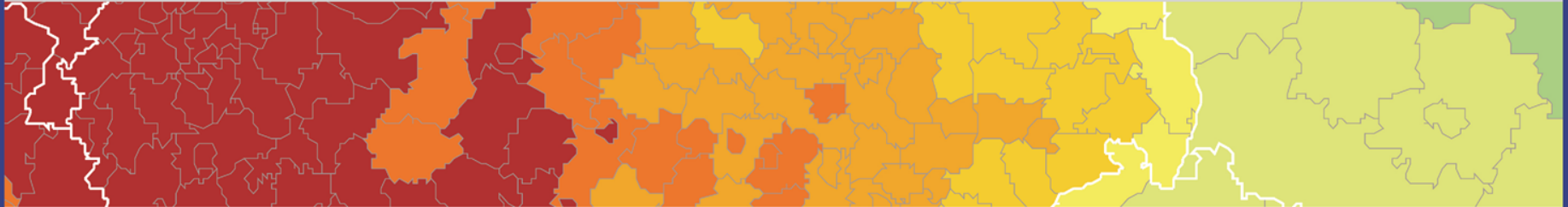




Inspire policy making by territorial evidence



ESPON Seminar
**“Territories Acting for Economic Growth:
Using territorial evidence to meet challenges towards 2020”**

GEOSPECS findings on Inner Peripheries

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and Michiel van Eupen



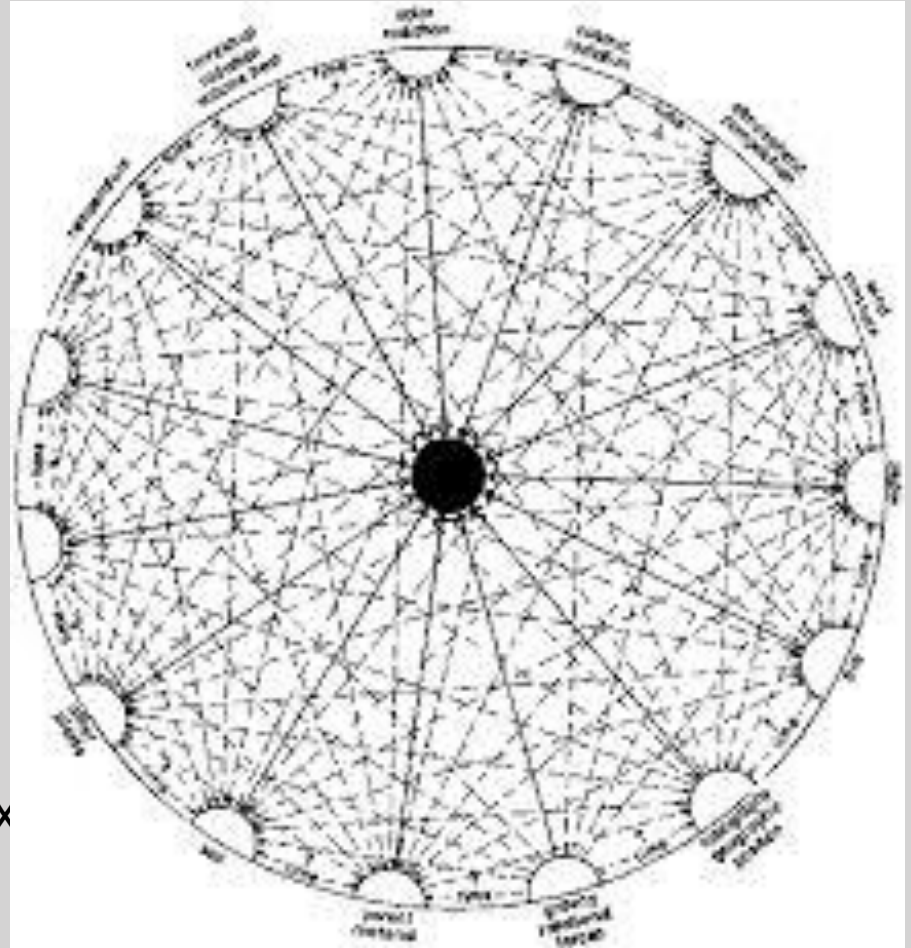
What is an inner periphery?

