city regions

CENTRAL EUROPE
COOPERATING FOR SUCCESS.

EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Are there arguments for a Central European macro-regional strategy?

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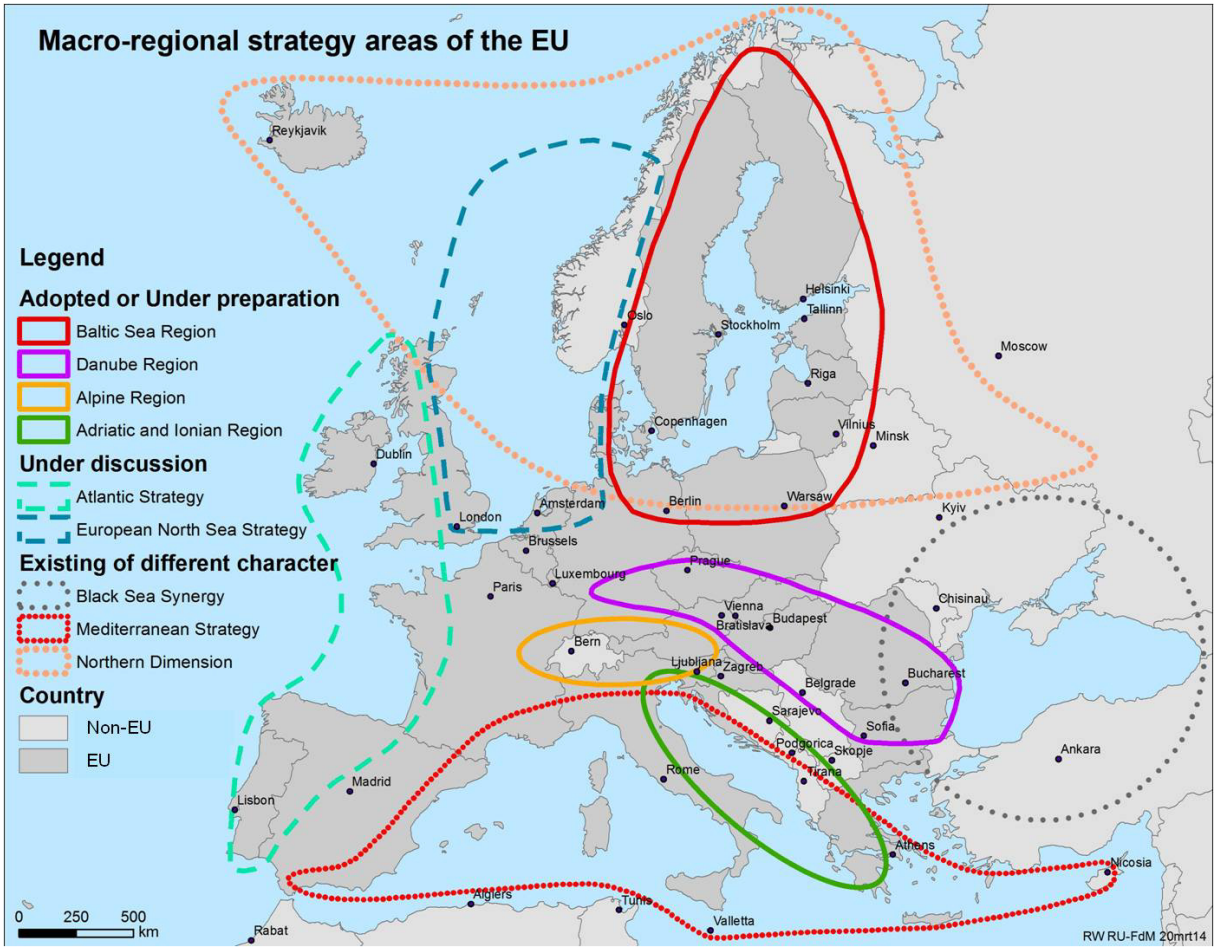
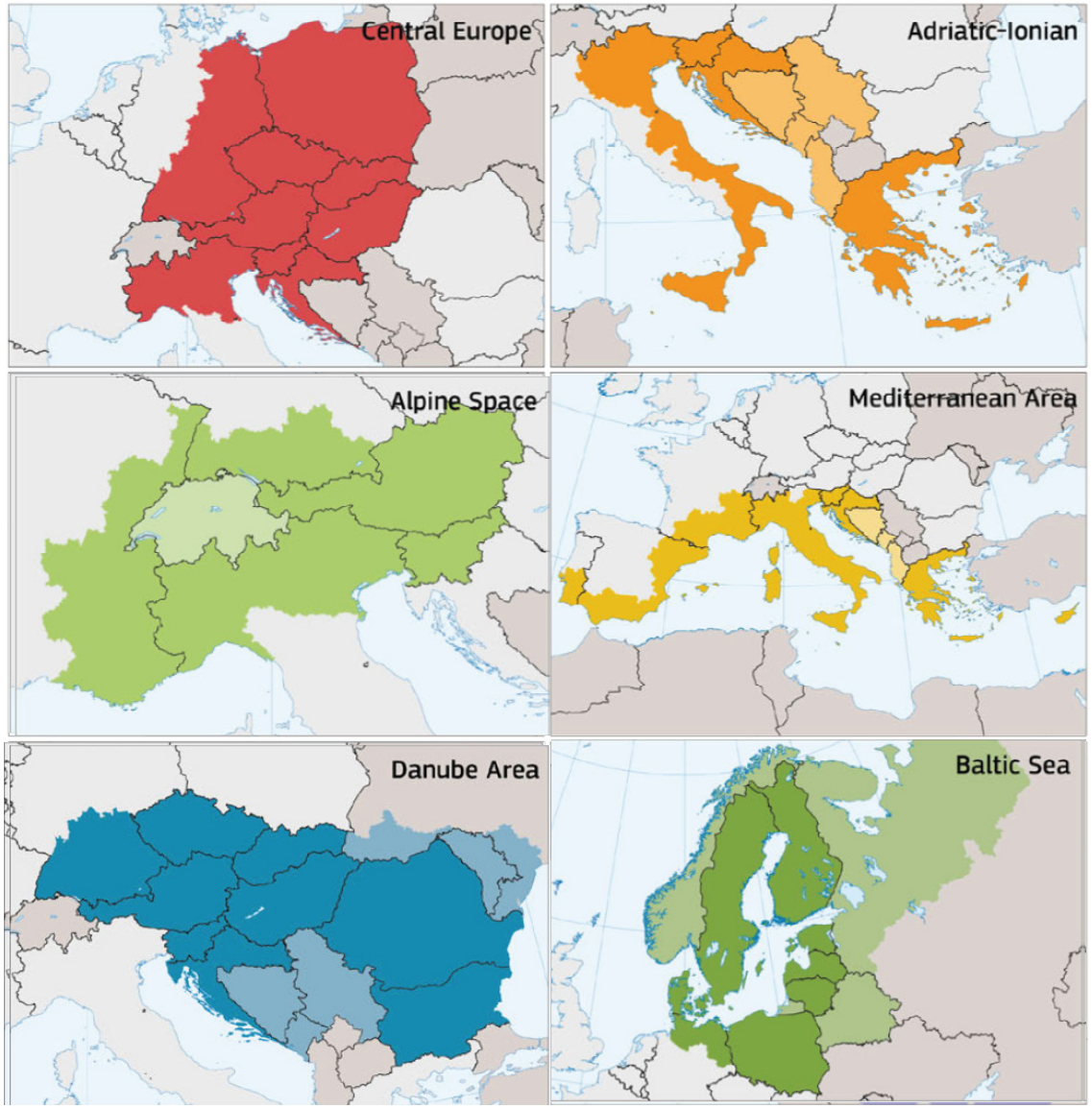
EU macro-regional strategies and sea basin strategies



