and Scenarios for Europe in 2050
- The policy demand towards the ET2050 were:
  - Address the new and changing challenges facing Europe, that have a territorial dimension and impact
  - Provide a coherent, long-term reference framework for policy development at different decision-making levels and sectors, affecting the European territory
  - Provide appropriate and comprehensive policy pathways towards the vision for the European territory

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The method (1)

5 steps in the ET2050 project:

1. Analysing the Present State of the European territory (knowledge, data, themes)
2. Building a Baseline Scenarios for 2030 and for 2050 (trends, policies, quantitative using modelling)
3. Building 3 Territorial Scenarios for the years 2030 and 2050 (prospective, extreme, more qualitative)
4. Developing a Territorial Vision of Europe for 2050 (proactive, participatory, policy driven, creative, realistic, qualitative)
5. Elaborating Midterm Targets and Pathways towards the year 2030 (policy support, recommendations, qualitative)

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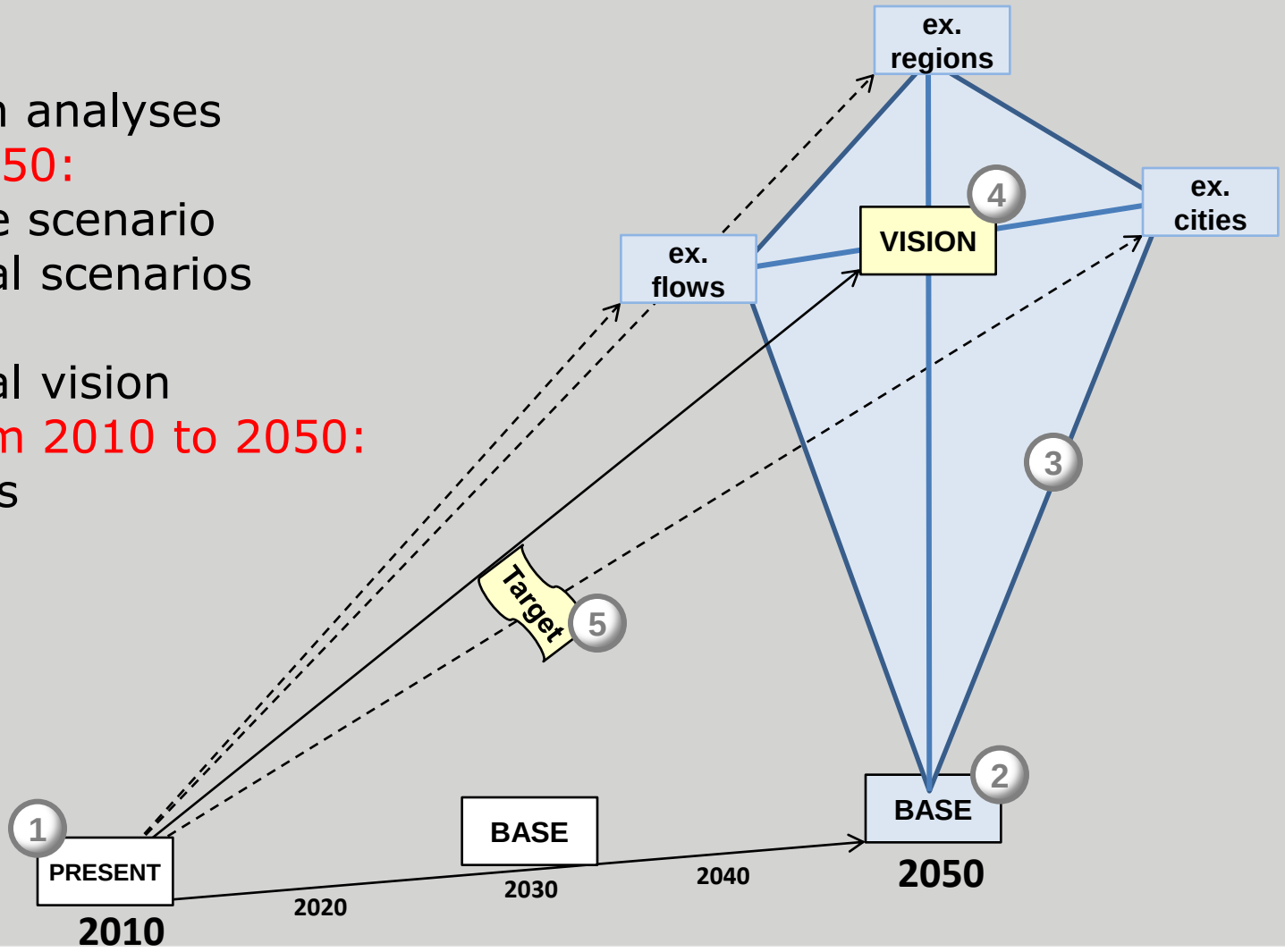
The method (2)

Present:
- Situation analyses

Towards 2050:
- Base line scenario
- Territorial scenarios

In 2050:
- Territorial vision

Moving from 2010 to 2050:
- Pathways



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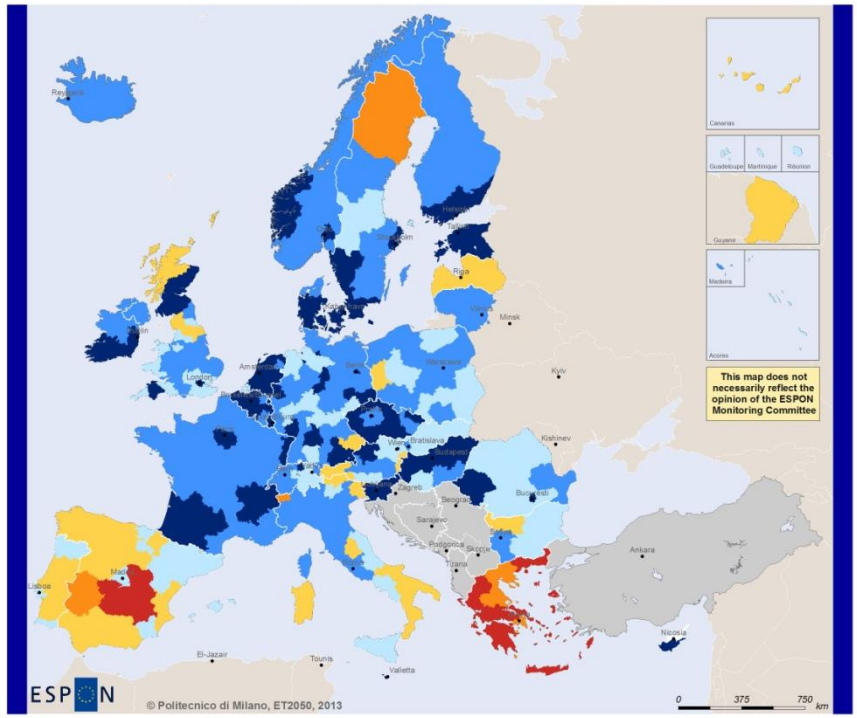
Key baseline scenario results (1)



Economic growth and growing regional disparities

- GDP p.a. 1,89%
- 45 regions below 1% growth

Territorial Scenario A

Promotion and networking of European metropolises towards 2050:

- Based on *Europe 2020 strategy* (2010) in relation to global competitiveness.
- Promotion of the largest metropolitan regions of global importance in Europe.
- Taking advantage of the connectivity to international networks and the agglomeration economies of larger European metropolises.
- Investments in 76 Metropolitan European Growth Areas (MEGAs): High-level R&D; transport infrastructure (long-distance networks and global gateways); integrated transnational zones.

