ESPON

EUROPEAN UNION

Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

// The ESPON Programme and European territorial evidence

Dr Wiktor Szydarowski, Director, ESPON EGTC

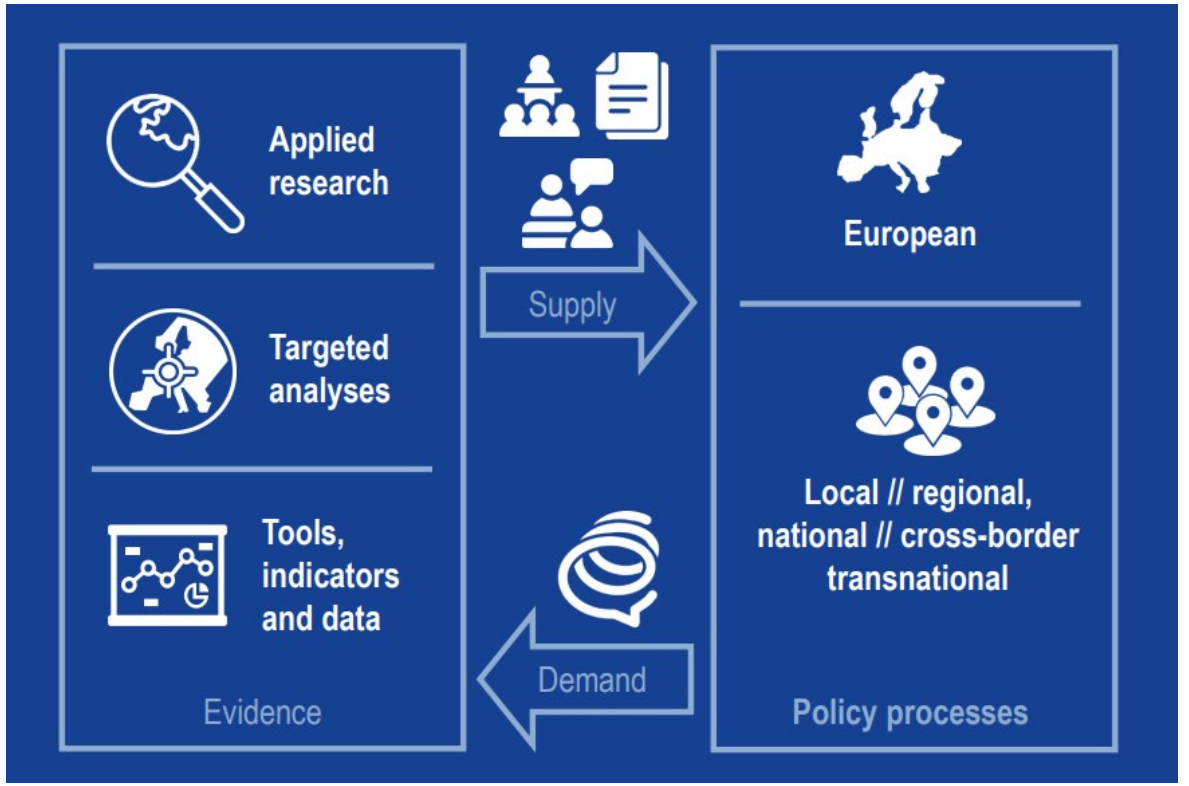
28 April 2021

WHO WE ARE?

ESPON
EUROPEAN UNION
Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
Inspire
Policy Making
by Territorial
Evidence
espon.eu

What ESPON does for you

- **Connects** governments, researchers, and practitioners.
- Draws **policy recommendations** on how to cope with challenges and potentials for the European territories.
- Shows how cities, regions and countries **perform**. And, offers advice how to perform even better.
- Offers **free data, knowledge and visuals** for every interested stakeholder.



We produce a lot of evidence…

Our stock only since 2016. And growing!

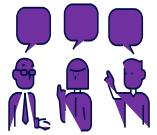
22 Applied Research (pan-European projects)

29 Targeted Analyses for **188** transnational, cross-border, national, regional and local customers

…so we need to help our stakeholders understand and use the evidence!