Source: information based on European Commission reports, BBR;
Visualisation: S. Dühr and R. Wunderink

European transnational territorial cooperation (INTERREG VB) 2014-2020



Source:
European Commission

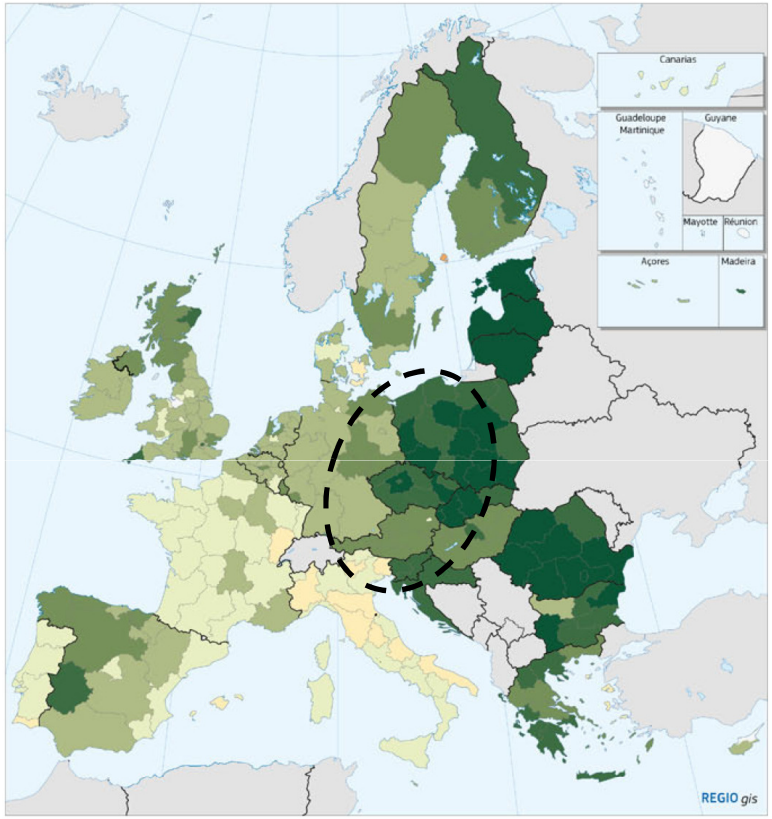
‘Central Europe’

Source: German Wikipedia

Transnational cooperation in Central Europe

- Different definitions of ‘Central Europe’
- **Regional diversity (economic performance, demographic change, cultural differences...)**

