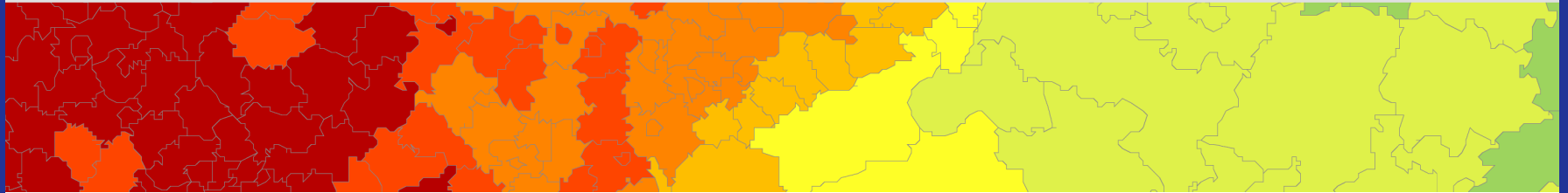


ESPON



**E-learning Postgraduate Course**  
**ESPON Evidence in a North European Context**  
**ENECON**

**Thematic Lecture #1**  
**TARTU**

**“EU External Border –  
Territorial specificities, Trends and Disparities”**



EUROPEAN UNION

Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

## ESPON on EU external border

- **TERCO** European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life
- **ITAN** European Neighbour Regions
- **ULYSSES** ESPON evidence as a yardstick for cross-border spatial development planning
- **GEOSPECS** Geographic Specificities and Development Potentials in Europe
- **ESPON TEDI** Territorial Diversity in Europe
- **DEMIFER** Demographic and Migratory Flows Affecting European Regions
- **TIGER** Territorial Impact of Globalization for Europe and its Regions

## **ESPON evidence on EU external border**

**targeted policy development in the light of Cohesion Policy aiming**

- (1) at improved regional competitiveness as well as sustainable and balanced growth of the European territory,**
- (2) to promote European integration in a connecting world economy,**
- (3) to support evidence-based cross-border cooperation along external borders.**

## Globalisation, localisation, borderless world ...

The 'border' has become one of the keywords in social and cultural science since the 1990s. The utopia of a borderless world that reflected both neoliberal imaginaries of a deterritorialising world and the optimism related to the collapse of the Cold War East-West divide, was shaken by the 9/11 attacks in the US... Contextuality of borders – two overlapping forms/modalities of borders: **discursive landscapes of social power and technical landscapes of social control.**

Anssi Paasi, prof University of Oulu

**Regional neighbourhood and  
territorial cooperation  
for territorial cohesion**

## Globalisation, localisation, borderless world ...

- ❑ Traditional studies on border areas are often enclaved in a “sole-disciplinary approach” or in a “unitary case syndrome” without providing a substantial added value on border theory (*Paasi, 2005*).
- ❑ Recently, “access” to foreign markets is examined in a broader framework, taking into consideration transport and telecommunication networks, institutional factors, and a series of political and cultural parameters (*Topaloglou et. al. 2005*).
- ❑ Perceptions and images of people occupy a fundamental position to interpret cross border economic interaction and growth (*Van Houtum, 1999, Barjak, 1999*).
- ❑ Economic potential of border regions is determined among others, by culture, language, nationality and other socioeconomic and geopolitical characteristics of border regions (*Reitel, et al. , 2002; Arbaret-Schulz et al., 2004*).

# Workshop: The space of flows meets the space of places

## Geopolitical model

Alternative forms of power (Blatter 2003) - hierarchy and asymmetry, frontiers are the legacy of a geopolitical model

Cross-border regionalism (Scott 1999) - barrier or interface

EU enlargement has produced positive and negative effects on border regions (Petракos and Topaloglou 2008).

The challenge of increasing functional integration and improving the quality and density of cross-border infrastructure.

