

Targeted analysis based on ESPON results

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Regionales Herunterbrechen von ESPON Resultaten

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ESPON achievement so far:

- Deep insight into the spatial structure and multi thematic analysis of Europe as a whole
- At the first time ever a clue about the concept of territorial cohesion within the EU
- A lot of policy recommendations for territorial cohesion, structural funds, spatial concepts
- ...

Therefore...

...ESPON results are of high value and welcomed and noticed mostly on the European level, which means...

- ...within the Europe focussed scientific society
- ...among European policy makers and
- ...within the European Administration

But...

...ESPON results are not so much noticed

- ...within the national scenery
- ...among regional or local policy makers and
- ...within the regional or local administrations

So question is: Why not?

Simply because of some very obvious constraints or limitations...

- ...of the lay-out of the ESPON research process
- ...among the transnational project groups and
- ...because of the character of a regional or local audience

Since...

ESPON covered Europe 27+2 some problems were obvious/could not be avoided:

- ...the spatial scale is often limited to NUTS II
- ...a lot of indicators were not available due to data problems
- ...the necessity to find a common denominator of different national spatial views does not lead to concepts that reach or exceed research standards existing on national, regional or local level

And...

...the complexity of a huge entity like Europe leads to complex methodologies, sometime seven more complex than already existing national spatial analysis

...last but not least "*thinking EUROPE*" is not so common yet

What is the consequence?

So...

to gain more interest on the meso and micro level, we have to...

- **bridge the spatial gap between ESPON results and findings on the levels below...**
- **translate ESPON results...**
- **make ESPON results more easy to handle**

This means: targeted and client orientated analysis

By showing a small example I would like to demonstrate aspects of the mentioned problems...

But please do not take it as a general criticism on ESPON results nor as a specific criticism on the shown topic / ESPON project !

Here is the example...

ECP Luxemburg has been asked to break down ESPON results and to focus on the so called Grand Région

ESPON targeted analysis



Here is the example...

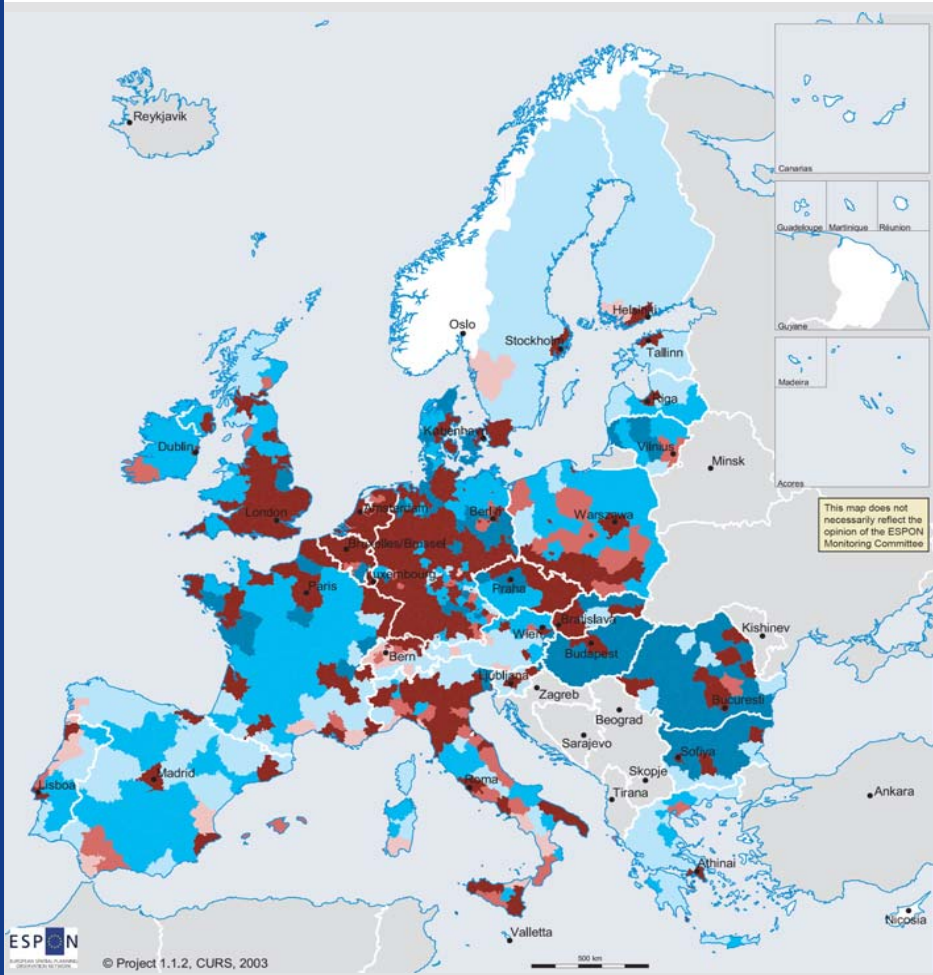


The target group are...