10+ Tools

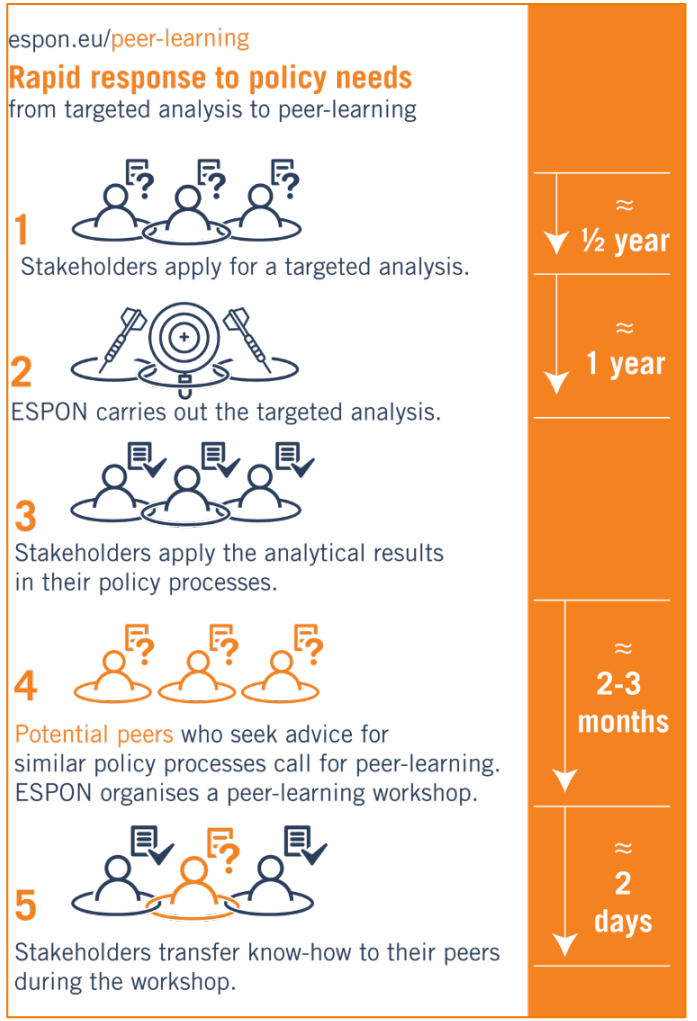
100+ Publications



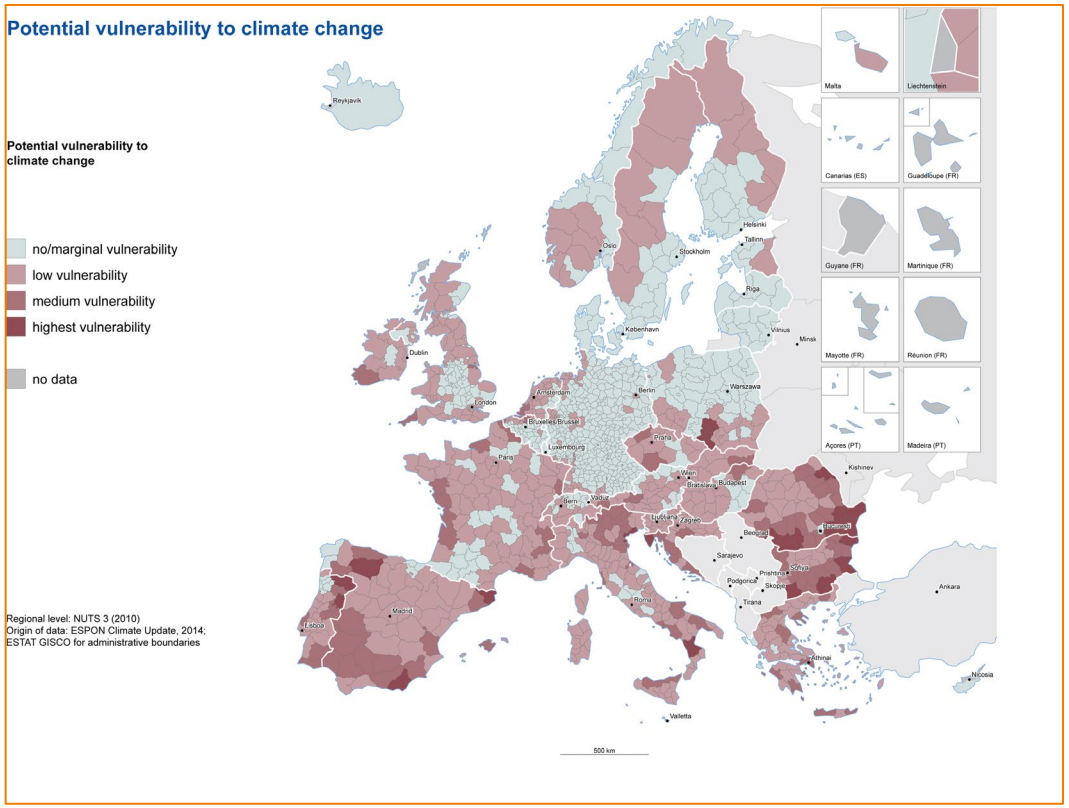
60+ Events

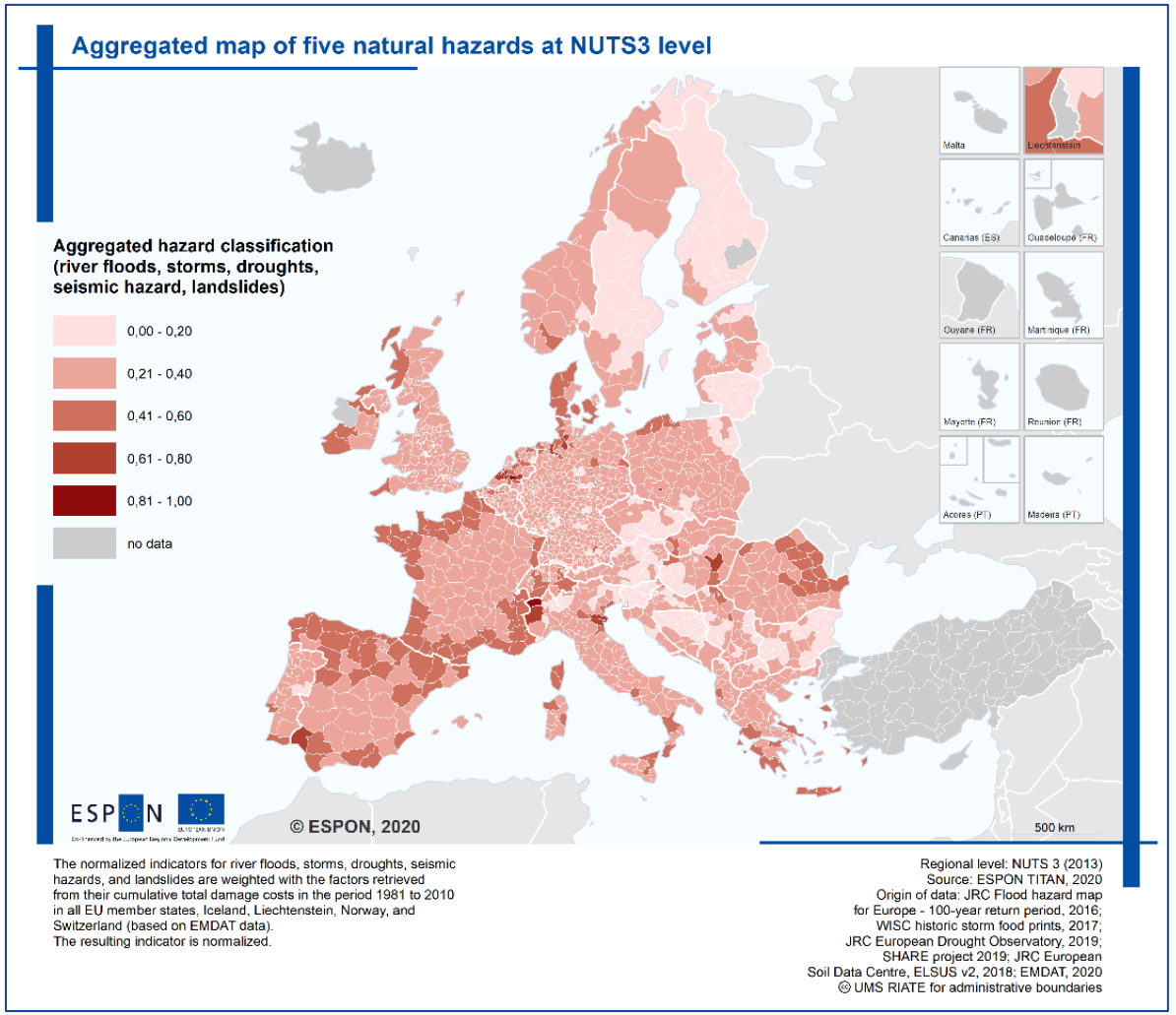
Our team is always available to walk you through!

Do feel welcome!



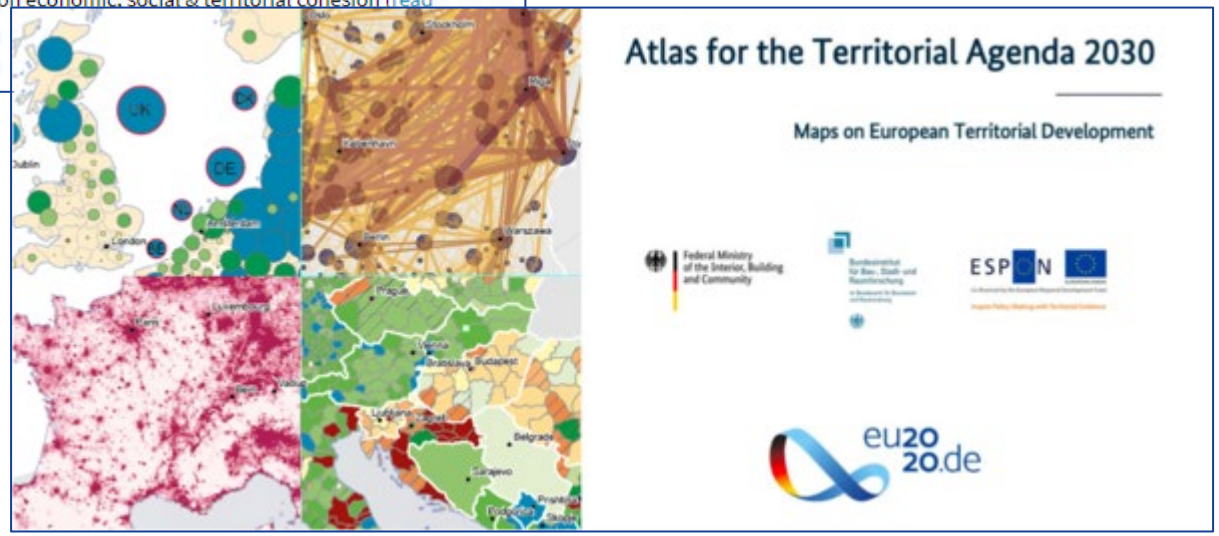
And we can offer you more than 1200 maps!





ESPON contribution to the Territorial Agenda 2030

- ESPON deliverables providing evidence for the TA 2030
- ESPON EGTC as co-authors of Atlas maps
- ESPON supporting implementation of the TA 2030 pilot actions
- ESPON EGTC teamed up with the DGT team of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU



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ESPON supporting EU Council Presidencies

2020-2021 TRIO PRESIDENCY OF GERMANY, PORTUGAL AND SLOVENIA

Priorities under the EU Roadmap for Recovery

2020

2021

German EU Presidency

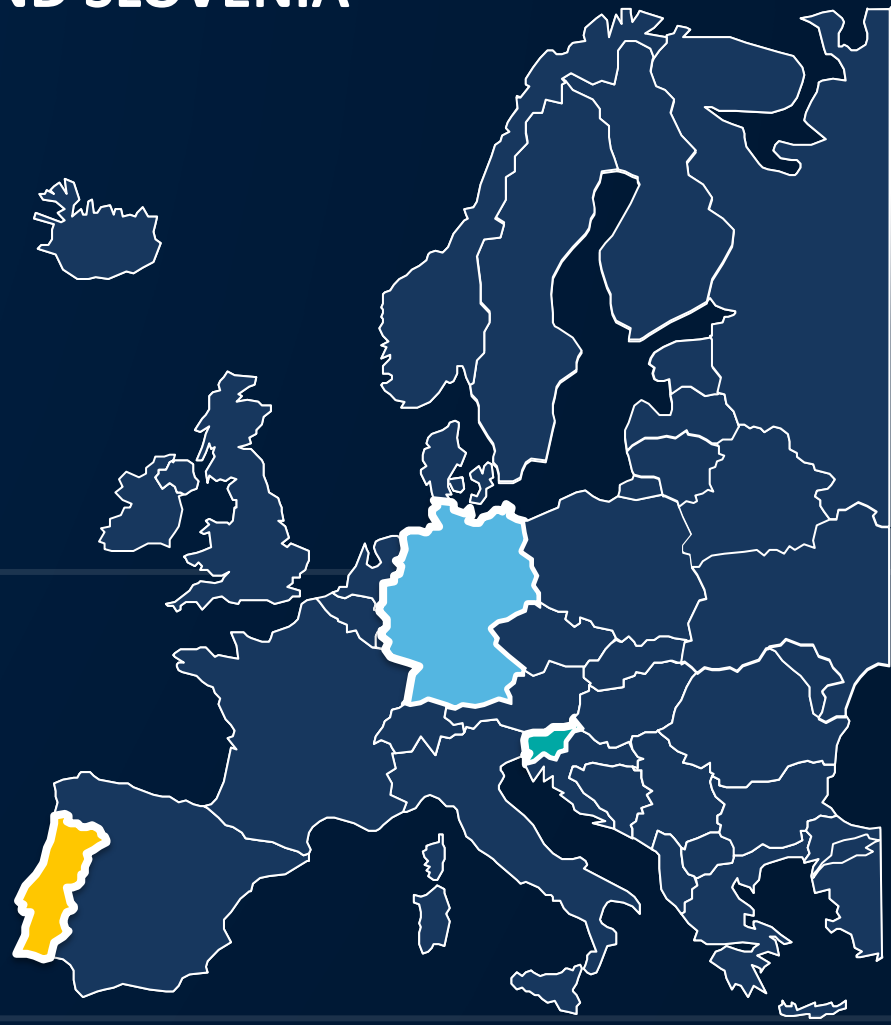
Structural change in coal phase-out regions

