



Inspire policy making by territorial evidence



**ESPON Seminar**

## **South Europe at the crossroads**

**Are we making the right decisions  
about accessibility investments for the future?**

## **The access to services of general interest in the PROFECY project**

Francesco Mantino, CREA-Policies and Bioeconomy,  
Rome



EUROPEAN UNION  
Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund  
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

## The PROFECY Project

This contribution arises from the ongoing ESPON 2020 project “Processes, Features and Cycles of Inner Peripheries in Europe (PROFECY)”.

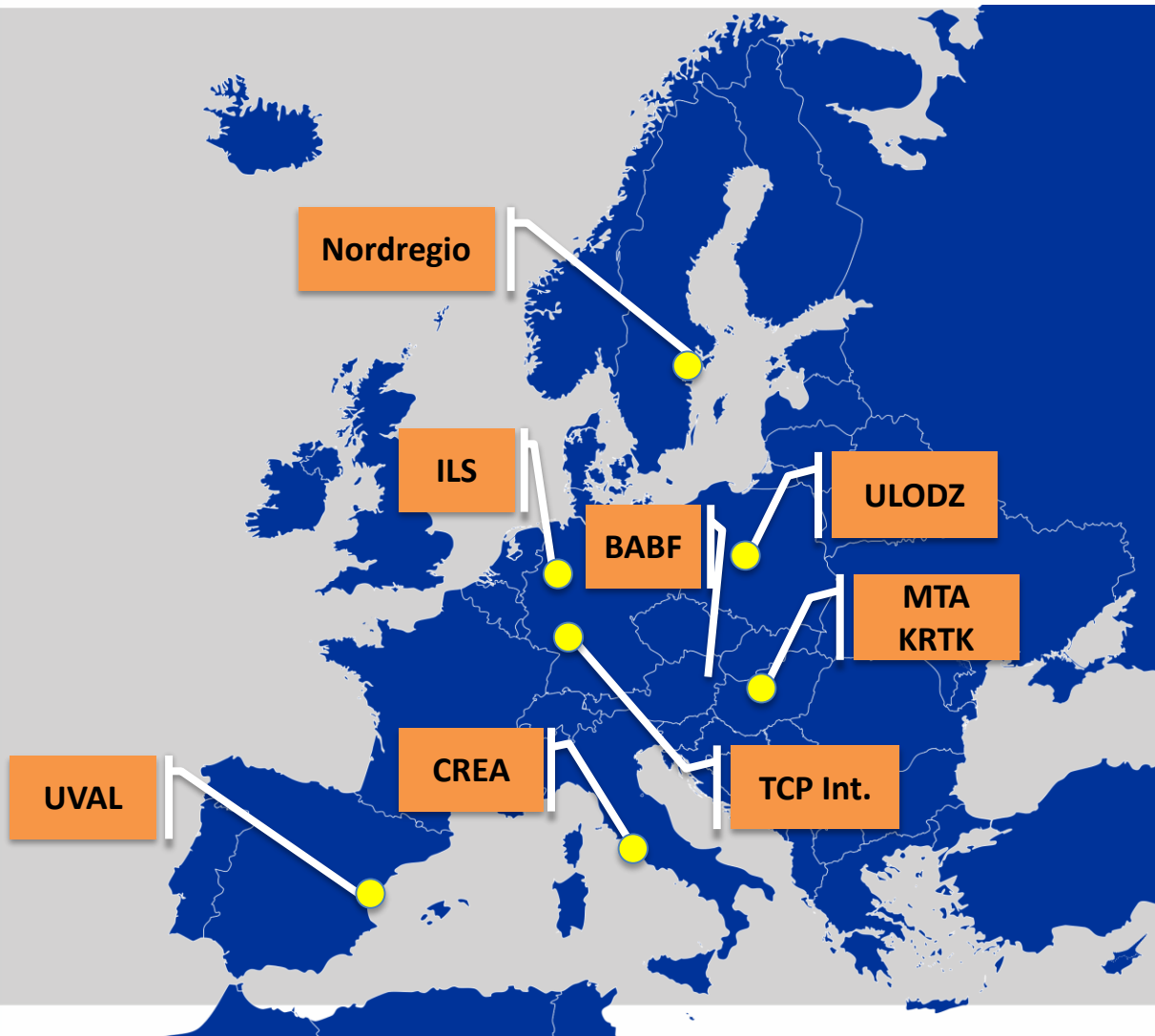
Applied Research Project started in June 2016 and finishing in December 2017

Main goal: defining, identifying, characterising and delineating inner peripherality in Europe.

