

Territorial Cohesion Policy and its Future



Ljubljana – Create Europe! Seminar 30-31 May, 2005

Bas Waterhout

May 31, 2005

1

OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies



Contents

- Positioning Territorial Cohesion – Current state of affairs
- Where it comes from
- Instruments and orientations
- Possible futures (likely + unlikely)
- Decisive factors (short term + long term)

30-31 May 2005

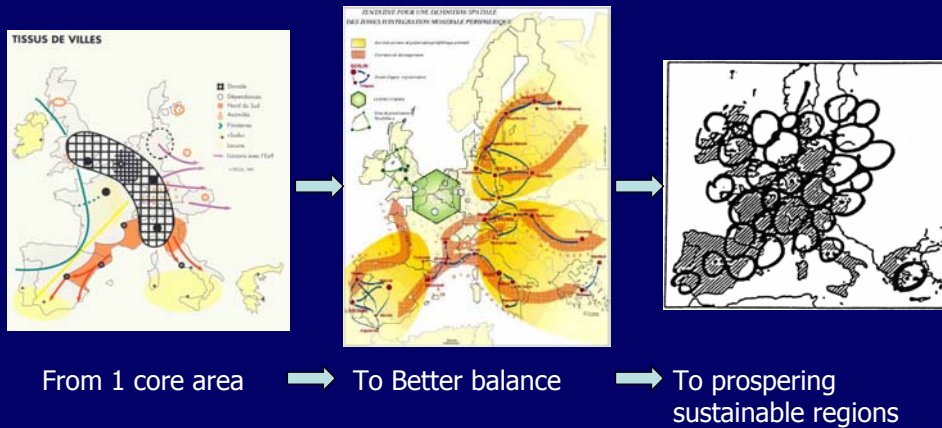
Create Europe! Seminar – The Future of Territorial Cohesion Policy

2

OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies



The 'Territorial Cohesion Dream'



30-31 May 2005

Create Europe! Seminar – The Future of Territorial Cohesion Policy

3

OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies



Positioning territorial cohesion

- Formal status:
 - 1997: introduced on Art. 16 of the Amsterdam Treaty
 - 2006: Art. I-3 of the EU Constitutional Treaty
- What is it not:
 - No land use policy

30-31 May 2005

Create Europe! Seminar – The Future of Territorial Cohesion Policy

4

OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies



Who is involved

- European Commissioner Regional Policy (DG Regio)
- 25 Member states (+ SUD, ESPON)
- European Parliament, Committee of the Regions
- Interest groups: Assembly of European Regions, Eurocities etc.

Some Quotes

Commission (draft) 'Community Strategic Guidelines 2007-2013':

"territorial cohesion extends beyond ... economic and social cohesion, its objective [is] ...reducing regional disparities, avoiding territorial imbalances, and making both sectoral policies with spatial impact and regional policy more coherent. (...) The overall aim should be (...) more polycentric development."

Informal ministerial meeting 20/21 May 2005:

- “the key challenge [of territorial cohesion] (...) is to integrate the territorial dimension into EU policies with the aim of achieving a coherent approach to the development of the EU territory.”
- “...No new procedures or rules...”
- “...add to the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategy...”
- “Reporting and dialogue are important elements...”

'Territorial State and Perspectives of the European Union' 20/21 May 2005:

- “...better exploitation of specific territorial potentials...” (Territorial Capital)
- “...strengthen the [territorial] structure of the EU territory”
- “...co-ordinate EU sector policies...”
- “...stimulate territorial co-operation...”

Current Key Concepts

- Polycentric Development
- Regeneration of rural areas
- Minimum level of access to Services of general economic interest
- Territorial co-operation
- Territorial capital

30-31 May 2005

Create Europe! Seminar – The Future of Territorial Cohesion Policy

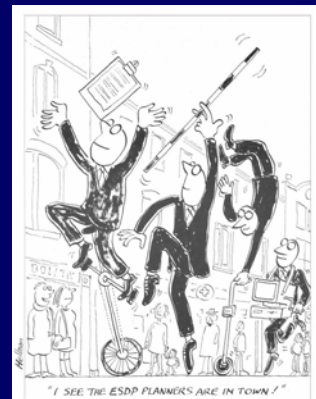
9

OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies



Where does Territorial Cohesion come from?

