Spatial Scenarios for Europe: Images of cohesion or competitiveness

ESPON PROJECT 3.2.

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Network for the Scenario Project

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IWH - Germany
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TIGRIS - Romania

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCENARIO PROJECT

Main objective: Awareness-raising about new territorial challenges, search of appropriate policy responses and revisiting issues related to the debate cohesion/competitiveness

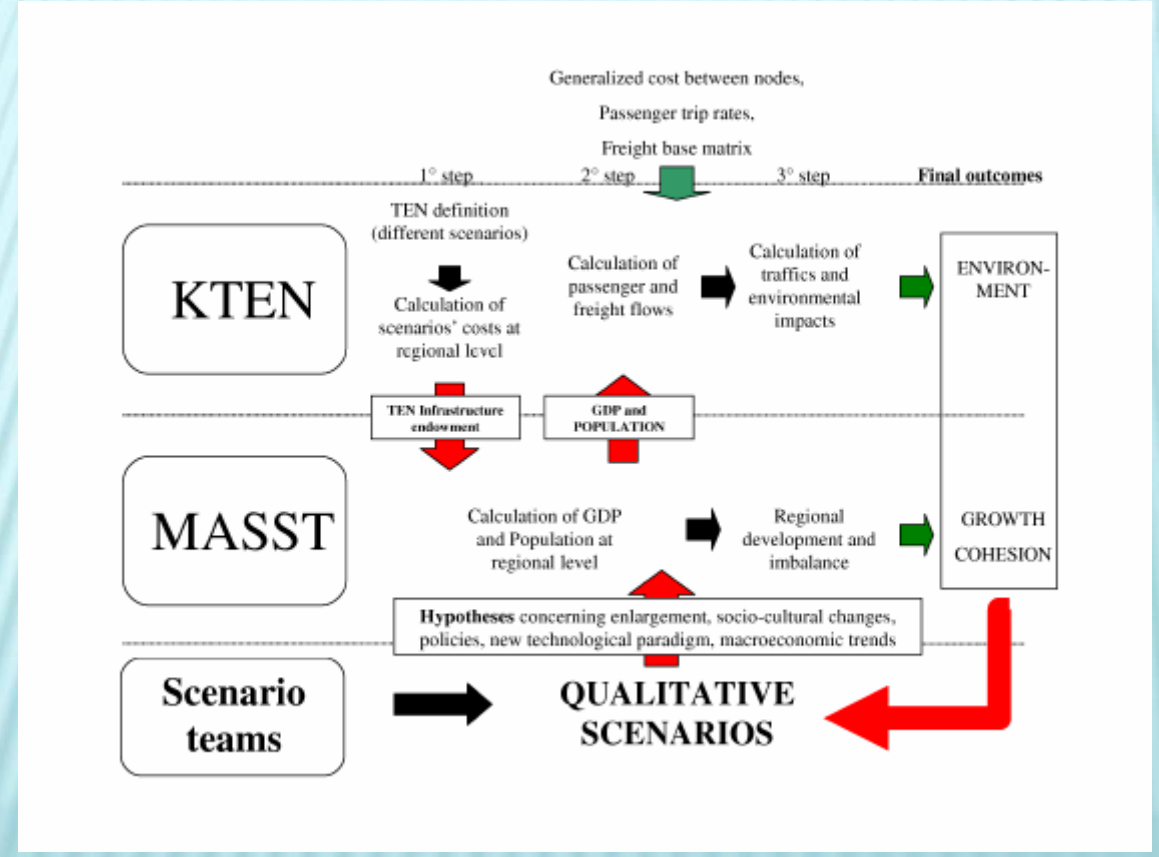
Tool: Showing various possibilities for the long-term evolution (2030) of the European territory

Approach: Two series of scenarios:

1. Large number of thematic, exploratory scenarios related to driving forces taken separately
2. Small number of integrative territorial scenarios around the policy orientations of cohesion and competitiveness

Method: Combination of qualitative/speculative and quantitative foresight investigations