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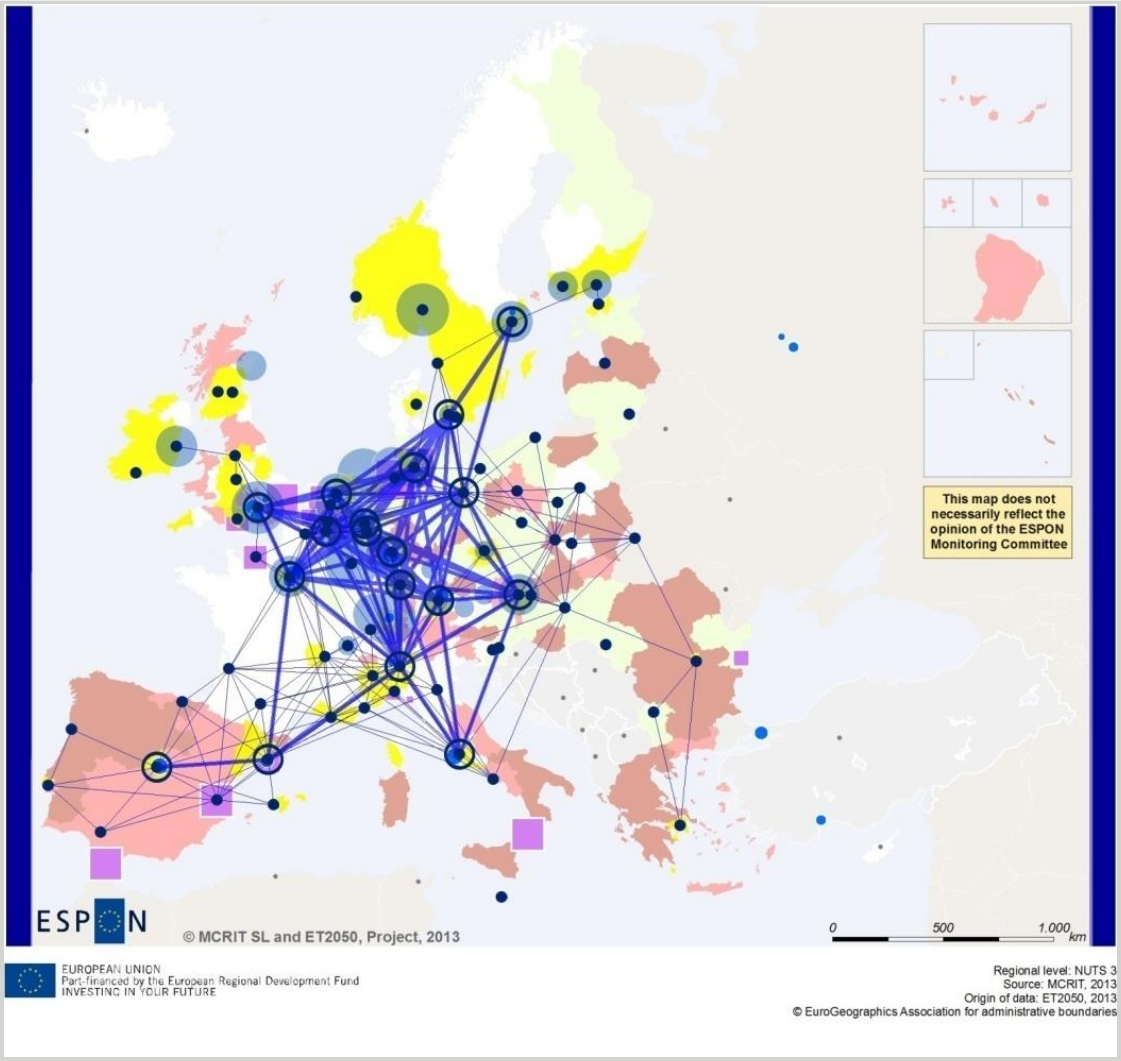
Territorial Scenario A: Promotion of Metropolises



Territorial Scenario B

Promotion and networking of cities towards 2050:

- Integrate *Europe 2020 strategy* (2010) with *ESDP* (1999) as well as *TA* (2007) and *TA 2020* (2011).
- Promotion of national and major regional capitals.
- Favouring balanced polycentric urban systems at the macro-regional and national scale.
- Investments in 261 cities of European or national significance: Cohesion and Structural funds mostly targeting cities, with investments in urban renewal/re-urbanisation, R&D, and regional/inter-regional transport networks.

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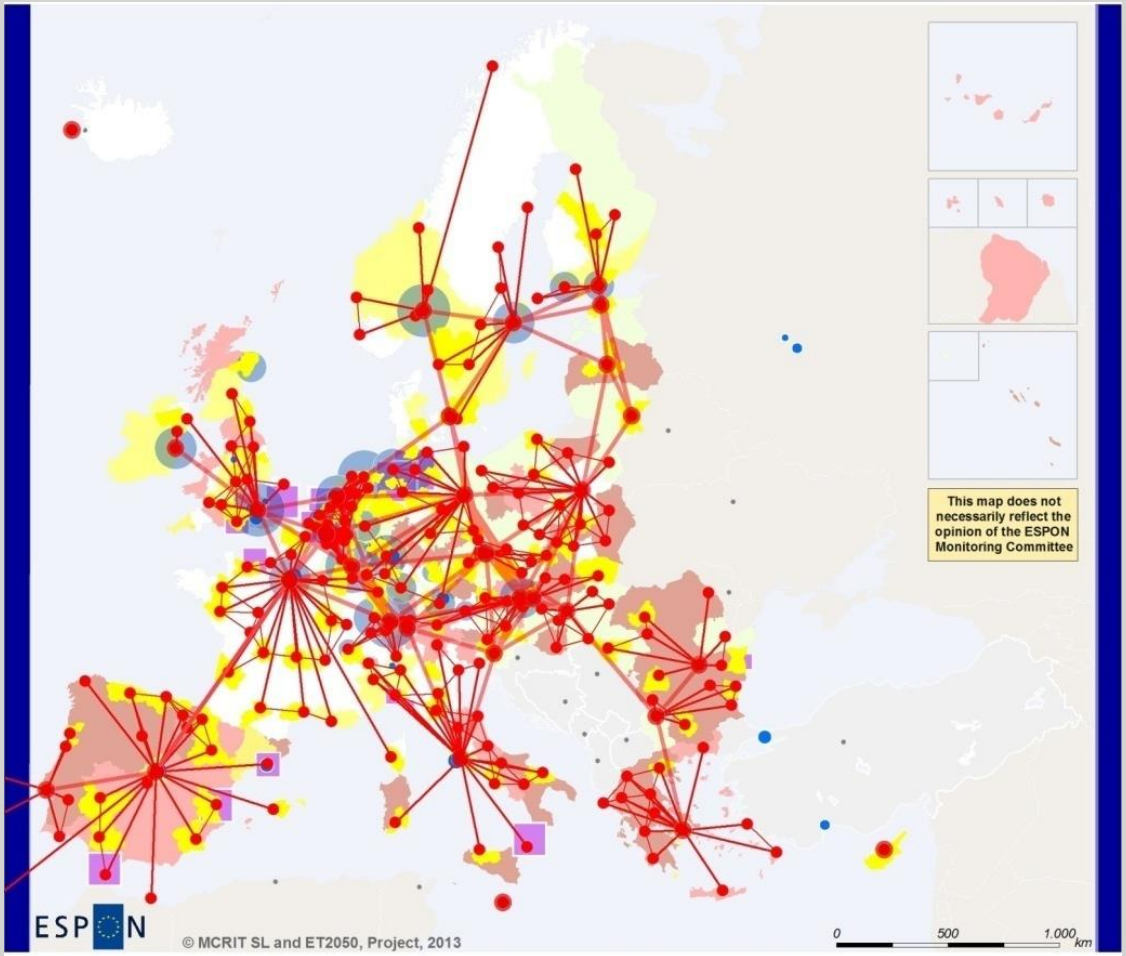
Territorial Scenario B: Promotion of Second Tier Cities



Territorial Scenario C

Promotion of small cities and less developed regions towards 2050:

- Based on Europe 2020 strategy (2010) and TA 2020 (2011).
- Promotion of small- and medium-sized cities as centers of self-contained and economically resilient regions.
- Reinforcing the social and economic balance of Europe at the regional level in a strong place-based approach.
- Investments: Cohesion and Structural funds mostly targeting rural less developed areas; local/regional transport networks; decentralisation at local/regional level.