Portuguese EU Presidency

Future of the Rural Areas

Slovenian EU Presidency

Quality of life



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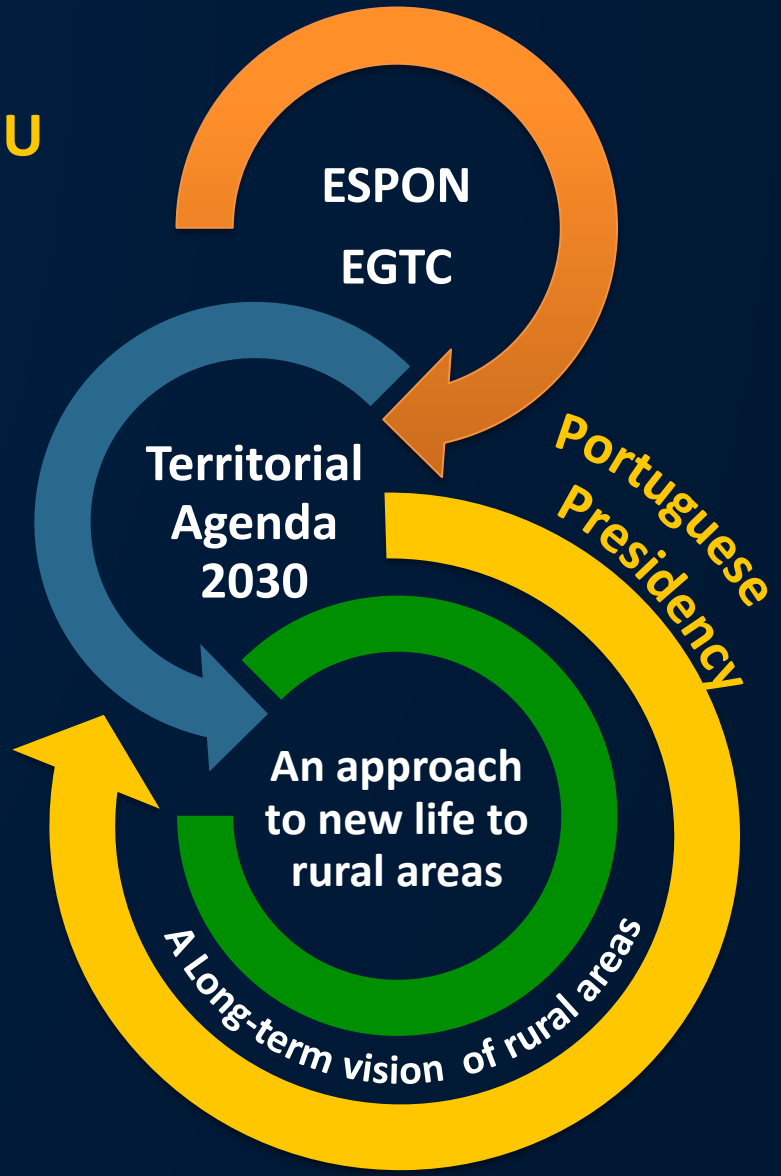
ESPON and the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of EU

- Use evidence and data to support TA2030 priorities
- Convert TA2030 priorities into actions through Policy recommendations and Policy responses
- Promote a multi-level governance approach to involve all key players
- Claim opportunities for a smart approach to rural areas' assets



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ESPON feeding territorial evidence into EU's political priorities

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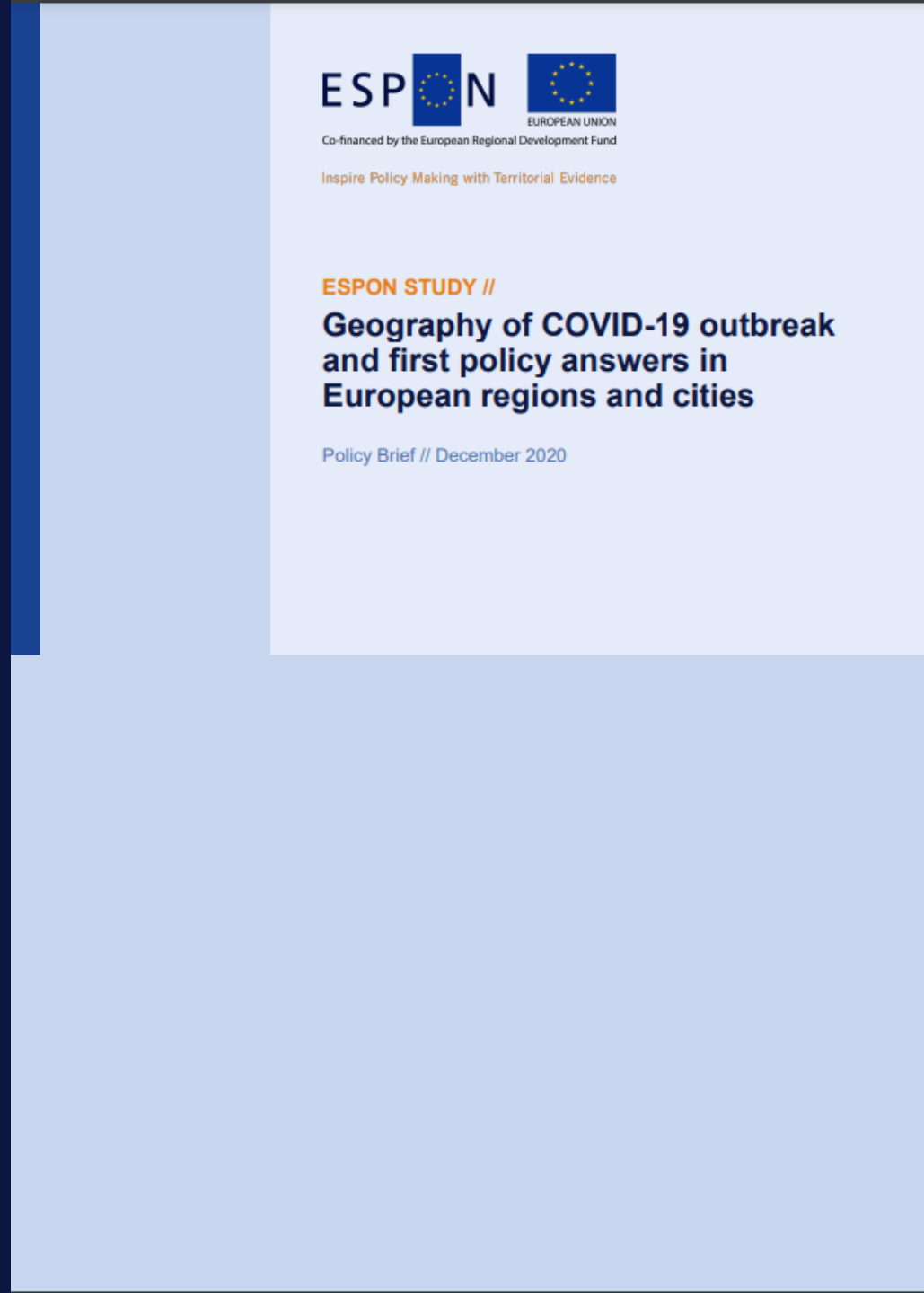
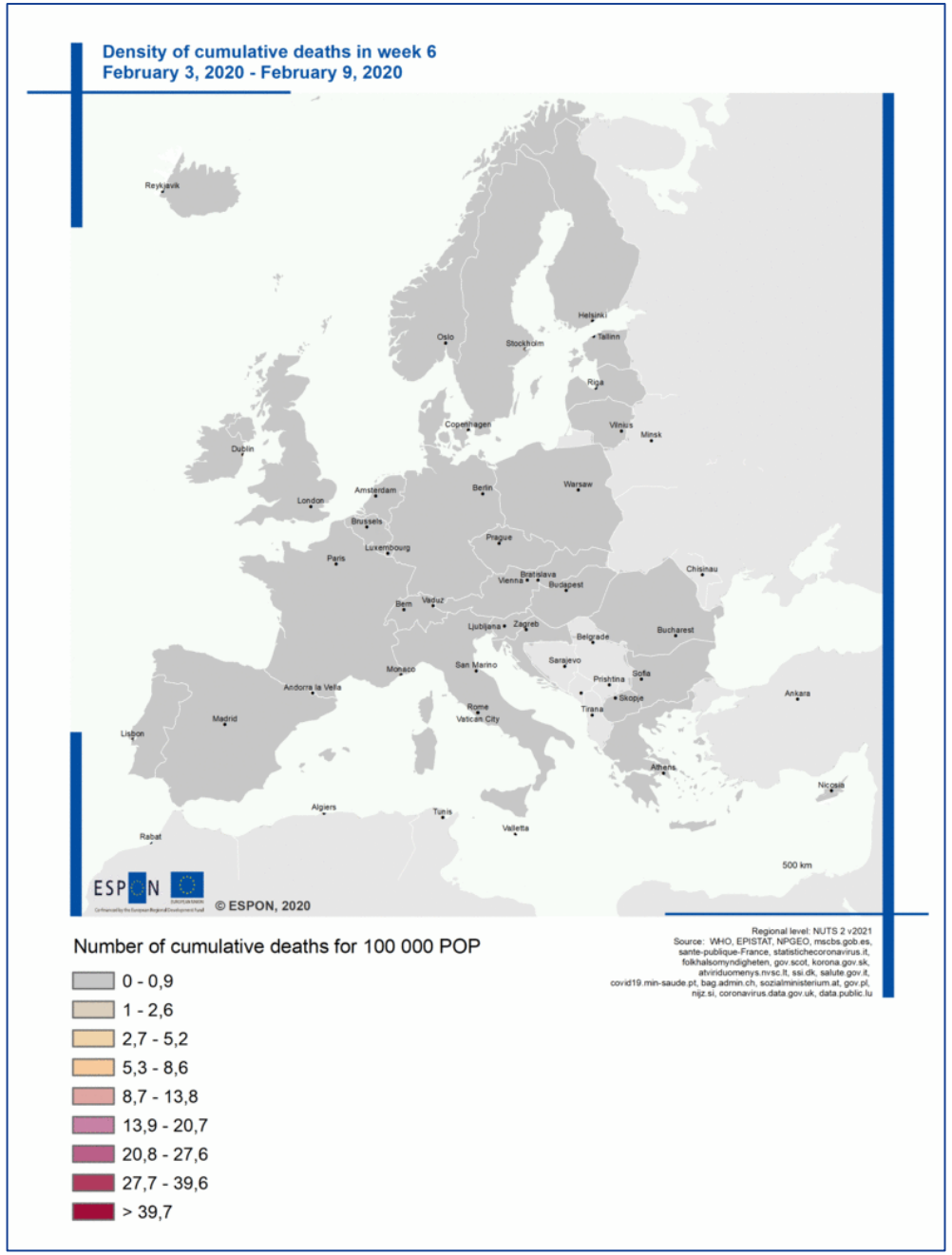
Resilience in light of new threaths



