



# **Potentials for Territorial Co-operation with the Western Balkans**

**Conference on 19-20 April 2010 in Maribor (Slovenia)**

## **Territorial Observation: Knowledge, Trends and Needs**

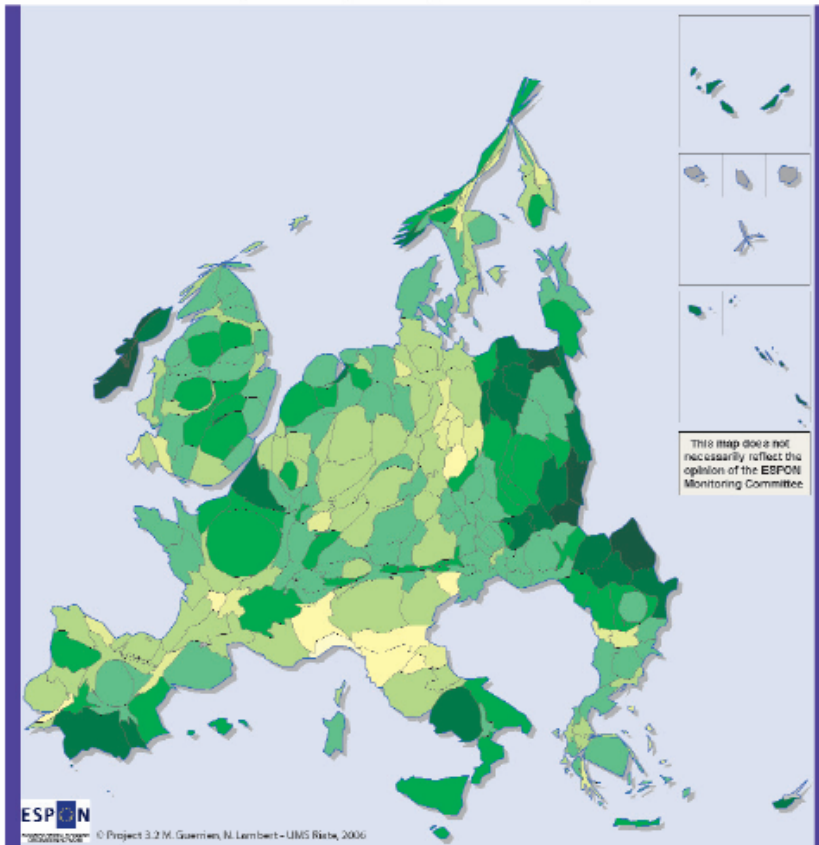


# Major challenges with a territorial impact

- **Accelerating Globalisation:**  
New markets and new world order, economic recovery, jobs and growth, trade shifts, technological innovation circles
- **Climate Change:**  
Mitigation and adaptation, CO2 reduction targets, green economy, new hazard patterns and territorial opportunities
- **Demographic Changes:**  
Ageing of population, skilled labour shortages, continued migration pressure (particular in the south)
- **Energy Challenge:**  
Security of supply, energy efficiency, fluctuation of prices, alternative energy sources, input to green economy
- **Transport Increase:**  
Accessibility improvements, persisting accessibility patterns, saturation of EU-corridors/urban transport, environmental
- **Geographic Integration:**  
Further EU enlargements and integration of new territories, their markets, regions and cities, Iceland, Croatia, Turkey...

# Observations on the European territory

Cartogram showing size of regions in terms of population



substantial imbalances:  
population

Areas are proportional to population at nuts2 level (in 2000)

