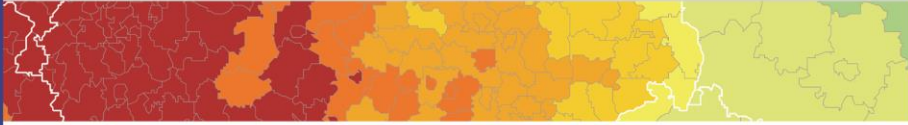


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ESPON 2013 SEMINAR

Territories Acting for Economic Growth:

Using territorial evidence to meet challenges towards 2020

TOWNs in Europe

Loris Servillo

Rome, 4-5 December 2014



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Outline

1. SMSTs in the EU territory
2. General vs specific trends?
3. Evidences for more appropriated policies - do we need to go beyond the large-city bias in (EU) urban policy?



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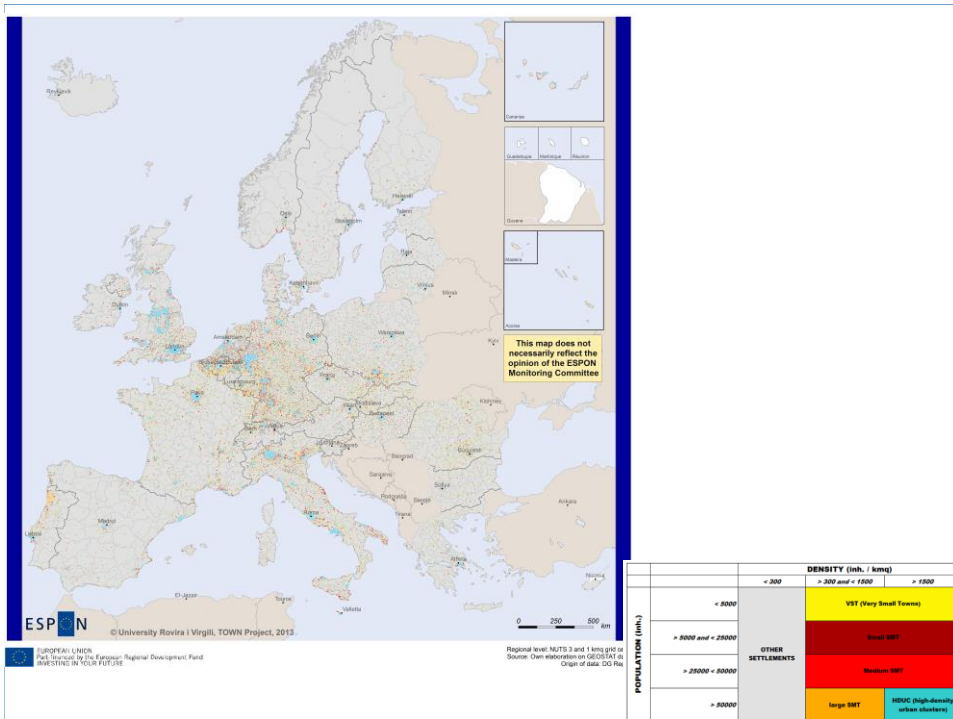


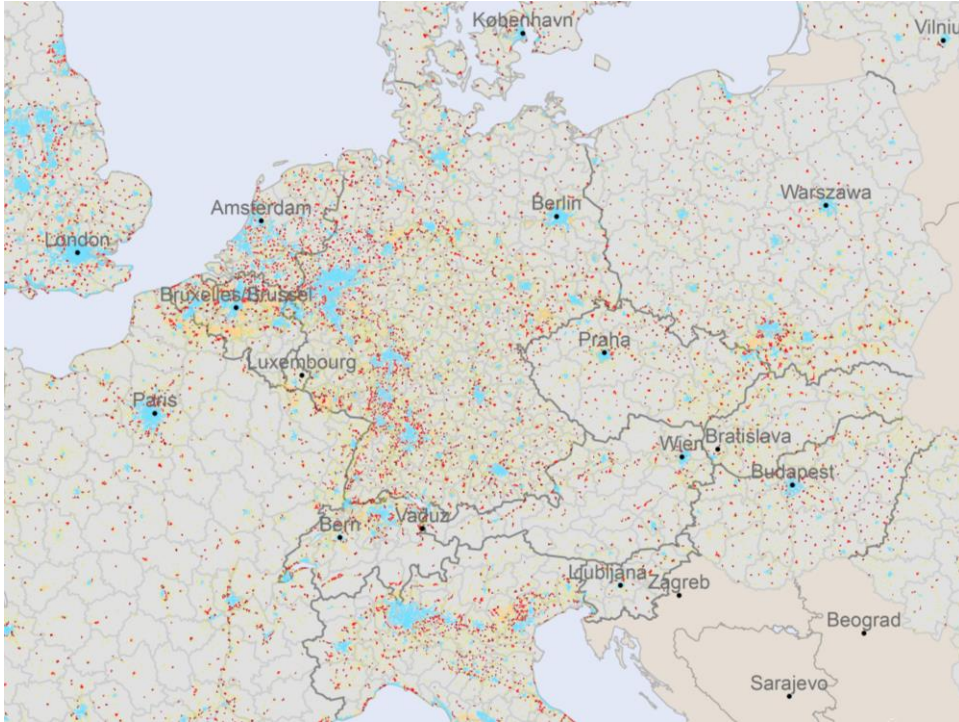
Morphological interpretation

- 'Urban polygons' identified as separate built-up areas with population size and density consistently with criteria set by DG Regio / OECD
- Focus on Small and Medium sized towns

