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Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

Processes, Features and Cycles of Inner Peripheries in Europe (**PROFECY**)

The need for integrating inner peripheries

Katalin Kovács, Gergely Tagai

MTA KRTK

Processes, Features and Cycles of Inner Peripheries in Europe

■ Understanding Inner Peripherality

- “Geography” is not the only component of peripheralization.
- Other non geography-based processes play a role: interactions among local actors, level of insertion in networks, capacity of local stakeholders to establish links with other entities.
- According to the “relational proximity” approach, a well-connected territory offers more possibilities for development, access to SGIs, or a more dynamic labour market.
- Inner peripherality tends to be reproduced 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.
- No single definition for the concept, three models of inner peripherality:
 - Enclaves of low economic potential;
 - Areas characterised by poor access to Services of General Interest (SGIs);
 - Areas with low levels of socio-economic performance due to the absence of “organised proximity”.

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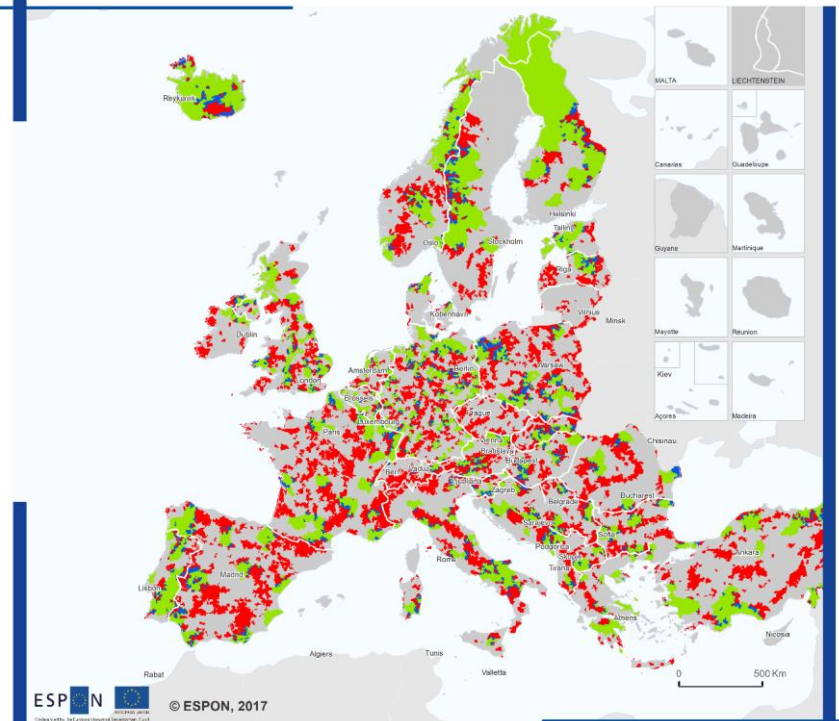
Delineation of inner peripheries

- Three conceptual models → four operational types



- A poor economic or demographic situation (delineations 2 and 4)
- A poor access to services and/or to regional centres (delineations 1 and 3)
- A combination (aggravation) of them

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: ESPON Profecy
Origin of data: TCP International, 2017;
TCP International Accessibility Model, 2017;
CC - UMS RIATE for administrative boundaries
Note:
Outermost regions excluded from analysis.

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■ Characteristics of inner peripheries in Europe

