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# ESPON 2006

## Experience from the participation in projects of the first program from the view of a researcher

*Christian Muschwitz*

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# Projects! – What projects?

## Transnational Project Groups (2002 -2006)

Thematic projects/analyzing the status quo

1.1.2: Urban-Rural Relations in Europe

Policy Impact projects

2.1.2: Territorial Impact of EU Research & Development Policy

Cross thematic/coordinating projects

3.1: Integrated Tools for an European Spatial Development

Scientific briefing

4.1.3: Feasibility study on monitoring territorial development based on ESPON key indicators

ESPON Contact Point for the Grand Duchy since 2002



ESPON Contact Point LU

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# Some advantages

ESPON 2006 wanted to involve all interested researchers especially the young ones. Low hierarchic structures, no snobbishness: Rookies and Elder statesmen worked fruitfully together...

= *innovation & experience*

Administrations, Research units, Universities, Consultants worked alongside...

= *best of all worlds*

Meeting researchers from all over Europe is exciting and widens the horizon...

= *networks were created*

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# Some advantages

Transnational project groups (TPGs) worked on the themes...

= *independency of research was guaranteed*

Europe is an exciting and a surprising entity...

= the European perspective is special, interesting and new

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# Some handicaps

Different scientific/professional cultures led to misunderstandings

*= first a common ground had to be found/defined*

Time limitations and small budgets were always present

*= apart from the normal "positiveness", idealism was needed*

The ESPON "Europe" consists of 27 +2 states

*= data shortcomings & limited data availability could ruin best attitudes*

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# Example: ESPON 3.1 Cross sectoral analysis

## ESPON 3.1: Integrated Tools for an European Spatial Development

According to the ToR one of our tasks was to carry out: “a cross sectorial analysis on NUTS III level based on ESPON results...”

sounds simple...but:

cross –sectorial means nothing less than...

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# Example:
# ESPON 3.1 Cross sectoral analysis

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# Example: ESPON 3.1 Cross sectoral analysis

...to provide an overview of the actual spatial situation in Europe as a whole on NUTS 3 level