		DENSITY (inh. / kmq)		
		< 300	> 300 and < 1500	> 1500
POPULATION (inh.)	< 5000	OTHER SETTLEMENTS	VST (Very Small Towns)	
	> 5000 and < 25000		Small SMT	
	> 25000 < 50000		Medium SMT	
	> 50000		large SMT	HDUC (high-density urban clusters)

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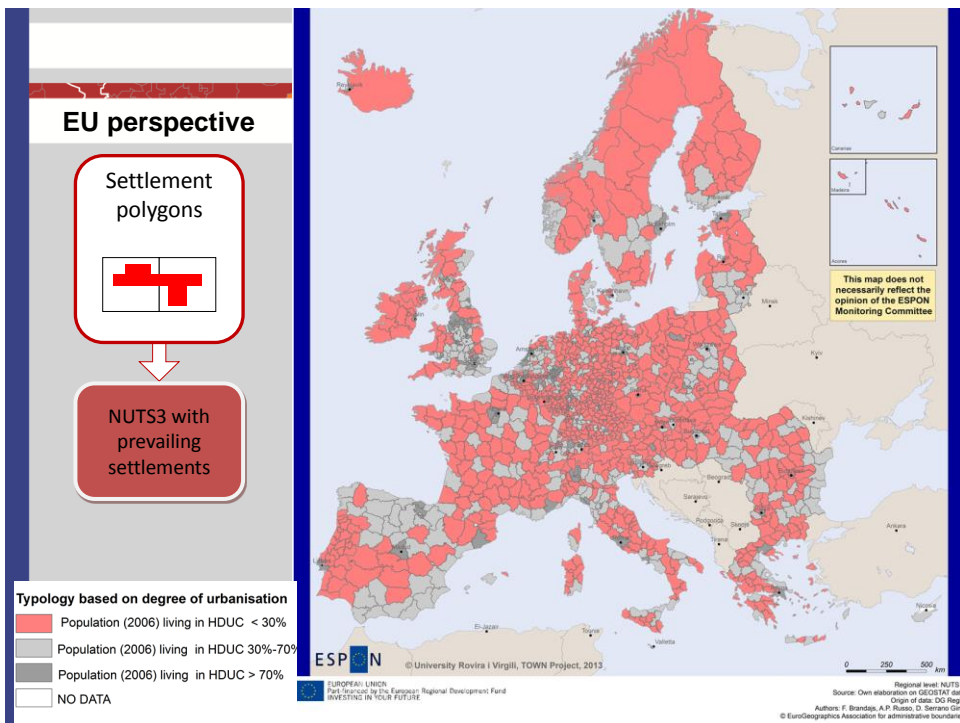
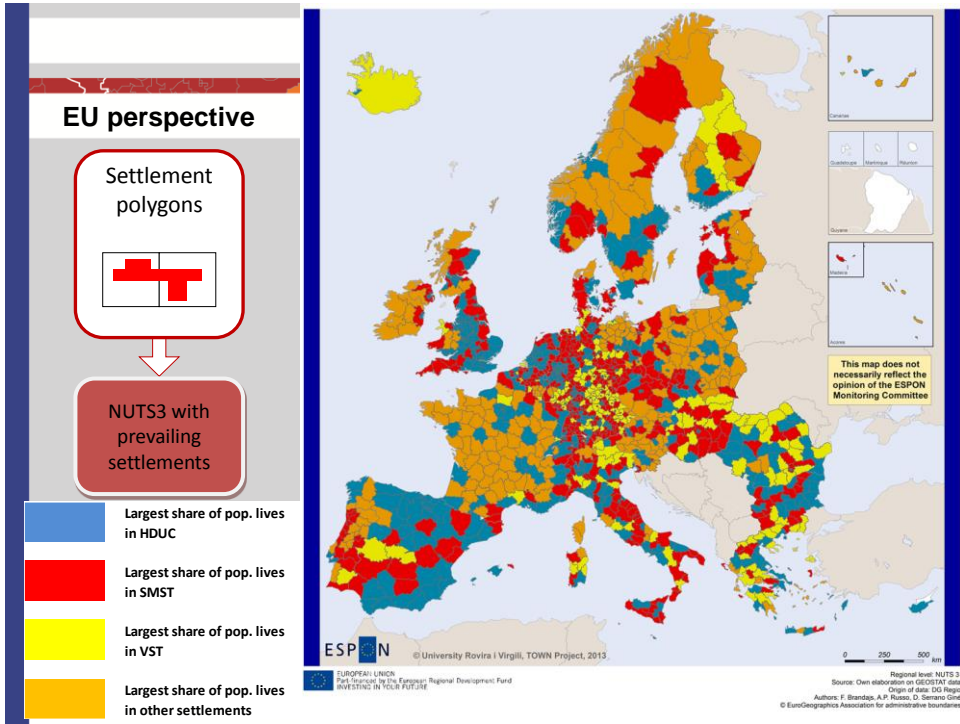
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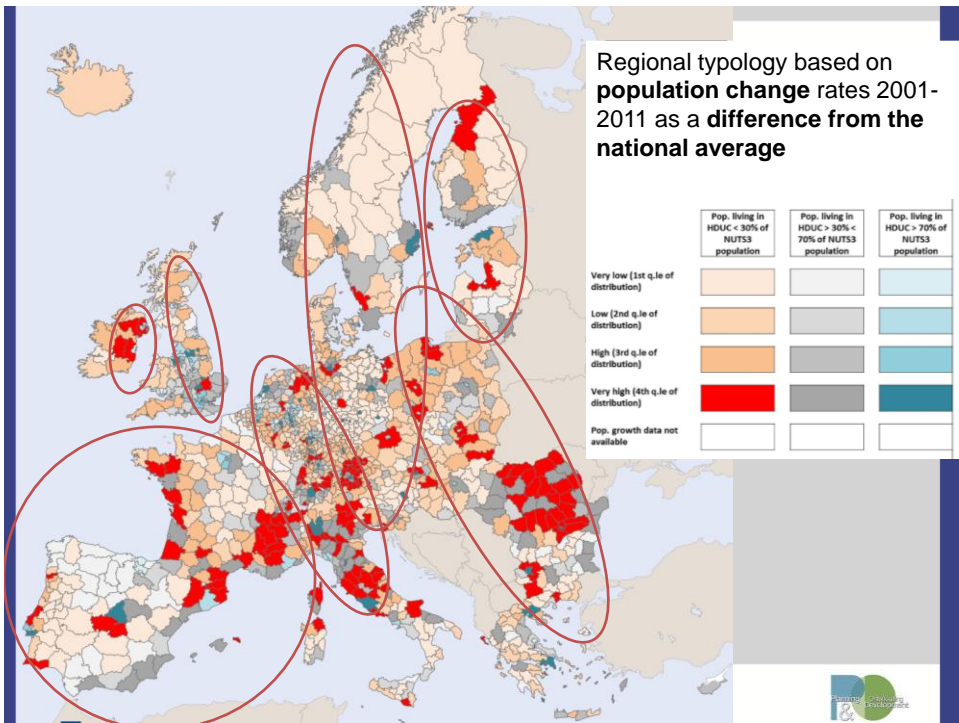
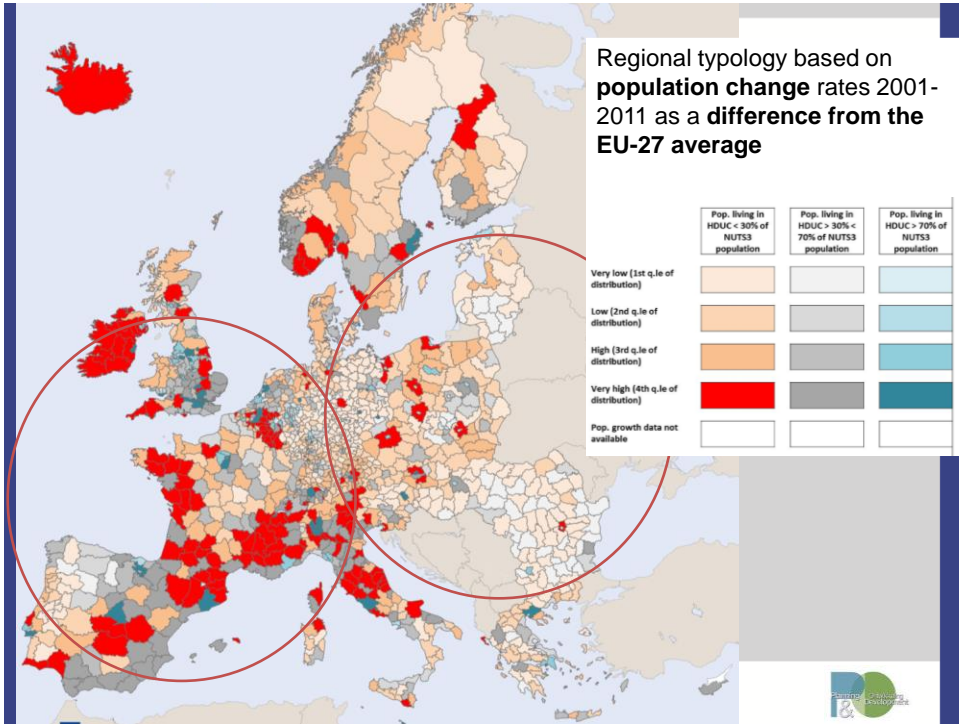
Dimension of population in smaller settlements