Growth of GDP and regional effects of the crisis



Map 1.2 Growth of GDP per head in real terms, 2001–2008

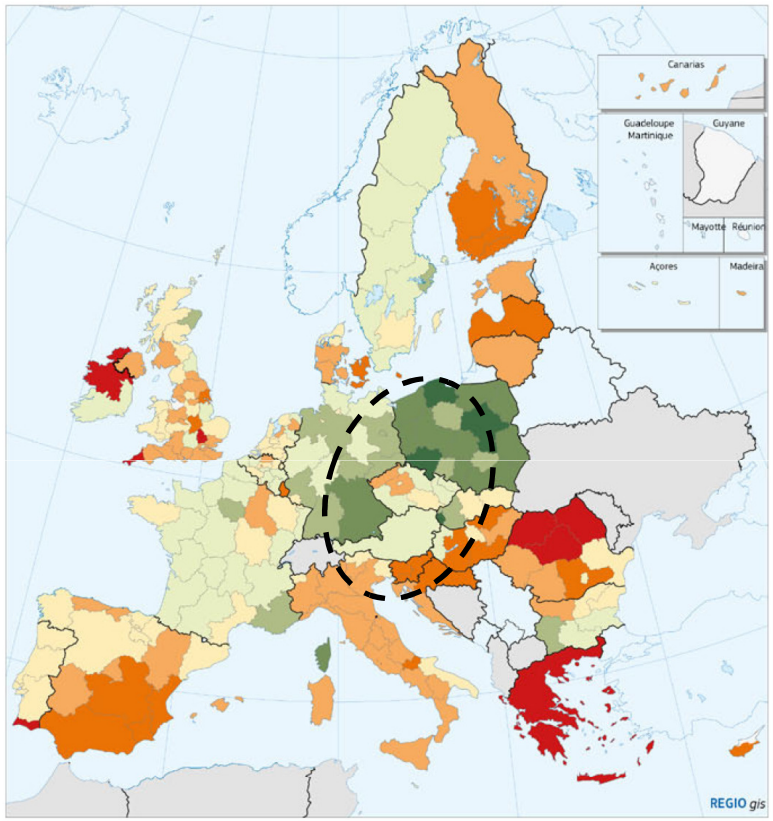
Annual average % change
< -3
-3 - -2
-2 - -1
-1 - 0
0 - 1
1 - 2
2 - 3
3 - 5
> 5
no data

EU-28 = 1.7
DE: NUTS 1 values

Source: Eurostat, DG REGIO

0 500 Km

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries



Map 1.3 Growth of GDP per head in real terms, 2008–2011

Annual average % change
< -3
-3 - -2
-2 - -1
-1 - 0
0 - 1
1 - 2
2 - 3
3 - 5
> 5
no data

