

ESPON – NORBA 30-31.8.2012
Jurmala, Latvia

Territorial co-operation, territorial cohesion: Some findings from the TERCO project

Sarolta Németh

sarolta.nemeth@uef.fi

Karelian Institute
University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu



1 Introduction to TERCO

2 Findings about *city-twinning* and *transnational TC* project „densities”

3 Focus on a case study at EU-external border and the governance of CBC: FI-RU

4 Final notes on the impact of territorial cooperation

1 TERCO: „European Territorial Co-operation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life” (2010-12)

Different intensity in different parts of Europe – how to measure TC, how to measure its impact?

Territorial cooperation for territorial integration/cohesion?

Territorial integration/cohesion across external borders?

TC types:

‘city-twinning’

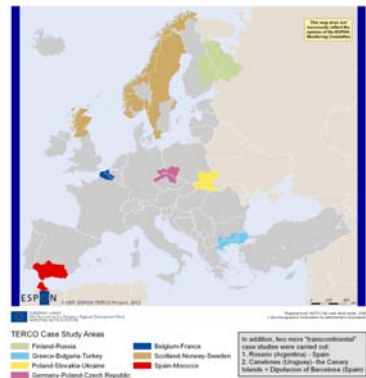
cross-border cooperation

interregional cooperation

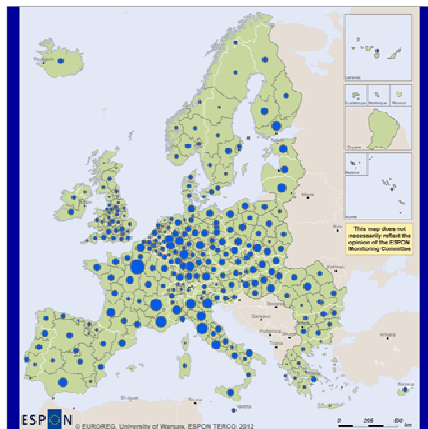
macro-regional cooperation

transcontinental cooperation

Overview of Case Study Areas



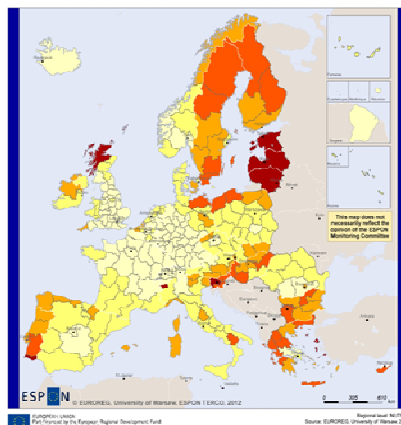
2.1 City-twinning agreements



Legend
Number of twinning city agreements

- 474
- 200
- 50
- No data

Absolute number of Twinning Cities



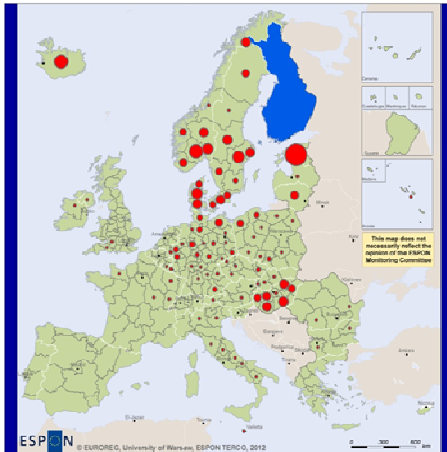
Legend
INTERREG project partners per 1 mln euro GDP

- 0.0 - 1.0
- 1.1 - 2.5
- 2.6 - 5.0
- 5.1 - 10.0
- 10.1 - 22.0
- No data

Twinning City agreements per 1 million EUR GDP

City-twinning agreements (2)

Twinning cities - Finland



EUROPEAN UNION
FINLAND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

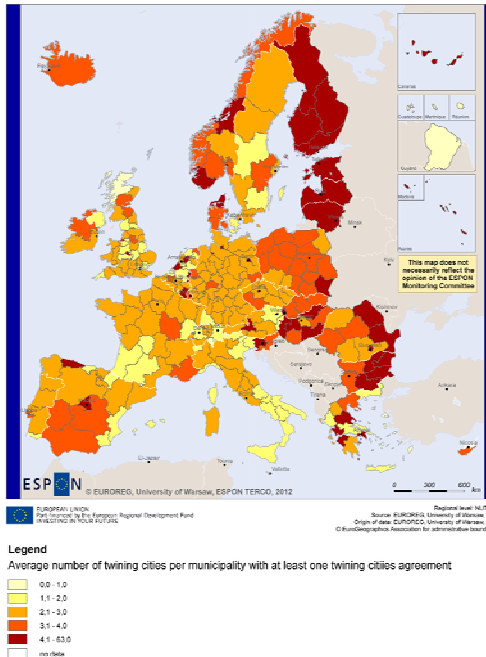
Regional level NUTS 03
Source: EUROREG, University of Warsaw, 2012
Origin of data: EUROREG, University of Warsaw, 2012
© EuroGeographical Association for administrative boundaries