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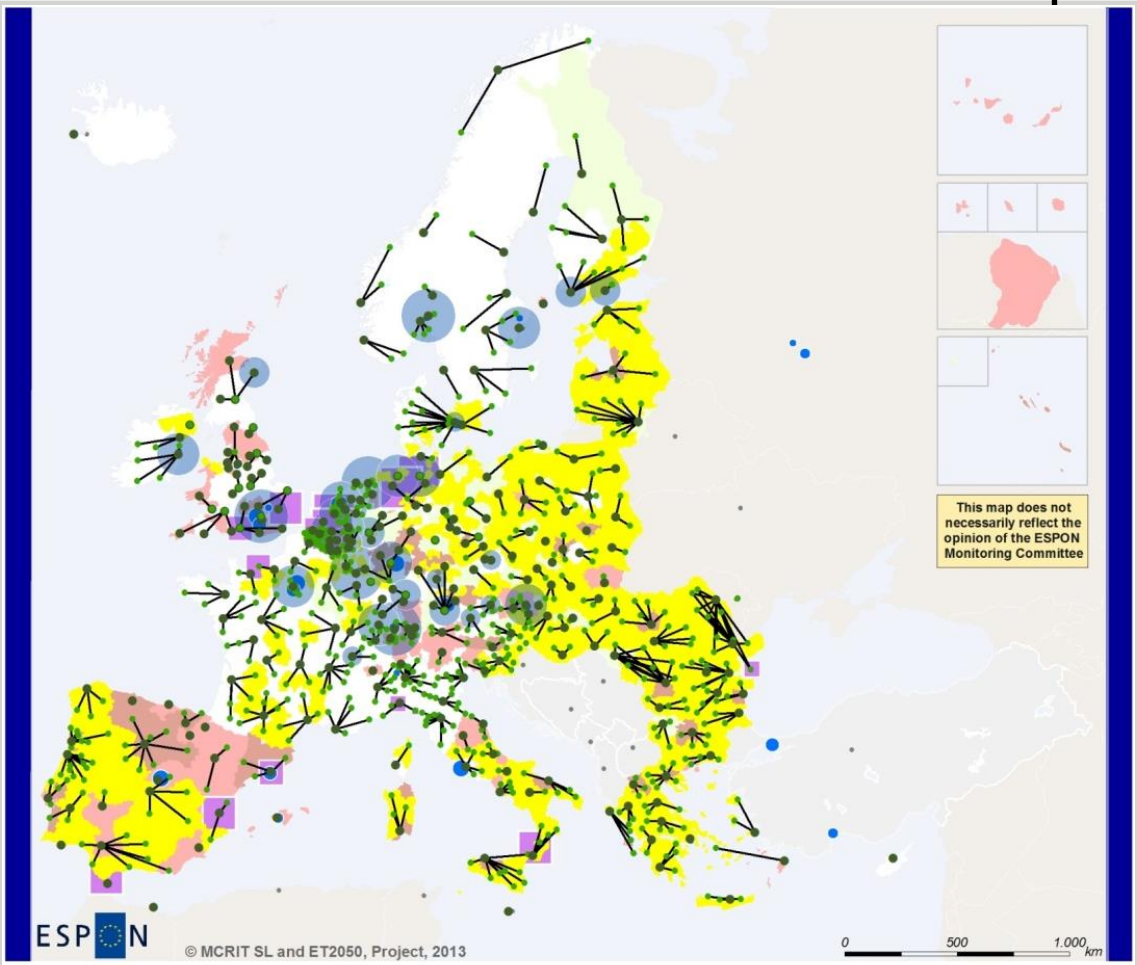
Territorial Scenario C:
Promotion of Small Cities and less developed Regions



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Main results comparing scenario A, B and C

- Towards 2030, *Alternative Scenario B* is the most expansionary in terms of GDP.
  - →Baseline: + 1,9%
  - →Scenario A: + 2,2%
  - →Scenario B: + 2,3%
  - →Scenario C: + 1,8%
- Higher levels of growth under *Scenario B* are explained by a more efficient utilisation of territorial capital elements and local specificities.
- However, this presupposes the existence of an integrated and equilibrated urban system.
- *Scenario B* also leads to the highest levels of cohesion and competitiveness.
- Regional divergence is only marginally reduced in the three scenarios in relation to the baseline trend for 2030.

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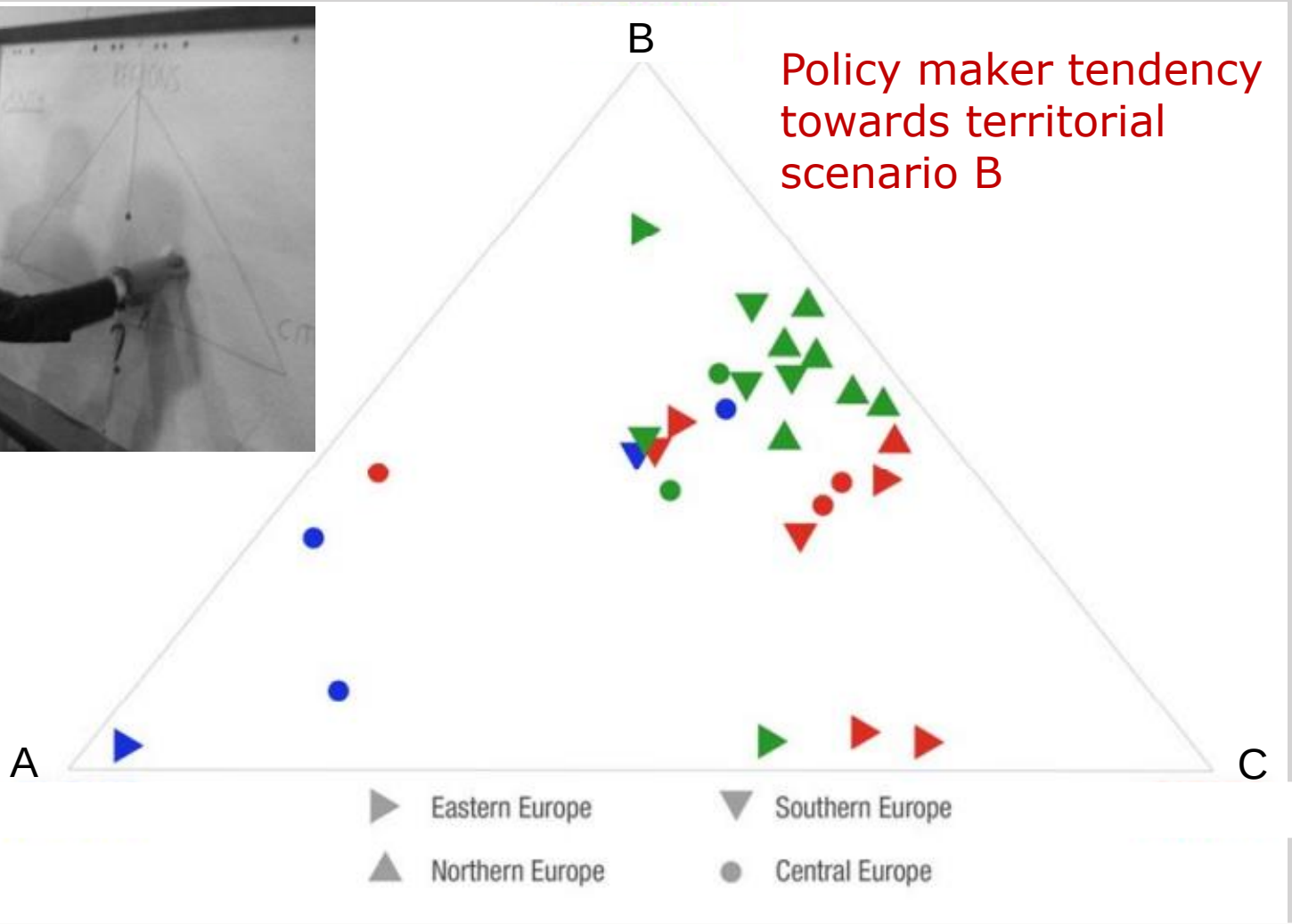
Participatory process on scenarios A, B and C