EU-28 = -0.6
AT, EL: national values; DE: NUTS 1 values

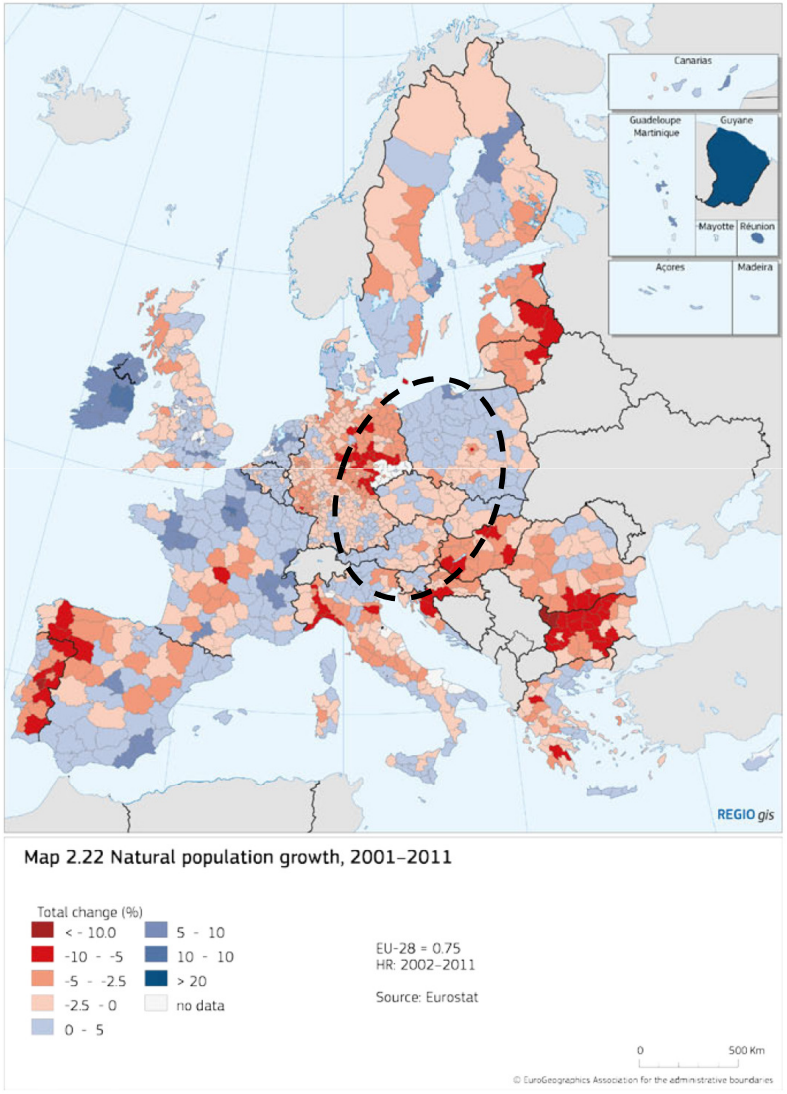
Sources: Eurostat, DG REGIO

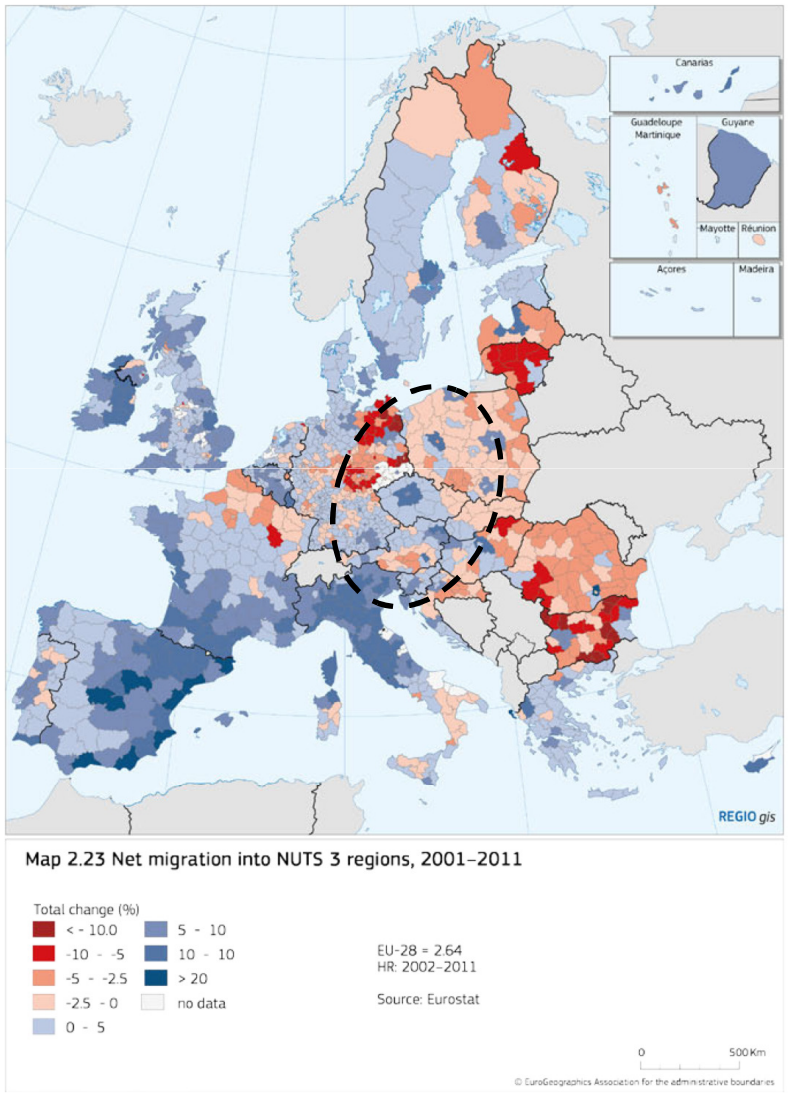
0 500 Km

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries

Source: European Commission 2014: Sixth Cohesion Report

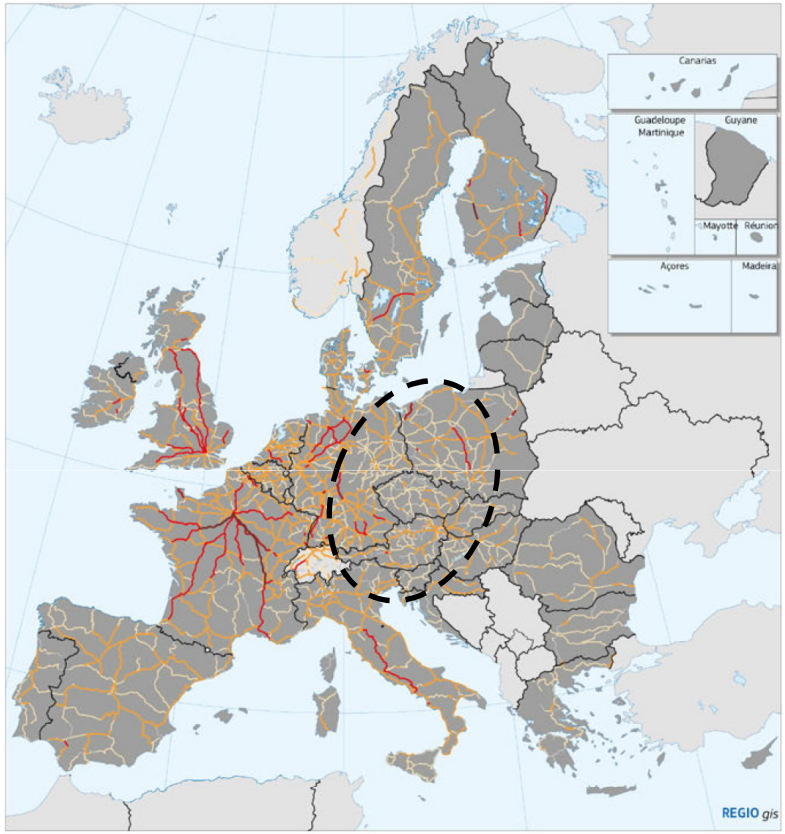
Demographic change and migration





Source: European Commission 2014: Sixth Cohesion Report

Highest speed on rail network 1990, 2013



Map 1.23 Highest speed on railway network according to timetables, 1990

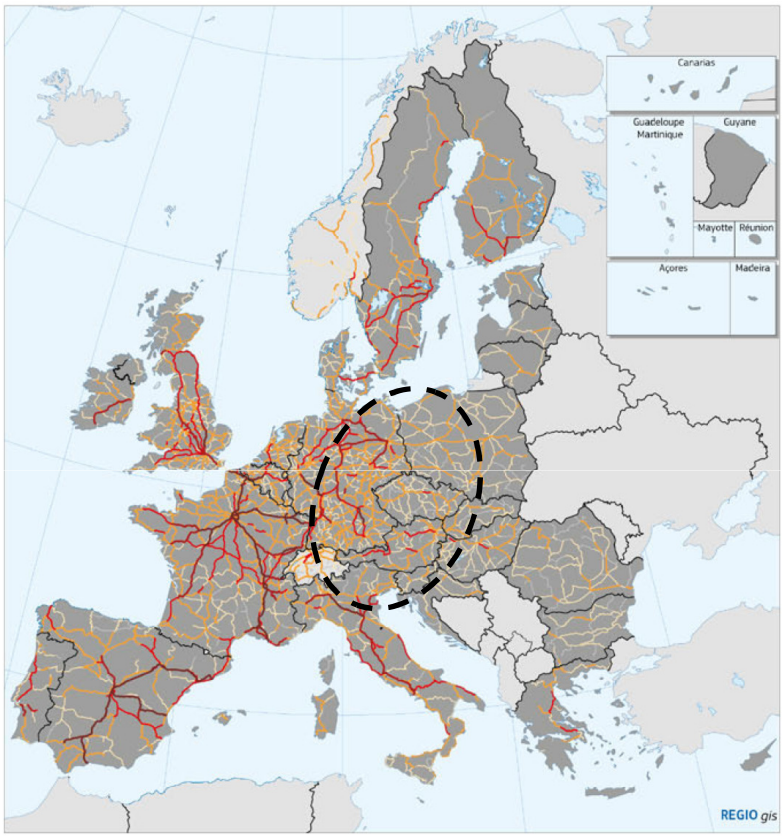
km/h
<= 50
51 - 80
81 - 120
121 - 160
161 - 200
201 - 320

Since different train services with different speeds may operate along rail sections, the shown speeds indicate the average speed of the fastest train service.