A cross-sectoral analysis that combines all relevant themes

Therefore we started with the idea of an ESPON internal Meta SWOT analysis

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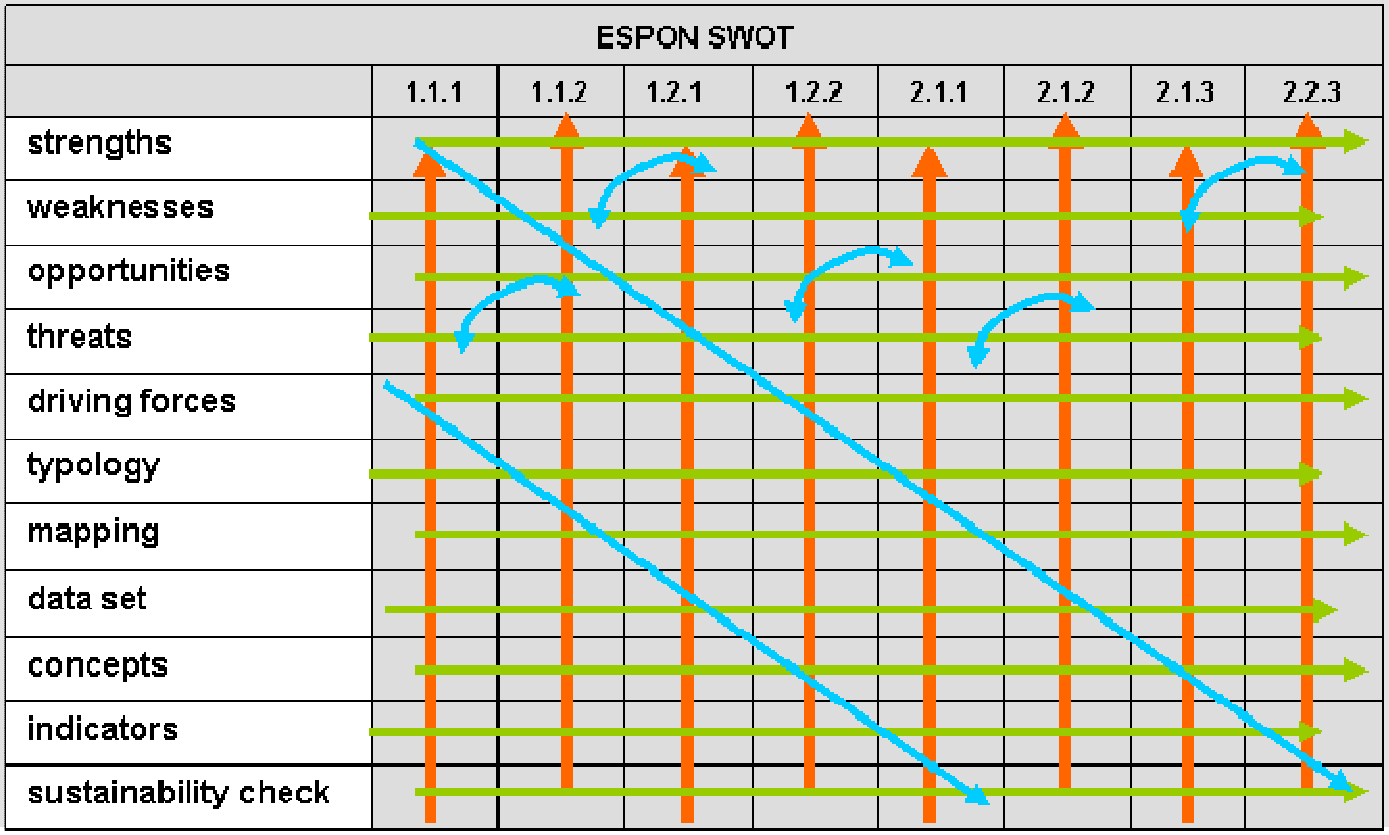
# Example: ESPON 3.1 Cross sectoral analysis

