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City Region Governance: Spatial planning and strategic voluntary collaboration.

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Overview:

- 1. The practice of strategic spatial planning.**
- 2. Rescaling and city regions.**
- 3. Strategic voluntary collaboration.**

1. The Practice of Spatial Planning.

Intervention – *spatial planning is a purposeful activity.*

Future looking – *spatial planning addresses time and change.*

Holistic – *spatial planning seeks the integration of outcomes from economic, social and environmental processes.*

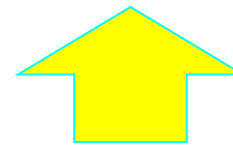
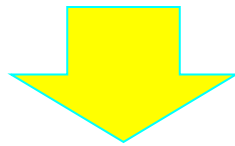
Creates places and spaces – *spatial planning is grounded in the built and physical form.*

Components of Strategic Spatial Planning.

- **Spatiality:** *strategic planning has to make sense.*
- **Governance:** *strategic planning has to work*
- **Implementation:** *strategic planning has to make a difference.*

Strategic Planning Roles

- **Top-down Sub-national Frameworks**
(Allocation of investment and target setting)



- **Bottom-up Development Strategies**
(Alignment of local policies and public investment)

Good Planning Practices

- ✓ **Participate in collaborative practices**
- ✓ **Provide unifying visions**
- ✓ **Promote key ideas and policy choices**
- ✓ **Strengthen legitimacy and political debate**
- ✓ **Take risk to offset constraints of negotiated situations**
- ✓ **Address potential instability from asymmetrical power relations**

2. Rescaling and city regions.

Is there a need to re-examine the scale at which spatial planning is undertaken?

- **New scales of economic and administrative functionalities**

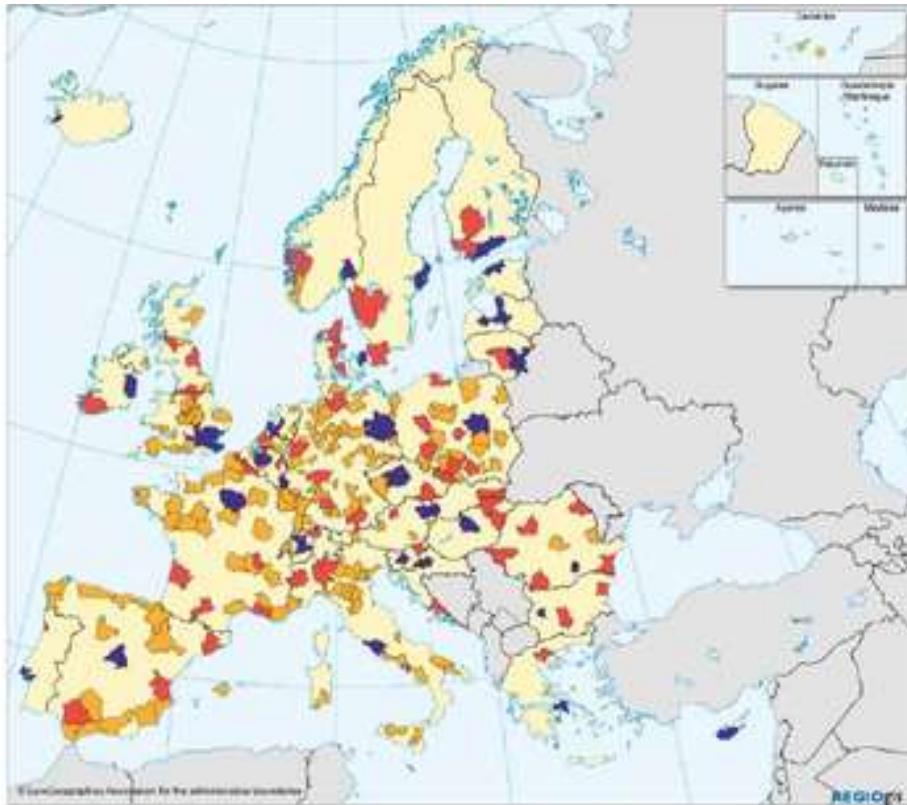
City regions and mega-regions.