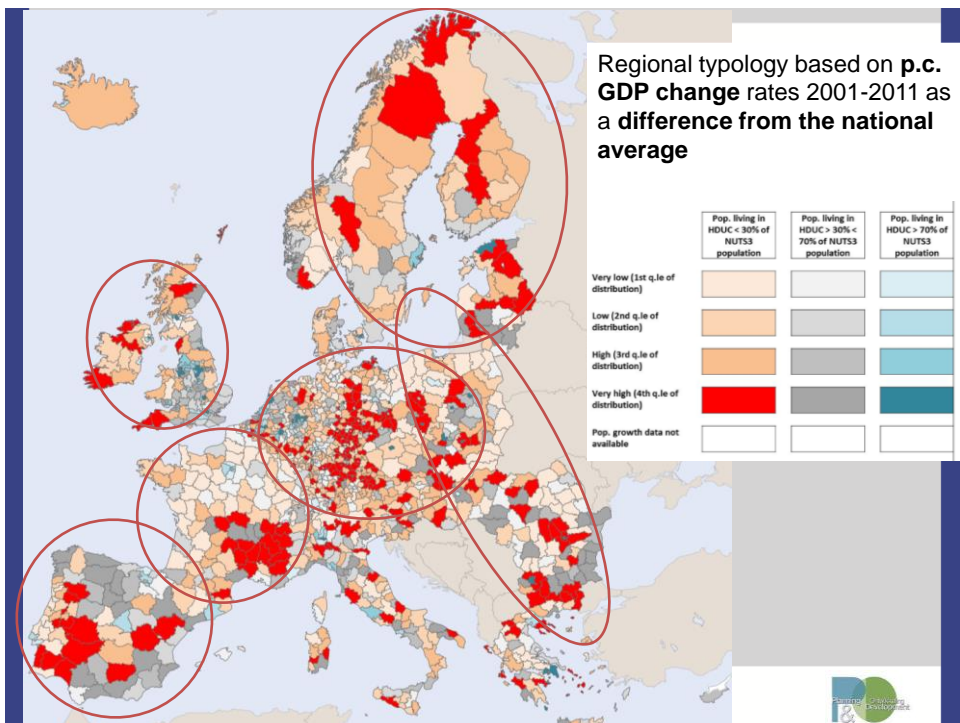
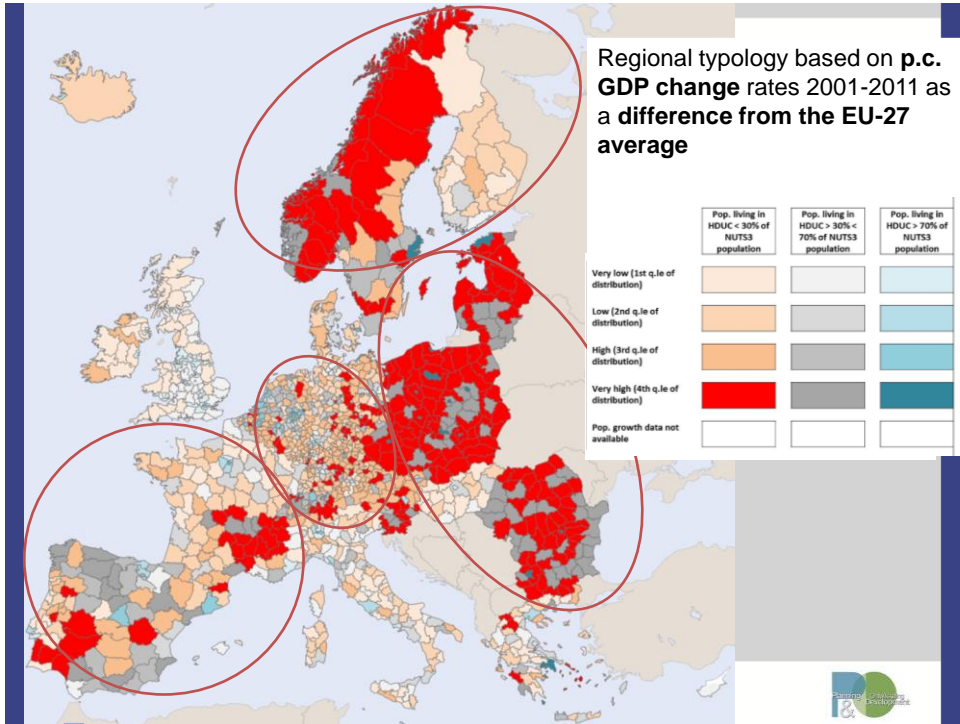
Classes	Delimitation criteria	Count	Av. Pop	Av. Sq.km	Av. Density	Total pop. in this class	as % of ESPON space*
High-density Urban Clusters (HDUC)	Pop. > 50,000 Pop. Density > 1,500 inh/km ²	850	275,476	92.3	2,927.10	234,154,670	46.3%
Large SMST	Pop > 50,000, Pop. Density < 1,500 inh/km ²	100	132,331	101.8	1,299.6	13,233,142	2.6%
Medium SMST	25,000 < Pop < 50,000, Pop. Density > 300 inh/km ²	966	35,163	19.7	2,060.59	33,967,357	6.7%
Small SMST	5,000 < Pop < 25,000, Pop. Density > 300 inh/km ²	7348	10,242	7.6	1,470.09	75,254,510	14.9%
Very Small Towns (VST)	Pop. < 5,000 Pop. Density > 300 inh./km ²	69,043	1,193	1.7	699.3	82,376,586	16.3%

