

Don't call it 'land take' or 'sprawl'!

Introducing new ESPON research on changing land-use in European Regions, its sustainability and how it can be influenced by policy.

David Evers – PBL / ECP ESPON Seminar 17 April 2019

Land take

EEA: "the amount of agricultural, forest and other semi-natural and natural <u>land taken by urban</u> <u>and other artificial land development</u>. It includes areas sealed by construction and urban infrastructure, as well as urban green areas, and sport and leisure facilities."

Approximately 1000 ha/day (EC 2014)

Normative aspect: 'taken' (illegal? by whom?)

Operationalisation in policy: no net land-take by 2050

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Urban sprawl

Sprawl (v): "to cause to spread out carelessly or awkwardly" (Merriam-Webster)

Term 'urban sprawl' North American in origin

Normative/pejorative connotation

Contested definitions and indicators

EEA – focus on drivers (*Urban Sprawl in Europe*, 2016)

OECD – focus on morphology (*Rethinking Urban Sprawl*, 2018)

Hayden – focus on appearance (A field Guide to Sprawl, 2004).

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// Sustainable Urbanisation and landuse Practices in European Regions (SUPER)

"The service shall provide evidence, recommendations and measures on how sustainable land use can be promoted and how land-take and urban sprawl can be avoided, reduced and compensated in Europe, its cities and regions"



PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency



Bundesinstitut für Bau-, Stadt- und Raumforschung

im Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung



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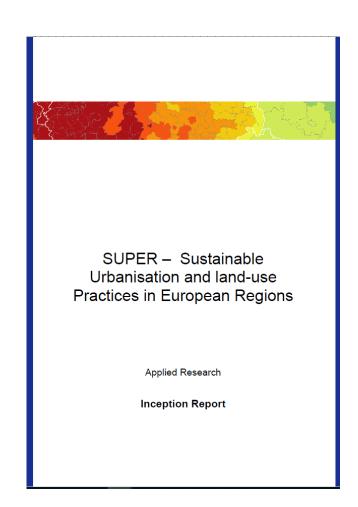






SUPER terminology

- Sustainable (temporal balance vs thematic balance)
- Urbanization and land use (understanding drivers of change)
- Practices (land-use decision-making, effectiveness of planning)
- in **European Regions** (territory matters, regional approach)



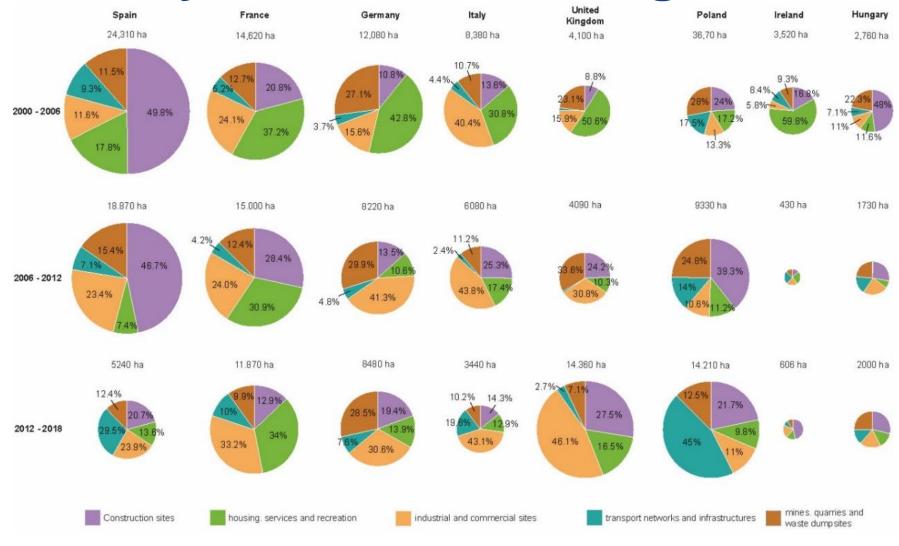
SUPER conceptual framework

Outcomes in **S**ustainability **P**ractices and **U**rbanisation European Regions Assessment of and land use drivers, Demand Quantitative Qualitative Supply Institutional / territorial context "Black box" of local Land-use changes with impact on economy, practices society and environment

