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Polycentricity at different scales

ESPON Seminar „Territory matters: Keeping Europe and its regions competitive“
16-17 June 2016 @ Marine Etablissement Amsterdam

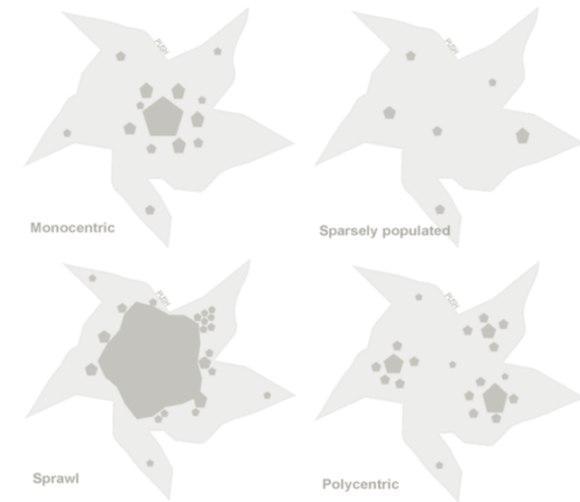
Definitions

“[S]tructure and development of a metropolitan territory are determined by **multiple instead of a single node.**”

Giffinger & Suitner 2014: 1173

“**[A]chieve policy objectives** such as economic competitiveness, social equity and sustainable development.”

ESPON et al. 2005: 7-8



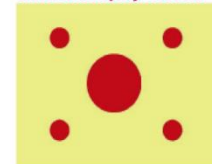
© ESPON et al. 2005: 152

- Morphological Polycentricity

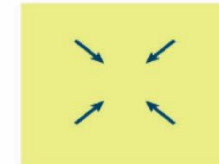
- Relational Polycentricity

- Institutions (cooperation)
- Structures (flows)

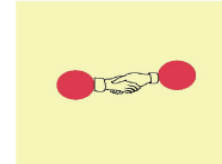
MORPHOLOGICAL
mono-nuclear
hierarchical poly-nuclear



RELATIONAL
mono-directional

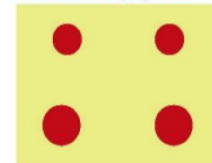


INSTITUTIONAL
POLYCENTRICITY

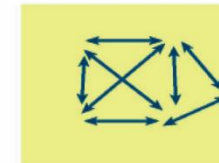


Based on cooperation

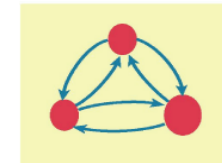
polynuclear
a-hierarchical polynuclear



multi-directional



STRUCTURAL
POLYCENTRICITY



Based on flows

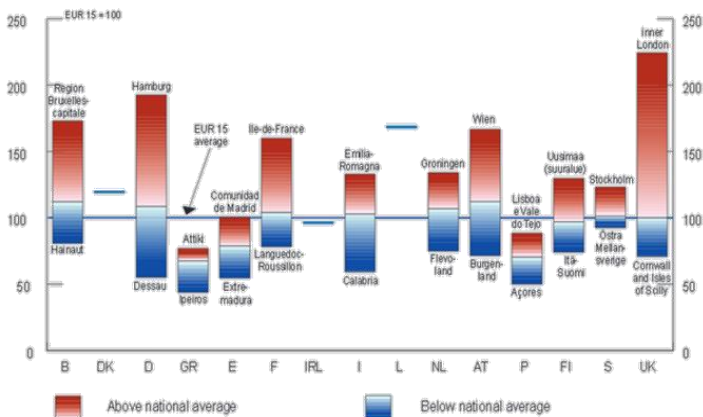
© ESPON et al. 2005: 46, 47

Discourses

ESDP

“[...] ensure **regionally balanced** development and help avoiding economic and demographic concentration by utilizing the **economic potential of all regions.**”

Committee on Spatial Development 1999: 20



The Regions stated (NUTS 2) are the ones with minimum and maximum GDP per head for each country.

