



**NORDREGIO**  
Nordic Centre for Spatial Development

# Policy lab 3: Urban-rural partnerships

**ESPON Seminar**  
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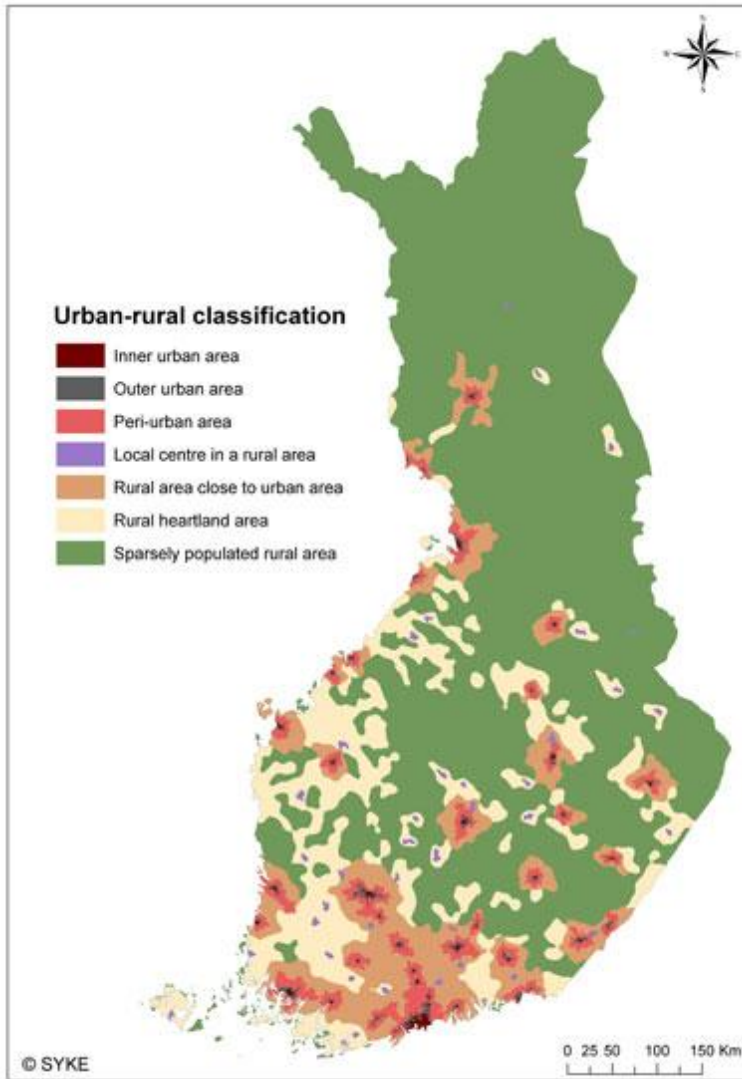


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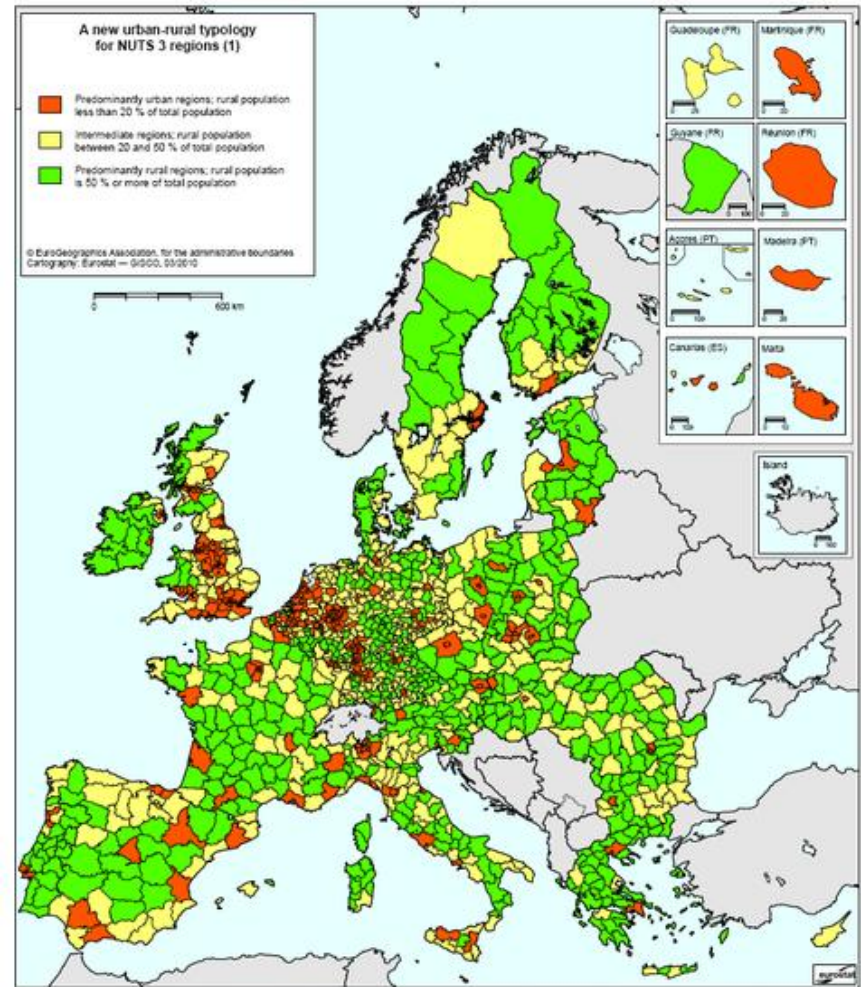
Nordic Council of Ministers

# Dealing with the administrative fragmentation and institutional administrative rigidity

- Urban-rural linkages: complex & quickly changing phenomena (Copus 2013; 2014)
- Deconstruction of the concept of urban-rural relationships & cooperation (OECD 2013):
  - 'ideal' governance arrangement is unlikely to occur
  - a range of thematic collaborations at a variety of scales
- GIS-based typology in Finland
  - Information is independent from administrative borders
  - Depicts differences between areas at the level of regional structures



SYKE, Finnish Environmental Institute



(1) This typology is based on a definition of urban and rural 1 km<sup>2</sup> grid cells. Urban grid cells fulfil two conditions: 1) a population density of at least 300 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> and 2) a minimum population of 5 000 inhabitants in contiguous cells above the density threshold. The other cells are considered rural. Thresholds for the typology: 50% and 20% of the regional population in rural grid cells.

For Madeira, Açores and the French outermost regions, the population grid is not available. As a result, this typology uses the OECD classification for these regions.

# Using the ITI instrument to promote urban-rural partnerships

- Fills a gap in implementing territorial approaches:
  - allows integration across multiple funds and administrative boundaries;
  - integrated response to diverse territorial needs
- Redefining focus of collaboration: thematic vs geographic
- Six City Strategy, Finland
  - Implementation of a win-win solution to face common challenges
  - enables the cities to experiment in a larger context than just one city;
  - engage the whole urban community to create smarter and more viable cities;
  - the largest cities serve as development and testing grounds for innovation.

# Possibilities for knowledge transfer

- Complexity of spatial organisation of economic activity: 'local buzz' vs 'organised proximities' (Copus 2014)
- Inherent risk in policy-led research: relocalisation strategies based on outdated stereotypes of urban-rural relationships
- Differentiated regional policies
  - Territorial typologies coupled with fine-tuned analysis serve as intermediate vector for policy recommendations (e.g. thematic urban-rural cooperation, generic urban-rural cooperation, translocal globalisation of rural businesses)
- Balanced win-win pattern of complementary advantages
- Thematic focus of collaboration