

## **ESPON-INTERACT thematic study: Polycentric Urban Development & Rural-Urban Partnerships**

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ESPON-INTERACT conference on rural-urban partnership and polycentric urban development, The Hague, 25 April 2006

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## Main aims of the study

Comparing ESPON and INTERREG

→ mutual learning between INTERREG and ESPON

- Systematic and comparative overview of INTERREG projects
- Key outcomes of most relevant ESPON studies
- Ideas for future ESPON agenda and European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)

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## Polycentricity and rural-urban relationships

- Important concepts for European territorial development
- Introduced in 1999 European Spatial Development Perspective
- General invitation to apply these concepts in INTERREG
- Key themes in ESPON

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## Key ESPON 1.1.1. findings

- Polycentricity should be interpreted in a multi-scalar perspective
  - Micro: local/regional
  - Meso: national/transnational
  - Macro: European
- Potential contradiction between the policy objectives at different scales
  - No empirical evidence of the inter-scalar coherence of polycentric development strategies

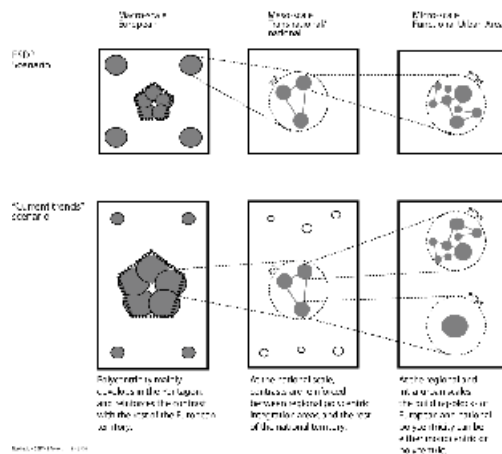
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## Key ESPON 1.1.1. findings



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- Potential contradiction between the policy objectives at different scales
  - No empirical evidence of the inter-scalar coherence of polycentric development strategies
- Need for differentiated approaches at different scales emphasized in the policy issues and recommendations

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## Polycentricity in INTERREG Programmes

Alpine Space	7.6%	(€60.6m)
Archimed	3.3%	(€79.5m)
Atlantic Area	17.8%	(€118.7m)
Baltic Sea	28.2%	(€100.2m)
CADSES	12.8%	(€153.7m)
Northern Periphery	-----	(€21.2m)
North Sea	9.0%	(€129.3m)
North West Europe	19.1%	(€328.6m)
South West Europe (SUDOE)	7.0%	(€66.0m)
Western Mediterranean (MEDOCC)	15.2%	(€103.6m)

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## Analytical approach to INTERREG projects

- 3 main themes addressed
  - ❑ Spatial structure of the territory
  - ❑ Economic development
  - ❑ Governance
- Crossed with the three territorial scales
  - ❑ Micro
  - ❑ Meso
  - ❑ Macro

Type	Keywords/key issues
1. Spatial structure of the territory	Polycentric spatial development, Metropolitan regions, Spatial integration, Polycentric urban systems
2. Potentials for balanced economic development	Global Integration Zones, Ruled-out territorial development, Centres of excellence, Complementarity, Development of specialised secondary urban centres
3. How integrated systems of governance	Regeneration, Revitalisation, Integrated spatial planning, Joint development strategy, Governance, Empowerment of secondary urban nodes, Identification and implementation of endogenous development potentials

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## Polycentricity in INTERREG projects

	Micro	Meso	Macro
<b>Structure of the territory</b>	Polycentric regional structure (Metropolitan Areas+ ) Compact city structure in peripheral nodes (Vital Cities)	Spatial integration of trans-national zones (Via Baltica)	
<b>Economic development</b>	Develop economic profiles of regional sub-centres (Baltic Palette II)	Networks of innovation/ Competence centres (TECPARKNET)	Functional integration of metropolises (PolyMETREX Plus) Fostering GIZ (SIC!) Connection to global markets (North East Cargo Link)
<b>Governance</b>	Integrated spatial development instruments (PolyDev, URBE VIVA) Promoting growth initiatives (Revitalisation) (MECIBS, REVITA)	Joint strategies for development (DEFERIS)	

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## Main conclusions on polycentricity

- Polycentric development implies the identification of relevant issues and challenges for each territory
  - Process of developing a more pro-active attitude to local economic development in a larger number of nodes
- INTERREG enables participating regions to identify a strategy for the development of their territory
  - Internal structure
  - Position in a wider territorial context
- Despite the similarity of themes addressed, few explicit references of ESPON outcomes in INTERREG projects
- Inter-scalar coherence merely addressed in INTERREG projects

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## 6 main themes of INTERREG urban-rural projects

1. Economic and social development
2. Services and facilities
3. Transport, energy and information
4. Consumption and amenity
5. Demography
6. Governance

