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A MULTILAYER VISION OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION

ESPON IRiE - Interregional Relations in Europe

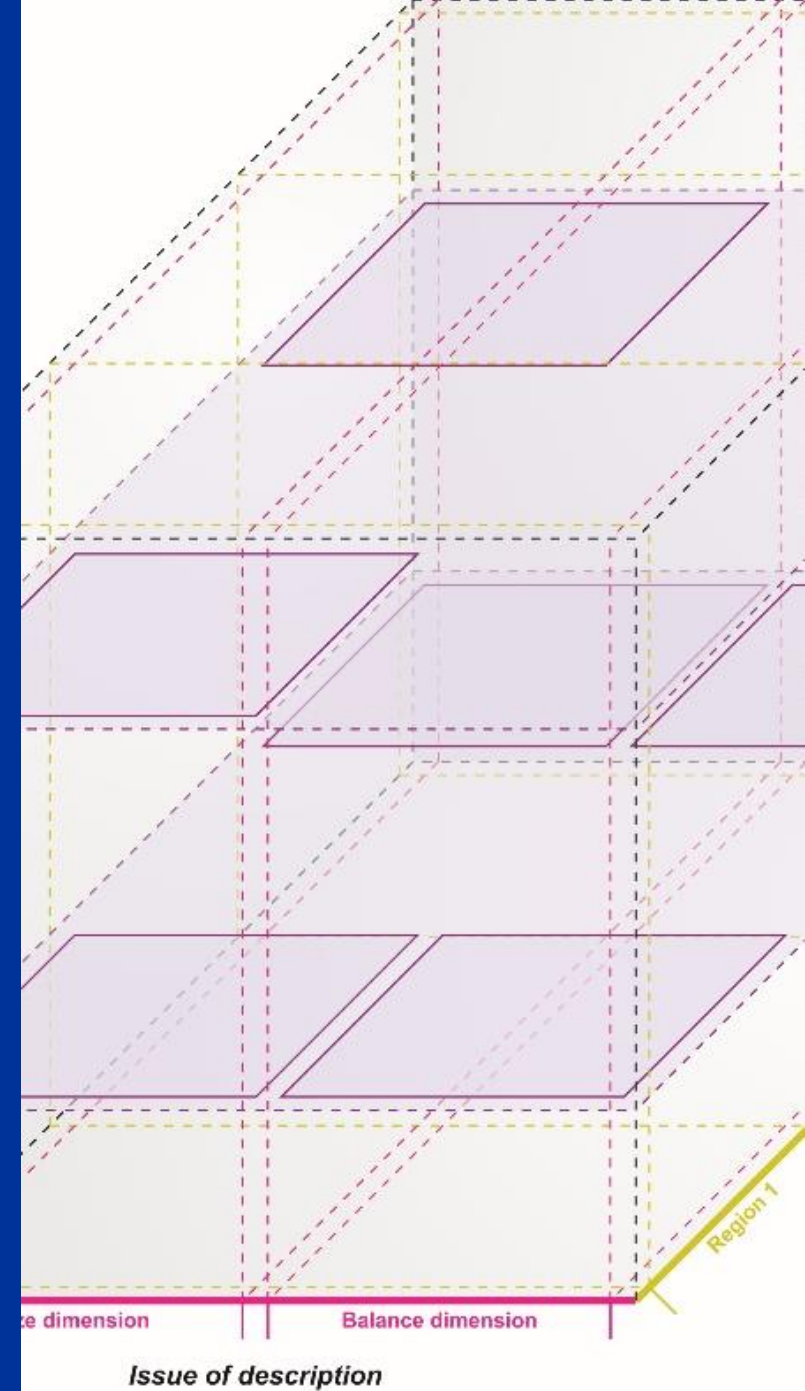
24th - 25th November 2022 // Baluarte Palacio de Congresos, Pamplona (NAVARRA)

Agenda

1. Synthetic analysis –methodology
2. Results – core and peripheries
3. Results – vulnerability
4. Result – distance
5. Results - dynamics
6. Flows and European integration

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METHODOLOGY



Added Value of the synthetic approach

- Assessment of the general position of regions in the space of flows
- New (alternative?) picture of the European territorial differences
- Ability to compare the territorial pattern of different flows
- Opportunity to assess regions' exposure to external risks
- Possibility to compare the dynamics of different types of flows
- Basis for the new generation of territorial policies?

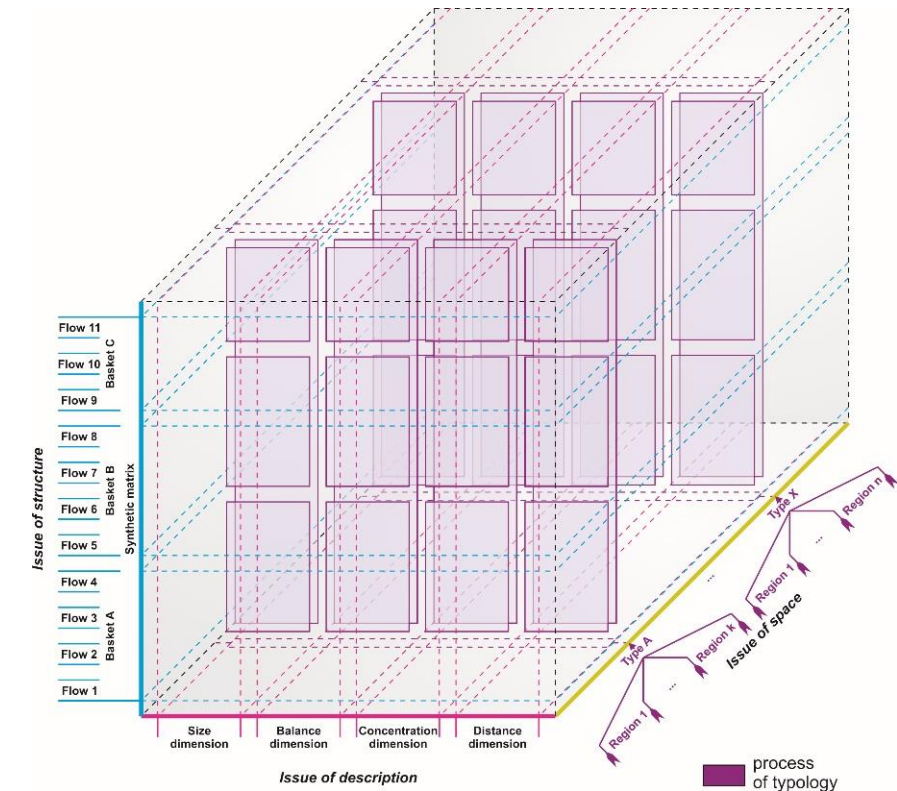
Dimensions of the synthetic flows analysis

Flows and their aggregations (baskets):

- Basket Goods/services/capital
 - Goods_trade_total (2010-2018)
 - Goods_freight_total (2010-2018)
 - Services_total (2010-2018)
 - Capital_FDI (2010-2018)
- Basket People
 - People_Airpassengers (2010-2018)
 - People_Migration (2010-2018)
 - People_Commuting (2010-2018)
 - People_Tourism (2010-2018)
- Basket Knowledge
 - Knowledge_H2020 (2015-2018)
 - Knowledge_Patents (2010-2018)
 - Knowledge_Erasmus (2010-2014)

Flow unrelated aggregations of regions (typologies):

- EU accession grouping including:
 - (1a) Old EU (up to 1995)
 - (1b) Enlargement (2004-2017)
 - (1c) Non EU
- Cohesion grouping:
 - (2a) more developed
 - (2b) transition
 - (3) less developed
- Macroregional grouping:
 - (3a) Baltic Sea;
 - (3b) Danube;
 - (3c) Alpine;
 - (3d) Adriatic-Ionian
- Urban dominance:
 - (4a) very high;
 - (4b) high;
 - (4c) moderate;
 - (4d) low



