EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING OBSERVATION NETWORK

ESPON project 4.1.3
Spatial Monitoring – Key,- Core-, or Routing Indicators

Raumbeobachtung – Womit lässt sich Europa am ehesten verstehen? – Key,- Core-, oder Richtungsweisende Indikatoren

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1. An all European spatial monitoring?

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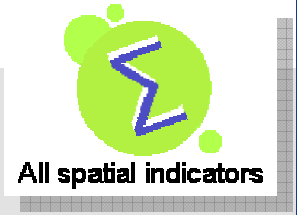
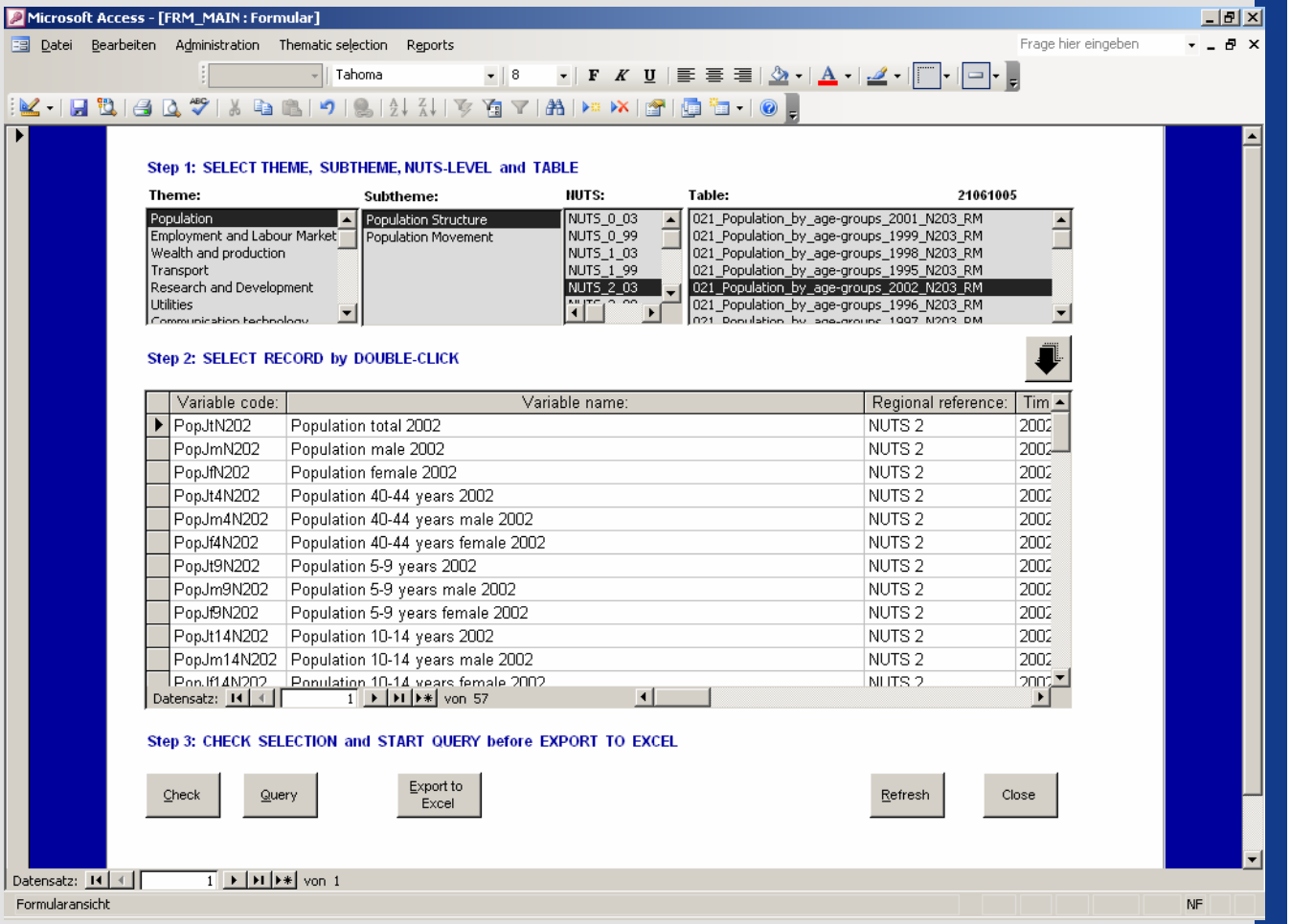
An all European spatial monitoring?



- In the past ESPON tried to harmonize data and to create a so-called ESPON Data Base.
- Minimum requirements were set out and the data base was filled step by step and fed by the TPGs...
- Right now the ESPON database consists of roughly 450 Indicators

The ESPON database

The **ESPON Data Base** can be entered via a MS ACCESS query sheet and is organized by themes, sub-themes and NUTS levels...



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An all European spatial monitoring?

- But the indicators in the database suffer from a huge heterogeneity...
- So some of them were defined as more complete and harmonized as others, they were upgraded as core indicators
- Some projects defined some indicators as very important for spatial typologies, these were named key indicators
- But unfortunately all these indicators have not been selected according to the specific requirements of an continuous spatial monitoring...

