Integrated Territorial Development in V4+2 countries: new challenges, new ideas, new responses

ReSSI Project –

Regional Strategies for Sustainable and Inclusive Territorial Development

Budapest, March 2018

Project aims and objectives

Explore best practice in local and regional development, focusing on how policymakers can cooperate with diverse stakeholders.

- Two central research questions:

  - How to promote sustainable and inclusive regional development strategies, given the changing role of regional authorities and the proliferation of stakeholders in functional territories?

  - What are good practices in delivering economic development policies in this new territorial governance framework?

Case Studies

All case study projects (a) directly involve EU2020 via EU funding or (b) have aims that align with smart, sustainable or inclusive development:

Coventry (UK):

Electric Taxis:

- Nationally-funded project on installation of charging points for electric taxis, to reduce air pollution in city centres Taxis Initiative Coventry's Clean Air Zone Strategic Partnership with Wolverhampton and Birmingham

- Supported by Central Government - Office for Low Emission Vehicles, Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

- London Taxi Company (Chinese-owned) will provide the vehicles and Coventry will provide charging infrastructure and market-making expertise with taxi drivers.

Autodrive UK:

- Nationally-funded R&D project examining how autonomous vehicles interact with 'real life' city transport infrastructure

- Involves road trials of driverless cars in Coventry. Warwick Manufacturing Group and Jaguar Land Rover are developing the technology. Milton Keynes, a municipality in the Southeast Midlands, is cooperating with Coventry in the testing.

- The project also seeks to explore paths toward creating markets for autonomous vehicles.
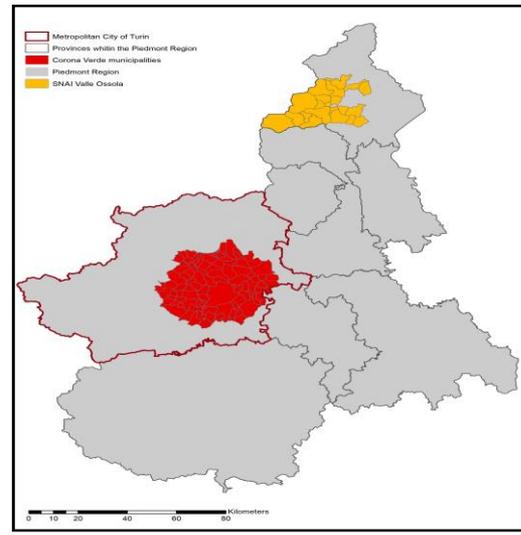
Case Studies 2

Region of Southern Denmark (Denmark):

- *Regional Growth and Development Strategy (RG&DS), a plan to devise a regional strategy based around the concept of The Good Life as a Driver of Growth.*

- *Regional Development Agreement 2016-17 for South Jutland, a follow-up to RG&DS, which was devised as a platform for dialogue and co-operation between the regional authority and the four municipalities of South Jutland.*

Piedmont Region (Italy):

- The Corona Verde project is a collaboration between municipalities aimed at creating a network of ecological corridors to connect the regional park system located in the Turin metropolitan area. It was mostly financed through EU funds.

- The National Strategy for Inner Areas consists of a strategy aiming at overcoming the urban/rural dichotomy by fostering national economic and social development. It was financed through EU funds.

Oeiras / Lisbon Metropolitan Region (Portugal):

- *EVA (Green and Blue Axis): EU/other-funded 'Green/blue corridor' over 3 municipalities, needing approval from many stakeholders (EU, Metro'n, regional, national)*

Regional governance and cohesion in the EU

- Variety extends to the implementation of EU Cohesion Policy

- Responsibility for EU Cohesion Policy varies between Central Level institutions, Non-elected Institutions and Elected Sub-national Institutions