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## Urban-rural projects by theme

Theme	INTERREG IIIA	INTERREG IIIB	INTERREG IIIC	TOTAL
1. Economic and social development	3	25	7	36
2. Services and facilities	1	13	1	15
3. Transport, energy, information	2	5	--	7
4. Consumption and amenity	10	23	5	38
5. Demography	--	3	--	3
6. Governance	--	8	5	12
Total	16	77	18	111

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## Urban-rural typology from ESPON project 1.1.2

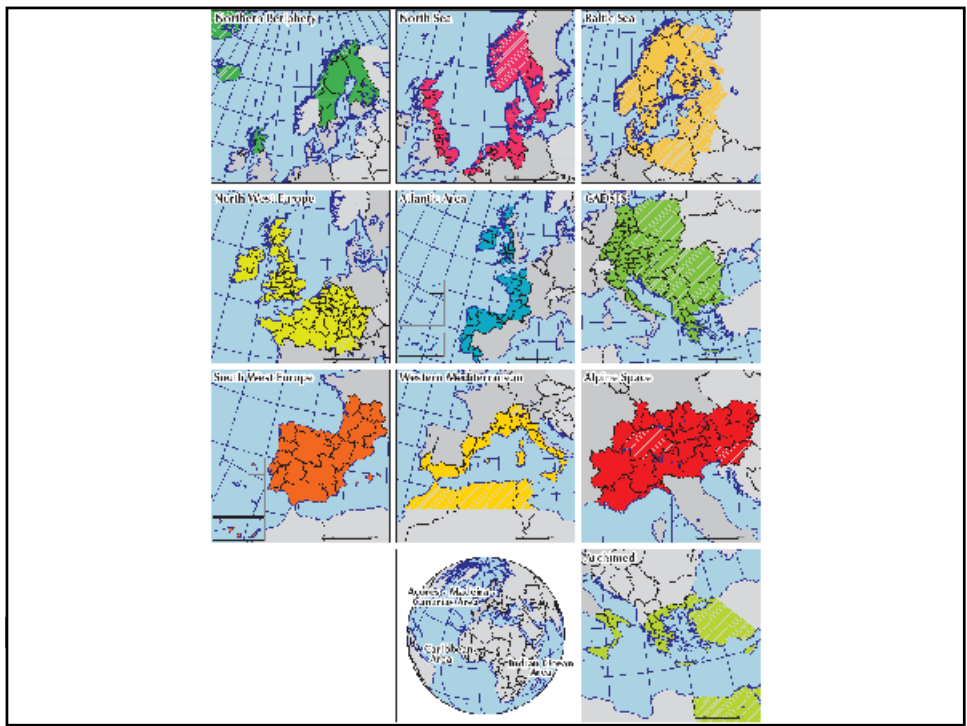
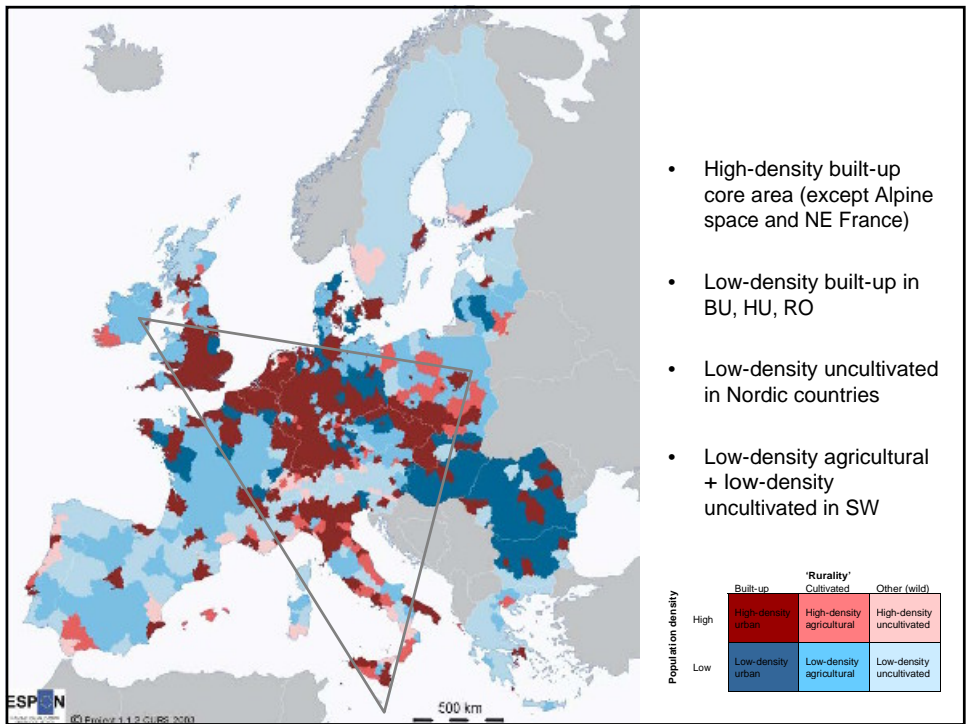
		Built-up	'Rurality' Cultivated	Other (wild)
Population density	High	High-density urban	High-density agricultural	High-density uncultivated
	Low	Low-density urban	Low-density agricultural	Low-density uncultivated