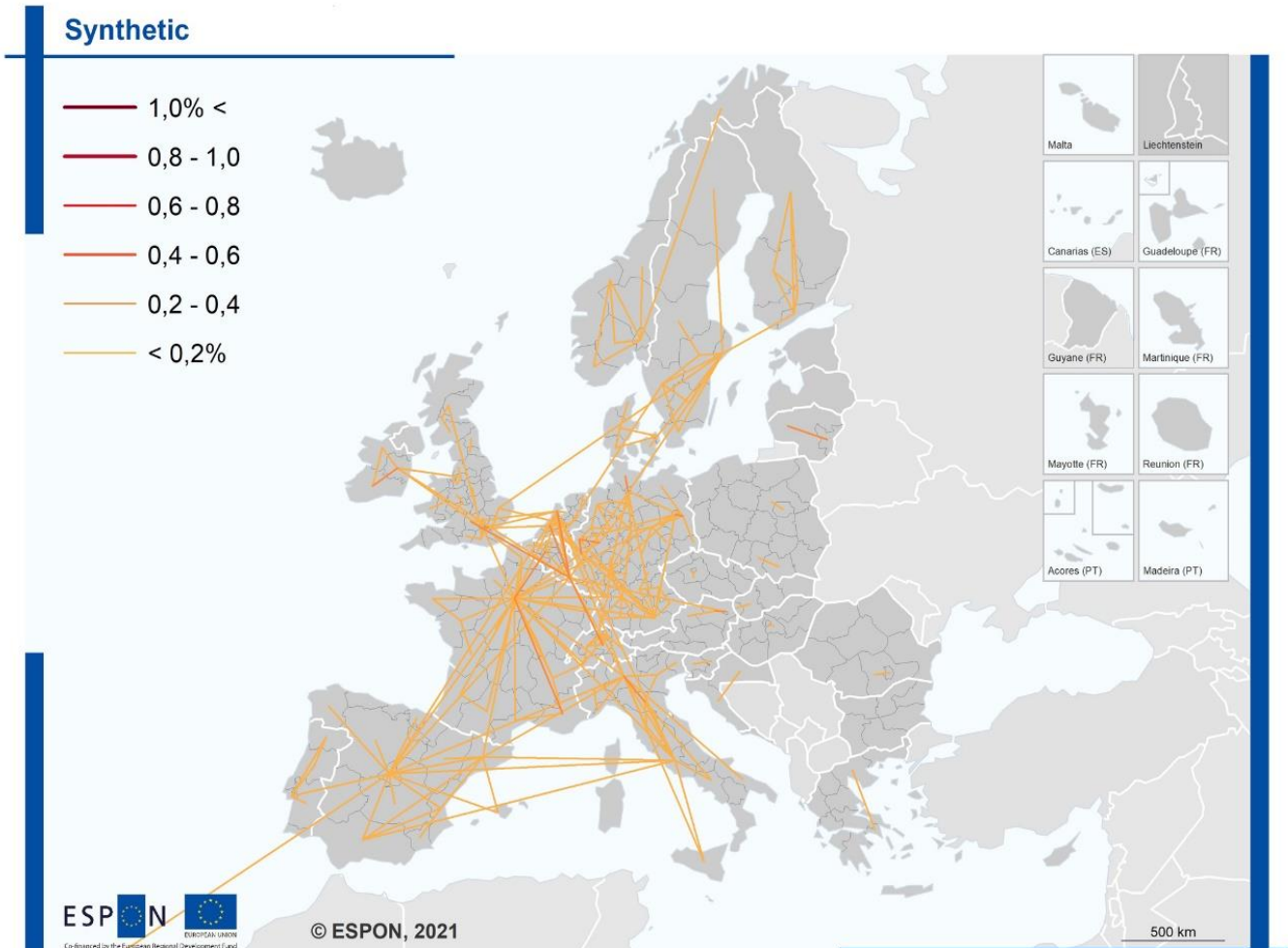
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CORE AND PERIPHERIES



Strongest relations

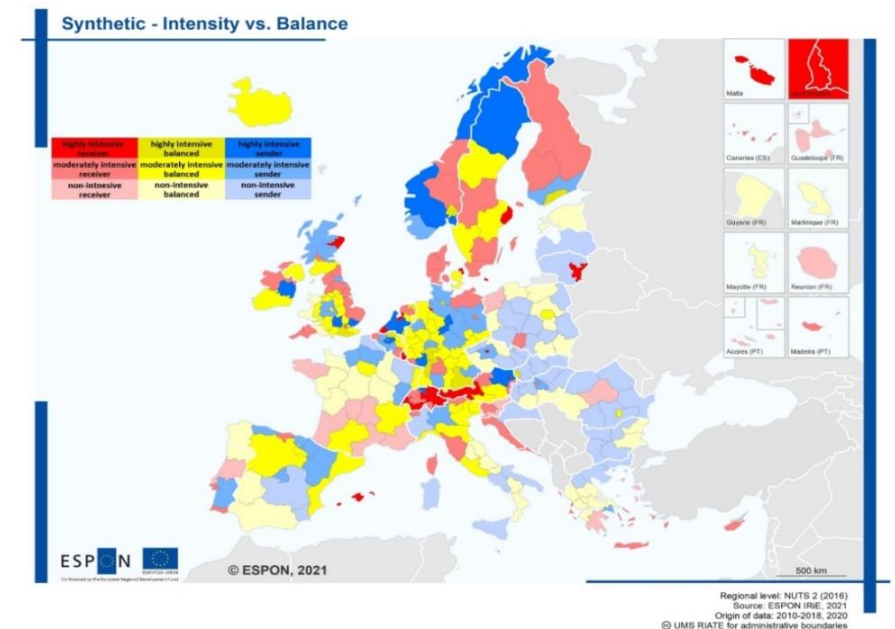
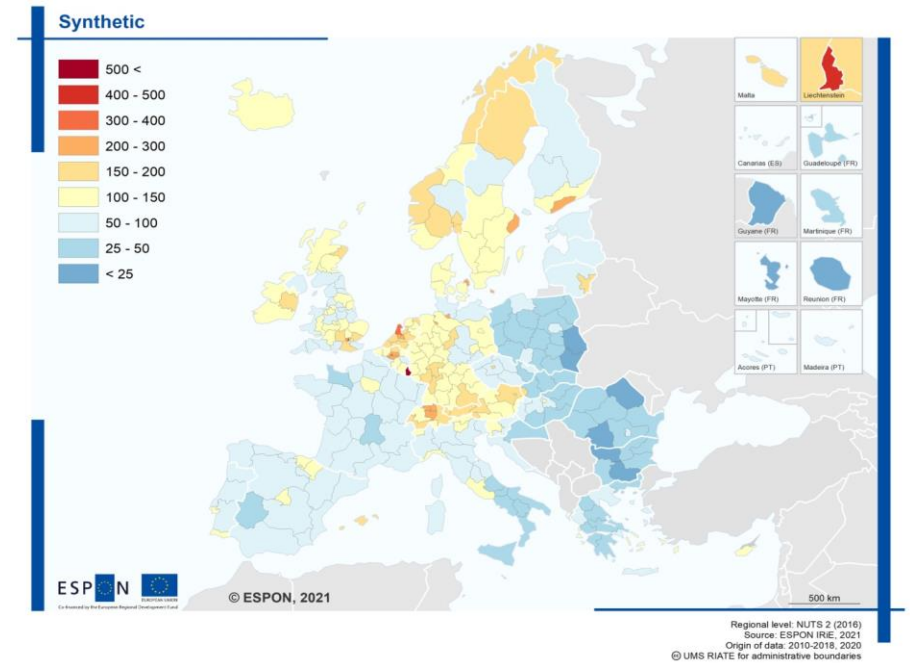
- Linkages between the capitals of Western European countries
- Dense network of relations between the EU „old member states” and relatively weak between new EU countries (2004, 2007 and 2013 enlargements) and Greece
- Dynamic development of local flows
- The historical factor still matters
- Nodes that concentrate the strongest flows: London, Paris, Luxembourg, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Munich, Hamburg, Berlin, Madrid, Rome, Milan, and Stockholm.