Rail sections exclusively for freight services are not shown.

Sources: RRG 2013, Railway company's timetables

0 500 Km

© EuroGeographics Association pour les limites administratives



Map 1.24 Highest speed on railway network according to timetables, 2013

km/h
<= 50
51 - 80
81 - 120
121 - 160
161 - 200
201 - 320

Since different train services with different speeds may operate along the same rail sections, the speeds shown indicate the speed of the fastest train service.
Rail sections exclusively for freight services are not shown.

Sources: RRG 2013, Railway company's timetables

0 500 Km

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries

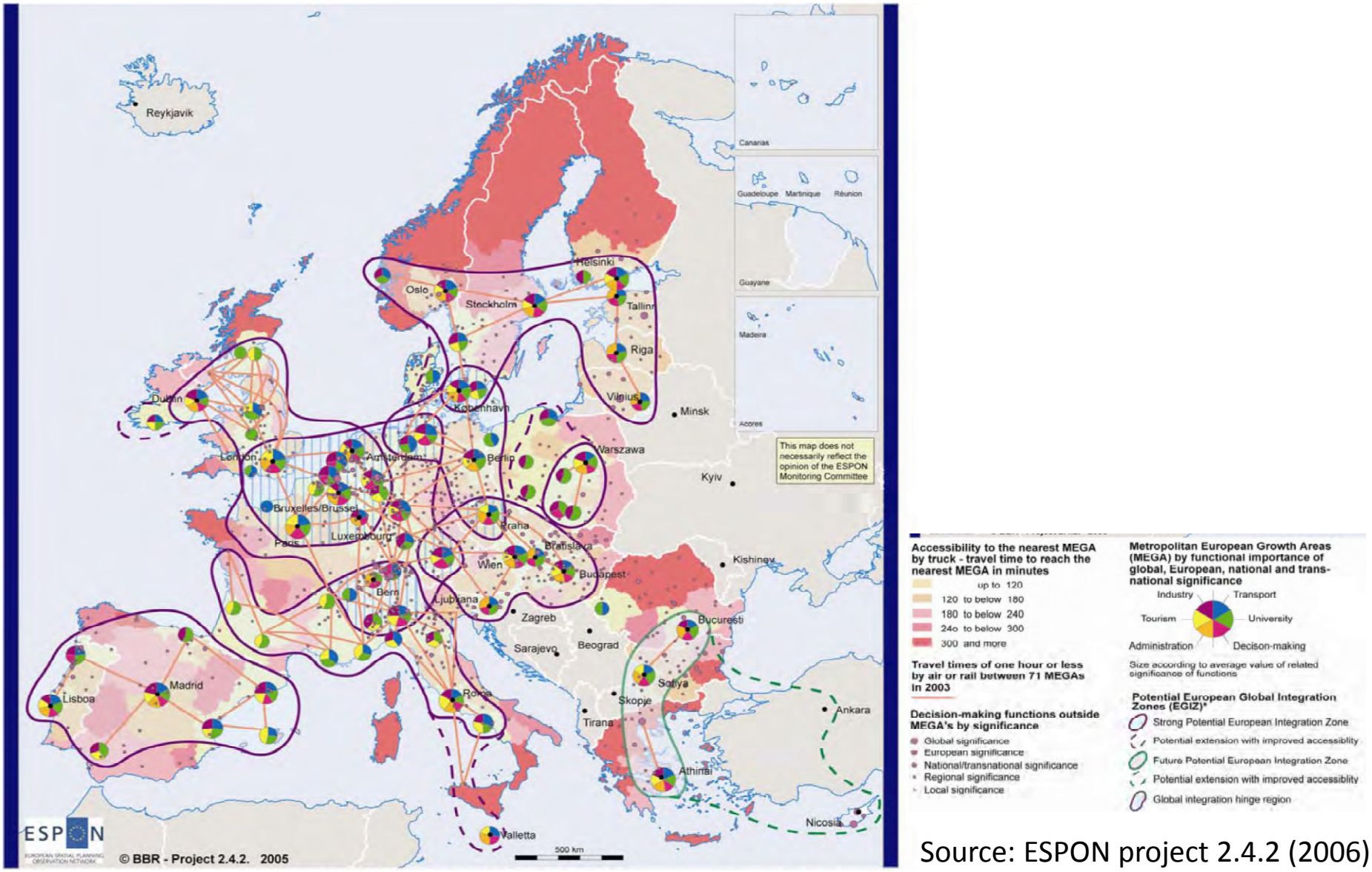
Source: European Commission 2014: Sixth Cohesion Report

