



# «Are European cities too small?»

Vision and Scenarios for the European Territory towards 2050

**Urban Agenda**  
see [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)



# Largest world emerging megalopolis































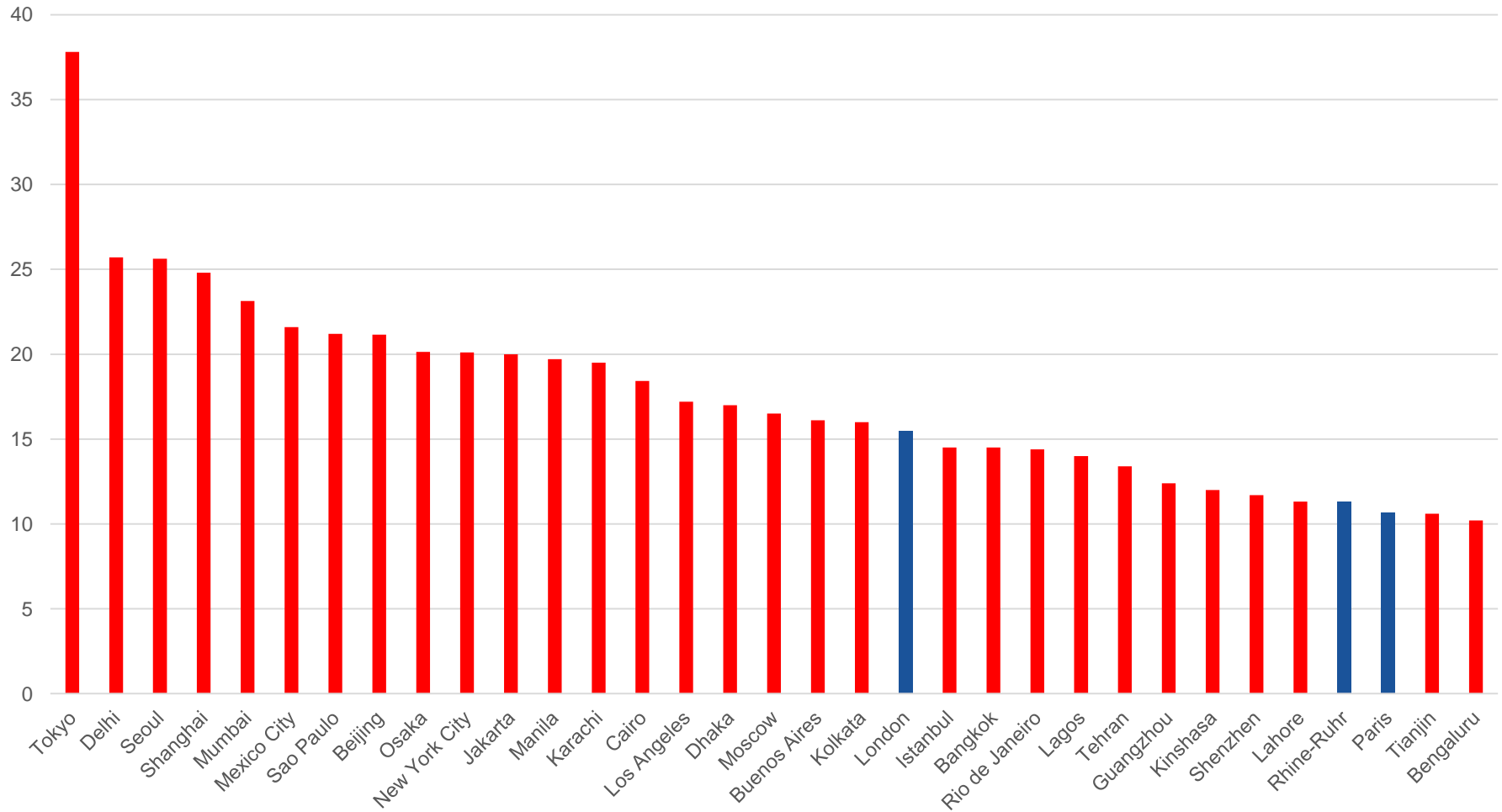






# «Are European cities too small?»

Size of largest world cities (Milion of inhabitants)