INTEGRATION OF MODELS

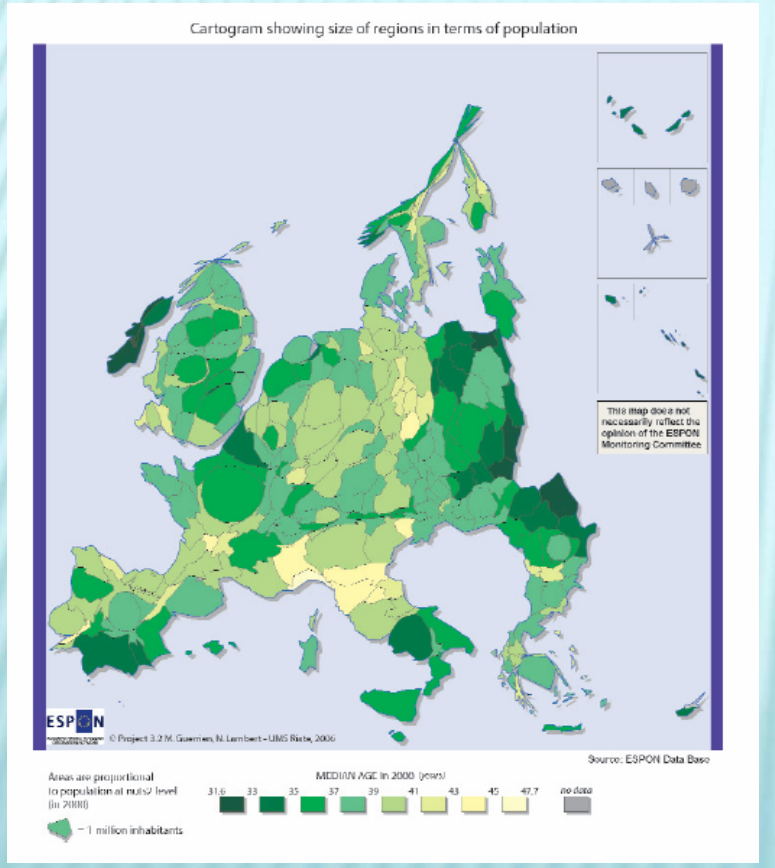


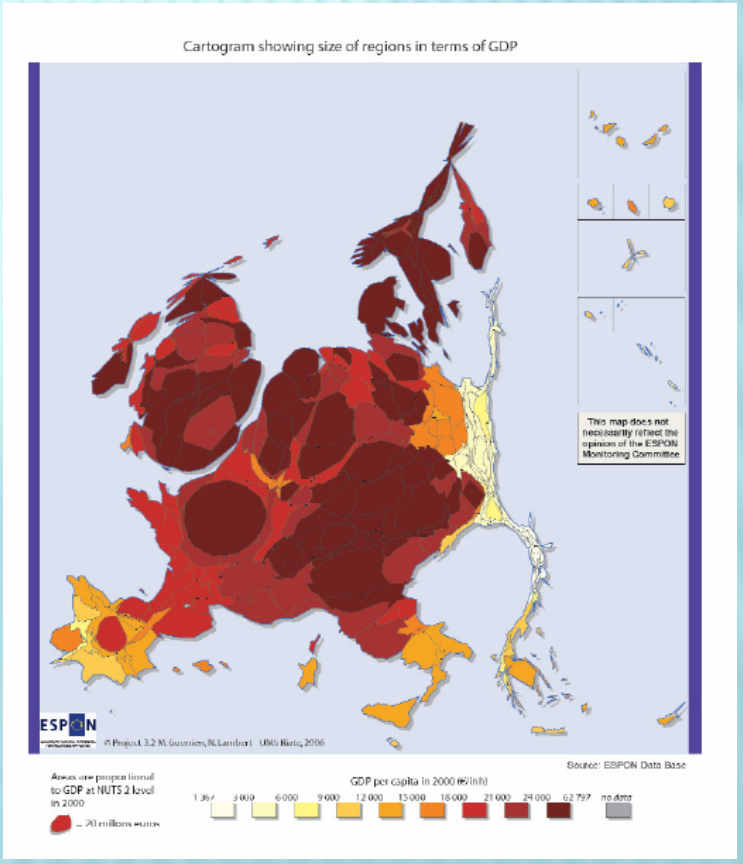
EXAMPLES OF EXPLORATORY, THEMATIC SCENARIOS

- European borders open to immigration
- Growing socio-cultural tensions and insufficient integration policies
- More investments in motorways
- Rural evolution in a context of open markets and reduced CAP support
- Climate change: repairing instead of preventing
- Europe after oil peaking
- Europe as a market place: EU widening (40 EU member countries)