## Regional growth model

# World regionalisation in 5 clusters



**TIGER**

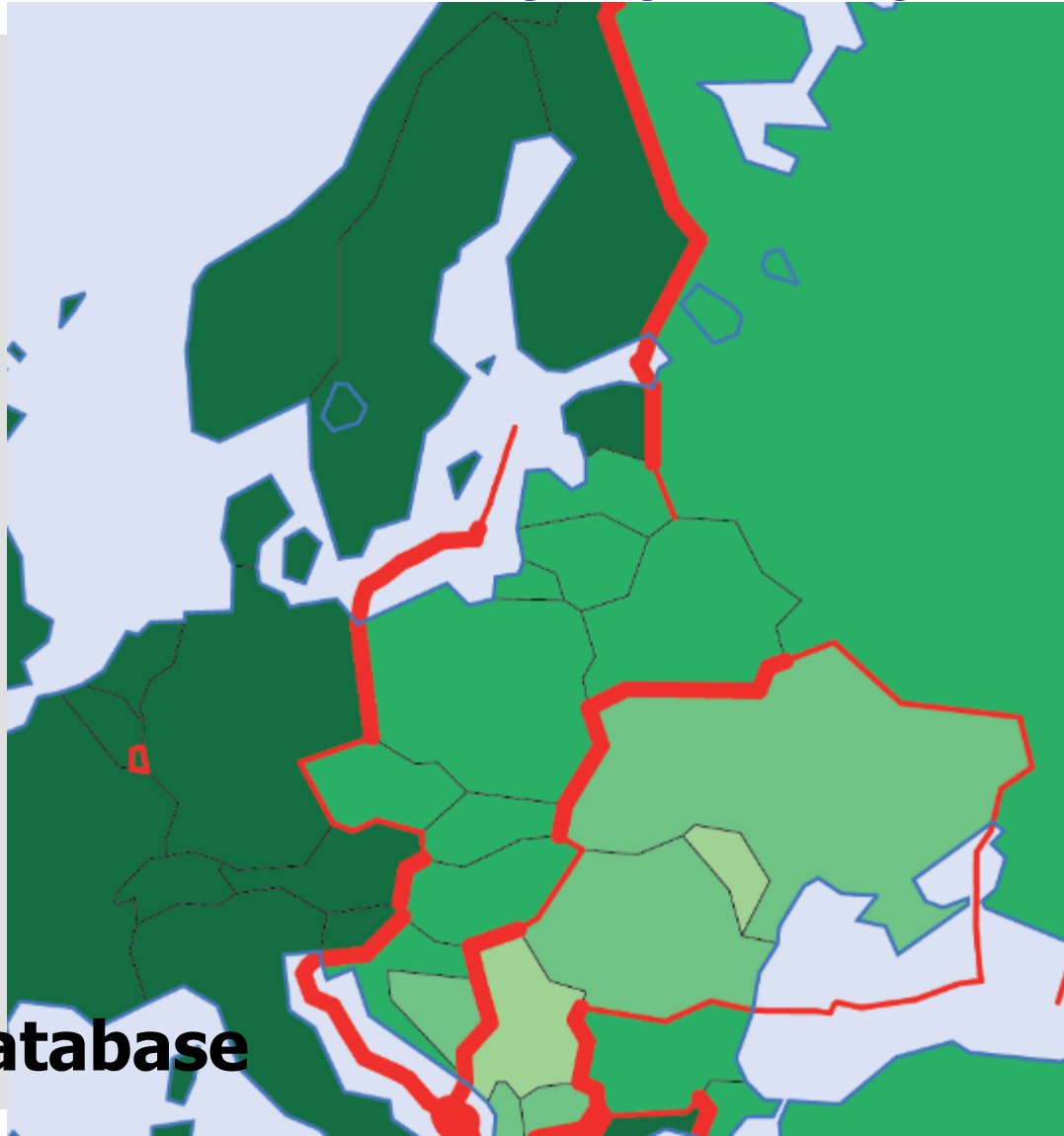
**RUSSIA**

**ESTONIA**



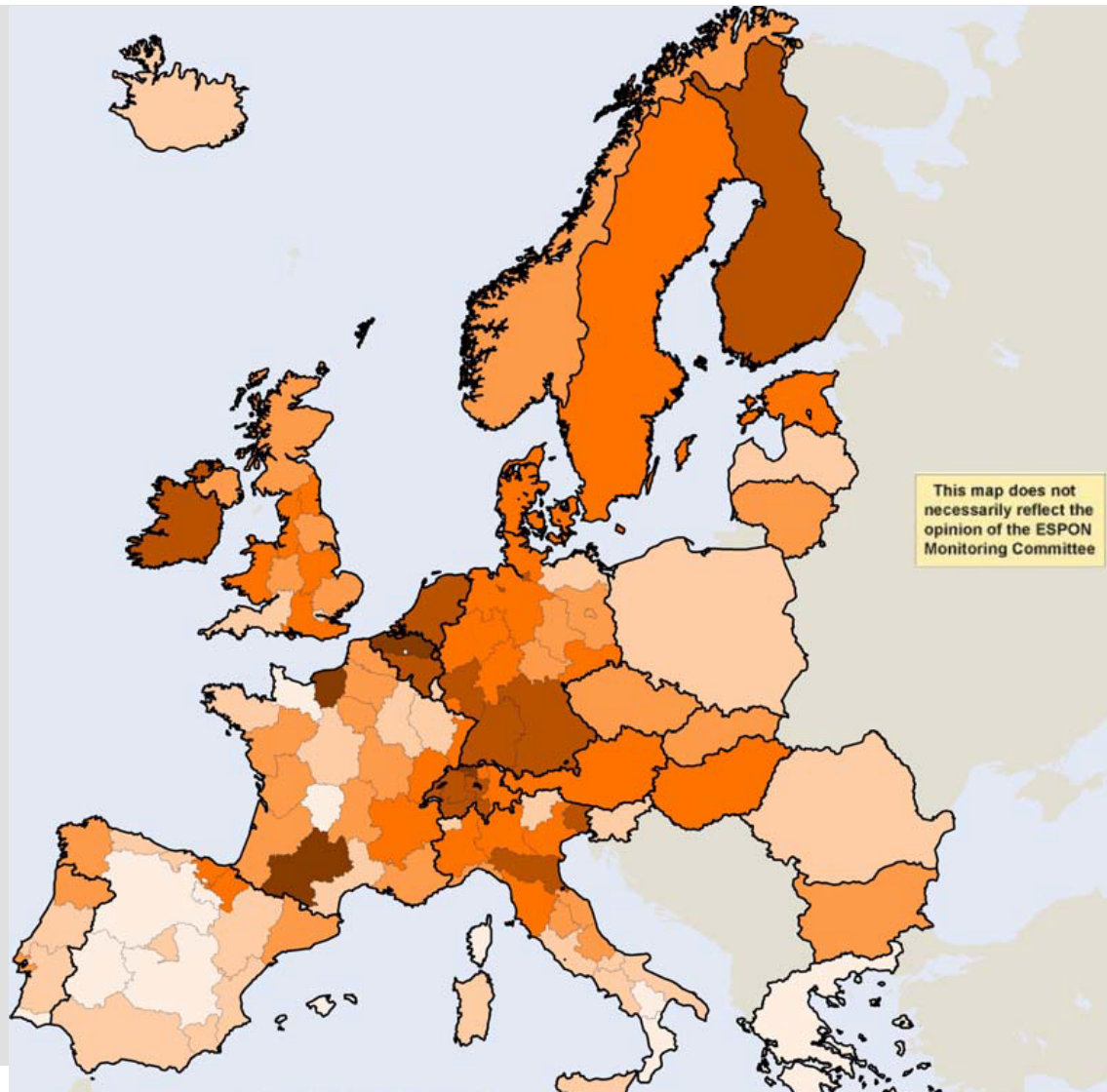


# Economic discontinuity by GDP per capita



**ESPON Database**

# Openness rate 2009: extra-EU trade/GDP



**TIGER**

## Debate: Spatially-blind vs Place-based approach

According to Spatially-blind Approach Development interventions should...