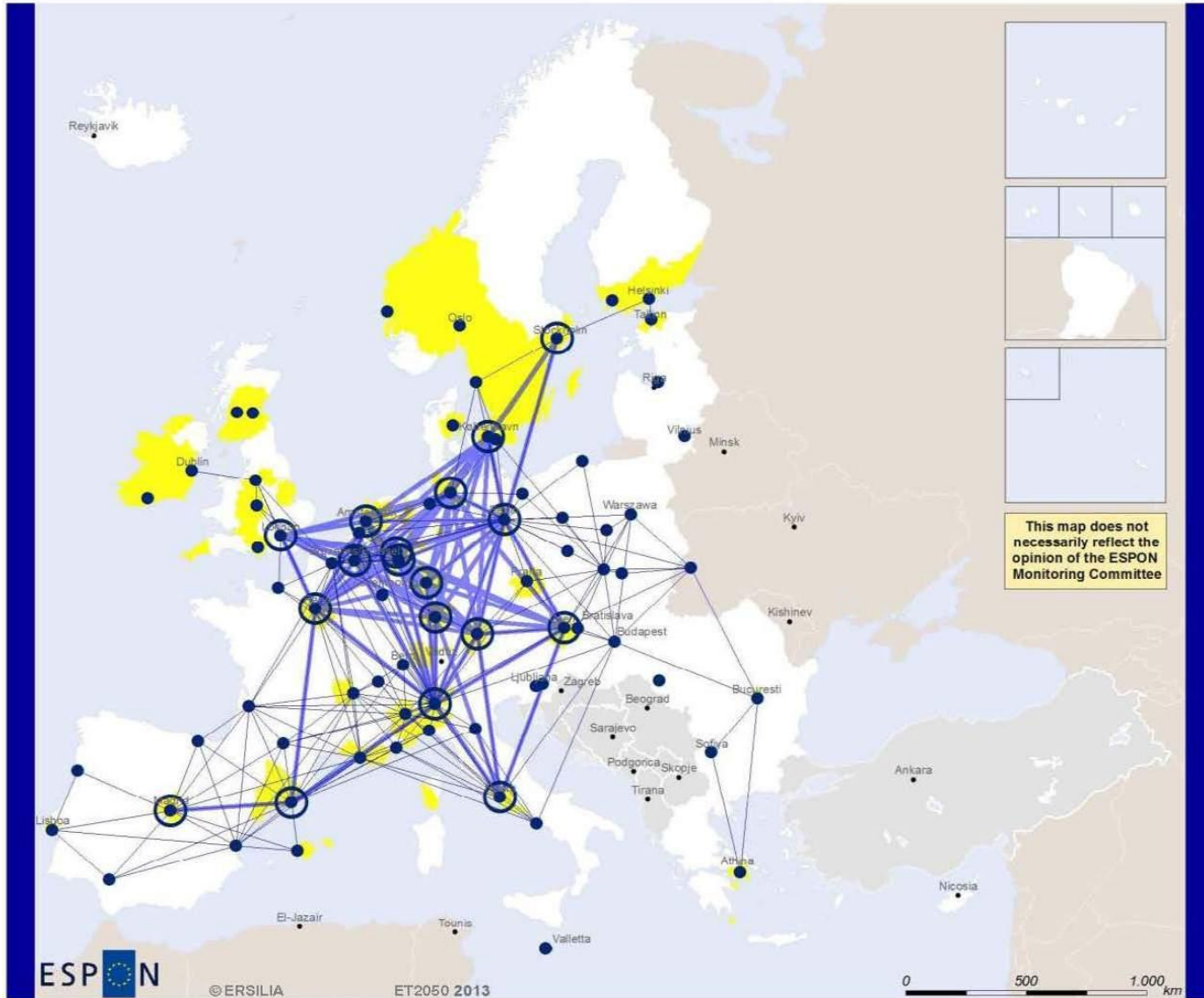
## European Territorial Legacy: Visions & Strategies: 1968 to 2014

- European Outline Convention (1968)
- European Spatial Planning Charter (1983)
- Europe 2000: Outlook for the development of the Community's territory (1991)
- Europe 2000+, Cooperation for European territorial development (1994)
- ESDP: European Spatial Development Prospective (1999)
- SPSP: Study Program on Spatial Planning (2000)
- ESPON: European Observation Network for Territorial Development (3.2, 2006)
- Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion (2008)
- Territorial Agenda 2020 (2007, 2011)
- ESPON/ET2050 “**Making Europe Open and Polycentric**”



