

REPORT

ESPON / NORBA Final Conference

“Territorial cohesion in Europe and in the BSR”

Baltic Beach Hotel, Jūrmala, Latvia
August 30 – 31, 2012



Scope of the conference

The fourth and the final NORBA conference was organized in order to promote international dialogue on spatial planning among the Nordic-Baltic policy-makers and planners at national, regional and local level, public organizations and researchers.

The aim of the final conference was to present and discuss selected ESPON findings relevant to the Nordic-Baltic countries by focusing on territorial cooperation, demography, growth poles, climate change and particularly the application of ESPON findings in Nordic-Baltic territorial planning. Conference provided a transnational discussion arena for policy-makers, practitioners and researchers about current territorial development trends, challenges and opportunities in the region.

NORBA final conference was organized in the historical resort city Jūrmala (Latvia) on August 30 – 31, 2012 and was attended by 100 participants.



Main topics

- ☐ Territorial cohesion in the Baltic Sea Region;
- ☐ ESPON findings on key regional challenges: demography, urban regions, rural areas;
- ☐ Territorial governance.

Sessions

Conference programme had five consecutive sessions:

- **Opening plenary session** introducing the scope and objectives of the conference;
- **Session on territorial cohesion in the Baltic Sea Region;**
- **Panel session on ESPON capitalisation and policy response;**
- **Evidence session** presenting the research and conclusions regarding the key regional challenges. Each of the three presentations was complemented by reflections of discussant.
- **Governance session** presenting the practical experience in Nordic-Baltic countries, where two of three presentations were complemented by reflections of discussants.

Editors of report: Antti Roose, Gatis Pavils, Zane Leščinska

Tables and figures: Authors

Photos: Antti Roose



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Programme

Thursday, August 30

12:30 – 14:15 Opening plenary session

Chair: *Heikki Eskelinen*

- Welcome by *Solvita Zvidriņa*, Director of the State Regional Development Agency of Latvia
- *John Bachtler* (European Policies Research Centre, Glasgow, UK): The Future of Cohesion Policy and the Territorial Dimension
- *Raivis Bremšmits* (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia): Trends and implications of territorial cohesion in Latvia
- *Piera Petruzzi* (ESPON CU): A decade of territorial evidence
- Discussion

14:45 – 16:15 Policy dialogue session: Territorial cohesion in BSR

Chair: *Grétar Þór Eyþórsson*

- *Sverker Lindblad* (Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications, Sweden): Territorial Cohesion from a Swedish perspective
- *Katarzyna Wojnar* (EUROREG, ESPON ECP, Poland): Territorial Cohesion in BSR. Evidence-based multi-level strategic planning in practice
- *Garri Raagmaa* (University of Tartu, Estonia): The Baltic regional higher educational institutions for territorial cohesion

16:30 – 17:30 Panel session on ESPON capitalisation and policy response

Chair: *Antti Roose*

Panelists: plenary speakers and representatives of national/regional policymakers

Sverker Lindblad (SE), *Garri Raagmaa* (EE), *Katarzyna Wojnar* (PL), *Alda Nikodemusa* (LV), *Odd Godal* (NO), *Reinhard Reynisson* (IS).

Friday, August 31

9:00 – 11:00 Evidence session: key regional challenges

Chair: *Mats Johansson*

- Demography: *Phil Rees* (Univ. of Leeds, UK), discussant: *Daniel Rauhut*
- Urban regions: *Maciej Smetkowski* (EUROREG, PL), discussant: *Gatis Pāvils*
- Rural development: *Petri Kahila* (Nordregio, SE), discussant: *Hild-Marte Bjørnsen*

11:30 – 13:00 Governance session: Nordic – Baltic practices and experiences

Chair: *Zane Leščinska*

- Governance: *Lisa Van Well* (Nordregio, SE), discussant: *Grétar Þór Eyþórsson*
- Territorial cooperation: *Sarolta Nemeth* (UEF, FI), discussant: *Daniel Galland*

Conclusions, closing remarks: *Beyond NORBA*, *Olaf Foss* (NIBR, NO)

OPENING PLENARY SESSION

Solvita Zvidrina welcomed warmly the conference delegates and introduced current EU and Latvian territorial policy developments. Mrs Zvidrina also introduced the mission and tasks of the Latvian State Regional Development Agency.



John Bachtler in his presentation „**The Future of Cohesion Policy and the Territorial Dimension**“ gave an insight into the EU Cohesion policy reform and proposals how the territorial cohesion could be translated into the EU policies. The reform of cohesion policy addresses two main challenges / criticisms:



- Questions regarding the rationale/ necessity of the cohesion policy;
- Criticism regarding the priorities, effectiveness, delivery of cohesion policy.
- Current cohesion policy fails in two aspects:
 - Failure / weak contractual agreements between EU and member states;
- A lack of developed communication on the policy results.