* Including EU 27+ Iceland, Norway, Lichtenstein, Switzerland

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General reflections – trends in Europe

- Do SMSTs across Europe present ‘**common trends**’?

Importance of **macro spatial trends**

- Regions with smaller settlements may have less inertial capacity to bounce them back

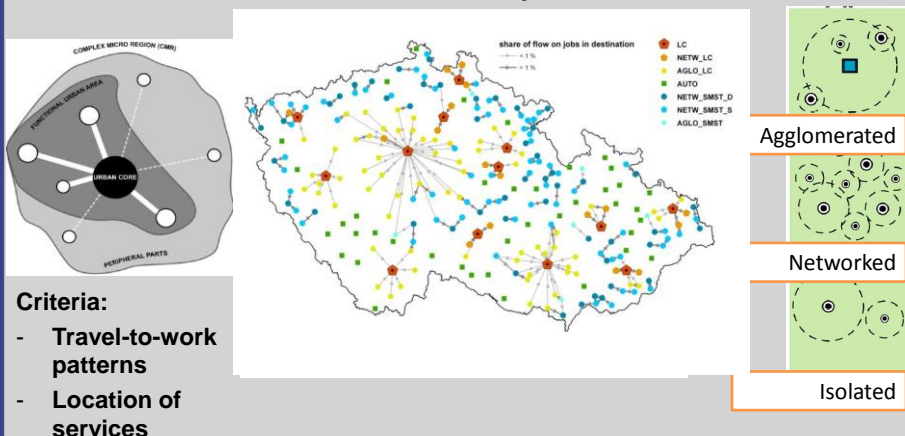
Combination of **macro/meso dynamics** and **local trajectories**