Information about the project available at:

[http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_AppliedResearch/05.InnerPeripheries.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/05.InnerPeripheries.html)

# PROFECY Partners



**Lead Partner:** University of Valencia – Institute for Local Development

**Partner 2.** Nordregio. Nordic Centre for Spatial Development

**Partner 3.** CREA - Council for Agricultural Research and Economics

**Partner 4.** ILS – Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development

**Partner 5.** MTA KRTK – Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

**Partner 6.** BABF - Federal Institute for Less-Favoured and Mountainous Areas (Vienna).

**Partner 7.** TCP International

**Partner 8.** University of Lodz

## Contextual Considerations

The work to be carried out requires having in mind a series of fundamental contextual considerations to prevent failure

**In most European countries, IP are not addressed in national policies:** it is a new phenomenon that has not even been considered in the regional policy agenda. Therefore, no accumulated knowledge exists

**There is no generally accepted interpretation of the concept** (neither academic, nor political)

IPs constitute a **hybrid territorial reality** that is not solely determined by accessibility, but also by historical development and relations (ie. connections)

**The delineation of IP is a challenging task** on account of both to the lack of a clear definition of the phenomenon, and a lack of data at appropriate geographic levels

**These will be the fundamental challenges in the implementation of the project**

## The concept of Inner Peripherality

- A set of processes that cause limitations in the territorial development potential in the medium and long term.
- Novelty of the concept: “geography” is not the only component of peripheralisation.
- Other non “geography-based” processes play a role: interactions among local actors, level of insertion in relevant territorial and thematic networks, capacity of local stakeholders to establish links with other entities in contiguous territories and beyond.
- According to the “relational proximity” approach, a well-connected territory offers more possibilities for development, access to SGI, or a more dynamic labour market.
- Inner peripherality, whatever the combination of processes and factors that causes it, tend to reproduce in time due to the evolutionary character of “disconnection” and its feedback effects.
- The diversity and specificity that characterises inner peripherality make it difficult to encapsulate the concept when offering diagnoses and intervention proposals.

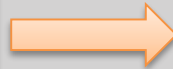
# Three “theoretical concepts” of IP

**Drivers**

**Impacts**

**1. Enclaves of Low Economic Potential**

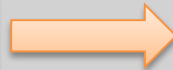
Low level of access to centres of economic activity (modelled as Economic Potential)



Disagglomeration Penalties on economic activity, value added, entrepreneurial activity, growth etc

**1. Poor Access to SGI**

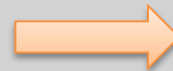
Poor access to Services of General Interest (SGI). New Public Management, austerity, rationalisation.



Low levels of well-being, or quality of life. Out-migration, leading to demographic ageing, economic stagnation...

**3. Areas experiencing aspatial "Peripheralization" processes**

Low levels of "organised proximity" - poor connectedness with global economic circuits. Deficit of political and administrative power.