Regional level: NUTS 2 (2016)
Source: ESPON IRIE, 2021
Origin of data: 2010-2018, 2020
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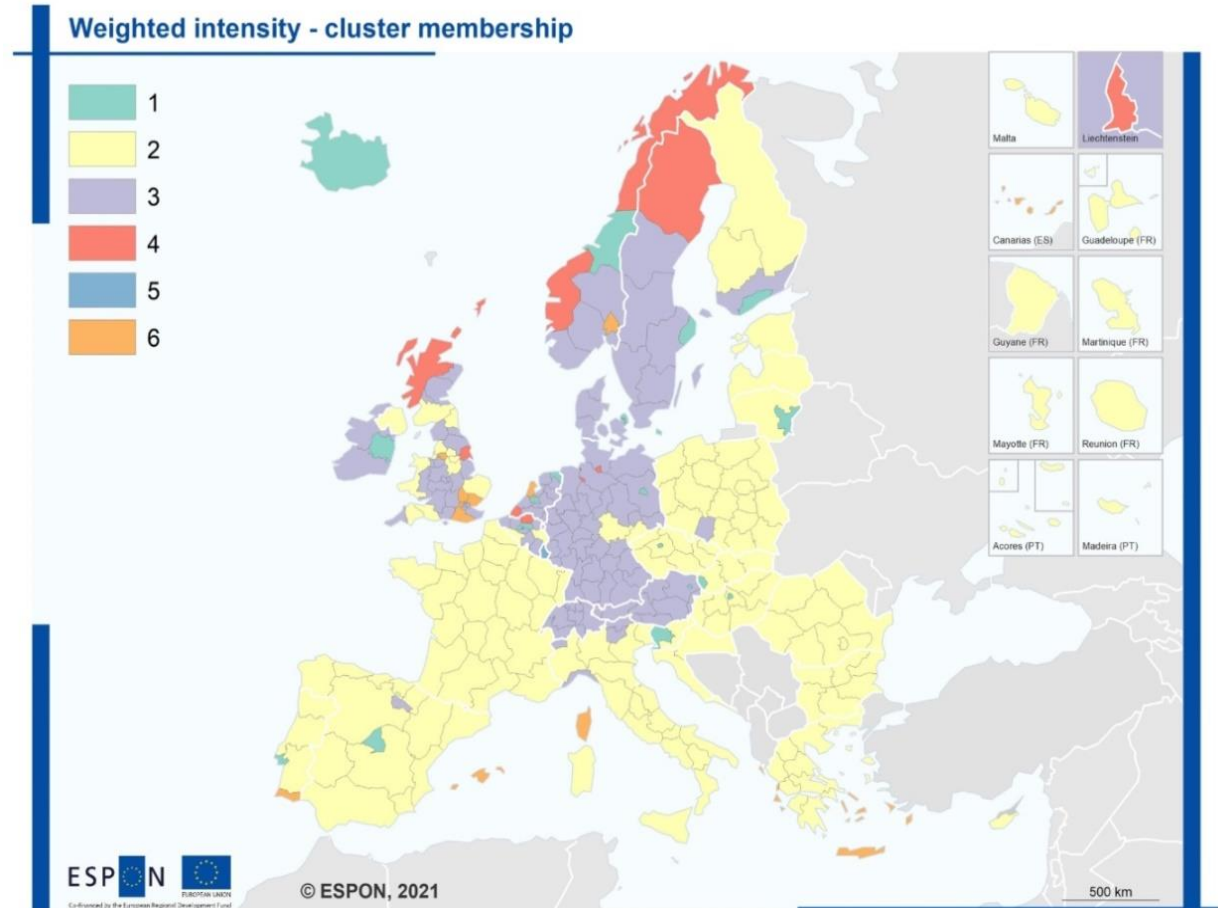
New picture of the core – periphery patterns

- Core of Europe is moving north
- Two systems core-periphery overlap
- Flow intensity decreases outside the core
- The historical factor still matters
- Balance determines the European core-periphery pattern?
- Knowledge flows – different pattern (ERASMUS)



New picture of the core – periphery patterns (clustering)

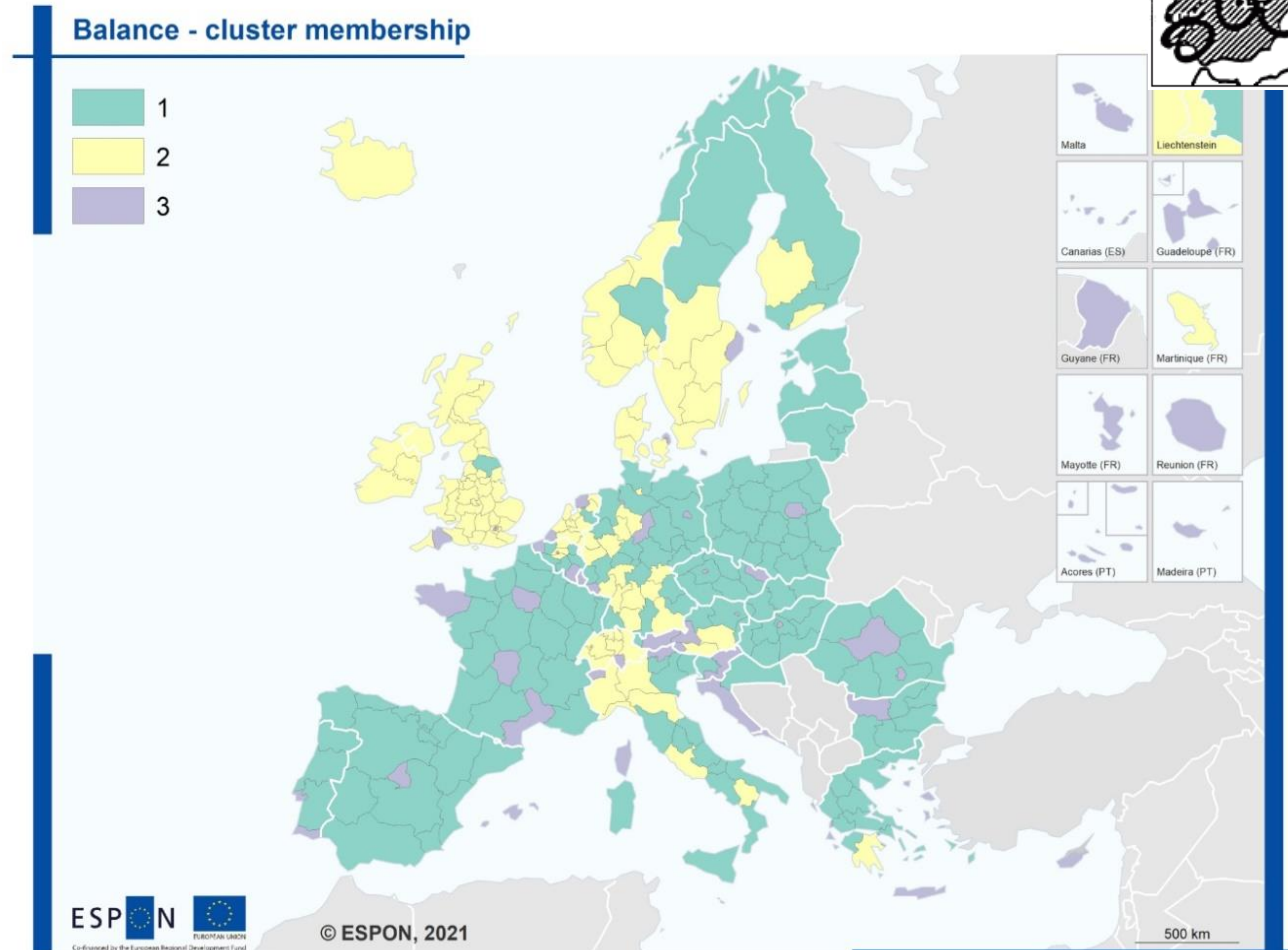
- Cluster 1 capital city regions
- Cluster 2 most of the core and peripheral regions of southern and central-eastern Europe.
- Cluster 3 the core of the European space of flows.
- Cluster 4 includes port city regions
- Cluster 5 is Luxembourg (FDI capital flows)
- Cluster 6 is dominated by regions with strong air passengers and tourism flows



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Gateway regions and polycentric Europe

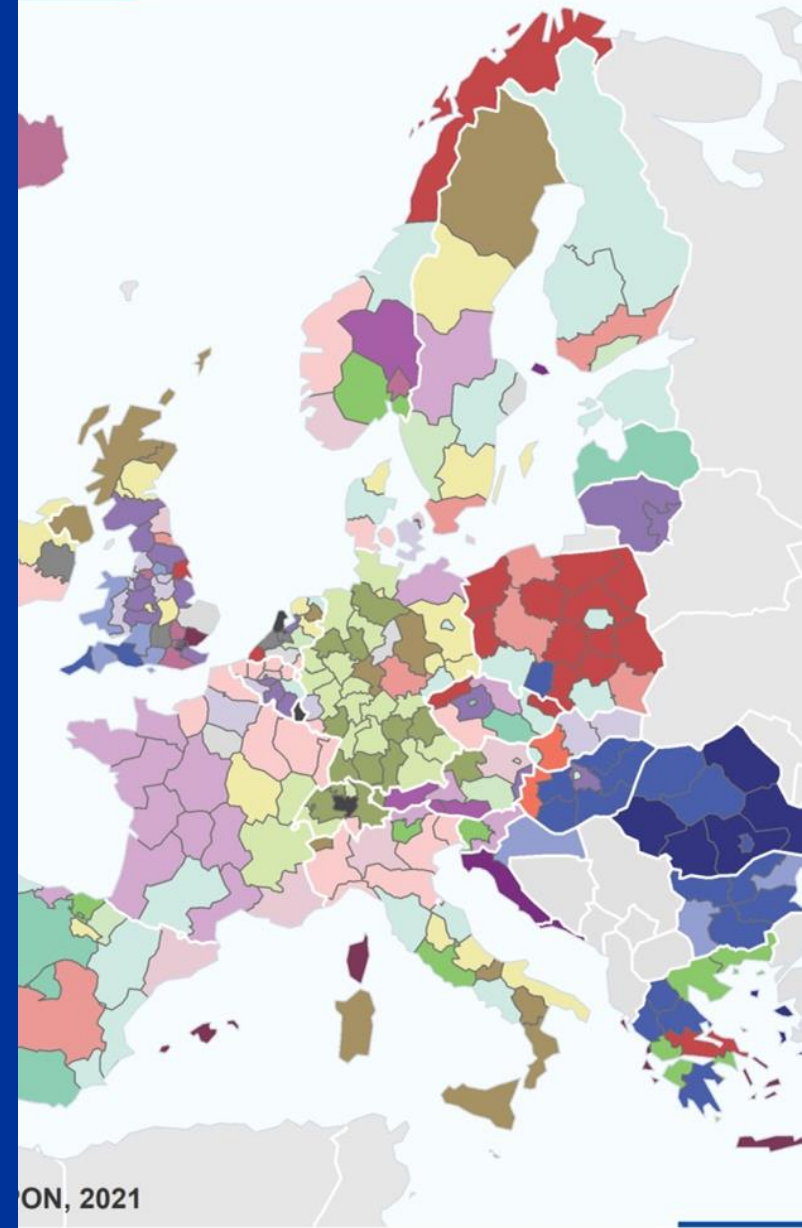
- „Islands” of higher flows intensity
- The special role of peripheral metropolises
- „Gateway cities” link their countries to European space of flows.
- Gradual polycentric development of Europe outlined in 1991 by Kunzmann and Wegener and in the ESPDP