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Vision: Making Europe Open and Polycentric

Open:

- Connecting Europe globally
- Promoting co-development with Neighbourhood regions

Polycentric:

- Unleashing regional diversity and endogenous development as a mean to reduce regional disparities
- Supporting a balanced urban structure
- Sustainable management of resources

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Why an Open and Polycentric Europe?

- Supports the most coherent long term European territorial development in terms of economic growth and competitiveness, cohesion and sustainability goals.
- Combines growth and cohesion, and it produces liveable places for people, well distributed within the territory.
- Promotes networking of cities of all sizes, from local to global level, in all parts of Europe
- Empower people and public/private activities to valorise endogenous assets at European and global scale.
- Improves Territorial Cohesion in line with the original aim of the Treaty of Rome (1956) saying that "Europe has to become an open Community of equals with common strong institutions", as well as the aim of later Treaties to opt for a harmonious and balanced territory.

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Why Openness?

- Openness to the rest of the world is a necessary condition for all European cities and regions to take advantage of the development opportunities created by global growth and technologic progress.
- The long-term development of Europe depends on
  - the global valorisation and exploitation of the more competitive assets of each city and region, and
  - in completing the Single Market.
- Making Europe more open requires connecting Europe globally and promoting co-development with neighbouring regions.

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Why Polycentricity?

- Political necessity to spread development opportunities across European cities and regions, making development more resilient and diversified, further diminishing economic gaps, and differences of welfare conditions.
- Importantly, increasing polycentricity is not likely to reduce the overall long-term economic growth of Europe as a whole.
- It requires, however
  - unleashing regional diversity and endogenous development.
  - enhancing territorial cooperation to support polycentric urban structures at all scales, optimising the attraction for investments, reducing imbalances.
  - favouring compact settlements and smart renewal of cities
  - sustainable management of natural and cultural resources.

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How to make Europe Open and Polycentric?

Recommendations/options for long term policy ?

Open:

- Connecting Europe globally
- Promoting co-development with Neighbourhood regions

Polycentric:

- Unleashing regional diversity and endogenous development as a mean to reduce regional disparities
- Supporting a balanced urban structure
- Sustainable management of resources

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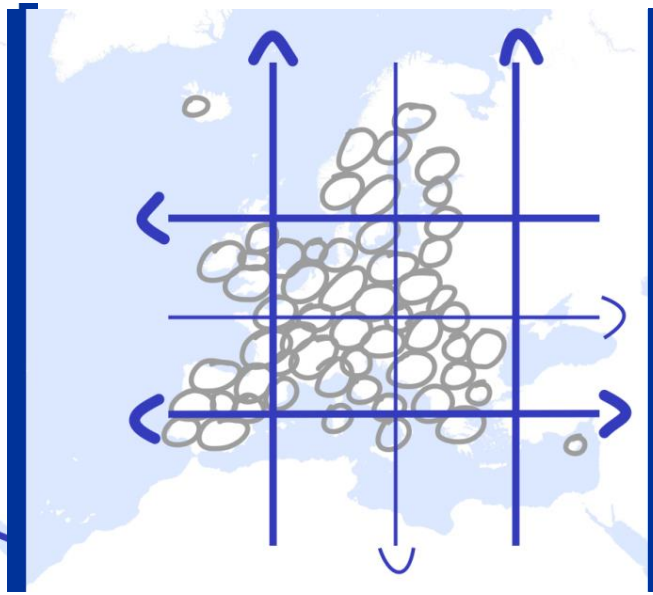
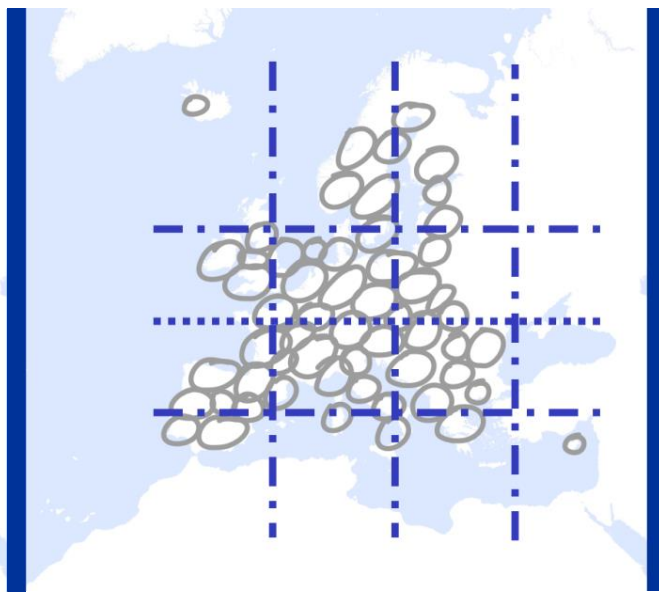
Connecting Europe globally

Opening up European markets to global competition and promoting global sustainability

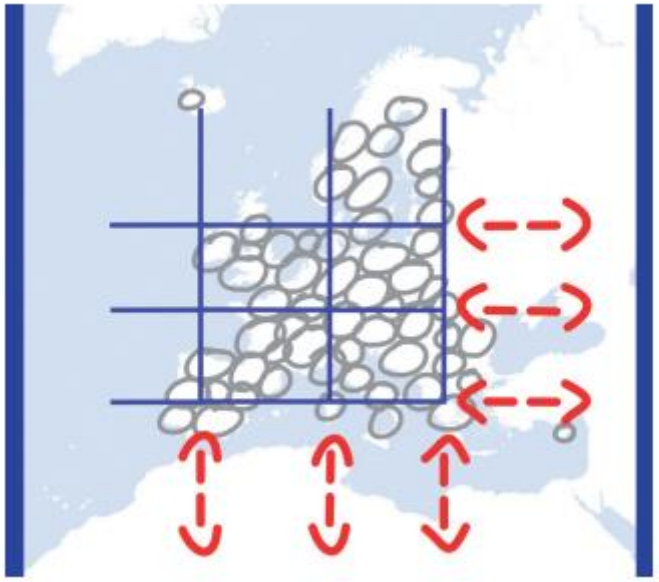


Enhancing the efficiency of transport & telecommunication networks and decentralising EU intercontinental gateways