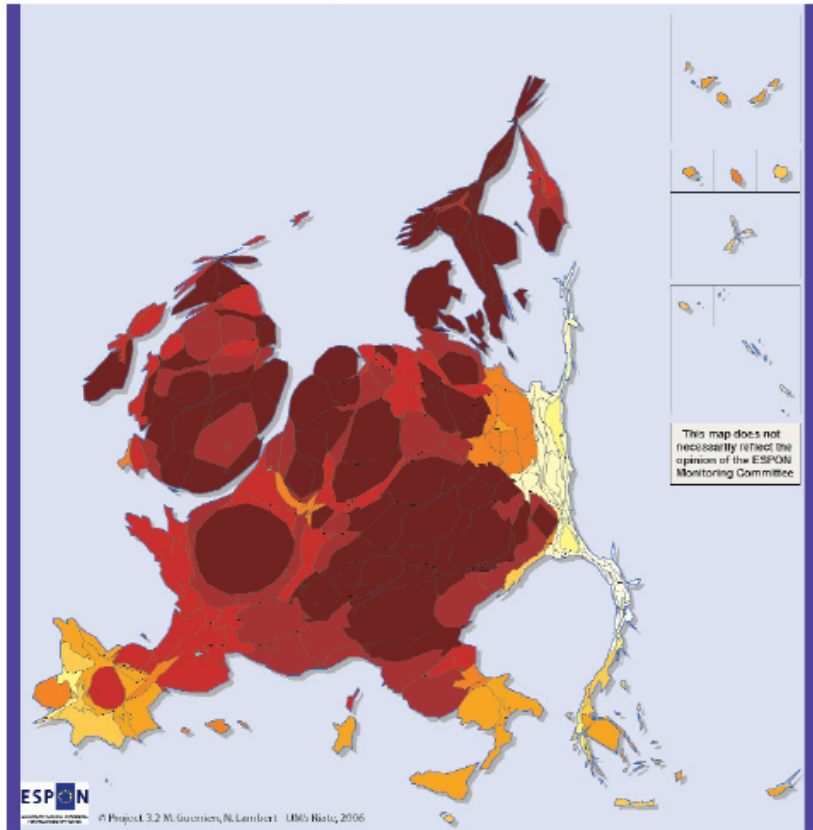


1 million inhabitants

Source: ESPON Data Base

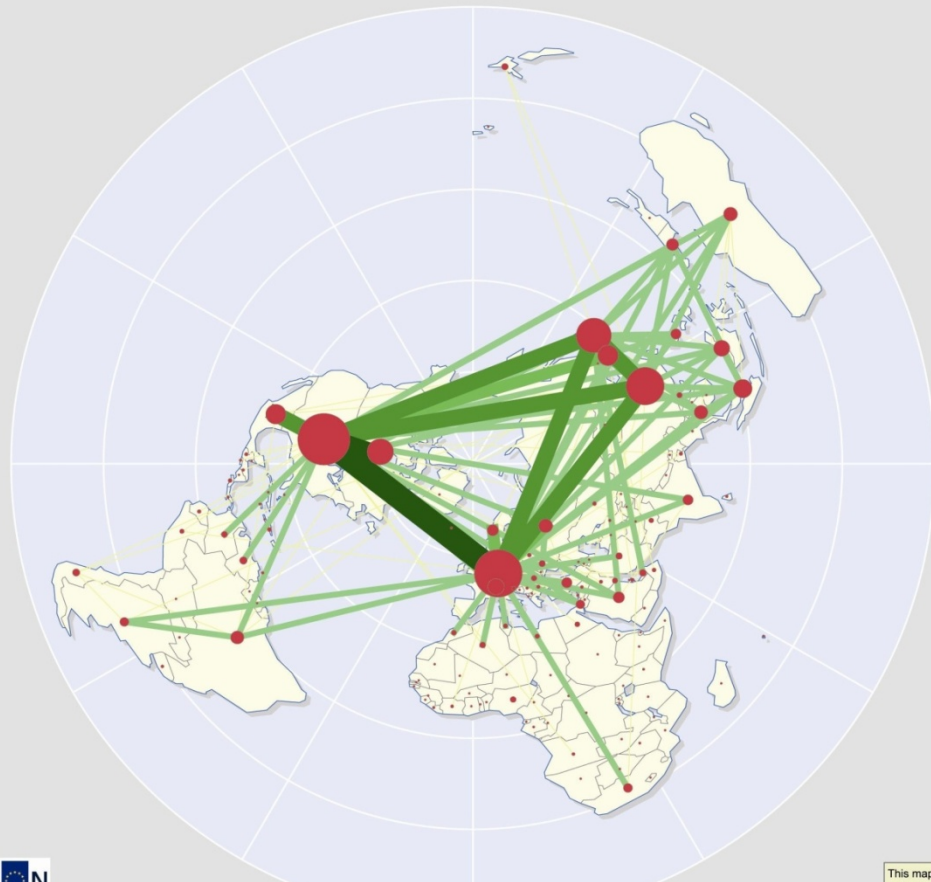
# Observations on the European territory

Cartogram showing size of regions in terms of GDP



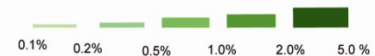
Substantial imbalances:  
Economic performance

# Observations on the European territory



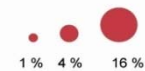
## Integration of Europe in global networks