- Origin - 2 different policy fields:
 - Services of General Interest
 - European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)



30-31 May 2005

Create Europe! Seminar – The Future of Territorial Cohesion Policy

10

OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies



Storylines behind territorial cohesion

- SGI
 - Provide access to 'services of general interest' (SGI) throughout Europe no matter where people live (part of European culture)
- ESDP + Ministers
 - Create more territorially coherent EU Policies
 - Reduce regional disparities (more effectively)
 - Contribute to Europe's global competitiveness (Lisbon Strategy) by adding a territorial dimension
 - Towards a sustainable development of Europe's territory

30-31 May 2005

Create Europe! Seminar – The Future of Territorial Cohesion Policy

11

OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies



Elements for territorial cohesion

- Instruments
 - Territorial Co-operation (successor of Interreg IIIB)
 - Spatial Visions, Frameworks, Strategies

 - Multi level contracts and agreements
 - Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) ?
 - Open method of co-ordination ??
 - Norms, Directives ???
- Scope
 - Multi dimensional – Policy coherence
 - Single Issue – Services of General Interest
- Orientation
 - Stimulate economic growth
 - Reducing regional disparities
 - Sustainable Development

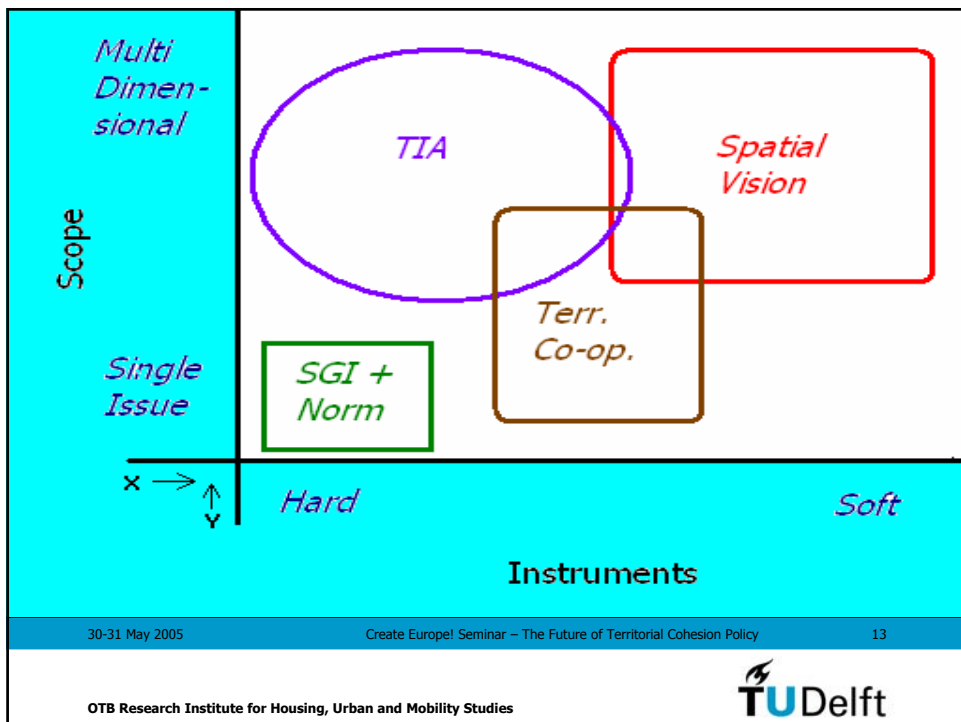
30-31 May 2005

Create Europe! Seminar – The Future of Territorial Cohesion Policy

12

OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies





Likely Possible Futures

- **Integrated + Soft:**
 - A policy outlining a territorial development strategy for Europe based on a territorial main structure (facilitated by ESPON) and which tries to co-ordinate spatially relevant EU-policies as well as national and regional policies by means of reporting and dialogue.
- **One-dimensional + Hard:**
 - A policy aiming at guaranteeing a minimum level of access to services of general interest for all citizens and enterprises throughout Europe based on norms and budgetary assistance.

Unlikely Possible Futures

- Multi-dimensional + Hard:
 - A policy which limits the negative impacts in terms of excessive land use of territorial competition, for instance between international airports and seaports.
- Integrated + Hard:
 - A policy which integrates, from a geographical viewpoint, the Lisbon strategy and Kyoto objectives by means of territorial strategies, territorial impact assessments, incentives for exploiting territorial capital as well as budgetary assistance for environmental friendly solutions.

Decisive Factors – Short Term

- EU-Constitution
- Outcomes 2007-2013 budget debate + reform of Regional policy
- Ongoing efforts of 6 subsequent presidencies (NL, LUX, UK, A, Fi, DE)
- DG Regio efforts to publish a White Book on Territorial Cohesion

Decisive Factors – Long Term

- Development of global economy
- Development of global ecology
- Shifting EU-discourse from global economy to a global sustainability discourse
- EU-Governance debate (internal co-ordination European Commission)
- Shifting global relations (notably between EU, USA, China, India, upcoming countries)