**Each project is doing the vertical analysis on its own…**

**3.1 is doing the horizontal and**

**3.1 is doing the crossover analysis**



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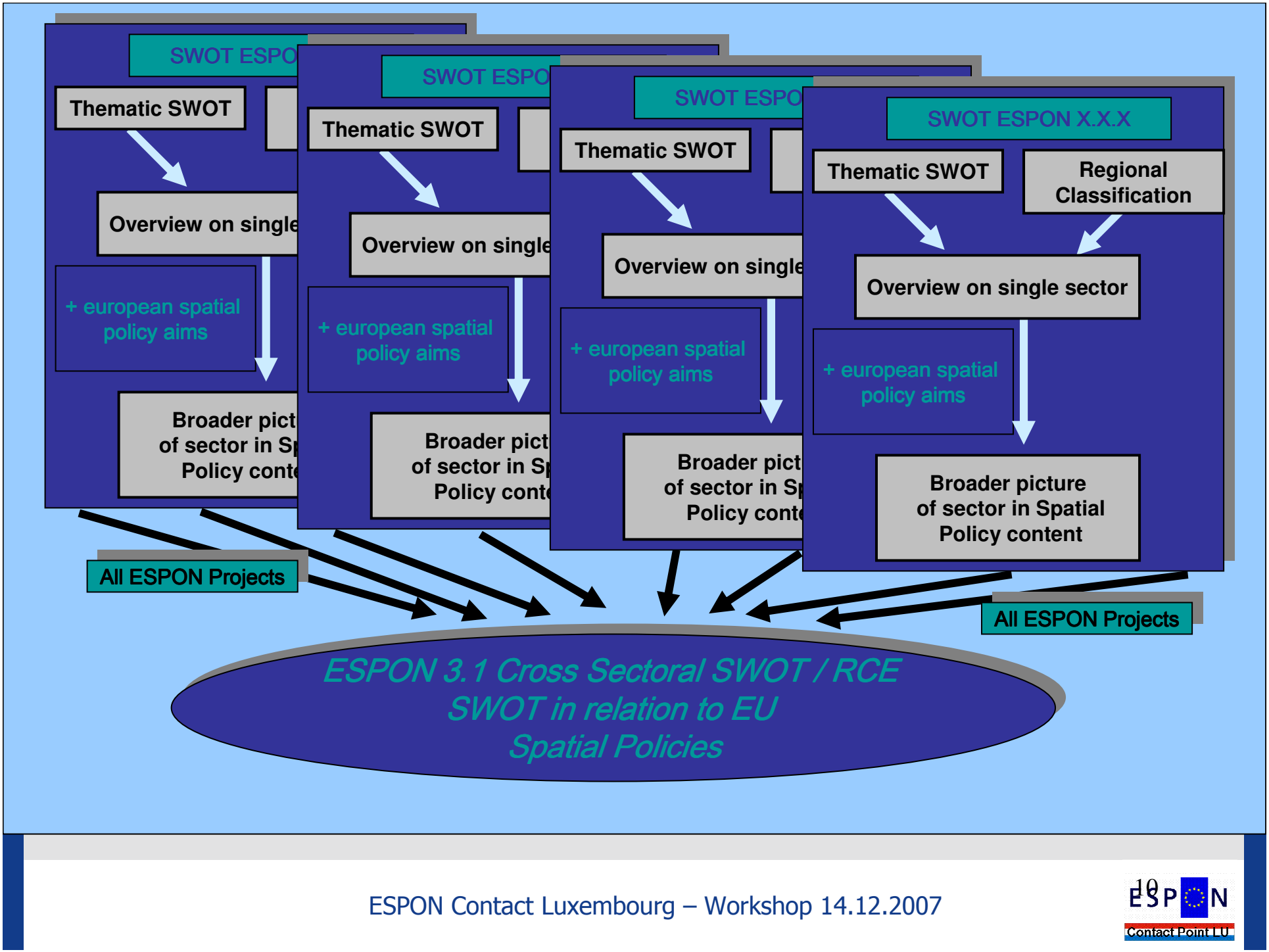
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Regional Classification
Overview on single sector
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Broader picture of sector in Spatial Policy content
All ESPON Projects
All ESPON Projects
ESPON 3.1 Cross Sectoral SWOT / RCE
SWOT in relation to EU
Spatial Policies

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# Example: ESPON 3.1 Cross sectoral analysis

So the META SWOT idea was good but dead!!

Nevertheless....the ToR forced us to...

... provide an overview of the actual spatial situation in Europe as a whole on NUTS 3 level

We decided to try a method which was:

...practicable without contribution of the other TPGs

...a compromise between scientific state of the art and explainable to our target group (politicians)

I called this method Regional Classification of Europe RCE

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# Example: ESPON RCE Regional Classification of Europe

From every theme of spatial relevance, core indicators were picked

| Theme and indicators | Description | Polarity |
|---|---|---|
| **Economy** | | |
| GDP per capita | In PPS | + |
| Expenditure on R&D | Share of GDP | + |
| R&D Business Enterprise Sector | BES R&D personnel per 1.000 active person | + |
| GDP per capita growth | In Euro | + |
| Firms with own website | Proportion of all firms | + |
| Employment in tertiary sector | Share of total employment | + |
| Employment in primary sector | Share of total employment | - |
| **Labour market** | | |
| Unemployment | Unemployment rate 2001 | - |
| Development of unemployment | Change 1998-2001 in percent | - |
| Youth unemployment | Unemployed < 25 years per 1.000 inh. 15-<25 years | - |
| Labour force replacement ratio | Population ages 10-19 / population ages 55-64 | + |
| R&D personnel | Total R&D personnel per 1.000 active person | + |
| High educated population | Highly educated population / total educated pop. | + |
| Employment density | Number of persons employed per km² | + |
| Internet users | Share of all inhabitants | + |
| **Demography** | | |
| Population density | Number of persons per km² | + |
| Ageing | Share of population in the ages over 65 in percent | - |
| Reproduction potential | 20-29 years in 2020 per 20-29 years in 2000 | + |
| Population growth | Change 1995-2000 in % | + |

