

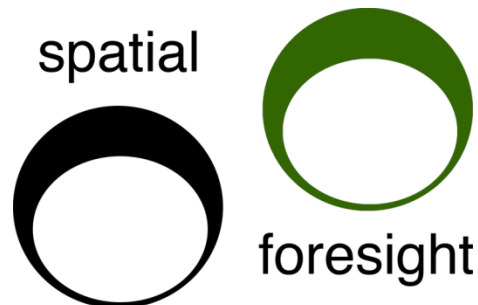
# Factoring in Territorial Diversity in development and adaptation strategies: Policy challenges and methodological proposals

CLIMATE CHANGE IN NORTHERN TERRITORIES

*Sharing Experiences, Exploring New Methods  
and Assessing Socio-Economic Impacts*

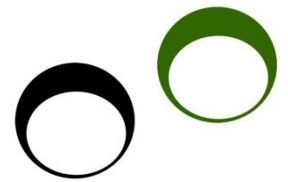
*Akureyri, Iceland  
23. August 2013*

Erik Gløersen

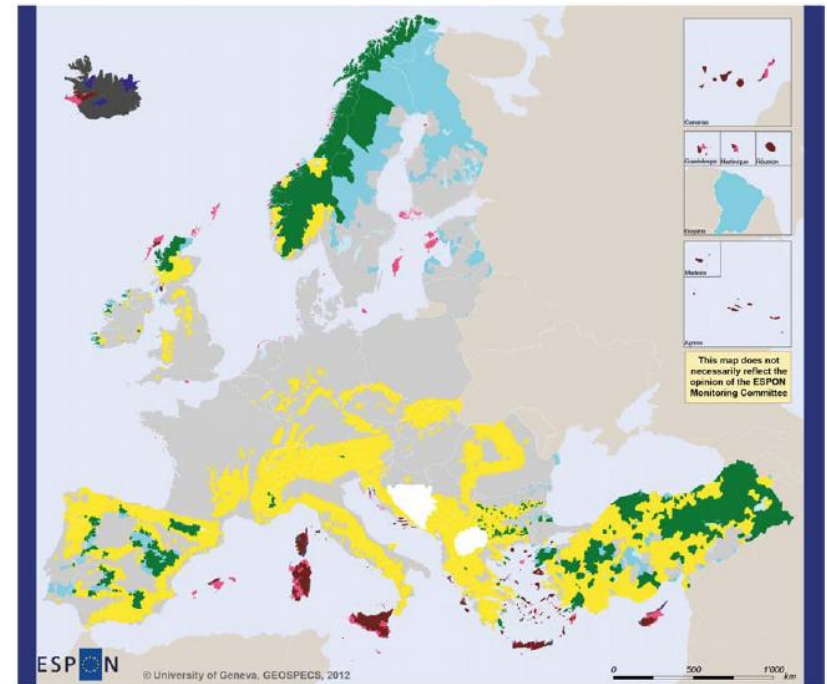


territorial policy support and [research](#)

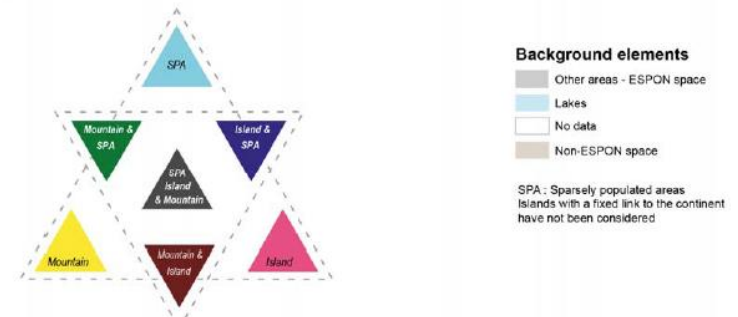
# European categories of territorial diversity



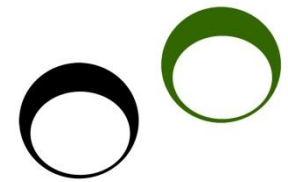
- Mountains,
- Islands,
- Sparsely populated areas