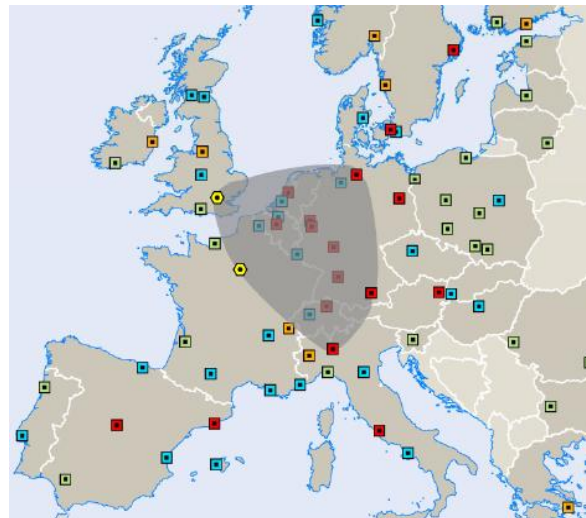
Source: Eurostat

© Committee on Spatial Development 1999: 9

ESPON 1.1.1

“The role, specific situation and **potentials of** urban areas as **nodes** in a polycentric development”

ESPON et al. 2005: V

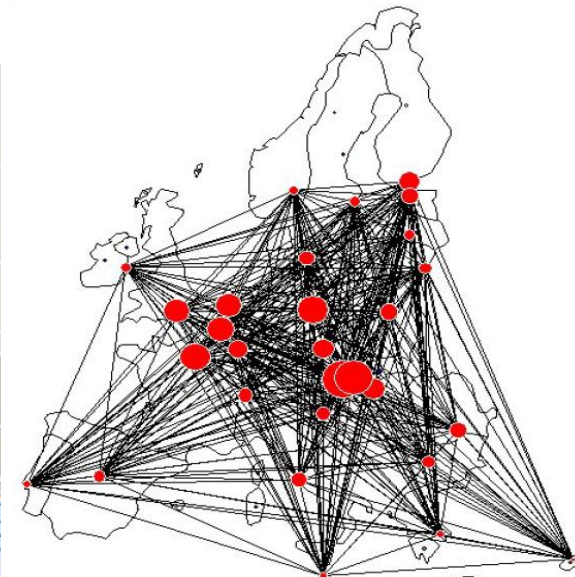


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ESPON 1.1.3

„We examine the **goal conflict** in polycentric development between competitiveness, EU- and national cohesion, and sustainability.“

ESPON et al. 2006: VII



© ESPON et al. 2006: 188

Debates

Polycentricity & Polycentrism

→ Polycentricity is both analytical tool and normative agenda

*“Planners use it as a **strategic spatial planning tool**, geographers use it to **explain the changing spatial structure** of cities, EU Commissioners promote it as a socio-economic **policy goal** to achieve a balanced regional development”*

Paraphrased from Davoudi 2003: 979

→ **Polycentricity** ↔ **Polycentrism**

Vandermotten et al. (2010)

Structural Assessment & Process Dimension

→ Static analyses of polycentricity: morphological & functional condition

*“**[A]nalyze solely structural characteristics** to depict the degree of polycentricity and define policy recommendations upon that.*

***[P]olitical processes** inherent in strategy-building for metropolitan development are **not taken into account** with equal emphasis.”*