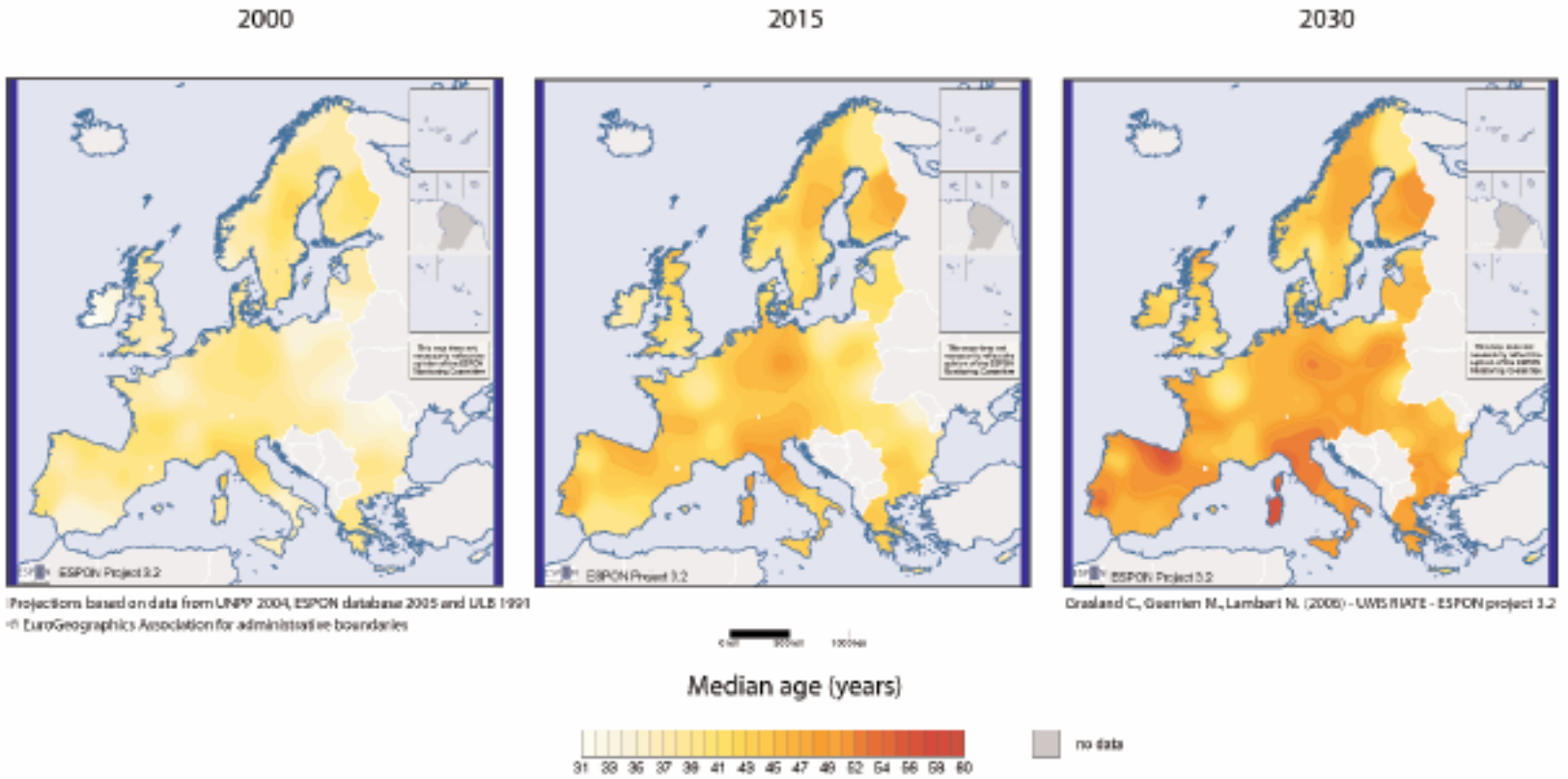
COHESION VERSUS COMPETITIVENESS

PRESENT SITUATION OF TERRITORIAL IMBALANCES

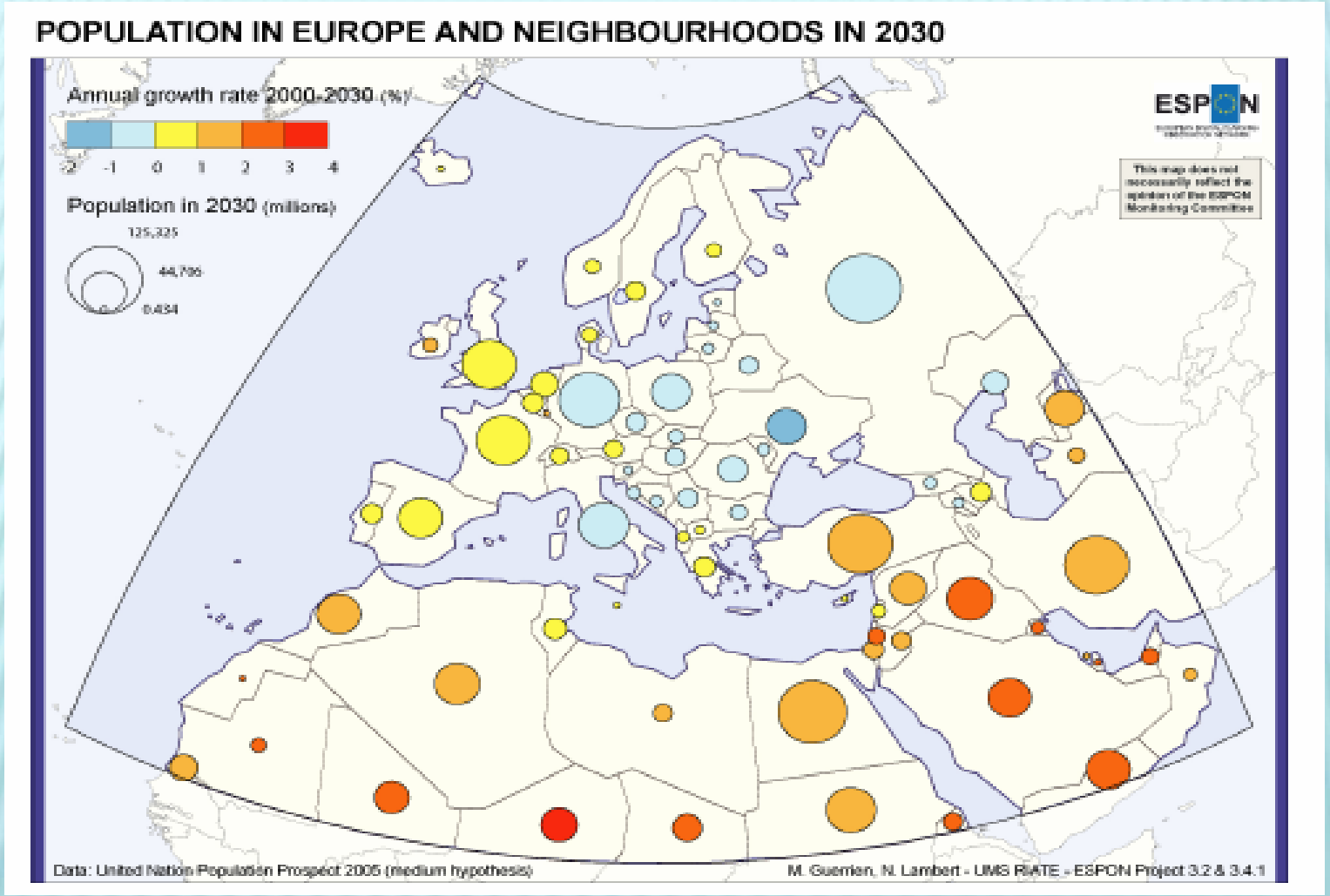




WHAT TRENDS SHOW:
POPULATION AGEING

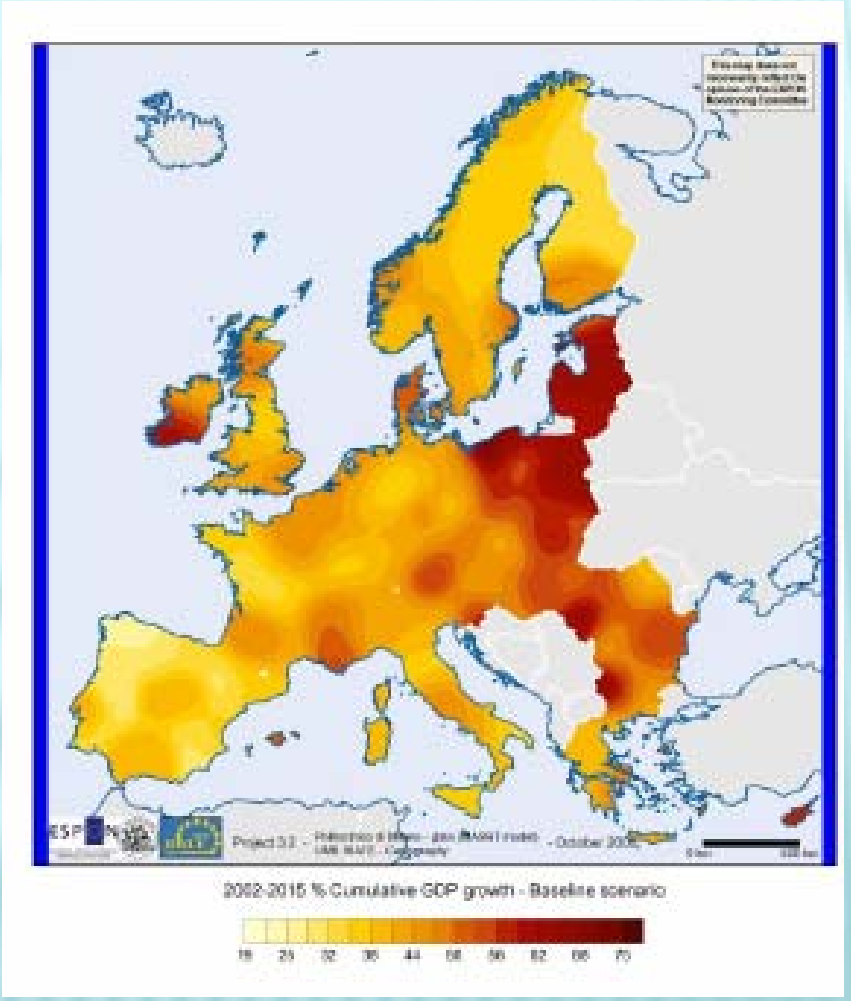


EUROPE AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD



ECONOMIC CATCHING UP PROCESS

