

REPORT

Nordic Geographers Meeting 2011

“Geographical Knowledge, Nature and Practice”

ESPON sessions

**Zooming in on European spatial perspectives
in the Baltic Sea Region**

Roskilde University, Roskilde, Denmark
24th-27th May 2011



The sessions of young fellows and scholars in NGM2011 conference comprised of three elements:

- Two key-speaker presentation on macro-regional spatial trends and discussions on the findings of ESPON projects bearing in mind Nordic-Baltic focus and circumstances - prof Zaucha (Poland) on ESPON policy support and VASAB policies in BSR and Dr Rauhut (Sweden) on BSR internal and external migration
- Presentations by 8 young fellows and PhD students (from Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Iceland) on their research projects related to ESPON themes of territorial development and cohesion
- information on the ESPON 2013 Programme, latest programming developments and events was provided, as well further ESPON related research focuses and directions.

The key themes focusing Nordic-Baltic countries in light of ESPON findings to be discussed:

- ☐ Territorial policies and forecasting
- ☐ Trends in city-regions
- ☐ Migration and mobility

Organizers:

The NORBA-consortium in cooperation with Roskilde University

Acronyms

ESPON 2013 - The European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion

NORBA - Nordic-Baltic dialogues on transnational perspectives in spatial planning, a networking project within the ESPON 2013 Programme, implemented by the ECPs from Finland (Lead Partner), Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Norway and Sweden

ECP - ESPON Contact Point

For further information: Antti Roose antti.roose@ut.ee

Heikki Eskelinen heikki.eskelinen@uef.fi

Conference website, ruconf.ruc.dk/index.php/ngm/

NORBA website, <http://rha.is/norba>



EUROPEAN UNION
Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

ESPON NORBA sessions at the Nordic Geographers Meeting Roskilde, Denmark, 25.-26.5.2011

May 25, Wednesday, 14.15-16.00

A2 ESPON I: Territorial policies and forecasting

Chair: Dr. Niels Boje Groth, University of Copenhagen

Keynote: prof. Jacek Zaucha (University of Gdansk), Implementation of territorial policies at the Baltic Sea Region level

Matti Fritsch (University of Eastern Finland), Competition or Complementarities? – the inter-relationship between CEMAT and EU Activities in Spatial Development Policy

Sarolta Németh (University of Eastern Finland), Researching European territorial cooperation: Nordic specificities

May 25th, Wednesday, 16.30-18.00

B2 ESPON II: Trends in city-regions

Chair: Antti Roose, University of Tartu

Virpi Kaisto (Lappeenranta University of Technology), Addressing cross-border spatial development planning at the EU-Russian border area - First impressions and experiences of ULYSSES project's EUREGIO KARELIA case study

Antti Vasanen (University of Turku), How polycentric is polycentric? Evidence of functional polycentricity in Finnish urban regions

Maija Usca (University of Latvia), Suburban patterns of Riga: fragmentation and the search for common structures

Martin Gauk (University of Tartu), Assessment of suburban residential development and the advent of sustainable planning policies in Estonia

May 26th, Thursday, 10.30-12.00

C2 ESPON III: Mobility

Chair: Dr. Antti Roose, University of Tartu

Keynote: Dr. Daniel Rauhut (KHT), Migration trends and its territorial impacts in BSR

Discussions of regional migration trends, impacts, and implications

Elina Apsite (University of Latvia), Nordic countries: new emigration destinations for Latvian migrants.

Martin Nouza (University of Iceland), Second homes in Iceland: Impacts and perceptions in host communities

Programme – all presentations in detail and photos can be seen at the NORBA-website

<http://rha.is/norba>

Nordic Geographers Meeting 2011

“Geographical Knowledge, Nature and Practice”

Roskilde University, May 24 - 27, 2011

The theme of the conference is 'Geographical knowledge, nature and practice'. The production and use of geographical knowledge in society has become a critical issue in our understanding of society. This is evident in relation to current geo-political conflicts, the growth of new international relations, climate change and regional development.

Keynote speakers

- o Bruce Braun, University of Minnesota (US)
- o Luiza Bialasiewicz, Royal Holloway, University of London (GB)
- o Morten Pejrup, Copenhagen University (DK)
- o Ole Hertel, Aarhus University (DK)
- o Gillian Rose, The Open University (GB)
- o Kirsten Simonsen, Roskilde University (DK)
- o David Pinder, Queen Mary University of London

The conference attracted 237 attendants at 60 thematic sessions including ESPON track with 3 sessions.