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## INTERREG IIB resources for urban-rural projects

Alpine Space	7.6%	(€60.6m)
Archimed	6.4%	(€79.5m)
Atlantic Area	5.9%	(€118.7m)
Azores, Madeira, Canarias (MAC)	7.4%	(€136.0m)
Baltic Sea	8.7%	(€100.2m)
Caribbean Space	<5.4%	(€12.0m)
CADSES	5.5%	(€153.7m)
Indian Ocean/Réunion	13.0%	(€5.0m)
Northern Periphery	8.9%	(€21.2m)
North Sea	8.7%	(€129.3m)
North West Europe	4.8%	(€328.6m)
South West Europe (SUDOE)	10.0%	(€66.0m)
Western Mediterranean (MEDOCC)	4.8%	(€103.6m)

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## INTERREG IIB urban-rural projects

Areas	Economic and social development	Services and facilities	Transport, energy, information	Consumption and amenity	Demography	Governance	TOTAL
Alpine Space		2	1	1		1	5
Atlantic Area	3			1	1		5
Baltic Sea	2	1		3		1	7
CADSES	4	1		2		1	8
MAC	3		2	5	1	1	12
North Sea	1			1		3	5
NW Europe				5		1	6
N Periphery	3	7	1		1		12
SUDOE	6	2		1			9
MEDOCC	3		1	4			8
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>77</b>

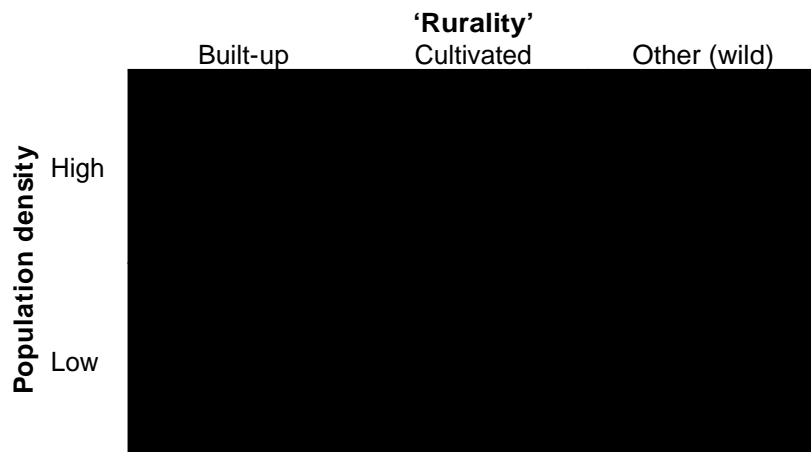
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## Key findings on rural-urban relationships



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## Main conclusions on rural-urban relationships

- Rural-urban relationships remain implicit in most projects
- Some 'flows' (ESPON) are hardly addressed (e.g. water, energy)
- Wide gap in language and objectives between ESPON and INTERREG
- Many projects have characteristics of Objective 2 and Leader  
→ added value is transnationality & learning
- Very few true rural-urban partnerships: crossing urban/rural administrative boundaries
- Most projects concern areas with low population density and/or high level of rurality (land-use)

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## Overall conclusions and recommendations

1. ESPON: becoming visible, understandable and relevant to practitioners
2. ESPON: supporting European Territorial Cooperation
3. ETC: if future programmes are to become more focussed on the 2 issues added value has to be communicated
4. ETC: more attention also dependent on financial resources
5. ESPON-INTERREG and polycentricity: ground for a common understanding, but some main challenges
6. ESPON-INTERREG and rural-urban relationships: scope for exchanging finding, but some main issues are left

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## Main points to discuss in afternoon workshops

1. How can **current knowledge** from ESPON and INTERREG be best brought together? And what kind of **future ESPON activities** concerning rural-urban partnerships and polycentric urban development could be carried out to best serve the needs of the INTERREG community?
2. Have today's ESPON and INTERREG presentations/discussions stimulated **ideas for new INTERREG activities** in current projects or new activities in future projects? If so, what are these ideas?
3. How do INTERREG projects concerning rural-urban partnerships and polycentric urban development currently fit with the **Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies**? How could future INTERREG projects in this area be better 'positioned' to fit with these strategies?

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Thank you

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