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ESP  N

EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING  
OBSERVATION NETWORK

# Territorial trends

## Territorial cohesion

- Persistent territorial imbalances
- High geographical concentration
- Disparities in GDP and employment
- Imbalances in innovation
- Congestion problems and changes in accessibility
- Environment – problems and development assets

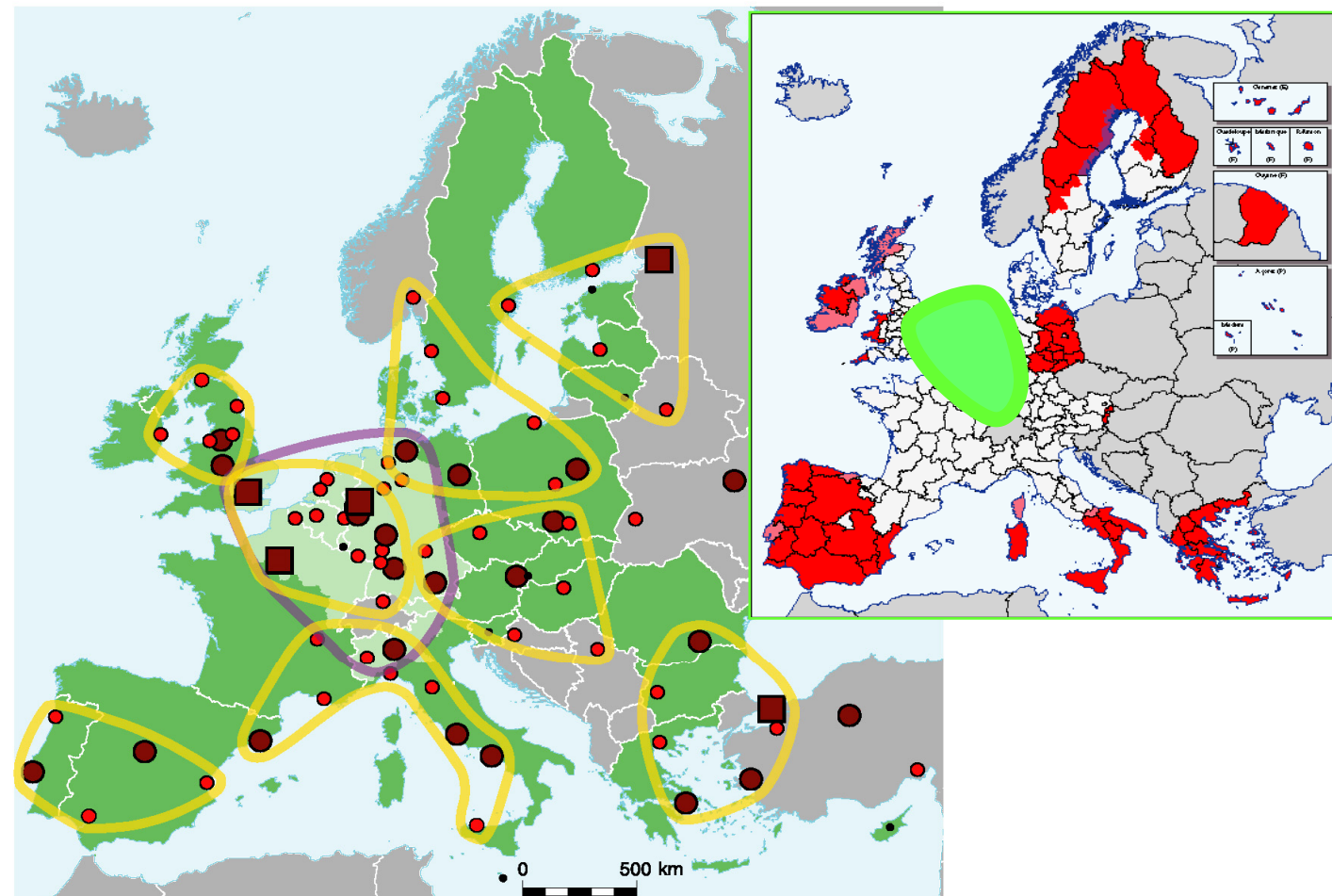
# Second Cohesion Report

## Major territorial tendencies

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- urban areas:
  - regional development poles
  - more evident social divide
- rural areas
  - more influenced by cities
  - population abandoning cities employment diversifying
- the border regions EU15 (25% of population) improved their average; 60% of pop. in candidate countries in border regions
- cohesion for ultraperipheral regions, islands, and mountainous zones