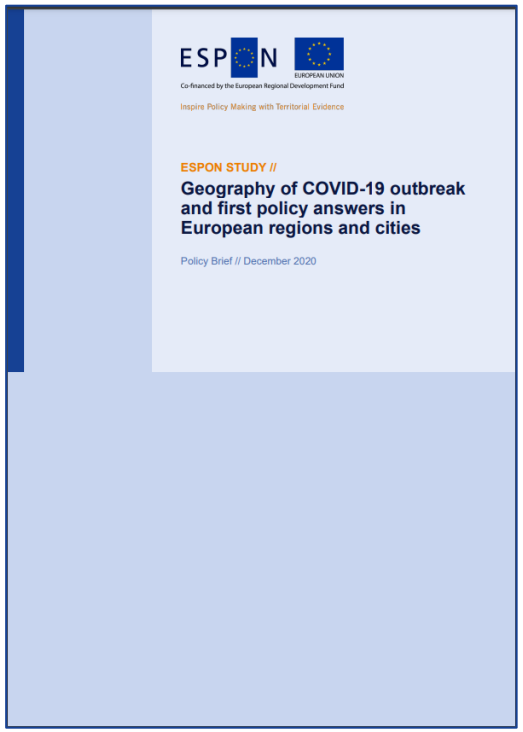
ESPON COVID-19 study

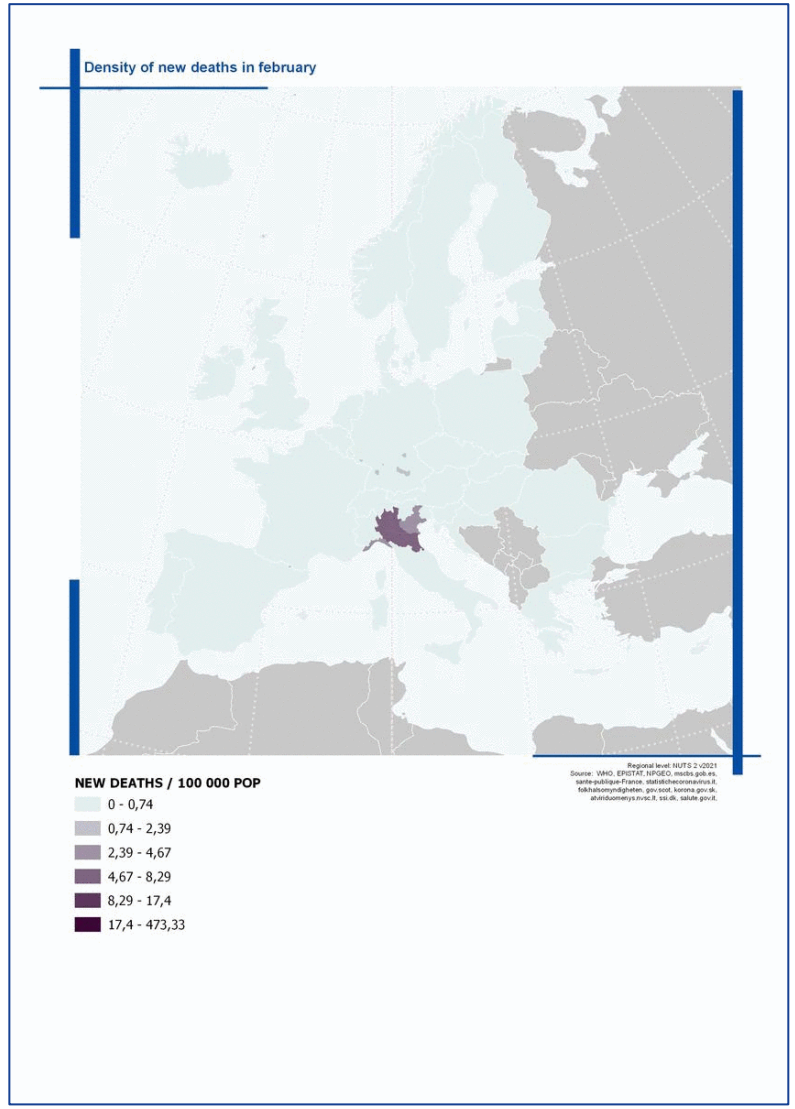
- This animated map offers the first representation of the diffusion of fatalities related to COVID-19 across Europe from 10 February to 26 July 2020 (as reported by national authorities)
- The geographical spread of COVID-19 is based on three main modes of diffusion: (i) between large cities, (ii) through neighbourhoods and (iii) along transport routes



Towards well-informed policies

- Projekt: Geography of COVID-19 outbreak and first policy answers in European regions and cities (https://www.espon.eu/geocov)
- Purpose: help better understand the territorial patterns of the epidemic and support place-based policies to tackle the upcoming socio-economic crisis
- Soon: a new applied research project on COVID-19 (subsequent pandemic waves, socio-economic effects of confinement measures)





Coping with socio-economic effects

Circumvent: the logic of doing things differently
Mitigating: limiting negative effects
Compensate: restoring the pre-crisis balance
Exploit: taking advantage of the effects of the crisis