Cohesion policy is getting increasingly supported in the EU, but exact policy for 2014 – 2020 is still on proposal stage and will be only accepted on May 2013. There is a pronounced shift in support strategies from the poorest to transitional regions, thus decreasing the focus from Central Europe to regions throughout the whole European Union.

Drivers of cohesion policy reform are as follows:

- Fourth Report on Economic and Social Cohesion (2007)
- Prospective work on 2020 regional challenges (2008)
- Debate on territorial cohesion (2008)
- Enhanced dialogue with academia, international organisations
- Barca Report 'Agenda for a reformed Cohesion policy (April 2009)
- Commissioner Hübner Reflection Paper on the future Cohesion Policy + joint ministerial communiqué (April 2009)
- Ex-post evaluations and studies (2009-10)
- High-level group discussions with MS experts (2009-10)
- Commissioner Samecki policy orientation paper (2010)
- Fifth Cohesion Report (Nov 2010)
- Draft legislative package (Oct 2011)

The main challenges of current cohesion policy in Latvia are the attraction of investment to the development centres and integrated approach (now all projects are divided by sectors). For the next cohesion policy period, Latvia should aim to make municipalities more business-oriented through investments in business infrastructure, to provide more support to development-oriented activities and to concentrate resources in certain development centres.



Piera Petruzzi in her presentation „**ESPON 2002 – 2012: A decade of territorial evidence**” provided an insight into the main events and achievements of ESPON. In the period 2002 – 2006, ESPON has functioned as a bridge between research and real life, providing valuable information for policy makers and researchers. The studies of demographic tendencies in EU that made the population ageing visible and provided a strong basis and source of information for policymakers (**DEMIFER, SIESTA, TRACC, ATTREG** etc).

For the period 2007 – 2012 the studies of territorial migration effects until 2050 were accentuated. Migration will have a strong impact on EU development, e.g.

poor regions will become poorer, but the affluent ones will benefit. This study proposed to facilitate immigration to poor regions, provide support to young business incentives and to increase the retirement age.

In the next planning period ESPON should focus on bridging the gap between policymakers and scientists, providing advice to policymakers at all levels.

POLICY DIALOGUE SESSION: TERRITORIAL COHESION IN BSR

Sverker Lindblad in his presentation „**Territorial Cohesion from a Swedish perspective**” informed about the administrative and functional divisions of Sweden, taking into account the mismatch and correlations between functional and administrative areas, as well as state regional development policy. It was pointed out that cross-border and multilevel governance in Sweden is much needed, due to its geographical varieties.

The Swedish view on Territorial Cohesion: not a new policy but, a method within Cohesion Policy for a more integrated approach to territorial development based on the principle of subsidiarity. Cross-cutting in three dimensions:

- Over geographical administrative borders - cross-border
- Between sector policies - cross-sectoral
- From EU-level to local - multi-level governance

All regions territorial potential should be released and developed in an efficient and sustainable way:

- The right policy mix adjusted to every regions territorial possibilities and assets – a place-based policy approach
- A flexible, functional and cross-border regional perspective
- Territorial specificities and regional balance

In Sweden Territorial Cohesion has not been used as a concept as such, but have clearly influenced the design of regional policy at both national and regional level.



Table 2. Mismatch of functional and administrative geographies

<u>Functional area</u>	<u>Administrative area</u>
Local neighbourhood	-----
-----	Municipality
Labour market region	-----
-----	County
Industrial cluster	-----
Country	The state
Macro region	-----
???	EU
Europe?	-----



Katarzyna Wojnar in her presentation „Territorial Cohesion in the BSR. Evidence-based multi-level strategic planning in practice in Poland” depicted the current regional development tendencies in Poland:

Initially, upon its entrance in the EU, Poland didn't have a country-wide vision for comprehensive regional development. Poland is currently in search of a new territorial development paradigm. One of the main challenges is choosing between the sectoral and the integrated place-based approach.

The new regional policy of Poland envisages development based on the competitive advantages of each region by concentrating efforts on certain

development centres and multi-level management. In order to implement this idea, the concept of „Polish Hexagon” was developed. It consists of 6 significant Polish urban centers and considers their connectivity to be of highest regional priority, which indicates a shift from the earlier „corridor” thinking (which approached Poland as a corridor between East and West) to the development centre model. In this way, the increase of Warsaw's international role can also be supported.

At the same time, Poland starts to look over Central Europe, to cooperating close with Scandinavia and the Baltics. Not every region aims and needs to be innovative, however every region can develop as a good imitator. She referred to **INTERSTRAT** findings on integrated strategic territorial planning.

