



ESPON-INTERREG

on the road to mutual learning

**The case of polycentric
development**

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Context

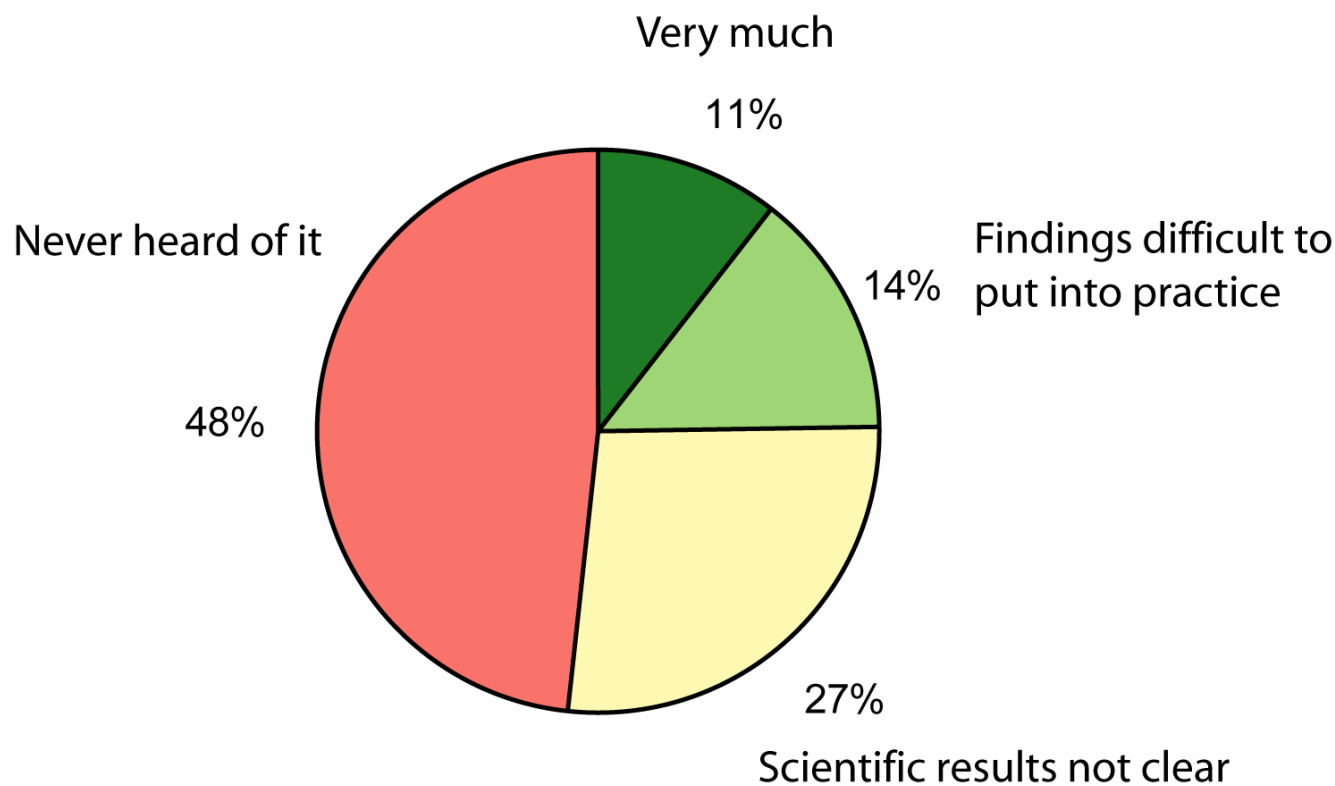
- ESPON
 - Applied research targeted to policy-makers
 - Identify the territorial trends in Europe
- INTERREG
 - Foster cross-border and trans-national co-operation of regions
 - Implementing EU spatial development objectives

ESPON/INTERREG

- Lately, attempts to connect the two communities, via studies or seminars
 - Objects of interest are the same (EU spatial development policies)
 - Different interpretations of the concepts
 - Different ways to use the concepts

ESPON/INTERREG

To INTERREG IIIB Lead Partners:
Are you aware of ESPON research programme?



