

**Examples of polycentric
territorial governance and
cooperation:**

Growth Poles in South-Eastern

Europe

ESPON Workshop

“Polycentric territorial structures:
What, where and when”

Brussels, 14 september 2016

Growth Poles in South-Eastern Europe (GROSEE) – how it started

- Opportunity to use ESPON expertise
- Analysis of the European polycentric structure and development scenarios (ESPON 2006)
- Interest to link Bucharest to other capitals in Central and South-East of Europe
- Good cooperation with our colleagues in the South-East of Europe

Growth Poles in South-Eastern Europe (GROSEE) – stakeholders

- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (Romania) – Lead stakeholder
- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (Bulgaria)
- Ministry of Development, Competitiveness and Shipping (Greece)
- More stakeholders involved: municipalities (Bucharest, Sofia, Athens), local/regional authorities (e.g. Attiki, Ilfov county)
- Other stakeholders interviewed

Growth Poles in South-Eastern Europe (GROSEE) – project team

- University of Bucharest – Lead partner
- National Technical University of Athens (Greece)
- Union of Architects in Bulgaria
- University “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” of Iași (Romania)

Growth Poles in South-Eastern Europe (GROSEE) – objectives

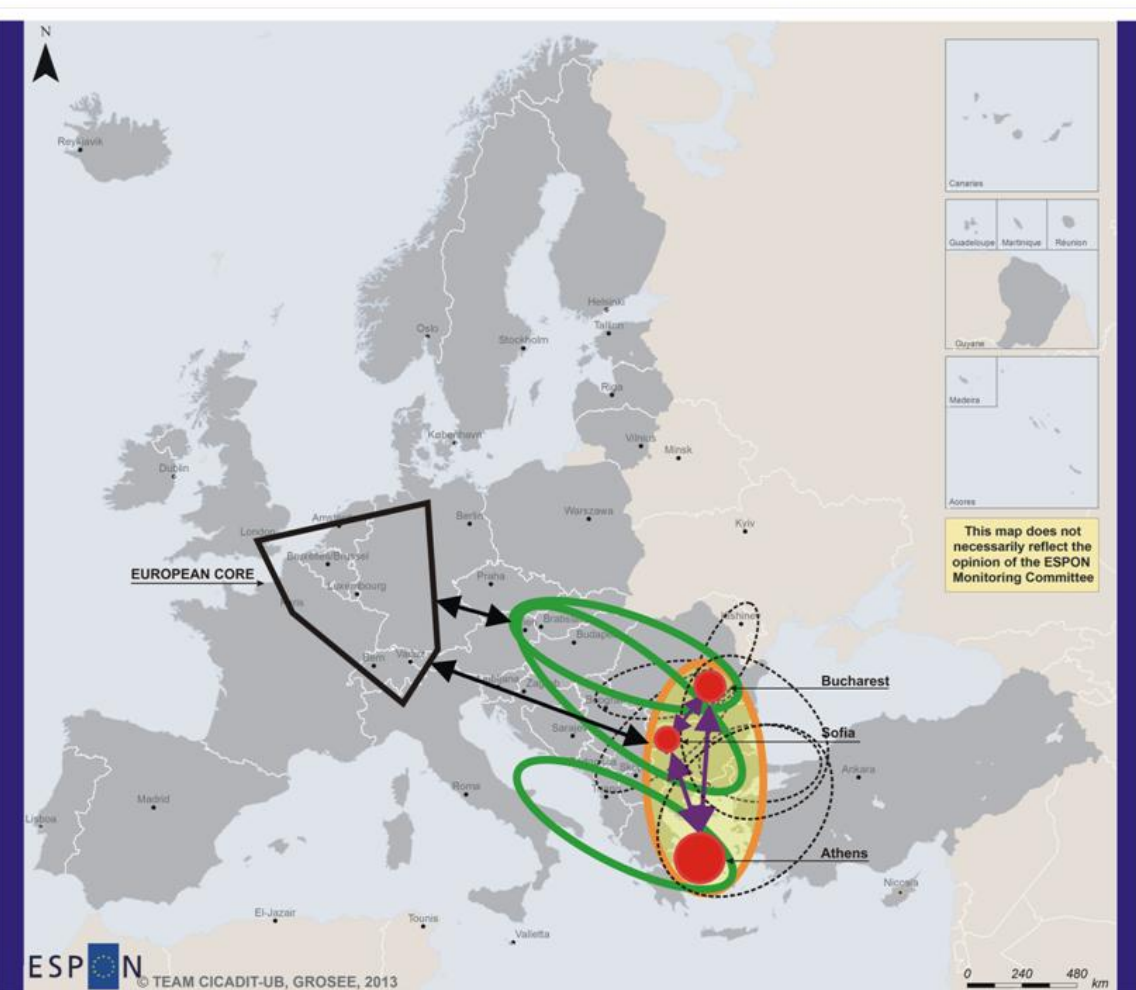
- Analysing the role of Bucharest, Athens and Sofia in the European polycentric network
- Identifying the drivers of competitiveness
- Recommendations for territorial cooperation in order to support the emergence of an integrated area of concentrated economic growth
- Analysing the relations between growth poles and metropolitan areas