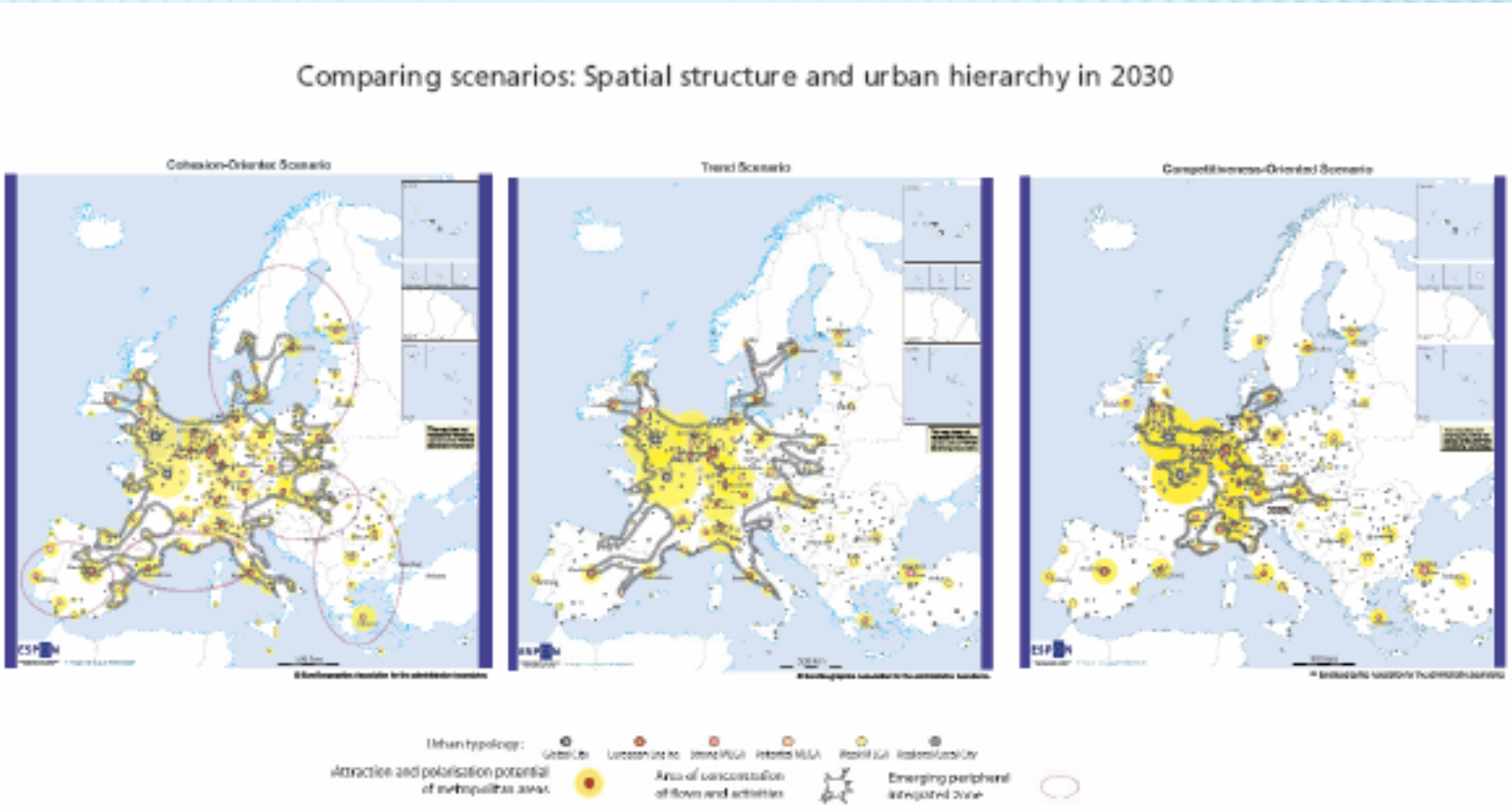
(UP TO 2015)



SCENARIOS' FEATURES

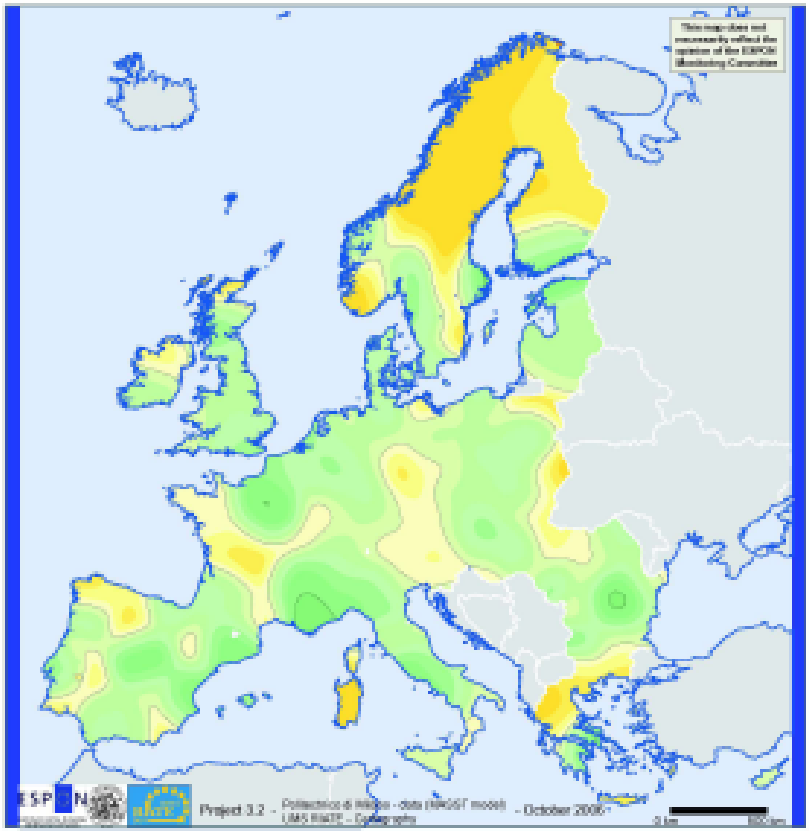
Cohesion-oriented scenario	Competitiveness-oriented scenario
lower global growth rates	higher global growth rates
higher public expenditures	lower public expenditures
weaker technological development	strong technological development
lower emissions and significant advances in the prevention of climate change	high levels of emissions and little prevention of climate change
greater social cohesion and peace	high socio-economic dualisation and segregation, social conflicts
high degree of integration of immigrants	socio-ethnic segregation