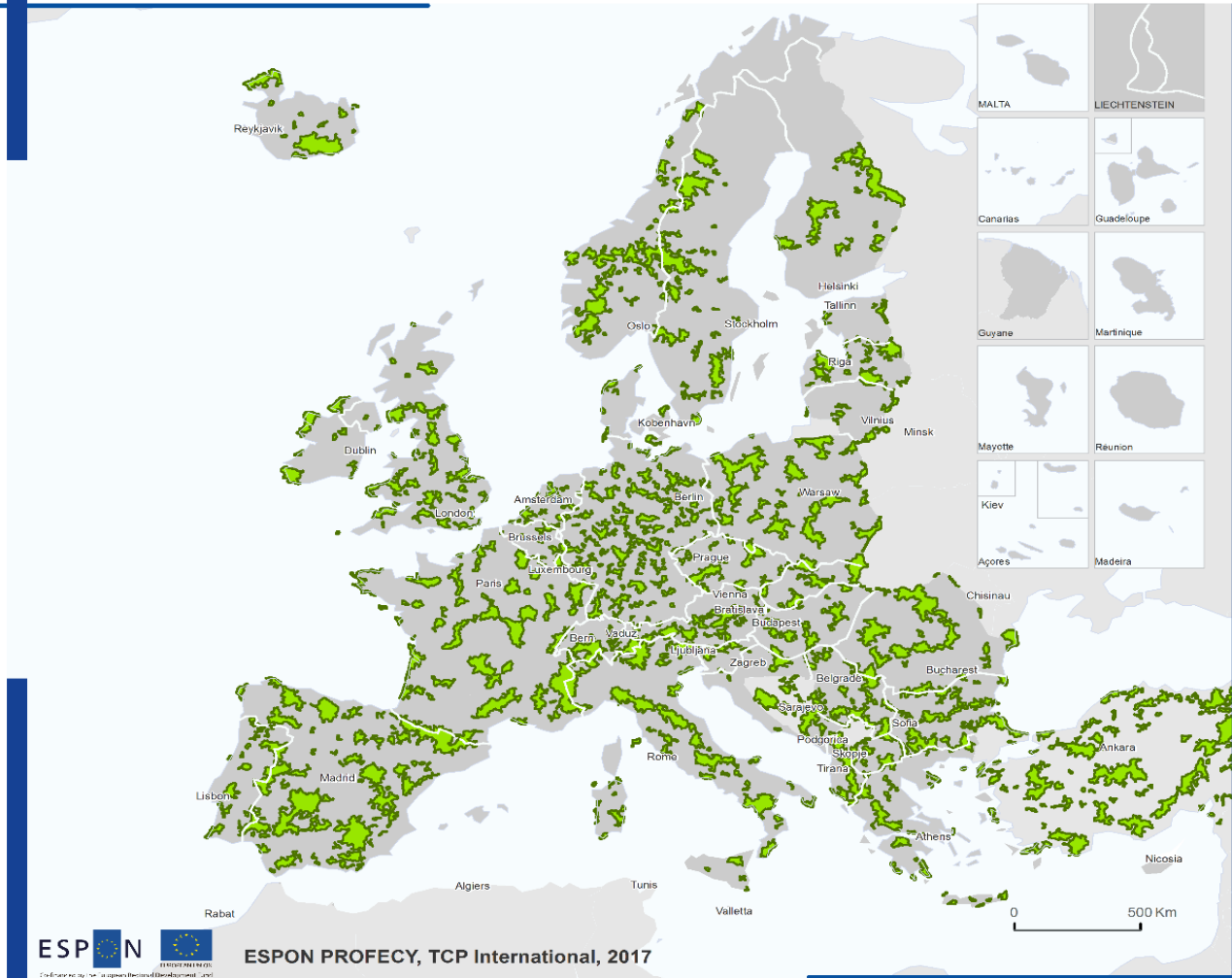


Economic stagnation, low levels of entrepreneurship and innovation. Out-migration, depleted human capital. Low levels of social capital.