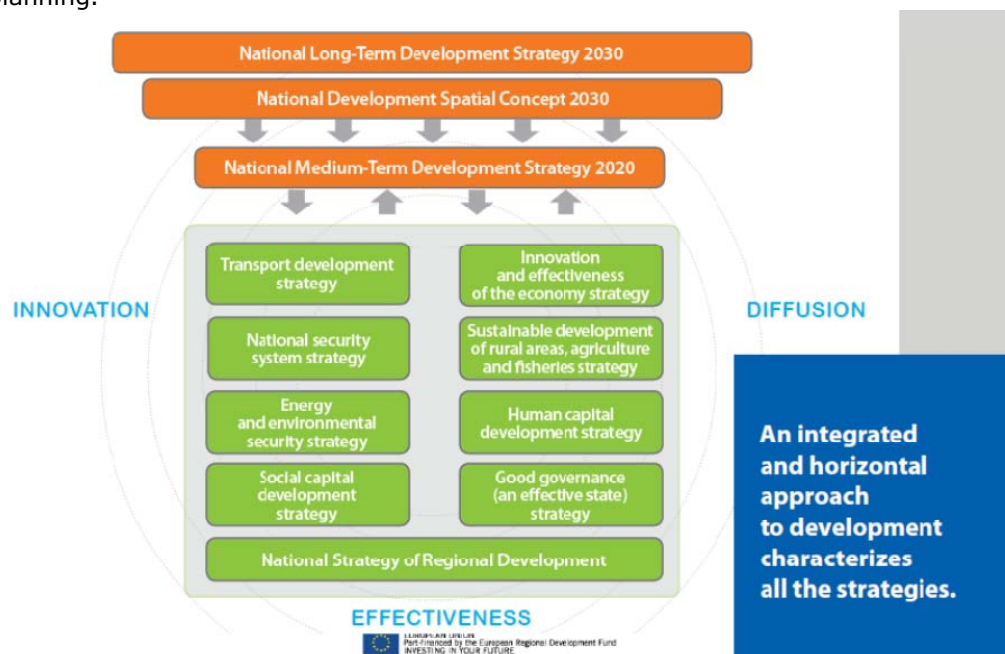


Figure 2. Towards integrated spatial development approach in Poland.



Garri Raagmaa presented the results on „**The Baltic regional higher educational institutions for territorial cohesion**”, a study on the role of the regional (non-metropolitan) higher educational institutions in local and regional development.

According to **KIT**, R&D does not always lead to the high innovation and development in the region, as new ideas can only spread if there are people willing to spread them out. In most cases the R&D investment in areas with less than 1 million inhabitants does not leave much influence on economic development. Thus there arises the question of whether establishing higher educational institutions in such regions is a waste of resources or can function as a way to spread the development?

Baltic states are actively developing regional higher education institutions. Since Latvia and Estonia liberalized their higher education market, numerous higher education institutions were established. In Latvia they were mostly profit-oriented, but in Estonia they are regional branches of larger universities, according to the economical specialization of respective regions.

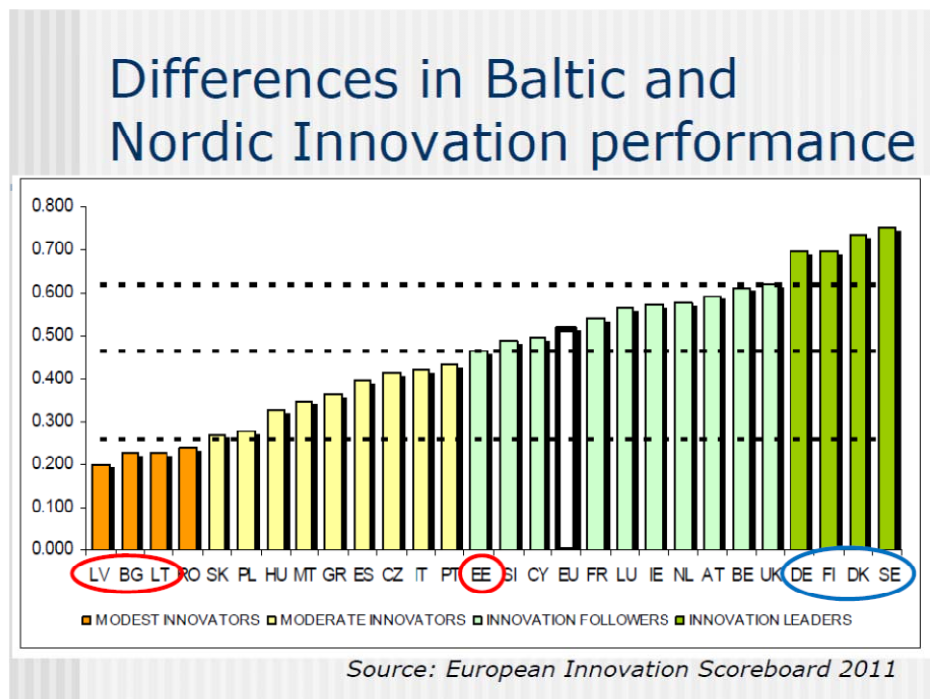


Figure 3. Innovation performance in BSR countries

Within this "smart specialization" frame, students can be attracted even to the less developed regions as the preconditions for knowledge that leads to innovation and then growth, are embedded into the territorial culture of each region. The study thus recommends to develop strong networking of the higher education system and to follow specific regional knowledge barometers.