THE EUROPEAN BACKBONE: MAIN SETTLEMENT SYSTEM



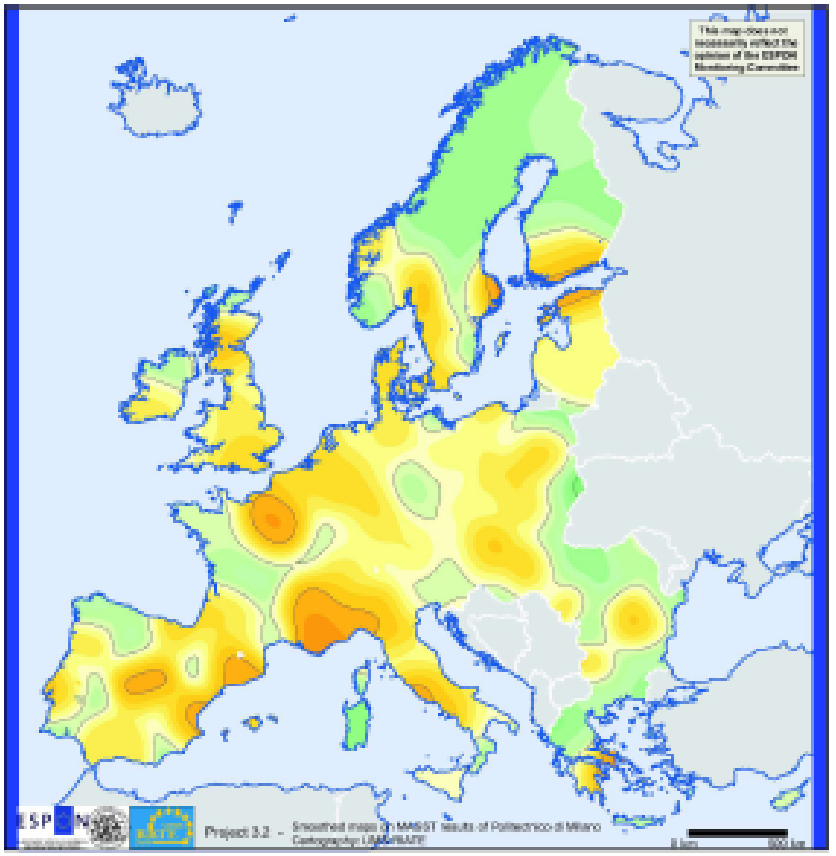
CONTRASTING ECONOMIC PERFORMANCES

COHESION-ORIENTED SCENARIO COMPETITIVENESS-ORIENTED SCENARIO



Cumulative % real GDP growth 2002-2015 - Difference between Cohesive and Baseline Scenario

-17 -13 -9 -4 0 4 8 12 16



Cumulative % real GDP growth 2002-2015 - Difference between Competitive and Baseline Scenario

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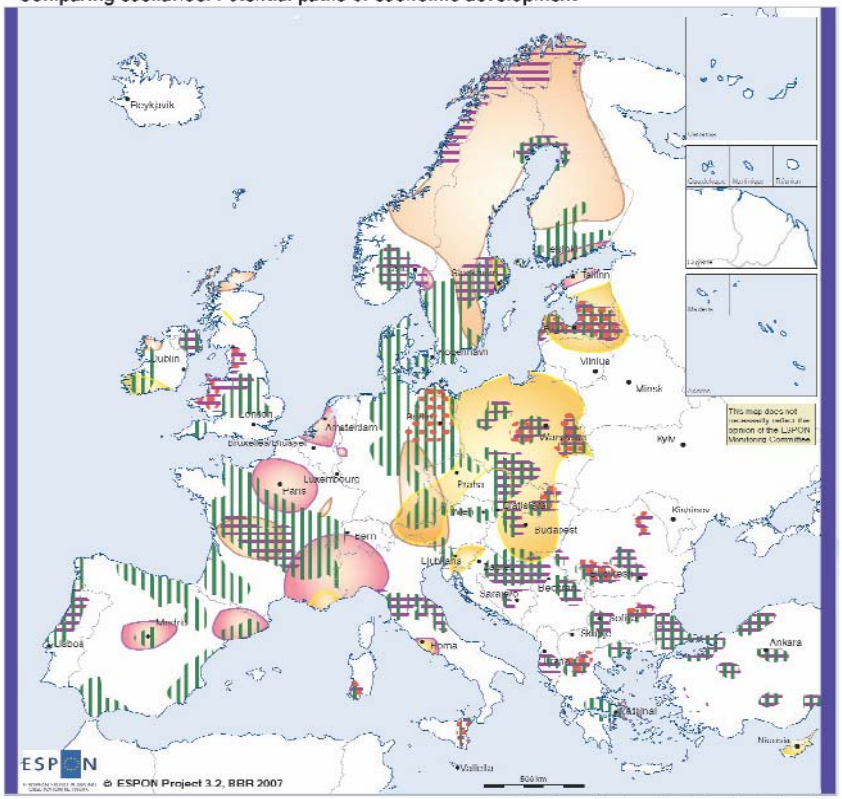
AREAS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH /AREAS OF INDUSTRIAL DECLINE