Potential of resilience
Undergo or Act

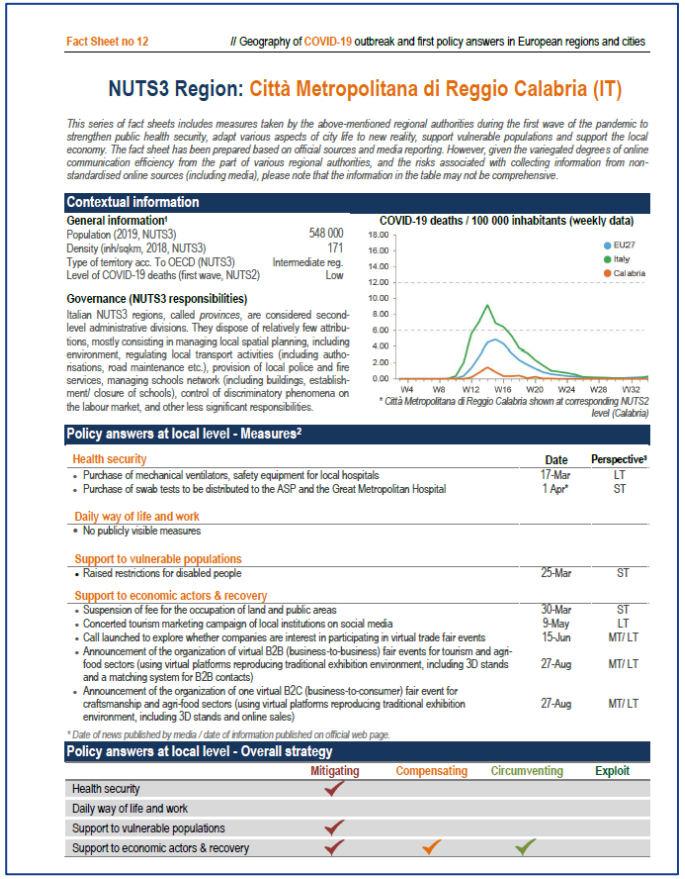
\- +

Type of public action

Health security	**Daily way of life and work**
Support to vulnerable populations	**Support to economic actors & recovery**

Mitigate	**Circumvent**
Compensate	**Exploit**
Defensive Approach	Offensive Approach

35 case studies III-VIII.2020



Fact Sheet no 12 // Geography of COVID-19 outbreak and first policy answers in European regions and cities

NUTS3 Region: Città Metropolitana di Reggio Calabria (IT)

This series of fact sheets includes measures taken by the above-mentioned regional authorities during the first wave of the pandemic to strengthen public health security, adapt various aspects of city life to new reality, support vulnerable populations and support the local economy. The fact sheet has been prepared based on official sources and media reporting. However, given the variegated degrees of online communication efficiency from the part of various regional authorities, and the risks associated with collecting information from non-standardised online sources (including media), please note that the information in the table may not be comprehensive.

Contextual information

General information[1]

Population (2019, NUTS3)	548 000
Density (inh/sqkm, 2018, NUTS3)	171
Type of territory acc. To OECD (NUTS3)	Intermediate reg.
Level of COVID-19 deaths (first wave, NUTS2)	Low

Governance (NUTS3 responsibilities)

Italian NUTS3 regions, called *provinces*, are considered second-level administrative divisions. They dispose of relatively few attributions, mostly consisting in managing local spatial planning, including environment, regulating local transport activities (including authorisations, road maintenance etc.), provision of local police and fire services, managing schools network (including buildings, establishment/ closure of schools), control of discriminatory phenomena on the labour market, and other less significant responsibilities.

COVID-19 deaths / 100 000 inhabitants (weekly data)

* *Città Metropolitana di Reggio Calabria shown at corresponding NUTS2 level (Calabria)*

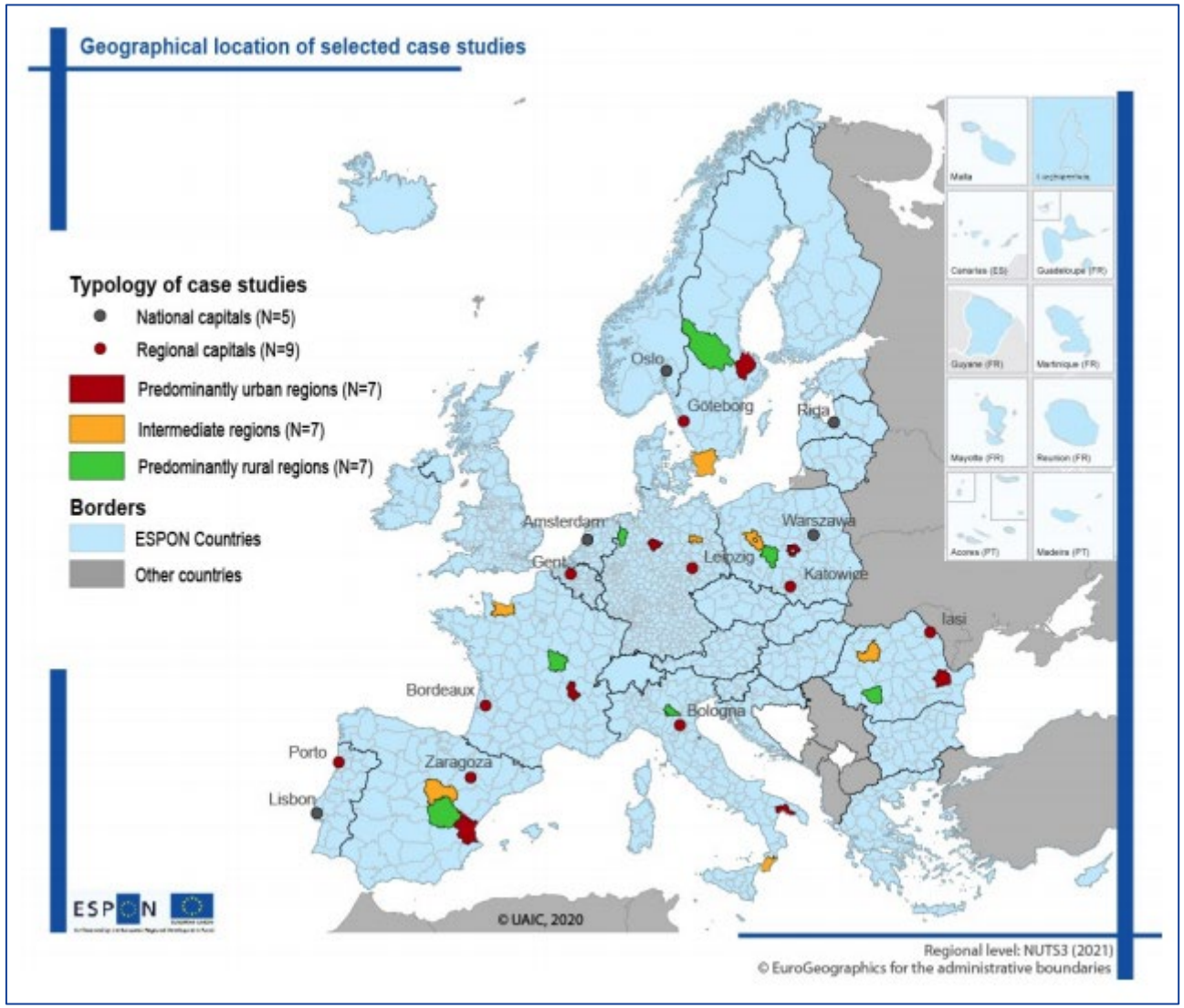
Policy answers at local level - Measures[2]

	Date	Perspective[3]
Health security		
• Purchase of mechanical ventilators, safety equipment for local hospitals	17-Mar	LT
• Purchase of swab tests to be distributed to the ASP and the Great Metropolitan Hospital	1 Apr*	ST
Daily way of life and work		
• No publicly visible measures		
Support to vulnerable populations		
• Raised restrictions for disabled people	25-Mar	ST
Support to economic actors & recovery		
• Suspension of fee for the occupation of land and public areas	30-Mar	ST
• Concerted tourism marketing campaign of local institutions on social media	9-May	LT
• Call launched to explore whether companies are interest in participating in virtual trade fair events	15-Jun	MT/ LT
• Announcement of the organization of virtual B2B (business-to-business) fair events for tourism and agri-food sectors (using virtual platforms reproducing traditional exhibition environment, including 3D stands and a matching system for B2B contacts)	27-Aug	MT/ LT
• Announcement of the organization of one virtual B2C (business-to-consumer) fair event for craftsmanship and agri-food sectors (using virtual platforms reproducing traditional exhibition environment, including 3D stands and online sales)	27-Aug	MT/ LT

* *Date of news published by media / date of information published on official web page.*

