



# GROUP OF HIGH-LEVEL SPECIALISTS ON THE FUTURE OF COHESION POLICY

## Reinforcing Territorial Cooperation and addressing challenges on European Integration

Eduardo Medeiros

DINÂMIA'CET-ISCTE

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Fifth meeting – Reinforcing territorial cooperation and addressing challenges to  
European Integration

# Guiding questions

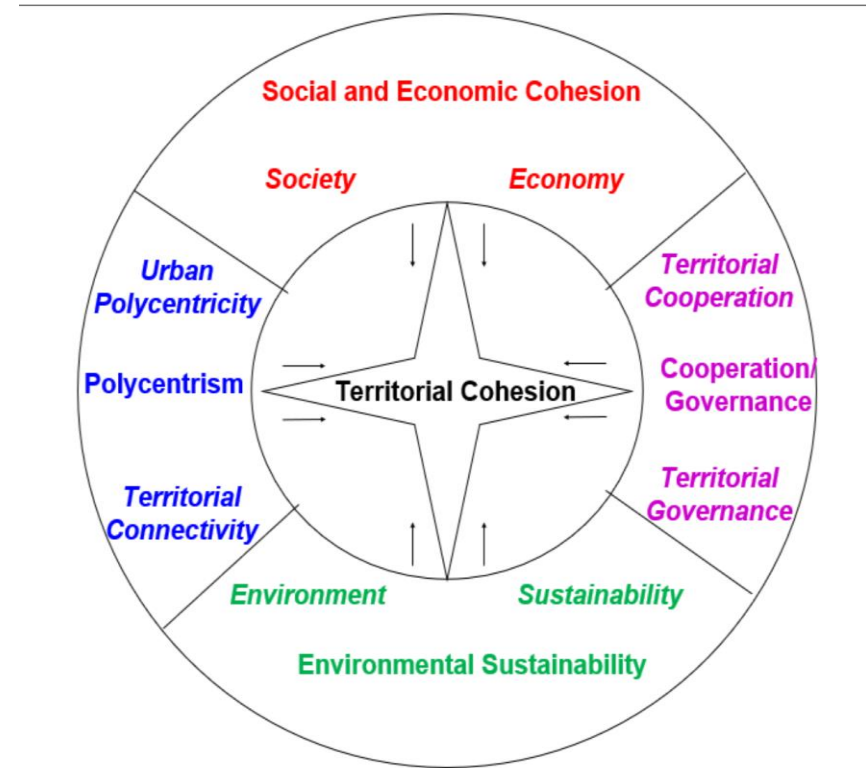
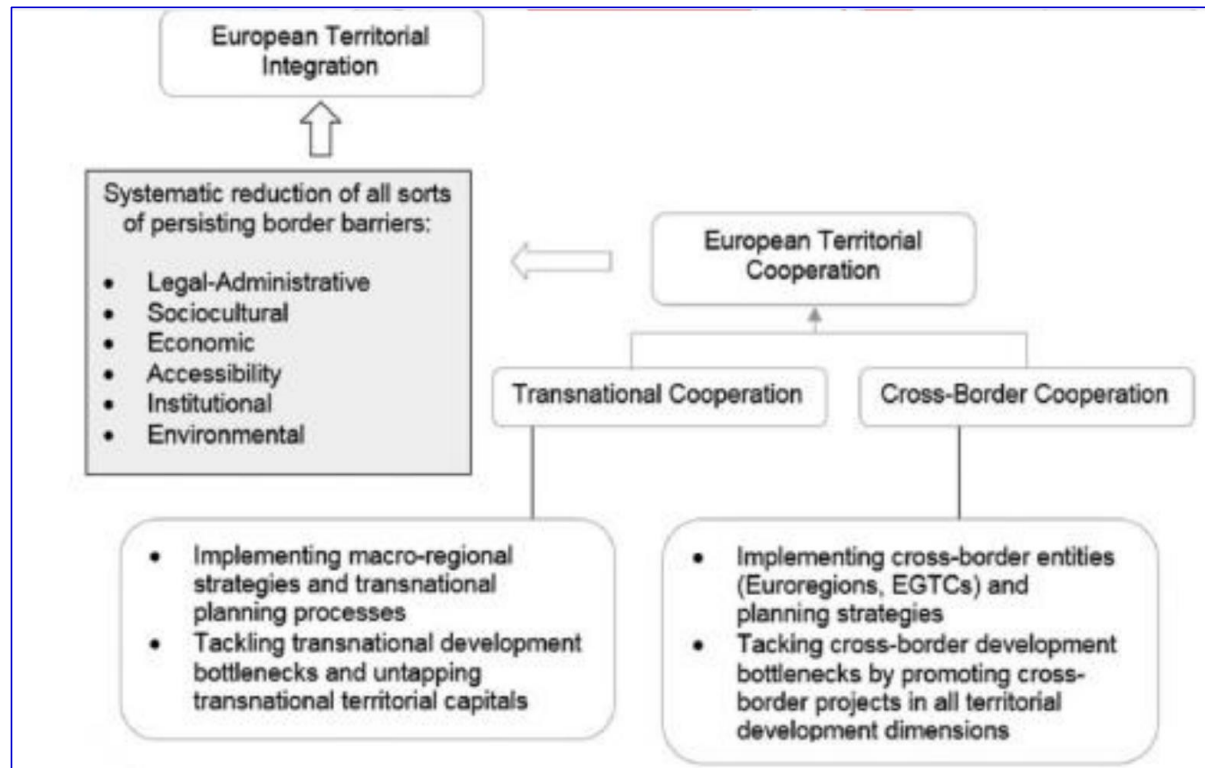
- A: What kind of additional instruments should be introduced to tackle persistent cross-border obstacles?
- B: Should cooperation be further incentivised including in mainstream cohesion policy programmes? How?
- C: Should there be an enhanced strategic framework through joint strategies for addressing transnational challenges (economic globalisation, climate or demographic change)?



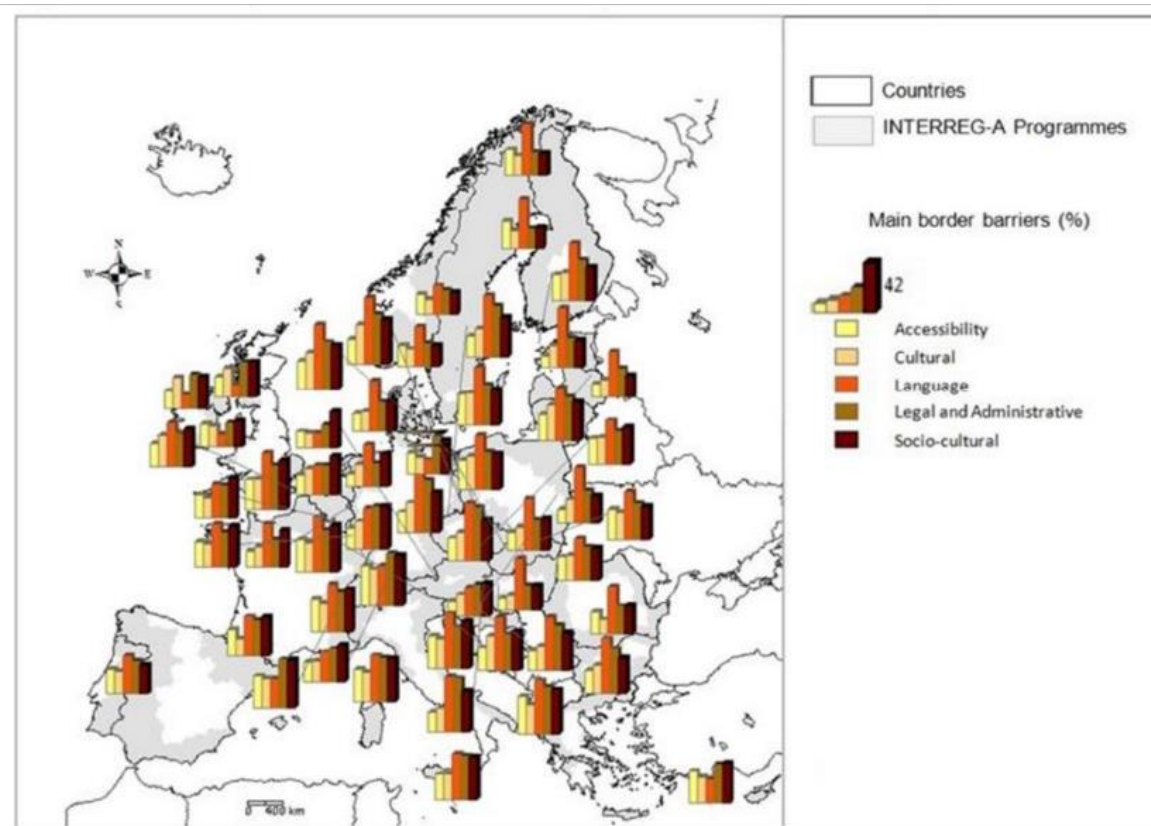
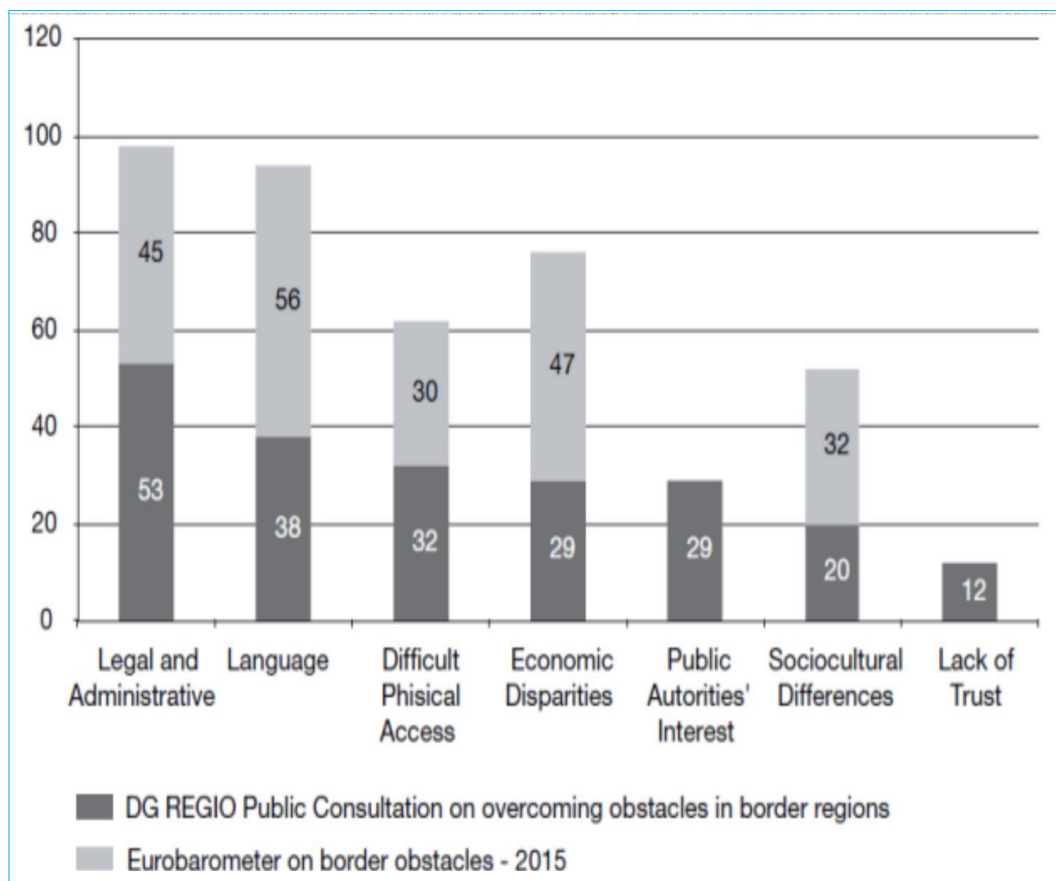
# EU instruments to tackle persistent cross-border obstacles