- A new concept, interpreted in different ways across Europe
- Periphery in the sense of being “out of the loop”, without necessarily being marginal in the geographic sense
- Their “distance” is linked to the configuration of physical, social, economic, institutional and cultural networks
- Often **(but not always!)** rural areas “in the shadow” of larger metropolitan areas

but also in other types of geographical settings

Can one delineate inner peripheries?

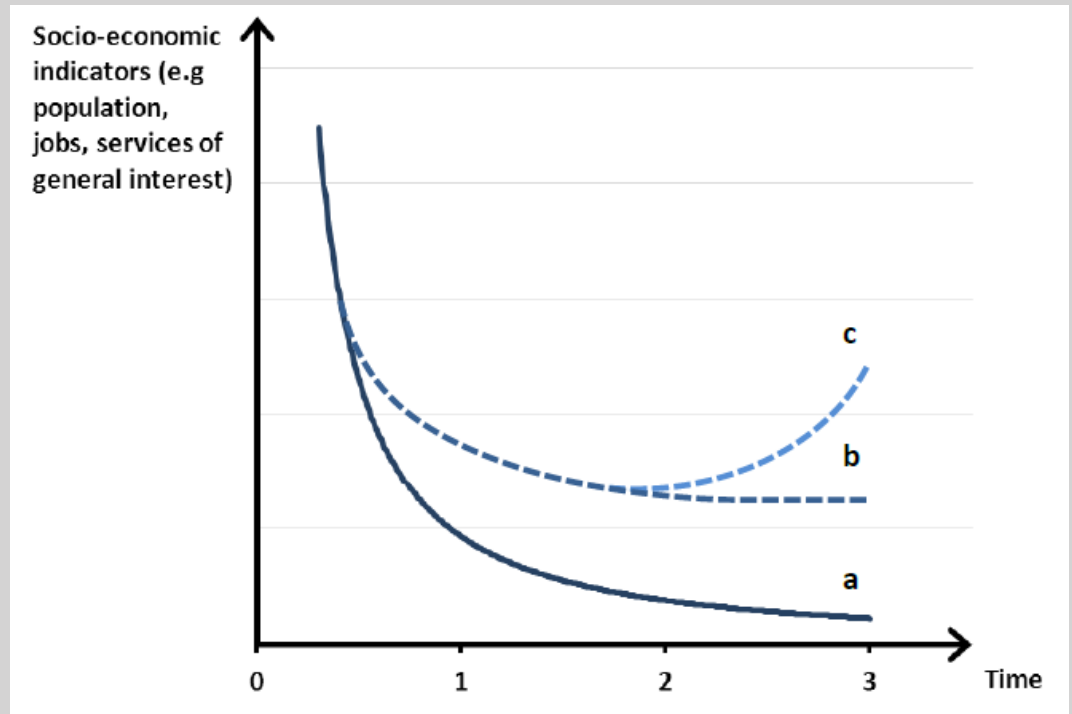
- Inner = inside
- Periphery = outside
- A socio-economic specificity, rather than a geographic one.
 - **Even if geographic limiting factors are often identified, these cannot be considered as defining features of IP**
- European delineation criteria are difficult to agree upon
- Can be considered as 'complex adaptive systems'
- Often shrinking areas (**jobs, population**)



Source: Based on Billings, W.D. "Physiological Ecology" in Annual Review Plant Physiology, vol. 8 (1957), pp. 375-392.

Can one delineate inner peripheries?