International flows measured in % of world bilateral trade

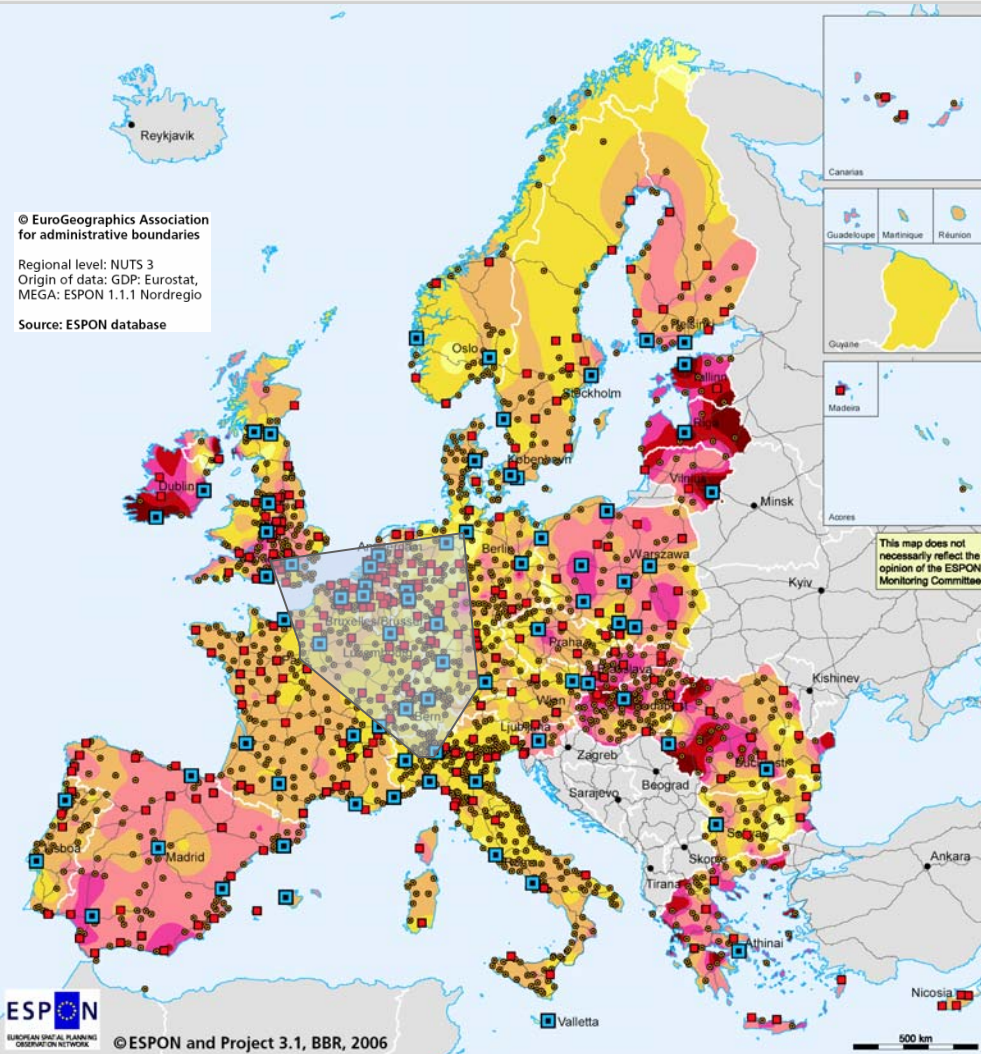


Bilateral international trade flows 1996-2000 (with EU25 aggregated)

Share of world bilateral trade of each state



# Observations on the European territory



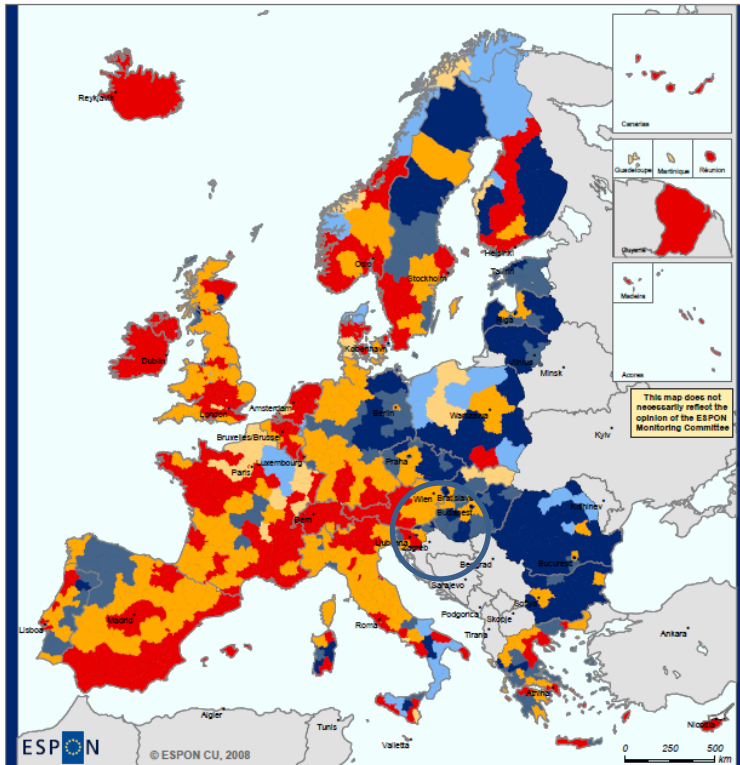
- MEGAs are main drivers for development
- Functionality is key for success
- Concentration in Pentagon, signs of de-concentration