Giffinger & Suitner 2014: 1170

→ **Confronting evidence with governance process**

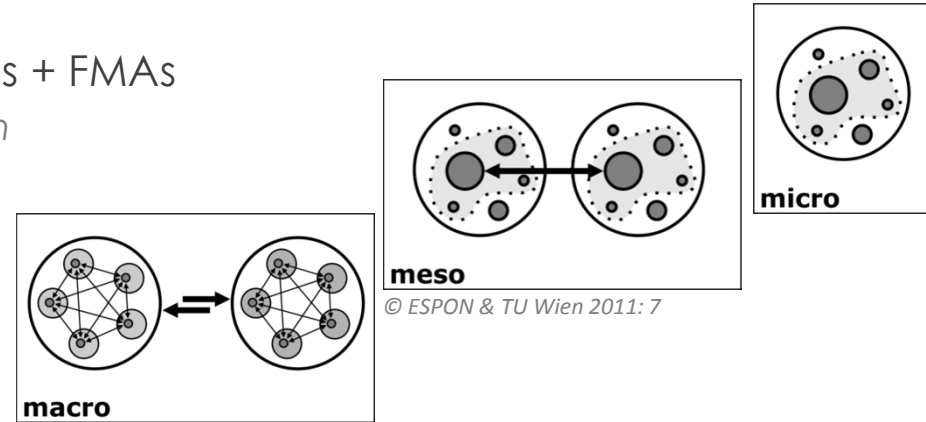
ESPON & TU Wien 2012

Polycentricity in POLYCE

Micro: Metropolitan Regions = Core Cities + FMAs
→ *Functionally integrated urban region*

Meso: Polycentricity in Central Europe
→ *Shared functional specialization*

Macro: Danube Region
→ *Cohesive territorial development*



Morphological polycentricity

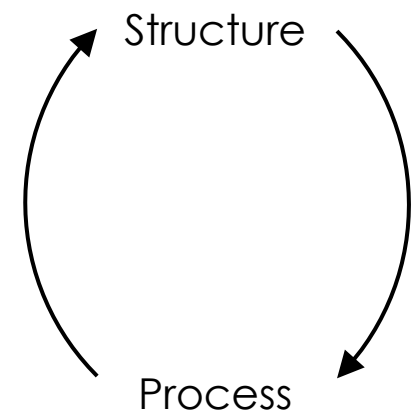
- Hierarchies of nodes regarding size and significance within a territory

Relational polycentricity

- Infrastructures, flows and interactions between nodes (intra- and inter-territorial)

Strategic polycentricity

- Governance, actor networks



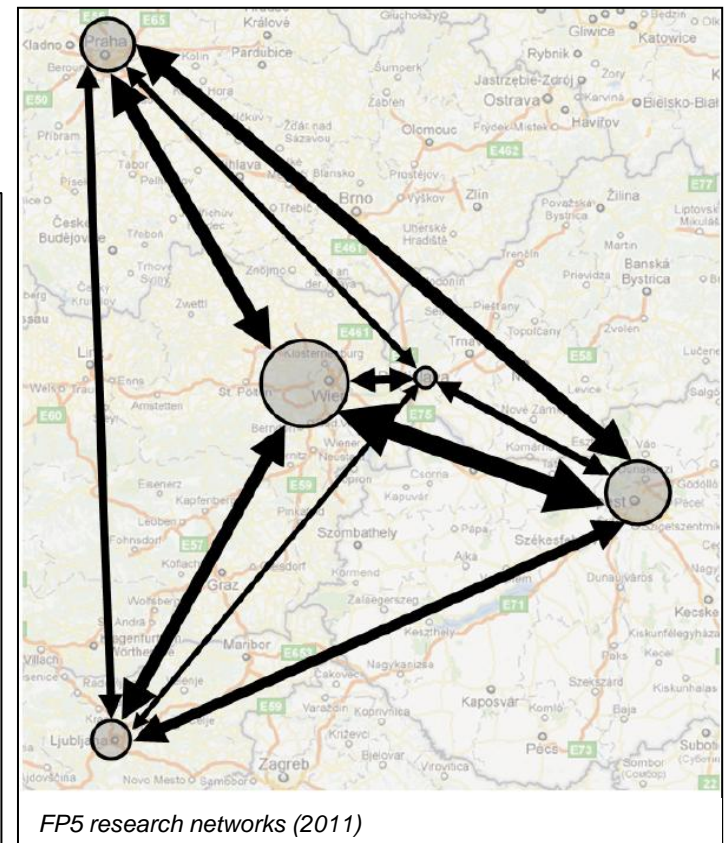
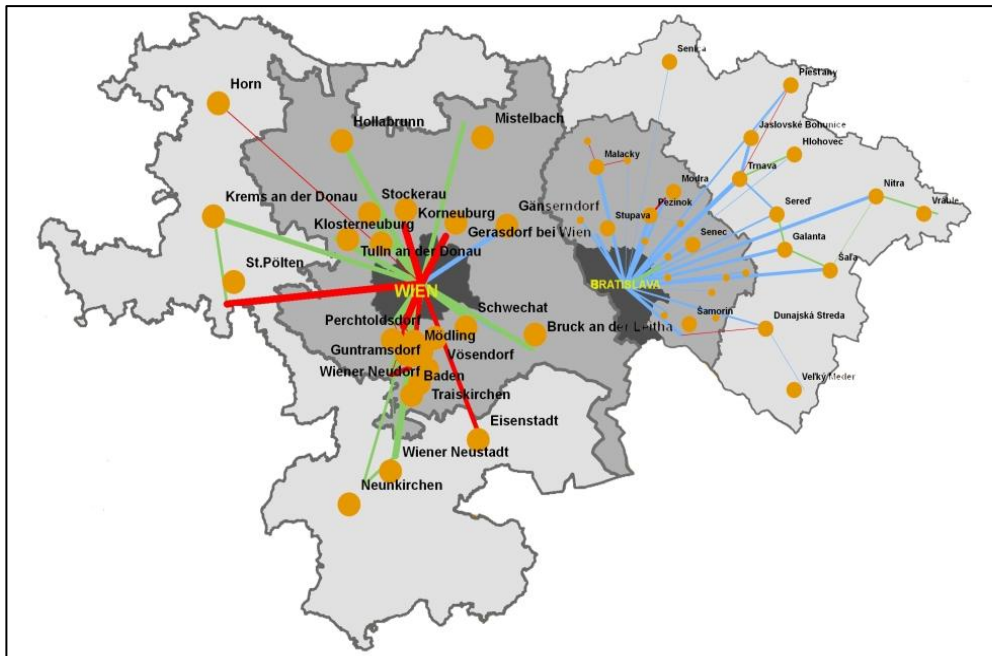
POLYCE Findings