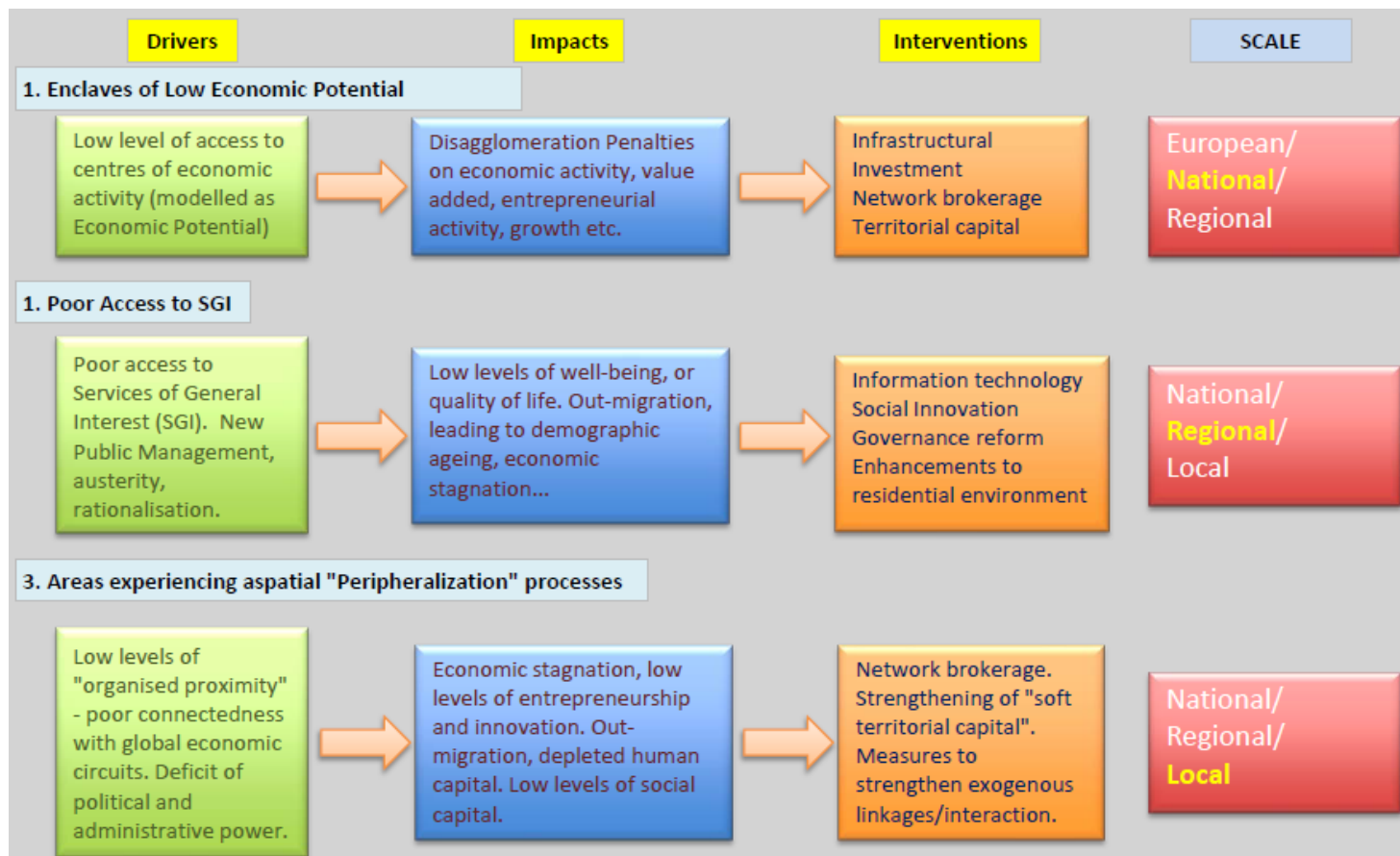
- Diversity of inner peripheries, and the uniqueness of driving factors (mixed models of inner peripherality).
- Common features often characterise inner peripheral areas:
 - High levels of outmigration, particularly among the youth and the high propensity of their not coming back, once they left for opportunities (higher education, labour market) elsewhere;
 - An economic sector based on traditional activities and/or mono-economy;
 - A low share of skilled labour force and/or difficulties to attract, mainly qualified, external workforce;
 - A sense of “being forgotten” in the political attention from higher policy levels.
- The lack of political influence results in difficulties to put their concerns in decision-making agendas and lobby to develop adequate policies tailored to local needs.
- The border location can pose a significant disadvantage for regional development and considerable challenges for service provision.