- Variegated approaches reflected in the ReSSI cases

- Difficulty in suggesting single 'best practice'
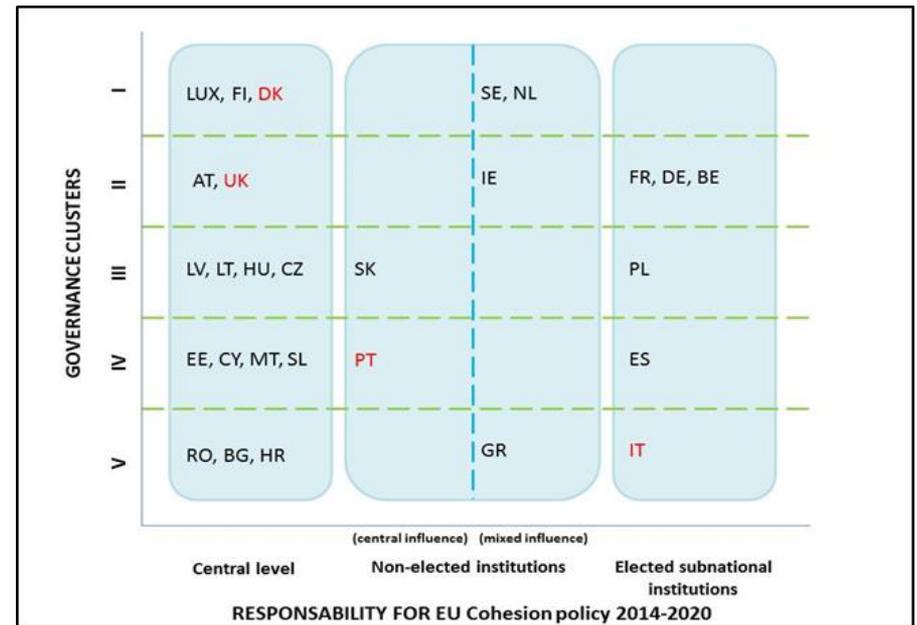
Regional governance regimes in Europe. Source: Authors. ReSSI countries in red

Developing policy recommendations

- Two key dimensions emerged from the analysis:

  - The **scope** of the cases – specific sectors or the territories

  - The **means** used – 'soft' (communication) or 'hard' (regulation, finance)

- Taken together, the two dimensions form a space for understanding how to generalise policy recommendations
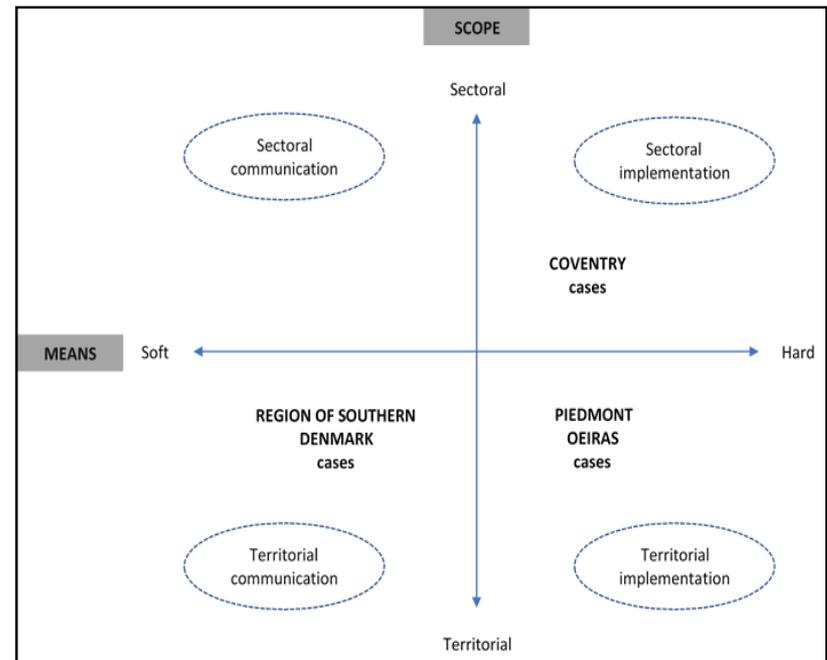
Sectoral Implementation

- **<u>Turning sectoral investments into benefits for the region</u>: Making use of any available funding to develop coordination and synergies with other regional stakeholders, including private companies, can help localise the dividends of projects**

- **<u>Promoting local and regional stakeholders as repositories of tacit knowledge</u>: Understanding how to align players, strategies and funding across local, regional, national and European scales is difficult to make explicit, as it is often embedded in individuals. It is important to have the right individuals in the right positions**