Transnational cooperation in Central Europe

- Different definitions of ‘Central Europe’
- Regional diversity (economic performance, demographic change, cultural differences...)
- **‘Action areas’ and ‘integration zones’ in Central Europe: cooperation around commonalities and functional links**

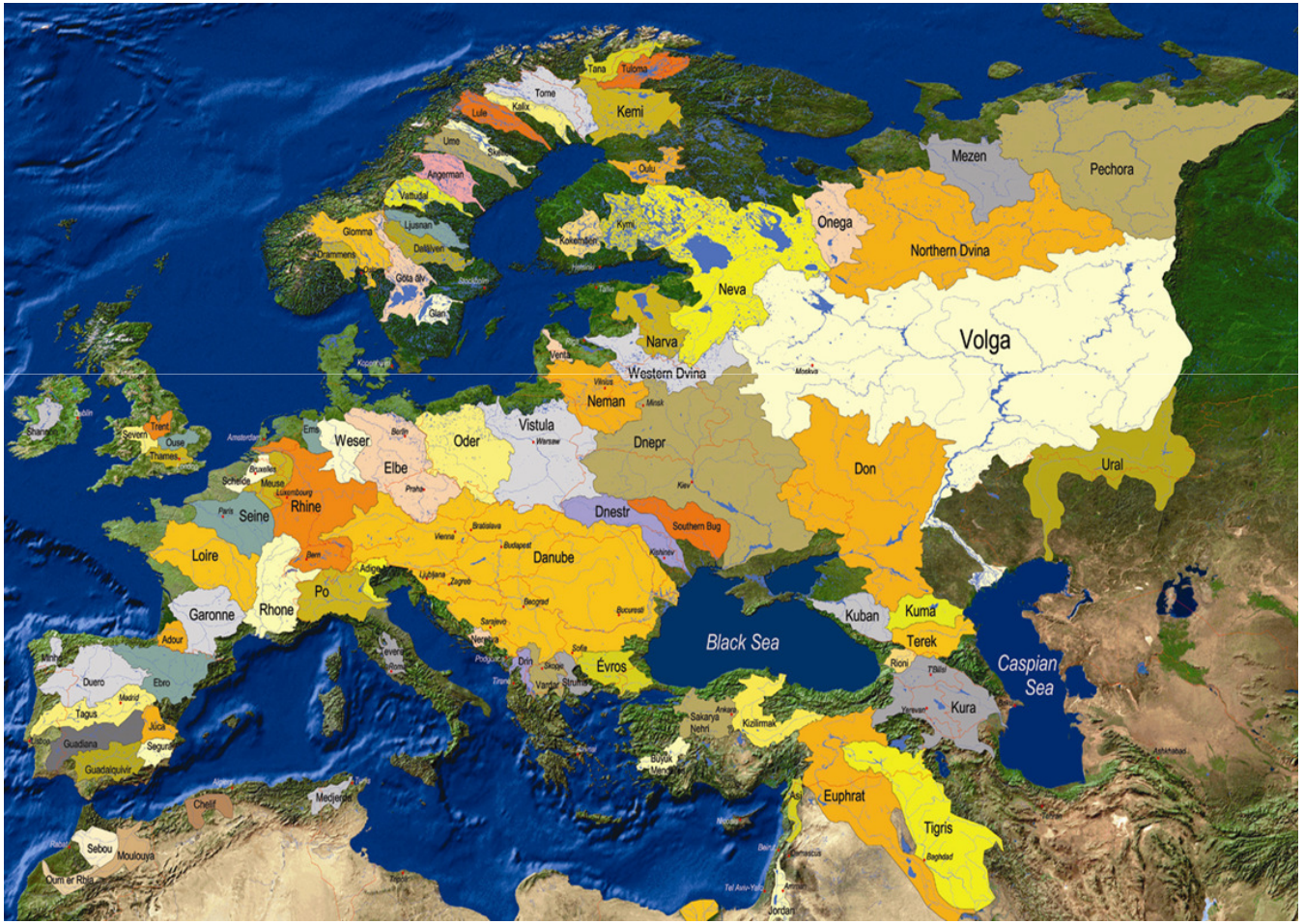
VISION Planet: Transnational action areas (2000)

Global integration zones: ESPON (2006)



Source: ESPON project 2.4.2 (2006)

