

South East Europe Programme

Urban and Regional Development

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Albania
Austria
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Romania
Croatia
FYROM
Greece
Hungary
Italy*
Serbia
Montenegro
Slovakia
Slovenia
Moldova
Ukraine*

South East Europe Space

- Among the most dynamic spaces in Europe today
- Gateway macro-region of the European territory
- Old, new member states, candidate/potential candidate countries, neighbourhood countries - perfect setting for wider spatial integration and synergies
- Great population potential
- Incomparable cultural diversity (historical and thematic)
- *Existing disparities (economic, social, spatial) undermine its position in Europe!*

Priority axis 4: Development of transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas

Areas of intervention:

- 1. Tackle crucial problems affecting metropolitan areas and regional systems of settlements**
- 2. Promote a balanced pattern of attractive and accessible growth areas**
- 3. Promote the use of cultural values for development**

Urban Systems

- Relatively balanced system of cities of various size in **morphological** terms on the programme area level
- Unbalanced **urban hierarchy** of medium size and smaller cities - (in regard to function and accessibility)
- Lack of explicit urban policies concerning polycentric development in most of the SEE countries; heterogeneity regarding institutional framework
- Balancing polycentric functional disparities supports territorial cohesion and competitiveness of SEE space

Growth regions

- Different types of growth regions, different backgrounds and potentials - (old member states, new member states, Western Balkan, Neighbourhood countries)
- Capital city regions are driving force for economic growth in SEE - concentration of urban functions, education, qualified, human resources, decision making functions, culture
- Weakest regions still border regions, especially along former Iron Curtain
- Changing status of cities, their roles and functions (opened borders, new states created - new borders, etc.)
- Upgrading functions of less competitive and developed regions of Eastern Europe and Balkans
- Mixing of different functions to avoid single function settlements

Cultural heritage

- Cultural paths of grand cultures (classical Greek, Roman, Venetian, Byzantine, Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian)
- Religious, ethnical and traditional historical elements (languages, various alphabets, music, art, architecture, etc.)
- Complex social structure - multi-cultural character of many nations, overlapping influences
- Great potentials for transnational cohesion and identity, cultural exchange



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**