The NORBA project (www.rha.is/norba) hosted a special session examining the results and findings of ESPON 2013 programme in the Baltic Sea Region, in particular exploring territorial policies, the city regions, demographic trends and migration issues in the framework of European, regional and national strategic planning and territorial development policy. The invited key speakers prof Zaucha and Dr Rauhut presented the key findings of ESPON 2013 projects and highlighted the Nordic and Baltic regional dimension of territorial policies. The analysis places the Nordic region and Nordic-Baltic countries in a European perspective and zooms in on the state-of-the art of regional studies and planning promoted by ESPON. The session also nourished a discussion on research-policy relationships and aimed to explore how spatial planning has been informed by the concepts of space and place and how these concepts have been articulated, presented and visualised through the production of spatial plans, national or sector policies.

The NORBA project provided 8 bursaries for young fellows and PhD students from Latvia, Finland, Estonia and Iceland. The bursary (up to 500 EUR) enabled to cover part of the travel and accommodation costs in order to facilitate their participation in the NGM conference and networking amongst peers.

In order to be eligible for the bursary, applicants were required to be a PhD student or working as a post-doc researcher at a Nordic or Baltic university or research institute. Applicants submitted abstracts to the NGM2011 ESPON session proposing a topic related to strategic planning or territorial development policy. A panel consisting of members of the peer reviewers and the NORBA project selected highly qualified young or earlier career scholars exclusively based on the quality of the abstract.



The NGM 2011 conference incl. ESPON sessions were held in the academically landscaped Roskilde university campus.



Prof. David Pinder from Queen Mary University of London presenting on world representations, imaging and cartographies of global issues, violence, resistance and hope at the NGM 2011.

Abstracts of ESPON NORBA sessions at the NGM 2011 conference

For detailed and ppt presentations, see NORBA website, <http://rha.is/norba>

SESSION A2 ESPON I: Territorial policies and forecasting

May 25, Wednesday, 14.15-16.00



The chair of session **Niels Boje Groth** opened the ESPON session with up to 20 participants during two days.

Words of Welcome

Dr. Niels Boje Groth, University of Copenhagen

Dr. Antti Roose, University of Tartu

Niels Boje Groth and **Antti Roose** welcomed young scholars who joined ESPON sessions. Dr Groth stressed on importance of regional academic discussions in ESPON findings in relation to policy-making and plan-making practice. Dr Groth introduced **Jacek Zaucha** from the University of Gdansk who elaborated the topic how territorial policies, specifically VASAB is implemented in the Baltic Sea Region.

Keynote by prof. Jacek Zaucha, University of Gdansk

Implementation of territorial policies at the Baltic Sea Region level



Jacek Zaucha underlined that VASAB is not overburdened with many formal procedures, its lean structures and small budget helps to focus on strategic issues as well keeps flexible in finding right focus. VASAB has a vision for a sustainable, balanced and harmonious spatial development in the Baltic Sea Region, in a way predecessor of the EU Strategy for the BSR. Prof Zaucha also discussed VASAB interrelations to Interreg and

other regional initiatives and programmes. Milestones of VASAB process are as follows:

1. Tallinn 1994 (Vision, 4 outline strategies, Tentative Action Plan, Paving the way to BSR integration, cohesion, sustainable development).
2. Stockholm 1996: Summing up of the pilot projects, VASAB input to IR2C and B21, ICZM – recommendations
3. Wismar 2001: Action Programme (incl. definition of projects), Key themes requiring common efforts, VASAB input to IR3B
4. Vilnius 2010: New vision, Stakeholder orientation, Cohesion Policy at stake (9 EU MS), Maritime Spatial Planning

VASAB 2010 comprises 6 key issues of sustainable development as follows. 1. Co-operation of urban regions 2. Strategic development zones important for transnational integration within the BSR 3. Transnational transport links important for cross-BSR and cross-Europe integration 4. Diversification and strengthening of rural areas 5. Development of transnational green networks incl. cultural landscapes 6. Integrated development of coastal zones and islands.