## The Four “Operational Types”

- Conceptual framework identified 3 “theoretical concepts” of Inner Peripheries
- They have been worked into 4 “operational types of IPs”
- The goal has been to provide methodologies linking each Theoretical Concept into one or more Operational Types that can be measured through data and indicators
- LAU2 preferred but only NUTS3 available in some cases: some test with LAU2 data at case studies level is fundamental
- The “Operational Types” are the basis for the Delineations of Inner Peripherality developed in the project

## Delineation 1: Inner Peripheries in Europe (grid level)



### Delineation 1: Poor access to regional centres Identification of grid areas as Inner Peripheries

-  IP regions in Europe
-  non-IP regions

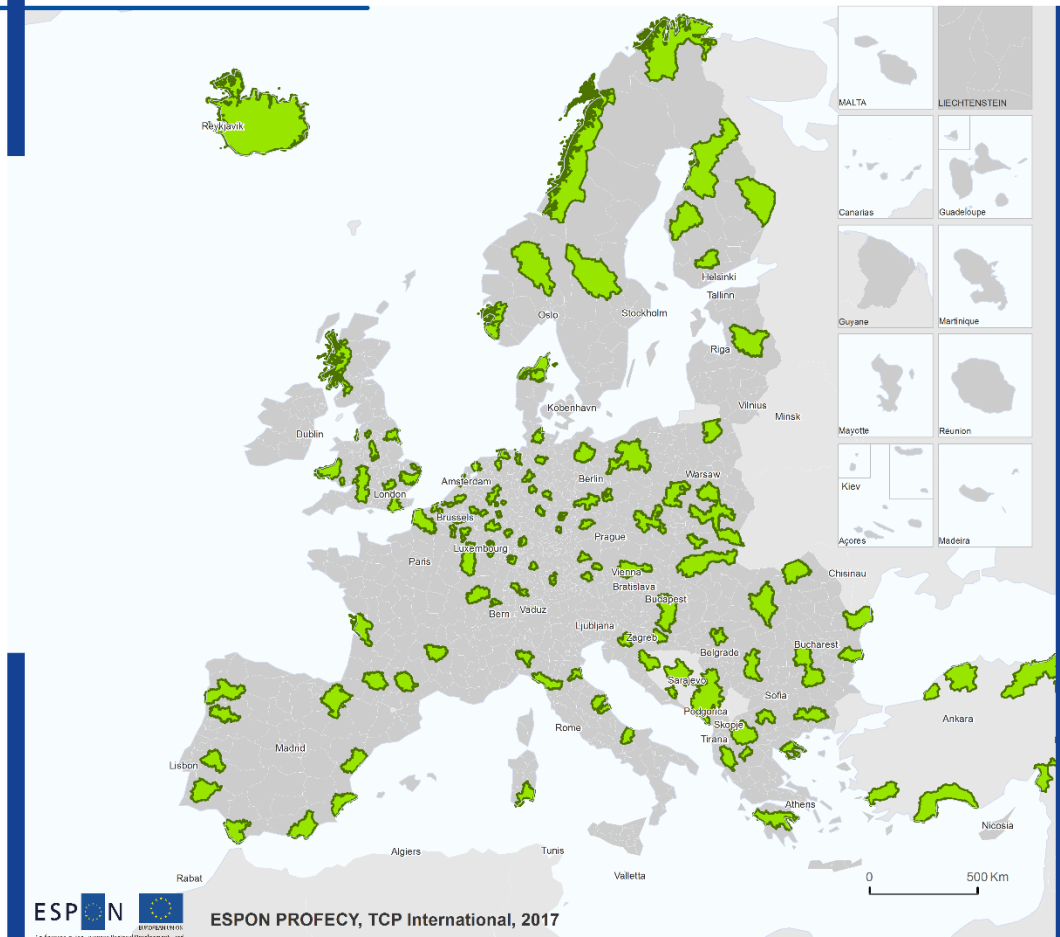
**Remarks:**

*IP regions include all areas who have poor access to regional centres in Europe, in comparison to the neighbouring areas.*

Level: grid cells (2.5x2.5 km)  
Source: TCP International, 2017  
Origin of data: TCP International Accessibility Model, 2017  
CC - UMS RIATE for administrative boundaries, EBM, GADM



## Delineation 2: Inner peripheries in Europe (NUTS-3 level)



### Delineation 2: Potential accessibility - low performing regions Identification of NUTS-3 regions as Inner Peripheries