## Functional Urban Areas (FUAs)

- Metropolitan European Growth Areas (MEGAs)
- Transnational / national FUAs
- Regional / local FUAs
- Highways of European level

# What about South-east Europe?

Map 1: Typology of population development, 2001-2005



 © ESPON CU, 2008  
 EUROPEAN UNION  
 Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund  
 INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE  
 © EuroGeographics Association  
 for administrative boundaries  
 Regional level: AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, IS, MT, NL, PL: NUTS2  
 Other countries NUTS3 (2006)  
 Origin of data: Eurostat (estimations)  
 Source: ESPON 2013 database

**Population increase with**  
 ■ positive migratory balance and positive natural balance  
 ■ positive migratory balance and negative natural balance  
 ■ negative migratory balance and positive natural balance

**Population decrease with**  
 ■ negative migratory balance and positive natural balance  
 ■ positive migratory balance and negative natural balance  
 ■ negative migratory balance and negative natural balance  
 ■ no data

Demographic change:

Double challenge: negative natural balance and outmigration

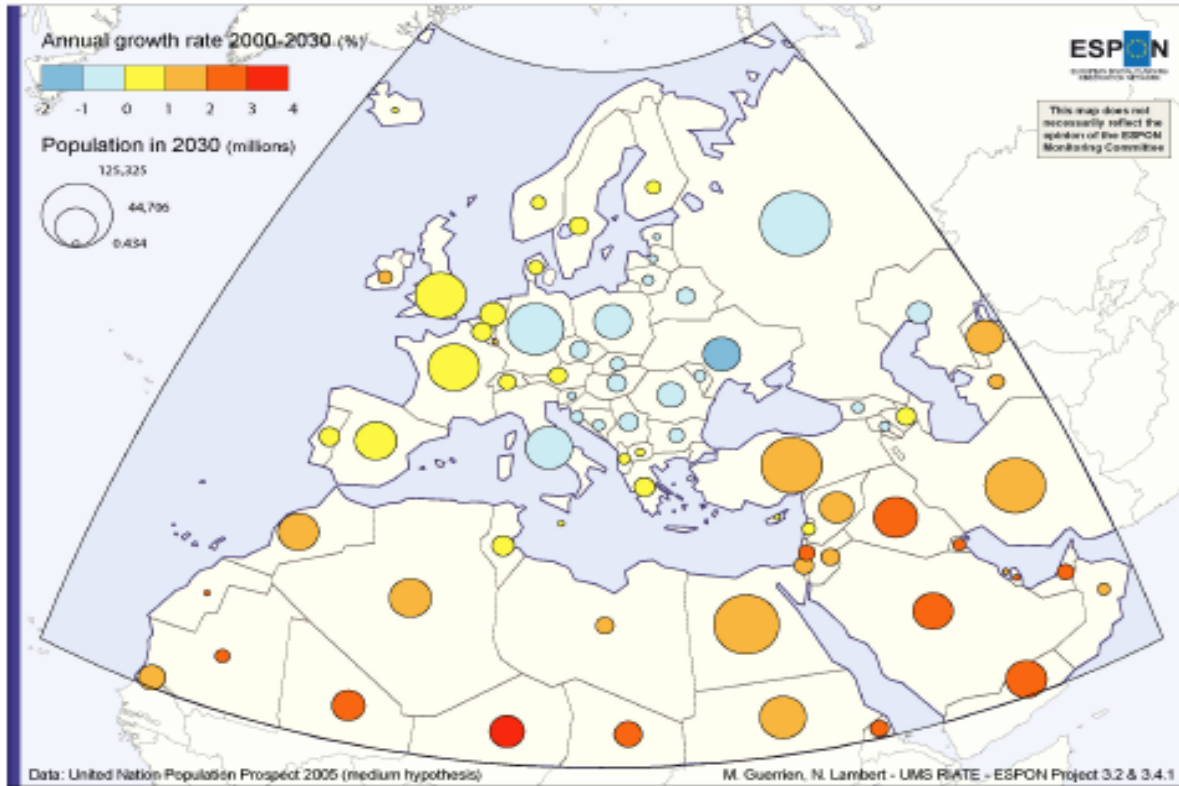
However ...

Capital cities are capable to attract people

North-west Balkans demonstrate some more positive figures

# What about South-east Europe?

POPULATION IN EUROPE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS IN 2030



Demographic change:

Not completely an exceptional situation from European perspective ...