# The Interreg as the key EU instrument to mitigate cross-border obstacles

- Robust the Interreg in all strands both financially and strategically as the main EU instrument to tackle persistent cross-border and transnational obstacles and achieving European Territorial Integration and Cohesion



# Main cross-border barriers in the EU



Source: own elaboration based on Eurobarometer 2015.

## Persisting border barriers in the EU

Source: author

# Main cross-border barriers in the EU

Barrier Effect Dimension	N°	(%)
1. Accessibilities	292	23.76
1.1. Public transport	110	8.95
1.3. Rail connections	37	3.01
1.4. Transport systems	9	0.73
1.5. Air transport	4	0.33
1.6. Poor connectivity	100	8.14
1.7. Transport rules, regulations, price	24	1.95
1.8. Maritime connections	8	0.65
2. Social/Culture	356	28.97
2.1. Language	192	15.62
2.2. Trust	32	2.60
2.3. Health	33	2.69
2.4. Education	51	4.15
2.5. Cultural differences	37	3.01
2.6. Security	7	0.57
2.7. Young people	2	0.16
2.8. Mental barriers	2	0.16
3. Economy/Technology	174	14.16
3.1. Economic disparities	84	6.83
3.2. Fiscal issues	15	1.22
3.3. Labour market	49	3.99
3.4. Innovation	2	0.16
3.5. Entrepreneurship	3	0.24
3.6. Use of technology	13	1.06
3.7. Exchange rates	8	0.65

4. Institutional/Administrative	399	32.47
4.1. Legal asymmetries (tax-visa-laws)	166	13.51
4.2. Public authorities involvement	89	7.24
4.3. CBC structures	9	0.73
4.4. Governance	9	0.73
4.5. Information	19	1.55
4.6. Administrative asymmetries	81	6.59
4.7. Mobilising civil society	5	0.41
4.8. EU bureaucracy and budget	21	1.71
5. Environment	8	0.65
5.1. National parks collaboration	6	0.49
5.2. Tourism	2	0.16
5.3. Heritage protection	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1229</b>	<b>100.00</b>

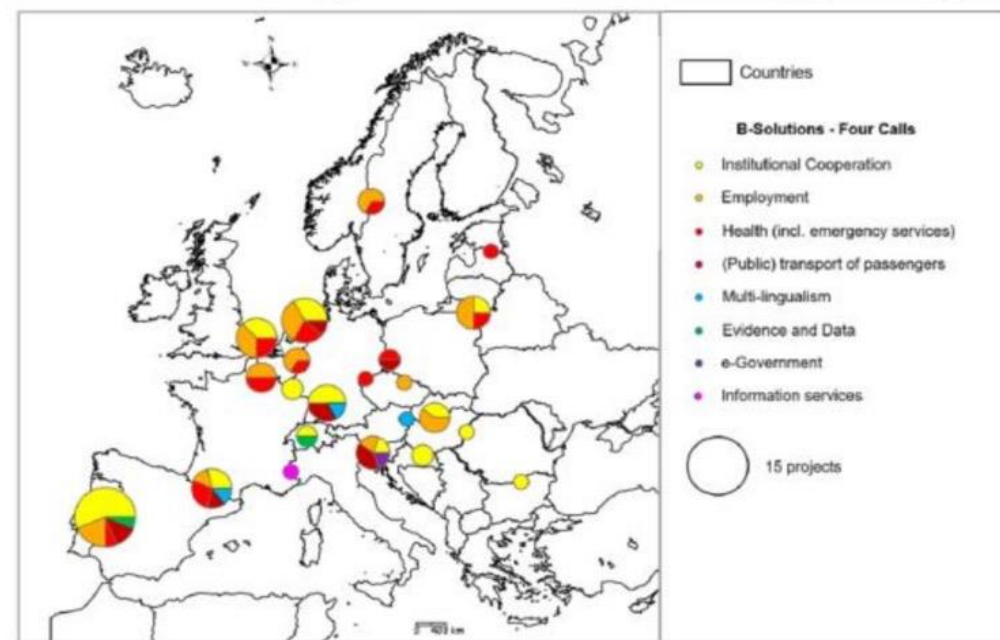
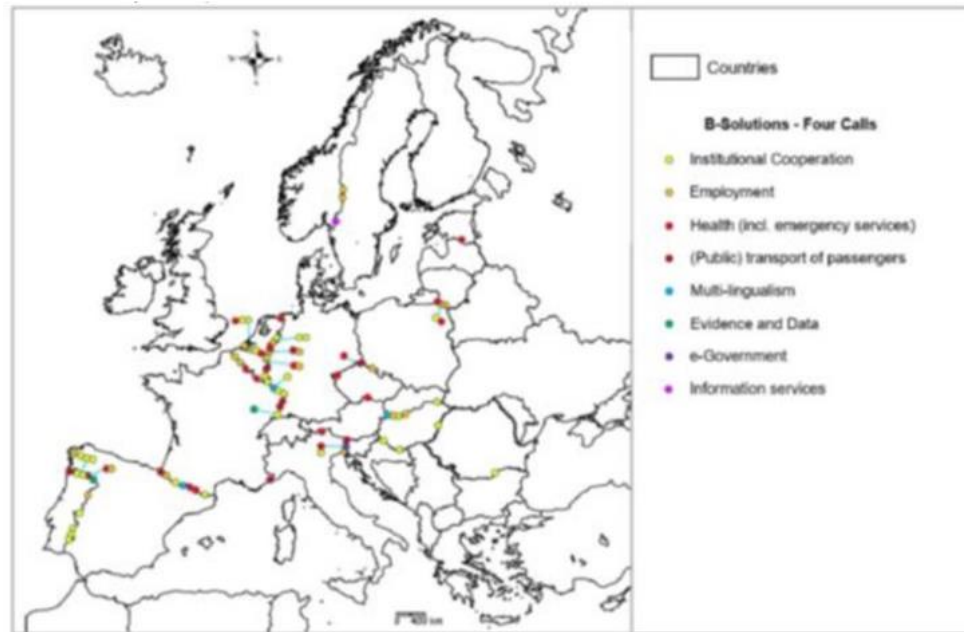
Source: own elaboration based on data from DG REGIO Public Consultation on Border Obstacles in Border Regions.