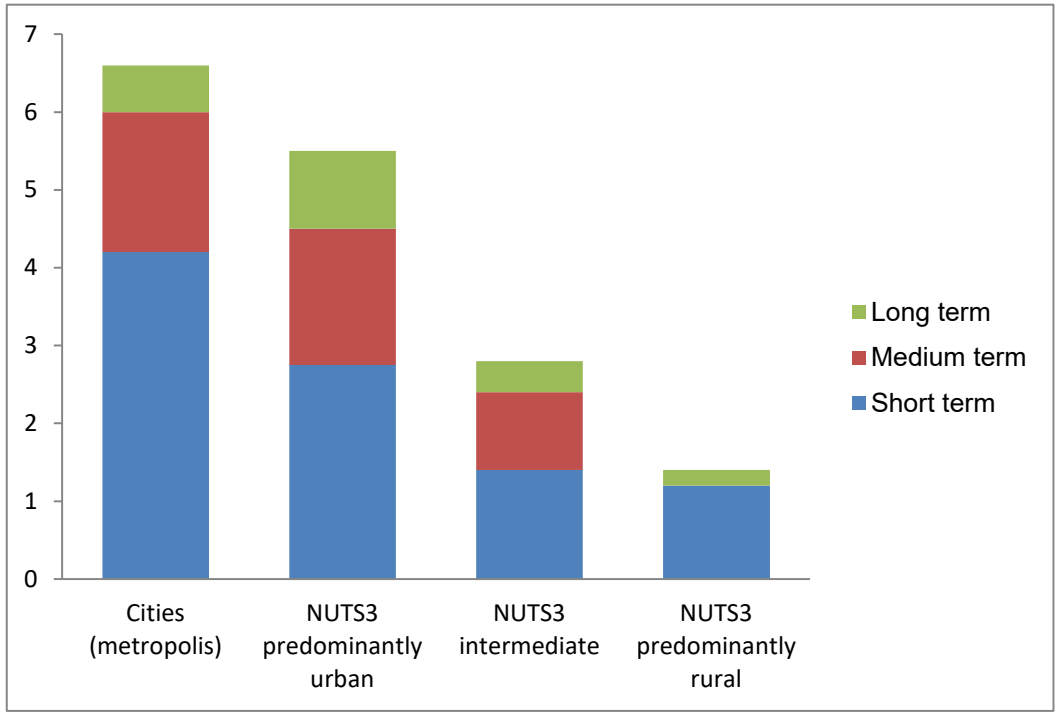
Policy answers at local level - Overall strategy

	Mitigating	Compensating	Circumventing	Exploit
Health security	✓			
Daily way of life and work				
Support to vulnerable populations	✓			
Support to economic actors & recovery	✓	✓	✓	



First wave observations

- **Local responses depend on the territorial features**
  - Only 1 out of 7 **predominantly rural regions** implemented significant economic recovery measures
  - 5 out of 7 **predominantly urban regions** did implement (significant) economic measures aimed at coping with COVID-19-induced crisis.
- **Responses are short-term rather than long-term**
  - Short-term measures dominate in all types of territories
  - However, and not surprisingly, **predominantly rural regions** show the highest shares of short-term measures



First wave observations

Preliminary results: The measures taken are more defensive than offensive

Predominantly rural regions

- **Most regions aim at mitigating negative effects of the crisis**
- Relatively large number of regions (3/5) with no support to economic actors & recovery
- The only two exploiting initiatives!

	Mitigating	Compensating	Circumventing	Exploiting	No policy
Health security	●●●●●			●	
Daily way of life and work	●●●●		●●		●
Support to vulnerable populations	●●●	●●	●		●
Support to economic actors & recovery	●●	●●		●	●●●

**Each ● represents a NUTS3 region falling into the indicated category.*

**The same NUTS3 region can belong to multiple categories depending on the measures taken.*

*** Table computed based on most accomplished/reliable 5 fact sheets filled for predominantly rural regions*

3b

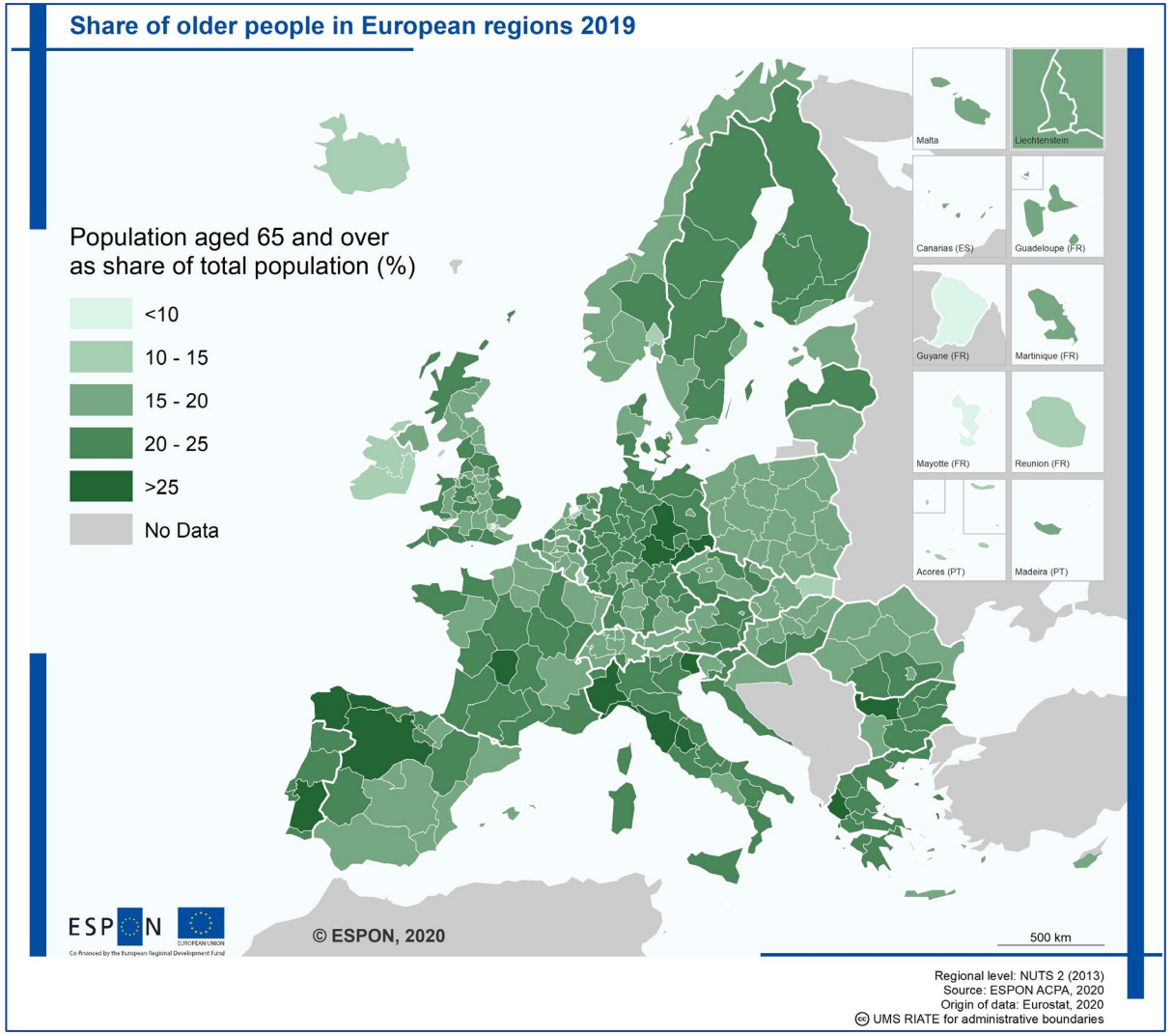
The ageing population

Ageing is an opportunity!