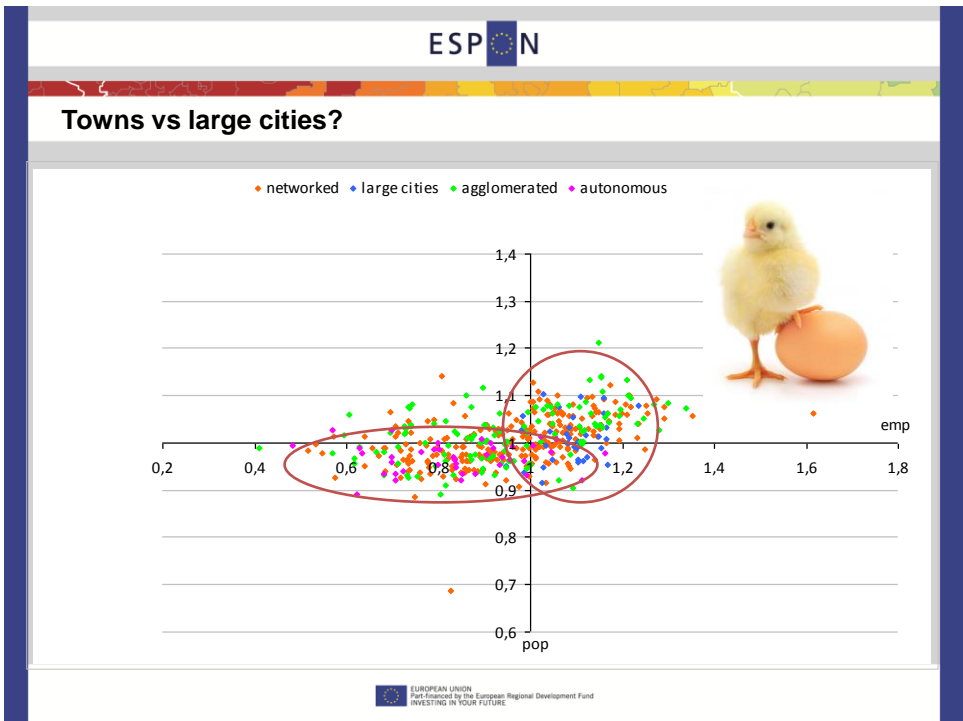
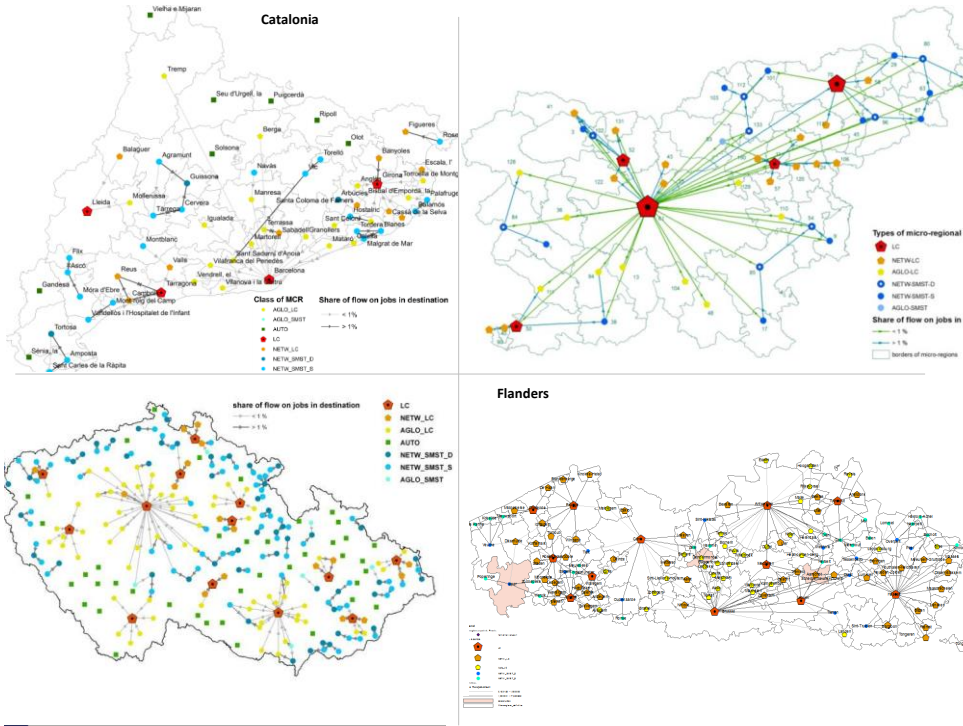
- Socio-spatial configurations with a specific regional dependency (e.g. surrounding larger urban regions)
 - High variety of socio-economic performances (much higher than larger urban areas)
- EU/National policies matter?