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An all European spatial monitoring?

- The monitoring should serve policy makers, stakeholders, practitioners as well as scientists
- Should make use of the whole world of existing data and indicators (...also non ESPON sources)
- Should be easy to handle, targeted but also variable
- Because of the variety of indicators existing a choice must be made
- Concentration on a limited number of indicators
- this led to the idea of the so called routing indicators

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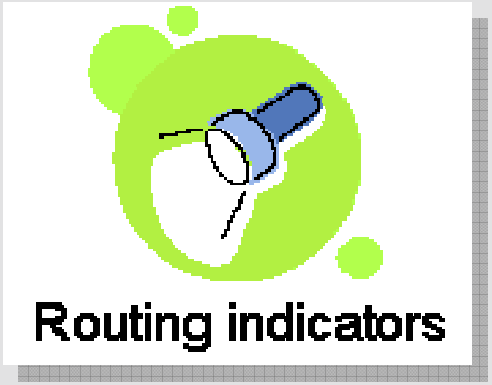
2. What are „routing indicators“?



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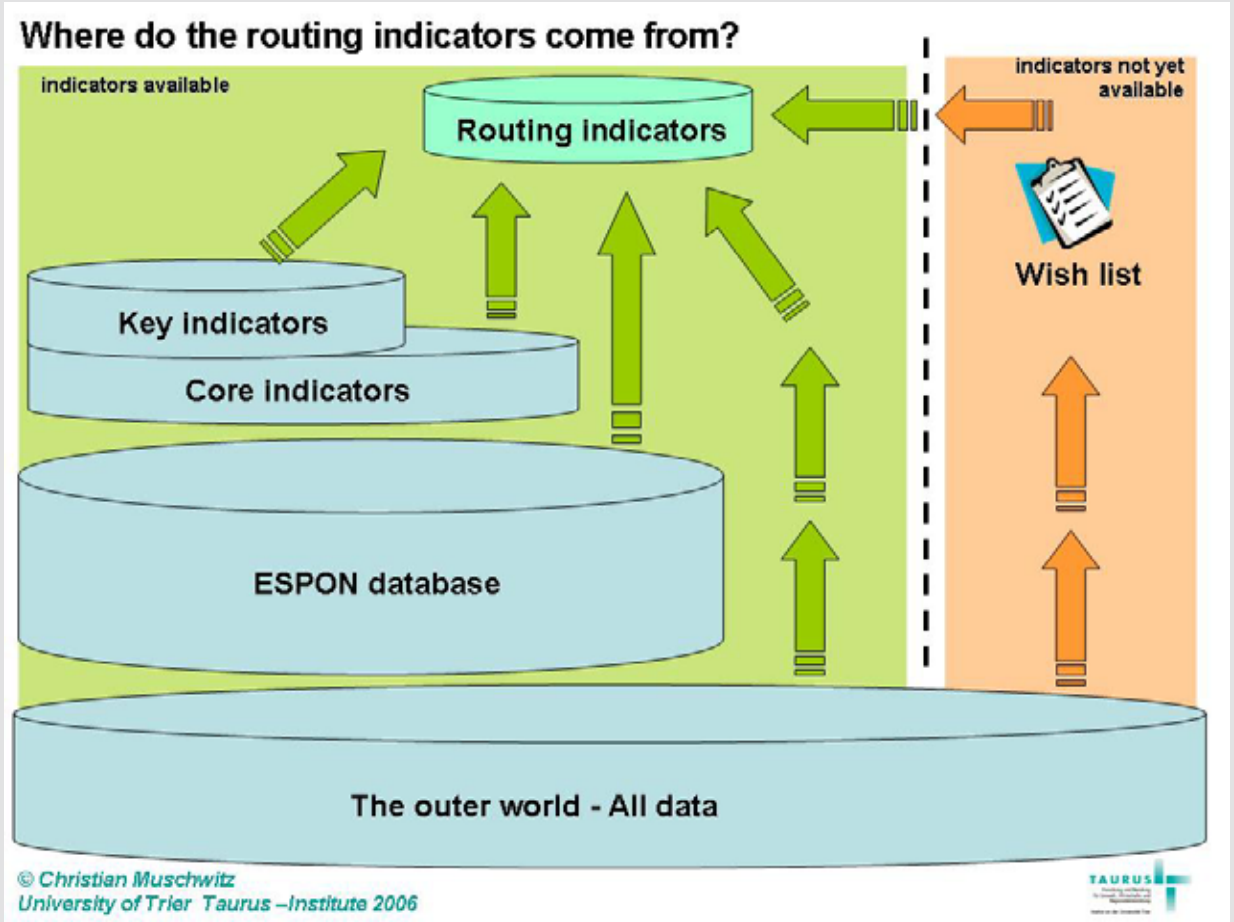
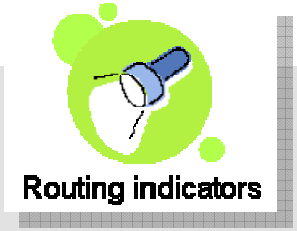
What are „routing indicators“?





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What are „routing indicators“?