Territorial communication

- **<u>Facilitation</u>: Knowledge provision as a mechanism to strengthen alliances and build trust**

- **<u>Aligning strategies</u>: Aligning sub-regional, regional strategies to national and EU-level perspectives could help build momentum**

- **<u>Moving from perceptions to concepts</u>: It is important to translate existing knowledge into meanings and possible actions, rather than re-inventing strategies with each wave of funding or change in governance. Visual representations of actions could be especially effective in supporting this**

Territorial implementation

- **<u>Keeping momentum</u>: strategy-making is often set off by taking advantage of funding opportunities. The need for subsequent follow-up funding may lead to processes that are characterized by drive and a concern for progress**

- **<u>Aligning dimensions of governance</u>: The territory is a strong lever of the projects and strategies, underlining the importance of a place-based approach. Strong vertical relationships (European or national funding) should be followed by horizontal territorial strategies and projects**

- **<u>Aligning strategies</u>: Aligning regional strategies with national and EU strategies may create opportunities for bottom-up processes and initiatives**

- **<u>Mediation rather than integration</u>: networking of complementary projects can operate as an alternative to a pre-defined "regional integrated strategy"**

Common priorities: EU Cohesion policy after 2020 and post-Brexit Britain

- **A strong place-based approach**: A stronger role for local and regional actors is required both in terms of defining the funding priorities and in the governance of strategies and projects

- **Support institutional thickness, cooperation and coordination**: A part of funding could be used in capacity-building activities, supporting the role of regional and local actors and preserving existing tacit knowledge

- **Align strategic planning and funding streams**: regional and local policy and decision-makers should have with the opportunity to contribute to the definition of funding priorities, through a dialogue with funding bodies

- **Simplify the integration of funds**: To enhance the flexibility of funding regulation, in turn facilitating the integration of various funds (ERDF, ESF and EAFRD in the EU; or the Successor Fund and Growth Deals, in the United Kingdom), could help promote policy innovation and creativity

Recommendations – Coventry

- **<u>Recognise important new role of Local Authorities as brokers</u>:** They are important brokers amongst private and other public-sector stakeholders, and provide a store of tacit knowledge on regional development.

- **<u>Use a portion of funding to promote cooperation across the West Midlands region</u>:** Productive cooperation amongst regional policymakers cannot be taken for granted, and requires that tacit knowledge is maintained.

- **<u>Promote the region as a testbed for product testing and market development</u>:** To help build relationships with businesses interested in testing their products, while also rebuilding some of the tacit knowledge that has been eroded over time.

Recommendations – Region of Southern Denmark

- **<u>Sub-regional and regional strategies in interplay</u>: Regional strategies should keep focus on 'regional' dimensions, while offering sub-regions and municipalities a perspective for joining forces and further aligning with national agendas.**

- **<u>Focus on communicative means</u>: In order to facilitate 'turning knowledge into action', a contextual discourse about the relevance of existing knowledge must be provided.**

- **<u>Imageries and spatial development perspective</u>: Conceptual imageries of spatial development principles and perspectives could support communication amongst primary stakeholders, as well as to the public**

Recommendations – Piedmont Region

- **Improving institutional capacity-building at local level**: Particular attention should be given to supporting micro and small municipalities, as they often lack institutional capacity to perform the required development tasks.

- **Implement mechanisms for horizontal governance in regional authority departments**: Improved coordination between the various departments of the regional authority could favour synergies among the existing regional planning and programming tools.

- **Develop a strategic territorial document to help link territorial needs to funding opportunities**: The lack of focus on strategic planning and priorities could be overcome by integrating a strategic territorial document to the programming document.

Recommendations – Oeiras

- **Articulate sustainable goals with inclusive and economic development priorities: This could induce integrated development and stimulate development in the area, particularly by working more closely with the private sector.**

- **Establish a common and permanent governance platform: This could reduce potential tensions and increase trust among stakeholders.**

- **Showcase EVA as a policy learning case: In a country with no regional devolved power (with the exception of Azores and Madeira regions), the EVA project showcases an inter-municipality collaboration that could work in different territorial contexts.**

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