- Relative spatial-temporal trends are important:
 - Medium- to long-term socio-economic evolutions
 - in comparison to the neighbourhood



Example 1: Werra-Meißner-Kreis (DE) (rural)

Traveltime from/to Werra-Meißner-Kreis

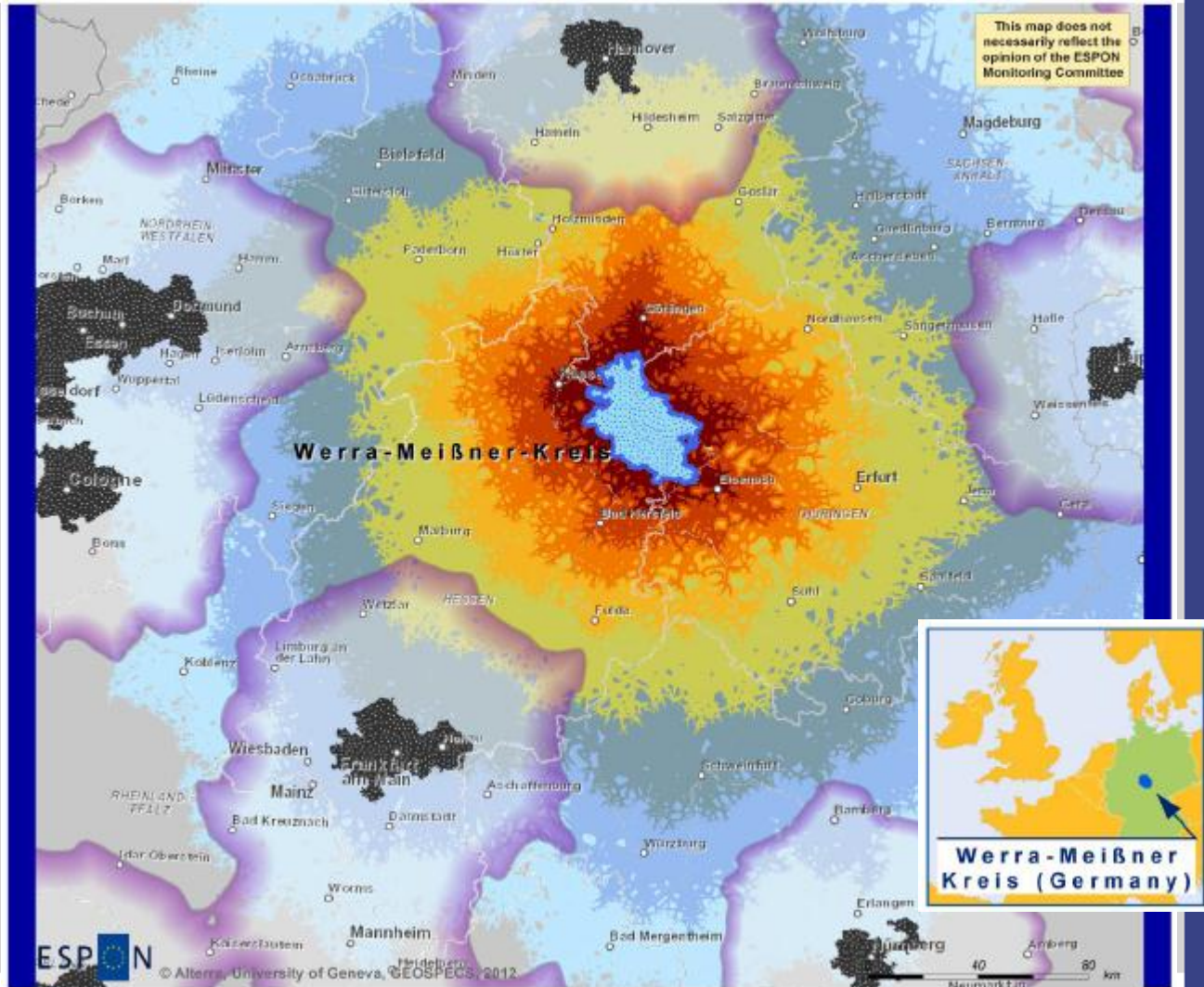


Werra-Meißner-Kreis

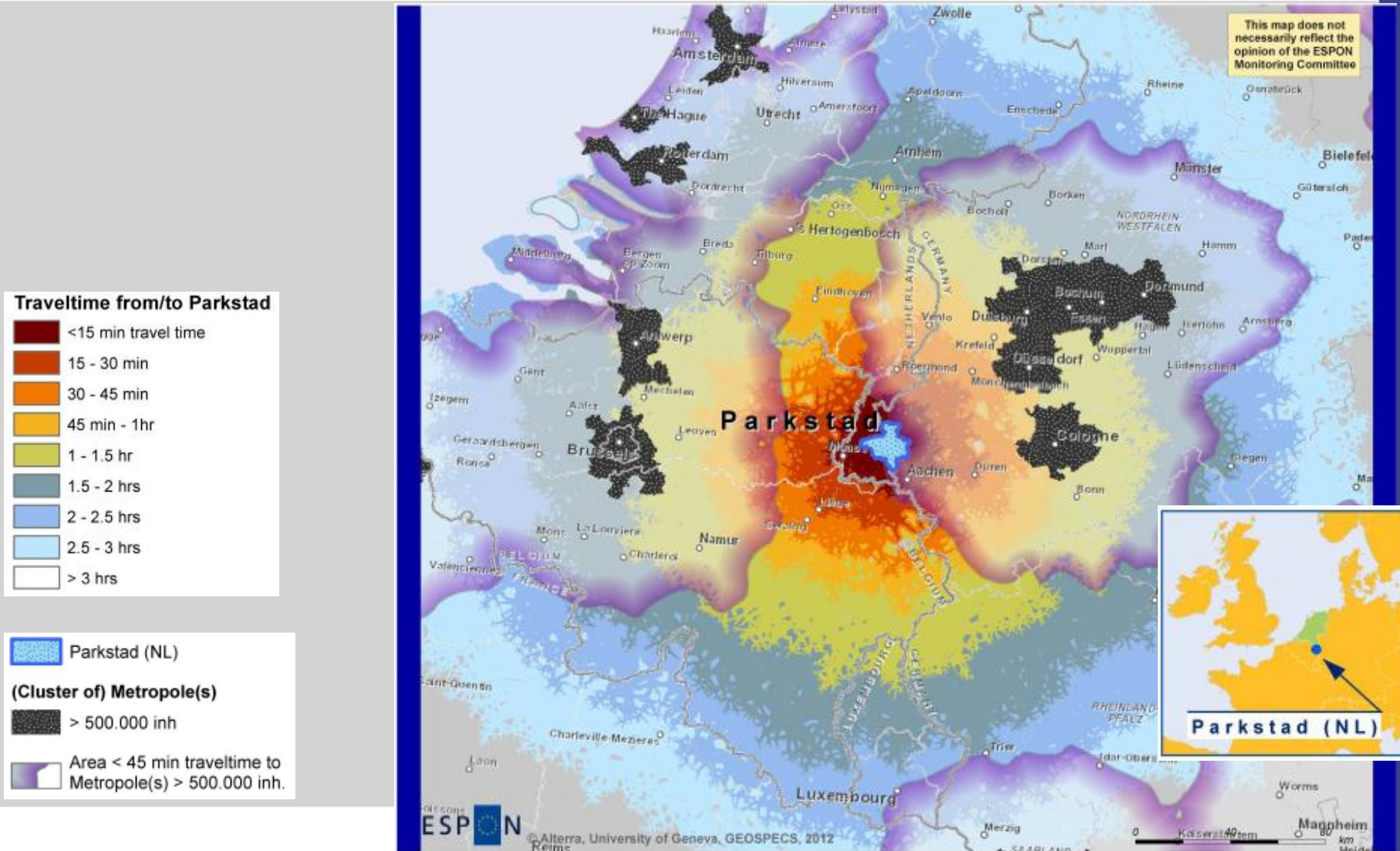
(Cluster of) Metropole(s)