- regional / local practitioners,
- local authorities,
...from the involved countries resp. their regions

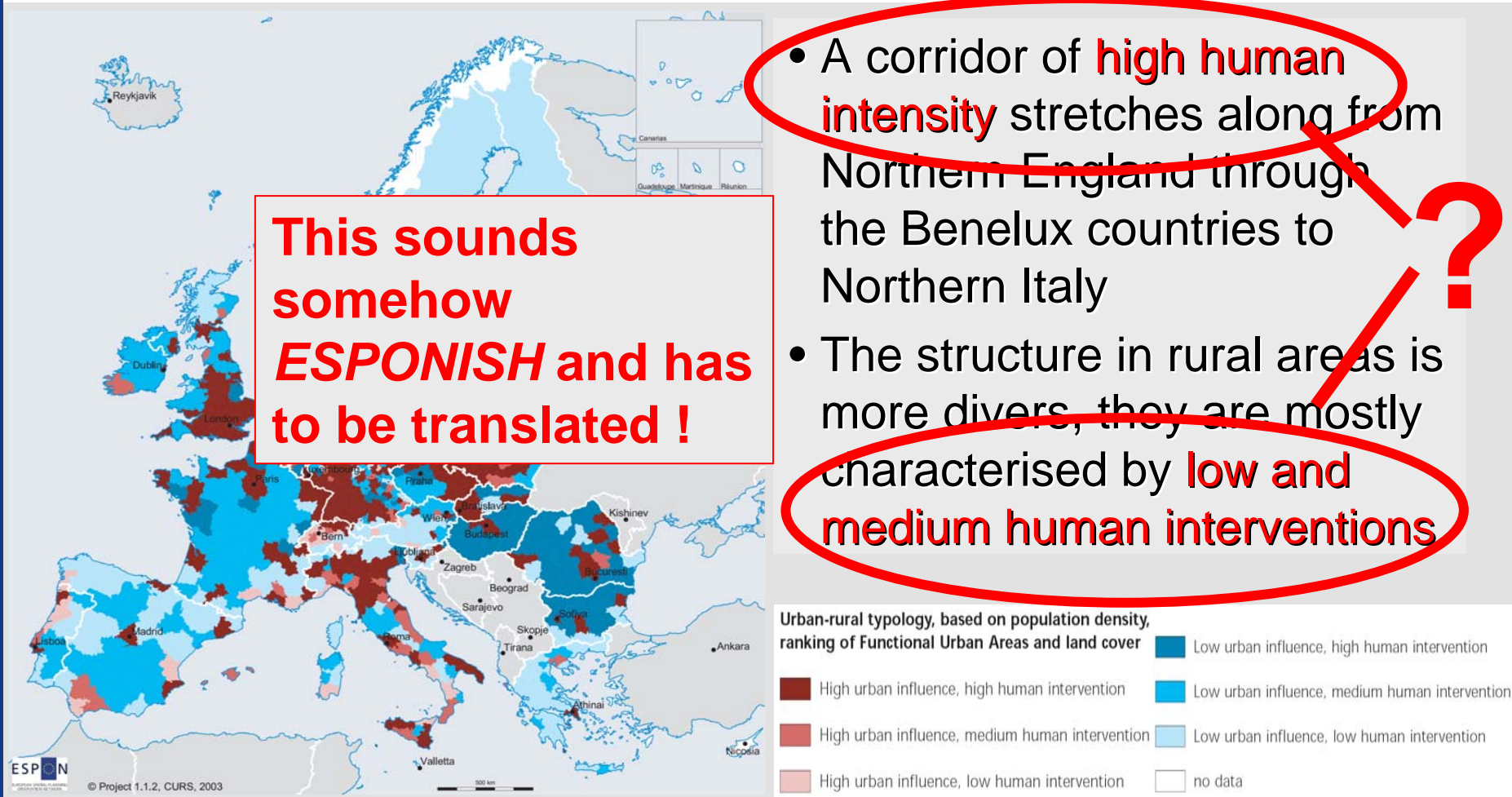
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ESPON targeted analysis Grand Région Urban-rural typology