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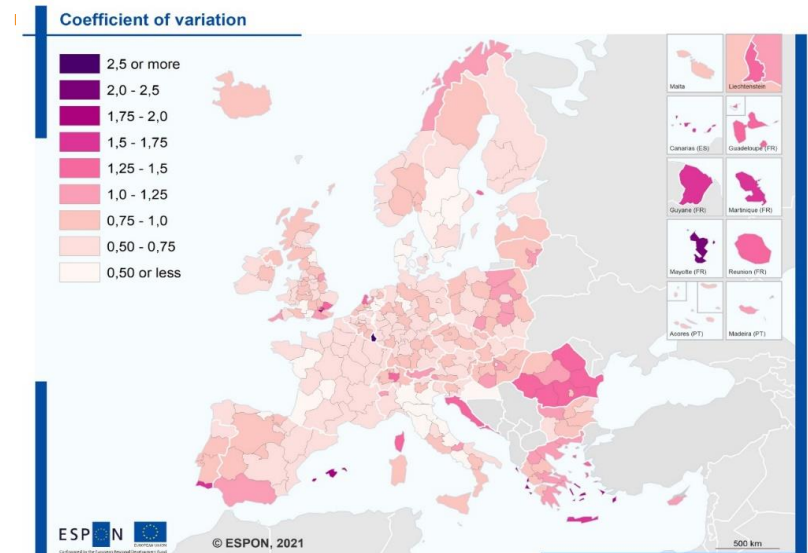
VULNERABILITY

efficient of variation

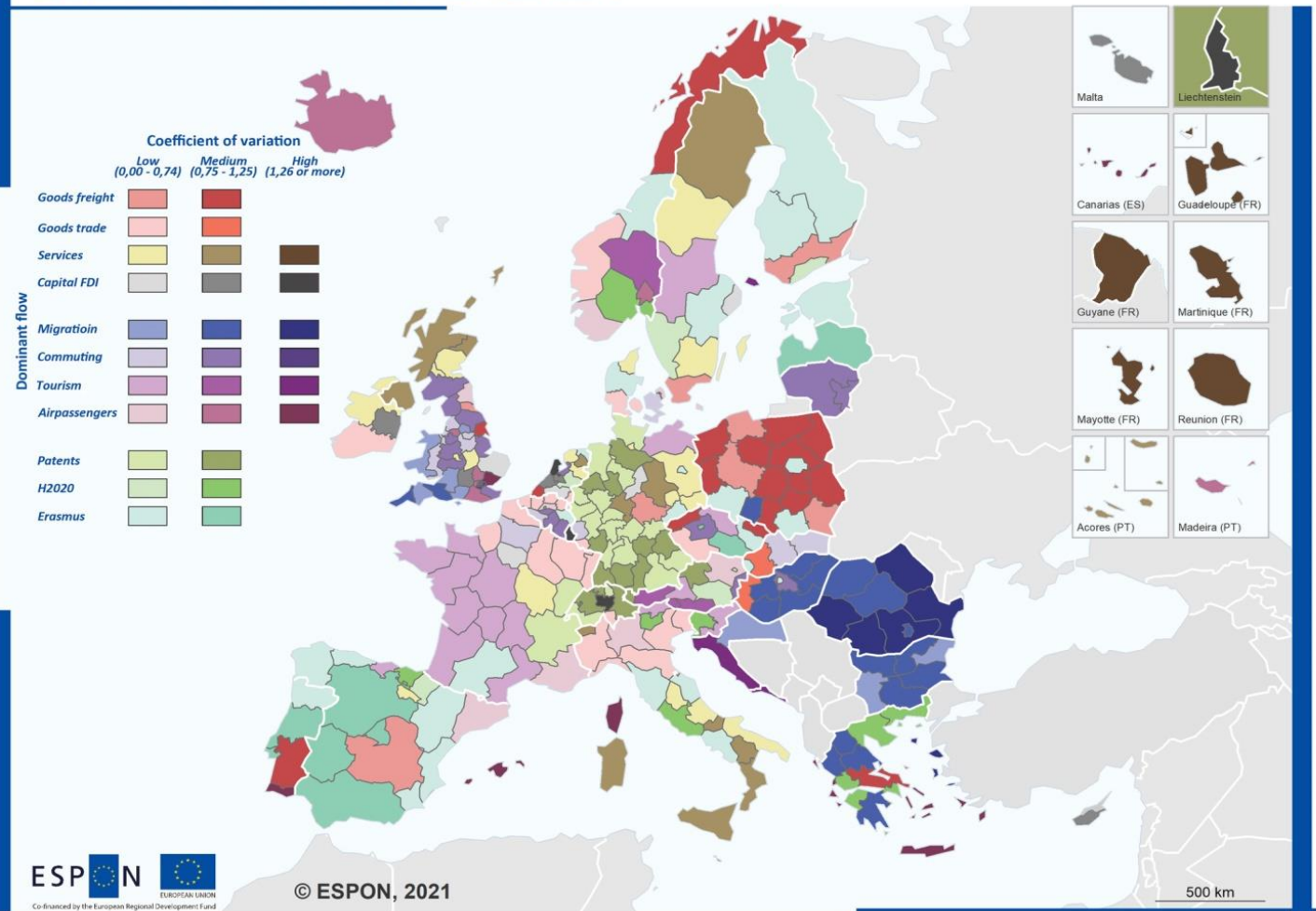


Flows concentration as the measure of vulnerability

- The level of exposure depend on the diversity of external relations.
- Regions that have a balanced composition of flows, might expose less to external shocks or policy decisions
- Metropolises, have a greater flows dispersion