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# Example: ESPON RCE Regional Classification of Europe

The indicators were discussed with the TPGs and classes and thresholds were defined

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Environment** | | |
| Artificial surface | Share of total area (Corine) | - |
| Natural surface | Share of total area (Corine) | + |
| Agriculture intensity | Output/input ratio | - |
| **Hazards** | | |
| Flood events | Regional average number of flood events | - |
| Winter storms | Probability of having winter storms | - |
| Risk of radioactive contamination | Distance from nuclear power plants | - |
| Earthquake hazard potential | Mean value of grid points inside NUTS 2 boundaries | - |
| Volcanoes | Number of all volcanoes in NUTS 2 area | - |
| Oil hazards | Average of 3 indicators (harbours, pipeline, refineries) | - |
| **Accessibility** | | |
| Potential accessibility | By road | + |
| Potential accessibility | By rail | + |
| Potential accessibility | By air | + |
| Potential accessibility | Multimodal | + |
| **Spatial structure** | | |
| Settlement structure | Count of types with population=0 | - |
| Concentration of population | Change of region´s share of EU 27+2 pop. in percent | + |
| Concentration of GDP | Change of region´s share of EU 27+2 GDP in percent | + |
| Time to market meso-scale | Accessibility by rail and road, weighted by pop. | - |
| Time to market macro-scale | Accessibility by rail and road, weighted by pop. | - |
| Functional Urban Areas | Share of population living in FUA | + |

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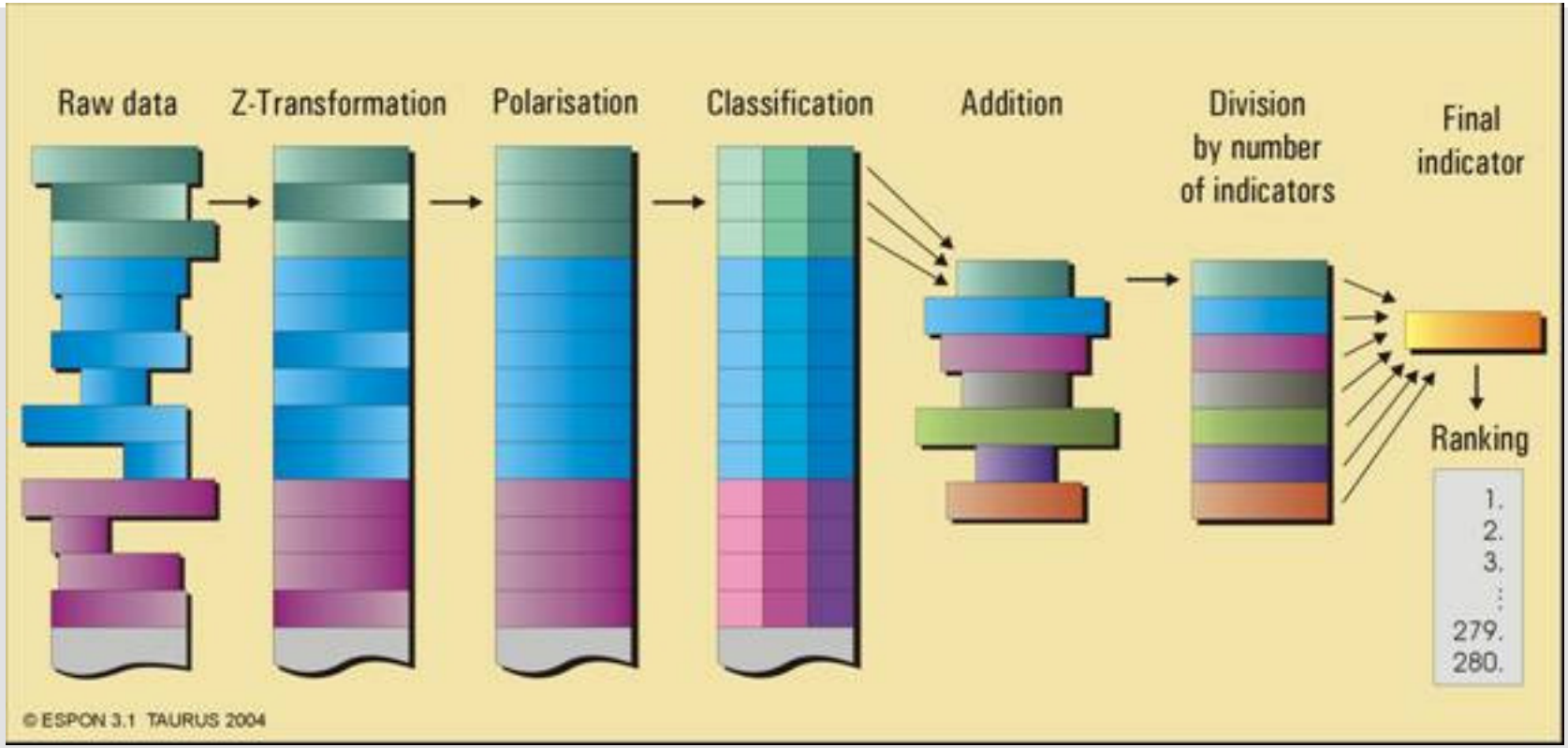
# Example: ESPON RCE Regional Classification of Europe