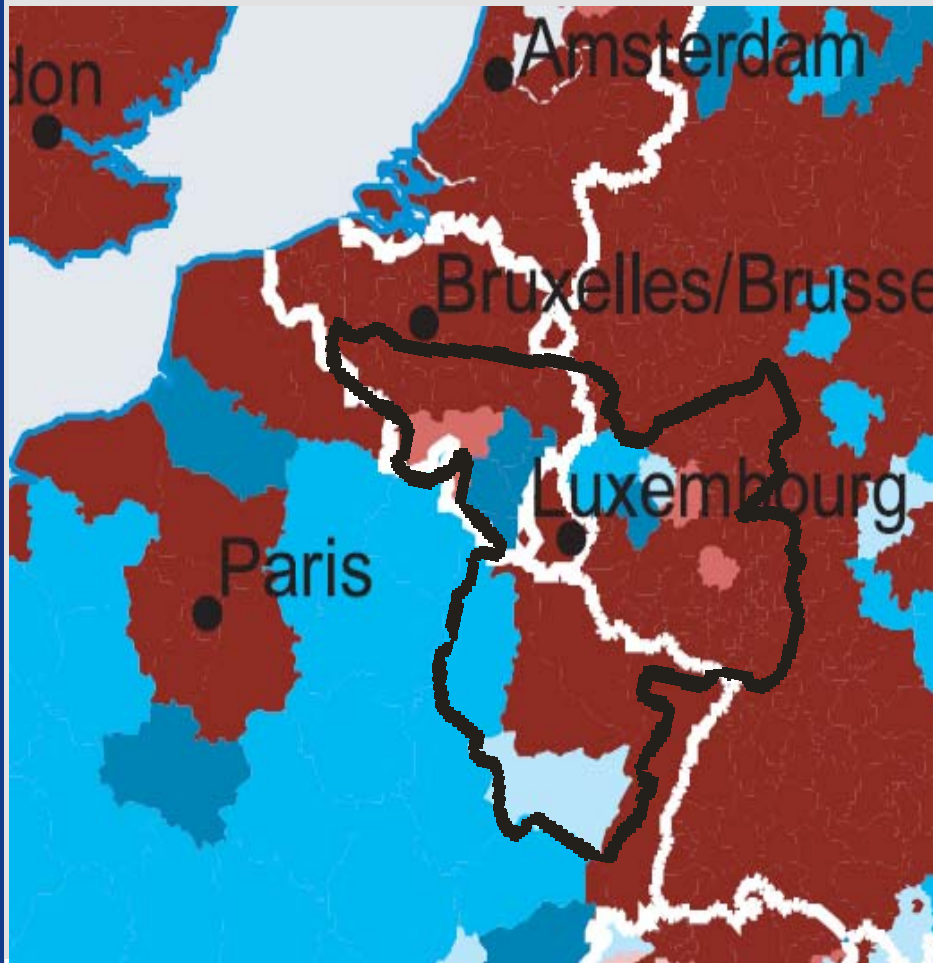


- A corridor of high human intensity stretches along from Northern England through the Benelux countries to Northern Italy
- The structure in rural areas is more divers, they are mostly characterised by low and medium human interventions