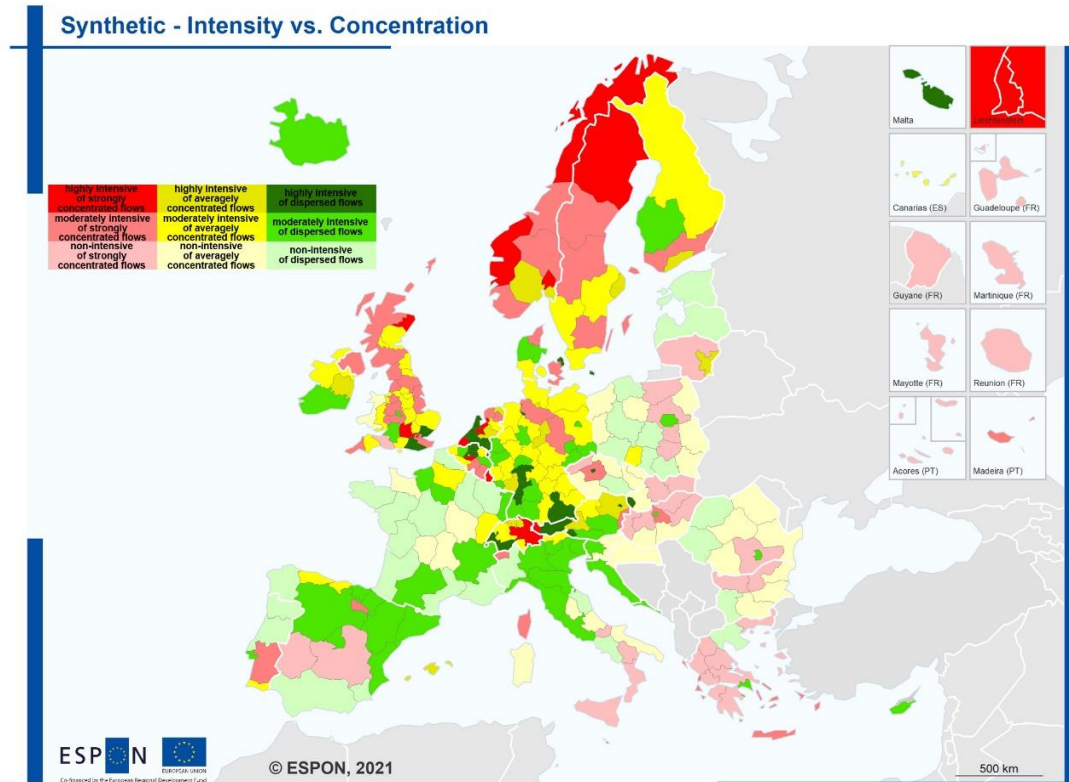
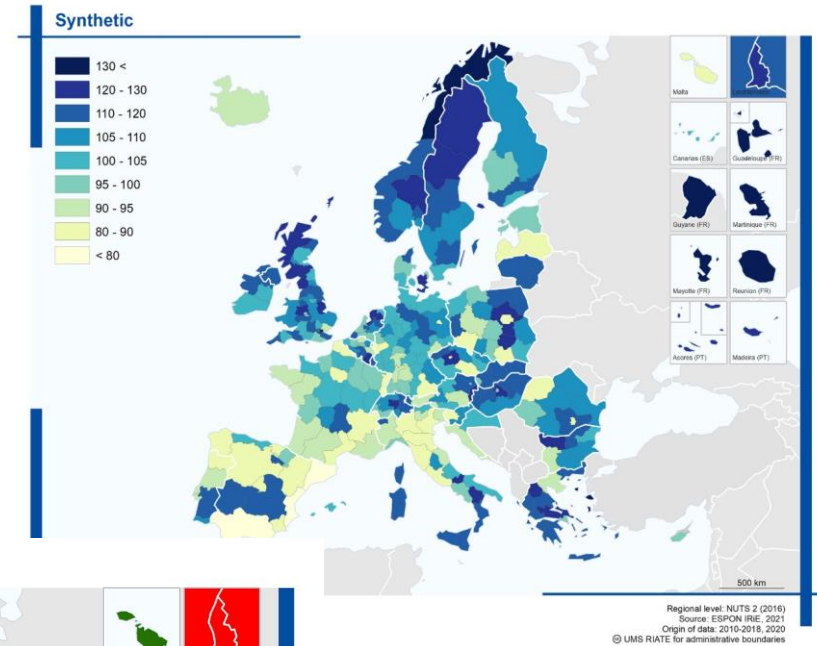
Dominant flow and coefficient of variation



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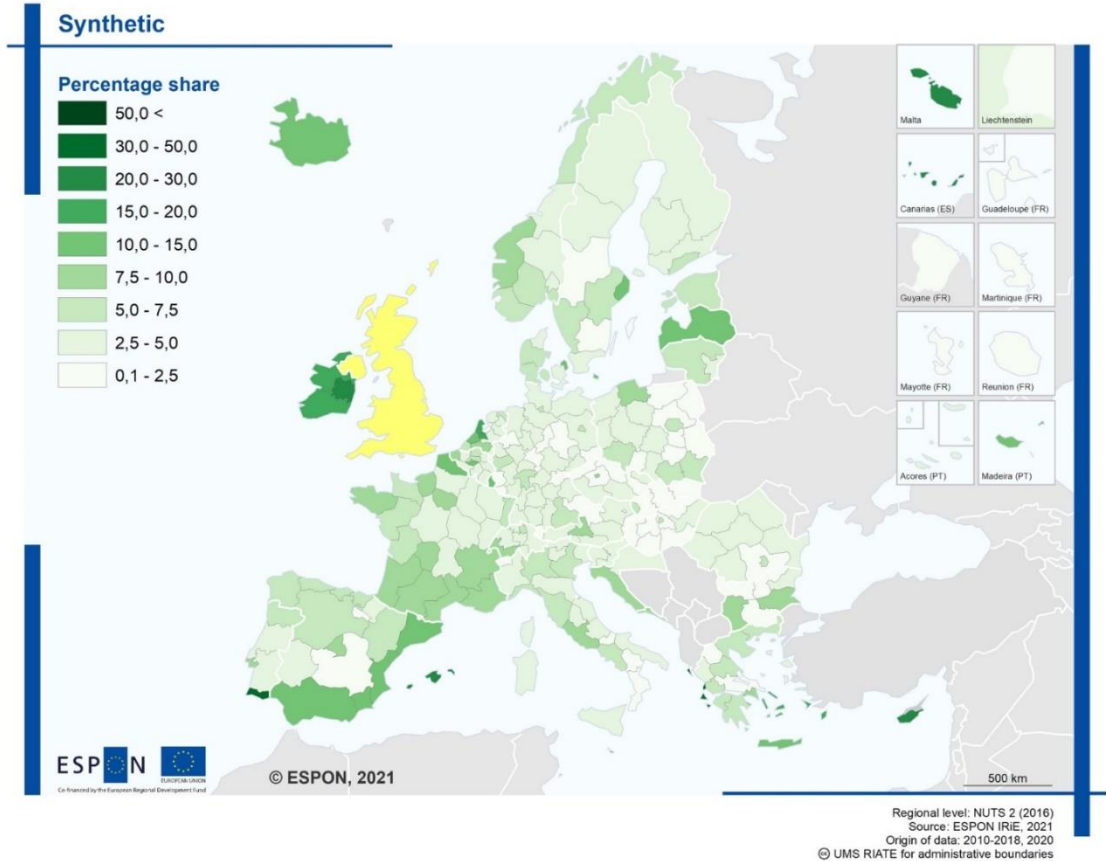
Flows concentration as the measure of vulnerability

- Geographical concentration also creates risks
- More partners - more resilient region.
- Double exposure to external threats.
- Public intervention should favour the diversification of regions' external relations?



UK dependency index

- Units with the highest importance of flows to and from the UK (up to 50% of all total relations) include Ireland, the Western Netherlands (with Amsterdam), the Portuguese Algarve, Malta and Cyprus.
- Metropolitan dependency.** The UK (London in particular) are key destinations for regions including many European capitals (Paris, Rome, Berlin, Stockholm, Warsaw, Madrid, Copenhagen, Bucharest)
- The index value decreases towards the east
- Germany as an important „intermediate opportunity“
- Depended „islands“ on peripheries



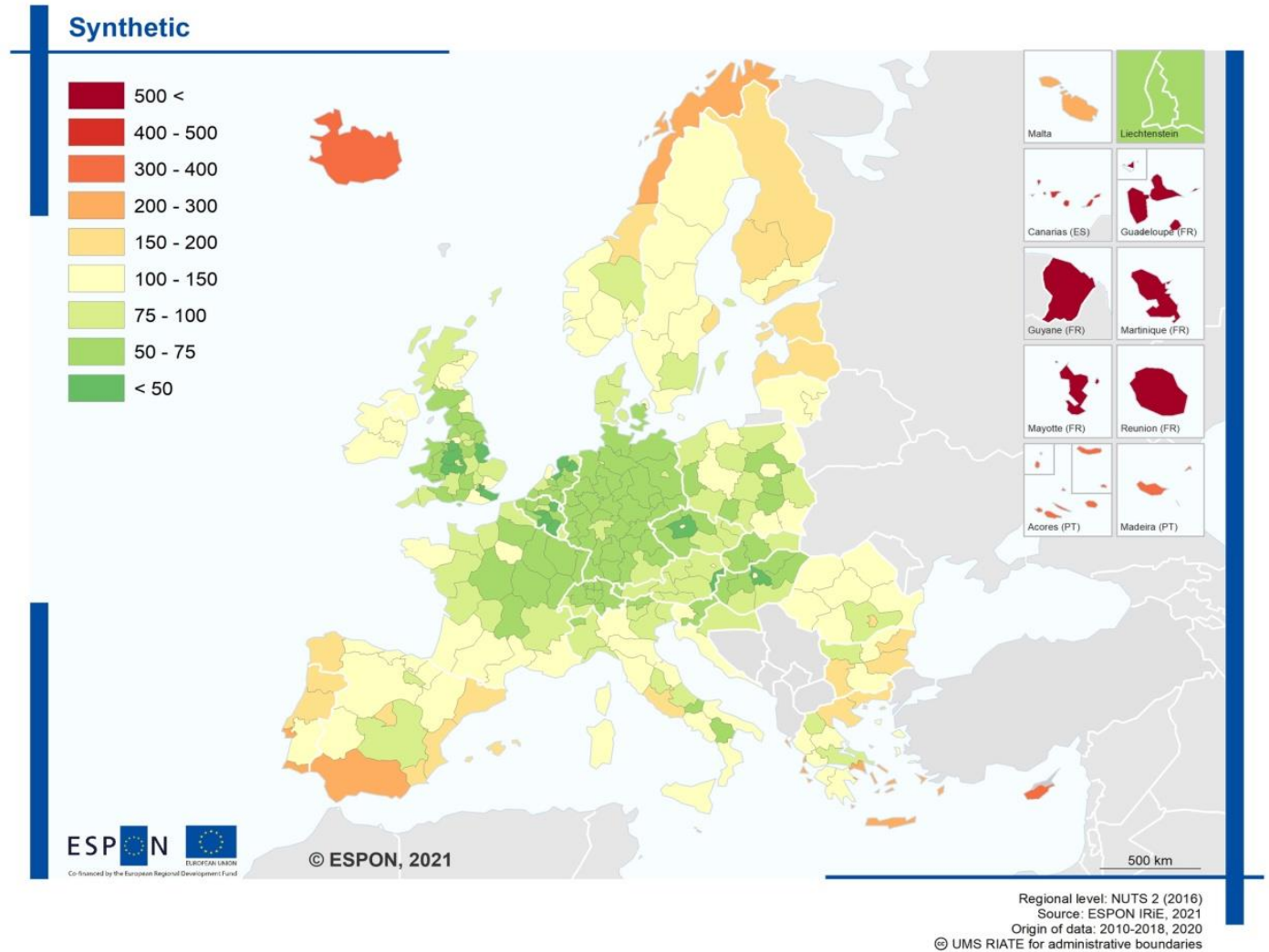
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DISTANCE