- IP regions in Europe
- non-IP NUTS-3 region

**Remarks:**

*IP regions include all NUTS-3 regions*

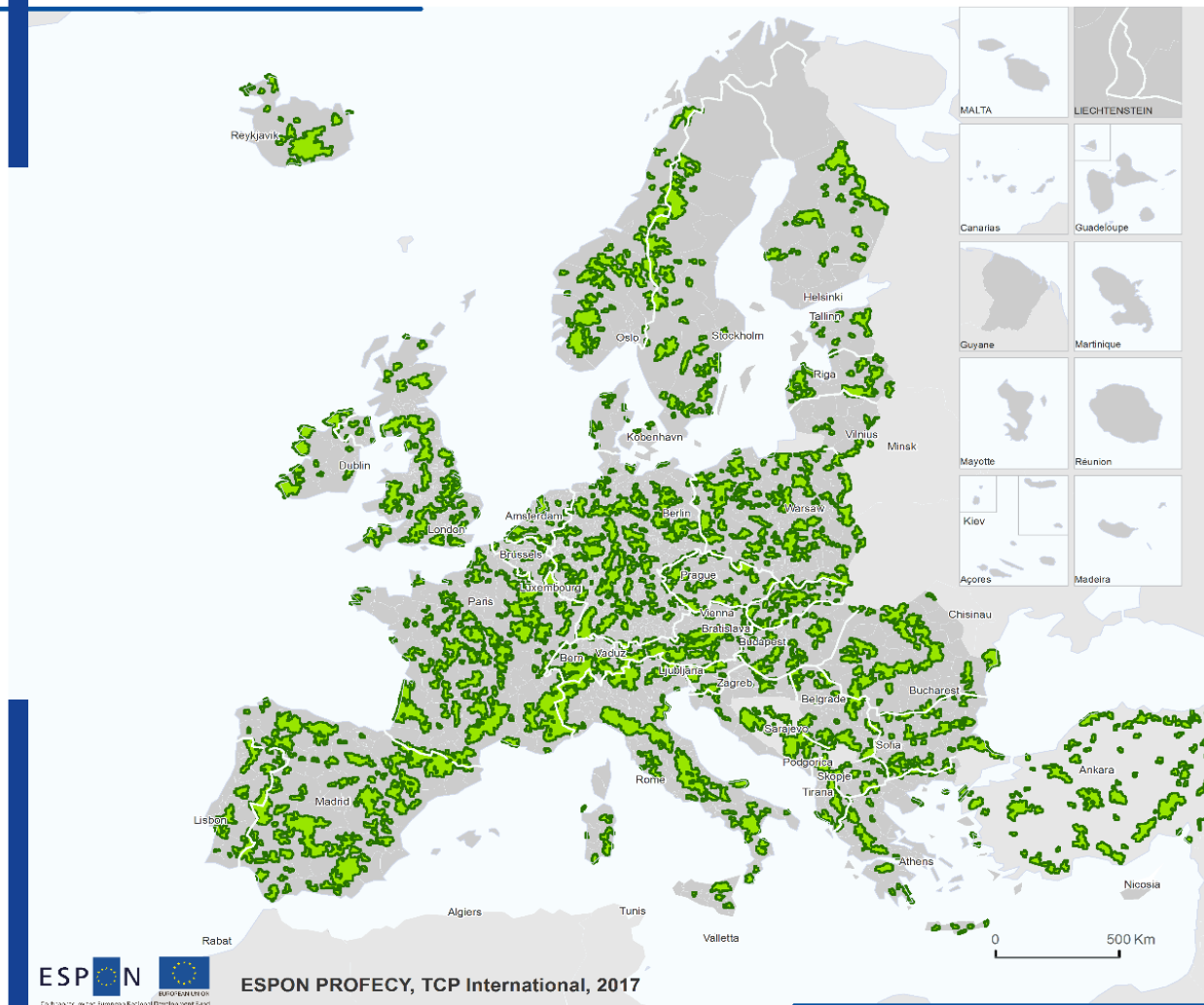
*(i) whose standardized potential accessibility indices in 2014 for road and rail are below average of neighbouring regions, and*