- **New scales of political and democratic legitimacies**

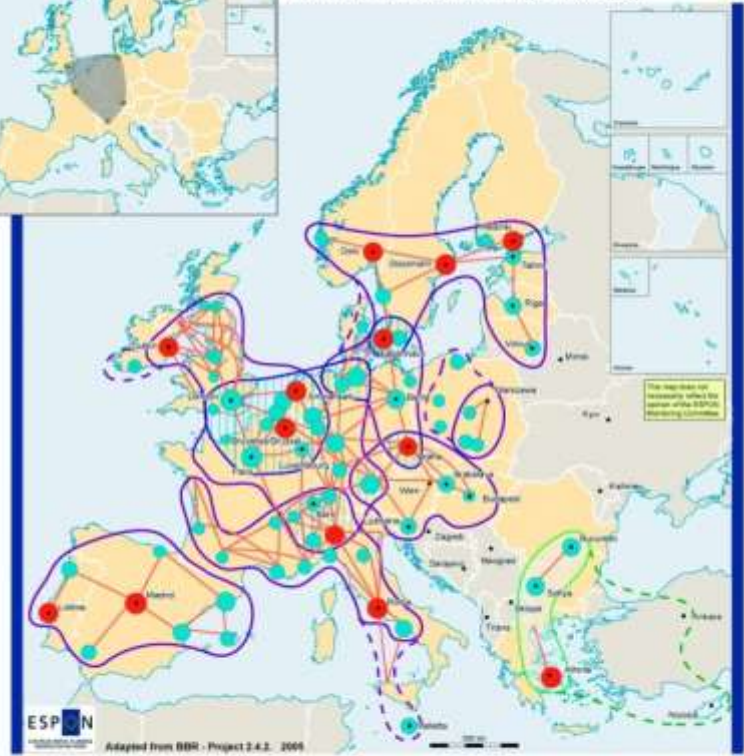
Localism and decentralisation.

City regions: Spatial territory based on functionality

- The global metropolitan area is an **open economic** system.
- Acknowledges **post-industrial city behaviours** and development of 'mega-city regions'.
- Increasing **connectivity** requires a more relevant scale for approaching transport issues, and broadband.
- Acknowledges **functional links** between urban and urban areas / urban and rural areas / cities and hinterlands.
- Potential as an appropriate spatial framework for the strategic management of natural and environmental **resources**.



Development scenario envisaged by the ESPON project on 'Transnational and National Territories': creation of multiple Global Integration Zones



“City-regions are a strategic and political level of administration and policy making, **extending beyond the administrative boundaries of single urban local government authorities** to include urban and/or semi urban hinterlands.

This definition includes a range of institutions and agencies representing local and regional governance that possess an interest in urban and/or economic development matters that, together, form a strategic level of policy making intended to formulate or implement policies on a broader metropolitan scale.”

(in Tewdwr-Jones & McNeill 2000)

3. Strategic voluntary collaboration between local authorities.

- Response to fragmented governance
- Local inter-governmental state building



Understanding Strategic Voluntary Collaboration

- Local authorities engage in voluntary formal or informal collaboration on public investment in transport infrastructure, urban branding and competitiveness, environmental protection.
- Alignment of local policies around the promotion or management of growth, the scaling up of assets, and the promotion of complimentary diversities.
- Institutional benefits based around increased capacity; self interest; shared ideology; and organisational learning.

Limits of Voluntary Strategic Collaboration

- Communicative process supplants instrumental outcomes.
- Absence of unifying identities or common values (urban/rural).
- Unresolved key ideas and policy choices (compact city).
- Weakness of legitimacy and political debate.
- Constrained by negotiated situations.
- Potentially unstable as a result of asymmetrical power relations (unequal partners).
- Unlikely to address territorial cohesion since hidden transfers / avoidance of explicit shared redistributive goals.

Some good practices

- Spatiality: ***Build, share and disseminate common information and data analyses.***
- Governance: ***Involve elected, private and civic interests; Use formal and contractual arrangements and incentives.***
- Implementation: **Prioritize thematic strategic interventions; Separate decision making, stakeholders, and technical steering roles; Common measure of performance and outcomes.**

Thank you.

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