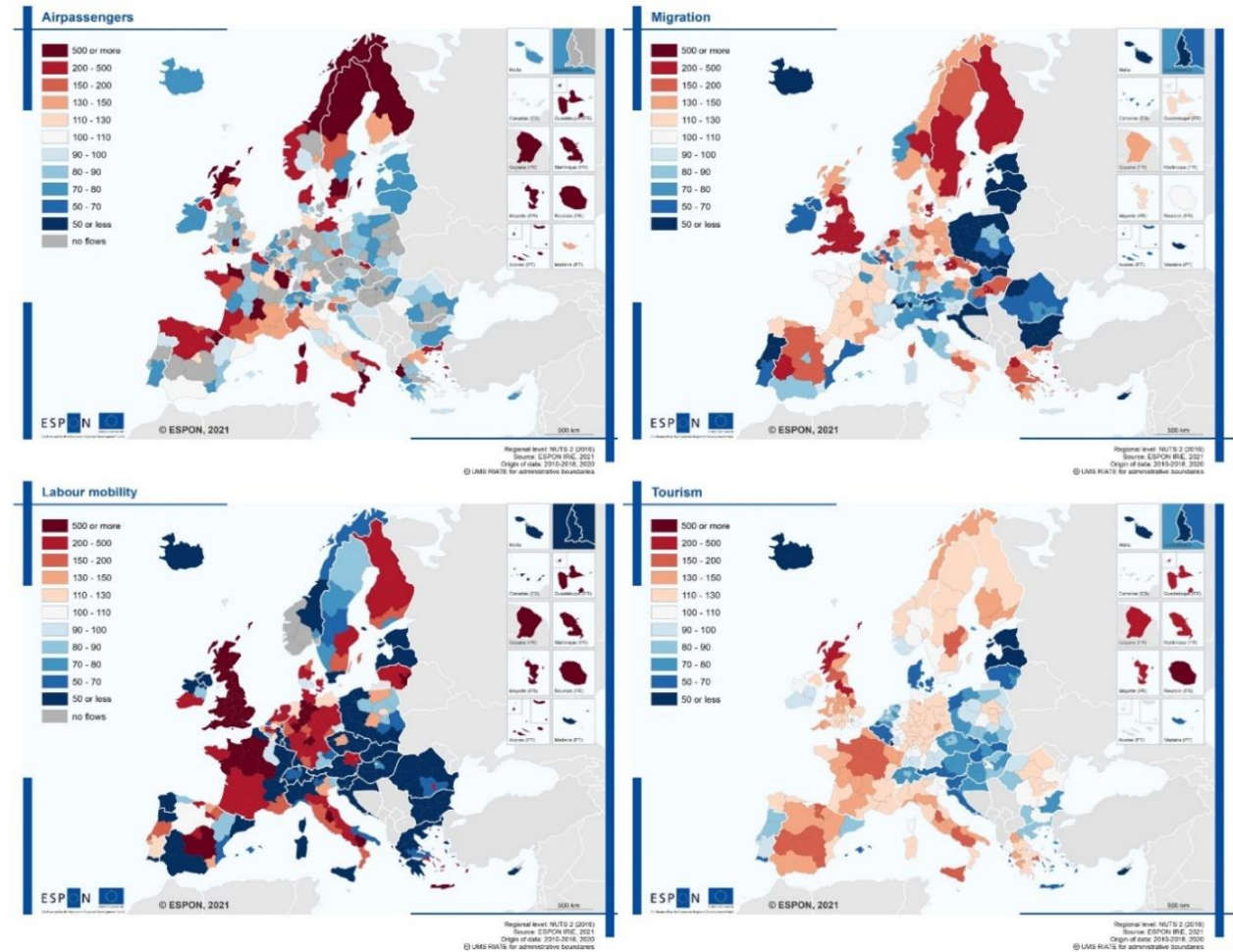
Changing distance friction

- Compact core - dominance of low-average flow distances
- Spheres of influence of some metropolises
- Belts with higher index values - inner peripheries.
- Flows in remote regions again depends on distance



International versus domestic flows

- Internal flows are bigger
- Competition between foreign and domestic destinations
- Proximity to the European core facilitates internationalization
- Intense flows between capital cities and their vicinity - result of commuting and suburbanization.



Border effect for air passengers, migration, labour mobility, and tourism

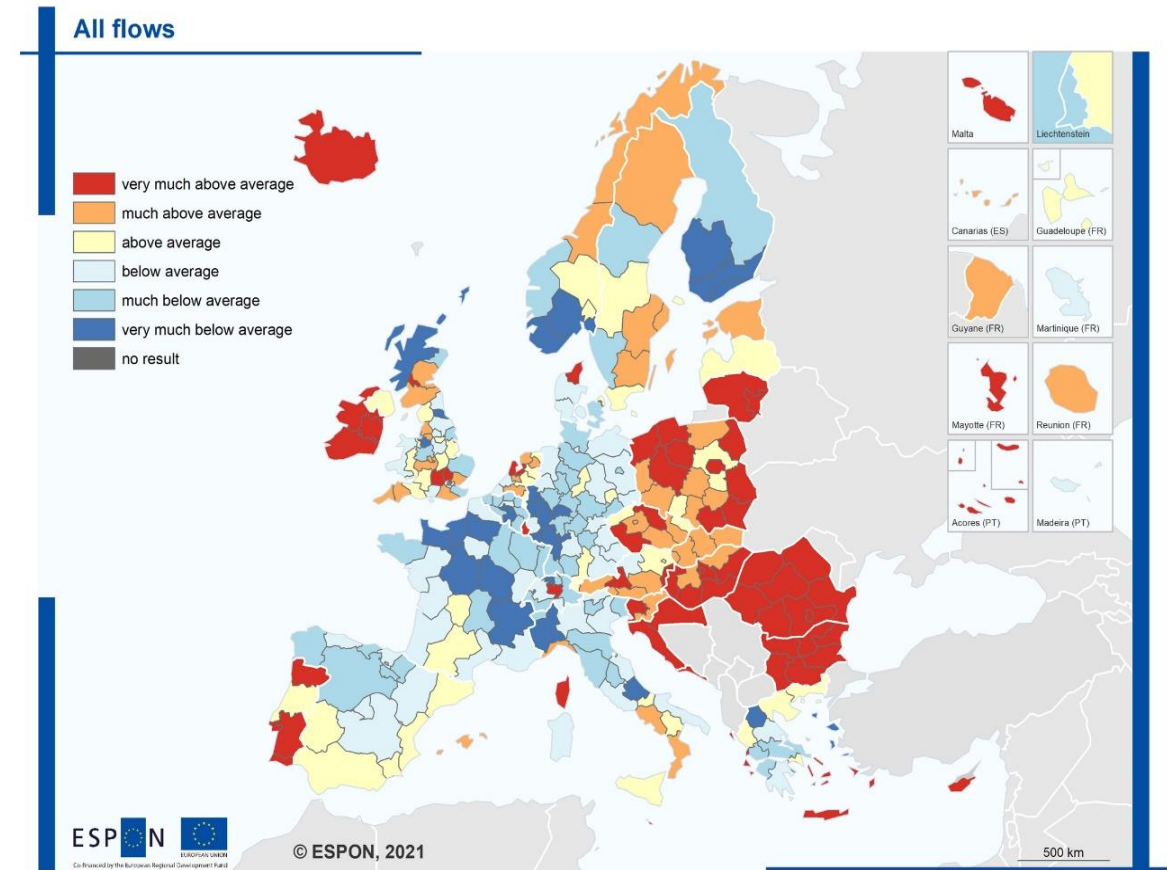
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DYNAMICS