In the second part, prof Zaucha related ESPON programme and ethos of territorial development and cohesion to the nobelist Paul Krugman new economic geography theory, stating that General equilibrium economic models answering what, how, for whom and where should be produced in line with Pareto-optimality (agglomeration economies have in those models endogenous character), as well models of endogenous growth taking into consideration spatial characteristics (e.g. accesibility, tacit knowledge, knowledge spillovers). In conclusion, prof Zaucha listed the failures and barriers of VASAB as VASAB vision has influenced real processes only to limited extend (e.g. Rail Baltica, Kaliningrad, preservation of coastal landscapes), there is a lack of monitoring of BSR spatial development as well lack of co-operation with the CBSS Ministers for Transport. According to prof Zaucha lessons learnt from VASAB process and relating it to European spatial development and ESPON process are as follows. political anchorage is important but equally important is strong and appealing leadership. Deepening the vision is a permanent dynamic process. Keeping balance between two functions of the „visionary co-operation”: strategic planning and project initiation/monitoring projects results. The presentation ended with a long and lively Q and A session and discussion on the territorial cohesion perspective and key priorities for policy harmonization.



Prof Zaucha and dr. Groth debated territorial policies in the BSR and the meaning of new economic geography for ESPON findings on regional economies and growth at the end of the session (to the left), with Matti Fritsch who contributed on CEMAT process, actions and outputs, debating Baltic and external EU-Russia territorial interfaces (to the right).

Matti Fritsch, University of Eastern Finland, Finland

Competition or Complementarities? – the Inter-relationship between CEMAT and EU Activities in Spatial Development Policy



As European Union territorial governance and spatial development policy slowly but steadily progresses at a variety of fronts, increasing attention should be paid to the question of how to connect such activities, which in the long run potentially influence the territorial development of the European continent as a whole, with initiatives in spatial development *outside* the European Union, particularly with countries that are not foreseen to become a member of EU family. Interestingly, a platform for interaction between non-members and members of the European Union has long existed before any real initiative was taken at the (internal) EU-level in this field of activity: the *Conference of Ministers Responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning* (CEMAT)

organised under the umbrella of the Council of Europe. Indeed, it was in CEMAT where the European dimension of spatial development was firstly recognized and articulated. Since the late 1980s, both CEMAT and European Union activities have proceed alongside each other, raising today questions regarding synergies, overlap and even competition; particularly as the EU, with the recent enlargements, has extended its territory to cover a significant share of the European continent. This again raises questions about how to organise interaction and co-operation between European Union and the wider EU neighbourhood in terms of spatial development policy. In this context, the Russian Federation's

relationship with European (Union) spatial planning is an interesting case in point, particularly as country recently held the CEMAT Presidency.

Against this background, this paper's objectives are twofold. Firstly, the intricate relationship between CEMAT and European Union initiatives and activities in spatial development policy will be examined from a CEMAT point of view. Secondly, the paper zooms in on the specific involvement of Russia, a country that is not foreseen to become a member of the European Union, in CEMAT activities by paying particular attention to the Russia's CEMAT-Presidency from 2007 to 2010. On the basis of the findings, the aim is to provide recommendations for better co-ordination between CEMAT and EU initiatives and thus, more widely, the (EU's) internal and external spheres of territorial development.

Sarolta Németh, University of Eastern Finland, Finland

Researching European Territorial Cooperation: Nordic Specificities



As part of the special session "Zooming in on European spatial perspectives in the Baltic Sea Region", this presentation will give an insight into the relevant work done in the ESPON applied research project titled "TERCO: European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life" (2010-2012). The paper focuses on those special aspects of the Finnish-Russian border case study region which are important to consider in the design of and the analyses carried out within, this wider international research project. TERCO arrives at its crucial mid-phase in Spring 2011, when empirical research is carried out by the different partners in a number of very dissimilar case study areas, employing surveys and interviews. The Finnish-

Russian border is by far not a typical EU border situation as it is located along an external EU-border with a non-candidate country and because it has a northern-peripheral situation and a sparse settlement pattern. Besides, it was spatially delineated according to the coverage of two Interreg III A programmes that involved this border area, and therefore, it is the largest among the TERCO case studies (excluding the transcontinental ones). This results in, among many things, the fact that the same "A" strand Interreg 'cross-border' cooperation programmes (one of the types of transnational territorial co-operation TERCO analyses in more detail) can be in fact, regarded as 'interregional' ones. This in turn, has a consequence to the approaches, organisation, and domains of the projects included under the 'cross-border' funding scheme in the Finnish-Russian case study area as compared to the other case study regions, and hence to the way findings and policy recommendations based on the case studies should be formulated.