## New European zones of metropolitan cooperation?



### Agglomerations

- $\geq 5.000.000$  inh.
- 2.000.000 - < 5.000.000 inh.
- 750.000 - < 2.000.000 inh.
- Smaller capital cities in EU Member States and in Accession Countries

- New global integration zones?
- Existing zone of significant global integration

Source for the agglomeration data:  
Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (1998):  
*World Urbanization Prospects: The 1998 Revision*

# ESPON 2006 Programme

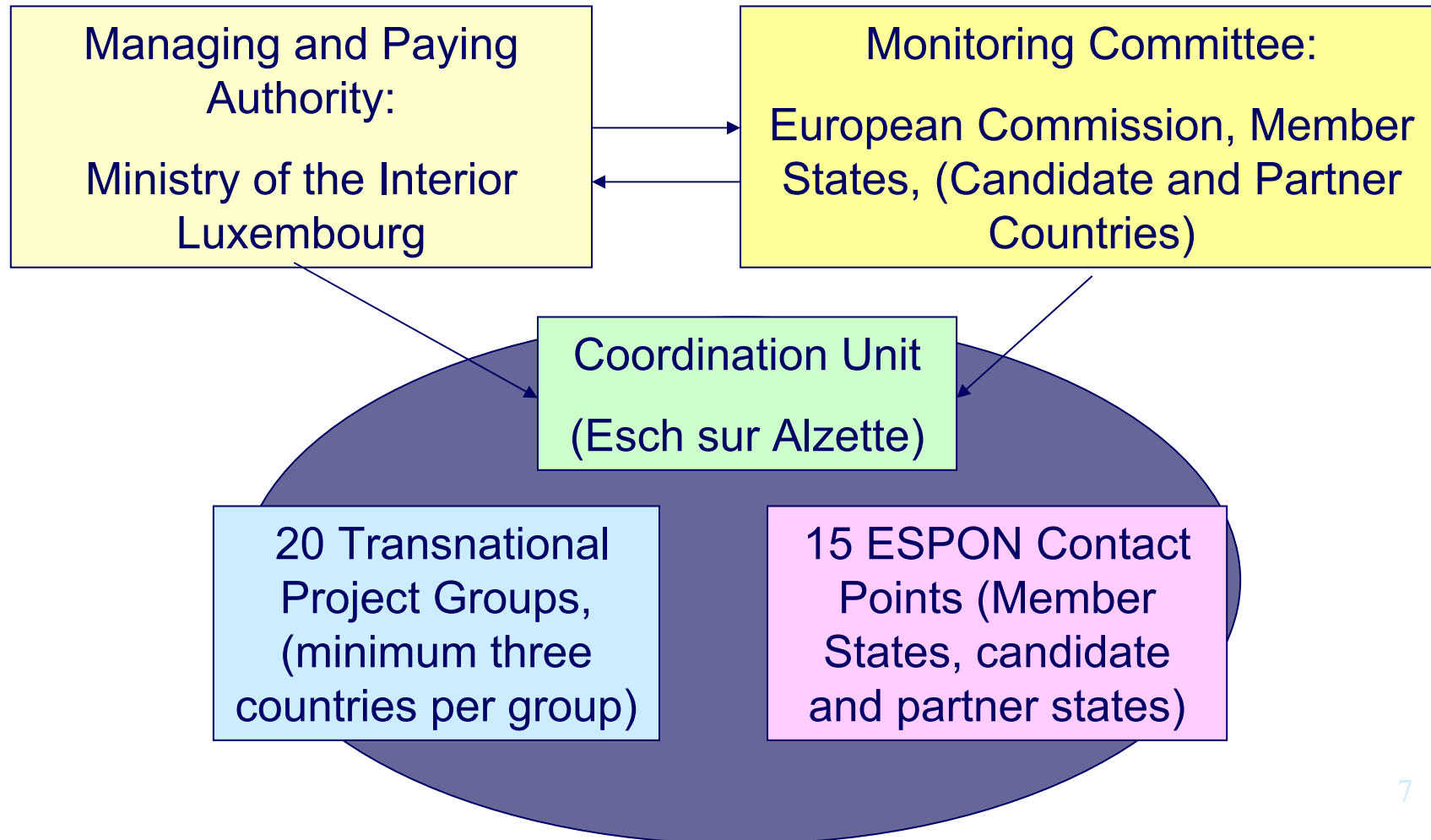
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- "Programme on spatial development of an enlarging European Union"
- Programme under EU Structural Funds, the Community Initiative Interreg III
- Budget 12 million Euro (+2 mill. LUX)
- Cofinanced 50-50 by EU-Member States
- 20 projects