# European Territorial Strategy A : Promotion of Global Cities (MEGAs)

A



ESPON

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ET2050 2013



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Regional level: NUTS 3

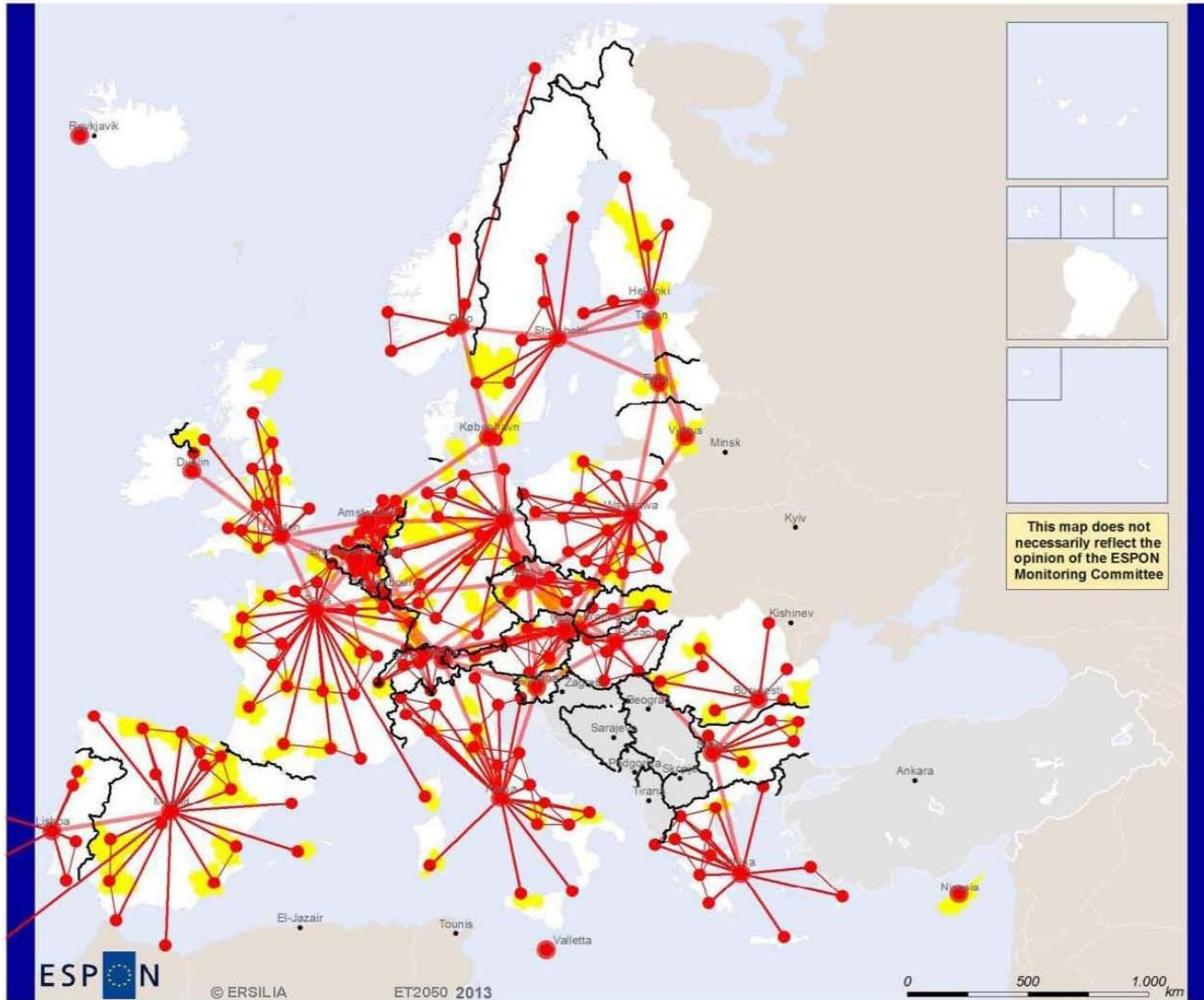
Source: MCRIT, 2013

Origin of data: SASI model, 2013

© EuroGeographics Association for administrative boundaries

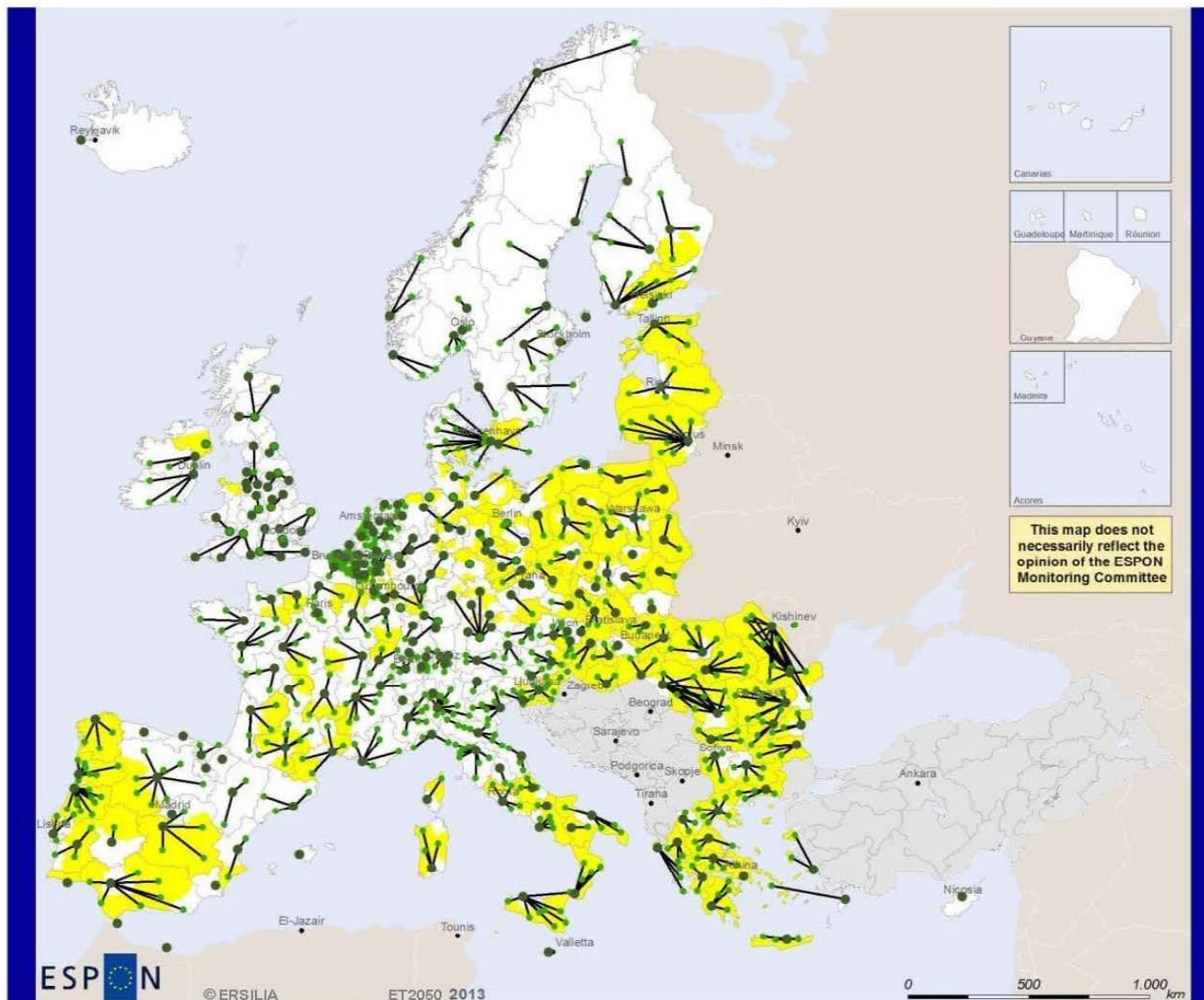
# European Territorial Strategy B: Promotion of Networks of Cities

**B**



# European Territorial Strategy C: Promotion of Rural and Peripheral Regions

C



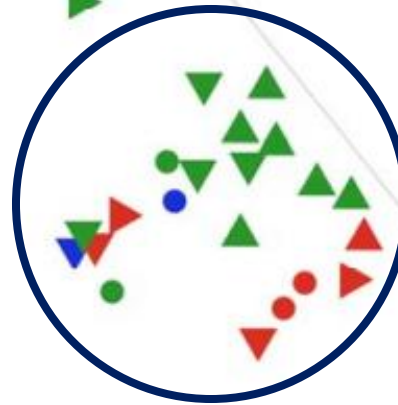
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**C**