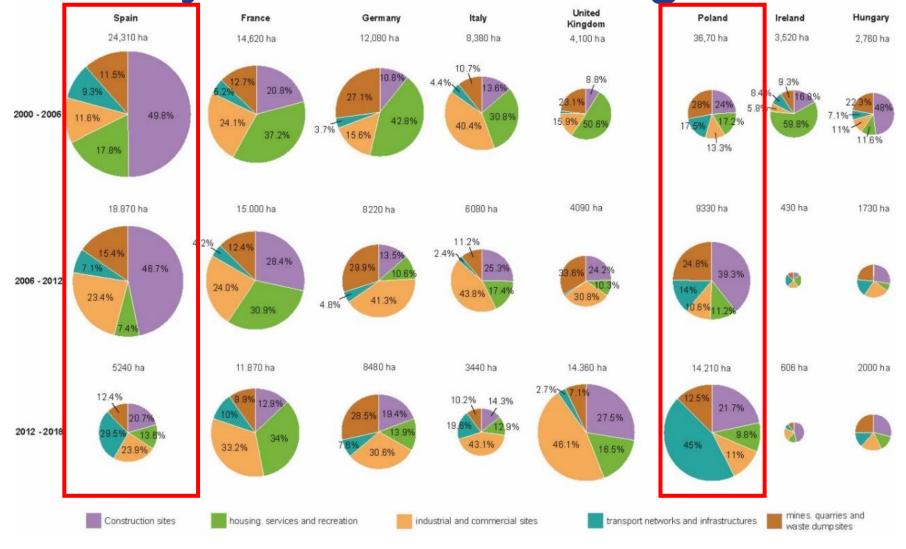
Survey of land-use change

- A detailed quantitative analysis of European land-use change, e.g. with Corine data
- Zoom in on urbanization hotspots, inductive typology creation

Survey of land-use change



Survey of land-use change



Interventions

- Definition: all policies, strategies, subsidy schemes, etc. that guide, or attempt to guide, urbanization and land use.
- Examples: green infrastructure, sustainable urbanization ladder, brownfield regeneration funds.
- Data: ESPON Compass (TU-Delft), online survey
- Grouping of interventions into types
- Assessment: what works?

Analysis of land-use developments

- Scenarios
 - Sprawl/BAU
 - No net LT 2050
- Land allocation model: Luisetta
 - Developed by JRC
 - Scenarios in Barbosa et al. (2017)

Case studies: 10 (under selection)

Substantive aspects

To what extent can the observed land-use changes in the case be considered sustainable?

- To what extent did short-term thinking weigh up against concerns of long-term economic, ecological and social vitality?
- To what extent were trade-offs avoided between economic, ecological and social values (e.g. urban green spaces in densifying areas)?

Was there a tension between sustainability at different levels of scale (e.g. a locally sustainable development having unsustainable attributes at the regional level)?

To what extent is there a correlation between urban form (e.g. high-density contiguous urbanisation versus low-density scattered development) and sustainability?

Instrumental aspects

How much impact did various interventions have in producing sustainable urbanisation and land-use outcomes?

- To what extent were place-based approaches and territorial cooperation responsible?
- To what extent were financial, fiscal and economic mechanisms responsible?

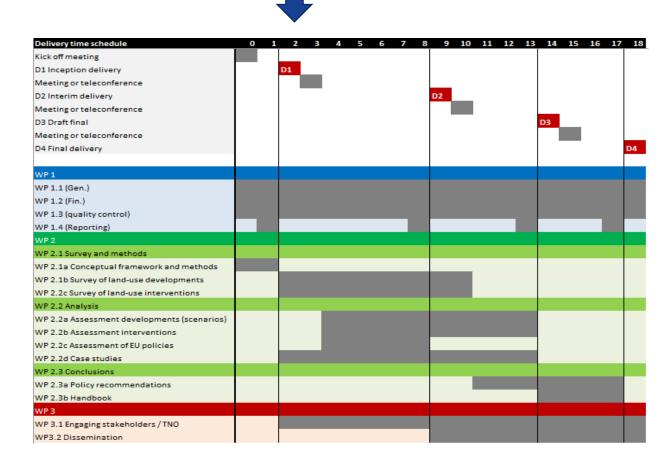
How sustainable are the measures themselves over time?

- Do they produce economic benefits?
- To what extent to they effectively internalize external costs?
- To what extent do they enjoy popular support or consensus among stakeholders?

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Outputs

- State-of-the-art evidence on urbanization and land-use <u>developments</u> in Europe
- State-of-the-art evidence on urbanization and land-use <u>interventions</u> in Europe
- Calculation of policy scenarios using state-ofthe-art land-use modelling, case studies
- Recommendations and handbook on sustainable urbanization and land use





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This presentation will be made available at: www.espon.eu