## Persisting border barriers in the EU

Source: author

# Build on the EU B-solutions Initiative

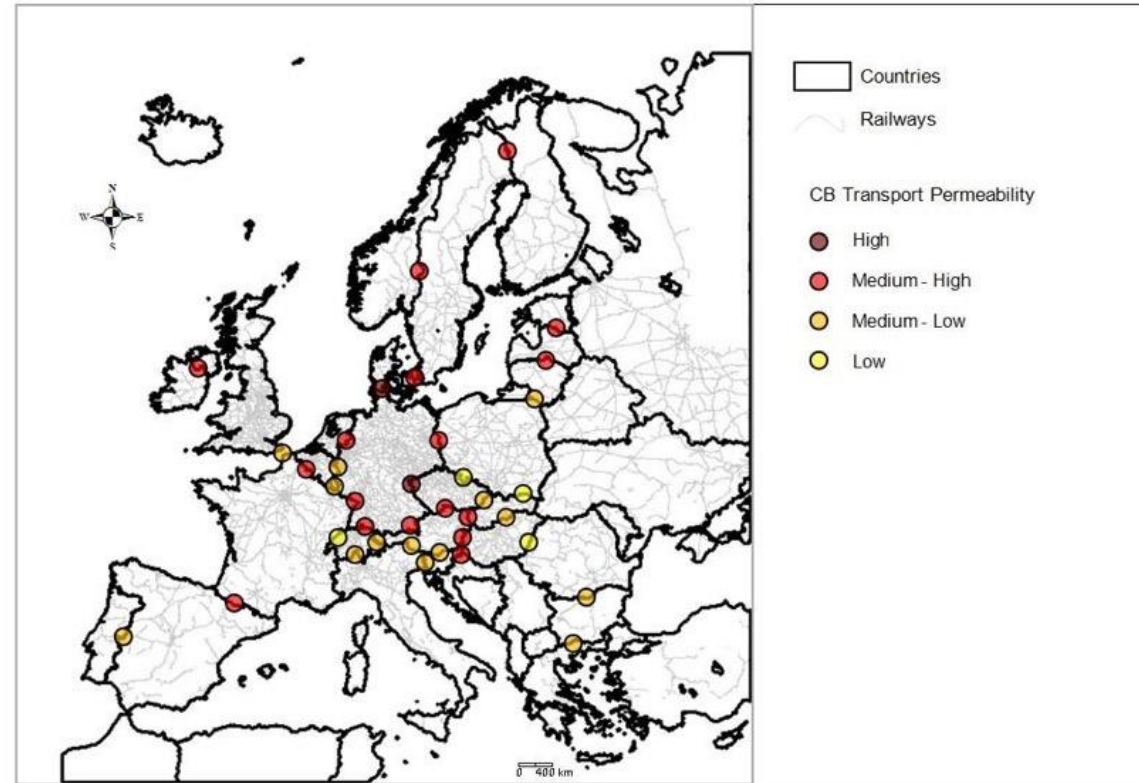
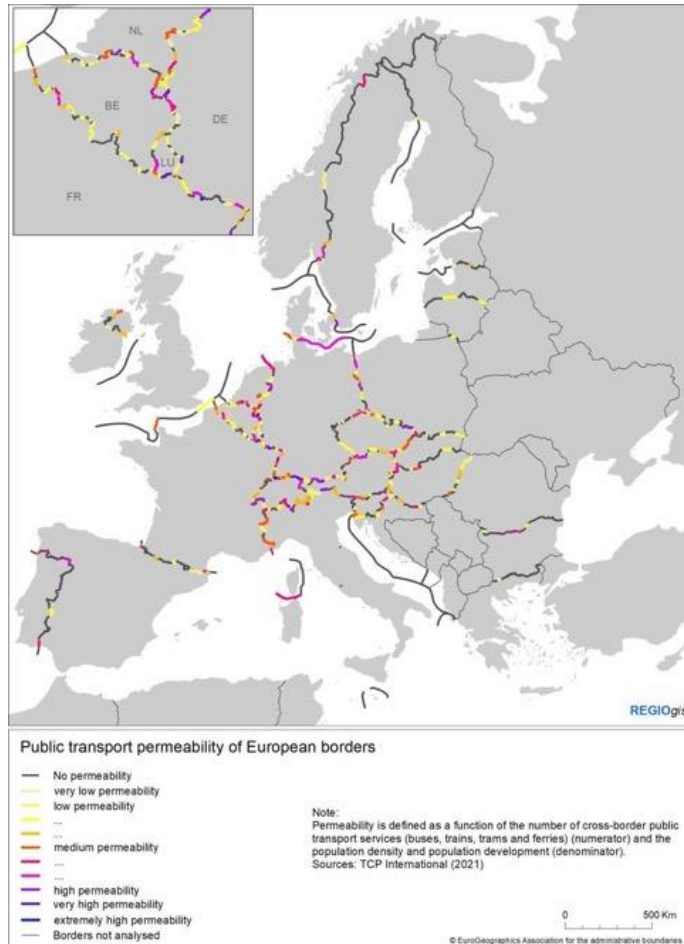
- Focus on reducing persistent border barriers with practical measures



Thematic Areas / Calls	I	II	III	IV	Total
1. Institutional Cooperation	4	12	8	9	33
2. Employment	3	6	5	8	22
3. Health (incl. emergency services)	1	6	4	6	17
4. Public) transport of passengers	1	7	2	1	11
5. Multi-lingualism	1	1	1	0	3
6. Evidence and data	0	0	2	0	2
7. e-Government	0	1	1	0	2
Total	10	33	23	24	90

# European Transnational Public Transports Mechanism (ETPTM)

- Link Interreg with other EU initiatives (e.g., TEN) to boost financial capacity



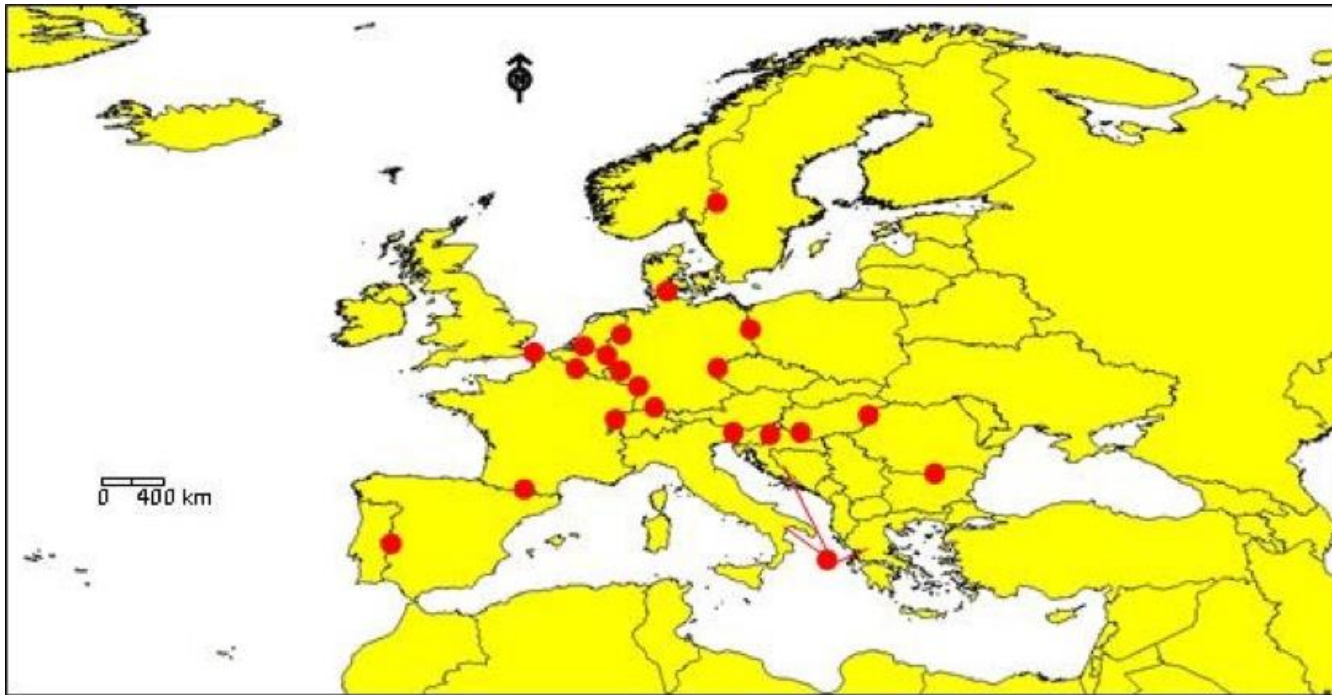
**Public transport permeability**

Source: EC



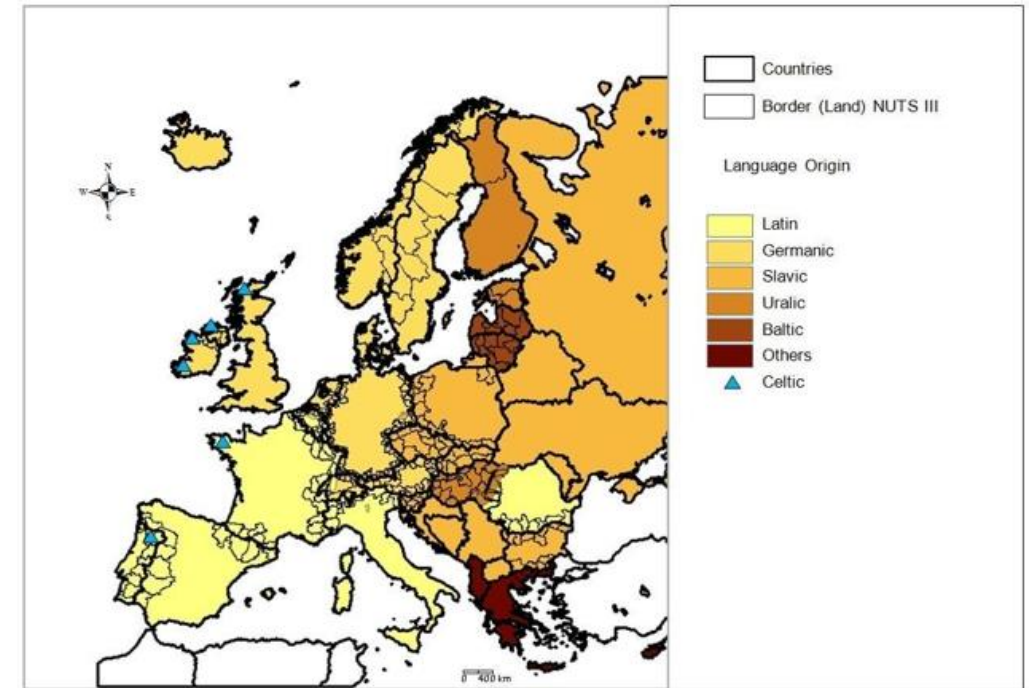
# European Transnational Language Mechanism (ETLM)

- Making English an official language on public information in the EU



**Presence of language barriers identified by respondents of the EU survey on Overcoming Obstacles in Border Regions (2015)**