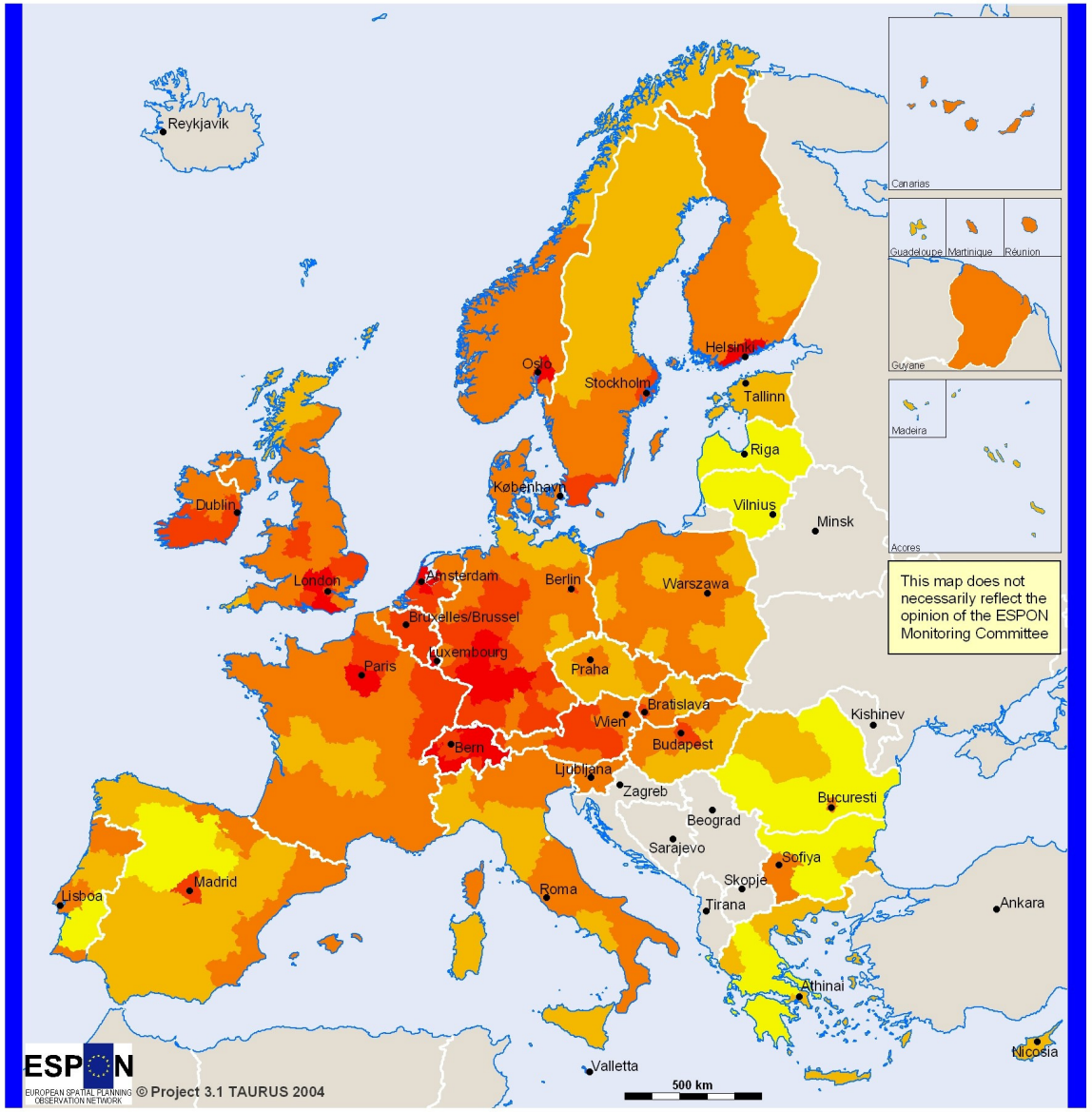

The sketch shows the way from data to classification

# RCE

## Result…

**A distinct picture of Europe which shows some familiar aspects as well as some unexpected details**

Regional classification of Europe - overall performance




**Overall performance**

- underperforming
- below average
- average