River basins in Europe

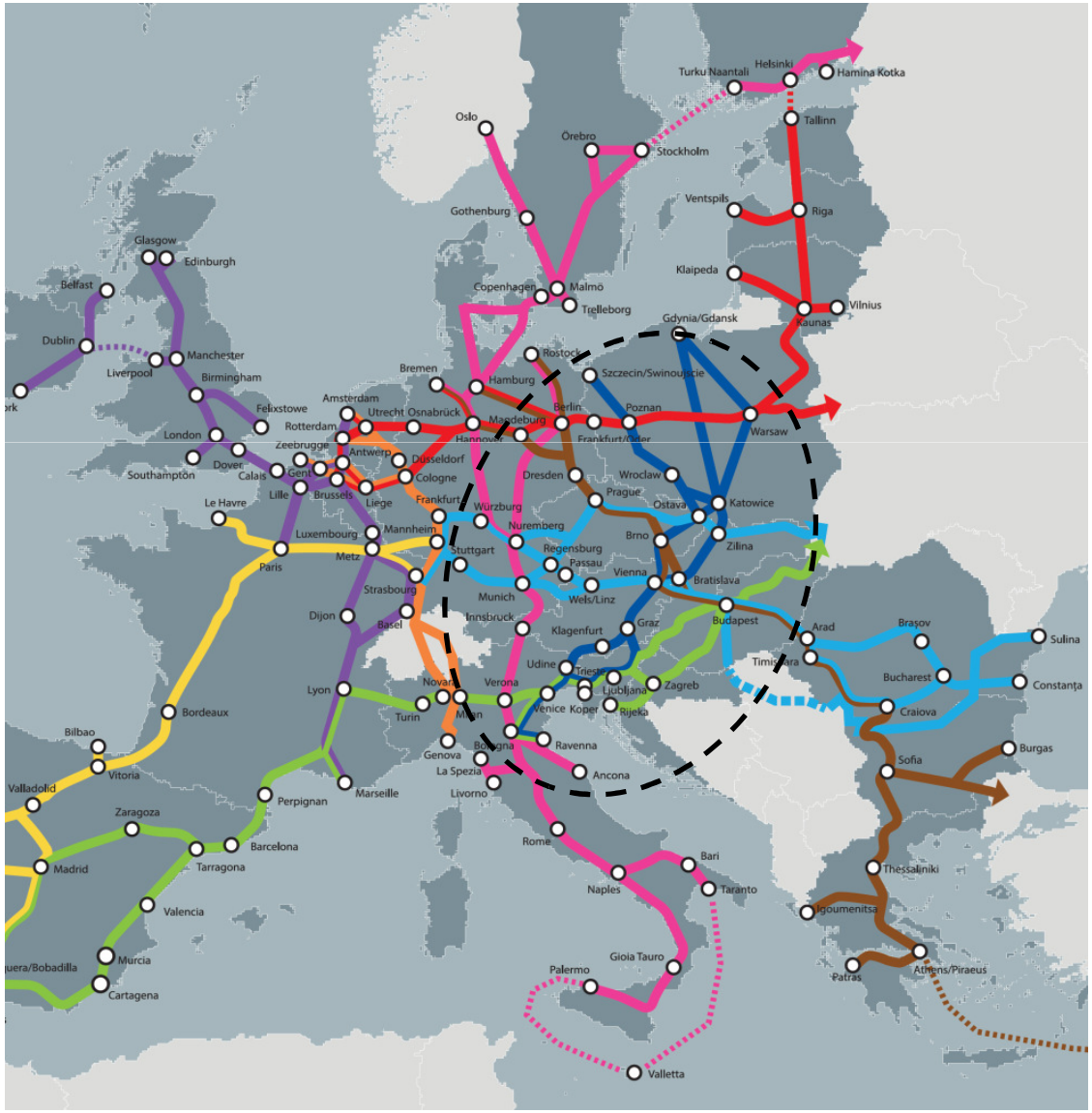


Source: http://www.wfd-croatia.eu/userfiles/image/photogallery/maps/RB_Europe.png

Transnational cooperation in Central Europe

- Different definitions of ‘Central Europe’
- Regional diversity (economic performance, demographic change, cultural differences...)
- ‘Action areas’ and ‘integration zones’ in Central Europe: cooperation around commonalities and functional links
- **Role of Central Europe in the emerging ‘macro-regional’ map of Europe?**
  - Link East and West (Iron Curtain, EU enlargement)
  - Link North-South / connecting three seas (Baltic, Adriatic, Black Sea)