“Strong (economic) ties can be recognized between **Budapest, Praha and Wien.**”

ESPON & TU Wien 2012: VII

“Differences in commuting between Vienna's functional integration and **former communist countries**, which are dominated by capital cities and unidirectional flows to core cities.”

ESPON & TU Wien 2012: VI



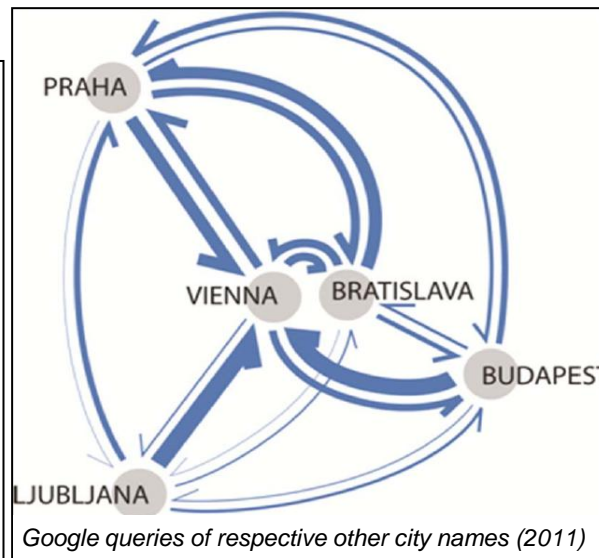
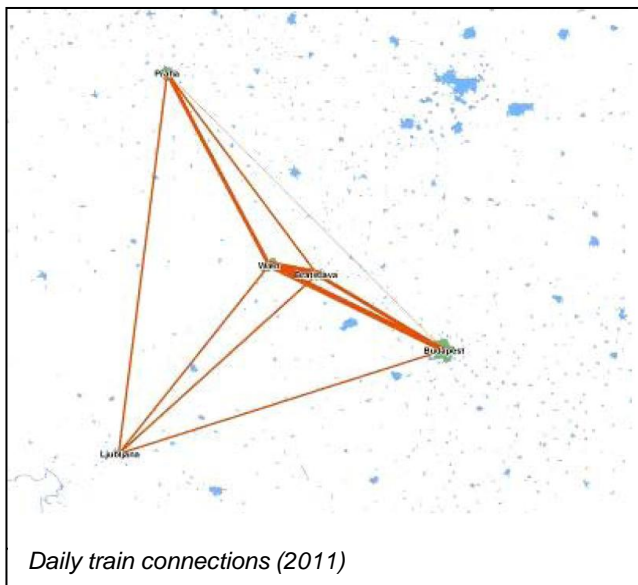
POLYCE Findings