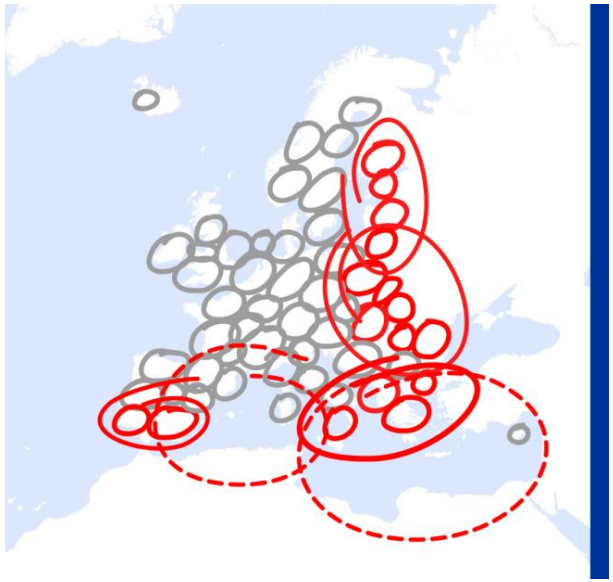


Developing an integrated Trans-European Electric Grid and promoting energy efficiency and renewal energy sources

Promoting co-development with Neighbouring regions

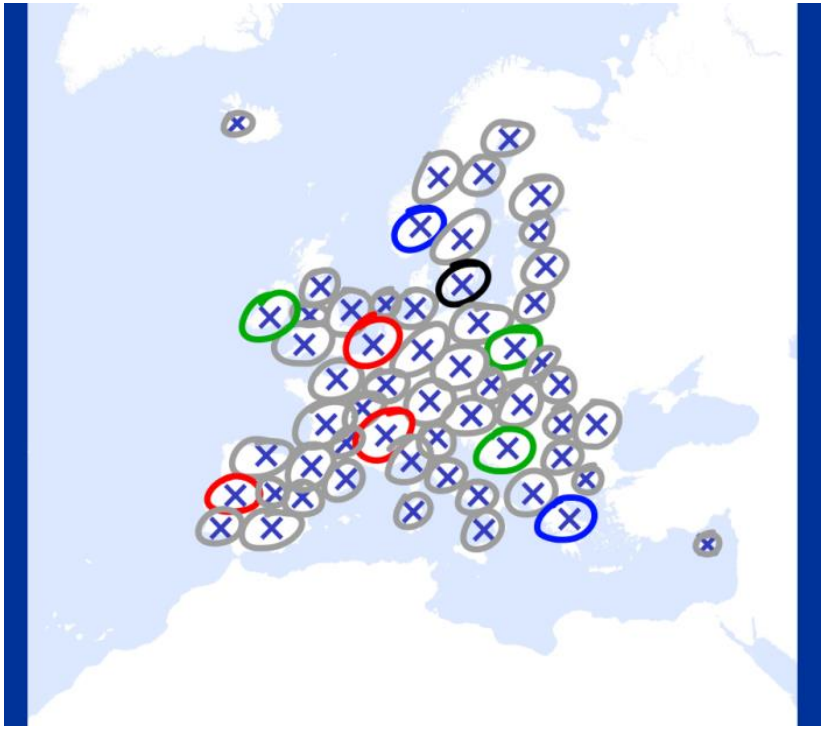


Linking Trans-European Networks with the Neighbouring countries' networks



Supporting cross-border integrated development

Unleashing regional diversity and endogenous development

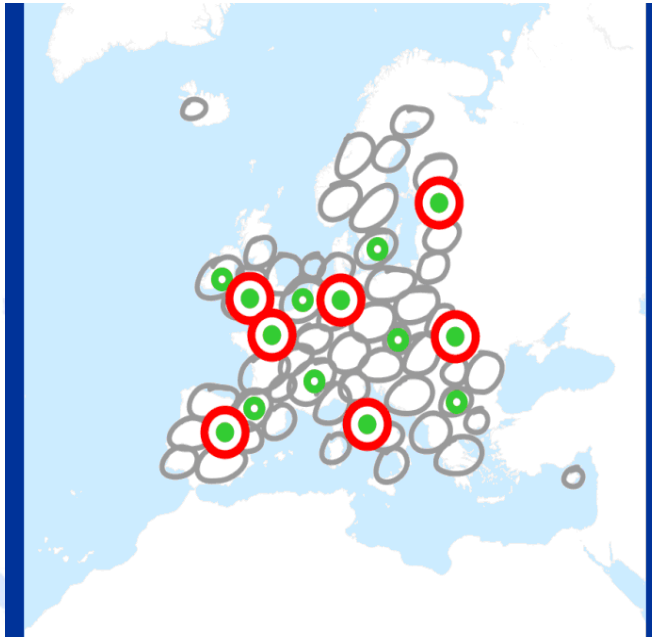


Sufficient accessibility to open up regional potentials.

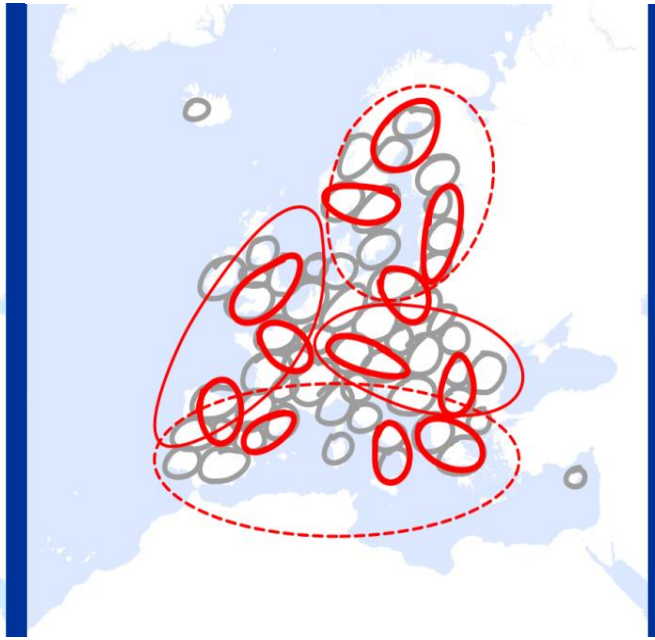
Universal access to services of general interest