Promotion of Rural & Peripheral Regions



**A**

Promotion of Networks of Cities

**B**

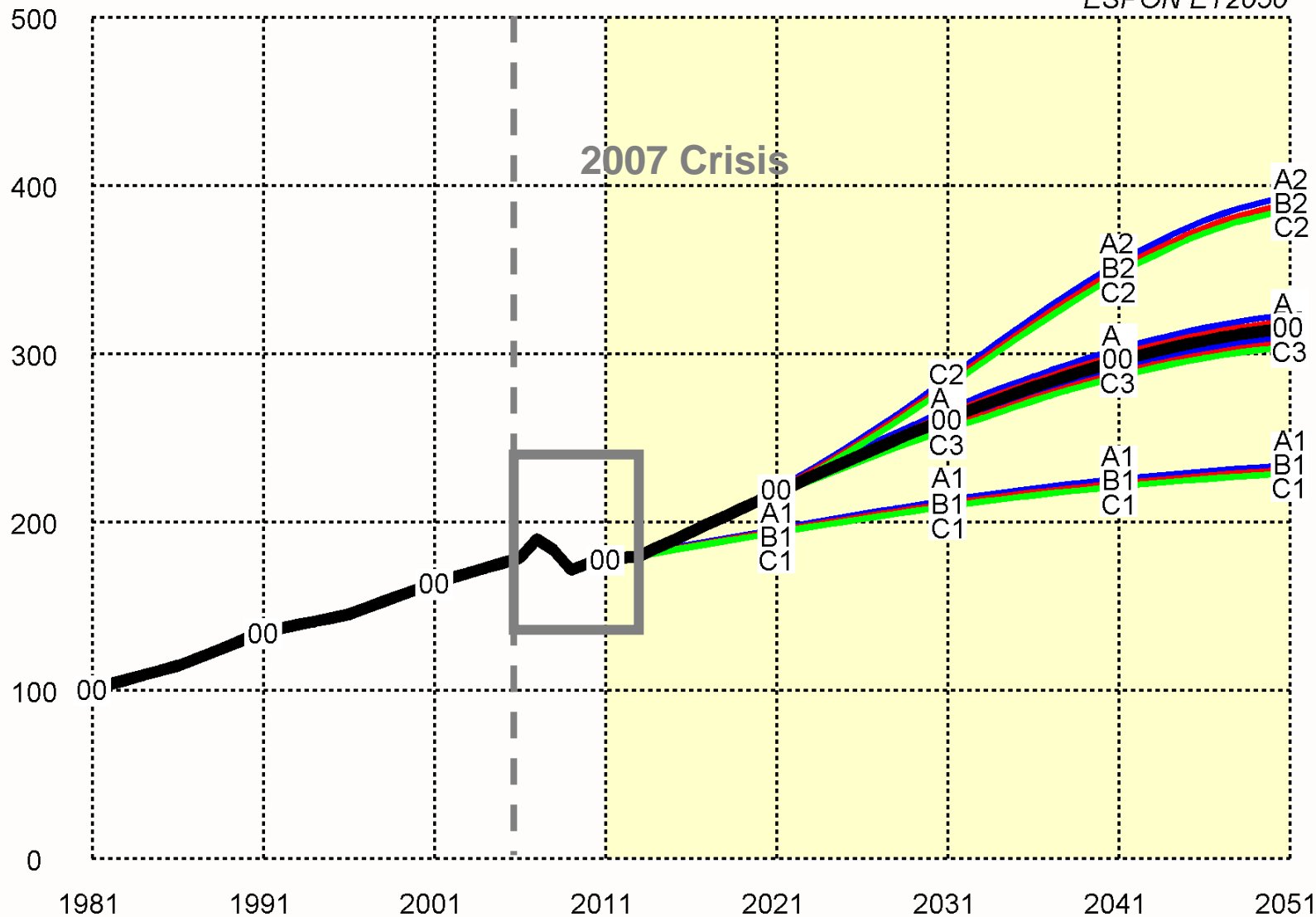
- ▶ Eastern Europe
- ▼ Southern Europe
- ▲ Northern Europe
- Central Europe

# Exploratory Scenarios for 2010-2050

Spatial orientation of the scenarios	Extreme Framework conditions			
		1 Economic decline	2 Technologic progress	3 Energy/ Climate Costs
Promotion of global regions	<b>A</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>A2</b>	<b>A3</b>
Promotion of large urban regions	<b>B</b>	<b>B1</b>	<b>B2</b>	<b>B3</b>
Promotion of rural and peripheral regions	<b>C</b>	<b>C1</b>	<b>C2</b>	<b>C3</b>