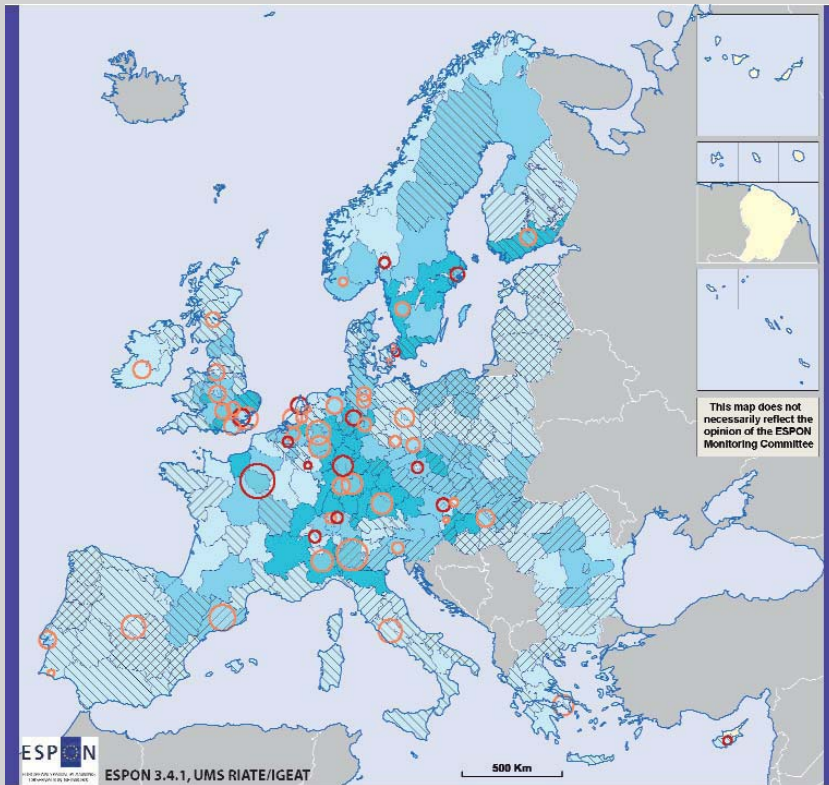
# What about South-east Europe?

Sensitivity to globalisation:

Rather weak but ...

Some stronger areas / cities

High share of personal services



© EuroGeographics Association for administrative boundaries

Internationalisation level  
(NUTS2 regions with major urban areas)

Low  
High

Total NUTS2 population  
(thousands of inhabitants)