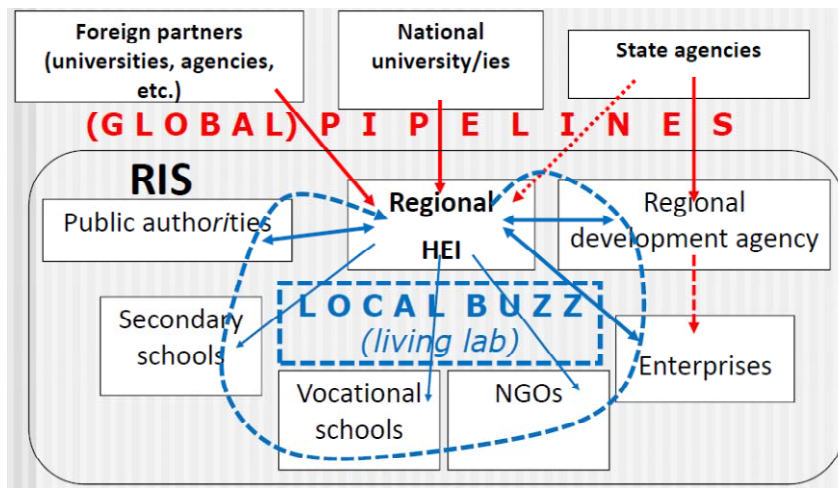


Figure 4. The leading role of Higher Educational Institutions for the regional development and innovation

PANEL SESSION SESSION ON ESPON CAPITALISATION AND POLICY RESPONSE

In the panel session moderated by **Antti Roose, Estonian ECP**, the notion of territorial cohesion and territorial capital was discussed. Territorial cohesion is described as a wished better state of the EU. Territorial cohesion should play crucial role in achieving territorial optimum through integration and coordination of different sector policies and through harmonising different development paradigms such as sustainability, convergence and regional competitiveness. The concept has mainly been equated to the exploitation of the potentials of “territorial capital” in all countries and regions of the EU. Public policies aimed at promoting territorial development and limiting disparities – in contrast with the imposed uniformity or loss of diversity – should first and foremost help areas to develop their territorial capital.

Which components of territorial capital could be better and more efficiently exploited in the BSR macroregional integration and cooperation?



G.Raagmaa (EE) sees a value in former Soviet military and industrial areas in transition. They present a good development potential and can help revitalize rural areas as industries move out of the expensive cities.

K.Wojnar (PL) considers that the fast growing metropolises in South-Eastern Europe create new, luring opportunities for metropolitan life and employment. Scandinavia on the other side has established prosperous R&D activities. Each region differs but there is an exchange potential.

S.Lindblad (SE): The best way to make the most out of territorial assets is to invest in people – such investments can generate new, unexpected qualities.

R.Reynisson (IS): Many of the issues that have so far been discussed are of high importance for the sparsely populated North-East (rural) Iceland. We see that the base of development lies in investing in traditional, proven values and not copying successful case-studies of areas with a different development background, although this can require time (**PURR**).

A.Nikodemusa (LV): Latvia needs a change in the way of thinking, namely shifting from focusing on problems to managing its assets, because these certainly exist and are often overlooked A

typical example has been the development of Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences which reflects the high creativity potential in the country.

K.Wojnar: Developing high quality environment in towns is usually connected to increased creativity. Thus even basic investment steps towards this direction, and not only R&D investments can help. (**KIT**).

G.Raagmaa: A class of young, creative people has grown. When they will not be required anymore – should we expect a new exodus? Most people leaving the Baltics do so because they are forced to and not to find creative jobs.

S.Lindblad: Creativity requires a certain developed lifestyle and attractiveness – even the number of nightclubs in a city is important (**ATTREG**).

There is a need to develop indicators and development policies for such flexible unit as functional regions, which, in contrast to NUTS regions, are constantly changing their borders (**TPM**).

G.Raagmaa: Division in small municipalities in Estonia led to a weak municipal governance, few municipal leaders, scarce intellectual force. Thus every state institution has its regional branches, each in a different way. This problem needs to be solved, even through temporary agreements between institutions.

R.Reynisson: Governmental reactions are always delayed and not proactive. Changing life models and the shifts to intellectual work and services result to rural young people abandoning rural areas, as they cannot put into practice their potential there.