- above average
- outperforming



Regional Level: NUTS 2

Origin of data: Eurostat, National Statistical Offices, ESPON 3.1

**Source: ESPON Data Base**

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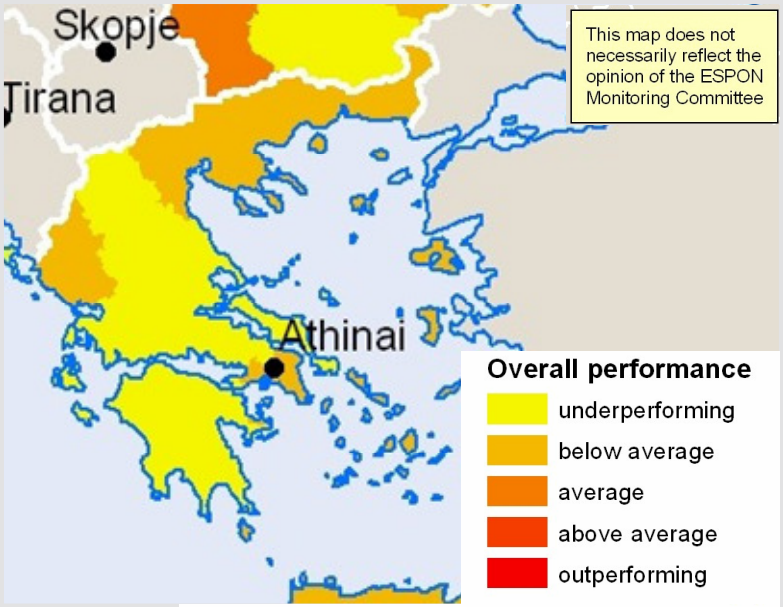
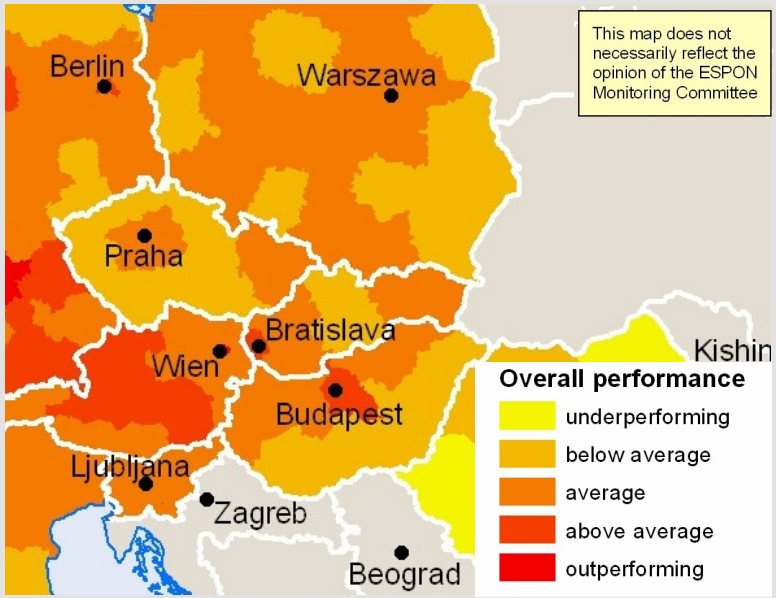
# Example: ESPON RCE Regional Classification of Europe