SESSION B2 ESPON II: Trends in city-regions

May 25th, Wednesday, 16.30-18.00

Chair: Antti Roose, University of Tartu

Virpi Kaisto, Lappeenranta University of Technology, Finland

Addressing cross-border spatial development planning at the EU-Russian border area - First impressions and experiences of ULYSSES project's EUREGIO KARELIA case study



ULYSSES is an ESPON 2013 project that aims at using applied research results from previous ESPON projects as a yardstick for decentralised cross-border spatial development planning. Multi-thematic territorial analyses will be carried out in six European cross-border regions with the aim of identifying territorial drivers and dynamics. ULYSSES represents the new "Targeted Analysis" type of ESPON projects that are implemented in partnership with local stakeholders. ULYSSES project is thematically cross-cutting and it explores following territorial issues and challenges pinpointed by EU policy orientations and previous ESPON projects: (1) Territorial socio-economic dynamics including patterns of cross-border polycentric development, urban-rural

relationship, accessibility and connectivity of the regions and effects of demographic change. (2) Territorial performance dynamics picturing the performance of the cross-border areas in relation to the revised Lisbon Strategy and the Gothenburg Strategy.

My case study in ULYSSES project is EUREGIO KARELIA consisting of three Finnish provinces and the Republic of Karelia in Russian Federation. This case study offers an intriguing addition to current European spatial development planning discussion, because it addresses a region that is not only a sparsely populated rural area and periphery both from national and European perspectives, but a region spanning to EU Eastern Neighbourhood. The study is relevant also for the Nordic-Baltic countries, since besides Finland Russia shares a land border with Norway, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. From practical point of view this case study offers many challenges starting from data collecting and modifying indicators in case of data gaps. In my presentation I will share my impressions and experiences from the first five-month period on the topic. This study will contribute to my doctoral thesis, which is dedicated to cross-border developments at Finnish-Russian border area.

Antti Vasanen, University of Turku, Finland

How polycentric is polycentric? Evidence of functional polycentricity in Finnish urban regions



Numerous studies concerning European urban regions have recognised a shift from monocentric cities to increasingly polycentric city regions. Fewer studies, however, have addressed such development in northern Europe, at least on an intra-urban scale (as distinct from polycentricity understood as a network of cities). In polycentric cities, functional criss-cross relations are assumed to exist between the nodes of the urban system. The functional role of centres in polycentric city regions is an emerging but still rather a neglected field of research and few studies have empirically examined the existence and significance of such criss-cross relations. In the paper, I intend to

examine the polycentric development of the three largest urban regions in Finland between 1980 and 2007. Furthermore, the functional role of the centres in the studied urban regions is analysed. For this purpose, a new method of spatial analysis is introduced where the level of functional polycentricity is measured using detailed commuting data. In the paper, the methodology and empirical results are presented. The findings are reflected against the wider European context and the scalar adjustability of the methodology is discussed.

Maija Usca, University of Latvia, Latvia



Suburban patterns of Riga: fragmentation and the search for common structures

The transformations of the last 20 years in Europe have left a new influence on the social as well as spatial structures of cities. Especially significant changes have taken place in Eastern Europe, where alongside political and economic transformations, great changes have affected community spatial structuring which has been expressed in new types of spatial organization forms. Specifically they are expressed in territories with transitional type land-use, where the suburbs have become the reflections of the new development process.

The fragmented construction and social life

fragmentation is the result of the suburban spaces' transformation which has taken place up till now. In the research, attention is focussed on the physical space transformations and social relationship development trends in the Pierīga territories over the last 20 years. Spatial and social structures have been analyzed and common traits have been sought in more detail in a municipality next to the City of Rīga – at Ķekava. The results of the research, which are based on cartographic analysis, territory surveys and semi- structured in-depth interviews with the suburb's residents, mark and clarify suburban development trends in the Rīga's suburb, which are similar to the Baltic's and surrounding territories of other large cities in Eastern Europe. In the research, land policy and urban development policies up till now are being analyzed, as well as the specific nature of the social and physical spatial structure in Pierīga, so that a foundation can be developed for a new approach in the development of urban structures and urban design, which would be based on functionally multiform, morphologically connected, residential areas suited for community life and the development of its networks.

Key-words: suburban patterns, fragmentation of space, planning policy, Eastern Europe

Martin Gauk, University of Tartu, Estonia

Assessment of Suburban Residential Development and the Advent of Sustainable Planning Policies in Estonia



especially in the transportation and building sectors. So the energy gains are consumed by the bigger house and the longer individual transport since public transport is not always available. To tackle these and other problems related to suburbanization effectively requires a policy response on a variable geographical scale, integrating local development initiatives and cooperation between different levels of administration.