Source: author

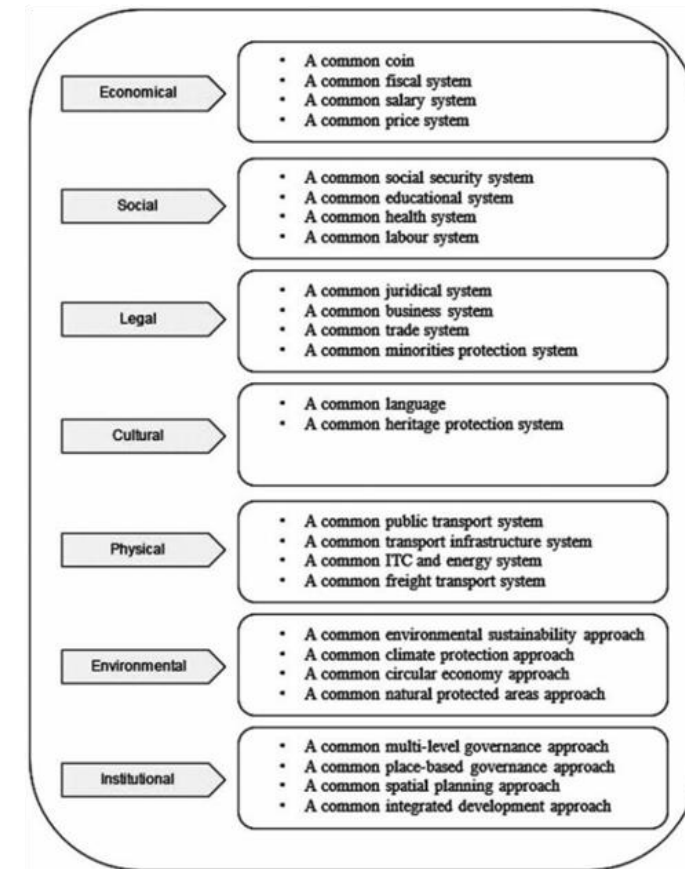
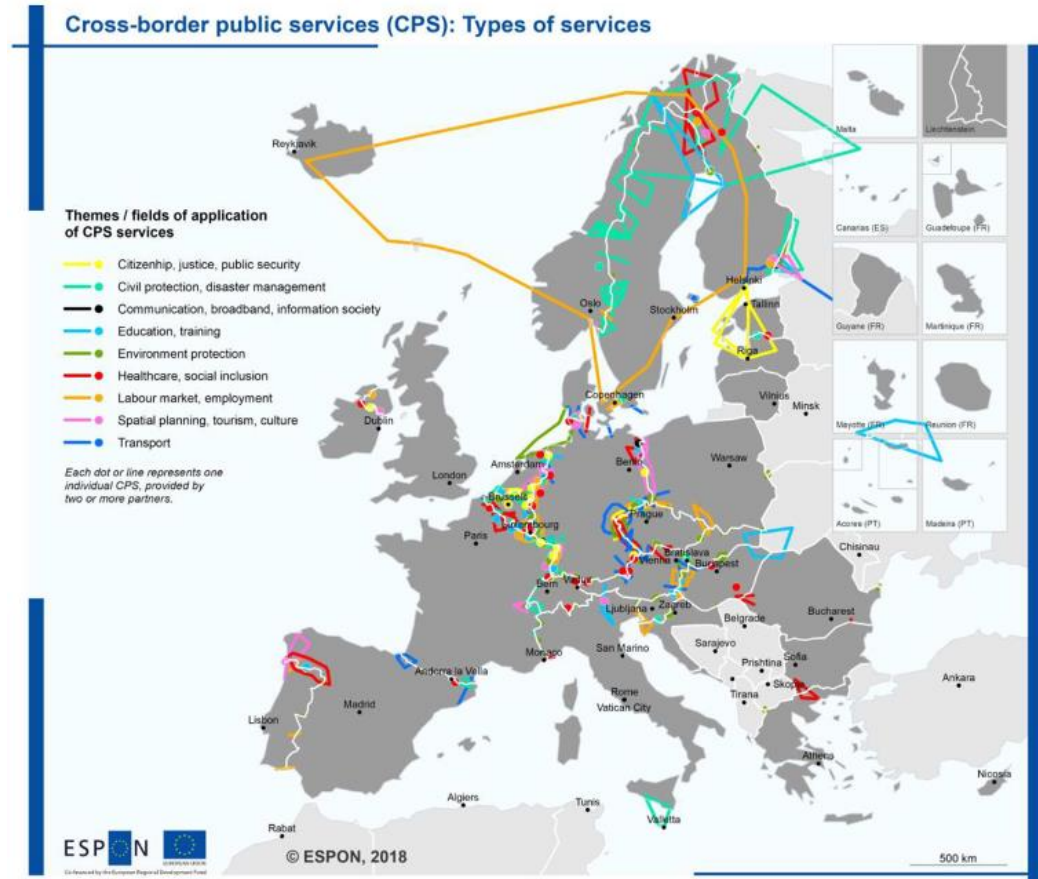


**Main family languages distribution in Europe**

Source: author

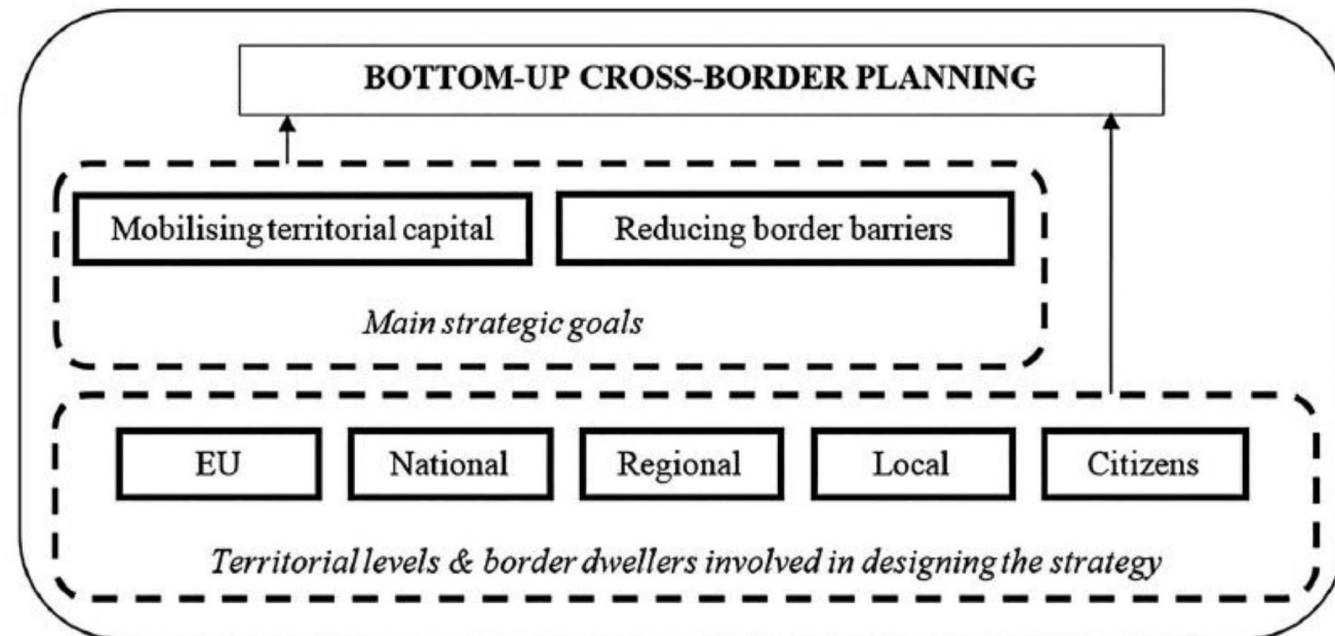
# European Transnational Mechanism (ETM)

- To reduce not only legal-administrative barrier but all sorts of persisting transnational barriers across all EU territory and beyond if possible.

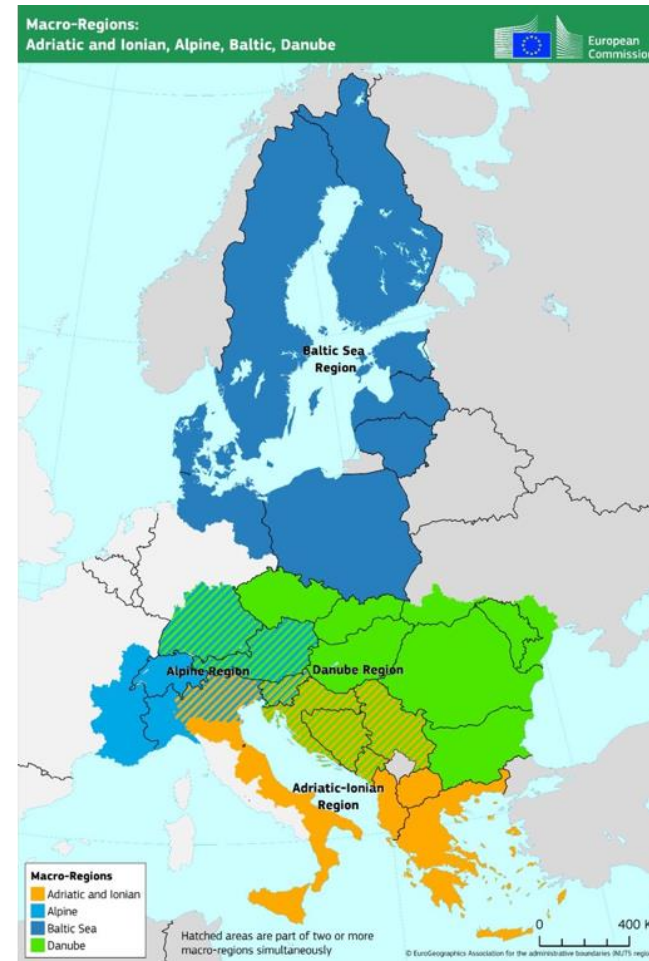
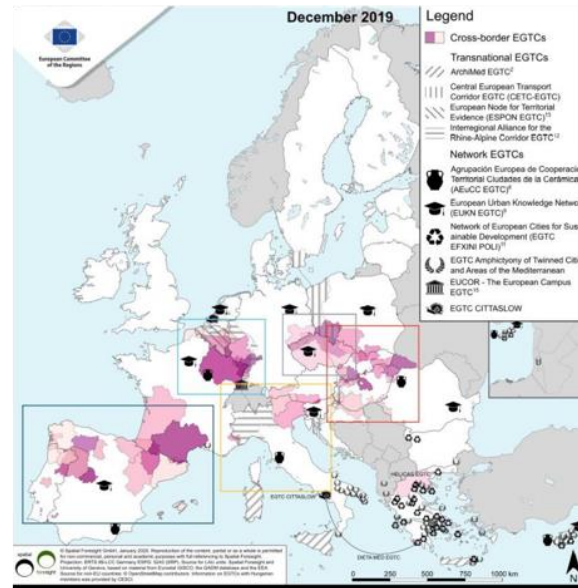
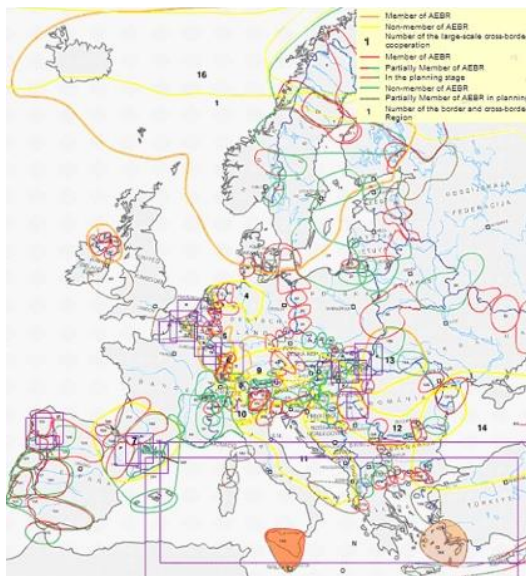


