

Governance session: Nordic-Baltic practices and experiences

Territorial cooperation (Discussant: Daniel Galland)

- In this discussion, I address two core questions raised during Sarolta Nemeth's presentation:
 - o i. How does the particular case of territorial cooperation between Finland and Russia could compare or contrast with cases within EU borders?
 - o ii. How does governance contribute to territorial cooperation?

- I reflect upon both questions in light of recent governance challenges as occurring in Danish experiences. Firstly, the case of territorial cooperation in Denmark could be illustrated by two cross border operational programmes with Germany, which are co-funded by the EU RDF (2007-2013) under the Territorial Cooperation objective:
 - o South Denmark – Schleswig KERN, a functional border region
 - o Fehmarnbelt Region, a functional maritime region within the Hamburg-Copenhagen-Malmö axis

- As the Finish-Russian case, both cases similarly attempt to strengthen regional identity through cultural and linguistic objectives. The Danish cases seek to foster a knowledge-based economy and to develop framework conditions to establish economic innovation affairs.
- However, beyond cooperation between these member states, several internal challenges seem to arise at least from the Danish part:
- Spatial planning systems lie at the core of territorial governance, and thereby also play a fundamental role in territorial cooperation. Recent evidence suggests that Denmark has experienced the fragmentation of its planning system as a consequence of rescaling processes and the competition that soft spaces of planning and governance have imposed to the hierarchical structure. The Danish case further suggests that planning institutions at the regional level have become fragmented (cf Galland 2012, Environment & Planning C) as a consequence of a reform of government structure that took place in 2007. These internal governance challenges could certainly limit the scope of cross border territorial cooperation
- The structural reform was designed in accordance with a logic of economies of scale rather than a spatial focus based on functional relationships within the territory (which normally constitutes a basis of territorial cooperation). In spatial planning terms, this entails that the comprehensive-integrated nature of the Danish planning system turns out to be under stress (cf Galland & Enemark, forthcoming in Land Use Policy). This situation places additional challenges to different dimensions of territorial governance, such as the

integration of policy sectors and the coordination of levels of planning and implementation.