© EuroGeographics Association for administrative boundaries
Regional Level: NUTS 2
Origin of data: Eurostat, National Statistical Offices, ESPON 3.1
**Source: ESPON Data Base**

Zoom-in without scale

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Zoom-in without scale

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# Example: ESPON RCE Regional Classification of Europe

| Rank | Overall ranking RCE | Reporting: Ranking after GDP (PPS) per inhabitant |
|---|---|---|
| ***TOP 25*** | | |
| 1. | **Luxembourg** | **Inner London** |
| 2. | **Berkshire, Bucks and Oxfordshire** | **Région Bruxelles-capitale** |
| 3. | **Inner London** | **Luxembourg** |
| 4. | **Utrecht** | Hamburg |
| 5. | **Darmstadt** | **Oslo Og Akershus** |
| 6. | **Île de France** | **Île de France** |
| 7. | Mittelfranken | Oberbayern |
| 8. | **Suisse Du Nord-Est** | **Zürich** |
| 9. | Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire | **Wien** |
| 10. | **Zürich** | **Darmstadt** |
| 11. | **Stuttgart** | **Uusimaa (suuralue)** |
| 12. | **Uusimaa (suuralue)** | **Utrecht** |
| 13. | Karlsruhe | Bremen |
| 14. | **Wien** | Trentino-Alto Adige |
| 15. | **Oslo Og Akershus** | Åland |
| 16. | Suisse Centrale | Lombardia |
| 17. | Flevoland | **Suisse Du Nord-Est** |
| 18. | **Région Bruxelles-capitale** | **Stockholm** |
| 19. | Surrey, East and West Sussex | **Stuttgart** |
| 20. | Rheinhessen-Pfalz | Emilia-Romagna |
| 21. | **Noord-Holland** | **Noord-Holland** |
| 22. | Gießen | **Berkshire, Bucks and** |

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# Example: ESPON RCE Regional Classification of Europe

...the Greek were absolutely not happy with the outcome of the RCE and commissioned an own study based on the same set of indicators but employ different multivariate methods and... finished with more or less the same picture!

...the results went as far as into the EU Commission, but since they were provoking some of the member states, the whole excercise was burried!

The RCE was a victim of circumstance...

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# Resume

...it is quite challenging to participate in ESPON

...you earn a lot of experience, more guts than glory

...it is sometimes frustrating but most of the time it is working at an all new terrain

..it is a lot of fun and if I have the chance I will take part in ESPON 2013

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## and now...

Workshop:

→ How can I participate in projects of the ESPON programme?

*Thiemo W. Eser (DATer)*

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