# From cross-border/transnational cooperation into cross-border/transnational bottom-up planning

- Increasing financial capacity, longer-term strategic development vision and multi-level strategic articulation and consideration of local/regional needs (subsidiarity);
- Implement cross-border and transnational spatial planning on physical accessibilities, river and sea-basin management;
- Favour medium towns and reduce territorial overlapping.



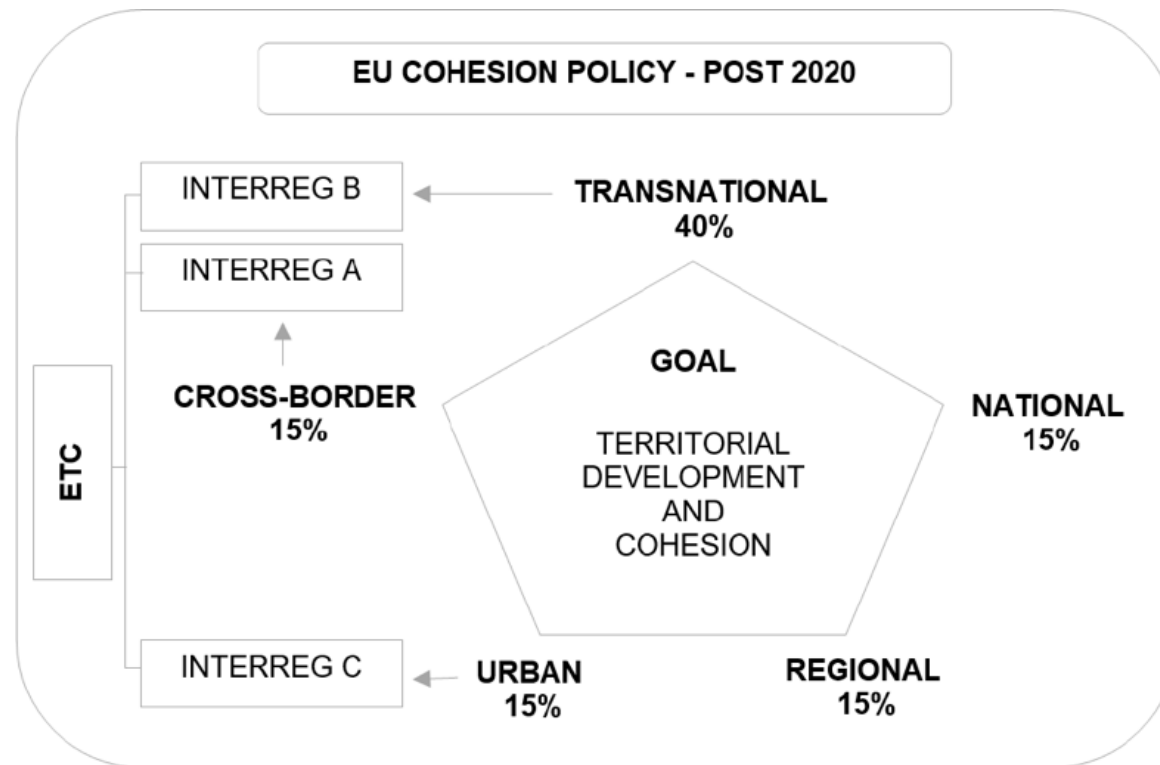
# From cross-border/transnational cooperation into cross-border/transnational bottom-up planning



Should cooperation be further incentivized including in mainstream cohesion policy programmes?

# Interreg at the Heart of EU Cohesion Policy

- Other EU Cohesion Policy programmes aiming at promoting territorial development should be integrated in Interreg programmes, especially under a financially enlarged Interreg-B as an intermediate step of a fully European Integrated Territory



# Interreg - A Goals

• Two concrete objectives are advanced for the Interreg-A VI:

## 1. Interreg Specific Objective (ISO) 1: A better Cooperation governance;

- To enhance the institutional capacity of public administrations,
- To resolve legal and administrative obstacles in border regions,
- To promote sustainable democracy,
- To strengthen mutual trust among citizens.

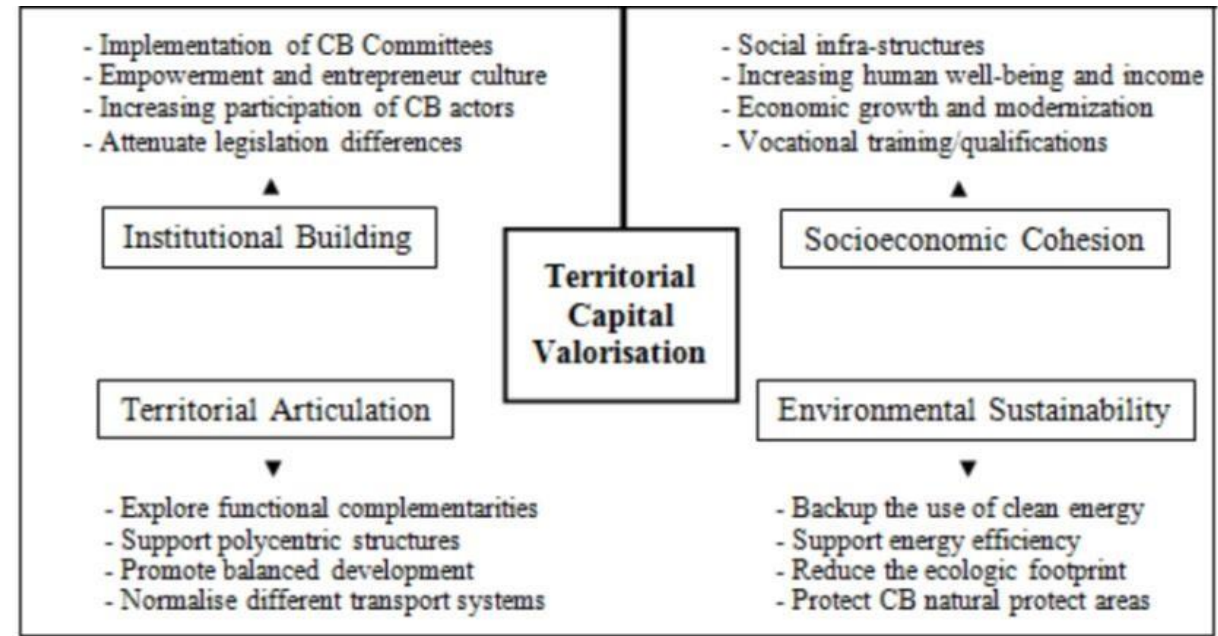
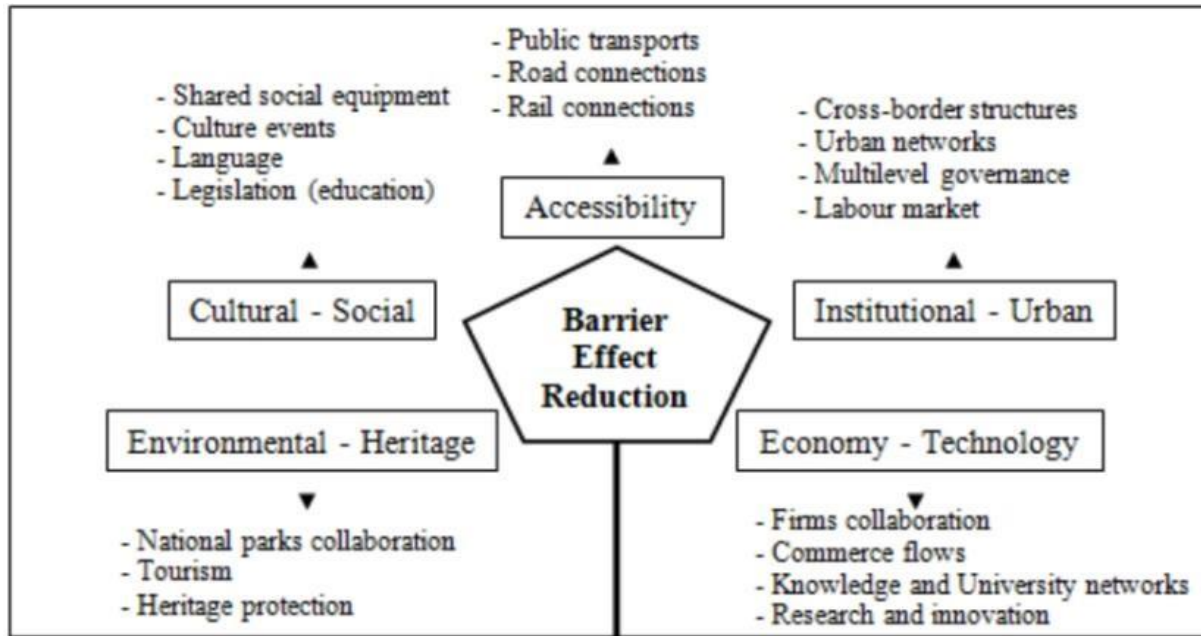
## 2. Interreg Specific Objective (ISO) 2: A safer and more secure Europe

- For actions in the fields of border crossing management,
- mobility and migration management, including the protection and economic and social integration of third-country nationals.
- To support employment and labour market measures such as improving access to employment, encouraging life-long learning, promoting gender balance and fostering equal opportunities.