## GDP 1981-2051 (1981=100)

ESPON ET2050

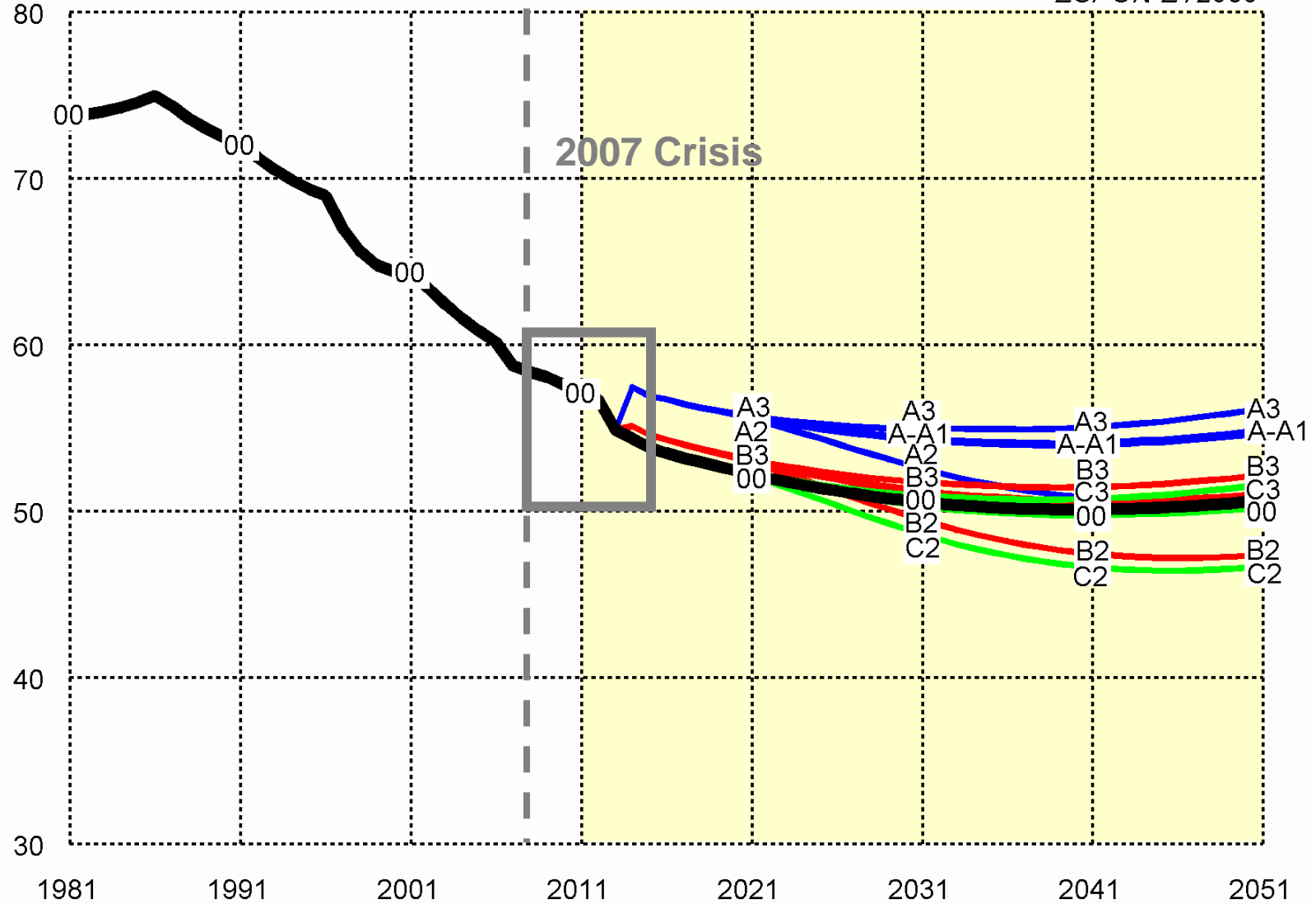




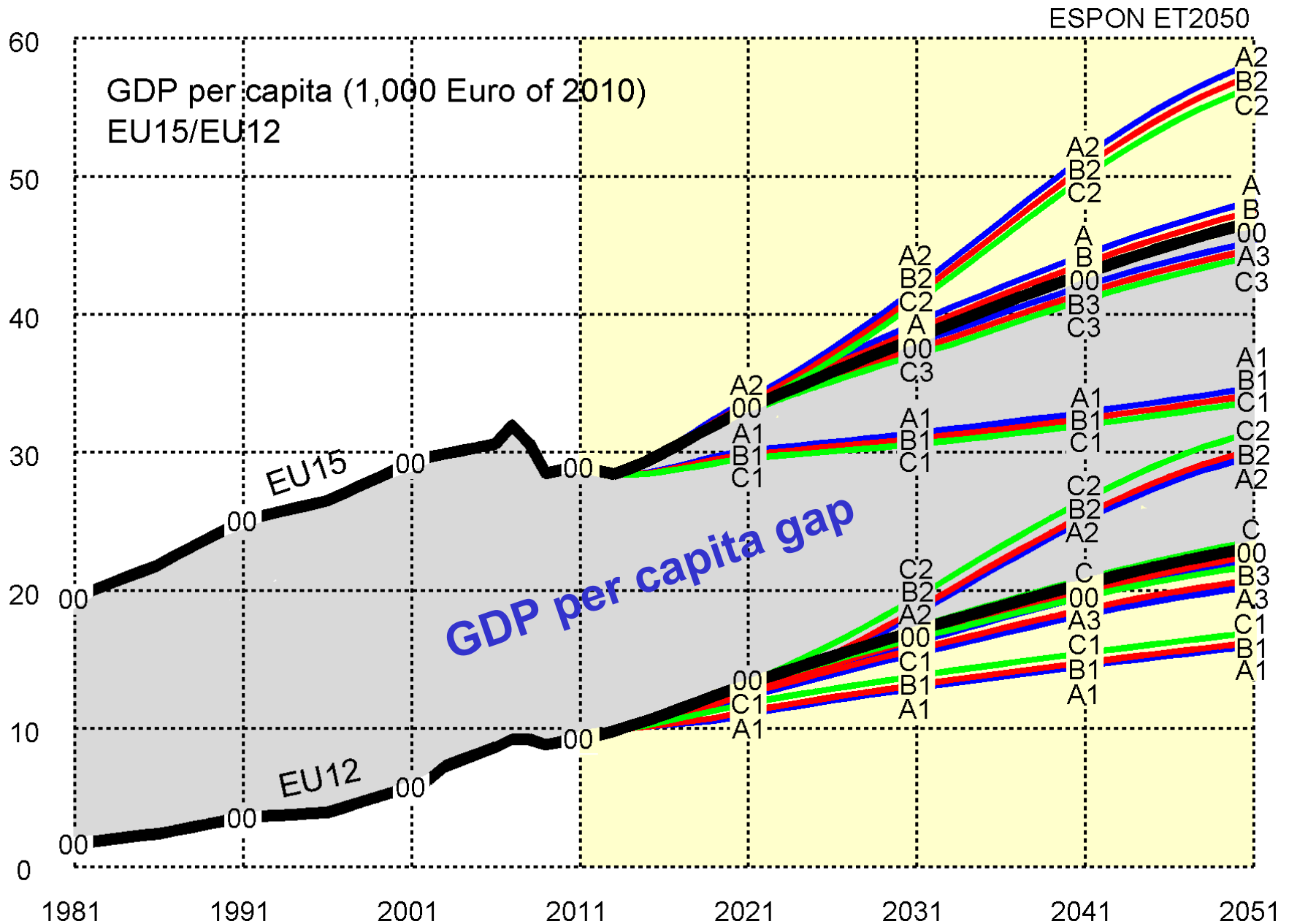
# More decentralised public investments improves Cohesion