*(ii) whose development of the standardized potential accessibility indices between 2001 and 2014 for road and rail is negative (i.e. whose accessibility development was worse compared to its neighbours - negative change rates).*



Level: NUTS-3  
Own classification  
Source of accessibility indicators:  
ESPON Matrices Final, 2017;  
Spiekermann&Wegener Urban and Regional Research, 2017;  
Origin of data: S&W Accessibility Model, 2017  
RRG GIS Database, 2017  
CC - UMS RIATE for administrative boundaries

Notes:  
Outermost regions excluded from analysis.

## Delineation 3: Inner Peripheries in Europe (grid level)



### Delineation 3: Poor access to services-of-general-interest Identification of grid areas as Inner Peripheries

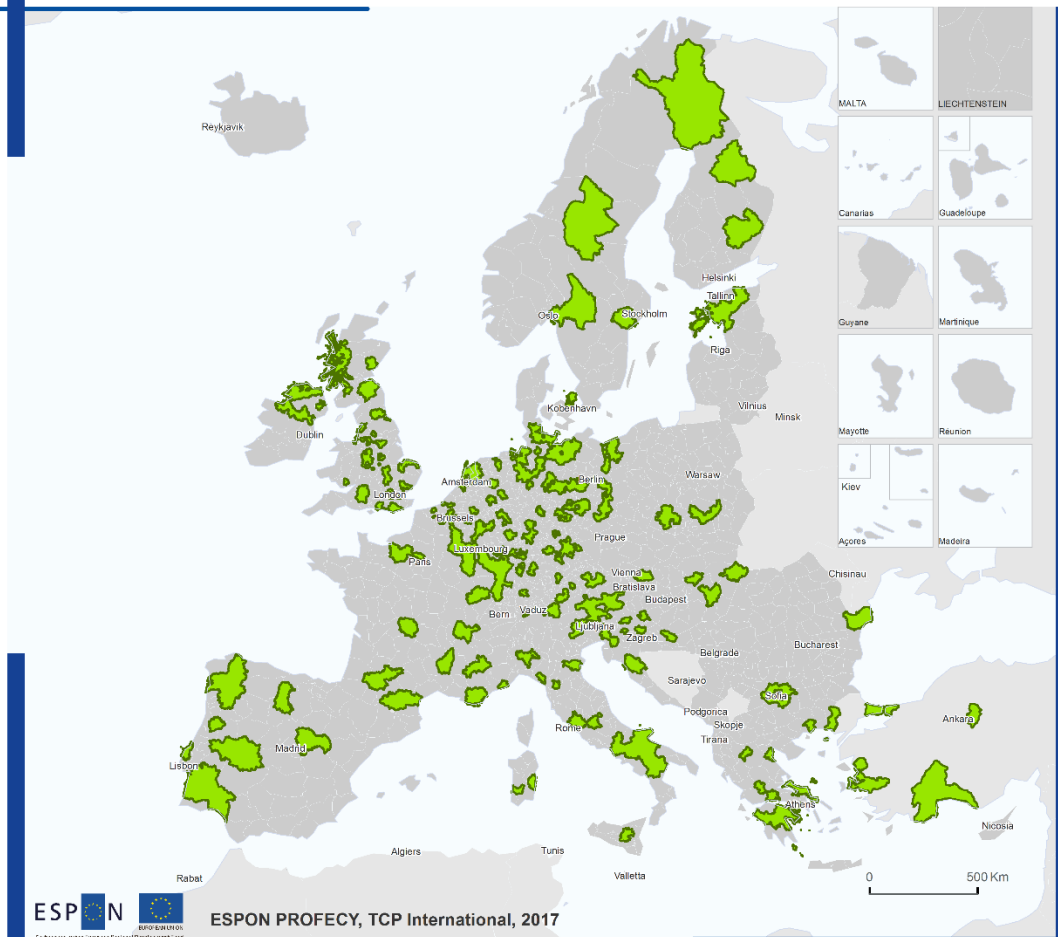
-  IP areas in Europe
-  non-IP area

#### Remarks:

IP regions include all areas who have poor access to five or more services-of-general-interest, and at the same time have poor access to hospitals or to primary schools or to train stations.