Flows dynamics – territorial differences

- Flows convergence especially in the countries that joined the European Union since 2004;
- These regions have so far participated to a lesser extent in the space of flows, but are catching up quickly and are increasingly becoming networked



Dynamics of region's exponential trendline of total
(outflow and inflow) flow's intensity

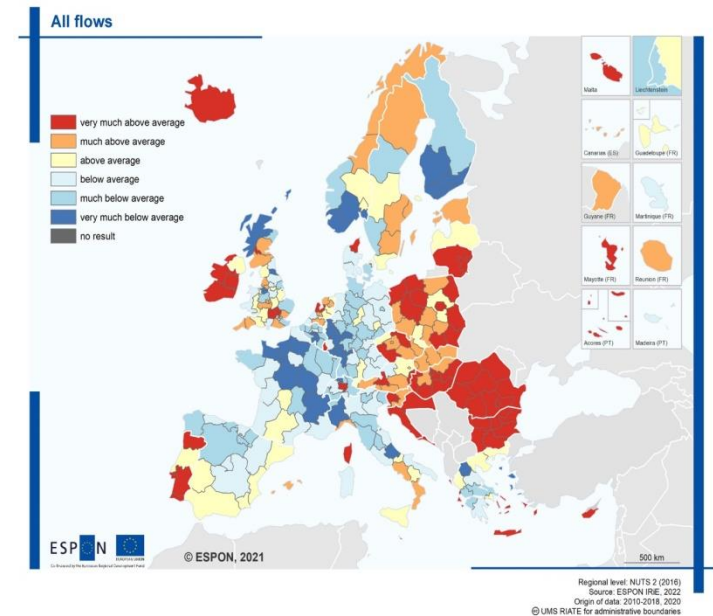
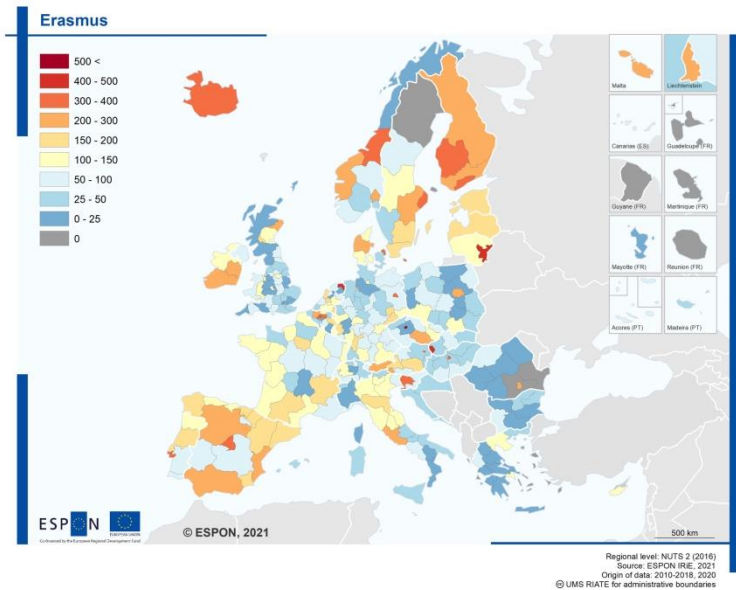
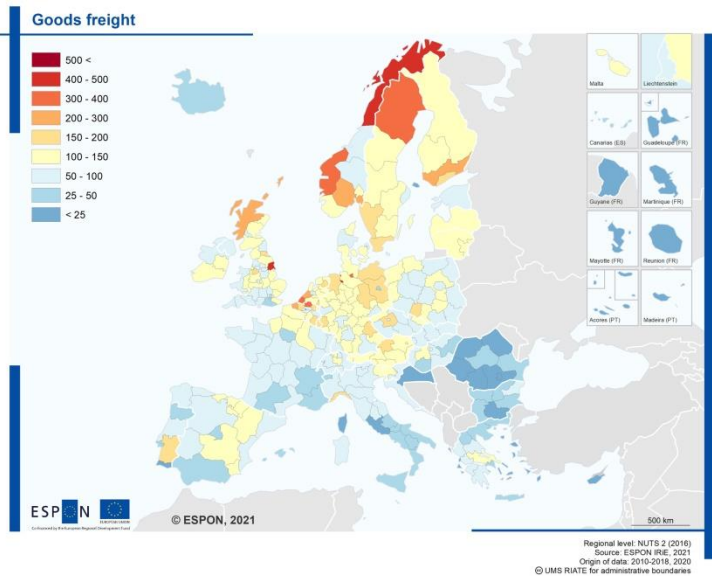
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FLOWS AND EU INTEGRATION



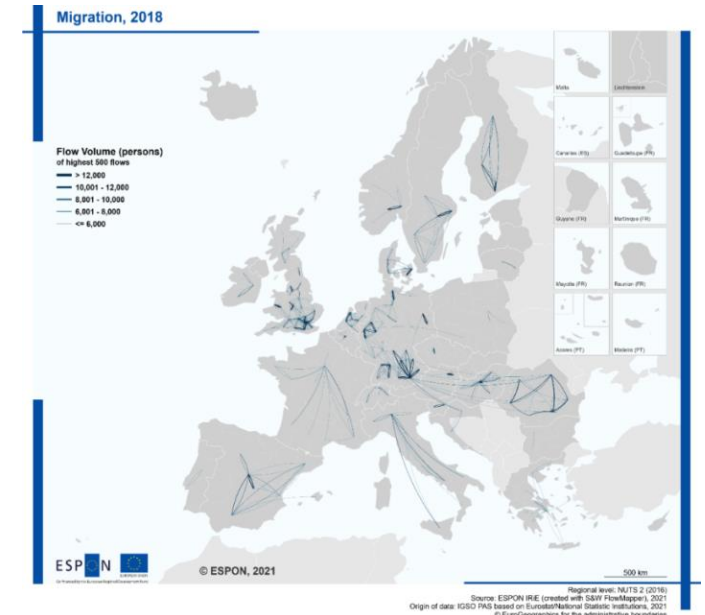
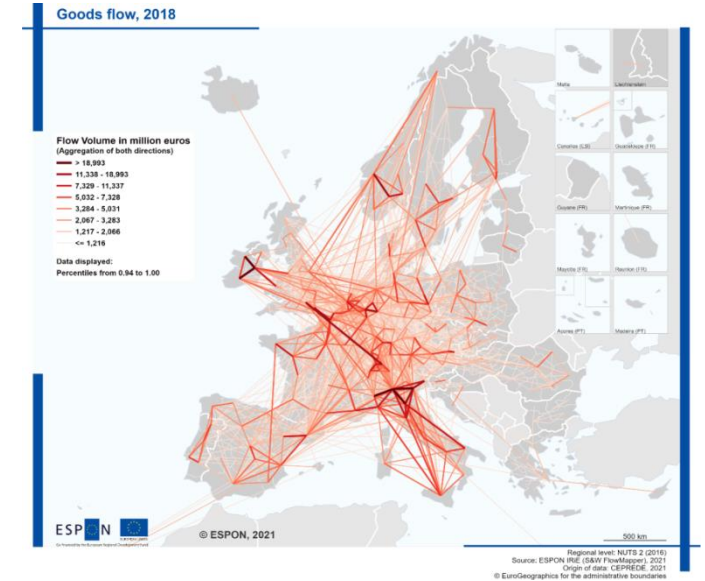
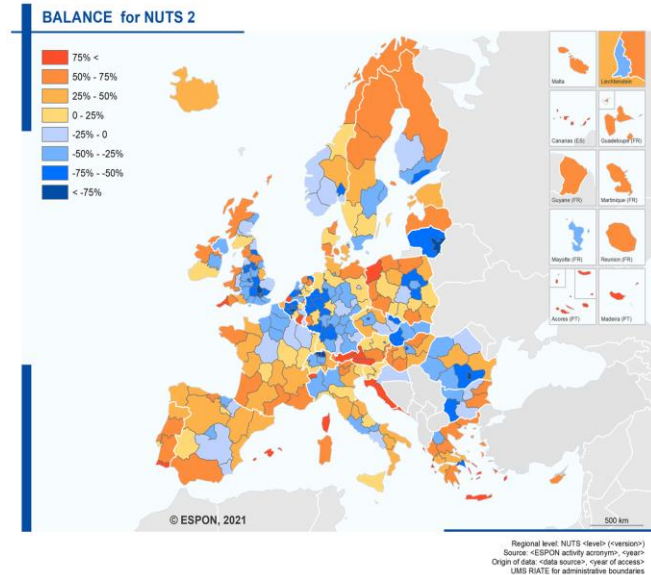
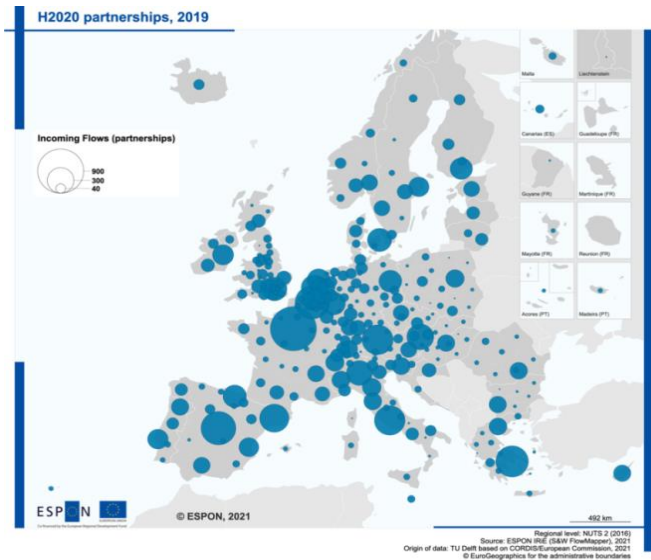
Flows and European integration