## Cohesion: Reduction of disparities in CoV of GDP/capita 1981-2051

ESPON ET2050



# Absolute disparities will likely remain



## Conclusions to build up a Vision towards 2050:

- Best Strategy: **More Polycentricity**
  - Promotion of secondary city/regions
  - Further decentralised, interconnected networks
  - Support to less developed regions
- Assuming as framework assumption: **Technologic progress**
  - Increasing productivity, network economies more relevant than agglomeration economies
  - Energy costs maintained: successful transition towards a low carbon economy
  - Efficient land and resource management



# Territorial Vision: ***Making Europe Open and Polycentric***

## First Policy-aim: ***Openness***

- Connecting Europe globally
- Promoting co-development with Neighbouring regions

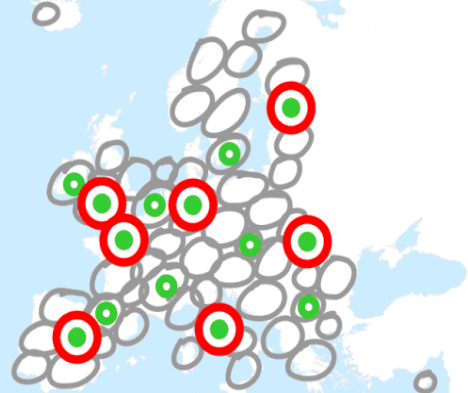
## Second Policy-aim: ***Polycentricity***

- Supporting a balanced urban structure
- Unleashing regional diversity and endogenous development
- Sustainable the management of natural and cultural assets

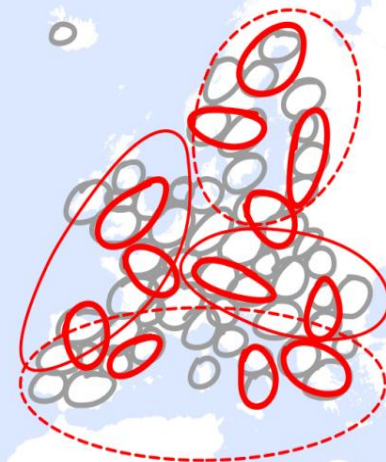
## Supporting a balanced urban structure