Level: grid cells (2.5x2.5 km)  
Source: TCP International, 2017  
Origin of data: TCP International Accessibility Model, 2017  
CC - Eurostat-GISCO, RRG GIS Database

## Delineation 4: Inner peripheries in Europe (NUTS-3 level)



ESPON ESPON PROFECY, TCP International, 2017

### Delineation 4: Demographic and economic performance Regions with poor performance as regards population, GDP and unemployment (depleting areas) Identification of NUTS-3 regions as Inner Peripheries

- IP regions in Europe
- non-IP NUTS-3 region

#### Remarks:

*IP regions include all NUTS-3 regions*

*(i) whose standardized population density in 2015 is < 50% of the average of neighbouring regions and who experienced negative mean annual change rates in the time period 2000-2015,*

*or*

*(ii) whose standardized GDP per capita in 2015 is < 85% of the average of neighbouring regions and who experienced GDP development in the time period 2000-2015 below the average of ESPON space,*

*or*

*(iii) whose standardized unemployment rate in 2016 is >125% of the average of neighbouring regions and who experienced increasing unemployment rates in the time period 2002-2016.*

Level: NUTS-3  
Source: own calculations based on Eurostat, 2017  
CC - UMS RIATE for administrative boundaries

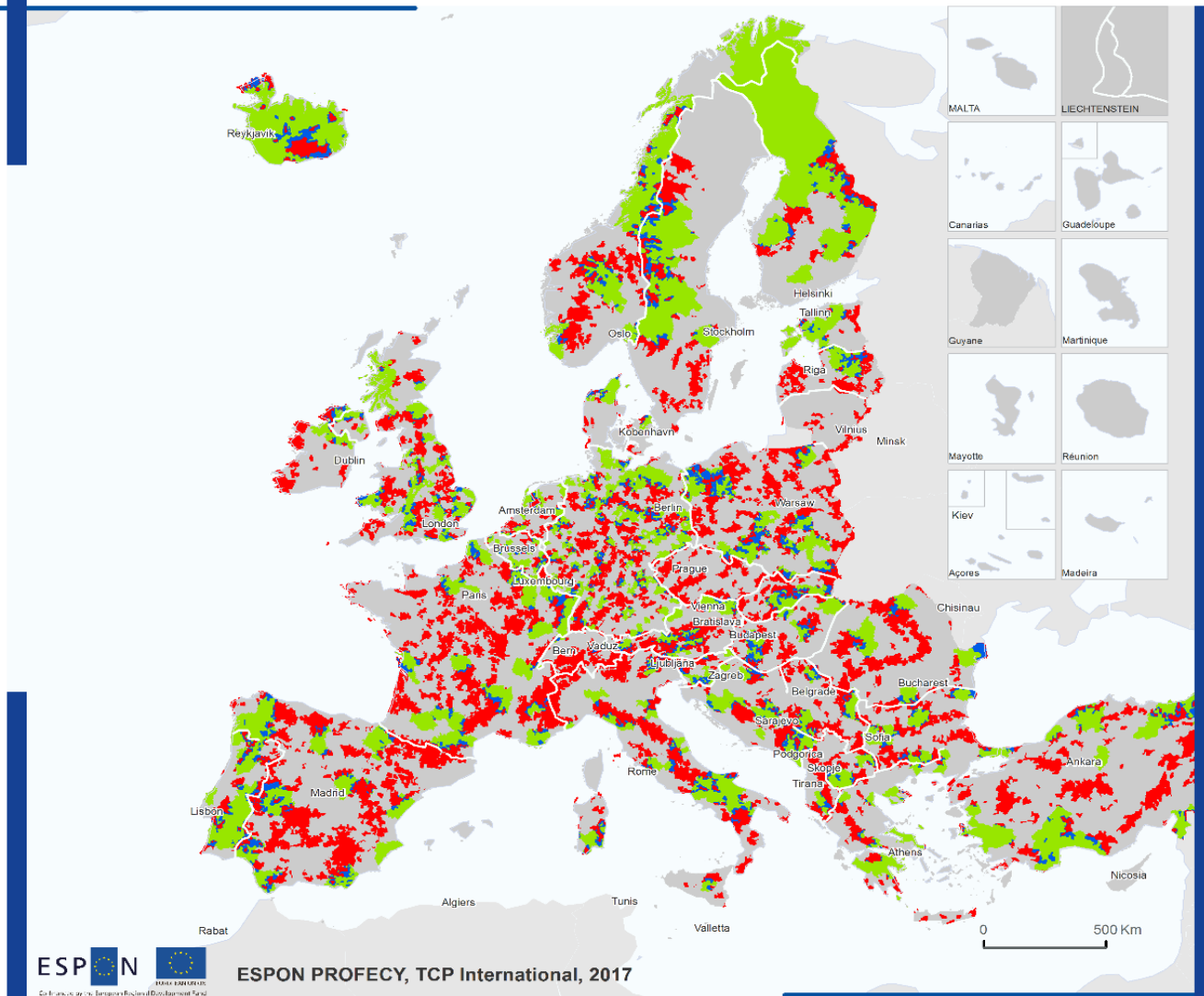
Notes:  
Outermost regions excluded from analysis.

