



Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

ESPON ACTAREA

Soft territorial cooperation for integrated territorial development

ESPON Outreach Event
Budapest, 7 March 2018

Soft territorial cooperation

- Build on specific territorial challenges and opportunities
- Strategic medium to long term objectives
- Open and Fuzzy
 - sectoral scope
 - geographical boundaries
 - partnership
- Renew relations between
 - Levels
 - Sectors
 - Types of actors

Communities of intent

- Voluntary cooperation with strong bottom-up component
- based on needs and shared strategic ambitions of actors linked to their shared territorial embeddedness ('intent')
- → empowerment, transfer of ownership and enhanced implementation commitment
- → mainly suited for win-win outcomes

Strength of soft territorial cooperation

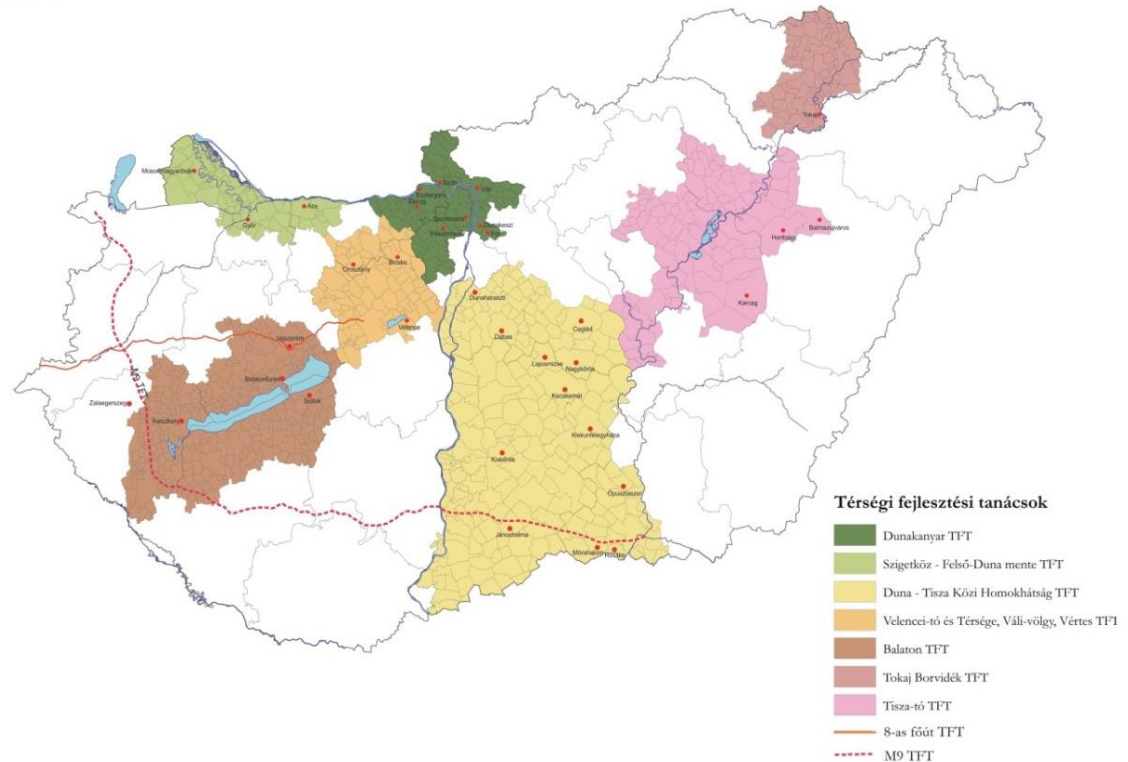
- Enhanced ownership leading to better implementation
- Flexibility to tackle issues at the right territorial scale
- Multi-level and cross-sectoral cooperation facilitated

Role of national and European authorities

- Provide territorial policies that encourage soft cooperation
- Make arrangements to monitor and coordinate among different cooperation instances
- Provide platforms for actors to meet and explore common interests
- Provide facilitation support
- Ensure stable funding for basic management tasks