- **Promoting secondary city/regions as engines of growth**

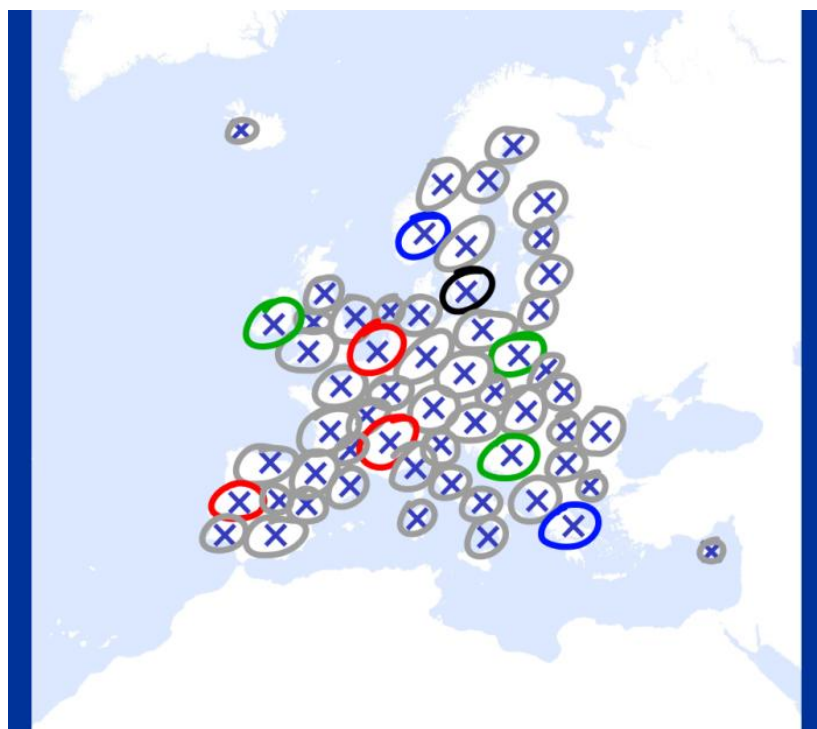


- **Smart and inclusive renewal of cities and neighbourhoods**



- **Integration of functional urban regions**

# Unleashing regional diversity and endogenous development



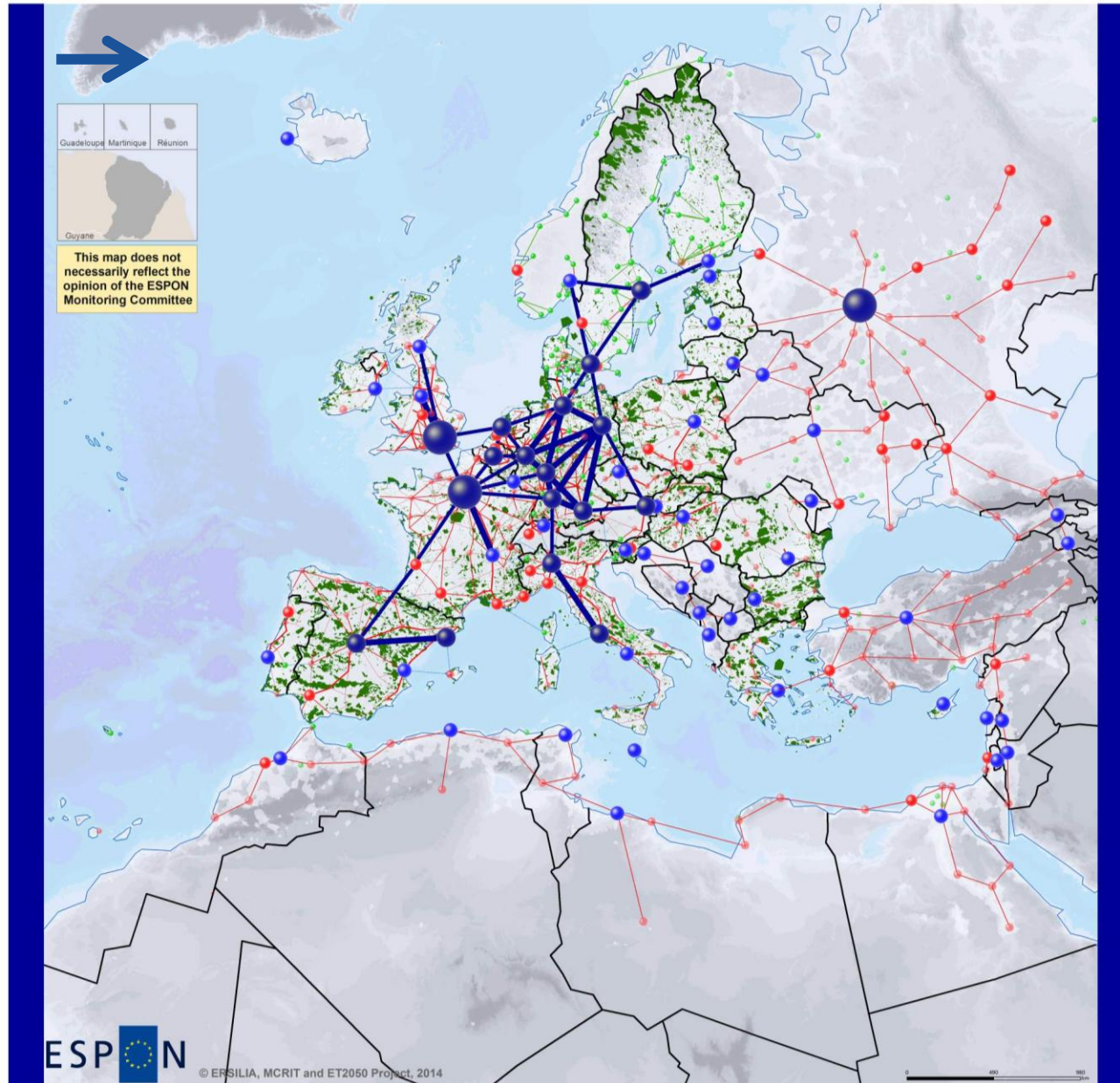
- **Sufficient accessibility to open up regional potentials.**



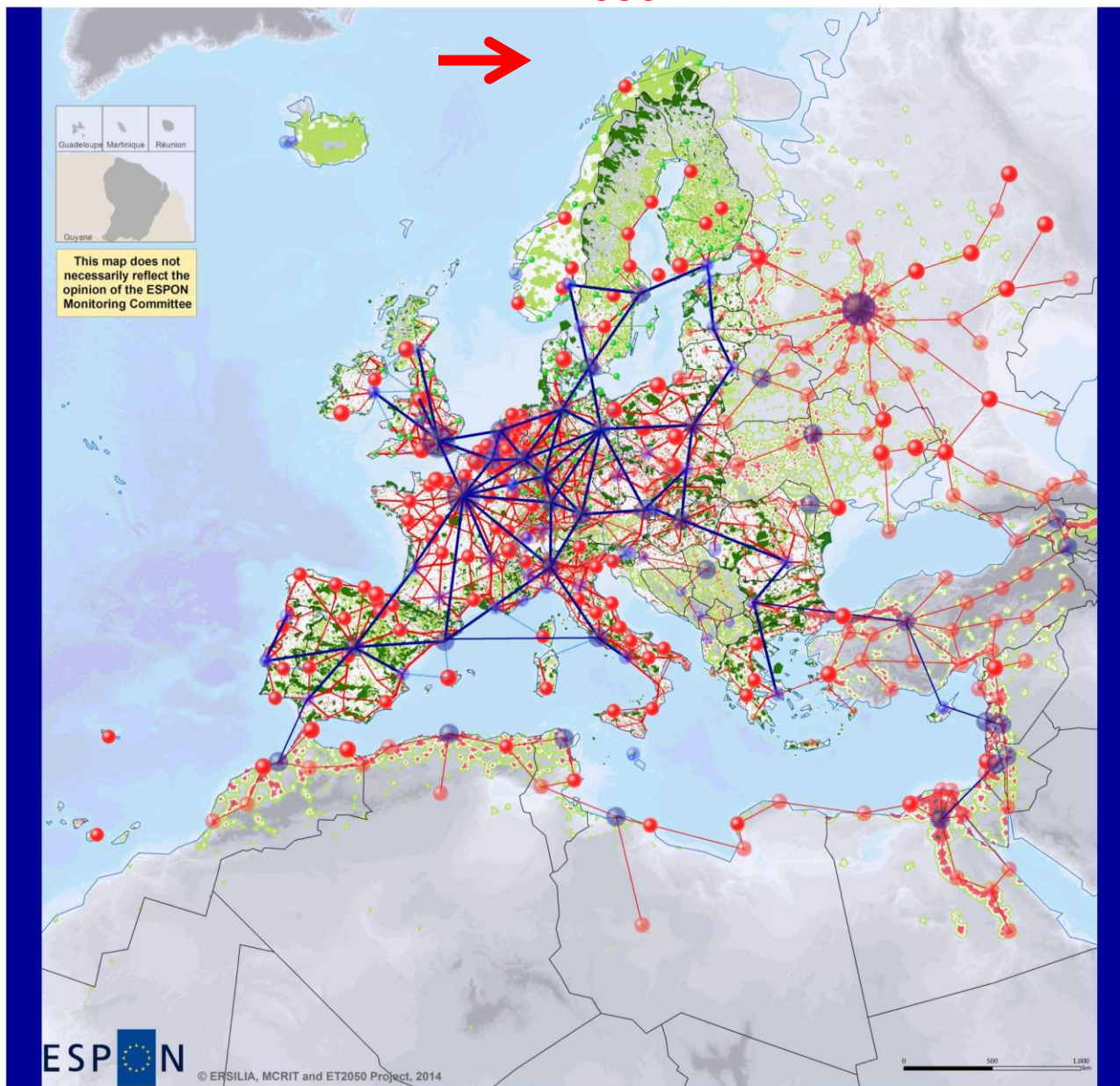
- **Universal access to services of general interest**