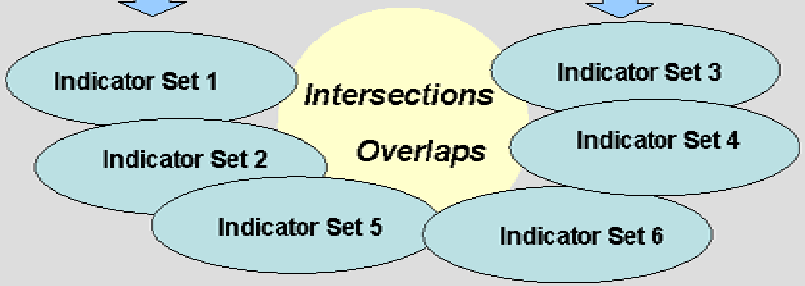
- The indicators should have a high ability to act as representatives for a whole thematic field
- They need very strong explanatory power
- They highlight a certain thematic field and can act as early warning system for changes in a field
- The selection of these indicators was decentralized (by WPs)
- Guidance was provided through a specific methodological approach...

Step 1: Indicator search

Overall Concept (e.g. Lisbon)

Analysis of different approaches dealing with concept

Search for proposed or used indicators (-sets)



Routing indicators

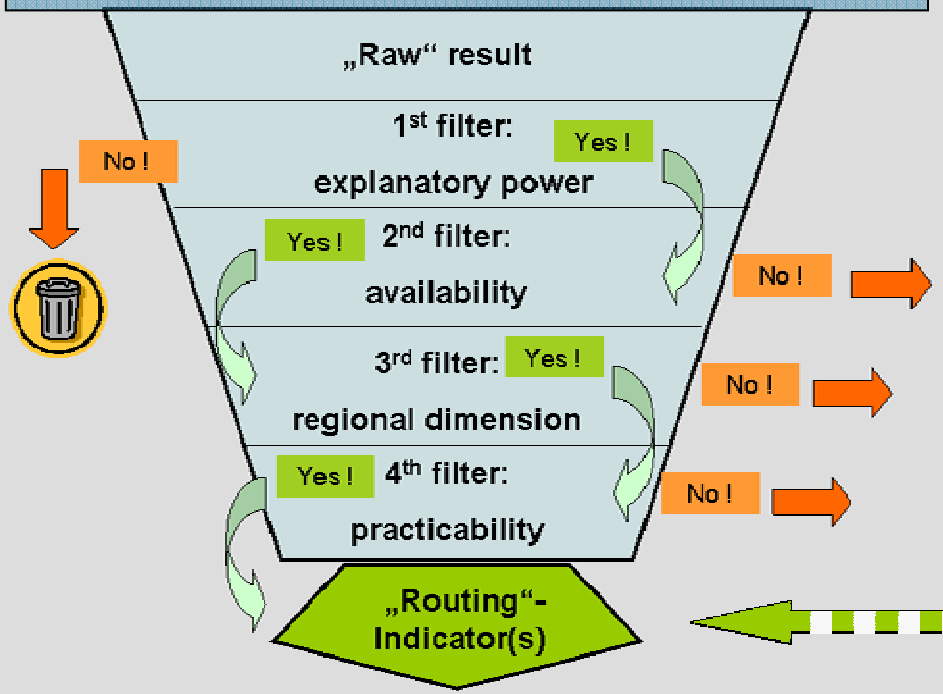
How to select...