- Promote space-neutral intervention, with a primary emphasis on institutional reform (WDB, 2009)
- Encourage peoples' mobility regardless of where they live (WDB, 2009)
- Focus on people rather than places (WDB, 2009)
- Promote economic integration of lagging areas with leading places (WDB, 2009)
- Provide equal opportunities to enterprises (Gill, 2011)
- Encourage factors to move to where they are most productive - primarily in cities - and foster overall economic growth (Gill, 2011)
- Consider the Irish example of using the funds for international convergence and not – until later stages – for spatially balanced economic growth within their borders (Gill, 2011)
- Take into account the dominant role in peripheral investment of the new private actors (apart from the State) such as TNCs (Gorzela, 2011)
- Move from “place-based” policies to “inter-place based policies” focusing on “corridors” of knowledge, innovation, people and goods (Gorzela, 2011)

## Debate: Spatially-blind vs Place-based approach

According to Place-based Approach

Development interventions should...

- be tailor-made adjusted in spatial localities
- focus on people within places
- ensure interactions between institutions and geography
- promote knowledge through interaction between exogenous (top-down) and endogenous (bottom-up) policies
- be designed and applied through a multi-level governance approach
- not simply “follow” the decisions of large corporations towards agglomerations located in the leading areas.
- Take into account geographical context in its broader social, cultural, historical, legal, political and economy, sense

## Debate: Spatially-blind vs Place-based approach

- Spatially oriented policies are considered as “old wine (regional policies) in new bottles” (Gill, 2011).
- The spatially-blind approach presupposes that the “state knows best” and has both the information and knowledge to design, implement, and monitor the most adequate development strategies (Streeck, 1991; Bolton, 1992; Rodriguez-Pose and Storper, 2006; Tabellini, 2010)
- The growing importance of learning, innovation and other qualitative factors such as culture and stereotypes, are by nature spatially tied (Camagni, 2006, Maillate, 2006).
- Evidence shows that the impacts of institutional reforms on development are limited (Barca and MacCann, 2010; Venables, 2010; Rodriguez-Pose, 2010).
- Spatially blind policies are very place-based when they are put into practice, since usually they favor core places compared to peripheral ones (Rodriguez Pose, 2011).

## Debate: Spatially-blind vs Place-based approach

- The contesting debate reflects a false dichotomy. People can only live and act within places. At the same time, large scale policies should be designed and applied on the basis of places (Drabenstott, 2011).
- Development policies are not a zero-sum game between equity and efficiency or between endogenous and exogenous agents. Reducing agglomeration dynamics in one city will not bring growth to other cities (MacCann, 2011)
- Given the restricted EU funding, public interventions seems to have little power to achieve balance and territorial harmonization within the EU monetary union, without possessing an efficient adjustment mechanism (Capello, 2007).
- Even though institutions at a macroscopic level play a crucial role in the efficiency of development policies, usually in practice, this efficiency is influenced by spatial characteristics and localities (Armstrong and Taylor, 2000).

## TERCO - European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life

- The main goal of TERCO was to assess the relationship between territorial co-operation (TC) and the socio-economic development of EU and neighbouring regions.
- TERCO's key hypothesis (similarly to the one of TA 2020) to be tested was: "Territorial co-operation is one of the factors underpinning the socio-economic development of territorial units".
- Among others, subordinate objectives the project aimed to:
  - estimate the impact that various types of TC have on socio-economic development;
  - identify key determinants of successful TC

# TERCO - European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life

## Impact of TC on socio-economic development

- Territorial co-operation contributes to socio-economic development, as its impact on growth, jobs, and quality of life is statistically significant and positive.
- The impact of TC on socio-economic development is, however, evaluated as only minimal to moderate.
- The most noticeable influence of TC on development relates to quality of life, followed by the quality of natural environment and service provision.