- Some results are evidence of the success of European integration
- This is especially true for economic flows (primarily trade)
- Regions in Germany, France, and Spain as well as western Poland and Czechia are similar in the structure of their flows
- Even non-metropolitan regions there participate in Castells' "space of flows"
- The distribution of both people and knowledge flows differentiates the European space much more than that of economic flows
- Social integration is slower than economic one
- Dynamics matter



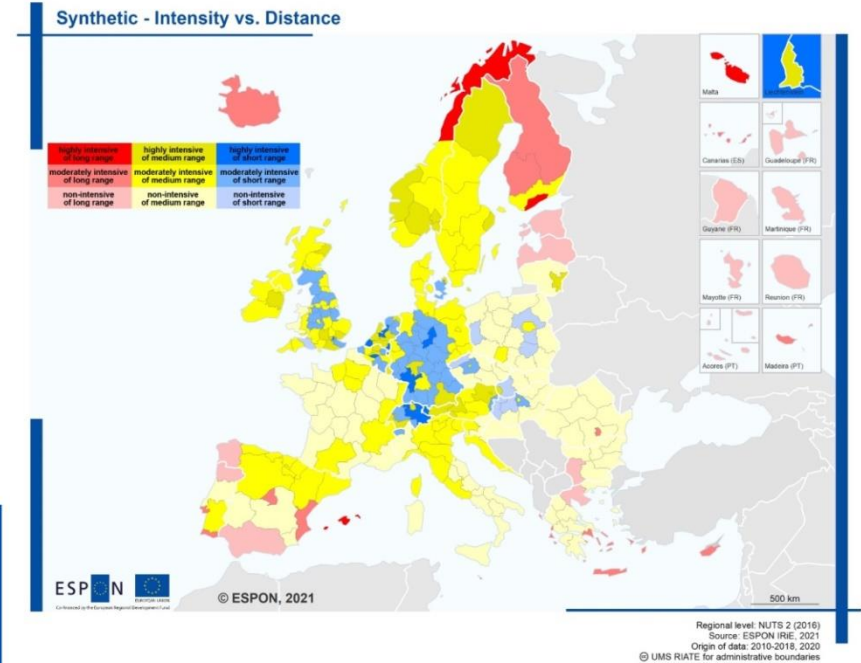
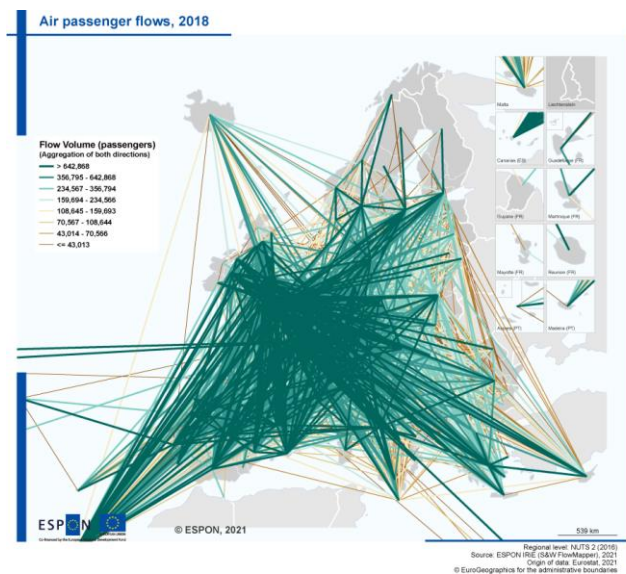
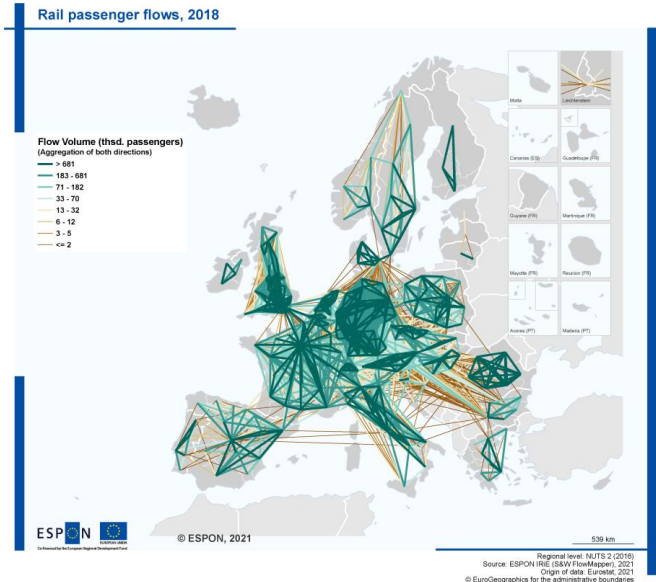
Flows and Territorial Agenda 2030 – Just Europe objectives

- More balanced territorial development of Europe (polycentric)
- Overlapping systems of flow imbalances between European regions.
- The importance of functional regions
- Integration beyond borders remains a challenge



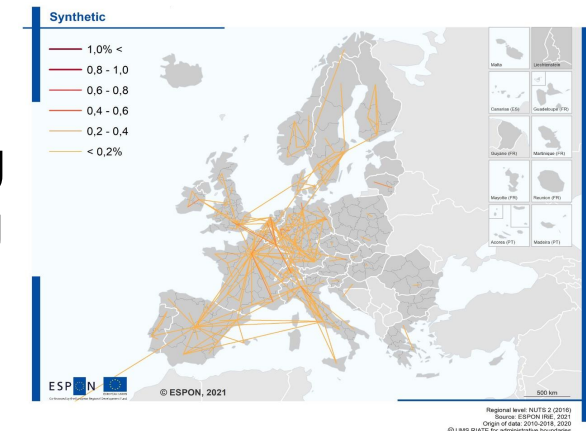
Flows and Territorial Agenda 2030 – Green Europe objectives

- We are not moving towards sustainable connections
- Promoting a Green Europe has territorial implications
- Flow distance is not decreasing (we are not moving towards a circular economy)



General conclusions / recommendations

- There are still regions in the European space where **historical factors and/or cultural specificities** may be the factors shaping their position in the space of flows.
- This can be interpreted through **path dependency theory**. Examples include countries with a colonial past (Cyprus, Malta) but also regions in CEEC (frequent changes of state affiliation - Poland, Romania).
- The new territorial evidence might help to improve the formulation of **regional development strategies**, thereby protecting the key flows, helping to create a balanced pattern of interregional relations, and minimizing strong dependencies.
- **Public intervention** should favour the diversification of regions' external relations.
- Exposure and resilience — in relation to interregional flows — are **region- and flow-specific**.
- There is **no one-size-fits-all policy** for interregional relations.
- Can the objects of cohesion policy be both the regions (nodes of relations) and the relations themselves (**pairs of regions**)?



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Thank you!

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