ESPON 1.1.1.

Polycentricity in focus

Concept of polycentricity

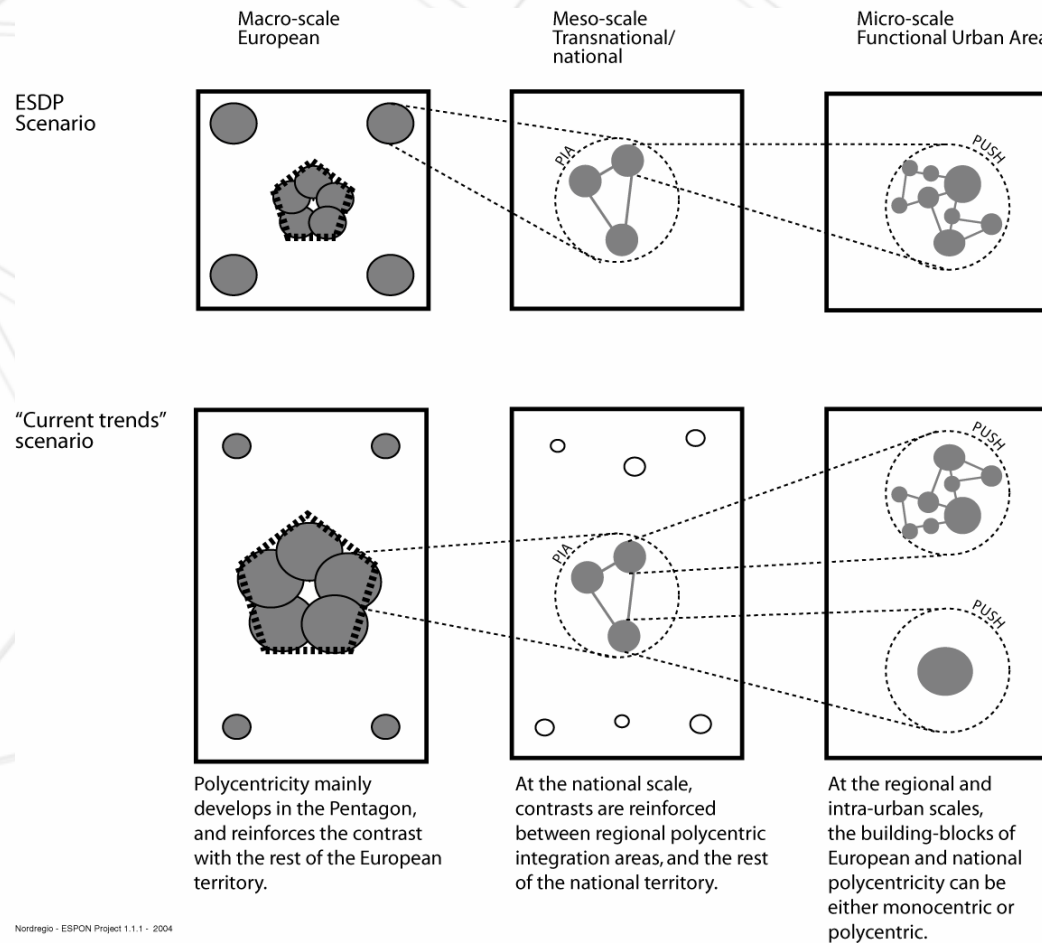
- Two complementary aspects
 - Morphology (number of cities, hierarchy)
 - Relations between urban areas (networks, flows, co-operation)
- Polycentricity is opposed to:
 - Monocentricity (concentration)
 - Urban sprawl (unstructured continuum)

Different issues at each spatial level

- Macro level (Europe):
 - Promote several *global integration zones* in addition to the Pentagon
- Meso level (inter-regional):
 - Integrate city regions, enhance functional complementarity
- Micro level (intra-regional):
 - Improve economic performance through improved links and better co-operation

ESDP

The perfect scenario?

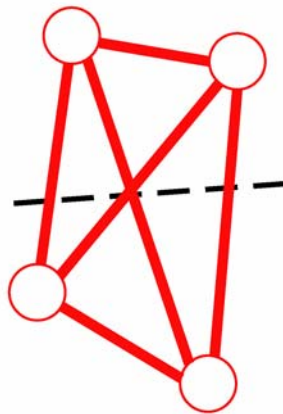


Learning from ESPON 1.1.1.