Comparing scenarios: Potential paths of economic development



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Potential strong points in future economic development in relation to different types of scenarios (baseline, cohesion-oriented and competitiveness-oriented) *

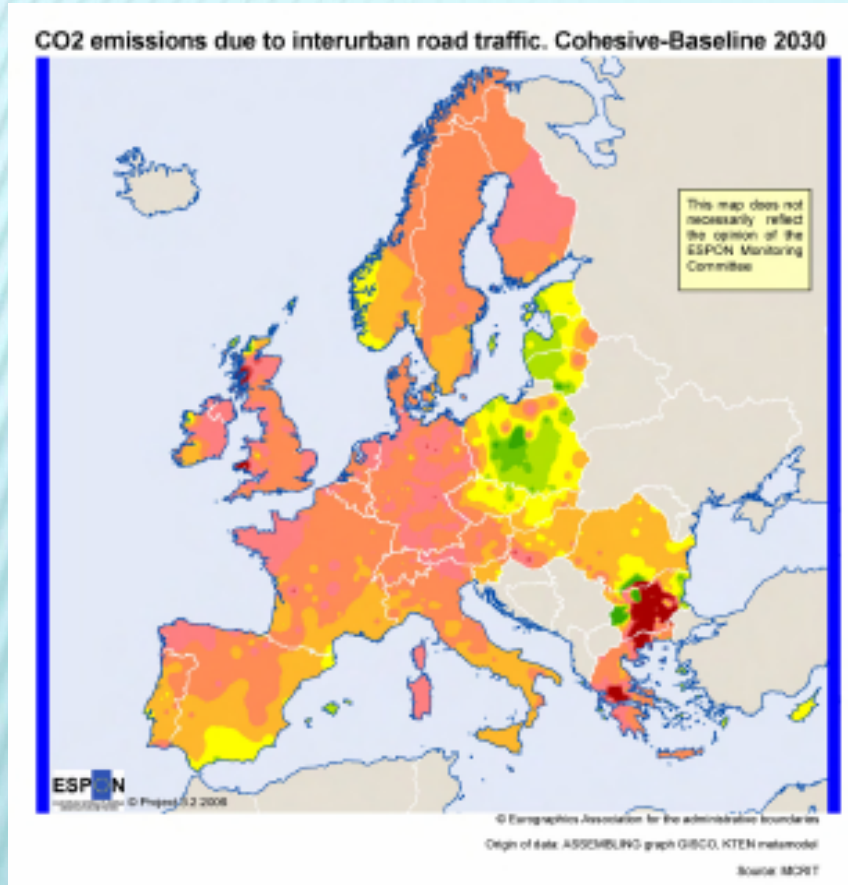
Change in relative position compared to the EU average 2002-2015 in GDP per capita by more than 1 percent (baseline and difference to cohesion and to the competitiveness scenario)

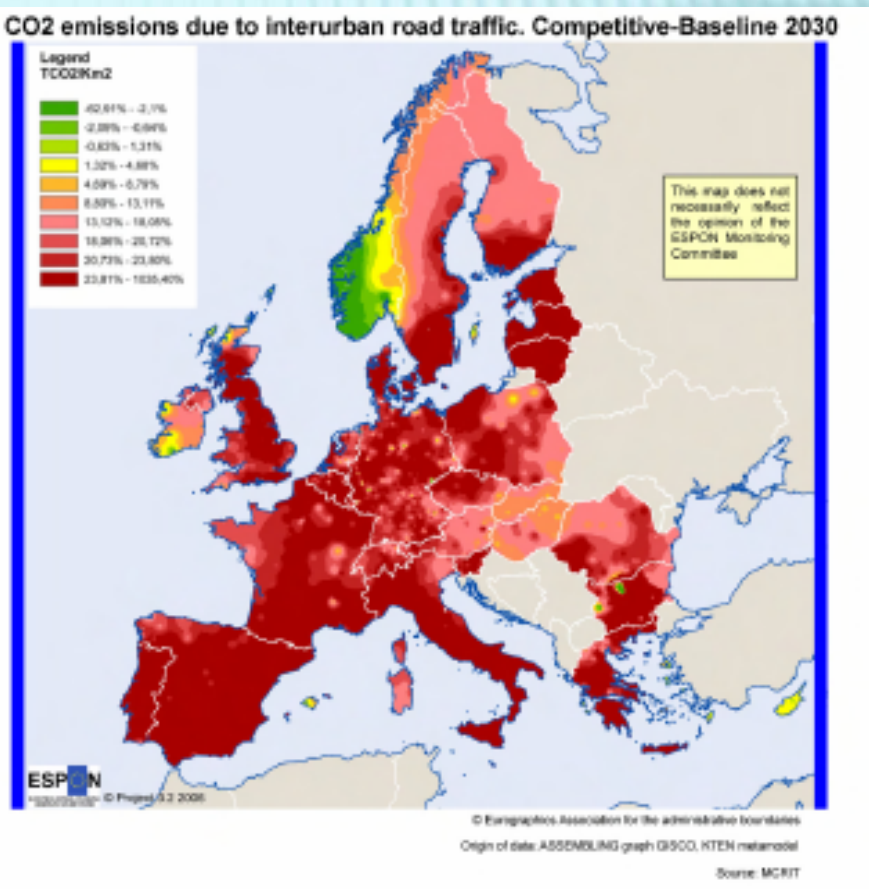
- Baseline scenario
- Cohesion-oriented scenario
- Competitiveness-oriented scenario