Value added of territorial cooperation

- Opportunity for a broader perspective (beyond national borders):
 - Context at supra-national level
 - Cross-border effects
 - Synergic effects
- Using best practices from other cities experience
- More credibility for local stakeholders

Growth Poles in South-Eastern Europe (GROSEE) – main results

- Bucharest, Athens and Sofia are the main drivers of development in the area (e.g. creative workforce)
- Strong diversity
- Traditional economic relations and cooperation
- Different relations between the three capitals and their surrounding territory – reshaping is needed
- TEN-T connection (continued to Baltic Sea) is crucial
- Role of other poles (e.g. Giurgiu, Ruse, Plovdiv, Thessaloniki, Larisa) is significant



Key findings

- Bucharest, Athens and Sofia are the main drivers of competitiveness in South-Eastern Europe
- Emergence of secondary poles (e.g. Thessaloniki, Timișoara) to balance polycentric development
- Danube corridor and the Black Sea - important for the accessibility and flows within South-East of Europe
- Completion of TEN-T will lead to significant decrease of travel time

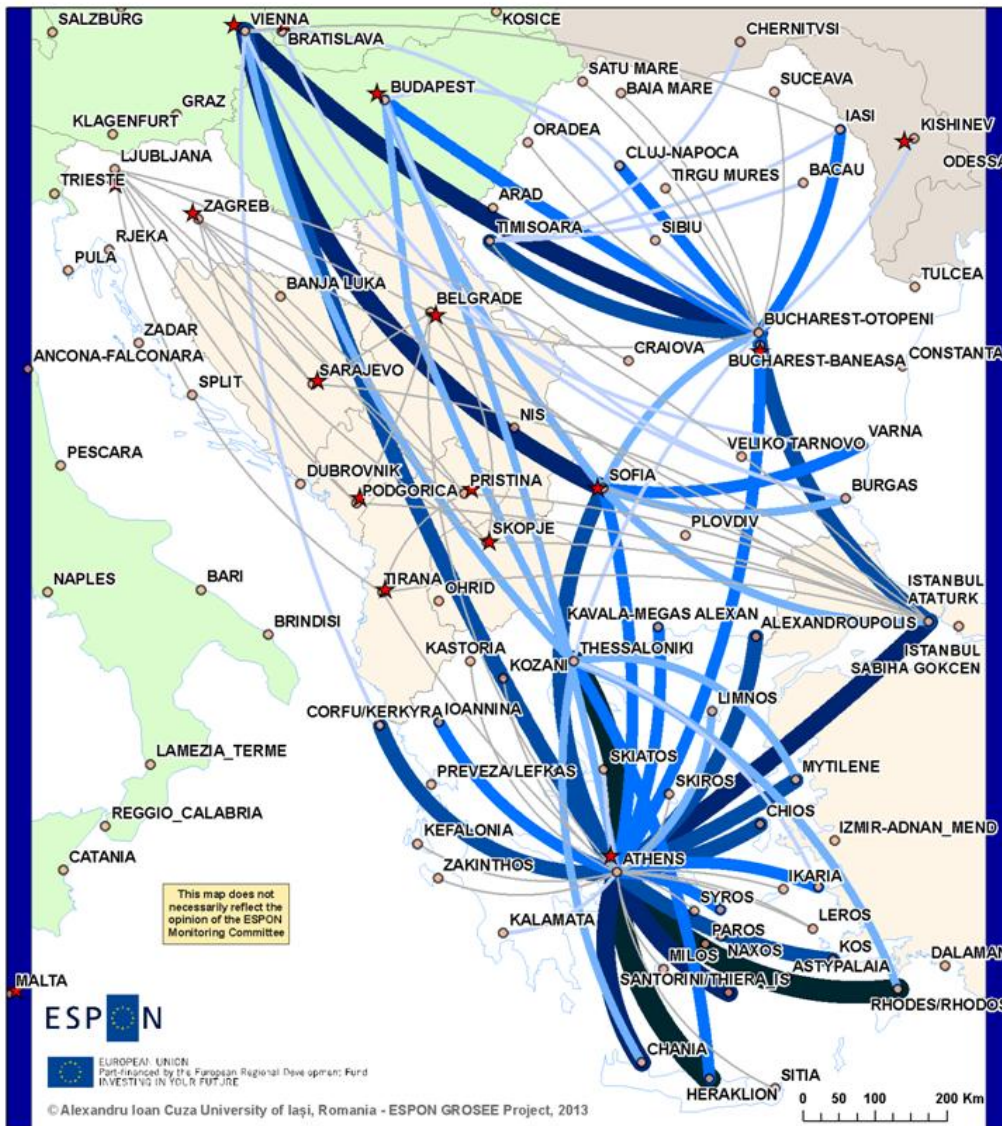
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Regional level: NUTS 0
 Source: CICADIT-UB, 2013
 Origin of data: ESPON MAP Kit, 2013
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LEGEND

- Areas and directions of strong and very strong relationships
- Areas of weak relationships
- Area and directions of strong relationships in the SEE
- Population size

Air traffic flows and routes in SE Europe by number of passengers in 2010



Key findings

- Bucharest, Athens and Sofia are hubs for national polycentric networks
- Limited links between the three capitals
- Importance of other regional metropolises (Istanbul, Belgrade) for the larger context