A.Roose: On ESPON capitalisation. ESPON demonstrated that its analytical methodology of spatial synergies, conflicts, challenges and opportunities can be applied to a whole array of planning issues and different sectoral policies at national as well as regional and sub-regional levels to inform and generate policy thinking. The wide-ranging place-based development approaches and the implementation of geographically tailored interventions in functional territorial units and regions are analysed and promoted by ESPON.

In your opinion, what are ESPON facts and evidence good for? How can ESPON better meet and satisfy the regional and local stakeholders/policy-makers demand for territorial evidence in exercising territorial practices?

A.Nikodemusa: This issue is very important to the future ESPON – municipalities should see the need and benefits of ESPON.

G.Raagmaa: First we need to study basic ESU documents and ESPON concepts, in order to absorb the true meaning of those new „buzzwords“.

S.Lindblad: Knowledge obtained through ESPON needs to be condensed for those who have no time for reading it thoroughly, e.g. are needed knowledge brokers who present the information to policy makers.

A.Nikodemusa: There is definitely a need to disseminate this information to all universities and even to high schools.

K.Wojnar: ESPON contact points need to be strengthened because regional counterparts are the best agents to spread the ESPON knowledge – they know how to channel it to the right places.

GUIDED TOUR IN JŪRMALA



EVIDENCE SESSION: KEY REGIONAL CHALLENGES



Phil Rees presented the main issues on „**Key Challenges for the Baltic Sea Region: Demography**“ (**DEMIFER**). It foresees population increase in Eastern and Central Europe and decrease in Southern Europe, mostly due to immigration from outside the European space. Growth prospects characterize Western and Northern Europe, mainly thanks to favourable demographical regimes. Gradual change of ethnic composition due to population ageing and immigration (the so called Third Demographic Transition) is observed in some countries. The fastest ageing and population decline is expected in Estonia and Latvia, as well as in parts of Romania and Bulgaria.

Table 3. Projections of population change in BSR

Projection	Estonia		Finland		Iceland		Latvia		Norway		Sweden	
2010=100	2030	2050	2030	2050	2030	2050	2030	2050	2030	2050	2030	2050
DEMIFER-STQ	81	62	101	96	110	107	76	54	106	105	106	106
DEMIFER-GSE	89	81	110	120	107	104	83	73	114	128	115	133
DEMIFER-LSE	87	76	105	104	108	106	83	70	109	111	108	112
DEMIFER-EME	85	74	111	125	120	139	77	60	117	136	119	143
DEMIFER-CME	83	67	104	104	117	126	77	57	109	113	110	116
EUROPOP2010	96	91	107	107	112	129	90	80	119	131	113	120
UN-MEDIUM	97	92	105	105	122	135	92	84	114	124	111	116
UN-HIGH	102	105	110	118	128	151	97	97	120	139	116	131
UN-LOW	92	80	100	93	116	119	87	73	109	110	105	103
Average	90	81	106	108	116	124	85	72	113	122	111	120

Rees elaborated critical practical issue who will look after very old. The very old will have the greatest level of disability and require the most support, if they become more dependent.

- We define the VOSR as the ratio of the very old (aged 85+) to the generation of their children (aged 50-64).
- In 2010 there are few people aged 85+, so the ratios are high but by 2050 the VOSRs have fallen drastically.
- The populations in carer age groups show either small declines or small increases which don't match the increases in the numbers of their parents surviving to be 85 or more years old
- Estonia and Latvia catch up with their Nordic neighbours. The decrease in OSRs in Sweden is limited by a slight rise in the 50-64 population.

Discussant **Daniel Rauhut** (KHT) notes that population decline is a very regional issue. Demographic forecasts for Latvia are inarguably negative, but the Riga metropolitan region has less implications. Since rural and peripheral are hardly hit, and immigrants are not expected to move to such depressed areas but will choose metropolitan regions instead (PURR, SeGI). We should take into account that most immigrants are not highly educated and we cannot therefore expect them to generate good development rates. Thus we have to ask ourselves once again: is it really so bad to have ageing and declining population? The answer to this question has become a key challenge for Western civilizations.

Phil Rees agreed that long-term strategies and solutions are needed. One of them is the extension of retirement age, which cannot be seen as a taboo anymore, since Europeans are able to work much longer than in the past, due to technological and medical progress.



Maciej Smetkowski introduced key findings on „Nordic and Baltic Sea Region metropolises from the European perspective: ESPON „Future Orientation of Cities” & beyond” (FOCI). Following the shift from industrial to knowledge based economy, metropolitan regions have significant competitive advantage over rural regions as they develop non-regional linkages and networks of metropolises. Very characteristic is the case of the Pentagon, formed by the busiest EU metropolises, dense transport networks, intense scientific cooperation, the highest concentration of multinational companies etc. Metropolises of the post-communist countries are more passive when it comes to globalisation processes and are characterized by pronounced



peripherality, poorer contactability and weaker interregional cooperation.