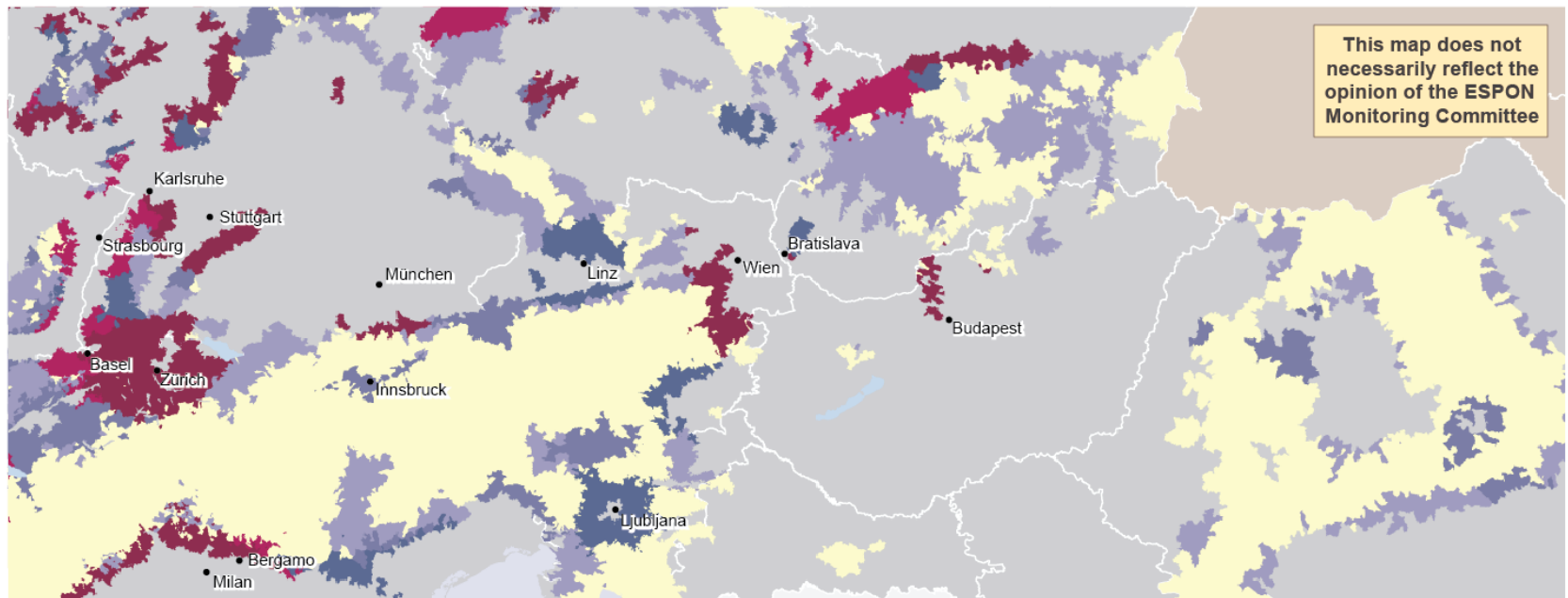
Geographic specificities identified in each LAU 2-unit



# Dealing with uniqueness: from types to individual local areas



## Urban and rural mountain areas



Population of largest city within commuting distance

*Commuting distance is defined as a travel time of 45 minutes or less by road. Map excerpt.*