# Objectives

- European and transnational focus
- Better perception and application of the ESDP
- Spatial dimension of territorial cohesion policy and other EU policies
- Better coordination of territorial decisions
- Integrating policy makers, administrators and scientists
- A European “territorial” scientific community

# Management structure



# Political conditions for territorial development

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- Sub-Committee on Spatial and Urban Development
- Third Cohesion Report
- European Convention
- Structural Funds reform 2007
- Enlarging EU



# Expectations

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- Knowledge on territorial trends
- Territorial impact of policies
- Integrated concepts and tools
- Scenarios
- Policy input (Structural Funds)
- Operational deliverables (in particular territorial indicators)

# Priorities

- Priority 1: Thematic studies on important spatial development
- Priority 2: Policy impact studies
- Priority 3: Coordinating cross-thematic studies
- Priority 4: Research briefing and scientific networking
- Priority 5: Technical assistance

# Priority 1: Trend studies

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- Measure 1.1.:  
Cities, polycentric development  
and urban rural relations
- Measure 1.2.:  
Parity of access to infrastructure and  
knowledge
- Measure 1.3.:  
Natural and cultural heritage

## Priority 2: Policy impact studies

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- Measure 2.1.:  
The territorial effects of sector policies
- Measure 2.2.:  
New territorial aspects of Structural Funds  
and related Funds
- Measure 2.3.:  
Institutions and instruments of spatial policies

# Priority 3: Coordinating studies

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- Measure 3.1.:  
Integrated tools for the European spatial development
- Measure 3.2.:  
Spatial scenarios and orientations for the ESDP and the Cohesion Policy

# Projects 2002-2004

## First round

- 1.1.1. Urban areas as nodes of polycentric development
- 1.1.2. Urban-rural relations
- 1.2.1. Transport networks, basic supply
- 1.2.2. Telecommunication, basic supply
- 2.1.1. EU Infrastructure Policy
- 2.1.2. EU R&D Policy
- 2.1.3. EU Agricultural Policy
- 2.2.3. Structural Funds in urban areas
- 3.1. Integrated tools for the spatial development
- 4.1. Data navigator: Inventory on data (EU 27)

# Projects 2002-2004 (06)

## Second round

- 1.1.3 Territorial trends of enlargement and beyond for the spatial tissue
- 1.3.1 Management of natural and technological hazards (climate change)
- 1.3.2 Management of the natural heritage
- 2.2.1 Territorial impacts of Structural Funds

# Projects 2002-2004 (06)

## Third round

- 1.1.4 Spatial effects of demographic trends and migration
- 2.1.4 Energy services and networks and territorial impact of EU Energy Policy (new)
- 2.2.2 Territorial impacts of pre-accession aid (and of applying the Community Aquis)



# Projects 2004-2006 (06)

## Forth and fifth round

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- Fourth round to be tendered in autumn 2003
  - 3.2. Spatial scenarios
- Fifth round tender in winter 2003/04
  - 1.2.3. Information society
  - 2.3.1. Implementation of the ESDP in MS
  - 2.3.2. Coordination of spatial and urban policy

# Progress and networking

- 35 contracts signed (project and data navigators)
- Candidate countries and neighbouring states joining the ESPON programme
  - Full partners
  - Observers (candidate countries only)
- First 15 projects:
  - around 40 tenders with around 230 partners
  - 13 TPG with around 90 partners

# Focused co-ordination

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- Coordination Unit in Esch sur Alzette
- Common data and reporting system
- ESPON Seminars twice a year
  - 21-22 November 2002
  - 6-7 October 2003
  - 5-6- May 2003
- Regular Lead Partner meetings
- Regular ECP meetings --> reporting on projects

# ESPON and the Accession

- 10 new full members (2 ex-observers and 2 full ex-partners)
- Up-grading of the budget
- Most probably further projects will be tendered

# Impact and Perspectives

## Potential influence

- Third Cohesion Report (Close timing of operational project results to development of Structural Funds policy)
- Territorial cohesion as a subject of the European convention
- European territorial priorities in Objectives of Structural Funds 2007-2013
- Permanent inputs to the Sub-Committee for Urban and Spatial development
- Potential revision of European Spatial Development Perspective, covering EU 27+
- A European Research Network on spatial planning and territorial development