- Measuring polycentricity is unachievable
- At best, one can assess the **potential** for polycentricity
- Contradiction between European polycentricity and national balance
 - Polycentric development objectives can conflict at different scales
- Polycentric development as an 'open concept'

Polycentricity in INTERREG

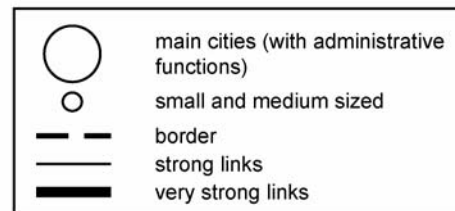
Integrated polycentrism
(proximity does not matter)



emerging polycentrism
(in proximity)

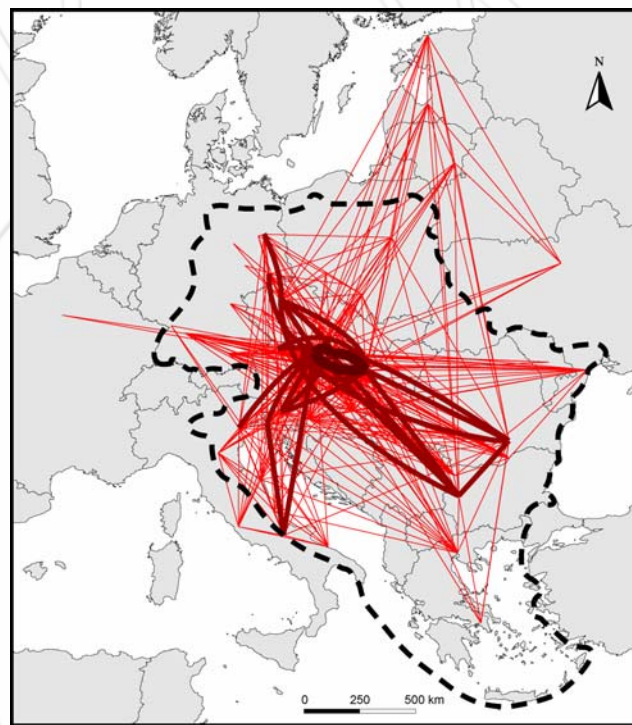


intra-urban polycentrism



Hamez, 2003

Polycentricity in INTERREG



Number of co-operations on more than two projects



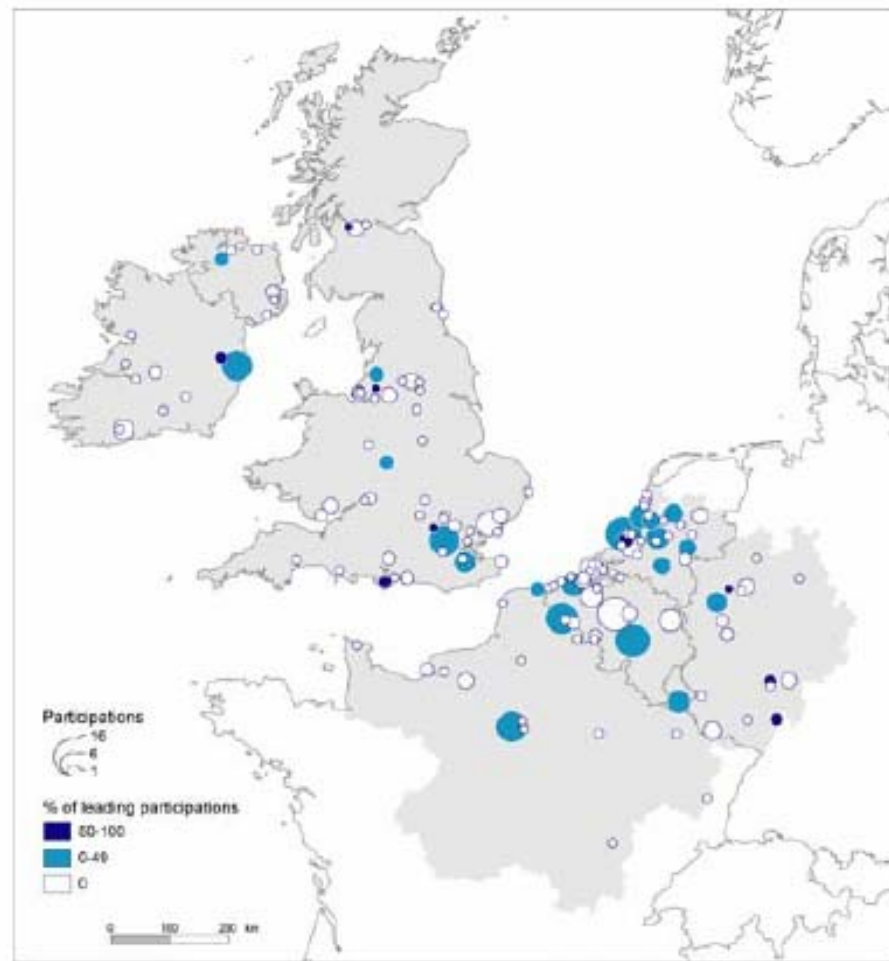
Limits of the CADSES II C