1. broad indicator search inside/outside ESPON

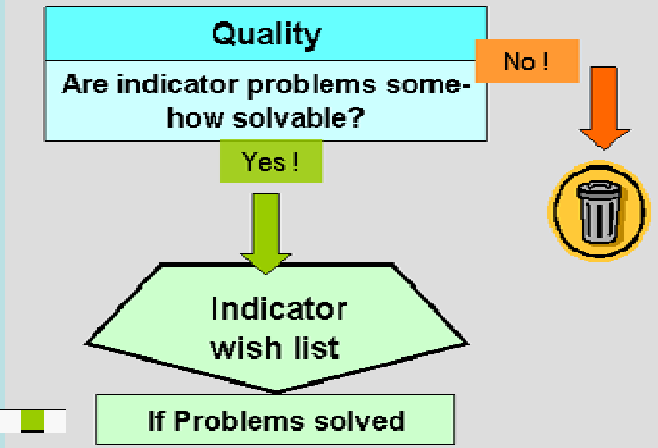
2a. Strict filtering procedure

2b. Wish list procedure

Step 2a: Filtering procedure



Step 2b: Wish list procedure



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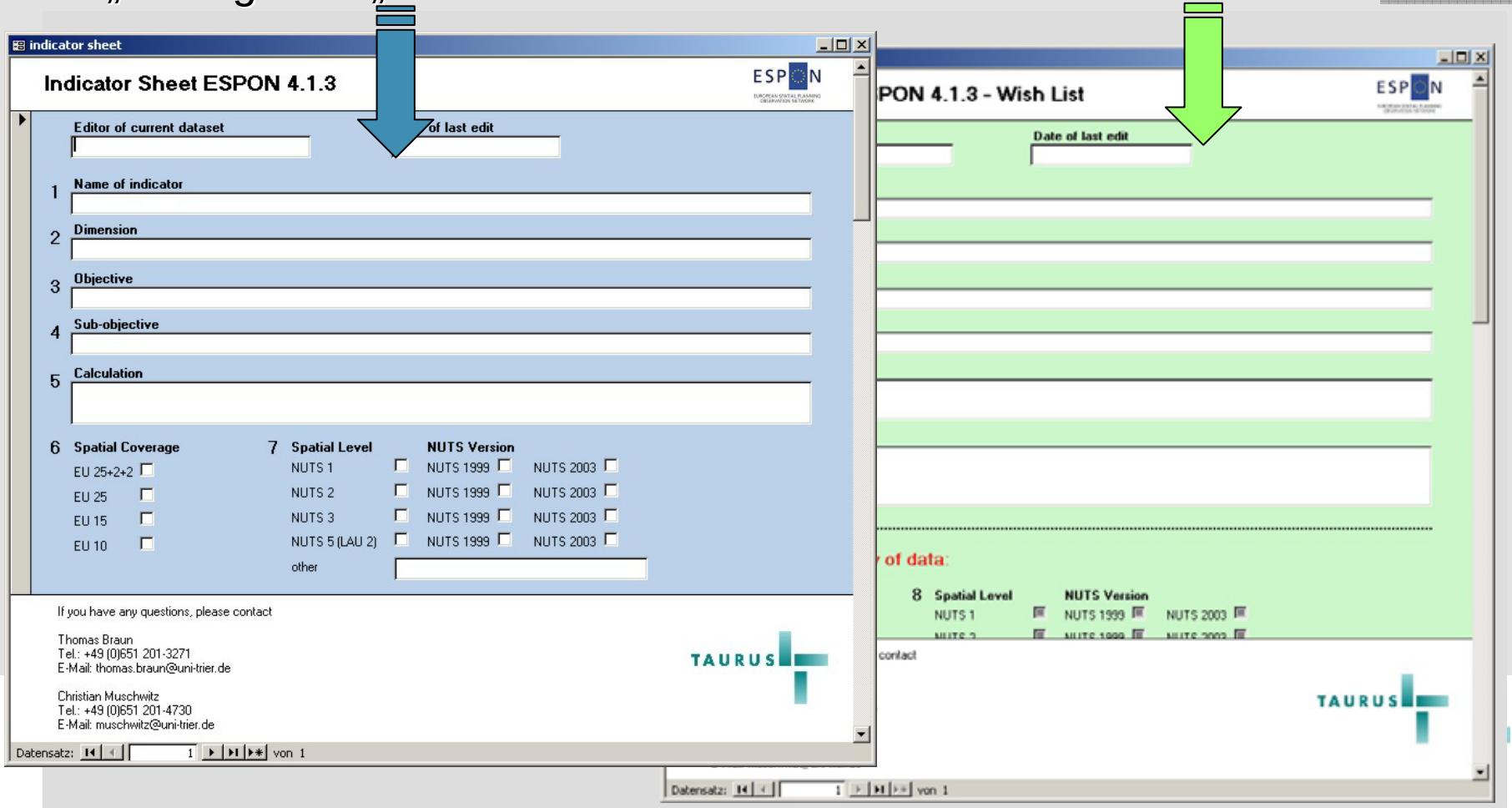
A tool for a sequential reporting

- We developed a MS ACCESS based routine to collect the „routing“ and „wishlist indicators“



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4. Tentative spatial planning report –

Some selected results...

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Tentative Spatial Monitoring Report

- Concentration on a selected range of routing indicators
- Altogether 36 indicators match the minimum requirement of the exercise, others will follow!
- In total only 67 indicators entered the lists (routing indicator and wishlist)

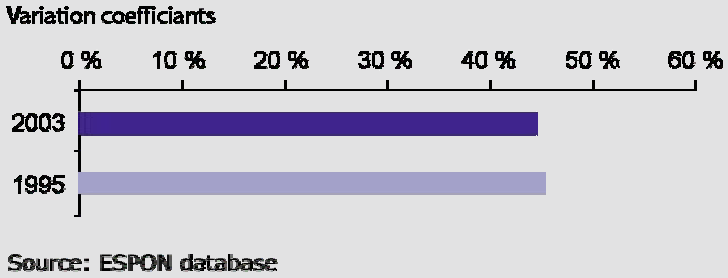
Tentative Spatial Monitoring Report

- The routing indicators are related to
  - Economic cohesion
  - Social cohesion
  - Territorial cohesion

- Territorial cohesion in the light of
  - Cohesive spatial structure
  - Lisbon strategy
  - Gothenburg
  - Infrastructure and accessibility
  - Socio- cultural
  - Governance