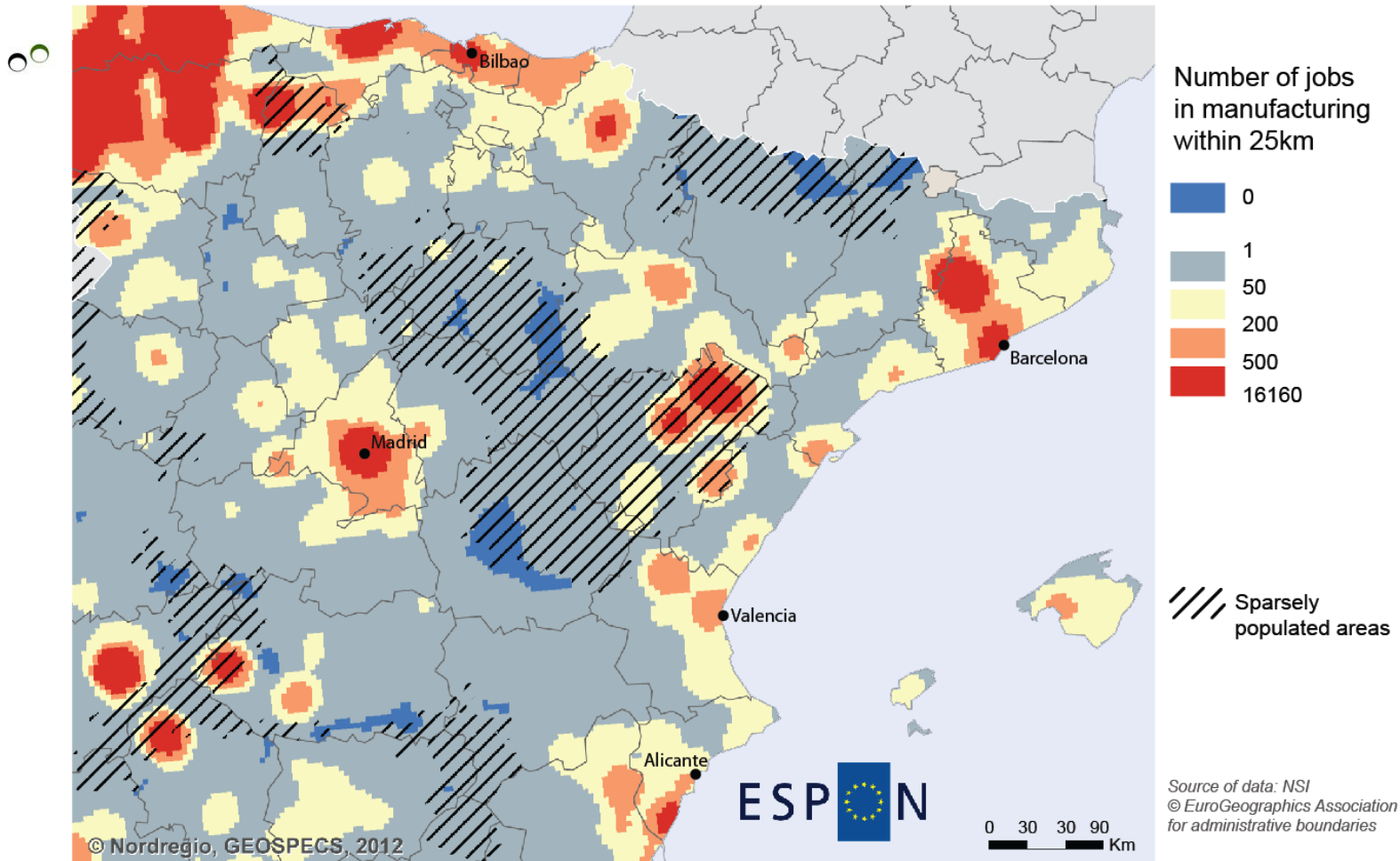
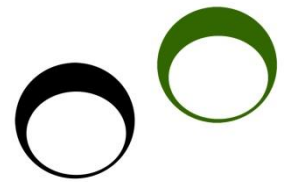
100,000 inh.  
250,000 inh.  
500,000 inh.  
750,000 inh.

750,000 inh.  
1 million inh.  
>1 million inh.

