

Cross-border typologies in the Enlargement area

Results from the ESPON 1.1.3 Report
*"Enlargement of the European Union and its
 Polycentric Spatial Structure"*

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ESPON 1.1.3

Aim: To examine the social and economic effects of the 2004 Enlargement process on the entire European territory and its polycentric development.

Findings:

2004 Enlargement area is a *diverse* territory: large economic differences between countries. Cyprus, Malta and Slovenia most successful, as well as large major agglomerations- Budapest, Prague and Warsaw that are rapidly "catching up".

Processes of economic **convergence** at *European* level between old and new member states, but **divergence** at *national* and *regional* levels.

Regions become more closely connected- increasing mobility of goods and production factors, intensifying interregional cooperation among various actors

Border Regions

Four Functions of borders

Barriers- **economic, administrative, legal , cultural, psychological**

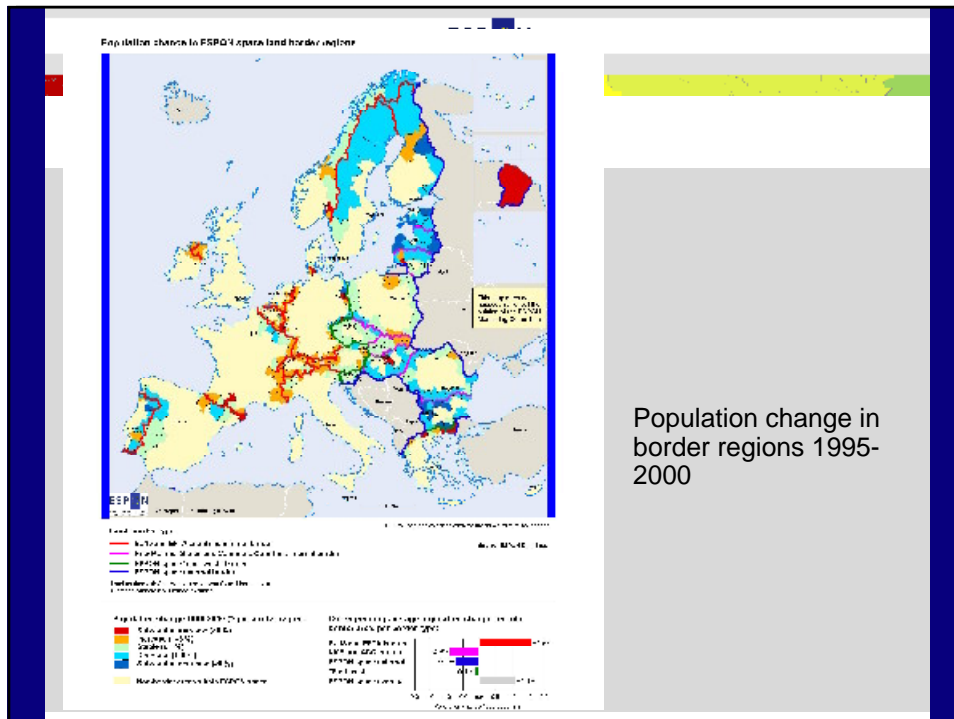
Bridges- **strategic networks, capacity building**

Resources- **economic and political opportunities**

Symbols of identity- **could have longer-term ramifications**

Characteristics of borders and border regions

- Borders a main characteristic that separates the EU from eg the US.
- Border regions tend to be **lagging** in development and peripherally located with respect national centers of power (exceptions: Copenhagen, Bratislava)
- Border regions make up one-third of EU space, but their share of **lagging regions is 40%**
- Border regions experiencing **negative population change**



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Potential in Border Regions

ESPON 1.1.3 typology: to examine the integration **potential** of border regions in Enlargement area

Various components of border regions examined:

Typology #1

- Geographic type of border: mountain, river, "green"
- Density of border crossings: road border crossings

Typology #2

- Dimension of economic disparities: small, medium or large
- Membership in transnational activities: Euroregions or Working Communities