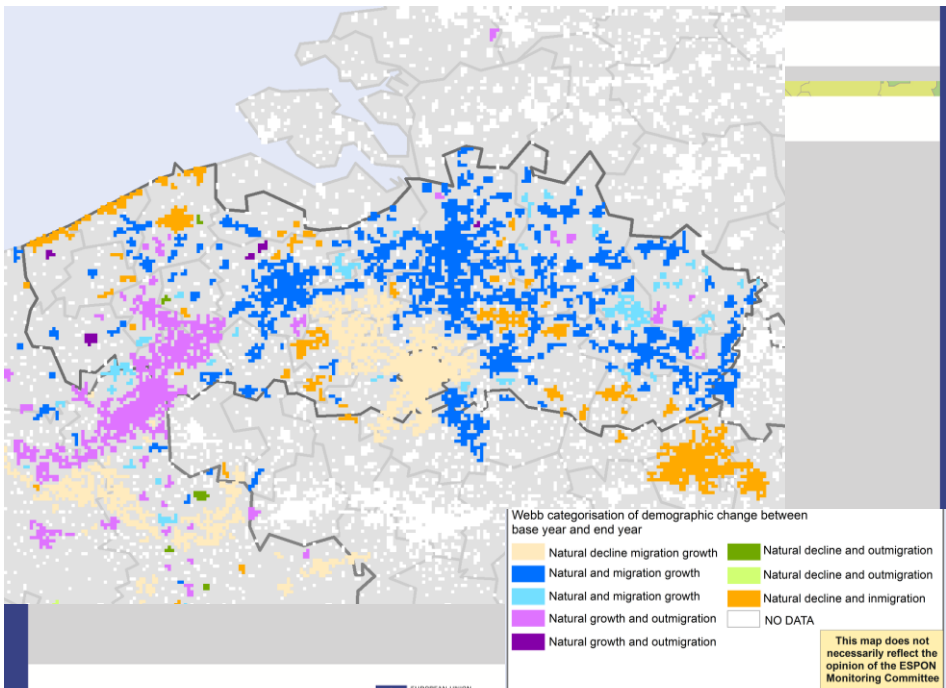
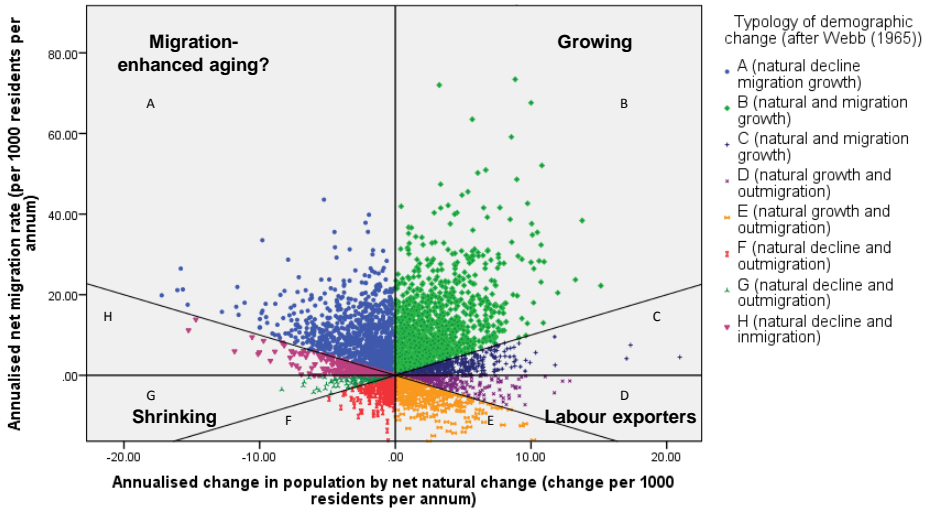
Towns vs large cities?

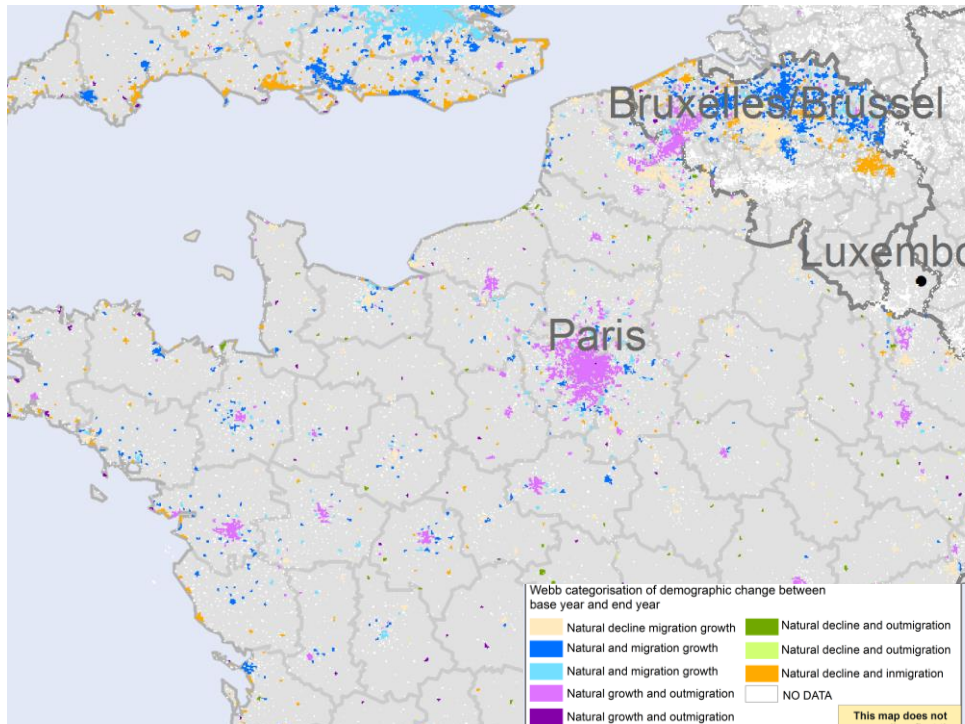
Functional identification of urban systems and their cores