The economical crisis has left a certain impact on the development of European metropolitan regions but has not changed or challenged the current patterns of metropolization. This impact can be measured when considering sectoral transformations (such as manufacturing, construction, market services) of post-socialist cities. Some cities have suffered to greater extent than national economies (e.g. Riga, (yes, between before and after), but in general metropolitan regions (e.g. Sofia) perform better.

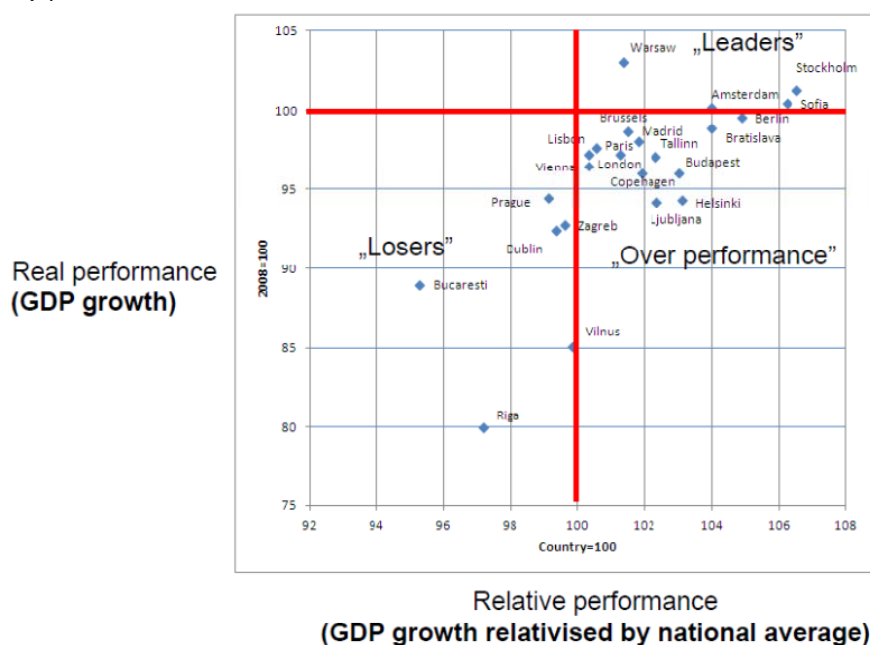


Figure 3. Regional aspects of economic crises – insights 2008-09.

Discussant **Gatis Pāvils** noted that it remains unclear whether peripheral metropolitan regions of Europe are bound to remain such or whether a formula to overcome this can be applied (e.g. Finland and Helsinki). The role and future of rural areas also remains unclear (**PURR**).

M. Smetkowski sees that Nordic countries are successfully overcoming peripherality. Whether the importance of polycentric networks has been overestimated or whether we should look more into local development is something that still needs to be analyzed.

Development of rural areas can be promoted by several methods, e.g. by increasing the accessibility of distant hinterlands developing polycentric structure within each country, investing in regional higher education institutions with certain specialisation to prevent graduates' brain drain. Unfortunately the measures taken after the current crisis have not brought significant improvements and no systemic changes have been made.

Petri Kahila presents the „Standpoints on Rural Development in the Baltic Sea Region” (EDORA). It shows that rural areas basically serve for agriculture, but there are significant negative tendencies, like negative socio-economic development, ageing, out-migration, sparse population etc. The EU Common Agricultural Policy has to be interlinked and become compatible with cohesion policy in order to serve the overall development of rural areas. There is a necessity to differentiate development opportunities for rural areas and to develop rural planning in two - macro and micro levels. The main conclusions are that even remote rural regions can exhibit endogenous economic dynamics, being far more complex and rich than initially thought, and that programmes for specific territories and functional areas need to be better defined.