Source: Database J.Cristescu, 2004



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Polycentricity in INTERREG



Source : secrétariat Interreg
© Hamaz, Lescoq, CRIA / CNRS-UMR Géographie-cités

made with Preziario - <http://perso.club-internet.fr/praziario>

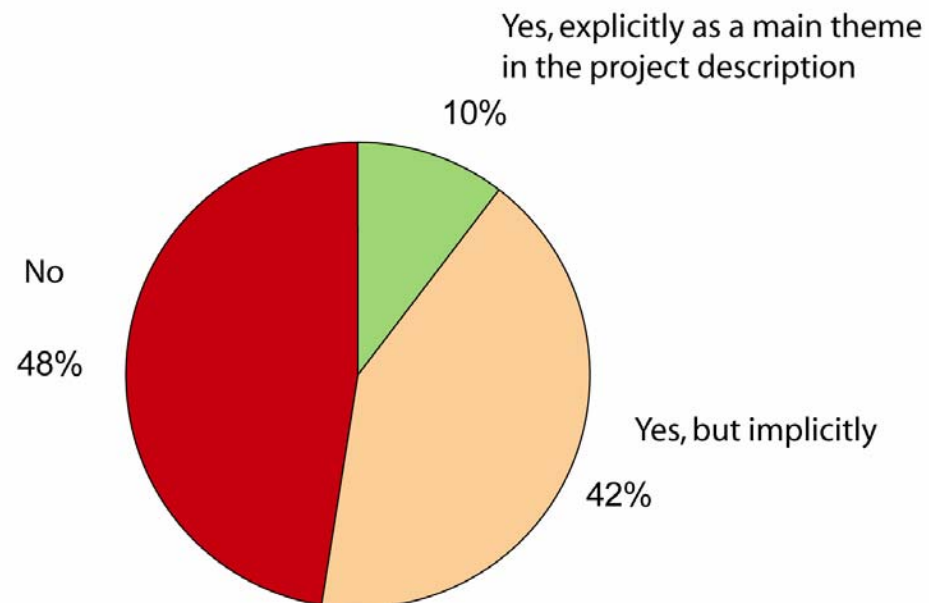


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Focus on polycentricity

Is your project directly dealing with polycentric development?



Polycentric development in INTERREG projects

- 3 main themes identified in projects' objectives
 - Spatial structure of the territory
 - Economic development
 - Governance
- Crossed with the three territorial scales
 - Micro
 - Meso
 - Macro