10 000  
2 500

Structural strengths  
and weaknesses

High share of technological  
manufacturing industries

High share of  
personal services

Technological level

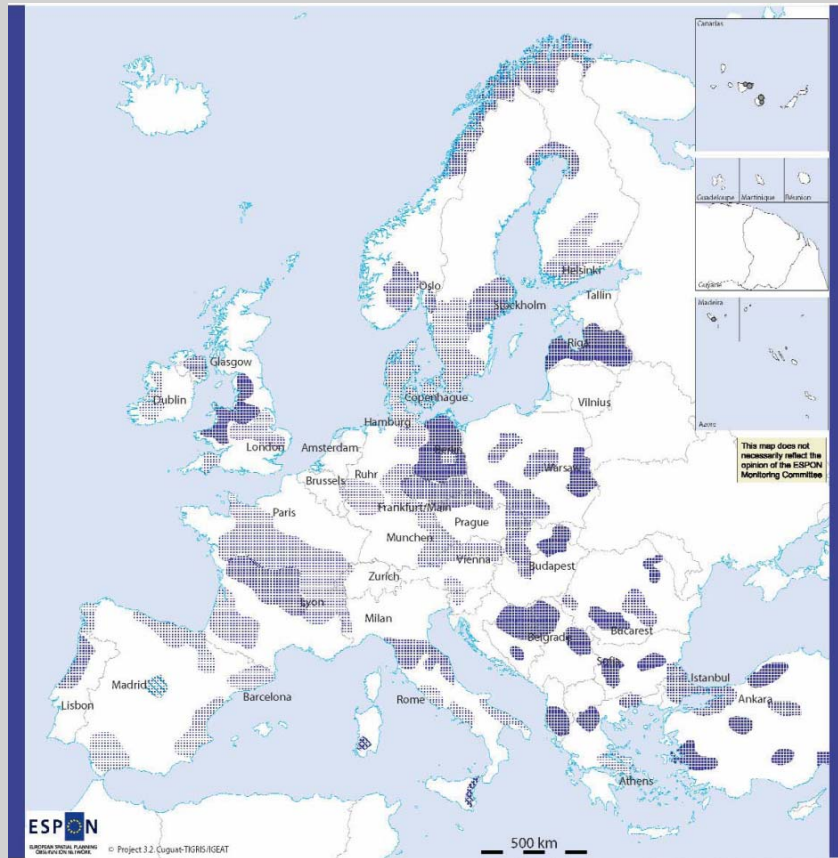
Low Medium High No data

Regional level: NUTS2

Source of data: Eurostat and  
National Statistical Offices

Year of data: 2002

# What about South-east Europe?

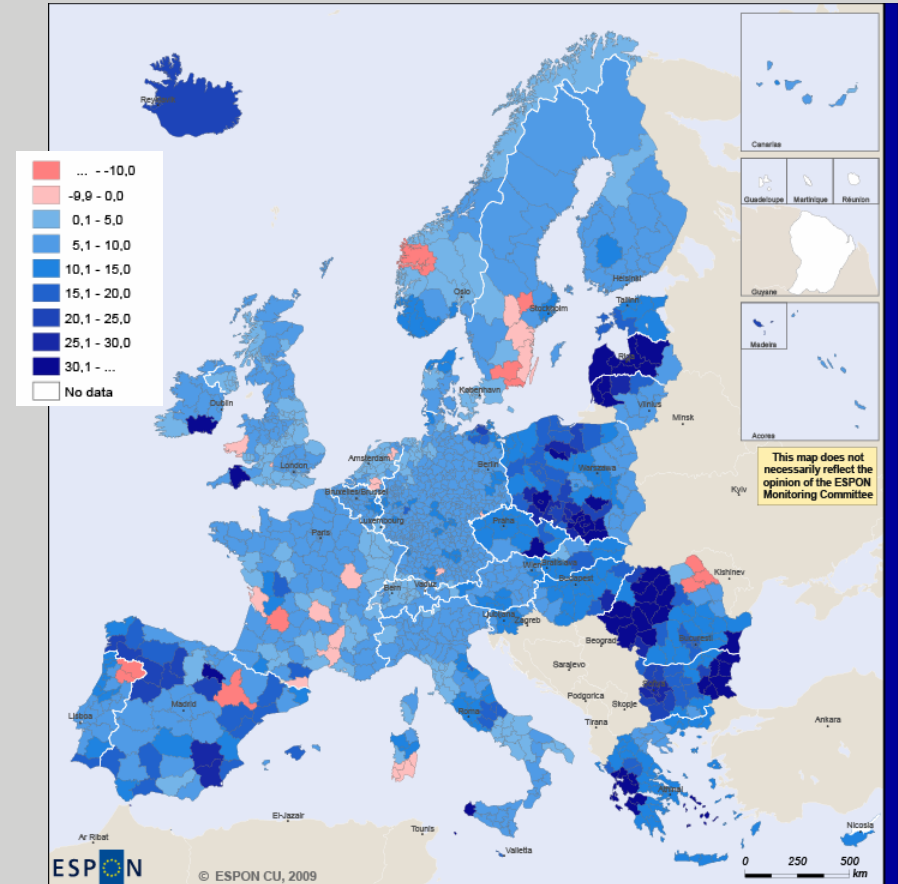
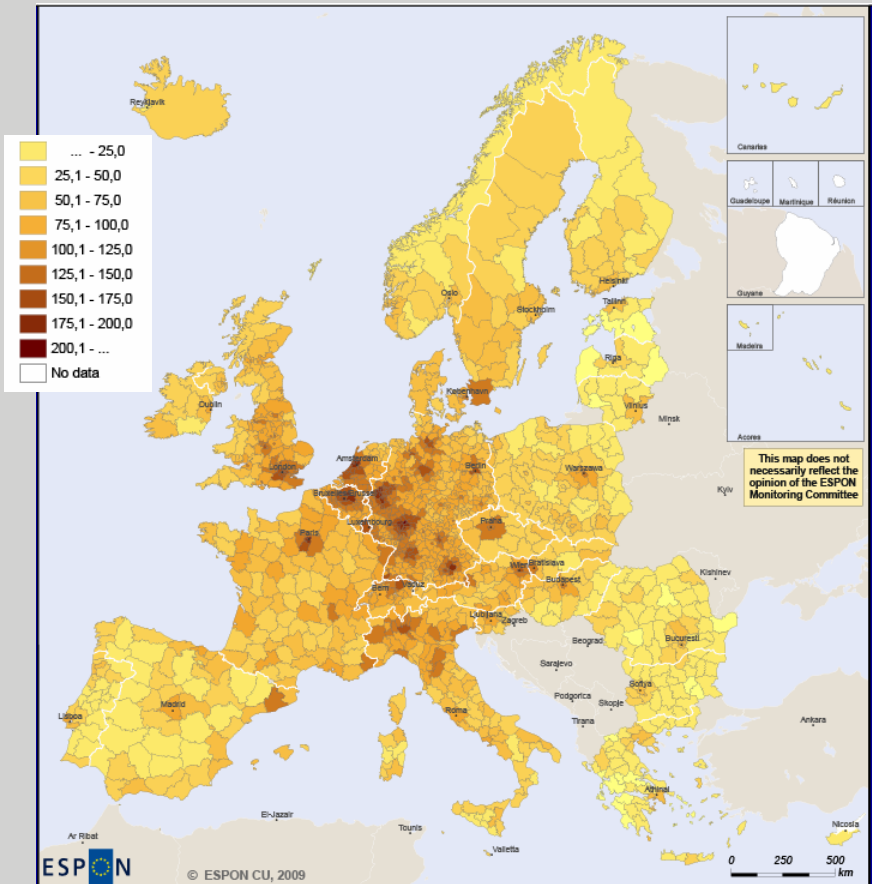


