



## Workshop C –Central and Eastern Europe: cross-border regions in relation to polycentric development

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## Central and Eastern Europe: cross-border regions in relation to polycentric development

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## What are the main driving forces?

### Demography:

Population ageing

Concentration of immigration in cities, diminishing population in villages

Legal migrants going back home (mostly unqualified!)

### Economy:

Sensitive, opened economies

Development of the „project economy“

„One settlement – one company„ (dependent economic structure – for example: car industry)

Territorial economic imbalances

## What are the main driving forces?

### Socio-cultural sector:

Growing segmentation of society

Strong disparities in income distribution

Strengthening xenophobia (gentilials and minorities)

Empowerment of elderly in society

### Energy:

Further increase of the share of renewable energy sources

Stronger external dependence in the energy sector

### Urban system and cities:

Short term thinking in investments, uncontrolled spatial changes

Further progress of suburbanization

Cross-border polycentric regions (core or periphery?)

## Possible challenges and opportunities?

Possible changes in life styles related to climate change  
(sustainability)

Intensification of prevention measures in territorial development policies (erratic climate, extreme temperature deflection, floods, extreme drought)

Changes of productive sector (agricultural structure)

Development of „green economy“

Strong development of alternative energy technologies, new materials, „intelligent“ buildings

Possible changes in life styles related to economic change (slowdown)

Possible strengthening of north-south development and spatial network in Central and Eastern Europe

## Possible recovery strategies?

### **Integration and cohesion**

- Diversification of economic structure
- Strengthening relationships and connections
- Strengthening European identity and local identity (immigrants, companies)
- Territorial cohesion (revision of Territorial Agenda)

### **Sustainability**

- More mobility for more flexibility (housing, inner mobility)
- Less mobility for more stability (companies, investments)
- More diversity (economy and ecology) for flexibility

### **Balance**

- East-west territorial equalisation (infrastructure, developments)
- Urban-rural balance
- Large scale – small scale decisions