May 26th, Thursday, 10.30-12.00

C2 ESPON III: Mobility

Chair: Dr. Antti Roose, University of Tartu, Estonia

Keynote by Dr. Daniel Rauhut (KHT, Sweden)

Migration trends and its territorial impacts in BSR



- First, dr Rauhut stressed the data issues, specifically different registration rules, Denmark – 3 months, Finland – 12 months, Iceland – 12 months, Norway – 6 months, Sweden – 12 months, even more flexible in the Baltic states. Then, he focused on trends on migration, while the net migration peaked in early 1990s, levelled in 2000. Spatial traits are as follows:

- From rural to urban (not Iceland)
- From NMS to EU15+EES
- Temporary or permanent migration?
- Immigrants could be useful for the country of destination if they settled down in the periphery and not in the metropolitan areas

In retrospect, the EU membership did not boost emigration from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – the major emigration boost came just after independence. Nor did the EU membership boost migration from Poland... according to the official data. Data is unreliable as people move without registering the move, different time lags for registration etc.

The present migration trend points at an increasing territorial divergence – from declining rural in NMS to expanding urban areas in DK, FI, NO and SE (and DE). Domestic migration trends are the same. Grey areas and key questions “Temporary migration”, “Moving without moving”.

Table. Migration trends in Nordic countries 2010.

Danmark		Finland		Iceland		Norway		Sweden	
Romania	1865	Estonia	3407	Lithuania	66	Poland	7613	Somalia	6132
Poland	1680	Russia	2062	Spain	51	Lithuania	5767	Iraq	3993
Lithuania	1322	Somalia	894	France	44	Sweden	3332	Poland	3086
Unknown	903	Iraq	794	Viet Nam	36	Latvia	2099	China	2835
Phillippines	839	Thailand	685	Thailand China	35	Eritrea	1966	Thailand	2640
Totalt	22400	Total	13731	Total	-431	Total	42346	Total	49948
Danish	21319	Finnish	7 424	Icelanders	- 1703	Norwegians	8787	Swedes	14870

Elina Apsite, University of Latvia; Umea University, Latvia/Sweden

Nordic countries: new emigration destinations for Latvian migrants.



The focus of this research is on the migration between Baltic States in general and Latvia in particular and Sweden. There have been two important historical turns in the latest history for the Baltic States – the restoration of independence in early 90th and the accession to the European Union in 2004. Both events contributed to the out migration from the region. Although these events would be considered as positive and also meant 'open' borders for Baltic State citizens lately there have been addition factors promoting out migration like economic crisis initiated in 2008 and consequential unemployment that draws attention on emerging patterns and composition of emigrants to several destination but in this case

particularly to Sweden. After the EU enlargement Sweden did not receive as many Eastern European migrants as it was expected at the time, but latest trends prove the opposite. Nordic countries as potential destination were lacking pioneer migrants to establish support network to attract newcomers, but the latest is changing and statistics for 2010 show that number of Baltic State immigrants in Sweden has grown significantly since year 2008. With the economic recession and growing unemployment in Latvia year 2009 and following 2010 revealed even higher emigration activity then in 2004 just after accession to the EU. Nordic countries emerge as new and welcoming countries of destination. This research draws discussion on Latvian migrant characteristics in Nordic context – similarities and differences with migration flows to English speaking countries and other migrants in Nordic countries. Empirical evidence will be based on available statistical data and semi-structured interviews carried out with Latvian nationals currently living in Nordic countries.

Martin Nouza, Faculty of life- and environmental sciences, University of Iceland, Iceland

Second homes in Iceland: Impacts and perceptions in host communities



In Iceland, as well as in all other Nordic countries, second home tourism developed in to great extend. Due to specific demographic and geographic conditions majority second homes in Iceland have been constructed in amenity rich areas close to Reykjavík, creating relatively large clusters with high density of purposely build recreational houses. As literature suggests, almost 50 year of steady development in those areas should have had direct and long-lasting impact on local economy as well as host society. To define how and in what extend did second home development influence life in host regions in Iceland, 3 municipalities have been chosen for ongoing case study. There, open interviews are

being conducted with local stakeholders, regarding their perception and experience in changing environment. Collected qualitative data are being compared to economic results of selected companies to reveal possible differences between perception and economic reality. Preliminary results indicate big variance in perceptions of host community towards second home development in each area, suggesting need for broad debate about future regional planning.

Keywords: second homes, Iceland, host, impact



The ESPON/NORBA sessions at the NGM conference was not only focused on keynotes and young scholar's presentations – a lot of expert discussions and professional networking between the participants were also of importance.

www.espon.eu

The ESPON 2013 Programme is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. It shall support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory.