



EUROPEAN UNION

Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

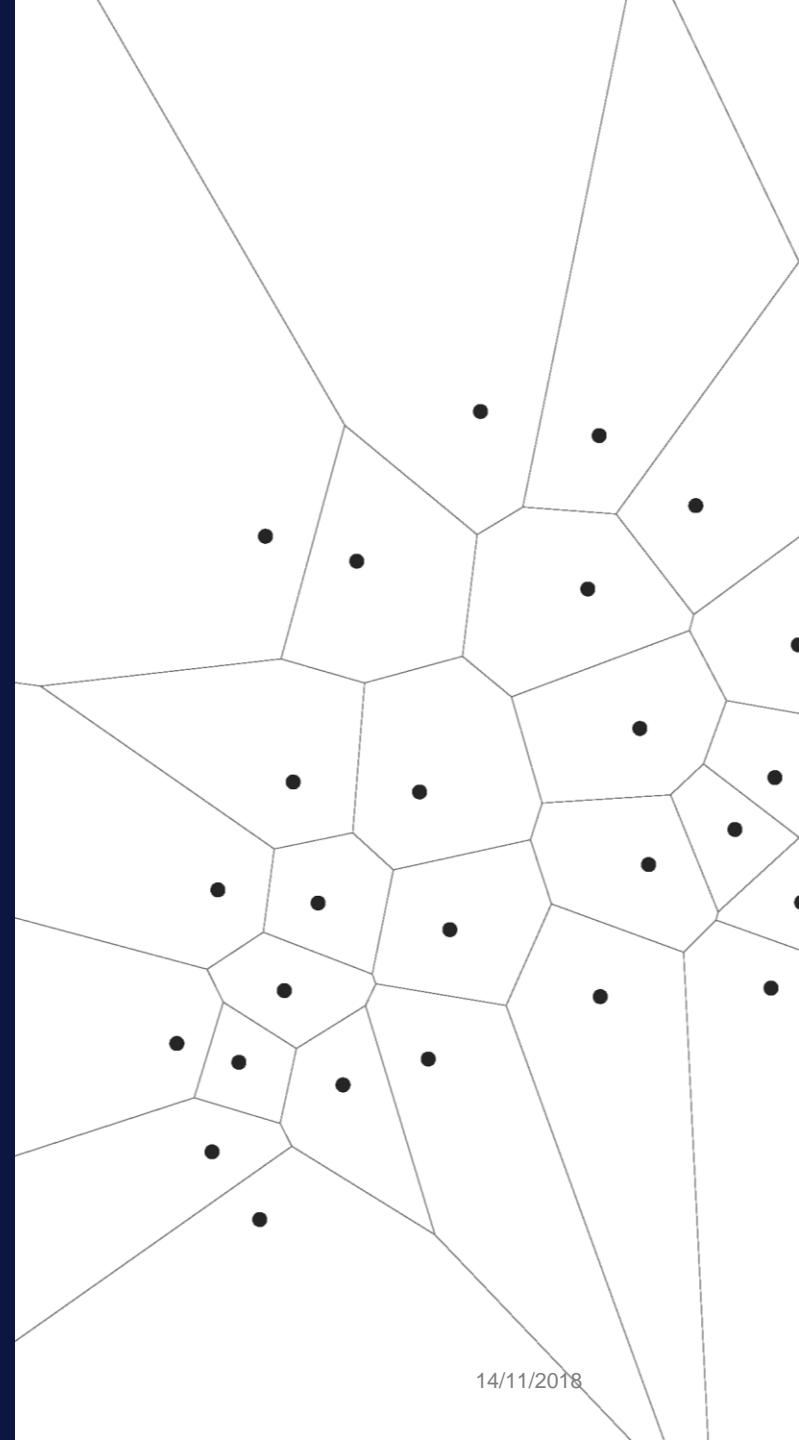
// When simplification leads to enhanced perspectives

(LAU, mapping, territorial evidences)



Use of Voronoï polygons

Background & Context



Origin of Voronoï map in ESPON

- ESPON [GEOSPECS](#) project (2012)
- Based on (aggregation of) LAU units
- Using Eurogeographics layer (EBM)

GEOSPECS issues

- Copyright, generalisation level and weight
- UNIGE produced its own LAU map, based on Voronoï polygons, open license (CC)

Current issues

- Increasing number of European datasets at the level of LAU and Functional Urban Areas
- Insufficiently generalized map are ineffective and inefficient
- Raising the need for dedicated mapping layers

Coherent set of GIS files for ESPON 2020 Mapkit

Altogether, different files for different purposes:

- Analytical use or thematic mapping?
- At which scale ?
- Supporting the multi-level approach of the ESPON programme

Territorial level	GREAT World	GREAT Europe	Voronoi LAU	ESPON LAU Census 2011
NUTS 0				
NUTS 2	Not adapted			
NUTS 3	Not adapted			
LAU	Not adapted	Not adapted		

For the production of maps

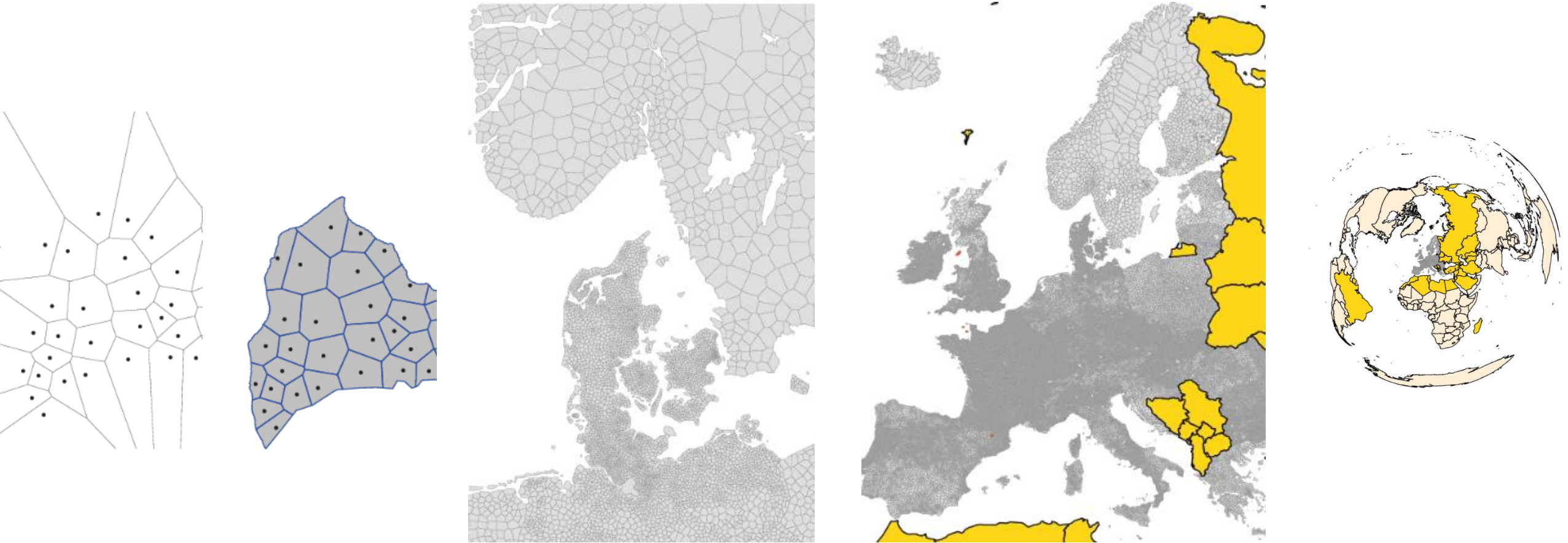
For analytical purposes

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Elaboration steps & resulting advantages



Light, seamless and open source layer



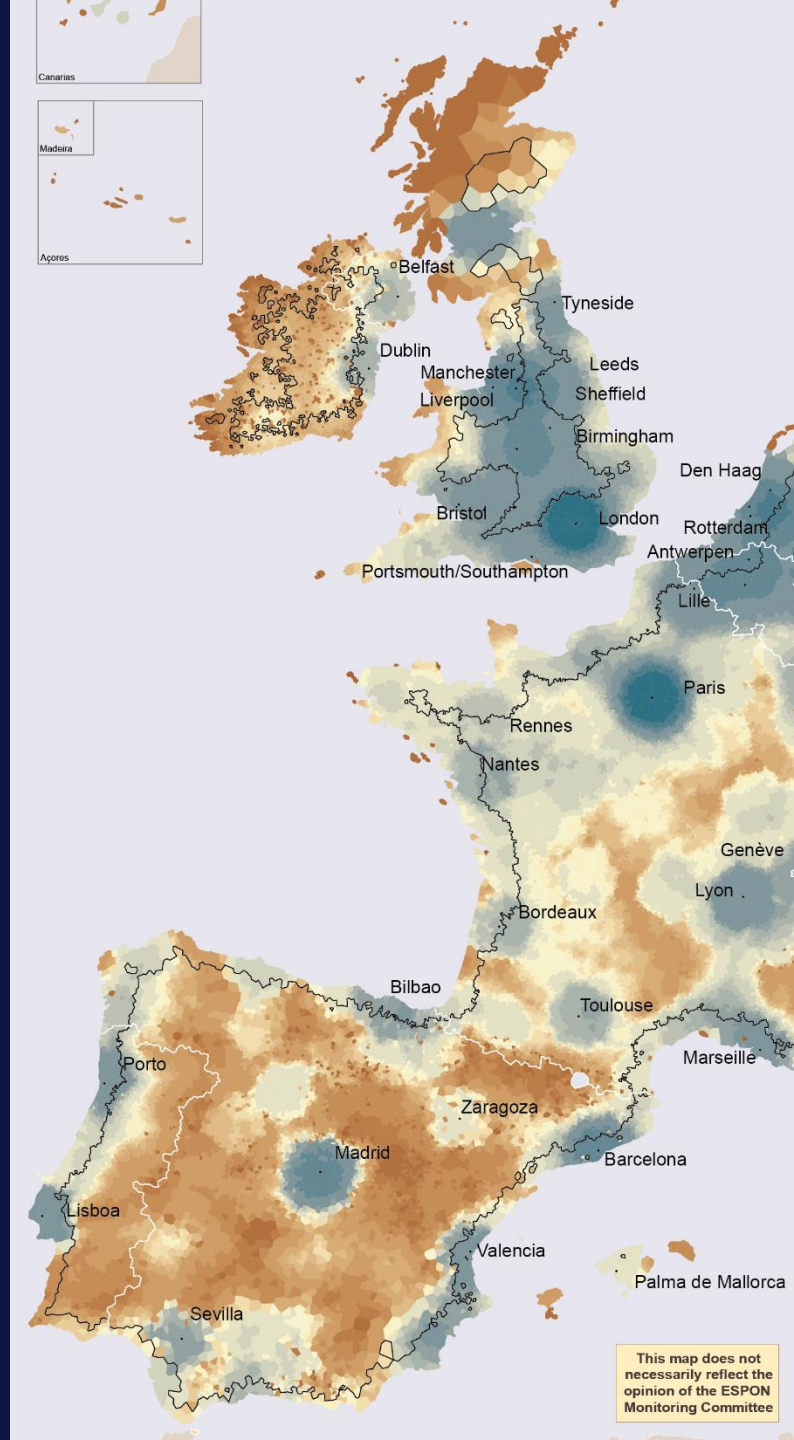
© Administrative boundaries: University of Geneva
Natural Earth

Several advantages as the result

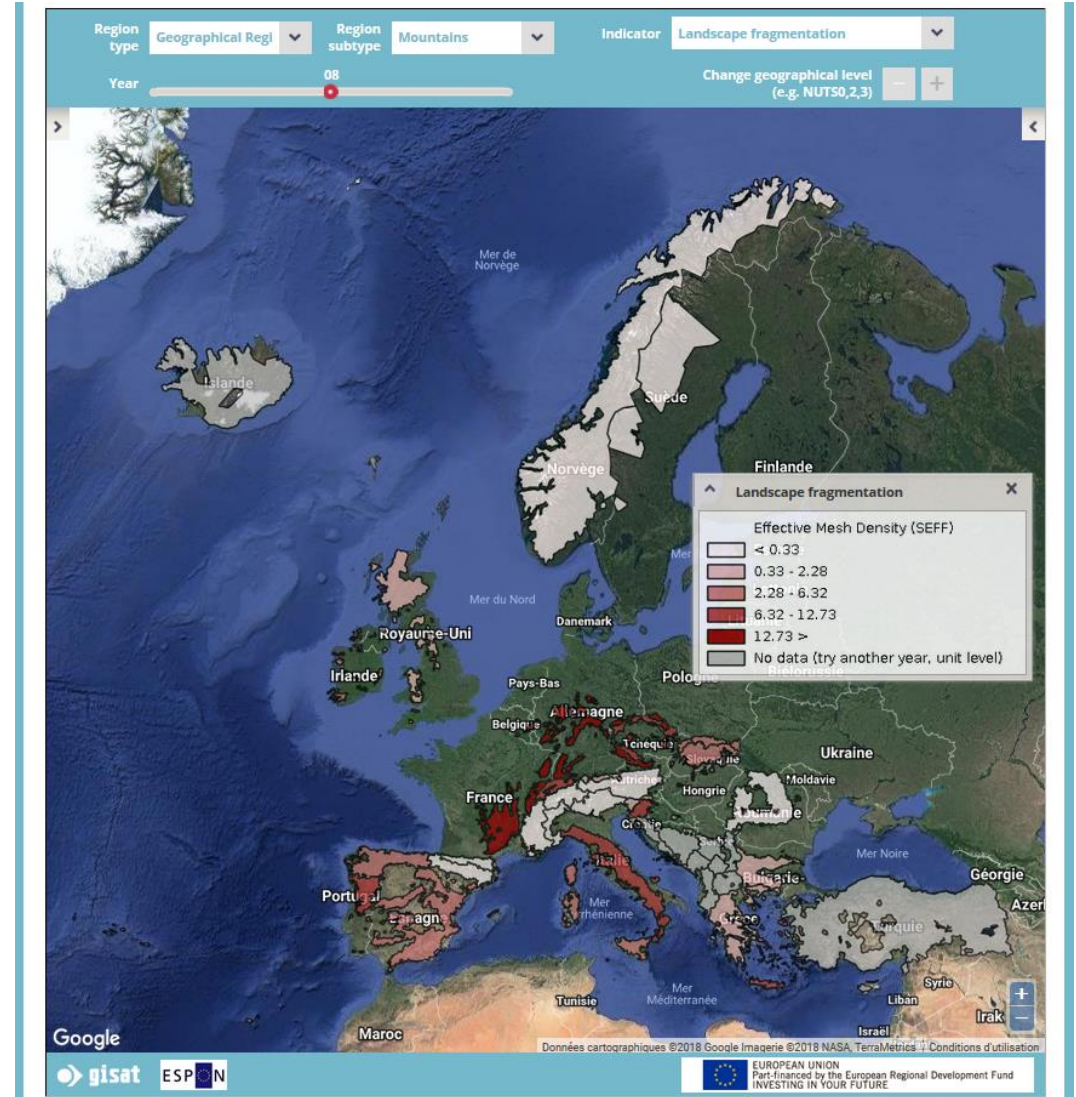
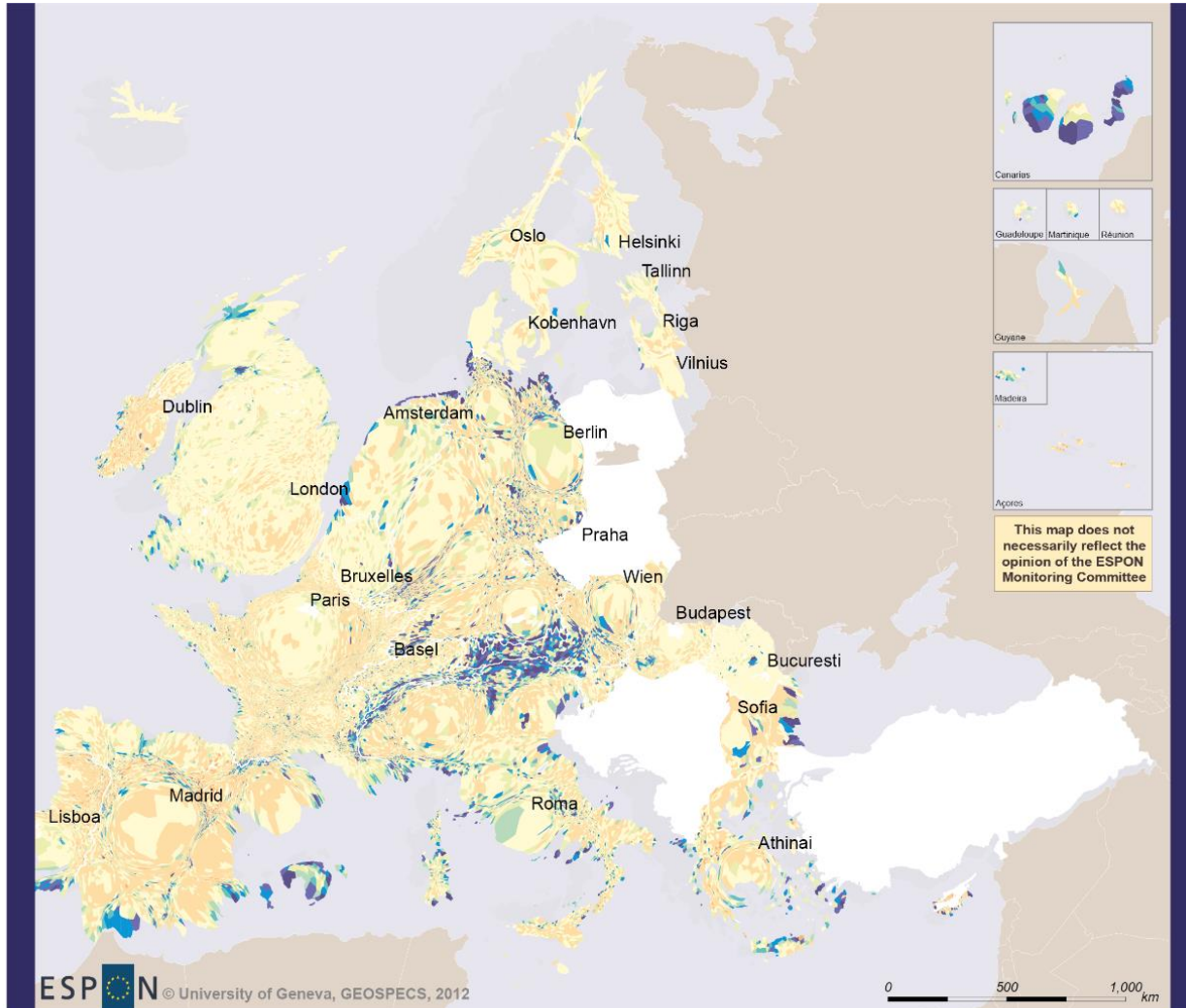
- LAU nomenclature match the one used in 2011 census across Europe
 - Seamless, also with non-ESPON space countries
 - Reduces “noise” and focus on the cartographic message
 - Small amount of computing power needed
 - Makes it easier to create innovative maps
 - ‘On the fly’ production of LAU maps on interactive mapping portals is feasible
 - Creative Commons (CC) license: no constrains on distribution, wider range of uses & easier updates
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- ✓ The Voronoï layer is seamless and has an open license
 - ✓ Aggregation of LAU allows to produce all kind of “upper-scale” objects like NUTS, FUA, ...
 - ✓ It is well-suited for the production of pan-European and transnational thematic maps
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- It fills a need in the mapping of social, economic and environmental patterns and trend in Europe

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Support policy discussions with innovative territorial perspectives



New and innovative territorial evidence



Supporting policy making

It enables researchers

- To map LAU units as well as larger territorial objects based on LAU aggregation (FAU, mountain ranges, cooperation areas...)
 - To produce new and innovative territorial evidences

It helps policy makers

- To consider a broader range of territories, not only NUTS
- To better understand associated development issues as a result
 - To develop “place-based thinking” in relation to: Metropolitan strategies
Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)
Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs)

Perspectives for ESPON

Voronoi LAU layer helps to meet some key ESPON 2020 objectives

- ✓ Produce new territorial evidence
- ✓ Provide researchers and policy makers with tools for innovative perspectives
- ✓ Wider outreach and uptake of territorial evidence (with open license)

However, some remaining challenges need to be addressed

- Storage of LAU data and corresponding nomenclatures
- Advertising & facilitating access to layers and data for a wider communities of users
- By producing 'open data', institutional actors such as the ESPON programme may trigger major changes in policy making practices.



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Thank you

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This presentation will be made available at: www.espon.eu/espon-scientific-conference-2018