Regional clusters



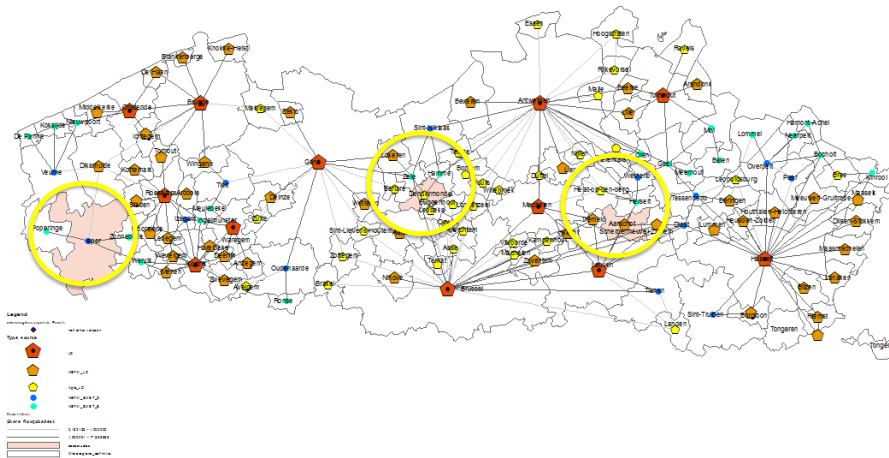
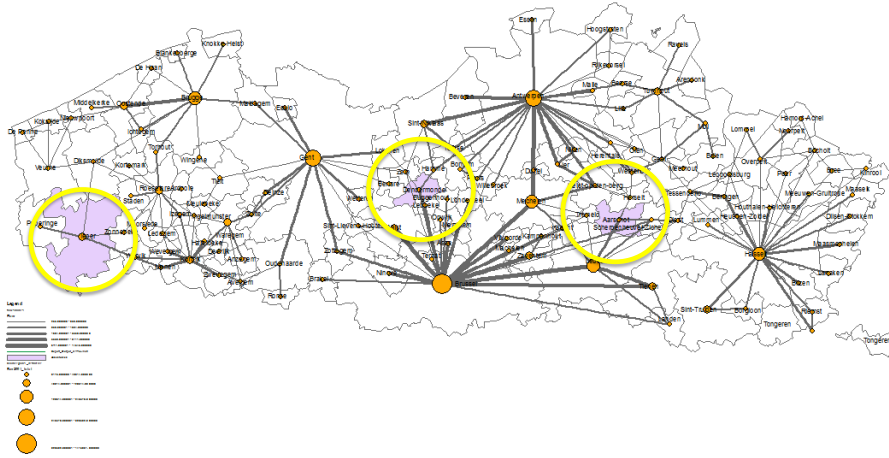
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Clusters of problem sets

Do SMSTs across Europe face 'common problems'?

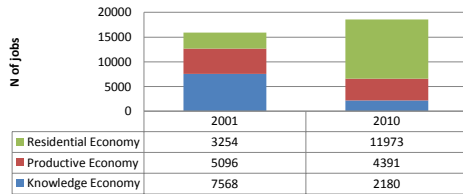
- Social and economic problems for SMSTs are only 'common' in an abstract sense
 - In practice the 'problems' of towns are **mainly** framed by:
 - their national/regional context
 - spatial type (coastal, mountain, post-industrial, etc.)
- (clusters of 'problem-sets')**





Socioeconomic profiling of SMSTs: Ieper (B)

Ieper: Number of jobs by economic profile



Residential economy:

- Centre of the Westhoek (commercial, services of general interest)
- Tourism and recreation – war peace tourism and rural tourism

Productive economy (> Flemish avg):

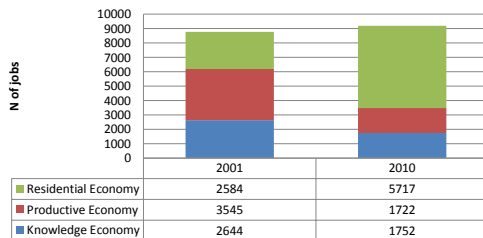
- Agriculture + processing industries
- some multinational companies (Picanol, McBright)

Knowledge economy

- Flanders Language Valley (Lernaut & Hauspie) went bankrupt in 2001 -> search for new functions

Socioeconomic profiling of SMSTs: Aarschot (B)

Aarschot: Number of jobs by economic profile



Residential economy:

- Central function within the arrondissement: schools, commercial centre

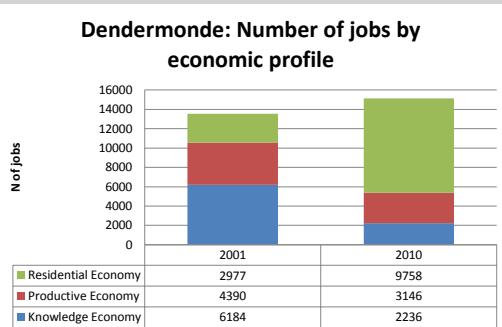
Productive economy:

- Strongly shrunk

Knowledge Economy:

- Shrunk, but ongoing strategies to capitalize on proximity to Leuven

Socioeconomic profiling of SMSTs: Dendermonde (B)



Residential economy:

- Centrum function within the arrondissement: schools, juridical functions, commercial centre

Productive economy:

- Strongly shrank

Knowledge Economy:

- very important downfall between 2001 and 2011

Summing up

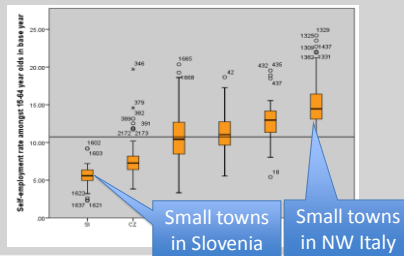
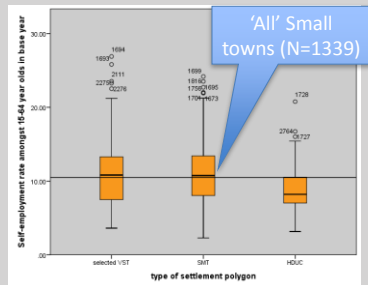
Some evidence:

- *Settlements agglomerated in larger metropolitan areas are destabilised*
 - *on the one hand by suburbanisation, and*
 - *on the other hand by a re-concentration of jobs and services in cities*
- Successful cases are those one strategically working on diversification and innovation
- Evidence suggest the presence of **integrated territorial systems**, in which urban areas are tightly integrated and complementing each others

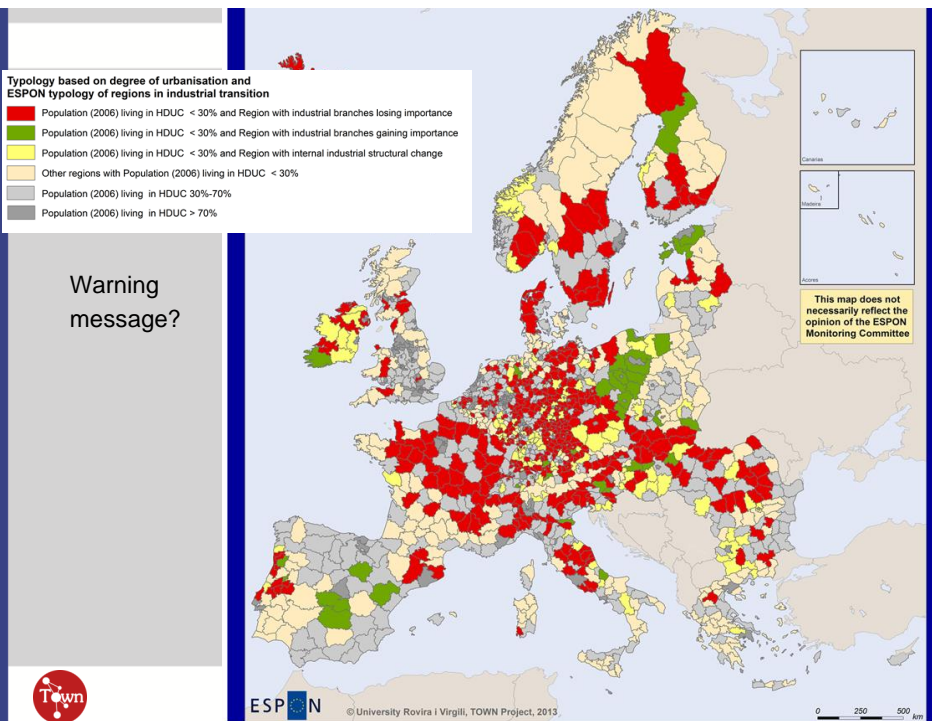
Socio-economic and administrative issues

On average, SMSTs (in database) are different from large cities on a range of **socio-economic issues**

- greater proportion of industrial employment;
- A significantly smaller proportion of jobs (on average) in private marketed services and in public services in comparison to HDUCs;
- more self-employment, less diverse in sectorial mix



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Considerations

- Importance of supporting diversification of economic profiles
- Taking in consideration higher number of self-employment and specific socially-bound dynamics

(> tailored policies and territorial tacit knowledge)

But:

- is the local administrative level the right one?
- Does it have the right capacities?
- Is the appropriate territory?

Administrative mismatch

(> coordination and micro-regionalism)

	N (SMST polygons in database)	Mean number of intersections between SMST polygons and:	
		local authority units (LAU)	NUTS3 regions (2006)
Belgium (BE)	184	1.23	1.05
Czech Republic (CZ)	222	1.73	1.01
Spain (ES)	65	1.78	1.00
France (FR)	881	2.89	1.06
Italy (IT)	252	2.41	1.11
Poland (PL)	42	1.33	1.02
Sweden (SE)	41	1.00	1.00
Slovenia (SI)	43	1.26	1.00
England & Wales (UK)	574	1.19	1.12
Total	2304	2.05	1.07

! Policy message

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3. Policy reflections

- Understanding **town needs and opportunities**
 - Giving SMSTs a voice in regional debates
 - Tailored measures (place-based approach?)
 - Tacit knowledge and socially-bound dynamics
 - Supporting alternative visions of the local economy
- Supporting the definition of **micro-regionalism processes**
 - Building synergies through cooperation
 - Territorial governance:
 - Multilevel and horizontal cooperation
 - Policies tailoring functional territory
- Working on **town administrative capacity**
 - Increasing local leadership
 - Knowledge/ access to different funding opportunities



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CLLD?

Enough?

European Economic and Social Committee

HEARING
Community Led Local Development (CLLD) as a tool of Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 for local, rural, urban and peri-urban development

29/09/2014 | Brussels

EESC | Jacques Delors Building
 Rue Belliard 99 | Room JDE 62



Accept the challenge of “thinking big about thinking small”!
 (Bell and Jayne, 2009)

THANK YOU

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