INTERREG-A	Main Goal	Financed policy priorities
I. 1989-1993	Prepare the border areas for the opening of the Single Market, with an eye to economic and social cohesion (EC, 1990a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Aid to SMEs</li> <li>– Tourism and culture</li> <li>– Energy supply</li> <li>– Rural development and commerce</li> <li>– Education and training</li> <li>– Protection of environment</li> <li>– Water supply and waste disposal</li> <li>– Accessibilities infrastructure</li> <li>– Spatial planning</li> </ul>
II. 1994-1999	Develop cross-border social and economic centres through common development strategies (EC, 2017a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Aid to SMEs</li> <li>– Tourism and culture</li> <li>– Energy supply</li> <li>– Rural development and commerce</li> <li>– Education and training</li> <li>– Employment and mobility</li> <li>– Health</li> <li>– Protection of environment</li> <li>– Water supply and waste disposal</li> <li>– Better public administration</li> <li>– Accessibilities infrastructure</li> <li>– Information and communication</li> <li>– Spatial planning</li> </ul>
III. 2000-2006	Develop cross-border economic and social centres through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development (EC, 2017b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Aid to SMEs</li> <li>– Rural development</li> <li>– Urban and coastal development</li> <li>– Education and training</li> <li>– Culture</li> <li>– Employment and mobility</li> <li>– Health</li> <li>– Protection of environment</li> <li>– Energy efficiency and renewable energy</li> <li>– Better public administration</li> <li>– Legal systems</li> <li>– Information and communication</li> <li>– Transport</li> </ul>
IV. 2007-2013	Reduce the negative effects of borders such as administrative, legal and physical barriers; tackle common problems and exploit untapped potential. Through joint management of programmes and projects, mutual trust and understanding are strengthened and the cooperation process is enhanced (EC, 2017c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Entrepreneurship</li> <li>– Education and training</li> <li>– Employment and mobility</li> <li>– Equal opportunities</li> <li>– Management of natural resources</li> <li>– Information and communication</li> <li>– Transport</li> <li>– Link between rural and urban areas</li> <li>– Joint use of infrastructure</li> </ul>
V. 2014-2020	Tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions and exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas, while enhancing the cooperation process for the purposes of the overall harmonious development of the Union (EC, 2017d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Aid to SMEs</li> <li>– Research and innovation</li> <li>– Education and training</li> <li>– Employment and mobility</li> <li>– Social inclusion</li> <li>– Low carbon economy</li> <li>– Combating climate change</li> <li>– Environment and resource efficiency</li> <li>– Sustainable transport</li> <li>– Better public administration</li> <li>– Information and communication</li> </ul>

# Interreg at the Heart of EU Cohesion Policy

- Interreg-A Strategic Focus on Reducing border obstacles (Build on the EU B- solutions Initiative) – European Territorial Integration and Mobilising the territorial capital of border regions with an emphasis on and green development and border cities – Towards Territorial Cohesion

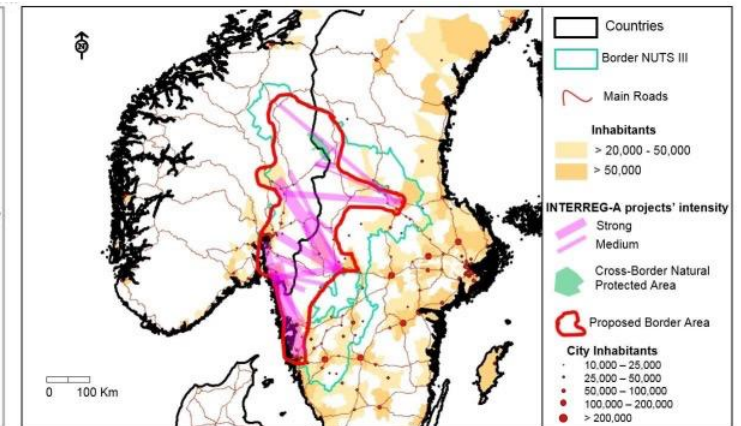
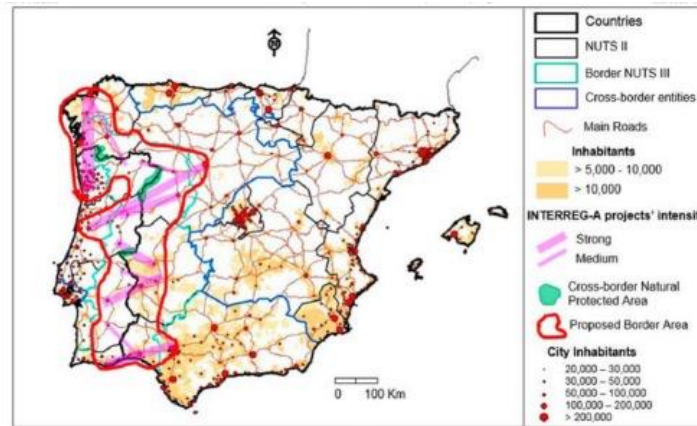
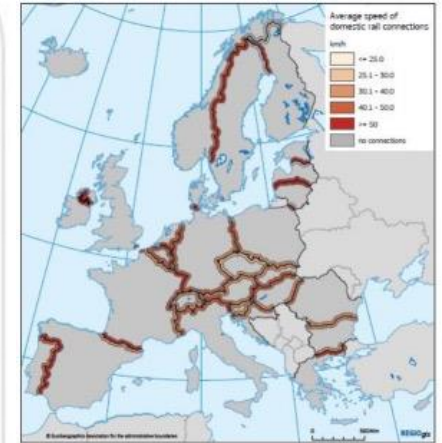
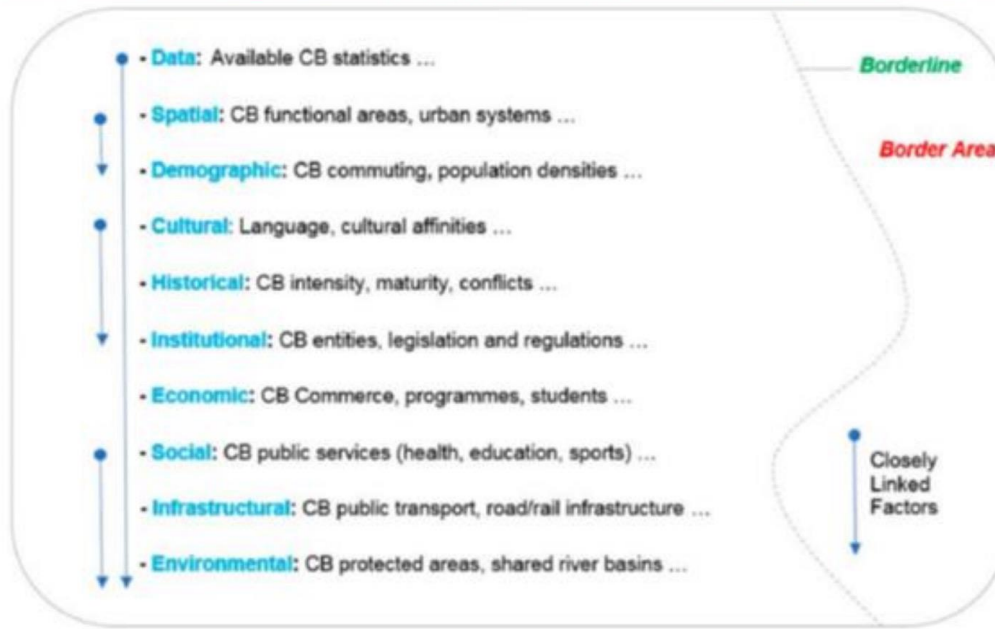
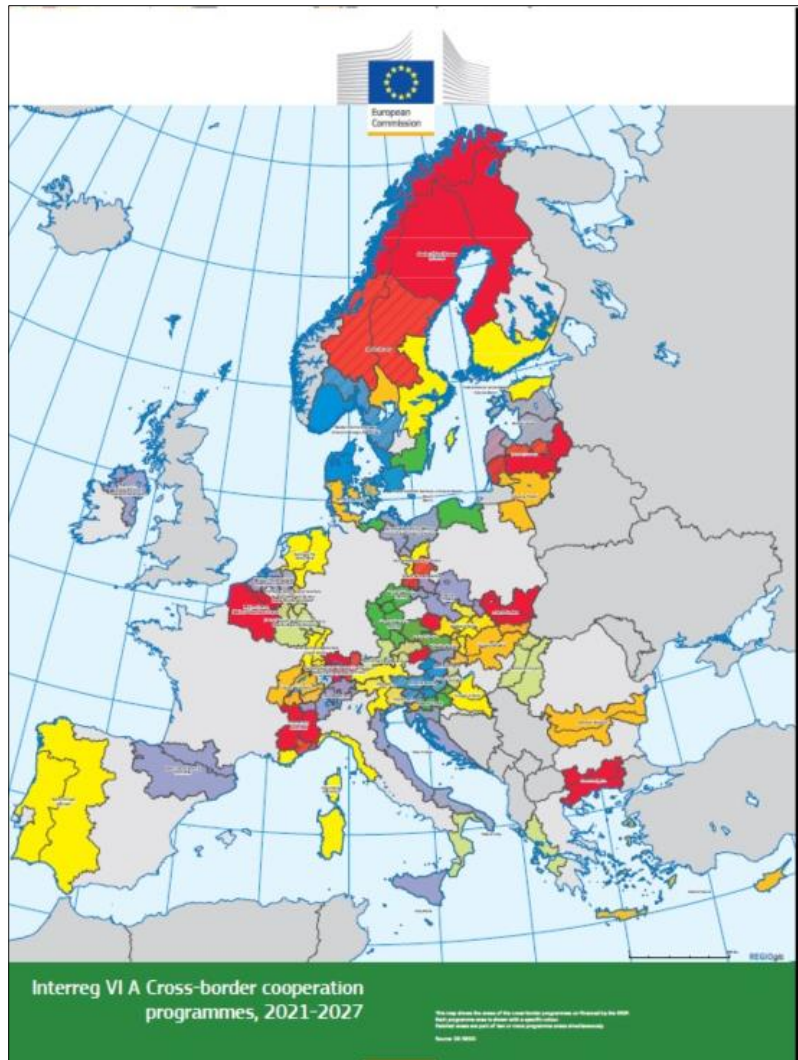