Tentative Spatial Monitoring Report

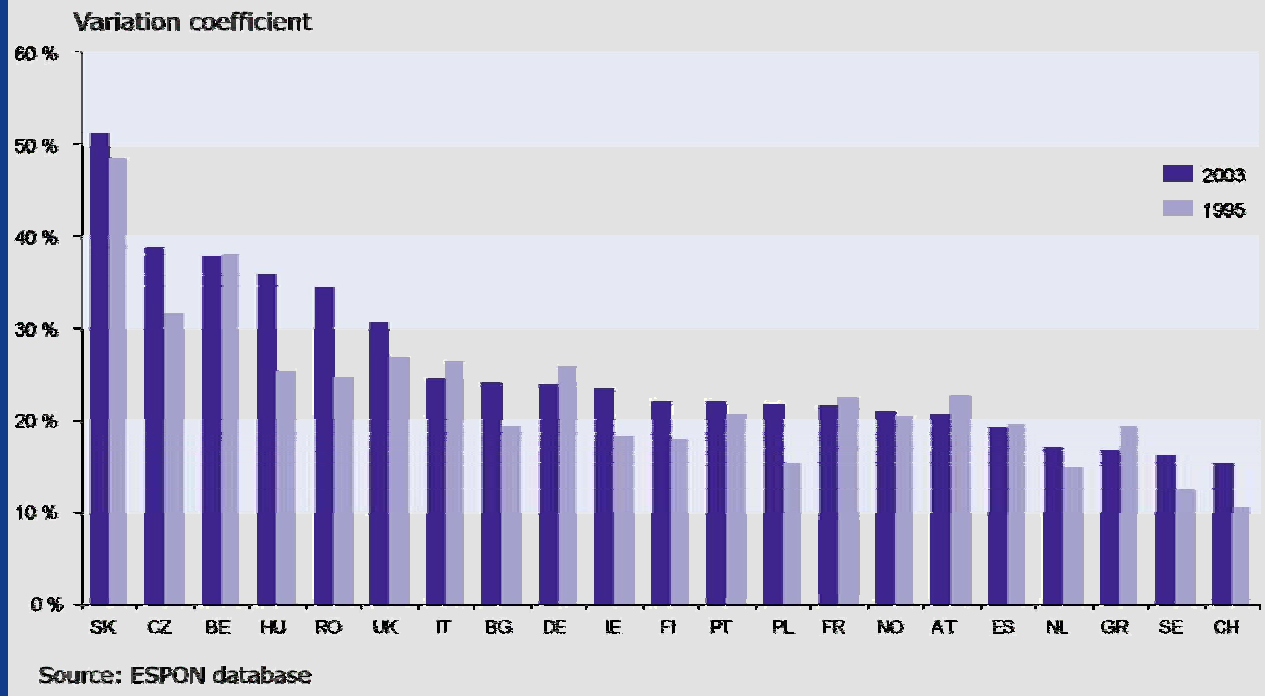
Selected findings – Economic cohesion



Dispersion of GDP per capita in the ESPON area based on NUTS 0 shows process of convergence between the countries

Tentative Spatial Monitoring Report

Selected findings – Economic cohesion

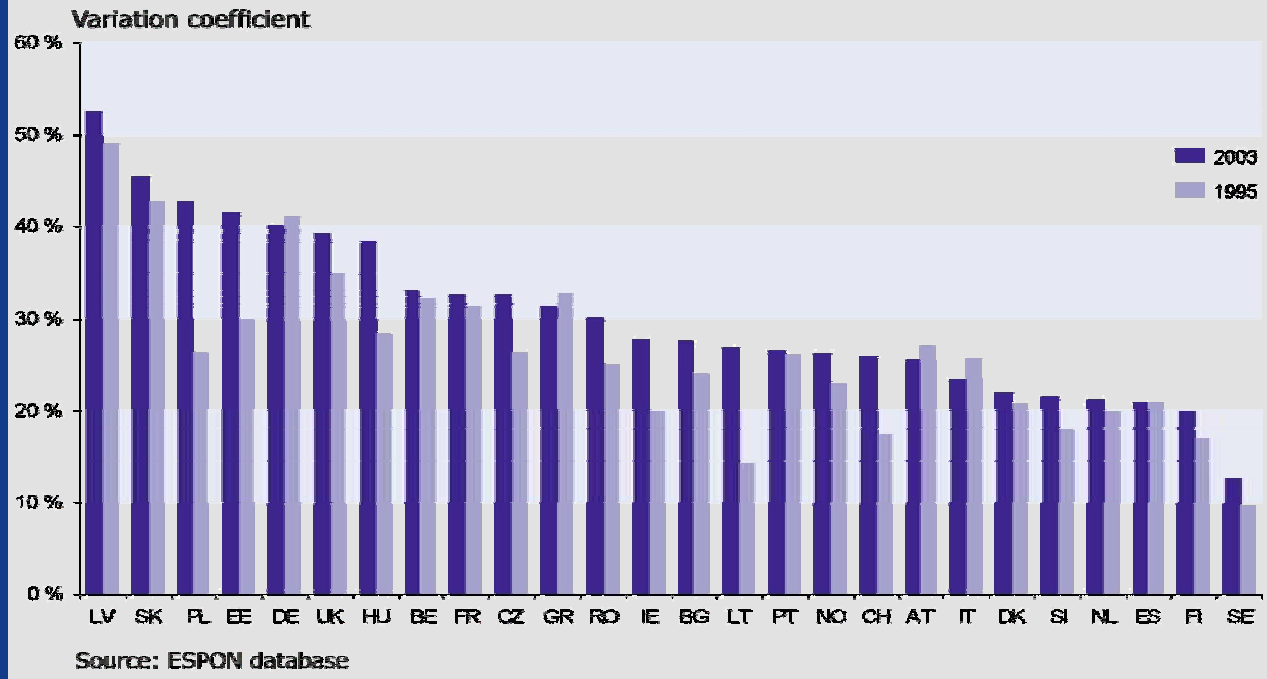


Source: ESPON database

- Dispersion of GDP per capita in the ESPON countries based on NUTS 2 shows that the process of convergence is not balanced yet
- Divergence in the eastern countries, convergence in the cohesion fund countries