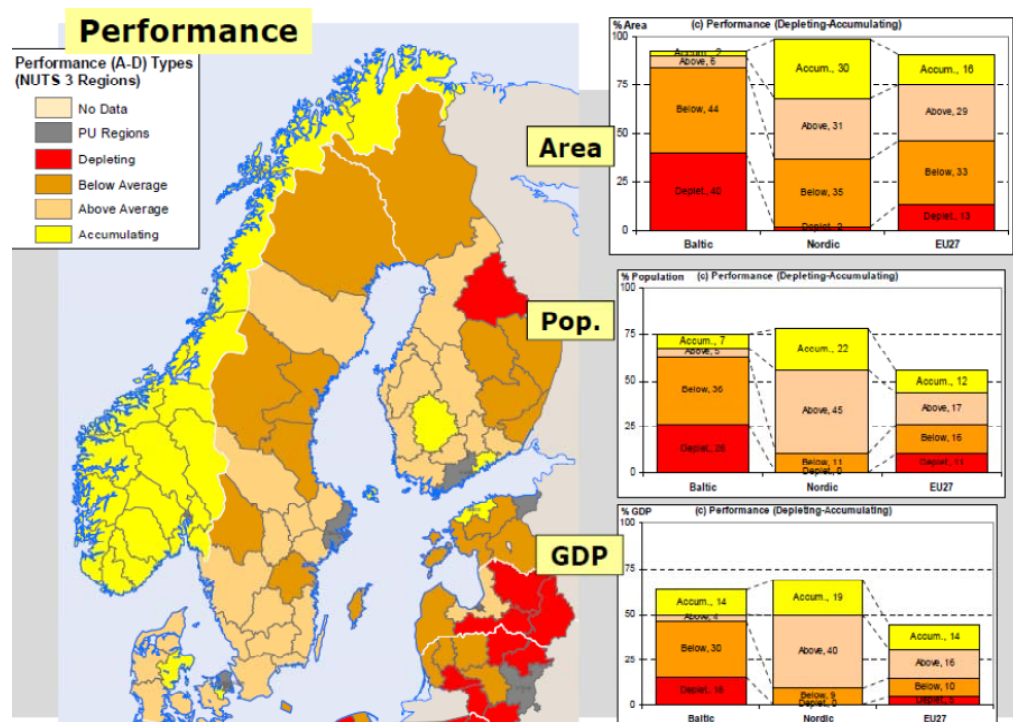


Figure 4. Performance of rural regions in BSR (EDORA).

Elements such as multi-level governance, integration of territorial development and utilisation of the region's territorial capital are main drivers for successful territorial cohesion. The EDORA project has underlined that there is a requirement of close coordination between various interventions. The proposed Common Strategic Framework and Partnership Contracts pave the way towards better multi-level governance: – However, there might be a danger that this legal requirement is interpreted rigidly; – Attempt to form multi-fund approach necessitates profound communication using new kind of channels. Therefore requirements of rural economies cannot be fully met by interventions of ERDF or ESF. Important is to define programme areas to address territorial needs and functional geographies.



Discussant **Hild-Marte Bjørnsen** was highly critical about the methods and results of report – e.g. she sees that the presented maps are misleading and may lead to wrong assumptions, typology does not reflect the rural realities. If results are based on such data, they are of little use.

She mentioned that often research sets the imaginary problems and solves them by imaginary solutions – e.g. changing the definitions or changing the borders of regions. She also stated that different instruments are needed for different regions and that there is an overall lack of clear policy objectives.

Petri Kahila notes that this is a rather extensive research and wide information background not to be underestimated, since it is impossible to be seen within a short presentation. And whereas maps may not be fully accurate due to a series of reasons, they can definitely reveal problematic areas and form a basis for research.

GOVERNANCE SESSION: NORDIC-BALTIC PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCES

Lisa van Well introduced the preliminary results of „**ESPON TANGO: Territorial Approaches for New Governance, Case study: Climate Change Adaptation in the EUSBSR**” (TANGO).

This study defined the scope of the „territorial governance” concept and used climate change as an exemplary process in order to examine good practices in the field of territorial governance.

Climate change is seen as a true territorial governance issue as in most cases there are no certain state institutions taking charge of this challenge (**ESPON Climate**).



Mobilising stakeholders of climate change in BSR:

- Local level: BaltCICA: Scenario Workshops (Kalundborg (summer) housing area)
- Regional level: BaltCICA: German Baltic coast; Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (stakeholders for beach management, tourism)
- Civil Society: BaltCICA: EUCC-D, Danish Technology Board
- National level: BaltAdapt: Gaining national acceptance and mobilising national authorities. Importance of eventually including Russia
- Transnational level: BaltAdapt: Lots of pan-Baltic players, VASAB, CBSS, PACs, HALs etc
- BaltAdapt Policy Forums: Baltic Sea Days 24 April Berlin, in Stockholm in December
- But there are still problems with identifying and *coordinating* all the stakeholders: Who owns the question? Legitimacy?

Discussant **Grétar Þór Eypórsón** mentioned that the end-user of the results of this this research is not identified, thus it would be hard to implement this project. Besides, the difference between planning and governance concepts is still unclear.

Lisa van Well replied that this indeed is a question of key importance. The project's aim is to find the stakeholders of this research through wide involvement of specialists and practitioners.

Sarolta Nemeth presented preliminary results from the study „**Territorial co-operation, territorial cohesion: Some findings from the TERCO project**” (TERCO). This project is examines the role and importance of territorial cooperation, e.g. city-twinning, cross-border, interregional, macro-regional, transcontinental and other ways of cooperation. The Baltic Sea Region is very active in twinning city agreements and transnational cooperation. An insight into transnational cooperation of Finland and Russia shows an example of low intensity cooperation and assymetric attitude of involved parties. As a conclusion Sarolta Nemeth stated that there definitely is a need to react on the increasing international role and activity of Russia, in order to make it an equal cooperation partner.