# Interreg - A - Strategic orientation

- Reducing border obstacles (Build on the EU B-solutions Initiative by focusing on legal-administrative barriers on cross-border public transport and language) – Towards European Territorial Integration.
- Mobilising the territorial capital of border regions with an emphasis on green development and border cities – Towards Territorial Cohesion.
- Intervention areas: reduce the official area to border NUTS 3 and focus on border areas delimited via concrete criteria (e.g., cross-border functional areas) for each programme.
- Promote cross-border planning strategies via EGTCs or similar sound governance entities.
- Promote the use of cross-border public services (health, education, cultural, civil protection, public security, environment, labour market, spatial planning, transport, sports)
- Funding: Increase the total allocation of funding within EU Cohesion Policy. Funding distribution should be based on the criteria of development rather than demography and be balanced on both sides of the border.

# Interreg - A - Strategic orientation



# Interreg C and D

## Interreg-C

- Maintain strategic orientation and implementation process.
- Increase financial package.
- Favour the intercity cooperation between medium towns.

## Interreg-D

- Requires further analysis to be subject to a position (a new strand just initiated)

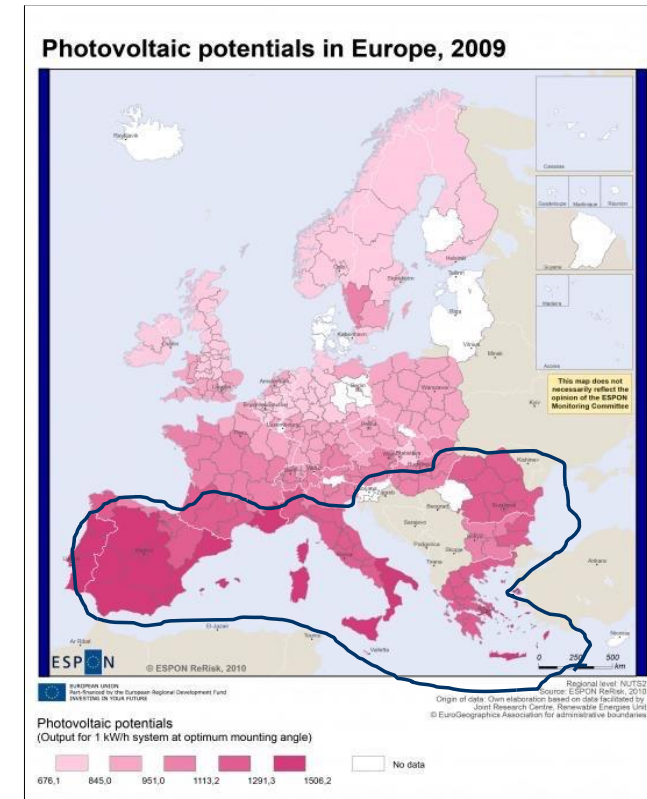
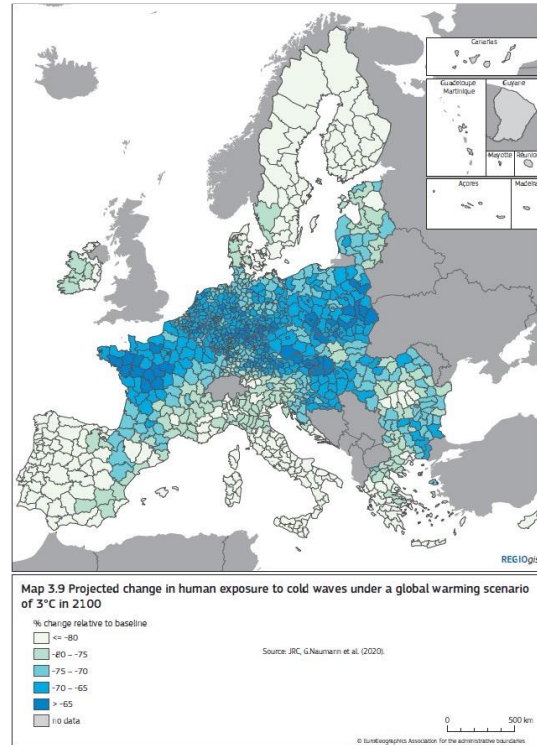
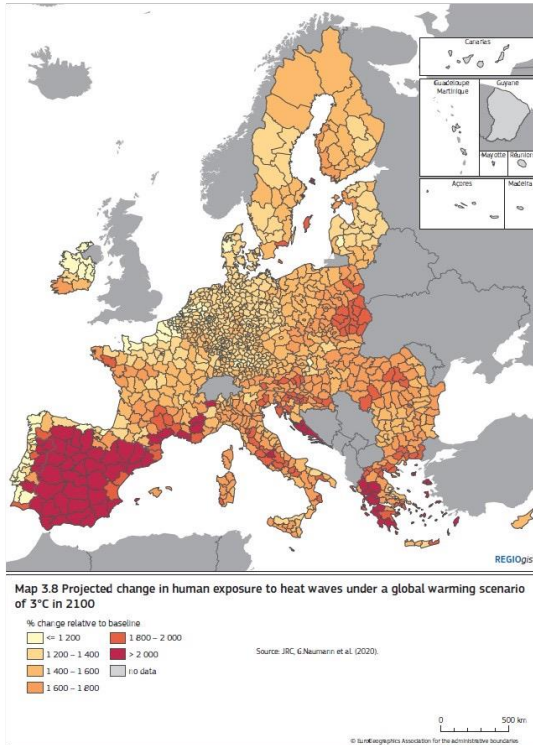
## Interreg-A, B, C and D

- Design phase: perform a regional sensibility analysis of each investment priority
- Project selection and Implementation phase: place academic experts and civil society organisations on steering and monitoring committees of the programmes
- Monitoring and Evaluation Phase: use sound territorial impact assessment methodologies and collaborate with Eurostat to collect concrete cross-border and transnational updated data, for instance on persistent cross-border barriers.

Should there be an enhanced strategic framework through joint strategies for addressing transnational challenges (economic globalisation, climate or demographic change)?

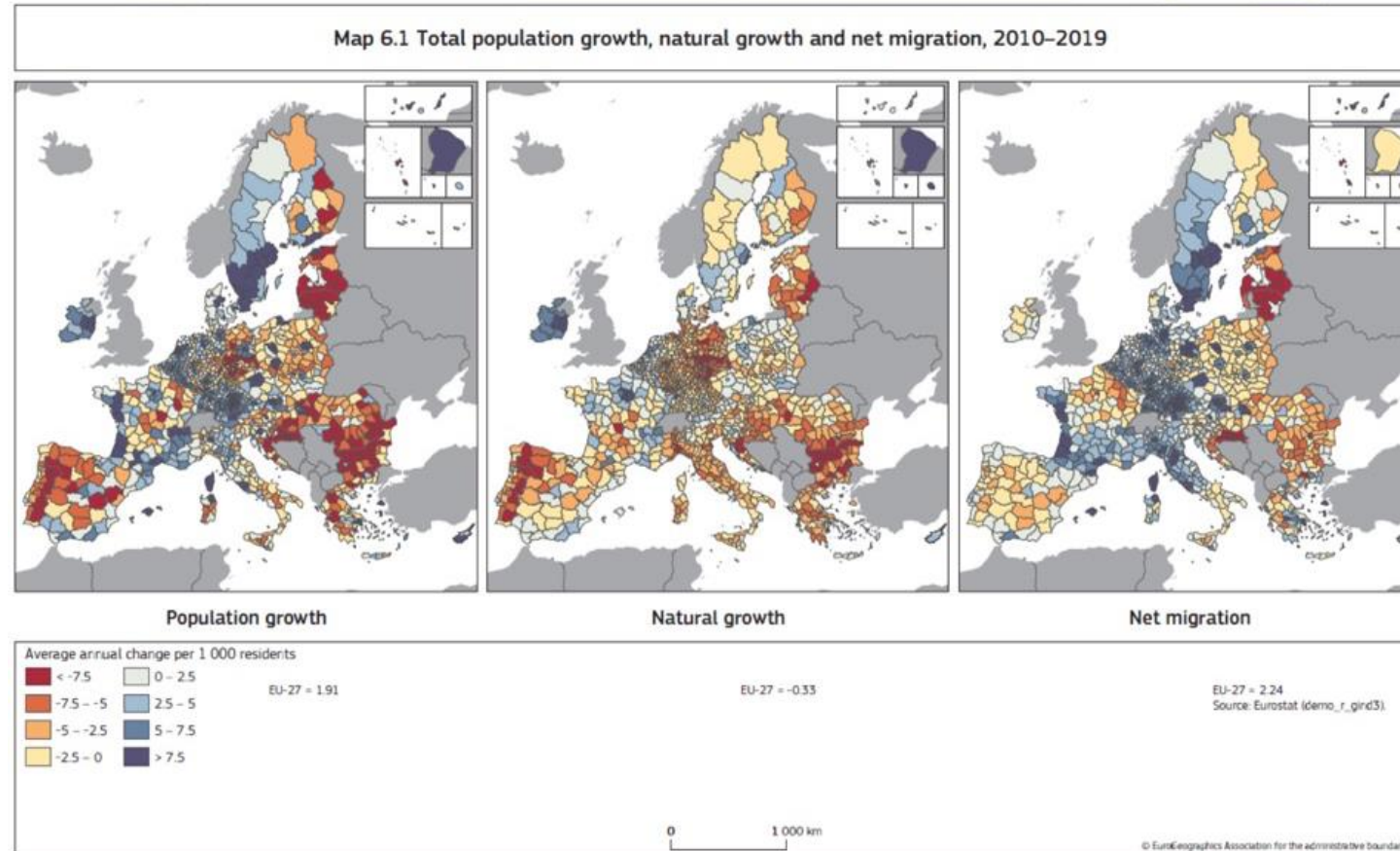
# Joint strategies for addressing transnational challenges

- Environmental management: implement the EU green deal via a transnational approach to explore renewable energy potentials, blue development, forest management, sustainable transport and self-sufficient cities in terms of energy, food production, water recycling and circular economy.