Tentative Spatial Monitoring Report

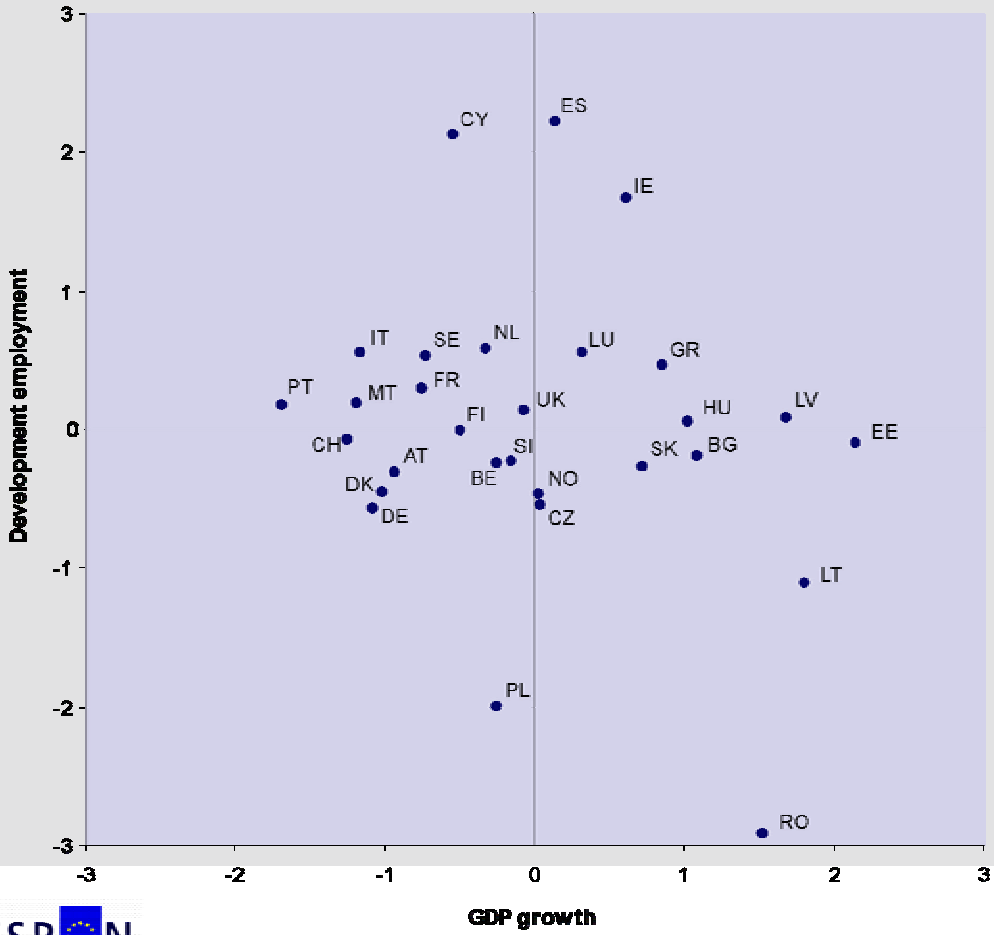
Selected findings – Economic cohesion



- Dispersion of GDP per capita in the ESPON countries based on NUTS 3 shows convergence in selected countries only
- Deepening disparities in the eastern countries & concentration on the main urban regions

