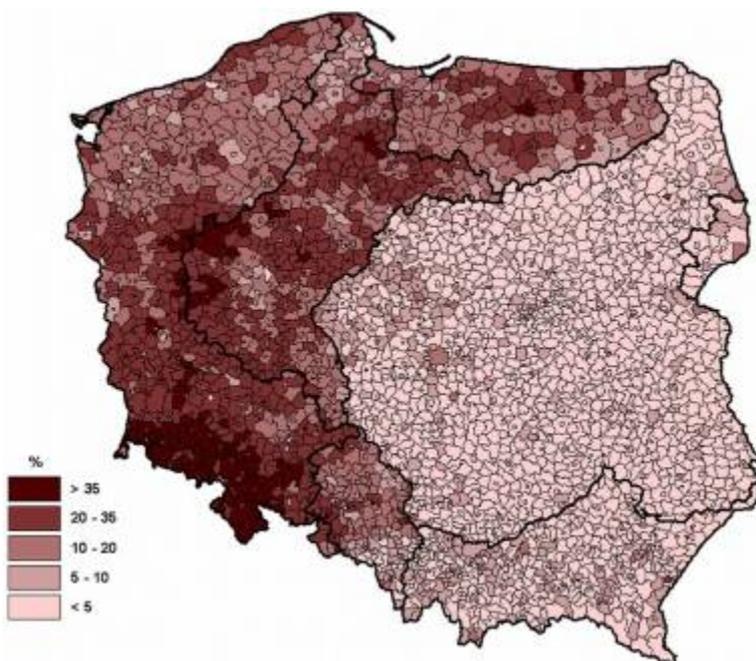


Justification for changing case study region in Poland

The first version of the Proposal and Report within ESPON TOWN project stated that the case study analyses in Poland will cover the NUTS1 region of *Northern Poland* (PL6). However, after a detailed consultation with the subcontractor for this case study (Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization PAS), it has been recommended that the focus be on the region of *Central Poland* (PL1).

Most of the territory of PL6 is located on ex-Prussian territory which in turn had influenced the development of settlement in that area as it was affected for many centuries by Western European modes of planning. Due to historical circumstances, the settlement structure in that region is not typical of Central European structures. Moreover, the fact that, historically speaking, it was part of another political system (i.e. that of Western Europe) is still relevant. Map 1, showing the share of dwellings constructed before 1918 (2002), presents the contemporary borders of Poland and also the borders of Partitions in the 19th century and ex-German territories before 1945. The division between central, eastern and southern Poland as well as western and northern one are still strongly visible. Concerning the historical circumstances, Central Poland was considered to be a better example for the case study analysis dedicated to the role of small and medium sized towns in contemporary settlement system, in order to grasp the Polish specificity in this field.

The NUTS1PL1, and particularly NUTS2 PL12 “Mazowieckie Region” would be a good example, as it covers a wide variety of territories: the Warsaw agglomeration as well as rural and agricultural peripheries. Thus, the role of small and medium sized towns in that region can be investigated from different points of view, including the various types of spatial organisation of settlements (autonomous towns, networked SMSTs, agglomerated settlements, etc.).



Map.1. Share of dwellings constructed before 1918.

Source: own elaboration based on National Census 2002 data.