Discussant **Daniel Galland** addressed two core questions raised during Sarolta Nemeth's presentation:

- i. How does the particular case of territorial cooperation between Finland and Russia could compare or contrast with cases within EU borders?
- 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:

- South Denmark – Schleswig KERN, a functional border region



- 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.

S.Nemeth noted that the Russo-Finish border has been closed and strictly controlled for a very long time. The almost complete lack of international interactions in the past is often resulting to reserved mutual approaches today. Nevertheless the ways for cooperation are actively sought in spite of different experiences and heterogeneity in territorial organization.

CLOSING



Olaf Foss in his closing speech „**Beyond NORBA, Conclusions, Closing remarks**“ summarized the history of NORBA project. The main conclusion is that it is worth continuing dialogue and cooperation, and ESPON **ENECON** (Evidence in a North European Context) was therefore launched on February 2012. ENECON shall address the challenges and opportunities of territorial development and spatial planning policies and practices, in particular at the very northern part of Europe. By actively facilitating the use and capitalization of ESPON-evidence, the overall aim is to contribute to the transnational approach on territorial analysis, policies and planning in a macro-regional context and perspective.

Conference materials and presentations available at NORBA website <http://rha.is/norba>

ESPON AND EU PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTED AND DISCUSSED AT THE ESPON/NORBA-FINAL CONFERENCE, AUGUST 30-31, 2012

- The 5th Cohesion Report (DG Regio)
- EU 2020 Strategy: SIESTA - Spatial indicators for a Europe 2020 Strategy Territorial Analysis
- Demography: DEMIFER - Demographic and Migratory Flows Affecting European Regions and Cities
- Rural areas: EDORA - European Development Opportunities in Rural Areas
- Rural regions: PURR - Potential of Rural Regions
- Innovation: KIT - Knowledge, Innovation, Territory
- Cities: FOCI -Future Orientation for Cities
- Growth Poles: SGPTD - Secondary growth poles in territorial development
- Attractiveness: ATTREG - Attractiveness of European Regions and Cities for Residents and Visitors
- Transport: TRACC - TRansport ACCessibility at regional/local scale and patterns in Europe
- Services of general interest: SeGI
- Territorial diversity: ESPON TEDI - Territorial Diversity in Europe
- Territorial Cooperation: TERCO - European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life
- Governance: TANGO - Territorial Approaches for New Governance
- Climate Change: ESPON Climate - Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies in Europe
- Territorial performance: TPM - Territorial Performance Monitoring
- Territorial strategies: INTERSTRAT - ESPON in Integrated Territorial Strategies
- e-learning: ESPONTrain - Establishment of a transnational ESPON training programme to stimulate interest to ESPON2013 knowledge
- Capitalisation: ENECON - ESPON Evidence in a North European Context

2002-2012 A Decade of Territorial Evidence

ESPON-NORBA Final Conference "Territorial cohesion in Europe and in the Baltic Sea Region": the Baltic Sea macro-region embodies huge potential although spatial disparities and socio-economic gaps still exist across the BSR countries; similarities and differences provide opportunities to exploit the territorial capital and specificities of the region.

30-31 August 2012, Jurmala – Latvia. At the Conference around 100 policymakers, practitioners and researchers from the Nordic-Baltic countries discussed current territorial cohesion trends, issues and challenges in the macro-regional scope zooming to the ESPON evidence on demographic change, metropolisation, smart growth, territorial governance, cooperation and regional innovation.

Conference key-speakers and panellists underlined the importance of introducing new, less formal and more flexible/adaptive territorial governance by harmonising administrative units-based spatial development and functional areas approach. For this purpose, ESPON evidence should serve regional and local stakeholders by more targeted, advantage-focused dissemination and policy packaging.

The development of strategic planning tools and their tailoring according to country-specific and individual regional characteristics is a key concept. Bridging the socio-cultural gaps with a common vocabulary can raise the effectiveness of transnational cooperation programmes as well. Similarly, actions such as the provision of specialized and more detailed databases, the clarification of terms and dissemination of information in the academic and student community can result into more extravert and dynamic research and generate fruitful feedback.

The NORBA project is one of the Transnational Networking Activities in the ESPON 2013 Programme aiming to strengthen dialogue on territorial cohesion and spatial development in the Baltic Sea Region. The NORBA project members, ESPON Contact Points from Finland, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Norway and Sweden, shall deliver the final report with lessons learnt and recommendations for ESPON capitalisation by the end of 2012.

More information and conference presentations at the NORBA website

<http://www.rha.is/norba/forsida/>.

Best wishes,

Piera Petrucci

ESPON Coordination Unit

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