Tentative Spatial Monitoring Report

Selected findings – Social cohesion

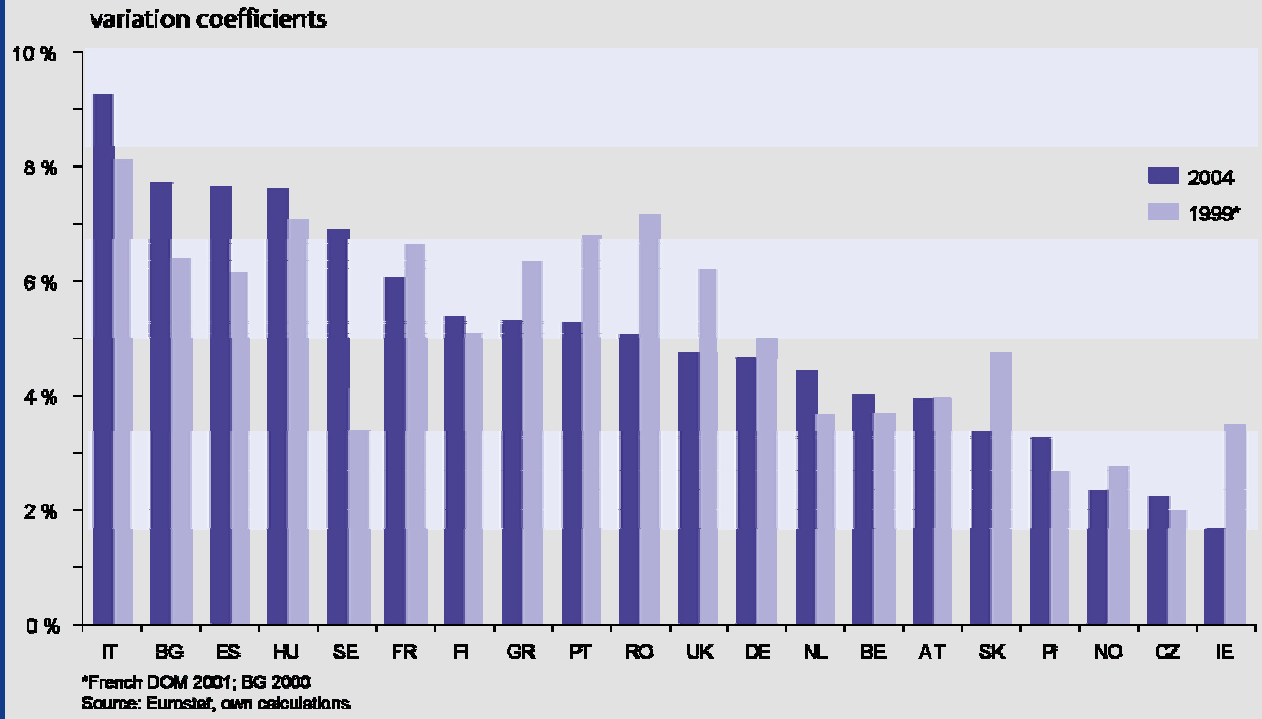


Source: ESPON database

None of the ESPON countries significantly fit into the basic economic assumption that 1.5 % economic growth is necessary at least to create jobs in phases of economic revival.

Tentative Spatial Monitoring Report

Selected findings – Social cohesion

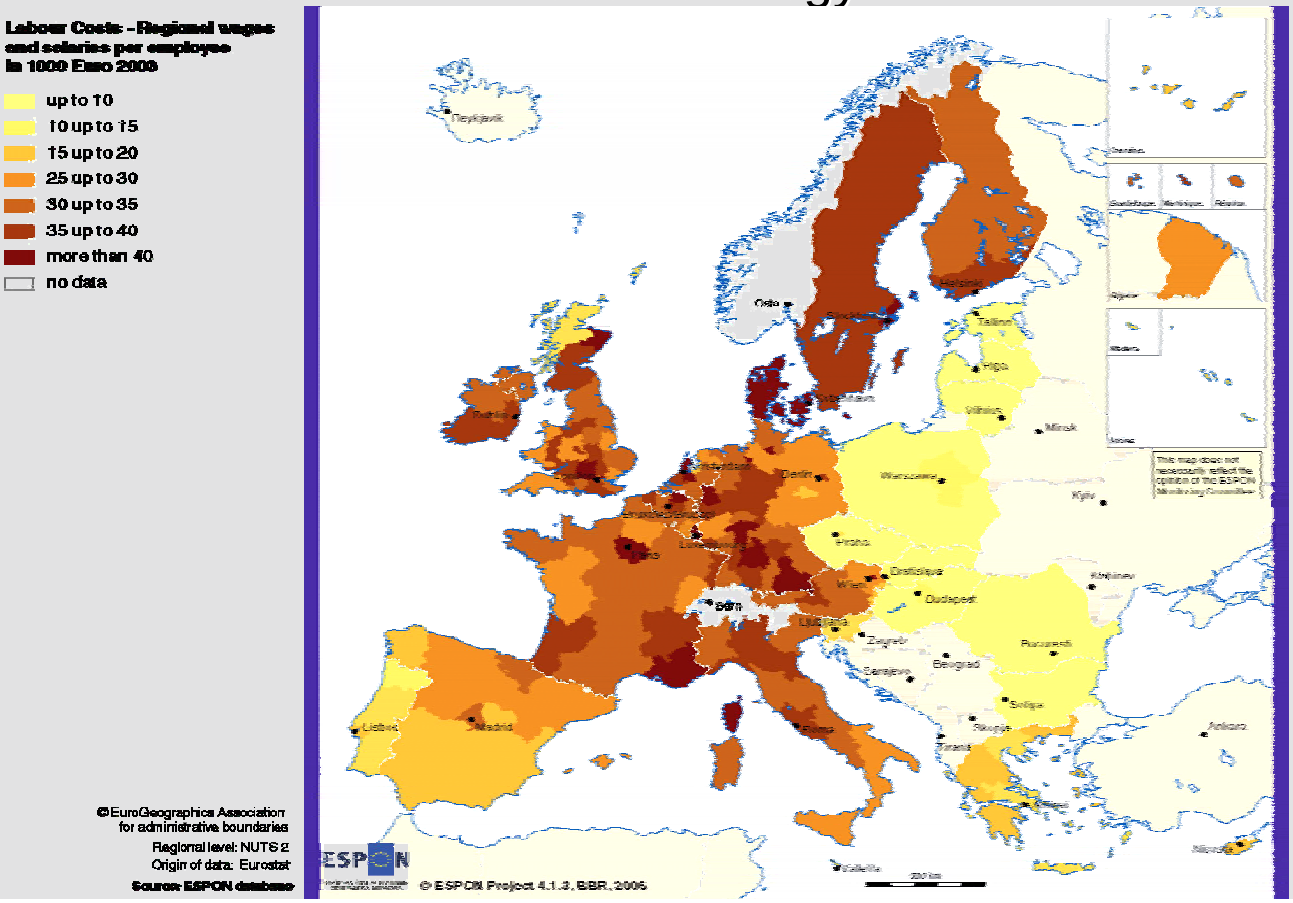


- The dispersion of the activity rate on NUTS 2 shows the regional differences despite adequate national values compared to the Lisbon threshold
- Deepening disparities especially in urban – rural comparison