Air Routes in SEE

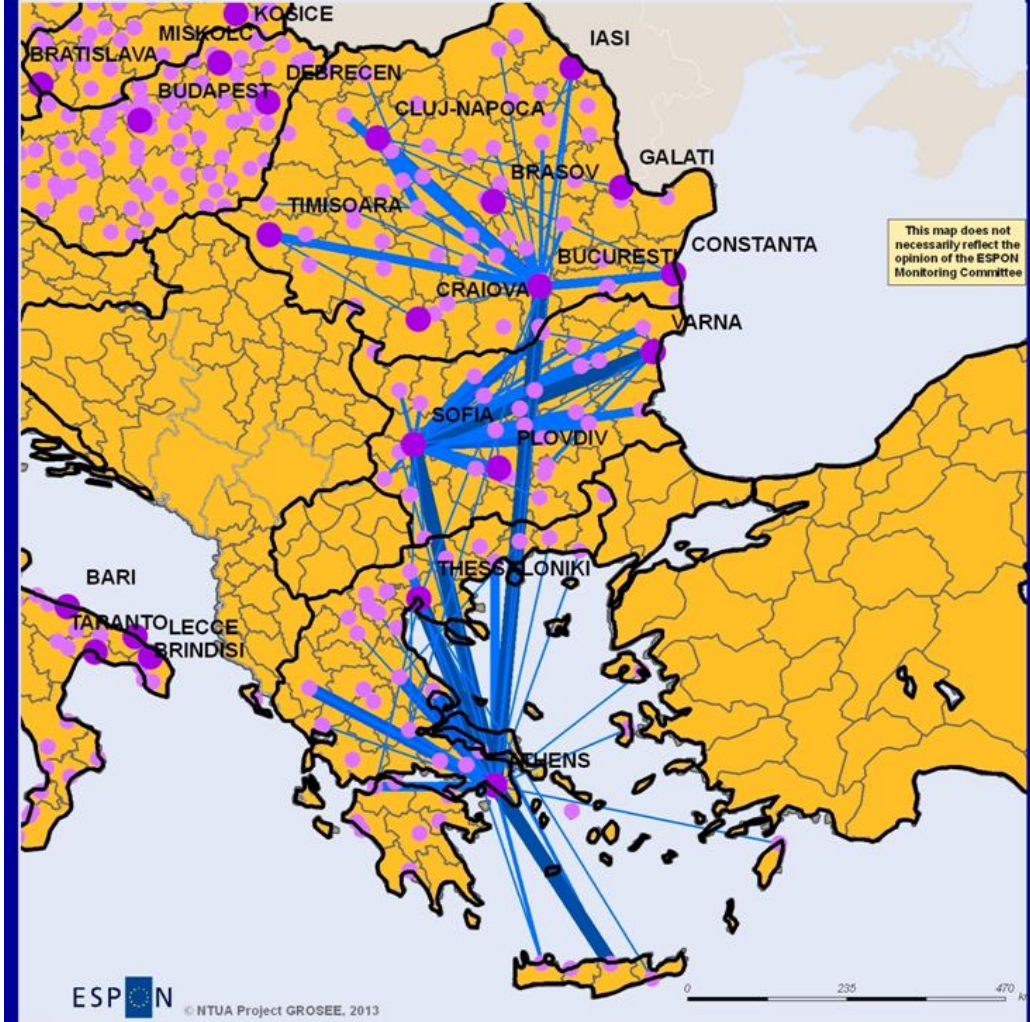
No of Passengers



This indicator - Air traffic flows and routes reflects the mean number of one-way passengers between two destinations in 2010

Data sources: EUROSTAT, ACI World traffic Report 2009, National Aviation Administrations
Vector source - ESPON, Eurostat GISCO, JRC TransTools

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Key findings

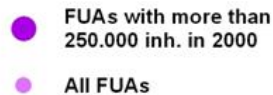
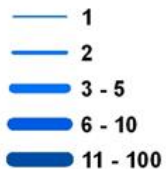
- Bucharest, Athens and Sofia are confirmed as main hubs in national polycentric networks
- There are traditional links between Athens, Sofia and Bucharest;
- Links seem to be oriented more to Central and Western Europe

ESPON
 © NTUA Project GROSEE, 2013

Regional level: FUAs
 Source: ESPON FOCI project 2010 Author of the Map: M. Angelidis
 Origin of data: ORBIS database, 2008
 © EuroGeographics Association for administrative boundaries

FUAs: Intensity of firms' links (ORBIS database)

Number of subsidiaries links
 from FUA to FUA of SEE



Policy recommendations and future opportunities

- Strengthen the Bucharest – Sofia – Athens axis
 - Support the coordination of initiatives for cooperation between the three metropolises
 - Create a centre for research for South Eastern Europe – environment, transport networks, sustainable development of urban systems
 - Develop a network platform for SMEs
 - Applying good practices of Athens urban planning
- These recommendations were useful and helped us improve strategic documents for territorial development at national and cross-border level.

Perspectives for future cooperation

- Awareness of the importance of territorial cooperation between partners in this region;
- Knowledge of the potential for cooperation between countries, capitals and cities within the region;
- Detecting items of common interest and of strategic interest for the EU.

Thank you for your attention!

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