> 500.000 inh

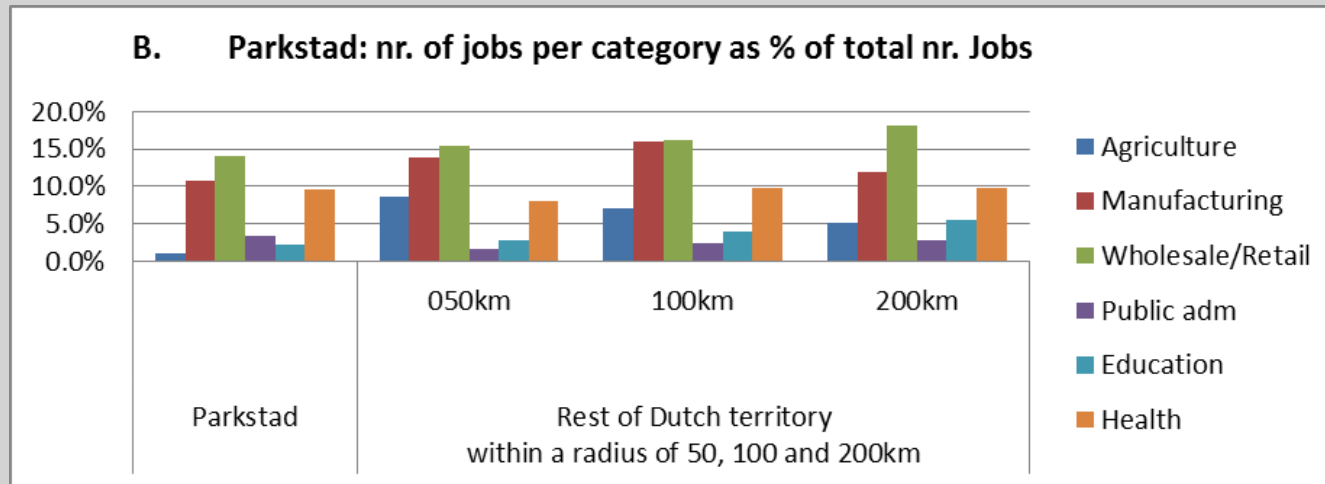
Area < 45 min travelttime to Metropole(s) > 500.000 inh.



Example 2: Parkstad (NL) (less rural example)