Supporting a balanced urban structure

Promoting secondary city/regions as engines of growth

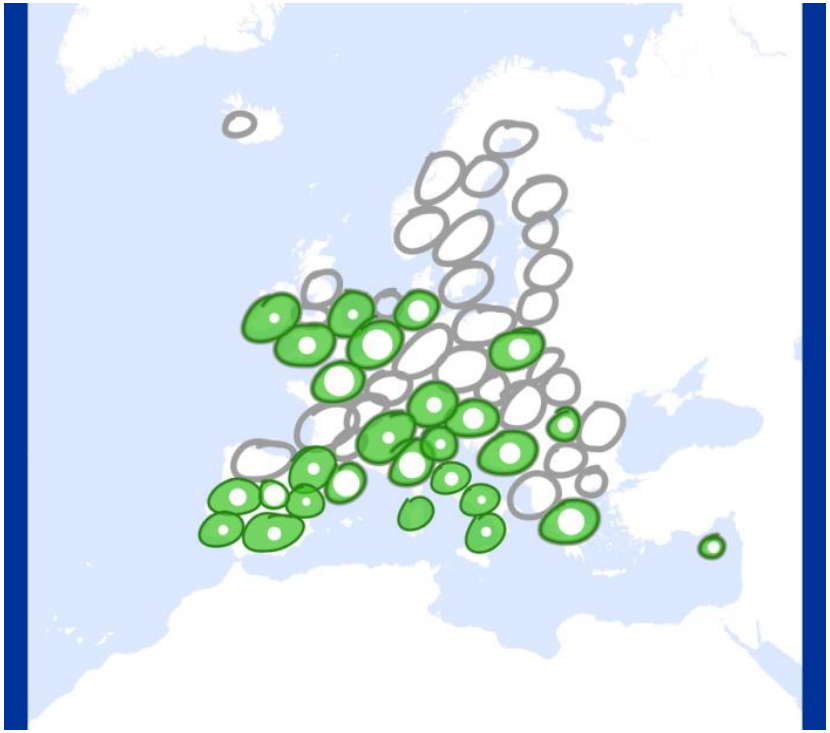


Smart and inclusive renewal of cities and neighbourhoods



Integration of functional urban regions

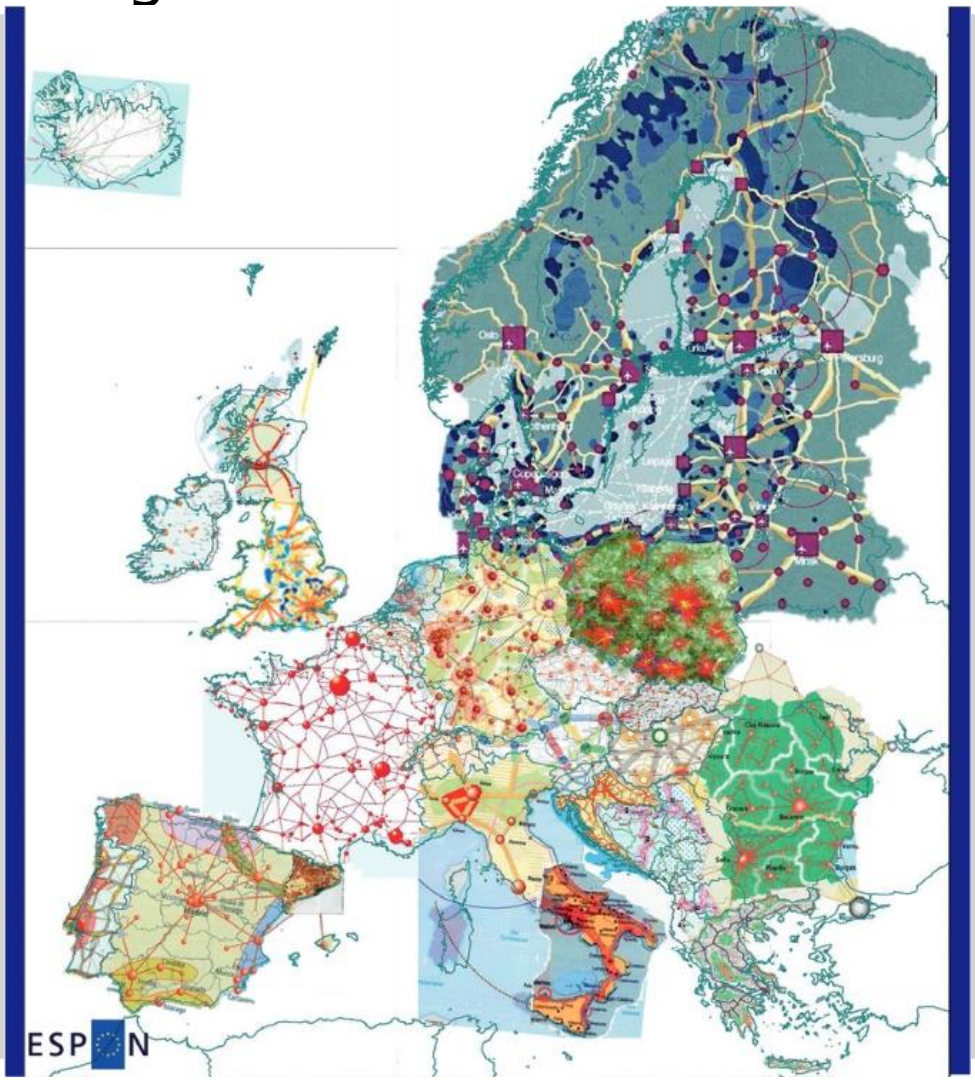
Sustainable management of natural and cultural assets



Protecting strategic landscapes from urban sprawl and renaturalising cities

Sustainable management of green infrastructures for biodiversity and ecologic resilience

Europe’s fragmented territorial vision of today



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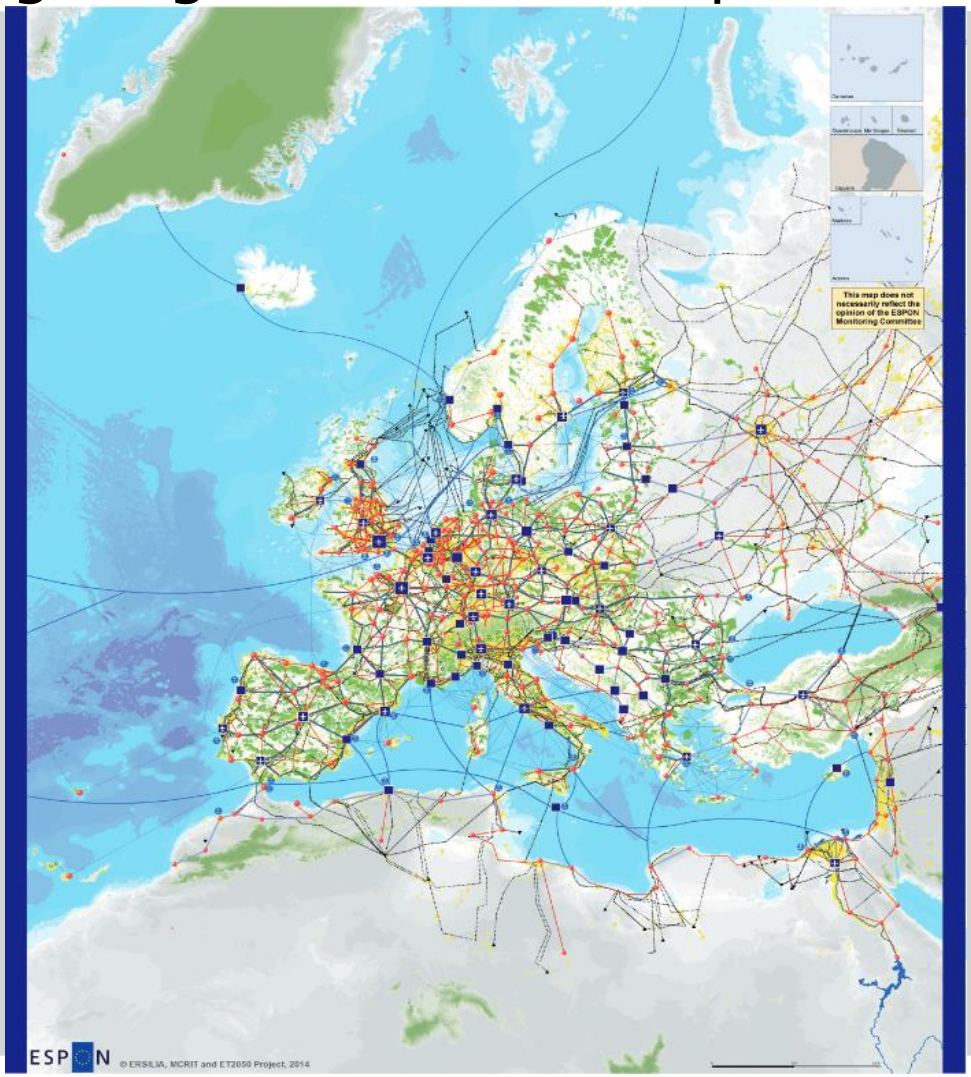
Imagining Territorial Europe in 2050