- **European population is ageing rapidly**, largely because of historically low fertility rates and increases in life expectancy, resulting from healthier living and improved healthcare
- Population ageing will require more public funding; challenges concern especially the labour market, housing, public service provision and social inclusion
- In a conference on ageing in November 2020, the idea of turning ageing into an opportunity and launching a **Silver Deal**, just like the Green Deal, was advocated by cities and well received by participants.
- Throughout many cities: similar policy targets and thematic focus areas (social participation, inclusion and community support); similar design and implementation of policies and initiatives

Geographical distribution of population ageing

- In 2030, approximately 24% of the EU population is expected to be aged 65 or older
- The **intensity** of population ageing differs quite noticeably between countries and regions
- Around 20% of the population was aged 65 and over in 2019; this share was highest in **Italy (23%)** and lowest in Ireland (14%)
- Italy is projected to have the highest share of older people in the EU in 2030



ACPA // Good practices and inspiring examples for each age-friendly city policy domain

POLICY DOMAIN	GOOD PRACTICE	EXAMPLE (CITY)
1. Outdoor spaces and buildings	Taking away barriers to visit outdoor spaces and buildings. Such barriers can have a physical and a social/cognitive dimension	Age-friendly shopping (Zaragoza)
2. Transportation	Tailored solutions that can bring older people to destinations where public transport is unavailable	Pink pick-up buses (Oslo)[1]
3. Housing	Optimal use of scarce residential real estate and stimulating intergenerational contact by having seniors and students live in one building	Viure i Conviure (Barcelona)
4. Social participation	Platform for discussion of ageing – including sensitive topics – by older people without problematising it	UP! – a new perspective on ageing (Amsterdam)
5. Respect and social inclusion	Cultural activities adapted to cultural backgrounds of older people	AVEM groups[2] (Hengelo)
6. Civic participation and employment	Active involvement of older people in the design and implementation of policies and activities	Working Well (Greater Manchester)
7. Communication and information	Combining multiple demands in one project: teaching seniors to use digital technology, letting them share personal experiences and reflect on their quality of life, as well as giving them a voice in the city council	Life filming (Gothenburg)
8. Community support and health services	Don't forget about the people around the seniors. Informal caregivers in particular tend to find it a burden to perform their tasks and should be relieved where possible	Maison des aidants (Nantes)

3c

Shrinking rural areas

Building a sustainable future looking at all types of rural regions

687 NUTS-3 regions in Europe

658 NUTS-3 regions in the EU

41%

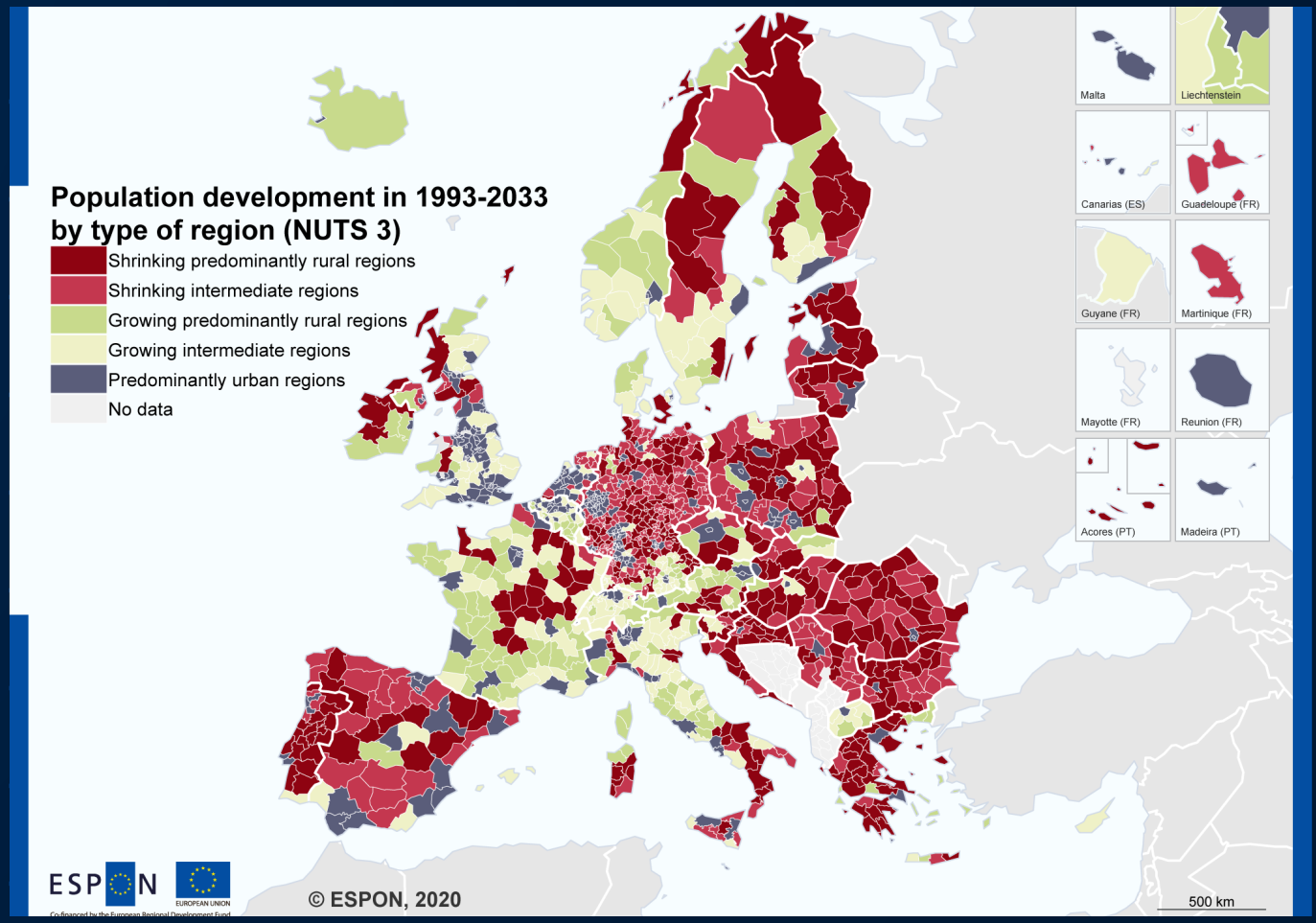
41% of the EU28 predominantly rural and intermediate regions are growing

59%

59% of the EU28 predominantly rural and intermediate regions are shrinking

40% of EU 28 area

30% of EU 28 inhabitants



ESPON advice for place-based policies

Just Europe

Green Europe

Design place-based policies for specific territories depending on:

- new economic power from green opportunities and assets of natural capital of rural areas
- proximity or linkage to a/more urban centre(s) and digital connections
- territorial and demographic resilience facing climate change and shrinking of rural areas

Following the next principles:

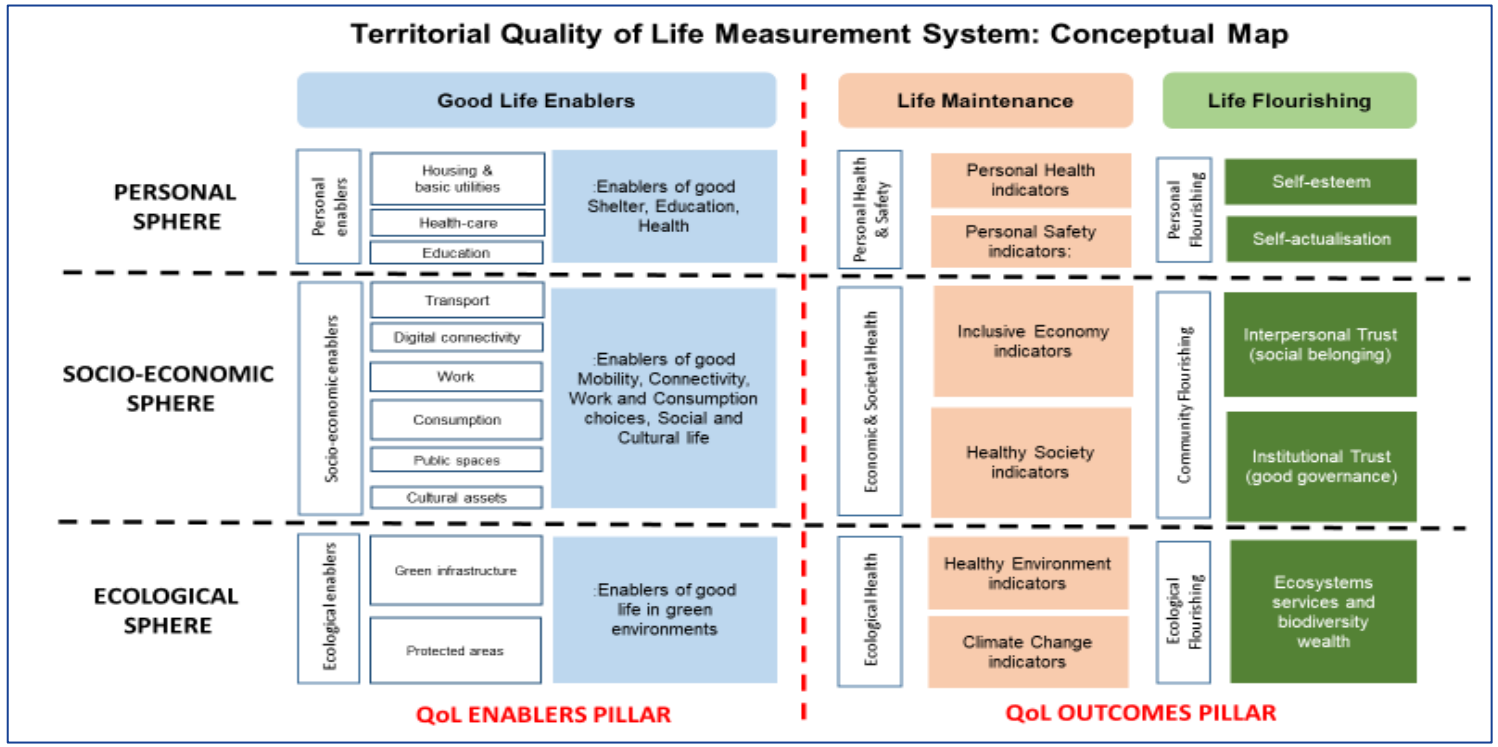
- **Wellbeing of the residents at the heart of any policy, strategy or measure.**
- **Provide the infrastructure and/or the equal / comparable access to services necessary to support a good quality of living.**
- **Capitalise on local opportunities and on local community's intelligence and resilience.**

3d

Is our life good enough?