Mountain areas  
beyond commuting  
distance of cities

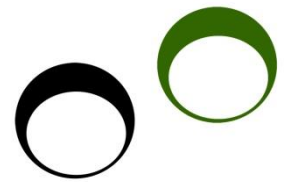
Non-ESPON space  
Non-mountainous  
parts of ESPON space

# Dealing with uniqueness: from types to individual local areas



# Territorial categories in European policy making

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- European Treaty (art. 174):

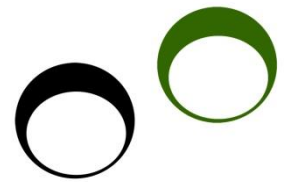
*“particular attention shall be paid to [...] regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps such as the northernmost regions with very low population density and island, cross-border and mountain regions.”*

→ **Focus on handicaps, not opportunities**

→ **List seems haphazard and politically determined**

# Territorial categories in European policy making

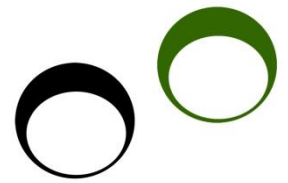
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- This approach is misinformed in a number of respects:
  - Geographic specificity can be an opportunity as much as a handicap
  - When geographic specificity limits development, this does not necessarily lead to backwardness
  - Geographic specificities are generally permanent features, producing constant effects

**→ There is a problem with the way in which this debate is framed at the European level**

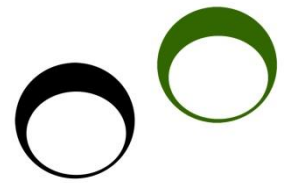
# Factoring in territorial diversity in sectoral and territorial policies



- Central issues concern:
  - Specific vulnerabilities of small communities in the face of economic fluctuations in an open and deregulated economy
  - The lack of a «systemic approach» in which the different types of contributions to a balanced, sustainable and prosperous Europe are identified,

# Synthesising the implications of territorial diversity

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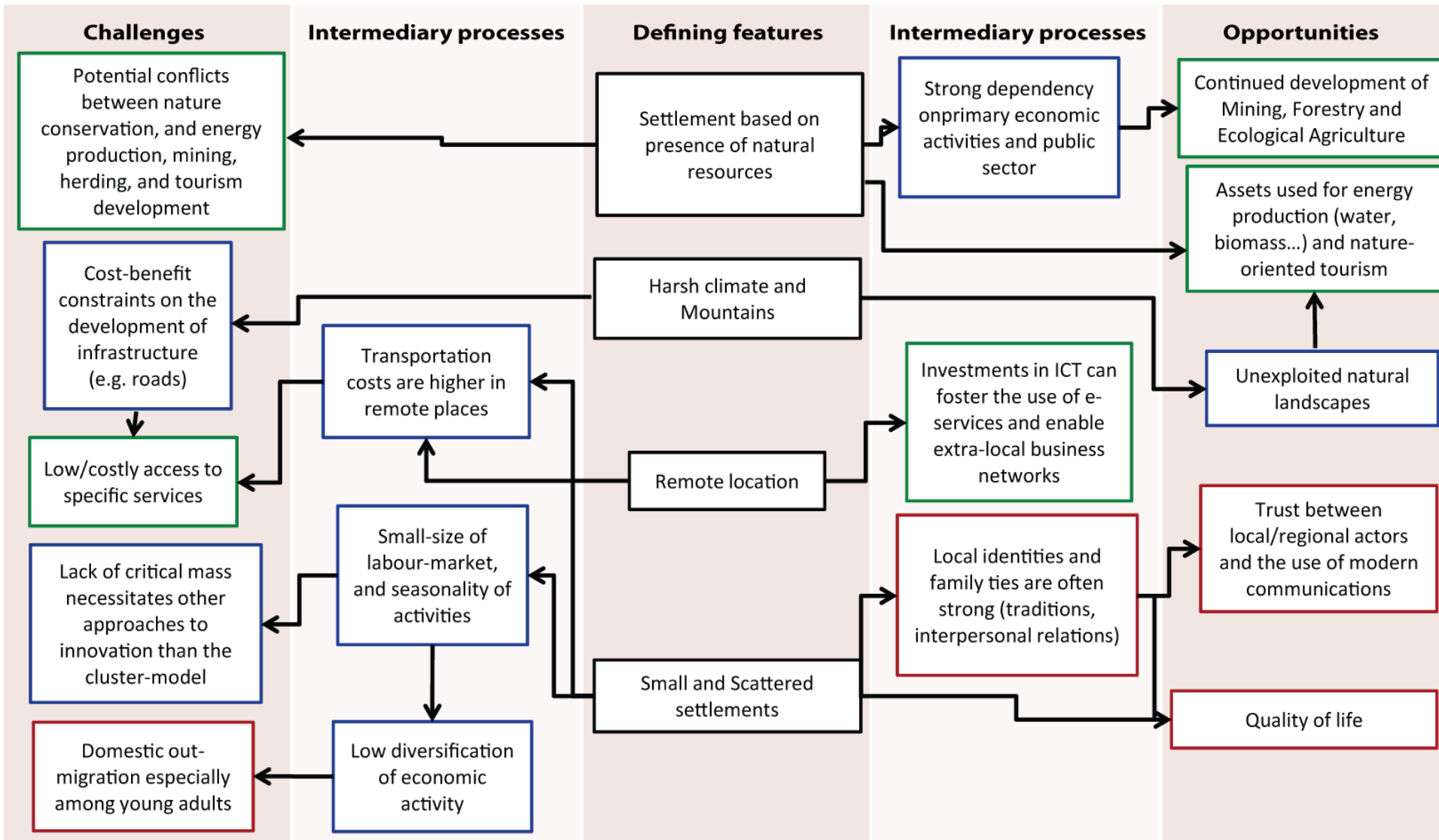
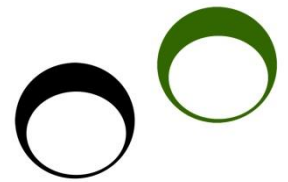