Regions with high and very high risk of declining (industrial) activity

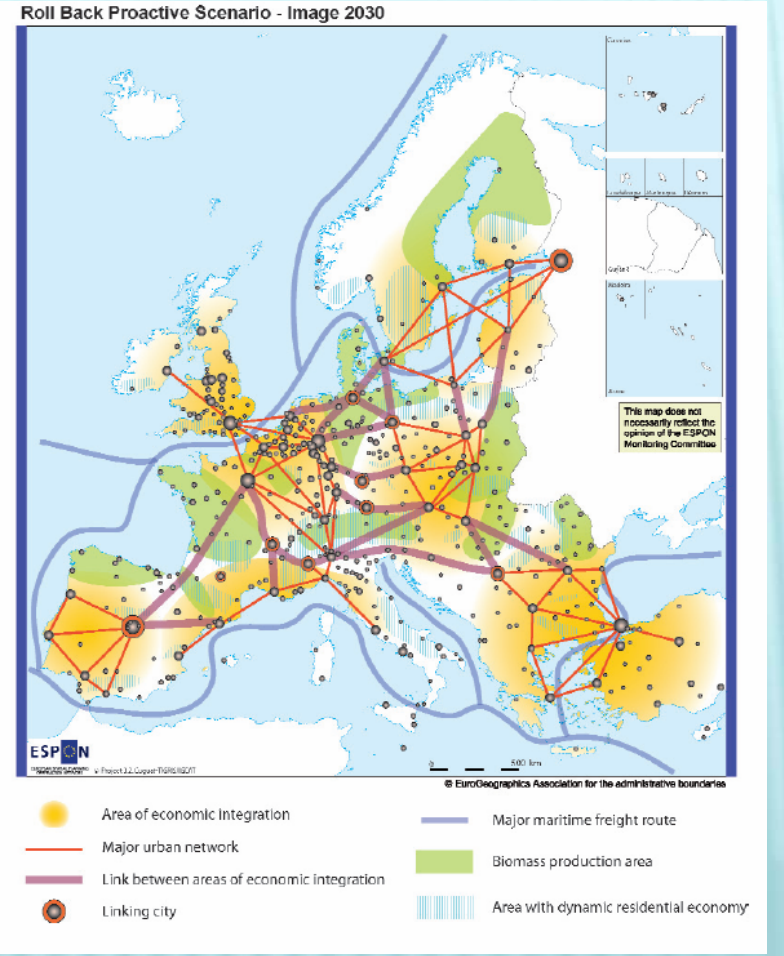
- Baseline scenario
- Cohesion-oriented scenario
- Competitiveness-oriented scenario

DIVERGING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS





A SKETCH OF WHAT COULD BE CONSIDERED AS DESIRABLE



LEARNING FROM SCENARIOS:
THE RELATIVE WEIGHT OF POLICIES

- Market forces and the general evolution of the European society have important impacts, compared to those of public policies

- Pro-active policies are not in a position to eliminate territorial disparities because inertia and market forces are strong and resources are limited

THE EMERGENCE OF NEW TERRITORIAL CHALLENGES PUTS CONVENTIONAL POLICIES INTO QUESTION

- The European territory will be confronted in the coming decades with a number of new challenges, independently from policy options adopted:
  - Population ageing and socio-cultural integration
  - New energy paradigm
  - Climate change
  - Accelerating globalisation
  - European geopolitical environment

New, rather ambitious and future-oriented policies have to be developed

POLICY ORIENTATIONS FOR A DESIRABLE TERRITORIAL PERSPECTIVE

- A desirable territorial perspective is a real choice of society to which a variety of public, sectoral policies also have to contribute (education, innovation, transport, CAP etc.)
- National, regional and local policies are very important for reaching territorial development goals
- Policies have to ensure that short-term benefits do not generate long-term drawbacks
- The search of equity should not inhibit and offset real development opportunities, but fostering development potentials should not lead to rising inequalities