2020



2030



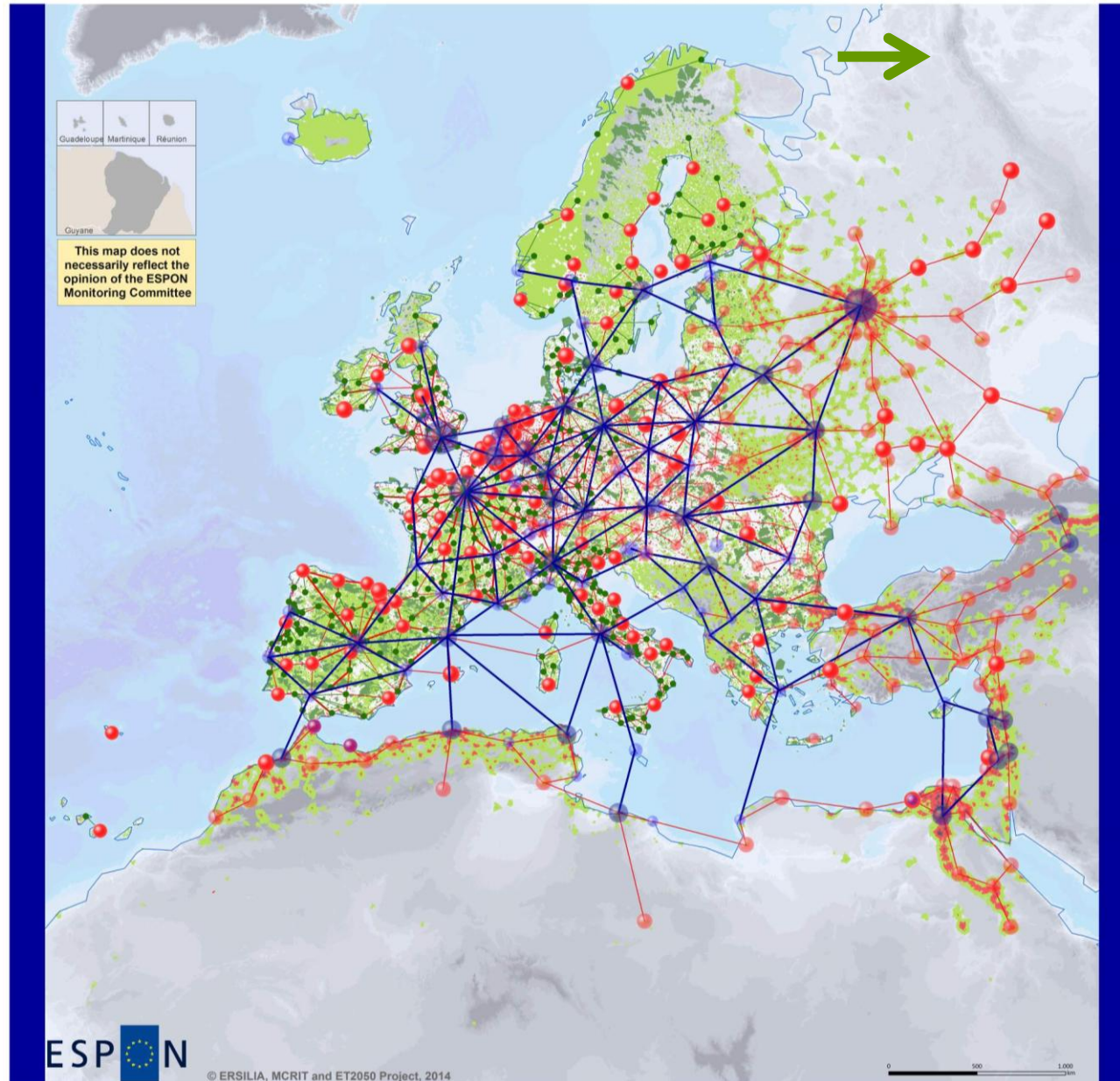
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2050





**«The issue in the 21th century is not much what to do, but how to do it»**

**Sigmund Bauman**