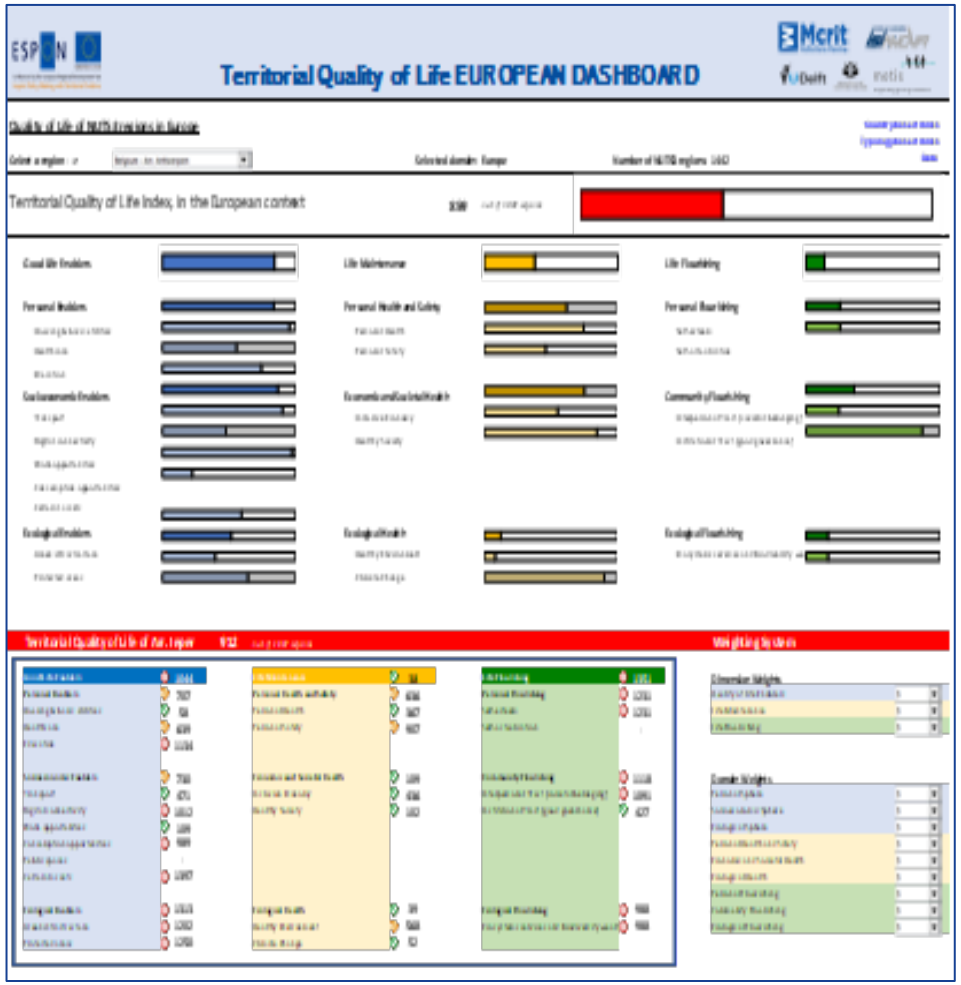
Territorial Quality of Life – conceptual map

- Measuring “territorial” quality of life means measuring the capabilities needed by all living beings to survive and flourish in a place, based on the economic, social and ecological conditions that support life in that place.
- Conceptual TQoL model encompasses three spheres – personal, socio-economic and ecological, – and three quality of life dimensions – good life enablers, life survival (“maintenance”) and life flourishing.



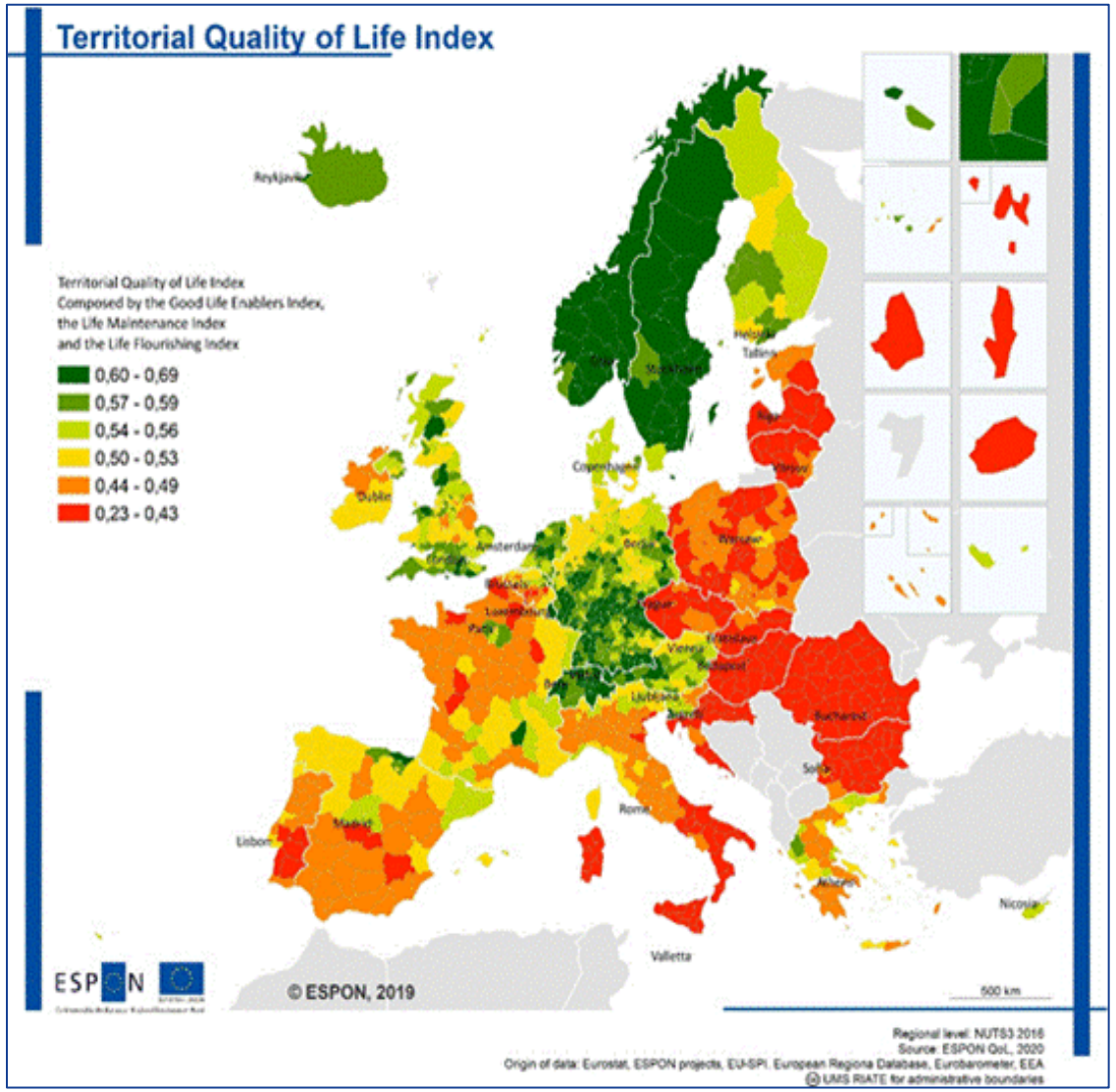
Territorial Quality of Life – how to measure?

- The ESPON QoL project has developed a model that maps differences in QoL across Europe, and a tool that computes indicators and composite indices, providing drilldowns on individual areas as well as a broad overall view.



Territorial Quality of Life – how do we stand and what to do?

- ESPON QoL research shows that Nordic countries are scoring particularly well across the board.
- But which parts of Europe are lagging, and which are showing somewhat unexpectedly high ratings?
- Citizen-centric approach to measuring territorial QoL – involve the citizens in defining what QoL means for them
- Set up **TQoL Living Labs** to combine the knowledge of experts and decision-makers with the wisdom of citizens.



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