“All five metropolises try to position themselves as **hubs in their own geographical context** towards outside neighboring regions and countries.”

ESPON & TU Wien 2012: VI

“Inter-city relations are significantly influenced by **travel times and cultural ties**, pointing to the ongoing influence of transport accessibility and historical relations on economic activities.

ESPON & TU Wien 2012: VI



Need for further research

New evidence on relational polycentricity

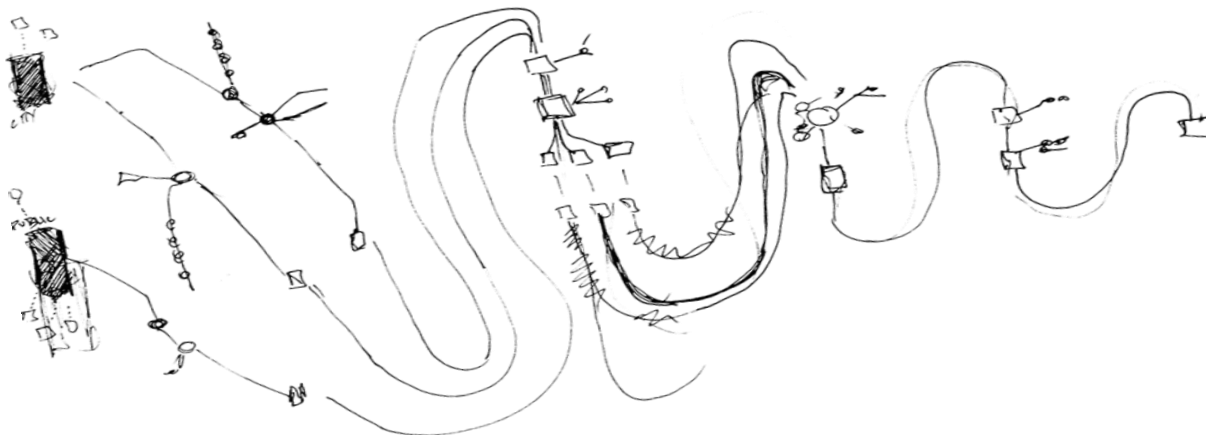
- *In-depth analyses of networks to better understand **economic, social, cultural ties***

Influence of multiple territorial dimensions

- *Metropolitan regions with their inner and interrelations*
- ***National level** and its framings of future spatial development*