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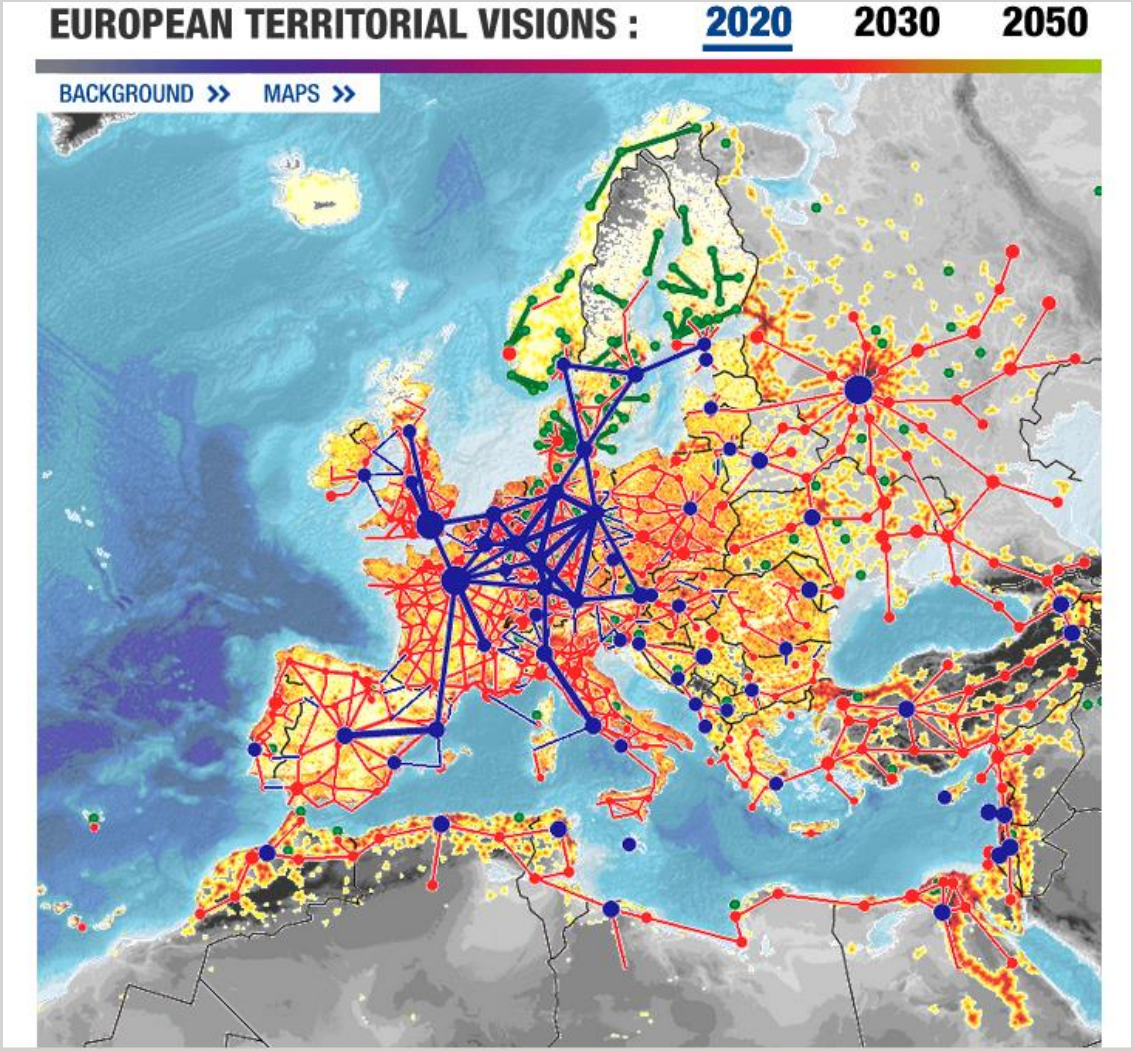
Towards a European Territorial Vision - 2020



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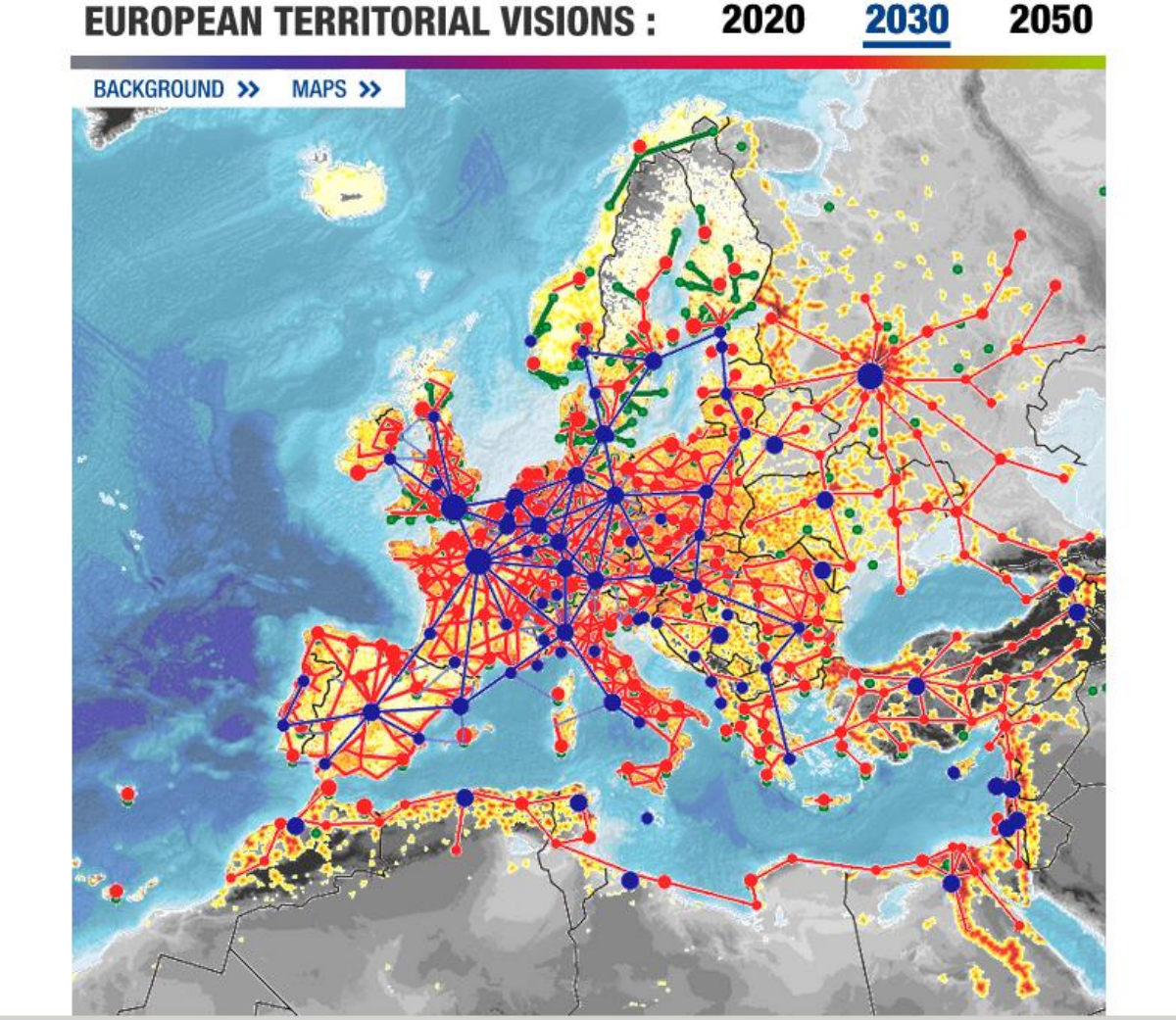
Towards a European Territorial Vision - 2030