Draft typologies

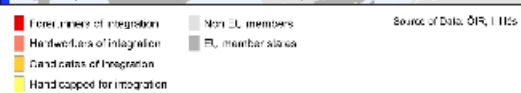
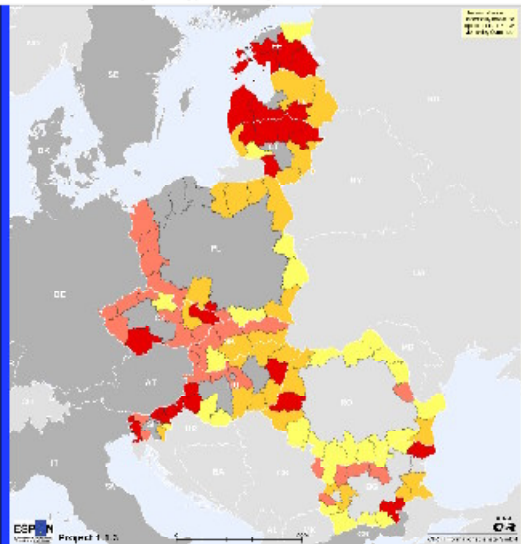
Table: Draft Typology # 1: border typology for integration potential – geographical-physical border typology

Starting position \ Potential for change	High: Green border	Low: Mountain/River border
Good: High density of border crossing points	Forerunners of integration	Hardworkers of integration
Bad: Low density of border crossing points	Candidates of integration	Handicapped for integration

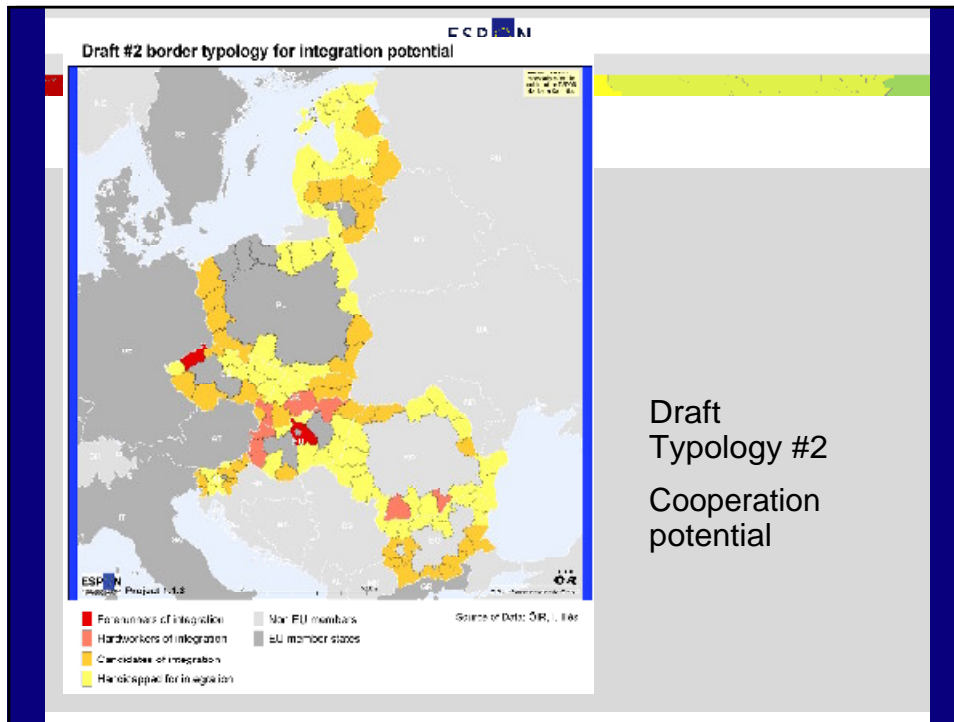
Table: Draft Typology # 2: border typology for integration potential – socio-economic border typology

Starting position \ Potential for change	High: High economic disparities	Low: Low economic disparities
Good: High number of trans-national activities	Forerunners of integration	Hardworkers of integration
Bad: Low number of trans-national activities	Candidates of integration	Handicapped for integration

Draft #1 border typology for integration potential



Draft Typology #1: Flow integration



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Challenges with Border Region Typologies

- Does not account for **water borders**
- Criteria missing: **multimodal** transport
- **Long** borders (different classifications)
- **Differing** neighbour regions fall into different classes
- Difficult to be **policy-relevant**
- Case studies (**Hungary-Slovakia** and **Bulgaria-Greece** show that the Typology #2 is more of an indicator of integration potential