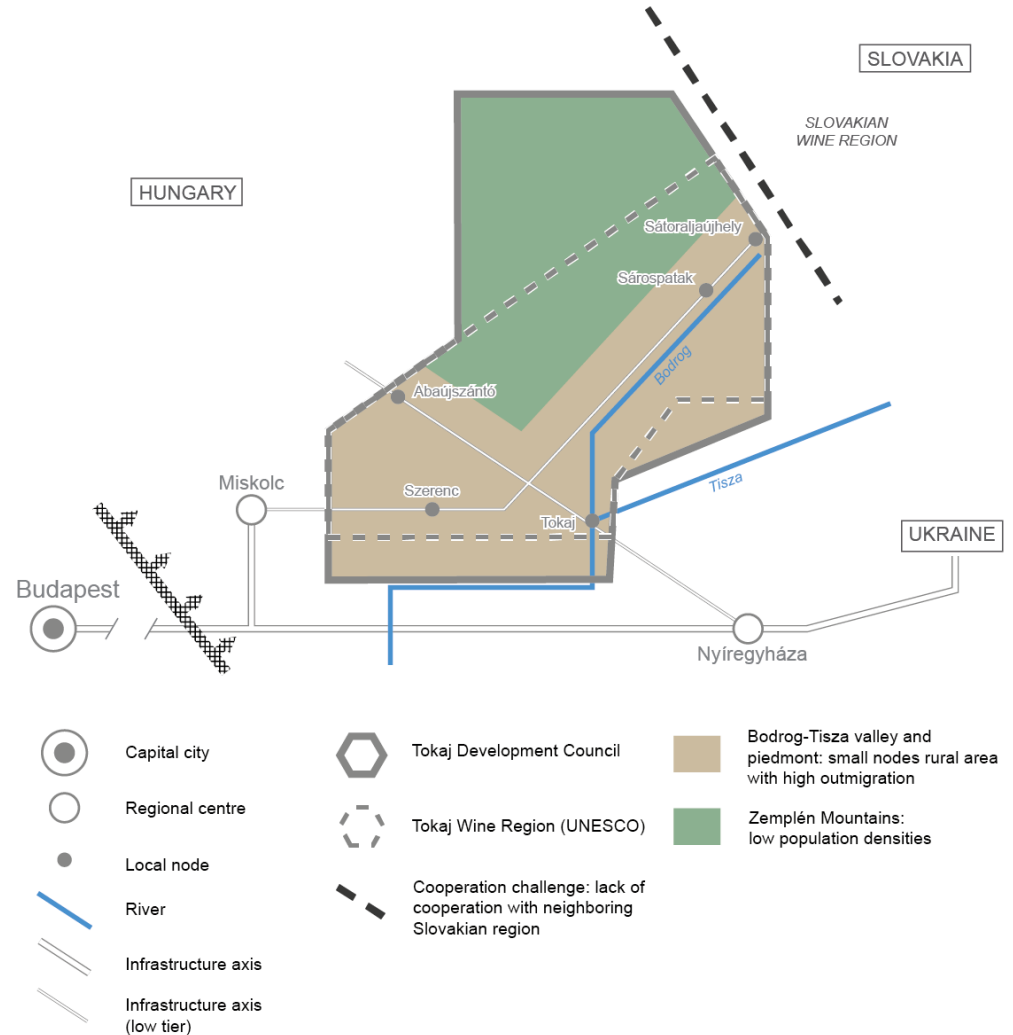
Hungarian Regional Development Councils (RDCs)

- Act on Regional Development and Regional Planning in 1996
- foster cooperation around territorial assets
- RDCs as intermediary level between municipalities and the national level
- Open framework with rather formalised governance structures



Tokaj wine region

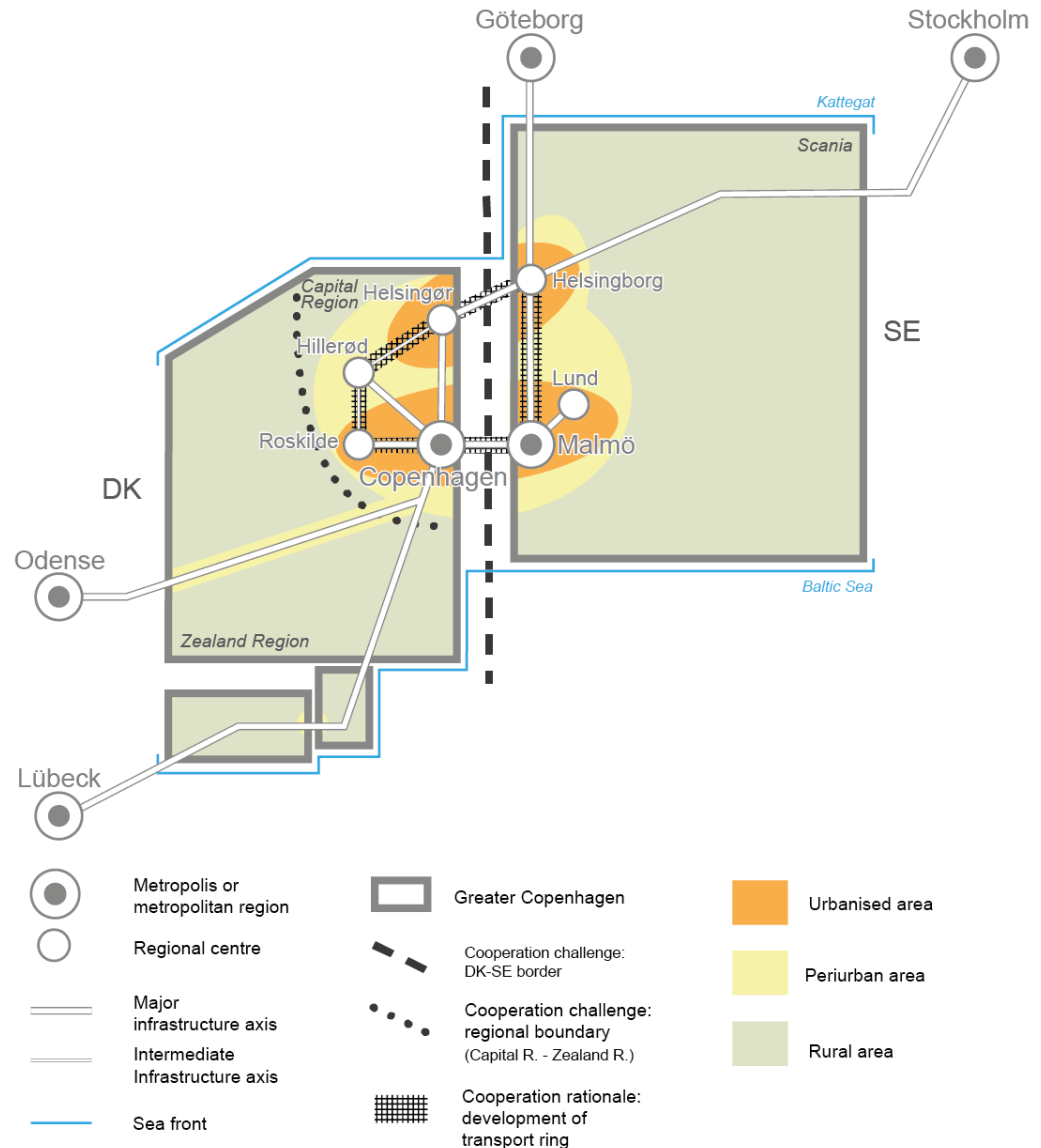
Tokaj wine region



Danish Business Regions

Greater Copenhagen Business Region:

- Øresund bridge led to strong regional integration
- Cooperation has widened up in terms of actors and topics



Conclusion

Soft territorial cooperation area are instances of integrated territorial development

- Willingness of actors to co-operate and co-ordinate action
- Experience and capacities to implement them
- Mutual agreement on shared goals and benefits of cooperation
- Existing governance structures to capitalise on