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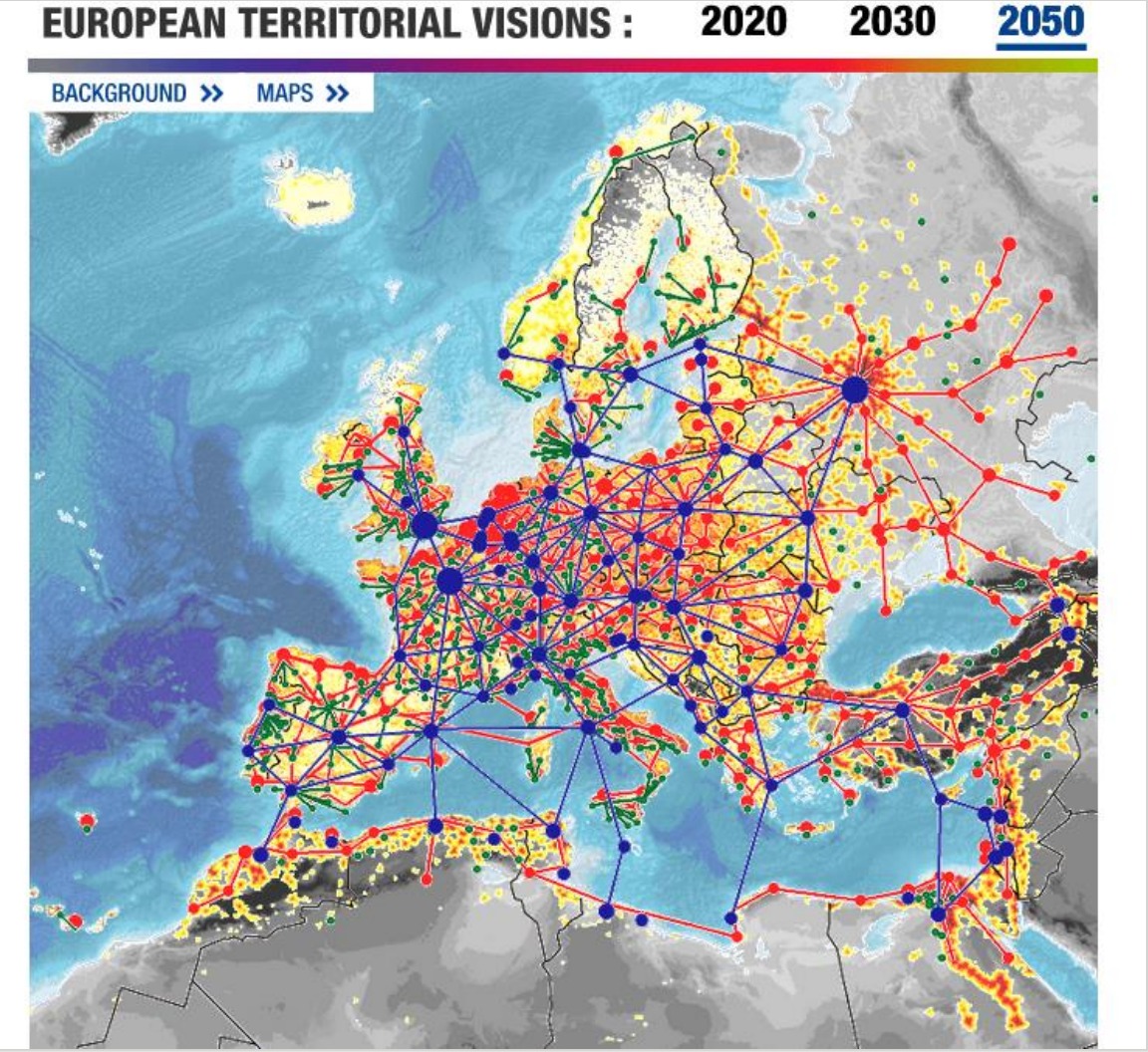
Towards a European Territorial Vision - 2050



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Concluding Reflections (1)

Benefits of a Territorial Vision for Europe in 2050?

- Clarify long-term policy goals for decision makers
- Promote the territorial dimension in sectorial policies
- Visualise common European interest beyond "national interest" in line with European political visions

Why is an Open and Polycentric Europe the "right" vision?

- Integrates Europe stronger in global reality of the future
- Based on concepts shared by a large number of regions, cities and countries (polycentric, compact, endogenous, etc.)
- Updates ESDP and Territorial Agenda 2020

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Concluding Reflections (2)

Where could the Territorial Vision 2050 be helpful as reference framework?

- In EU Cohesion Policy after 2020:
  - Shaping the territorial dimension of Europe in the World
  - Give precision to place-based priorities and opportunities
- In EU strategies and sector policies
- In national territorial and sector policies
- In development of regional and urban policies as well as in territorial cooperation at different scales
- In private sector decisions with a territorial dimension

What are key factors for an European Territorial Vision?

- Convincing policy ideas based on strong evidence
- Political interest and leadership
- Success in creating shared ownership with key stakeholders

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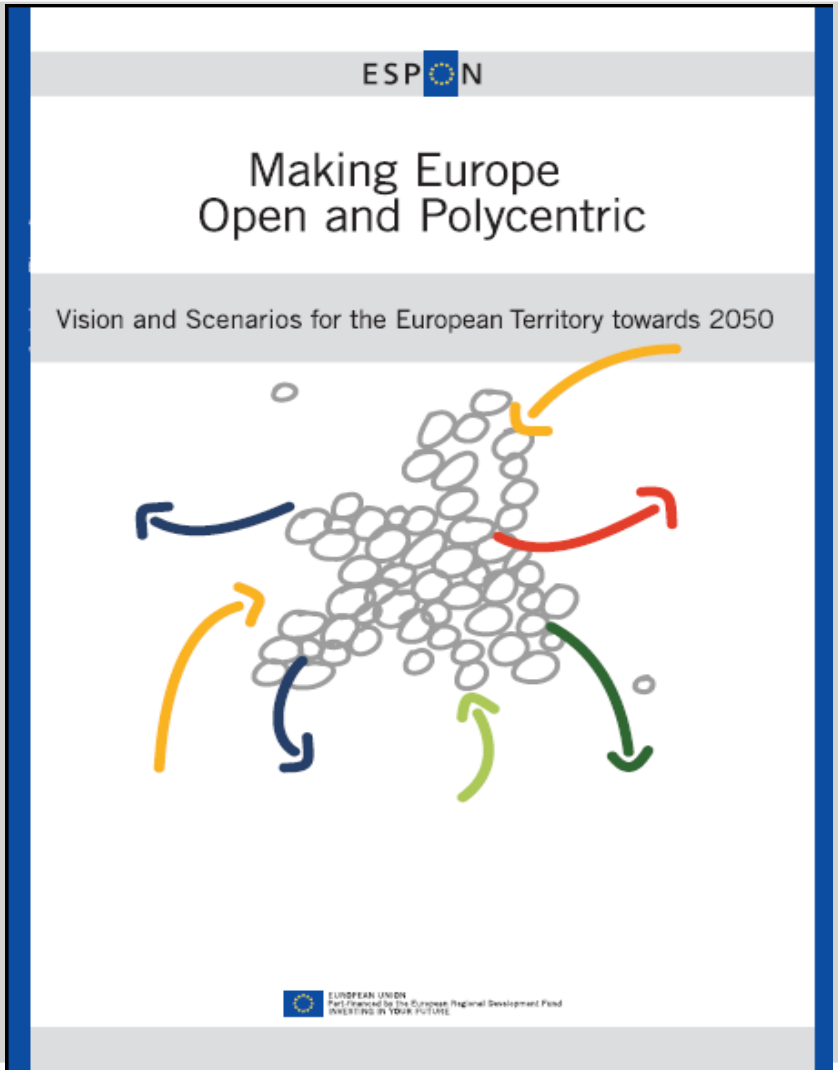
ESPON 2013 Programme



Thank you for your attention

Access to all ESPON ET 2050 reports and material

www.espon.eu