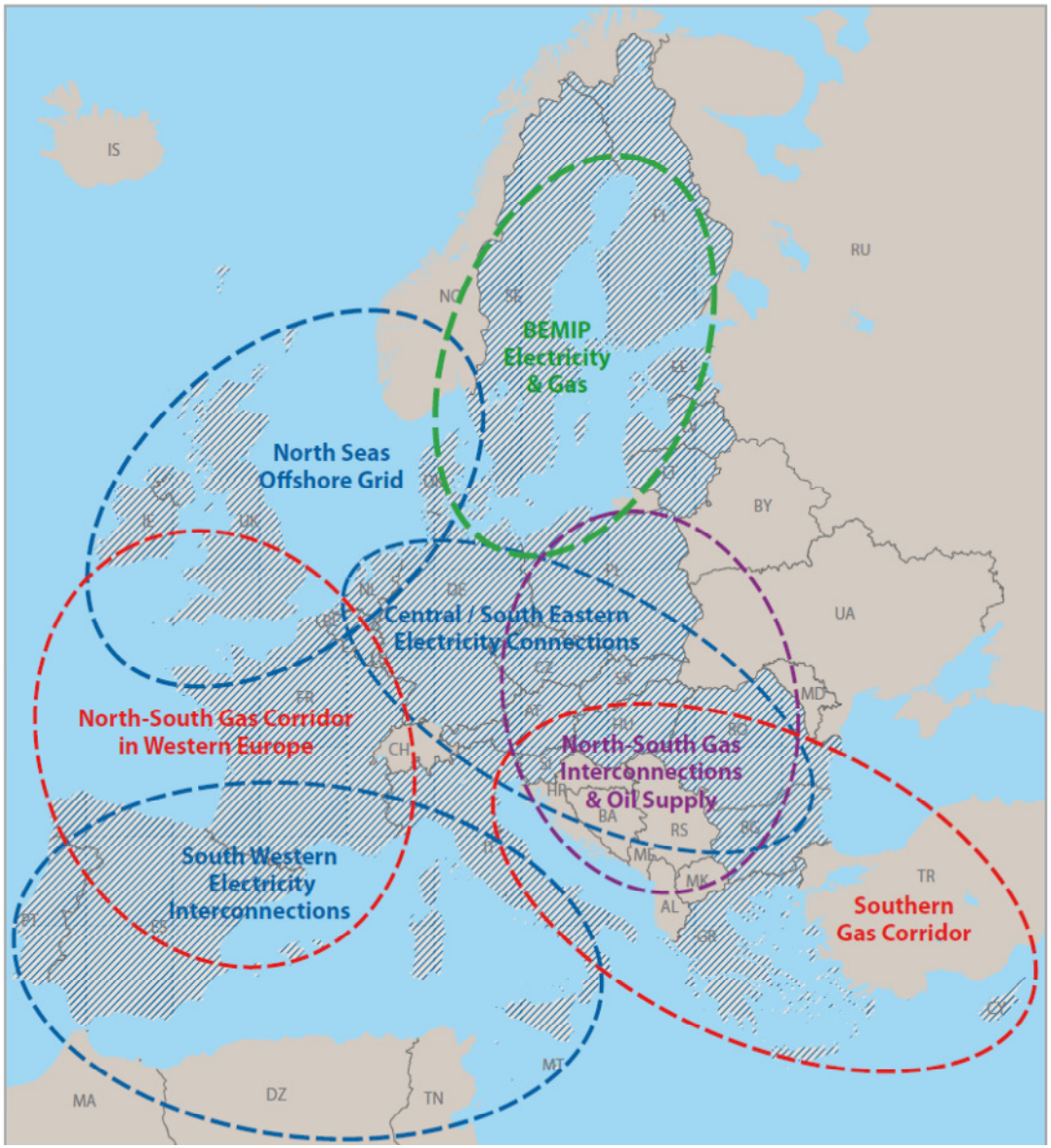
TEN-T Core Network Corridors



- BALTIC - ADRIATIC
- NORTH SEA - BALTIC
- MEDITERRANEAN
- ORIENT / EAST-MED
- SCANDINAVIAN - MEDITERRANEAN
- RHINE - ALPINE
- ATLANTIC
- NORTH SEA - MEDITERRANEAN
- RHINE - DANUBE

Source: European Commission

EU priority corridors for electricity, gas and oil



Source: European Commission

Transnational cooperation in Central Europe

- Existing cooperation:
  - cross-border regions
  - (non-geographical) networks of shared interests

  - intergovernmental cooperation (CEI, Visegrád)
  - ‘sub-spaces’ with commonalities (Carpathian Convention)

Sub-regionalism and ‘sub-spaces’

Source:
http://www.v4plus2.eu/en/

Source: http://www.cei.int

Source: WWF

Transnational cooperation in Central Europe: findings from actor interviews

- 19 interviews from DE, IT, PL, CR, AT; conducted by expert group
- Awareness of transnational issues focused mostly on transport corridors and economic development / development axes
  (also, but less: energy; environment)
- Internal cohesion concerns versus wider transnational context
- (Political) attention to existing forms of cooperation varies
- Existing MRSs for Danube, Baltic (and Alps) important frame of reference for involved countries
- Focus of other regions / countries more on sub-spaces (cross-border cooperation, metropolitan regions etc.)
- Questions over added-value of EU macro-regional strategy for Central Europe vis-à-vis existing cooperation
- But: recognised coordination needs (of policies, actors etc.) versus available instruments a concern

Transnational cooperation in Central Europe Discussion (I)

- **Issues for transnational cooperation? Transnational rationale?**
  - Corridors and connectivity – sustainable transport (rail, waterways)
  - Energy – carbon-neutral, energy security
  - Water management (flood risk etc)
  - Vulnerable landscapes, ecological corridors
  - (demographic change and migration, economic development and East-West disparities)
  - ....?

- **Need for / benefit of transnational cooperation versus (political) awareness in Central Europe or its sub-spaces?**

Transnational cooperation in Central Europe Discussion (II)

- **Suitable governance arrangements for transnational region(s) in Central Europe?**
  - Are existing cooperation forms in Central Europe sufficient to address transboundary concerns?
  - Are there additional ‘sub-spaces’ which are needed? Where is cooperation useful and needed?
  - How to achieve coordination across borders? Leadership?
  - Cross-sectoral integration? (Ministerial) responsibilities?
  - Which levels / actors should be involved? Multi-level governance arrangements?
  - How to overcome political, institutional, cultural etc. barriers to achieve better functional / spatial integration?
  - Coordination with / link to EU macro-regional strategies?