Evidence on territorial development trajectories

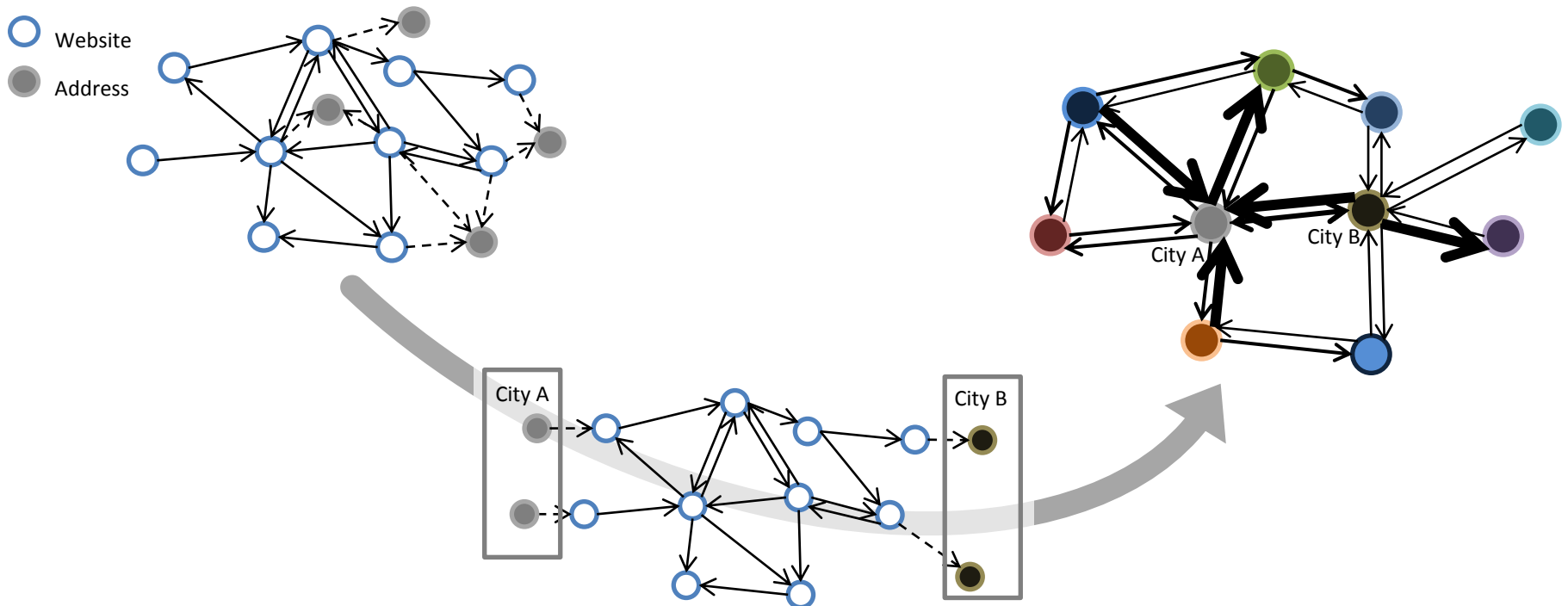
- ***Context-sensitive** analyses of **different paces** of polycentric development regarding actors & institutions, structures & networks, evidence & policy*

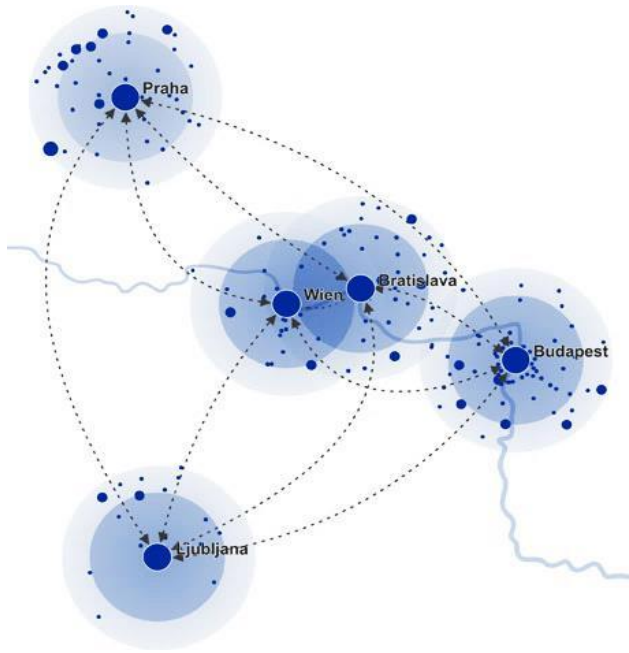


Need for further research

Linking web-graph and geo-information

- Analysis of relational polycentricity on meso & macro-level (e.g. European city networks)
- Confrontation of „real“ and virtual polycentricity





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