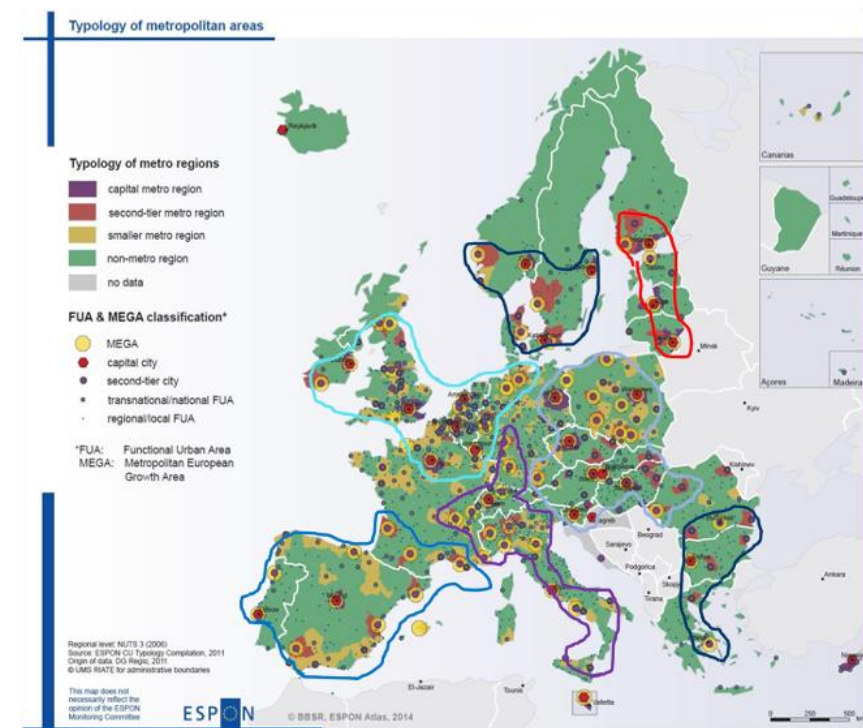
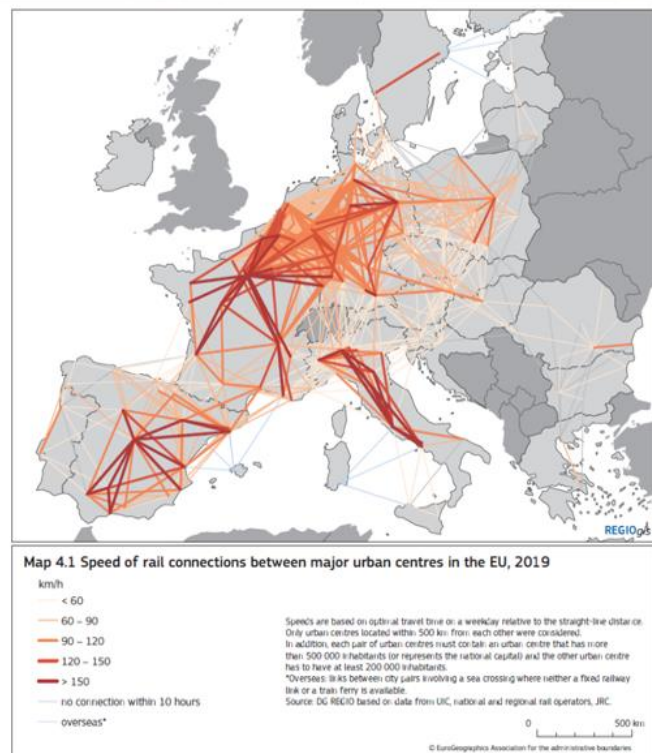
# Joint strategies for addressing transnational challenges

- Demographic and urban management: favour the implementation of transnational polycentric urban networks of medium cities with complementary development domains (e.g. intra-city energy and food production)



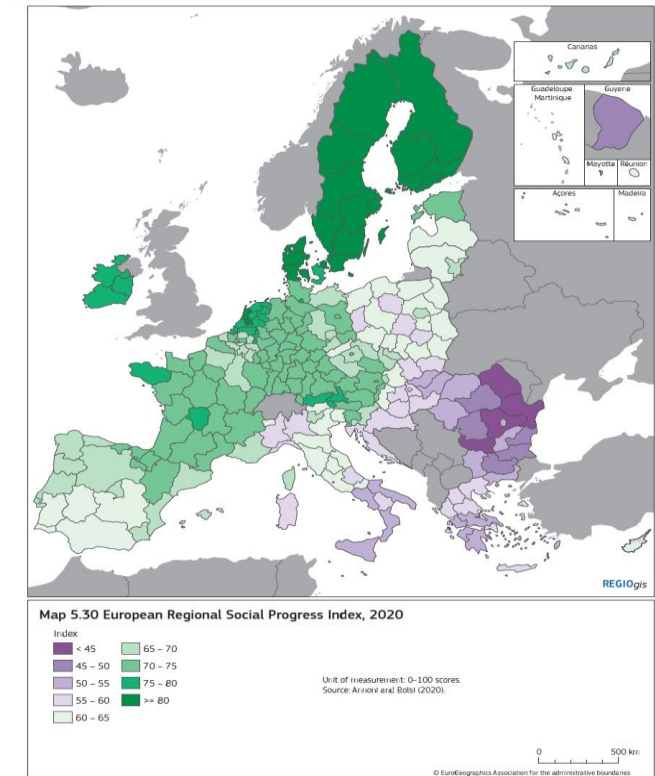
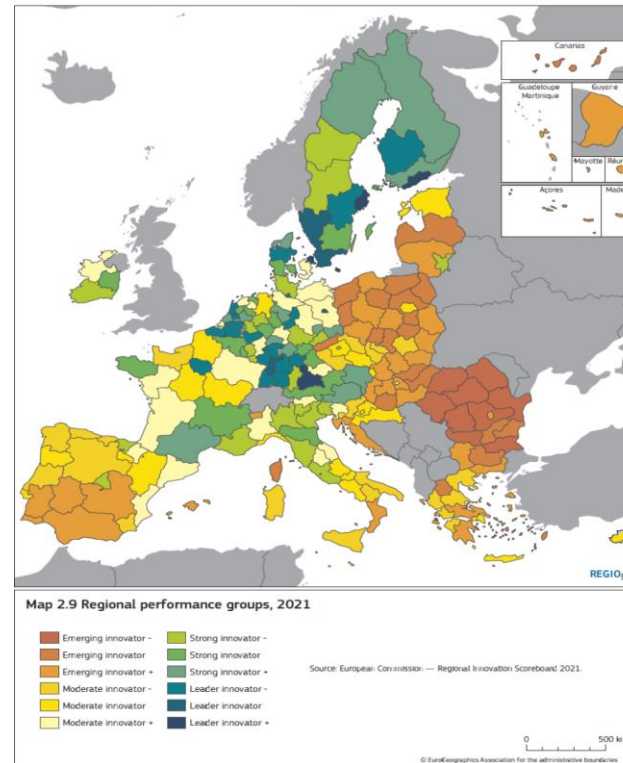
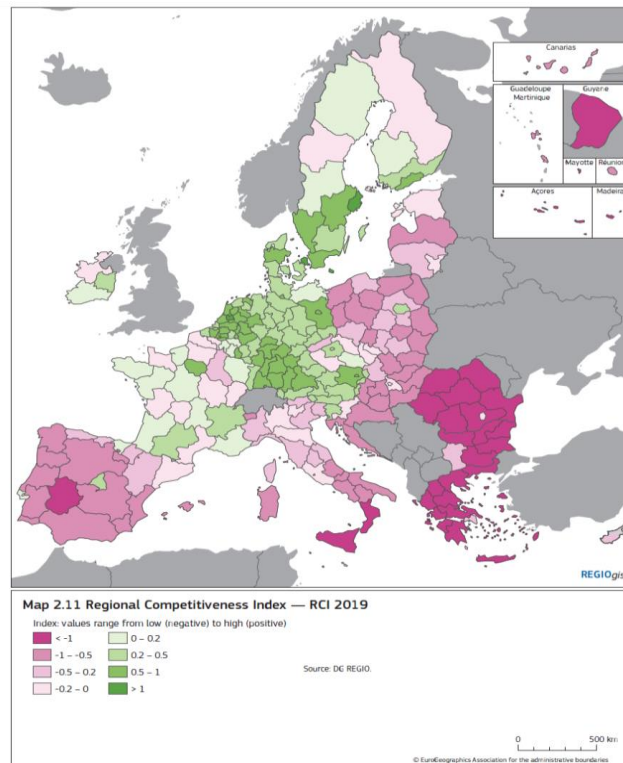
# Joint strategies for addressing transnational challenges

- Physical Accessibility Management: favour the railway high-speed transnational connections between all major EU cities and medium-towns.



# Joint strategies for addressing transnational challenges

- Socioeconomic Management: favouring technological innovation networks namely in the domains of green and blue development





# Thanks for Watching



[Eduardo.Medeiros@iscte-iul.pt](mailto:Eduardo.Medeiros@iscte-iul.pt)

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