Legend

Twinning cities agreements with Finland



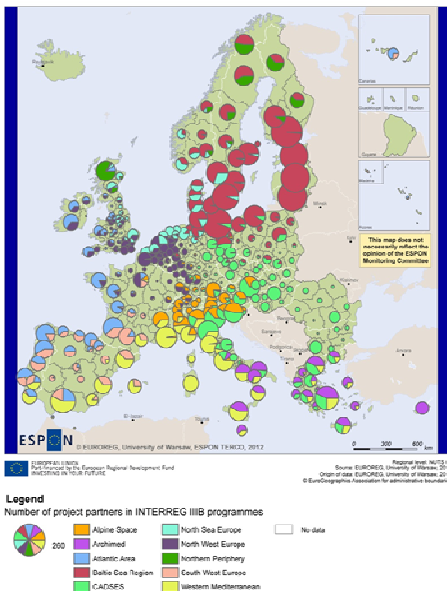
City-twinning agreements (3)



Average number of twinning cities per municipality having twinning city agreements

Question: does the existence of a twinning-city agreement between two places necessary mean TC? If yes, what depth of cooperation does it actually cover, and what unutilised potentials those may mean?

2.2 Transnational territorial cooperation (macro-regional TC)



Number of partners in INTERREG IIIB

3 Cross-border TC across the Finnish-Russian border

The programming areas are very different from each other:

1. Kolarctic-Russia (SE, FI, NO, RU)
- 2. Karelia-Russia (FI, RU)**
3. South East Finland-Russia (FI, RU)

Case study area:



The practical deployment of territorial co-operation at the Finnish-Russian border

- **How do territorial cooperation (CBC) activities across this *external* EU border compare to CBC across EU-internal borders?**
 - CBC projects between Finnish and Russian organisations fall into very similar domains to those CBC activities which take place at most of the EU-internal borders
 - However, the aims of the projects are – and have to be – reasonably modest across the external border of the EU
 - Relatively low depth of co-operation
 - Visible asymmetry persisting across the border in terms of *participation levels and the diversity and competence of actors*
 - There are objective limits set by low cross-border accessibility and population numbers

- **How does geopolitics, i.e. EU/RU relations influence the prospects of ‘territorial cohesion’ across this border?**
 - Putin’s Russia claims an equal footing in the cooperation with the EU
 - Even if the institutionalized practices of cross-border co-operation were found to have been Europeanized, the idea of ‘Europeanising’ Russia has lost its relevance
 - Fundamental question: how the different understandings of territoriality on the two sides of the external border can be reconciled in the future to be able to achieve some territorial integration?

- To what extent can the *governance of CBC* across the Finnish-Russian border contribute to territorial integration/cohesion?
 - Introduction of the ENPI CBC instrument has led to some significant changes: single application and selection process for both sides of the border provides for more cross-border coherence
 - Russia is now an equal contributor to the funding of the ENPI
 - Regional decision-making on project applications ensures that regional needs are addressed
 - Thematic calls (Karelia ENPI) with *close involvement of the grassroots level* and opportunity for synergies

4 On the added value of TC from the point of view of territorial cohesion

- Esp. in double peripheries, collaboration would often not take place if financial support was not available from TC programmes.
- Mutuality, equality of TC partnerships are essential for sustaining a positive impact.
- TC increases cohesion/integration by utilizing both the similarities and differences/complementarities between regions (mutual learning, resource sharing).
- TC may offer relatively low-cost solution to the problem of the mismatch between functional and administrative geographies.
- TC increases social capital and „local buzz” effect, esp. if there is a combination of different TC types in a region: encourages local partnerships (where the culture is open to it) and brings in external ideas and resources.
- TC brings about also the internationalization of e.g. the work environment, making jobs more attractive to higher educated young people, which is crucial to combat brain-drain from peripheral regions.
- Retaining and attracting innovative human capital is also important for the ‘smart utilization of natural resources’.

Thank you for your attention!

Credits

to the whole TERCO TPG:

Lead partner:

EUROREG – University of Warsaw

Other partners:

EPRC – University of Strathclyde

IGEAT- Free University of Brussels

Karelian Institute – UEF, Joensuu

DPRD – University of Thessaly

UAM – Autonomous University of Madrid

See project information and reports at

[http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/
Menu_AppliedResearch/terco.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/terco.html)