Tentative Spatial Monitoring Report

Selected findings – Territorial cohesion – Lisbon strategy

Labour costs



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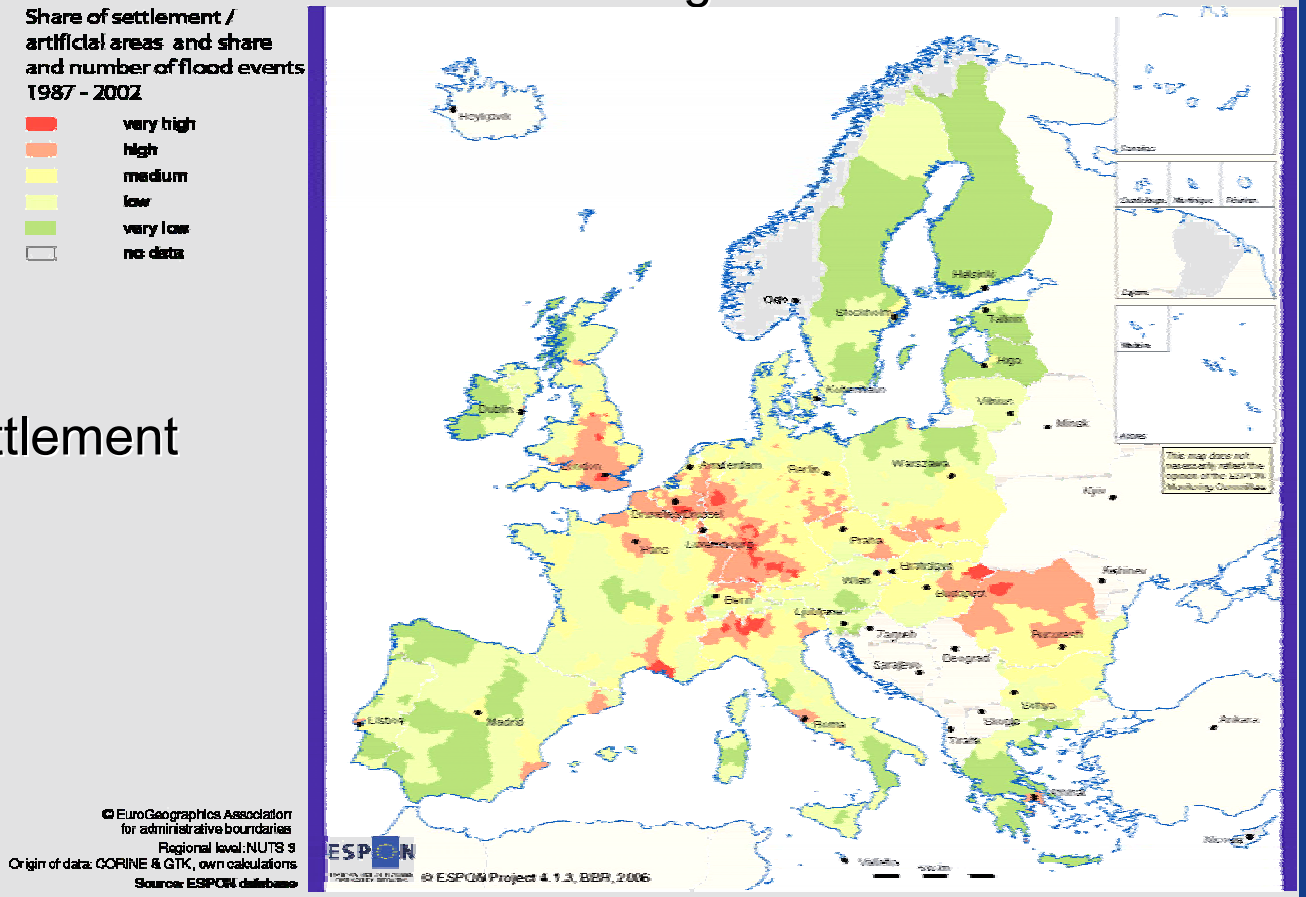
Tentative Spatial Monitoring Report

Selected findings – Territorial cohesion - Gothenburg

Flood endangered settlement and artifical areas



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An all-European spatial monitoring!

All spatial indicators

- ESPON 4.1.3 showed for the first time ever that an all-European spatial monitoring system is possible.
- It is based on routing indicators, with a very specific quality...
- A first sketch of a tentative spatial planning report was shown.
- This is indeed the a solid foundation for a sequential reporting and it is far more than just an addition of a number of national reporting systems!