ESPON targeted analysis Grande Région Urban-rural typology

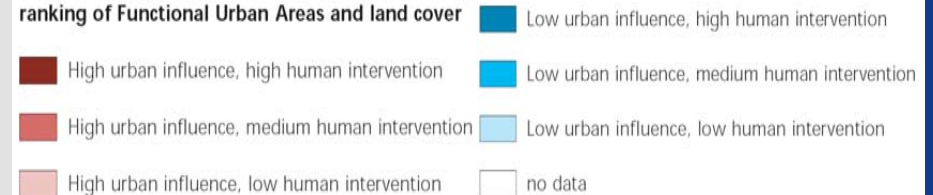


ESPON targeted analysis Grand Région Urban-rural typology

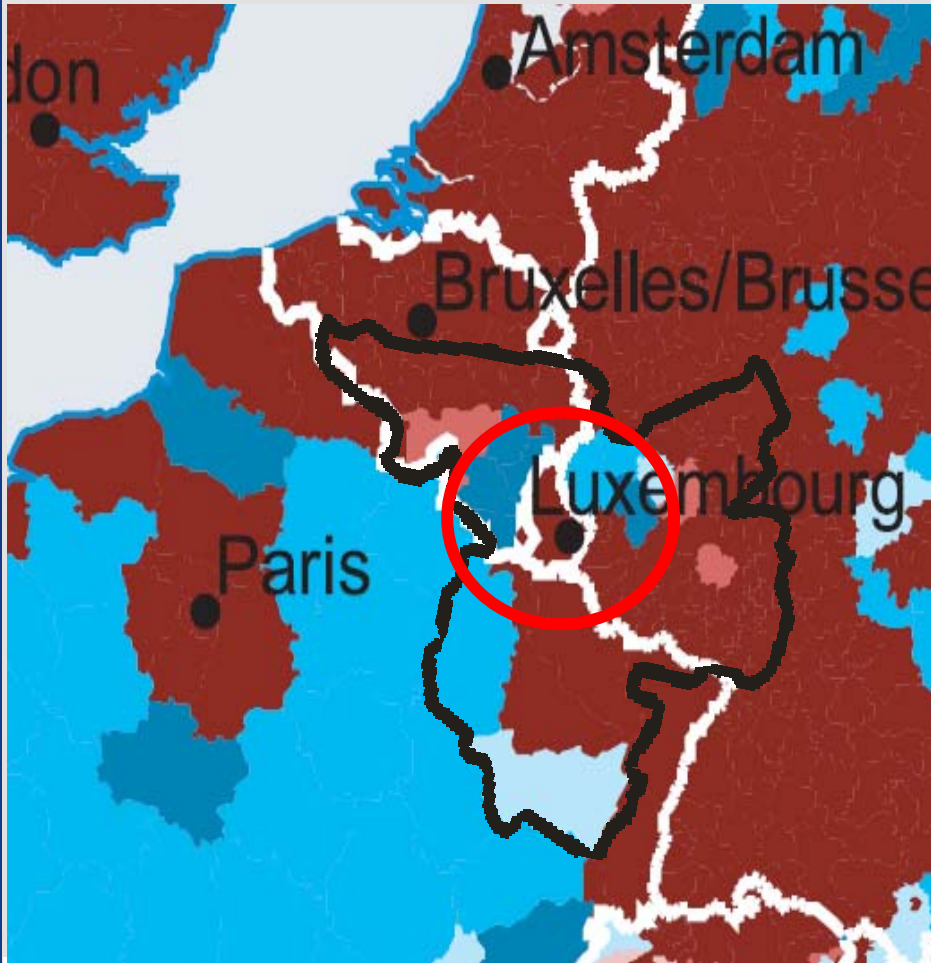


- A sharp decline within the Grand Région
- The challenge will be, to promote a structural and functional diversification of space, through interregional coordination and cooperation

Urban-rural typology, based on population density, ranking of Functional Urban Areas and land cover

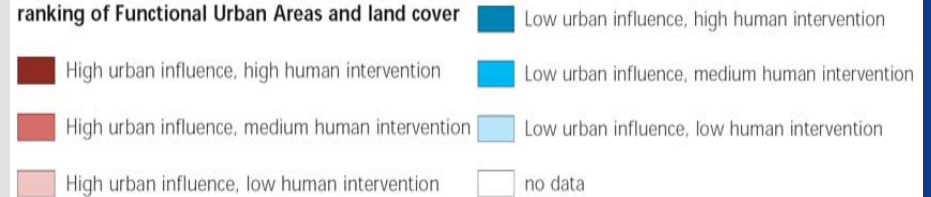


ESPON targeted analysis Grande Région Urban-rural typology



The whole country of Luxembourg is in the same category, due to data availability problems...can I show this map to the Luxembourg community ?

Urban-rural typology, based on population density, ranking of Functional Urban Areas and land cover



I could show a lot more pitfalls, but I stop here....

Breaking down ESPON results...

- ...is far more complicated than it seems,
- ...has be done extra carefully,
- ...needs translation and explanation

What does that mean for targeted and client orientated analysis?

A solution could be,

...to take on board the ESPON methodologies and typologies but to feed them with regional or local data!

...to add existing local or regional studies to the ESPON results and find a bridge for the gap between the spatial levels!

...to initiate a number of new thematic case studies to clarify open questions coming from the ESPON EU perspective...

And to

...carefully think about the addressees of the analysis and to implement at least to different levels of documenting and presenting the results:

1. for the scientists or the professional audience
2. for the average audience, the non professionals