Industrial decline:

High risk in some regions

# What about South-east Europe?

Multi-modal access Index (2006) and change (2001-2006)



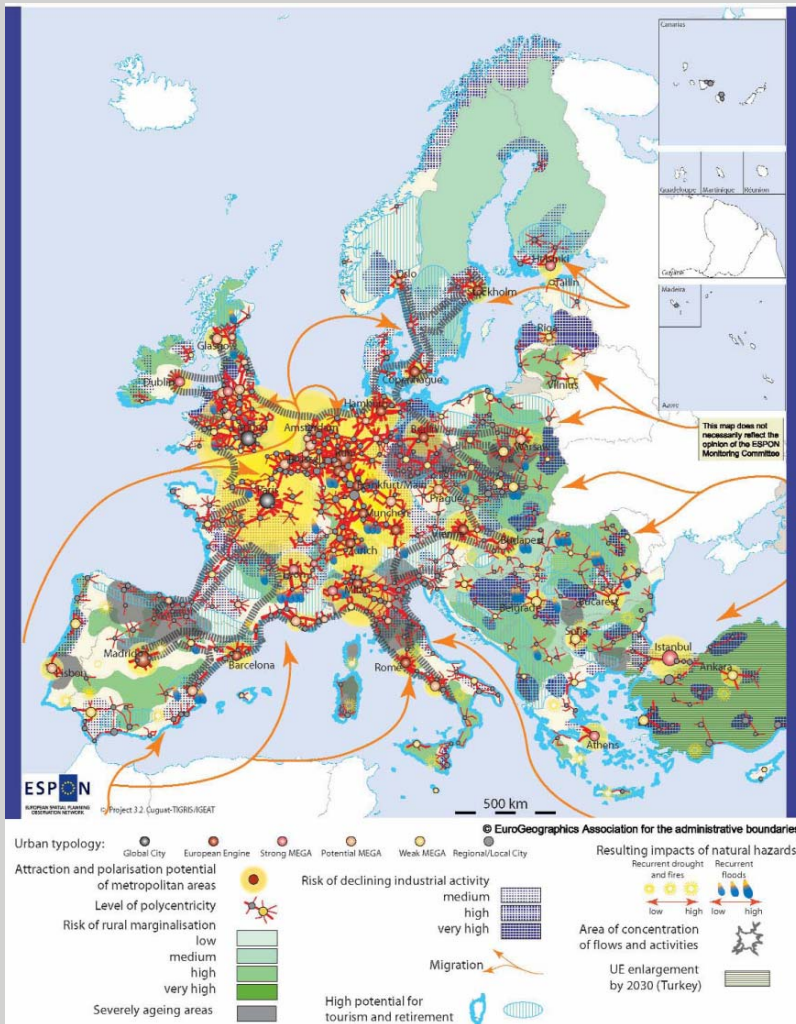
# There are concerns!