## Combining the four delineations: summary statistics





Area	Share on entire ESPON territory	Share on all IP areas
Non-IP areas	54.6 %	
IP areas	45.4 %	100.0 %
Of which		
IP for one delineation	29.2 %	35.3 %
IP for two or more delineations	16.2 %	64.7 %
Of which		
IP, main driver poor economic/demographic situation	21.1 %	46.0 %
IP, main driver lack of access	20.0 %	44.6 %
IP, with both lack of access and poor economic / demographic situation as main driver	4.3 %	9.4 %

	Urban regions	Intermediate regions	Rural regions	Mountain regions	Island regions	Metropolitan regions
<b>IP 1 (regional centres)</b>	9.6%	48.6%	41.8%	49.5%	0.0%	24.0%
<b>IP 2 (interstitial)</b>	18.8%	40.0%	41.2%	38.2%	1.2%	23.0%
<b>IP 3 (SGI access)</b>	10.8%	44.1%	45.2%	53.8%	1.1%	20.4%
<b>IP 4 (depleting)</b>	32.2%	34.1%	33.7%	24.4%	2.6%	43.0%

# Combinations of the four delineation approaches



## Overlay of results of the four individual delineations: Main drivers of inner peripherality (lack of access vs. economic and demographic situation)

-  non-IP area
-  Main driver: poor economic potentials and poor socio-economic situation
-  Main driver: lack of access to centres and/or services
-  Main drivers: poor accessibility and poor economic potentials/poor socio-economic situation

Level: grid cells (2.5x2.5 km)  
Source: TCP International, 2017  
Origin of data: TCP International Accessibility Model, 2017  
CC - UMS RIATE for administrative boundaries

Note:  
Outermost regions excluded from analysis.

## Conclusions

- The **conceptualisation, definition, operationalisation and delineation in maps of Inner Peripherality in Europe** is a big task that has been almost fully achieved by the Project.
- For socio-economic variables, **almost impossible to carry out analyses for Europe at LAU2 level (the most appropriate)** due to the complete absence of comparable information and the constant changes in the boundaries of LAU2 units (many each year).
- Even at NUTS3 level, **a serious lack of harmonized and updated data** for all ESPON space limits the significance of analysis
- A **unified definition of Inner Peripherality** is being worked out and will be presented in the final report of the Project
- The concept of “**areas at risk**” is also important and needs to be further developed:
  - AAR as territories with a single SGI provider
  - AAR as territories already in the limit of one or more IP parameters