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- **Signs and consequences of low connectedness of inner peripheries**
- Low performance is in connection with the lack of visibility of inner peripheries on a supra-regional level. In many cases, financial support structures favour large agglomerations over sparsely populated areas.
- Inner peripheries could profit from more intensive inter- and international cross-border cooperation. The lack of cooperation with regional centres in other administrative areas often leads to problems regarding an adequate SGI supply.
- Internal governance issues can be observed within inner peripheries. Problems with setting up a strategic action plan or planning system structures, which would be prerequisites for tackling other issues in a coherent way often occur.
- Institutions and governance structures at different levels (from the local and regional to the national level) do not act hand in hand and hinder effective local development, or limit the ability of local actors for effective counteraction.

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- The role of scale in strategies for inner peripheries



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- **How should strategies for IPs look like**
- Key goals of any IP strategy should be to break prevailing downturn spiral leading to peripheralization in these territories via targeting drivers and enhancing spatial and social (economic) connectedness of local stakeholders and actors.
- These new/enhanced links/connections, networks, cooperations might secure
 - a better physical access to SGI, and other goods, opportunities accumulated in urban centres
 - being an essential part of territorial capital, enhanced social capital as an outcome of better connectedness might promote:
 - a better understanding of realistic pathways to development built upon
 - local (endogenous) potentials and available external resources
 - increased „relational capacities”
 - improved governance

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- **(Further on: potential impacts of enhanced connectivities)**
- *Direct impacts:*
 - a desired shift towards an active, informed, place-based, bottom up policy that help overcome the dominant feeling „being forgotten” in IPs
 - an enlarged attractiveness of the area of a certain IP for local and external investors that might stop even reverse the outflow of (young and skilled) labour
 - a slow-down of negative demographic processes (ageing, outmigration) that might generate a growing demand for SGI
- *Overall impact of circuits impacting positively the primary and secondary drivers of (inner) peripheralization:*
 - decreasing or ceasing peripheralization
 - an increased level of well-being of the population

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- **Conditions of a successful turn towards development**

1. *effective and impactful (local) strategies*

2. *(that) need support from higher policy levels*

- **National policies** should pay more attention to IP-s
- **Regional strategies** should target processes that lead to peripherization and earmark sufficient financial instruments to place-specific measures (targeting IP areas)
- **Regional agencies** might mediate between local and national levels of government via institutions and through participative strategic planning (building, implementing and monitoring regional development strategies)
- **EU cohesion and rural development policies** should ease the uptake of new policy tools that could support structural adjustment of IPs more effectively

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- **Further agendas to be tackled in favour of IP-s**
 - ‘Territorilization’ and coordination of cohesion and rural policies would be necessary in order to re-strengthen positive impacts of interventions
 - In addition to mainstream policy interventions, an increased role of new policy tools such as ITI and CLLD would be particularly helpful for IP-s given that the main strengths of these tools reside in their integrative and bottom up nature as well as the emphasis they both put over connectivities between areas and actors. These strengths might lead to the spread of better (more participative, more collaborative, more effective) governance, too.
 - The potentials of these policy tools /approaches can be maximised if complex policy goals are financed through integrated / combined funding schemes (the combination of ESF and ERDF or EAFRD -- especially its second pillar -- and structural funds (ESP and / or ERDF)
 - Financial instruments supporting policy interventions should be significant if change/progress is meant to achieve.

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- **Summing up our ‘Profecies’:**
 - To start and maintain circuits with positive feedback loops at all levels of (collaborating) government is what needed for IP-s to break through legacies of the past and open up a promising future path based upon increased connectivities and weakened drivers of peripherization.
 - Moreover, a more attentive wider policy environment at national and EU levels is needed
- in addition to
 - more weight given to further refined, integrated and integrating policy tools (ITI and CLLD) that might increase the probability of a desired success.



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