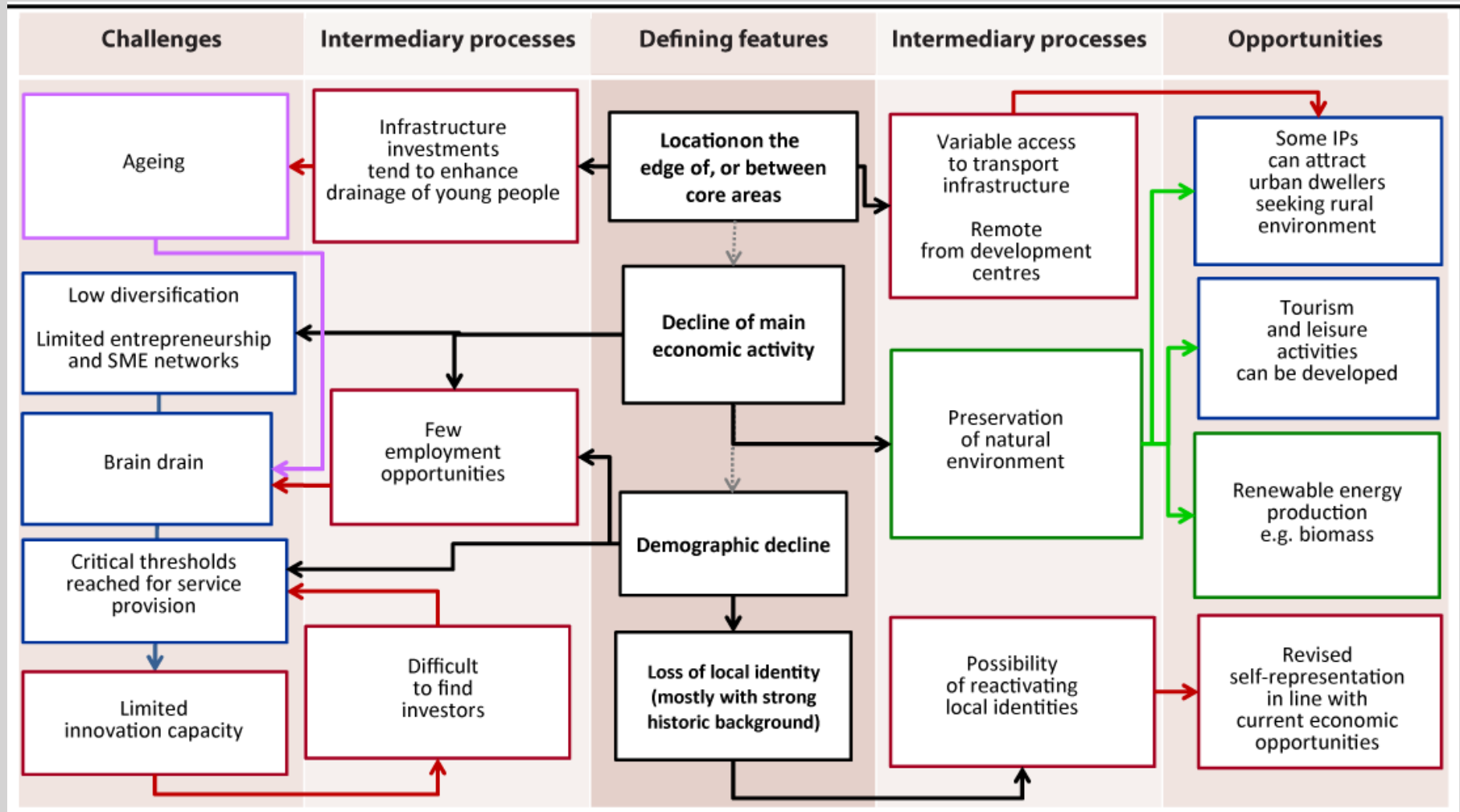


Diverse statistical profiles



- Diverse labour market profiles – generally over-representation of public services
- Infrastructure investments to improve accessibility **do not** necessarily lead to enhanced development
- Broadband access is generally lower than the national average, but may be very different from country to country

Nexus model for Inner Peripheries



Question 1: How could Europe address IPs in policy terms?

(1) IP will only be a European object of policy-making if the challenge of identification and delineation can be overcome

→ Should one consider that this should be a national/regional responsibility?

→ What general principles of delineations can be agreed upon?

(2) The rationale for action would be that IPs do not draw full benefits from human and natural resources, and that “external” European measures could help

→ European attention could encourage local actors

→ Exchanges of good practice are useful for these types of areas

Questions 2: Are IP a national/regional or European matter?

2. Is their development more a national or regional responsibility than a European?
 - (1) IPs need to be identified by regional actors and approached at national/regional level
 - (2) European policies (TEN-transport, labour mobility, cross-border integration) have an extensive impact on IPs. It is natural to incorporate the IP dimension in these policies.
 - (3) IPs may help overcoming an urban/rural dichotomy which is not necessarily operational for regional policy.

Question 3: What EU policies would be relevant?

- (1) European policies seeking to cover “all IPs” would not make sense.
→ programmes involving selected IPs across Europe, testing new approaches, exchanging experiences and communicating results
- (2) Current EU policies (e.g. regional cohesion, CAP, Green Infrastructure, Climate adaptation, etc.) would need to be coordinated to respond to the range of complexities presented by IPs
- (3) IPs are often the flipside of metropolisation
→ Can be a component of urban policies (as far as lagging regions are included in these policies)