- It is not meaningful to search for statistical correlations
- The objective is rather to identify causal relations linked to geographic specificity
- The policy relevance of causal relations does not depend on the extent to which they produce observable effects,  
**but** on how they inform envisaged policy options

→ Answering the question:  
«what would be the result if?»

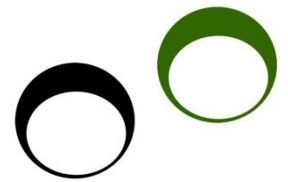


# Synthesising the implications of geographic specificity



# Implications of sparsity

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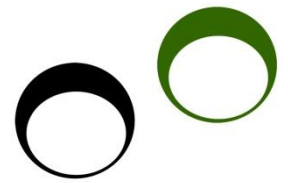


Aspects of relevance in the design of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies:

- Co-existence of
  - conflicts between exploitation and conservation
  - cohesive local communities and strong identities
- Limited access to Services of General Interest.
- Many resources left unexploited in a context where concentrated, input-intensive resource-exploitation is privileged
- Potential opportunities from ICT are still insufficiently developed

# General conclusions

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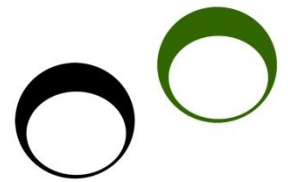


While quantitative data can inform policies,  
the evidence base is necessarily  
a qualitative understanding of causal processes

- Territorial categories based on geographic specificities may contribute to design better policies
- They help seeing beyond traditional divisions:
  - advanced / lagging
  - North / South
- Parallels between categories can be identified.

# Conclusions for Northern Territories

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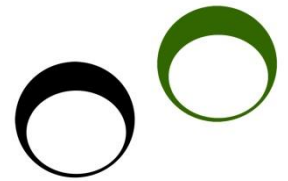


- One can gain a better understanding of “specificity” of the Northern Territories by approaching them as cases of these general categories,
- Categories of territorial diversity helps showing similarities between territories across the European space, rather than emphasizing differences between transnational groups (North, South, East, West)
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies can gain in efficiency by factoring in territorial diversity.



# Climate change targets in EU policies

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Mitigation targets in the Europe 2020 strategy:

- Cut greenhouse gas by emissions 20% (up to 30%, if other countries make the same commitment)
- 20% of energy from renewables
- 20% increase in energy efficiency

Adaptation:

- White paper on climate change adaptation (2009)
- EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change (2012)