Trend scenario 2030

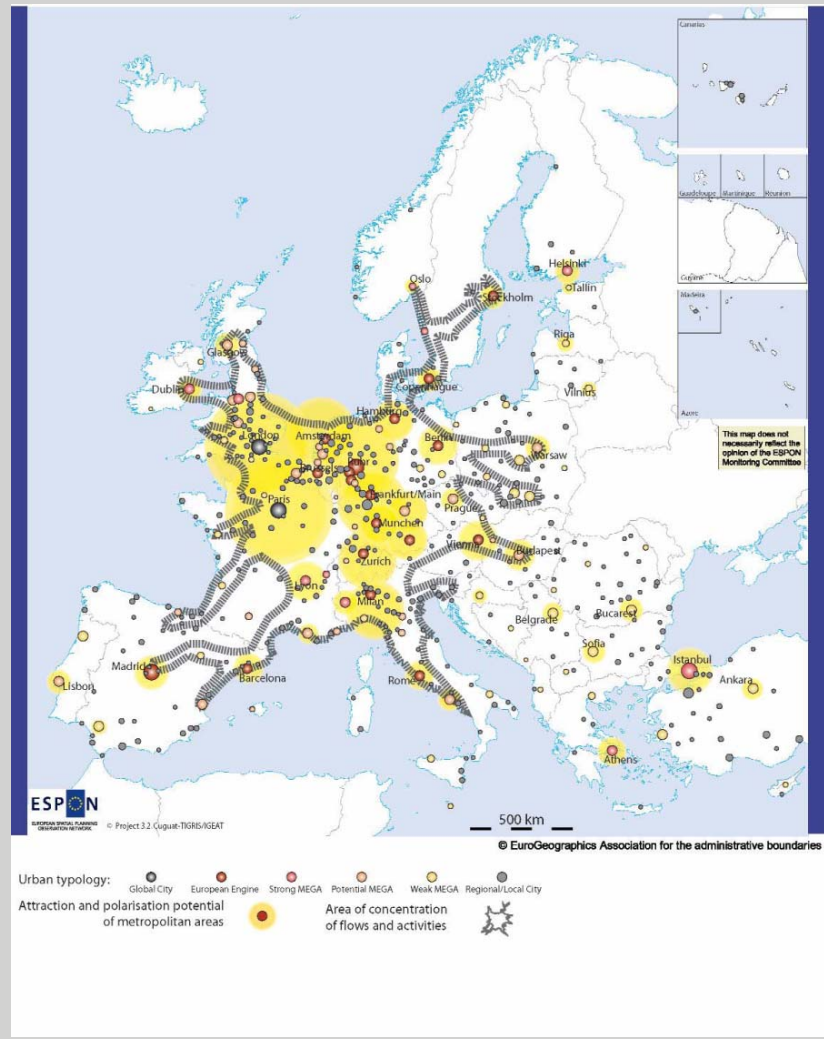
Polycentric structures may appear but not as fully-fledged as elsewhere

Rural areas at risk

Economic transition



# There is hope!



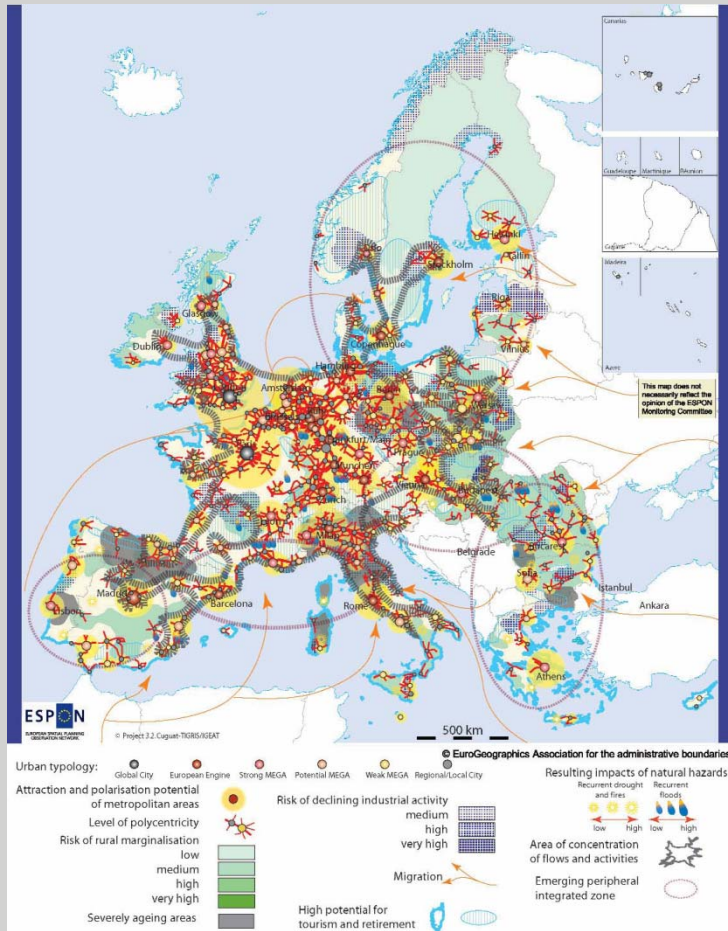
Trend scenario 2030

Danube corridor growing as from Vienna + MEGAs

# There is hope!

Cohesion scenario 2030

Policy action and cohesion may take away risks and stimulate polycentric development structures



# What development approach?

## **Territorial approach**

Use territorial macro structures (Danube valley + urban system) as lever for action to better integrate into the (economic) European space

## **Multi-level approach**

Strengthen macro structures (e.g. MEGAs) + integration of wider territory

## **Integrated approach**

Social + economic development is required but “soft factors” (nature, landscape, culture) to be preserved and strengthened as they are comparative advantages from European perspective

## **Long-term approach**

Soft factors can be of benefit in the long run also for economic purposes

# What need for spatial knowledge?

## **Linking wider territories to main macro structures**

MEGA s - Secondary Growth Poles

**Better understanding of the long term added value of ‘soft factors’ to (economic) development**

## **Geographical coverage**

*“The TPG should assess the data situation [...] in the EU Candidate Countries (i.e. Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey) and/or the other countries of the Western Balkans (i.e. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244).”*