## Main determinants of successful TC

- the success of territorial co-operation depends primarily on factors related to institutions such as:
  - the scope of co-operation (*i.e. exchange of experience, sharing tools, advising each other*)
  - current domains of TC projects (*i.e. natural environment, tourism, culture, economy*)
  - resources engaged in TC in terms of staff and funds
  - longer experience in TC and stability of partners (*i.e. NGOs, local or regional governments*)

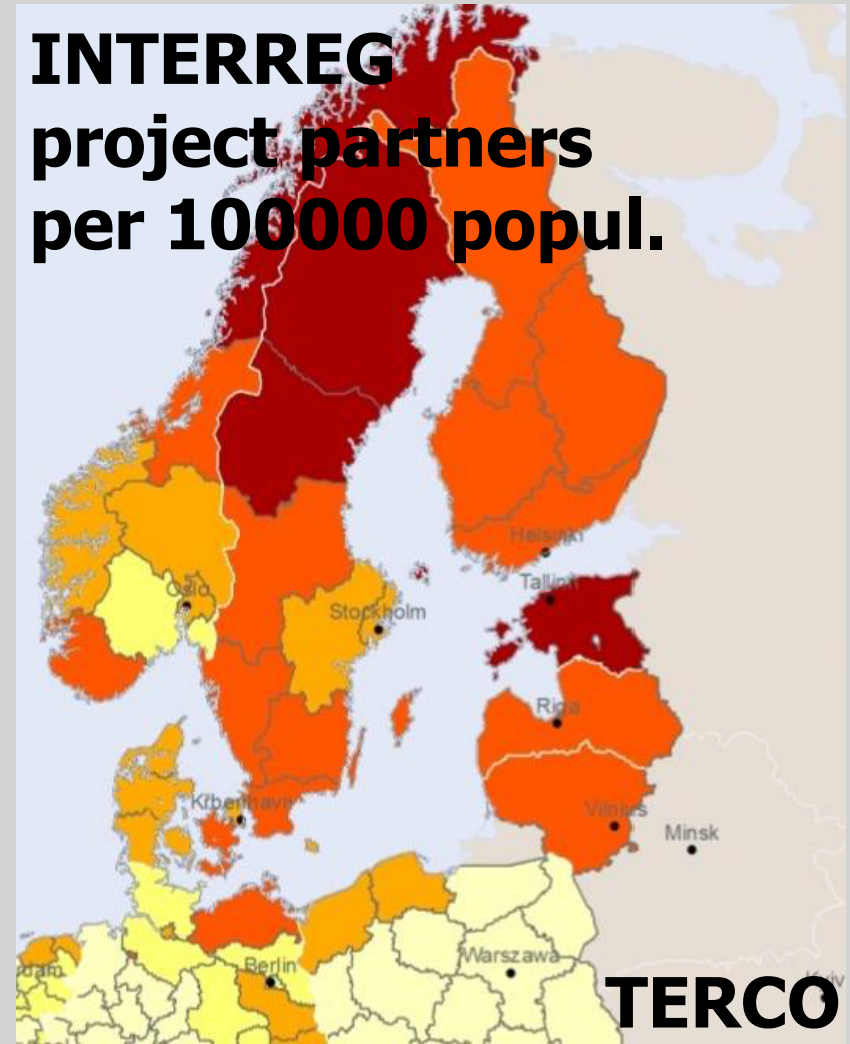


# ESPON evidences: Territorial cooperation

**INTERREG IVB  
lead partners**



**INTERREG  
project partners  
per 100000 popul.**



**TERCO**

# Conclusions

- The two approaches represent a different reading of the relationships between economic history and economic geography, giving rise to fundamentally different analytical approaches.
- A systematic discussion on the issues related to the ‘border territory’ and ‘border syndrome’ is required in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy at the scientific and policy making level.
- One of the tasks ahead should be that of translating the TA2020 into the language and interventions of EU policies in order to improve their effectiveness
- There is a need to incorporate territorial diagnosis of the ‘border phenomenon’ into the processes of formulation and review new programming documents.
- Local development must no longer be considered as an isolated and only an endogenous process but as a process that requires a balanced top-down and bottom-up strategy within a EU context.