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# ESPON Workshop

Assessing Indicators for Territorial Cohesion  
What this day aims to bring

ESPON INTERCO project  
Brussels, 20 Oct. 2011



# The Transnational Project Group (TPG)

- Partners
  - University of Geneva, SWITZERLAND (Lead)
  - National Technical University of Athens, GREECE
  - Nordregio - Nordic Centre for Spatial Development, Stockholm, SWEDEN
- Experts
  - Spatial Foresight, Heisdorf, LUXEMBOURG
  - RRG Spatial Planning and Geoinformation, Oldenburg i.H., GERMANY

# From multiple dimensions (project specifications) ...

## Challenges

Global economic competition: Increasing global pressure to restructure and modernise, new emerging markets and technological development; Climate change: New hazard patterns, new potentials; Energy supply and efficiency: Increasing energy prices; Demography: Ageing and migration processes; Transport and accessibility / mobility: Saturation of euro-corridors, urban transport; Geographic structure of Europe: Territorial concentration of economic activities in the core area of Europe, and in capital cities in Member States of 2004, further EU enlargements.

## Policy orientations

Balanced territorial development; Strengthening a polycentric development by networking of city regions and cities; Urban drivers (large European cities, small and medium sized cities, suburbanisation, inner city imbalances); Development of the diversity of rural areas; Emphasis on ultra-peripheral, northern sparsely populated, mountain areas, islands; Creating new forms of partnership and territorial governance between urban and rural areas; Promoting competitive and innovative regional clusters; Strengthening and extending the Trans-European Networks; Promoting trans-European risk management including impacts of climate change; Strengthening ecological structures and cultural resources.

## Issues

Population and migration; Economic development and potentials; Social issues; Environmental issues; Cultural factors. Balance and polycentricity; Urban sprawl; Proximity to services of general interest; Border discontinuities; Geographical specificities; Sub-regional disparities; (Potential) accessibility; Natural assets; Cultural assets; Land (sea) use issues; Territorial cooperation options (urban-urban, rural-urban), etc. Climate change impact; Regional competitiveness; Territorial opportunities / potentials; Innovative creativity; Well-being standards, quality of live, etc.

## ... to a few indicators

- GDP per capita
- Population aged 25-64 with tertiary education
- Employment rate 20-64
- Polycentricity index
- Unemployment rate, differentiated by female/male
- Disposable household income
- Life expectancy at birth
- People at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion
- Accessibility of grocery services or to compulsory school
- Mortality/economic risk from multiple hazards
- Air pollution (e.g. PM10 / Ozone concentrations)
- Natural and environmental assets
- Regional governance indicators (QoG)
- ...

... reflecting on the main aspects of territorial cohesion !

## The main dimensions of territorial cohesion

- territorial structure
- connection
- competitiveness
- innovation
- inclusion
- environment quality
- energy
- cooperation/governance

## The approach

- thematic relevance
  - policies (the storylines, policy documents)
  - theoretical (litterature analysis)
- focus on outcomes (=> well-being)
  - e.g. life expectancy rather than health expenditures

# Better Life Initiative (OECD)

## Measuring Well-being and Progress

Conference “Two years after the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report”  
Paris, 12 Oct. 2011

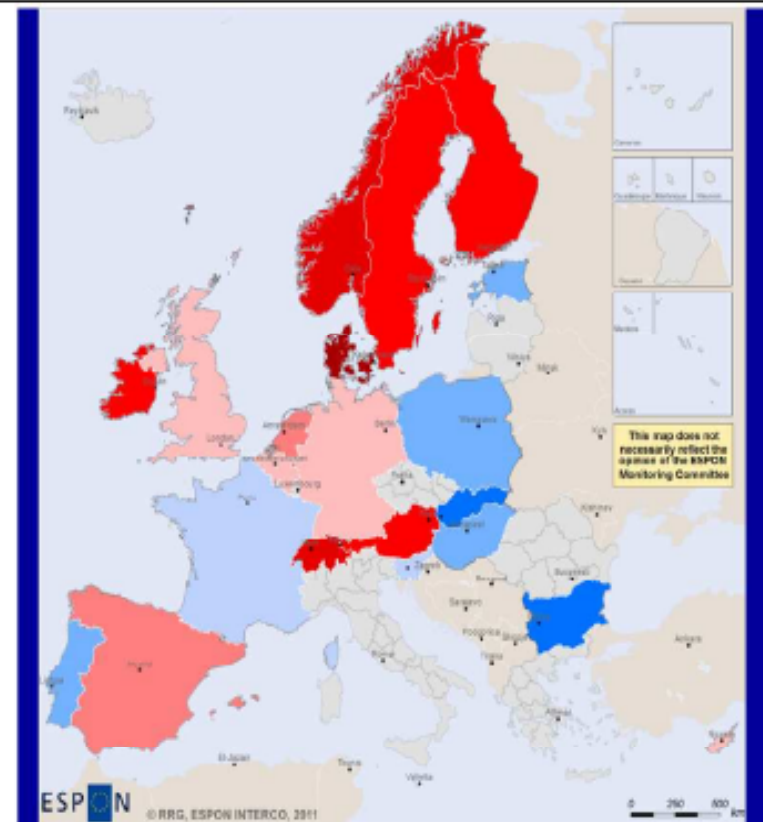


Your Better Life Index <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/>

# Subjective aspects : Happiness index

0 6 0 2 H I O W B 2 0 0 7 N O O R D

<b>Indicator name</b> Happiness index, overall well-being		
<b>Type of issue</b> Classical (sectoral) issues	<b>Category</b> Social and cultural affairs	<b>Reference</b> Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress
<b>Data source(s)</b> nef	<b>Year(s)</b> 2007	<b>Spatial level</b> NUTS-0
<b>Spatial coverage</b> ESPON Space	<b>Gaps</b> Data missing for CZ, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, RO, TR and Western Balkan	<b>General availability</b> 2007
<b>Indicator definition, indicator calculation (methodological remarks)</b> Happiness index overall well-being. Synthetic indicator with the following scale: 0 = worst, 5 = European average, 10 = best Indicator based upon evaluation results of questionnaires. Replies standardised at a scale from 0 to 10, where 5 is always representing the European average. Results for personal well-being and social well-being were combined to derive this overall well-being indicator.		
<b>Description / comment</b> The overall well-being in Scandinavian and Alpine countries seems to be much higher compared to new EU Member States in Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland or Estonia). Bigger countries (in terms of population) seem to be more indifferent than smaller countries, holding more extreme views.		



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**Indicator:**  
**Happiness index 2007: overall well being**  
**0 = worst; 5 = European average; 10 = best**

**Notes:**  
Data missing for CZ, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, PL, TR and Western Balkan

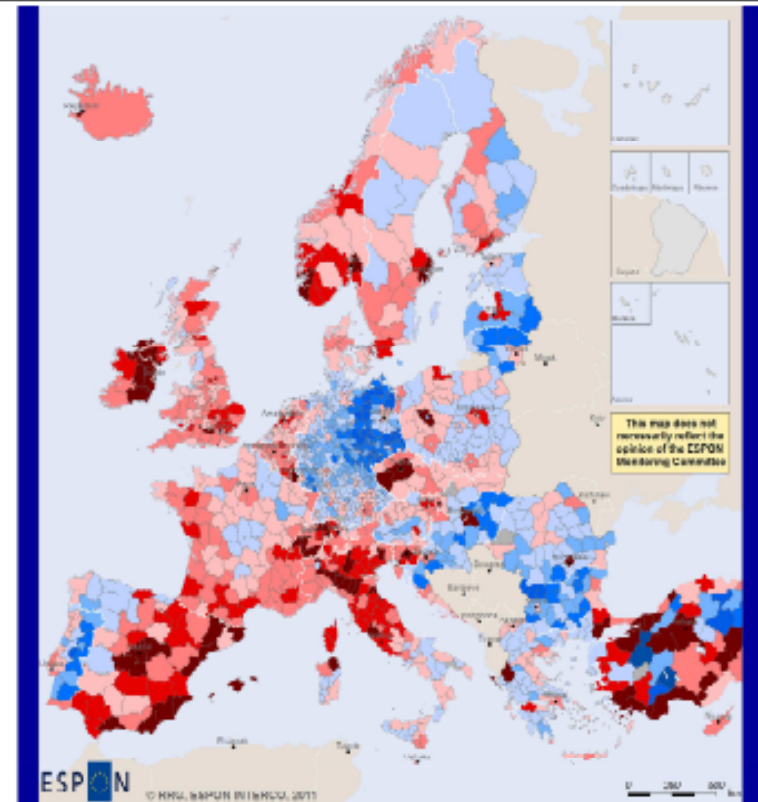
- 4.5 - 4.6
- 4.6 - 4.8
- 4.9 - 5.0
- 5.1 - 5.2
- 5.3 - 5.4
- 5.5 - 5.6
- 5.7 - 5.8
- 5.9 - 6.0



# Performance and/or contextual indicators ?

02 2 0 1 P O P [ 2 ] \_ \_ 2 0 0 8 N 3 R T O

<b>Indicator name</b> Population average annual growth		
<b>Type of issue</b> Classical (sectoral) issues	<b>Category</b> Demography	<b>Reference</b>
<b>Data source(s)</b> Eurostat Regio Database (table demo_r_gind3)	<b>Year(s)</b> 2007-2008	<b>Spatial level</b> NUTS-3
<b>Spatial coverage</b> ESPON Space, Candidate countries, Western Balkans	<b>Gaps</b> AL, BA, RS, XK	<b>General availability</b> Data available for different points in time (2000-2008), but with gaps for individual countries
<b>Indicator definition, indicator calculation (methodological remarks)</b> Annual growth rate of total population in percent of previous year.		
<b>Description / comment</b> The map shows different developments (increases/decreases) not only between countries, but moreover within countries between growth poles and rural countries with declining population trends. More or less all countries are concerned by these diverging trends. Differences within a country often bigger than between different countries.		

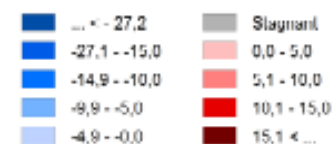


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**Indicator:**  
**Population development 2007-2008**  
**(growth rate in %) NUTS-3**



**Notes:**  
(!) Rates for all countries for 2007-2008, except UK for 2006-2007

## Preconditions for an indicator to be selected

- They are available for ESPON space
- They are available at sub-national level to grasp the territorial aspects (=> differences between territories)
- They are updated regularly
- They change over time and are sensitive to policy changes
- They are normative, moving from less to more territorial cohesion
- They make it possible to indicate a clear direction of change towards more cohesion for each indicator

## Questionnaire to the participants

- a) Which are the three most important indicators for measuring territorial cohesion you use in your work?:
  - GDP 10
  - Employment 8
  - Demography 7
  - Accessibility /public services 5
  - Cooperation 2
  - Density of built areas 2
  - Quality of life 2

## Questionnaire to the participants

- b) Which are your three ideal / desirable indicators for measuring territorial cohesion?:
  - same indicators but
    - more specific (geographical scales, sub-themes, adjustment by age/social & environmental factors)
    - measure of differences
  - other indicators
    - flows, innovation, knowledge, ...

# Proposed Indicators vs. INTERCO indicators (I)

Proposed	Accounted	Proposed	Accounted
GDP / GDP growth	✓	Commuting intensity	✗
Population density	✓	Unemployment rate	✓
Population (change)	✓	Input costs	✗
Accessibility	✓	Household density	✗ (but pop density)
Access to services / time to reach / to physical features	✓ (but there is utmost number of facilities)	(Labour) productivity	✓
Access to nearest town	✗	Fragmentation of space	✗ (but natural assests)
Population potential (50 km / 1h travel time)	✓	Job density / jobs created	✗
Public service quality	✗	Patents	✗ (but R&D expenditures)
Employment	✓	Life expectancy/lifetime	✓
Young employment levels	✗ (but education levels)	Migration / intensity of	✓
Built surface	✗ (but natural assets)	Air pollution	✓

## Proposed Indicators vs. INTERCO indicators (II)

Proposed	Accounted	Proposed	Accounted
Perceived personal state of health	✓	Population living in workless households	✓
Population at risk for poverty	✓	Population living in severe material deprivation	✓
Trust in legal system	✓	Indicators on flows	✗
SMEs / active enterprises	✗	Employment in high-tech industry / in knowledge intensive services	✗ (only general employment)
Share of population living in settlement over certain size	✗ (but population potential is good proxy for this)	Number of RTD projects / number of cooperation projects	✗
Number of innovative products developed	✗	Number of supported new triple-helix partnerships of innovation	✗
Number of supported knowledge incubators	✗	Population with tertiary education / education level	✓

## Other proposals

Other remarks made by workshop participants:

- “strong” and “weak” regions working together
- GDP at local PPP
- GDP adjusted for social and environmental factors
- Networks
- Time necessary to get access to services / percentage of territory which can have access to these
- Accessibility to nearest town of more than 20,000 inhabitants
- Gini index
- Differences of basic indicators compared to EU average

## What makes our indicators territorial ?

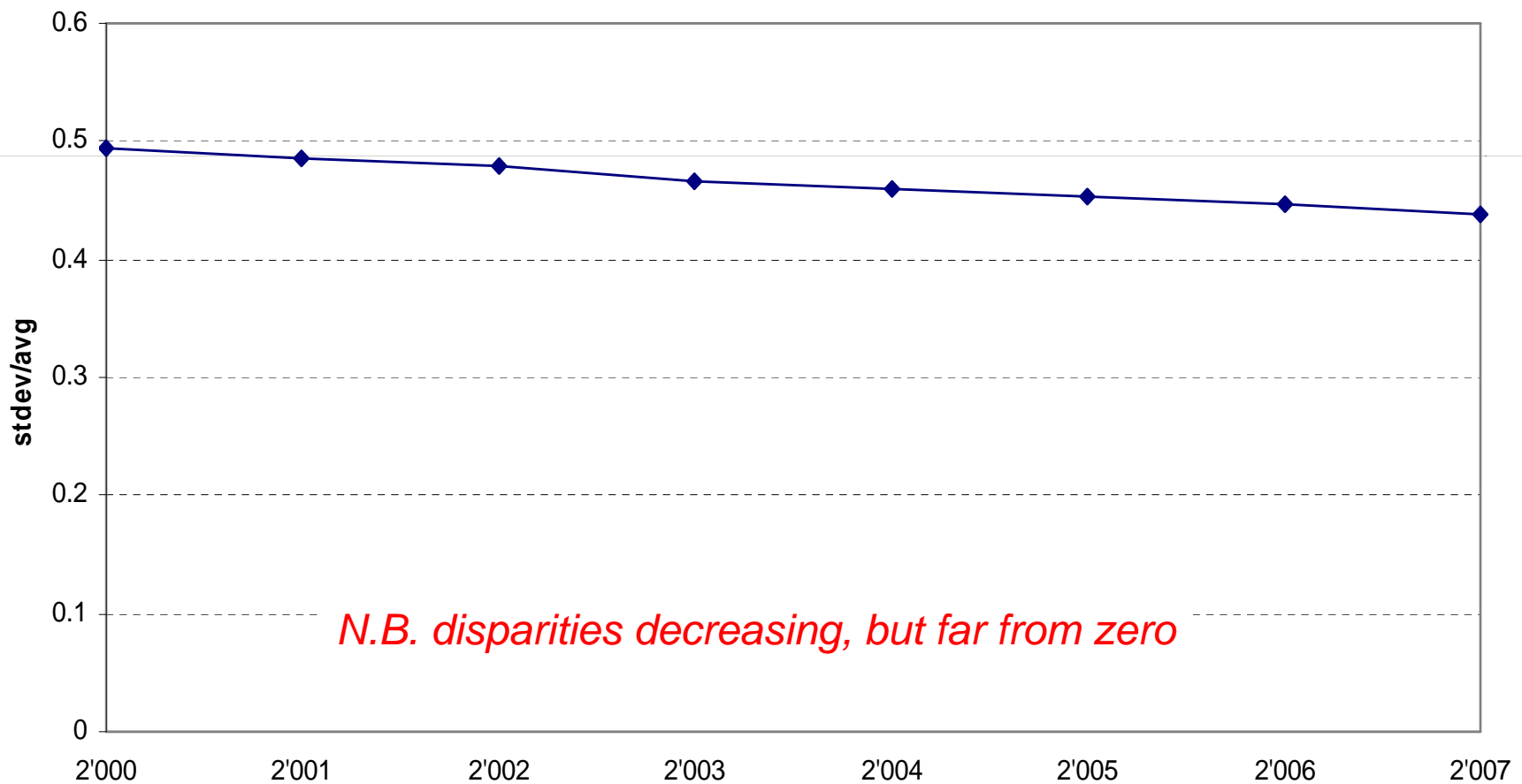
- calculated at subnational level;
- calculated by type of areas (e.g. by degrees of urbanisation);
- showing contexts (intra- and inter-national comparisons) => see HyperAtlas;
- showing trends (directions of change) and performances, e.g. as measured against the TA 2020 objectives.



# Metrics : measuring differences (NUTS 0)

## Sigma-convergence

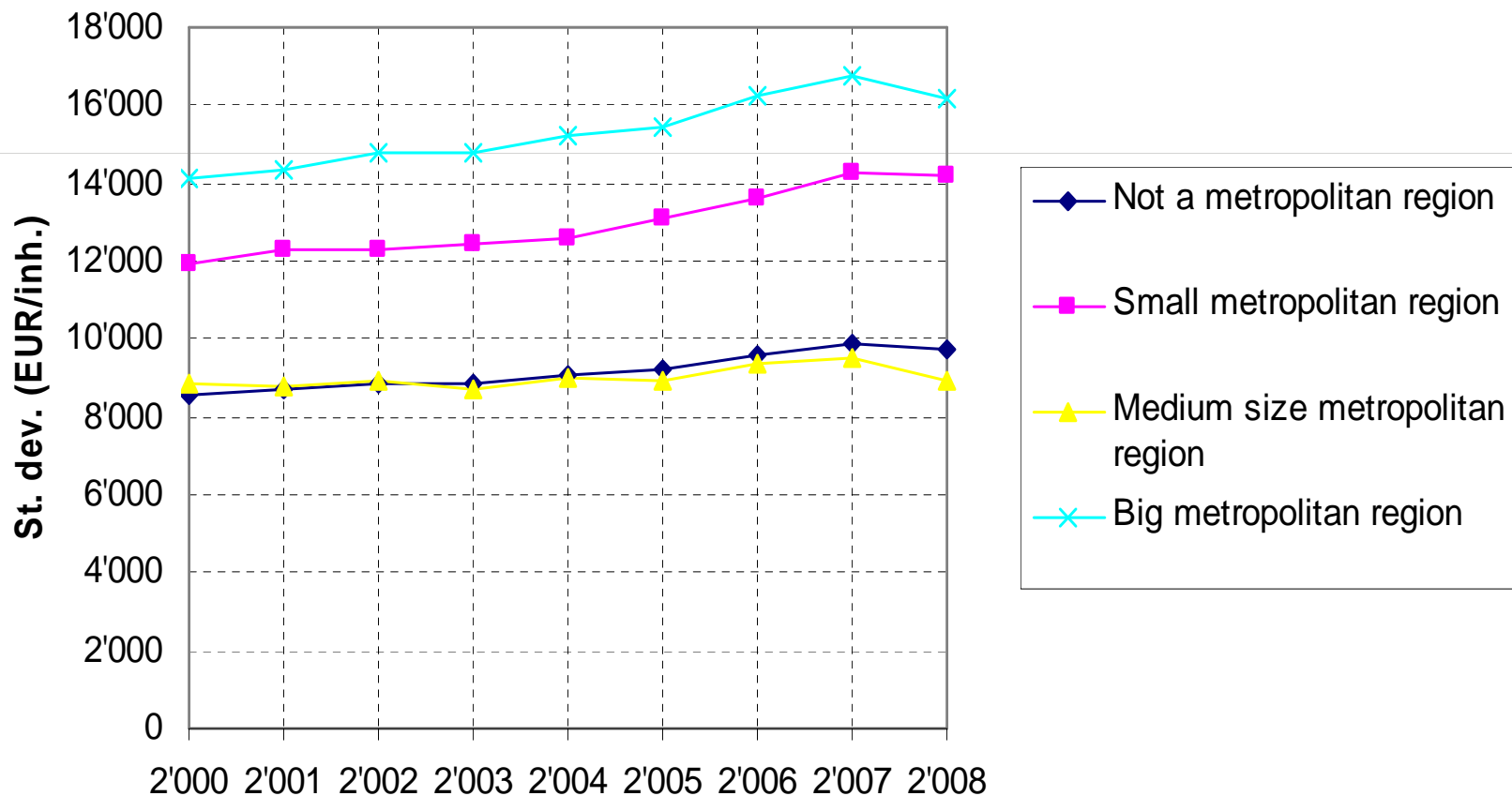
Evolution of disparities in GDP per capita between EU 27 countries



# Metrics : measuring differences (NUTS 3)

## Sigma-convergence

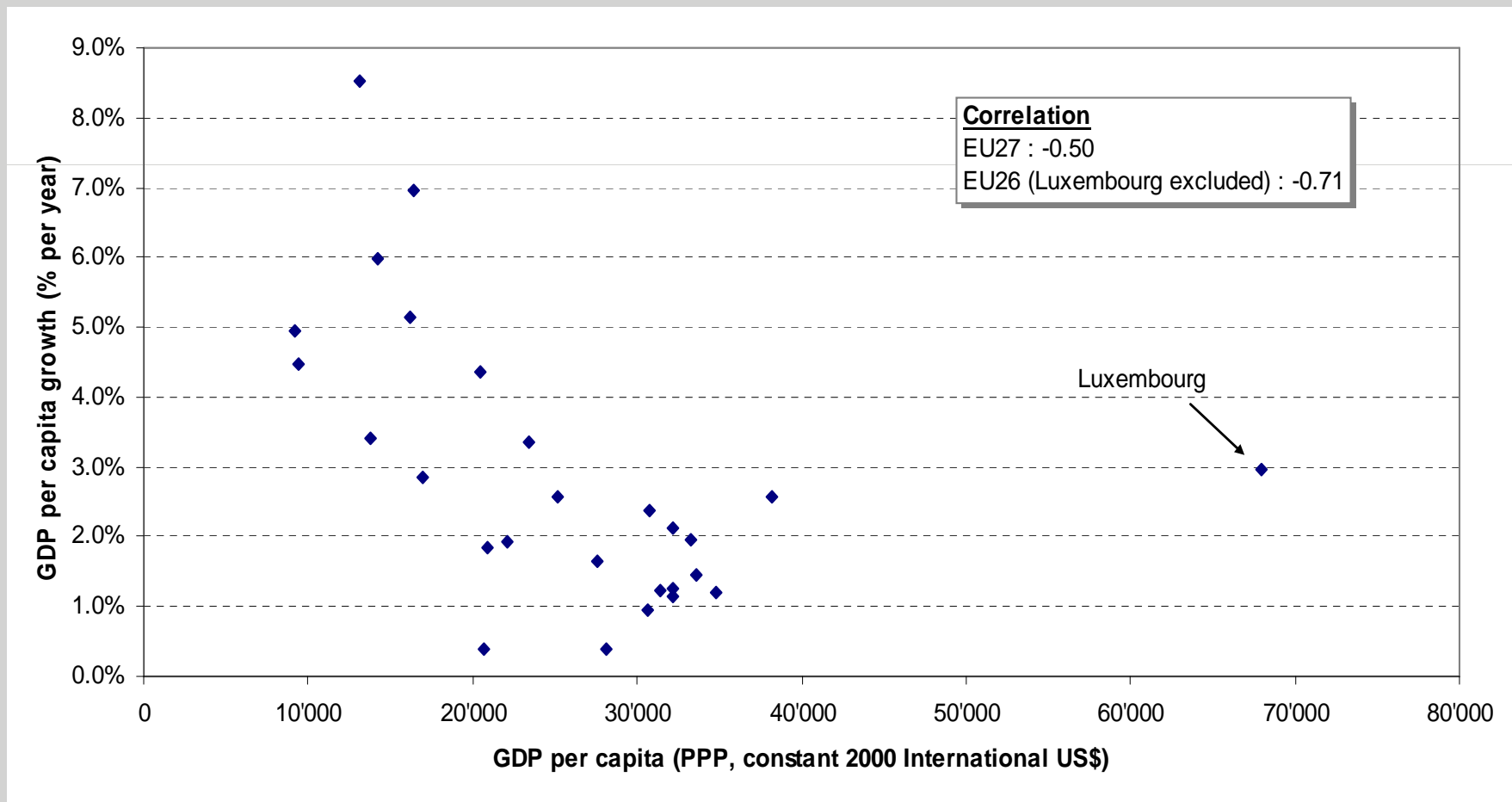
Evolution of disparities in GDP per capita between NUTS3 regions



# Metrics : measuring differences (NUTS 0)

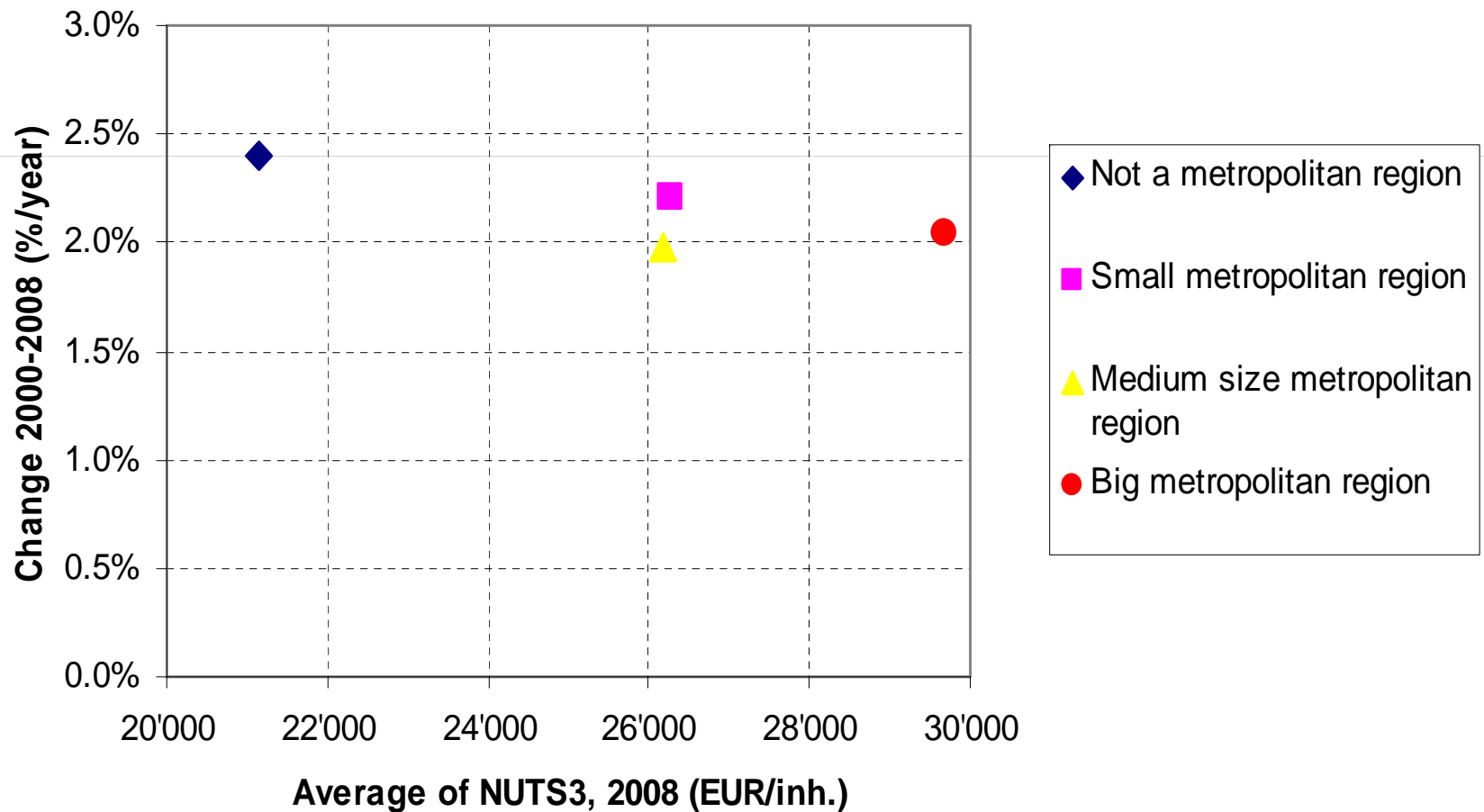
## Beta-convergence

States and trends of GDP per capita in 2005 (EU 27 countries)

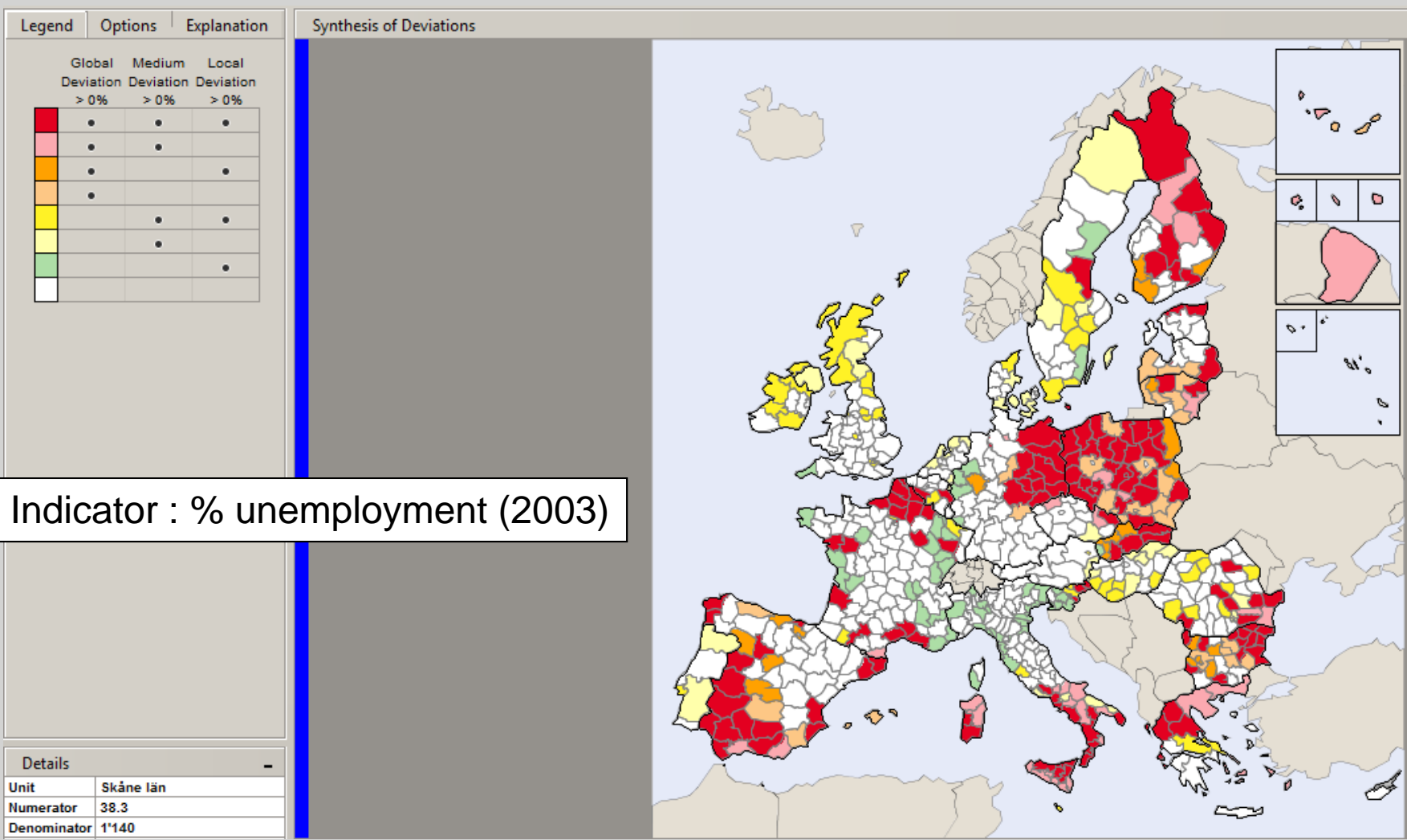


# Metrics : measuring differences (NUTS 3)

**Beta-convergence** : States and trends of GDP per capita



# HyperAtlas | Synthesis of deviations (NUTS 3)



## Aim of the workshop

Identifying key indicators for Territorial Cohesion, which are most relevant and meaningful for policy making.

How the indicators can become most useful in practice.

## Indicators in practice

To test

the usability of the proposed indicators  
for the evaluation of territorial cohesion  
at the European scale

To assess available data, metrics and representations

To discuss desirable directions of change

## Indicators in practice

What can be said (can you say)  
about territorial cohesion  
on the basis of the indicators ?



# Let's have a fruitful workshop !

[http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_ScientificPlatform/interco.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_ScientificPlatform/interco.html)