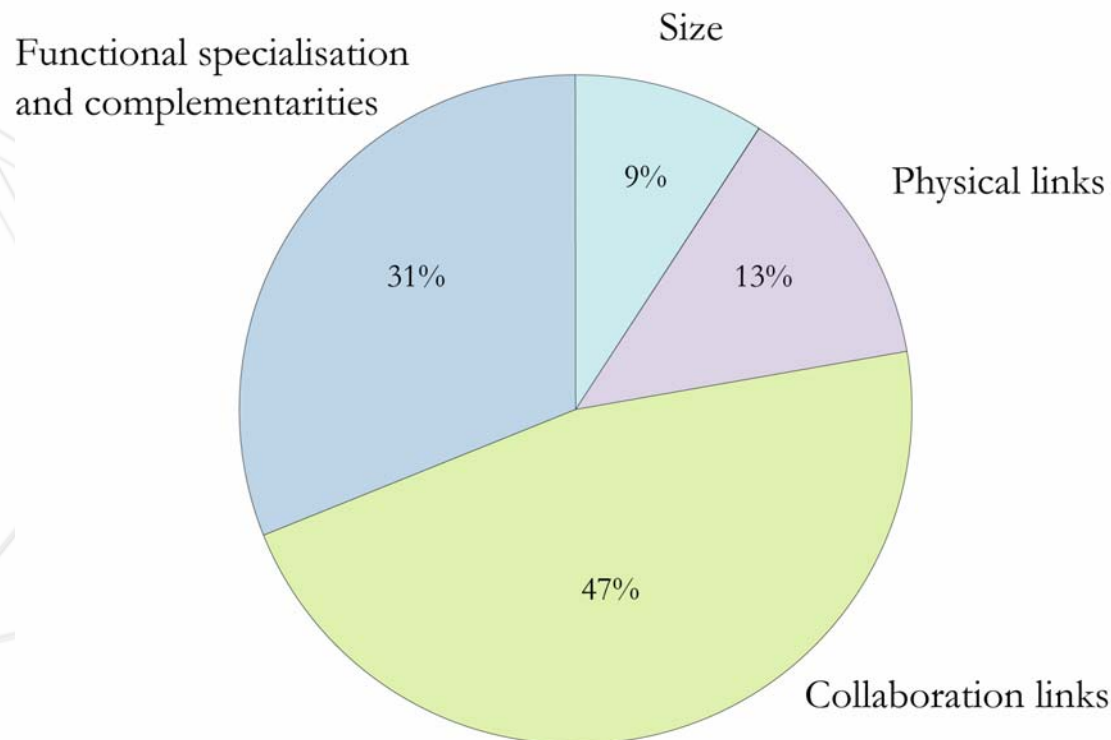
| Type | Keywords/key issues |
|---|---|
| 1. Spatial structure of the territory | Polycentric spatial development Metropolitan regions, Spatial integration, Polycentric urban systems |
| 2. Potentials for balanced economic development | Global Integration Zones Balanced territorial development Centres of excellence Complementarity Development of specialised second tier urban centres |
| 3. New integrated systems of governance | Regeneration Revitalisation Integrated spatial planning Joint development strategy Governance Empowerment of secondary urban nodes Identification and implementation of endogenous development potentials |

Aspects of polycentricity

| | Micro | Meso | Macro |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| Structure of the territory | <p>Polycentric regional structure</p> <p>Compact city structure in peripheral nodes</p> | <p>Spatial integration of trans-national zones</p> | |
| Economic development | <p>Develop economic profiles of regional sub-centres</p> | <p>Networks of innovation/ Competence centres</p> | <p>Functional integration of metropolises</p> <p>Developing GIZ</p> <p>Connection to global markets</p> |
| Governance | <p>Integrated spatial development instruments</p> <p>Promoting growth initiatives (Revitalisation)</p> | <p>Joint strategies for development</p> | |

Aspects of polycentricity

What are the most relevant aspects of polycentric development?



Learning from INTERREG projects

- Polycentric development implies the identification of relevant issues and challenges for each territory by its actors
 - Process of developing a more pro-active attitude to local economic development in a larger number of nodes
- INTERREG enables participating regions to identify a strategy for the development of their territory
 - Internal structure
 - Position in a wider territorial context

Mutual learning

Basis for territorial analysis
(for benchmarking between
regions for example)

Input for policy thinking and
trans-national co-operation

Concepts meaningful to
practitioners

ESPON

INTERREG

How to use concepts in
practice

Improve the policy relevance
of the recommendations for
the local/regional actors

Relevant case studies on
polycentric development in
practice



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