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Achieving Balanced Regional Policy in Germany: The Role of Urban-Rural Partnerships

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Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, Germany

**International Centre for Local and Regional Development
Fourth Annual Conference**

22.1.2009 in Letterkenny, Co Donegal

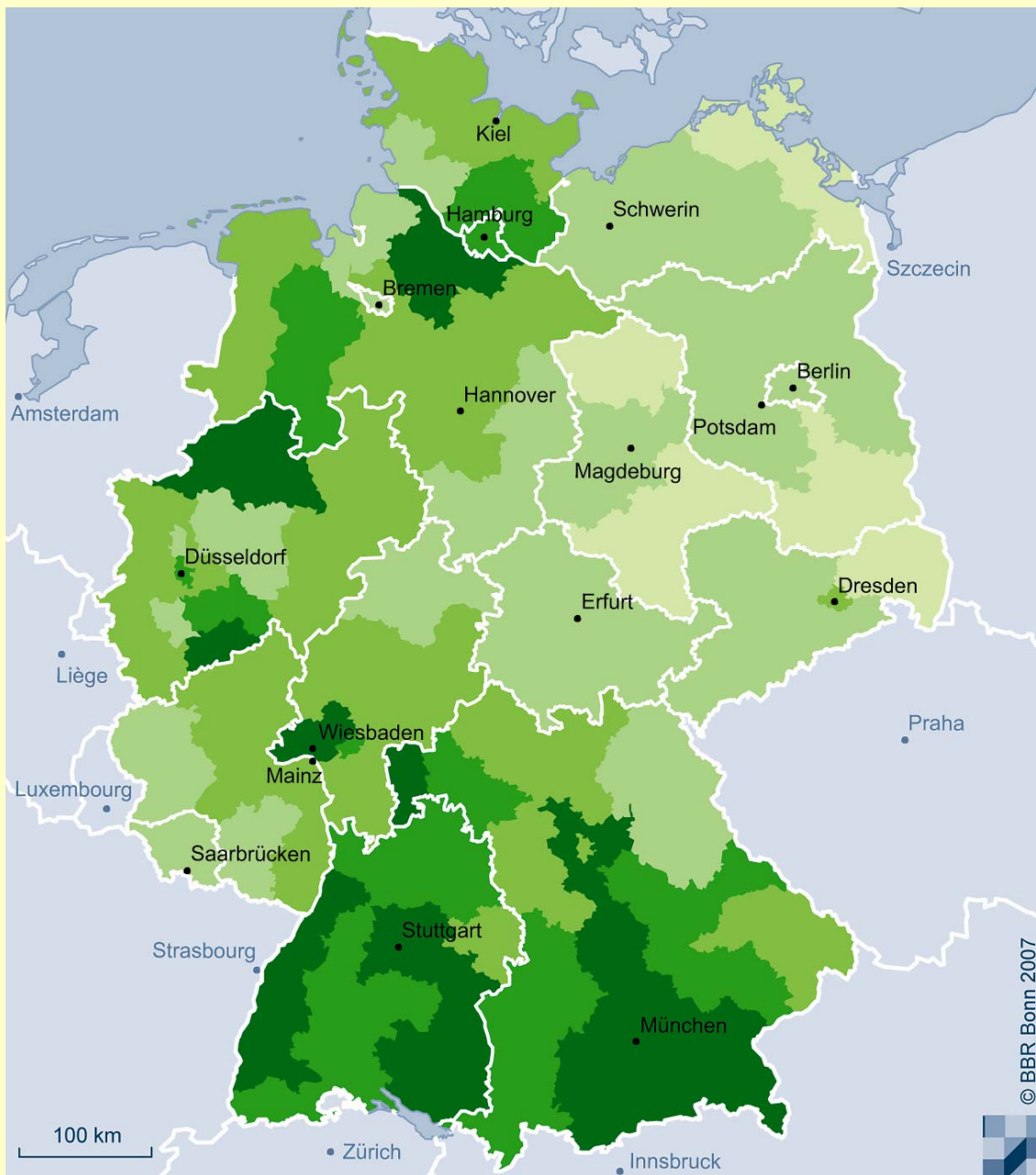


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Spatial Disparities in Germany



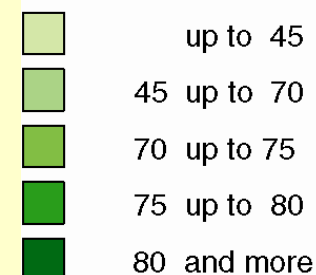
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Quality of life – as seen by 500,000 inhabitants

- east-west and north-south-disparities
- far away from equivalent living conditions (demanded by the constitution)

Share of interviewed people satisfied with quality of life in region 2003 in %

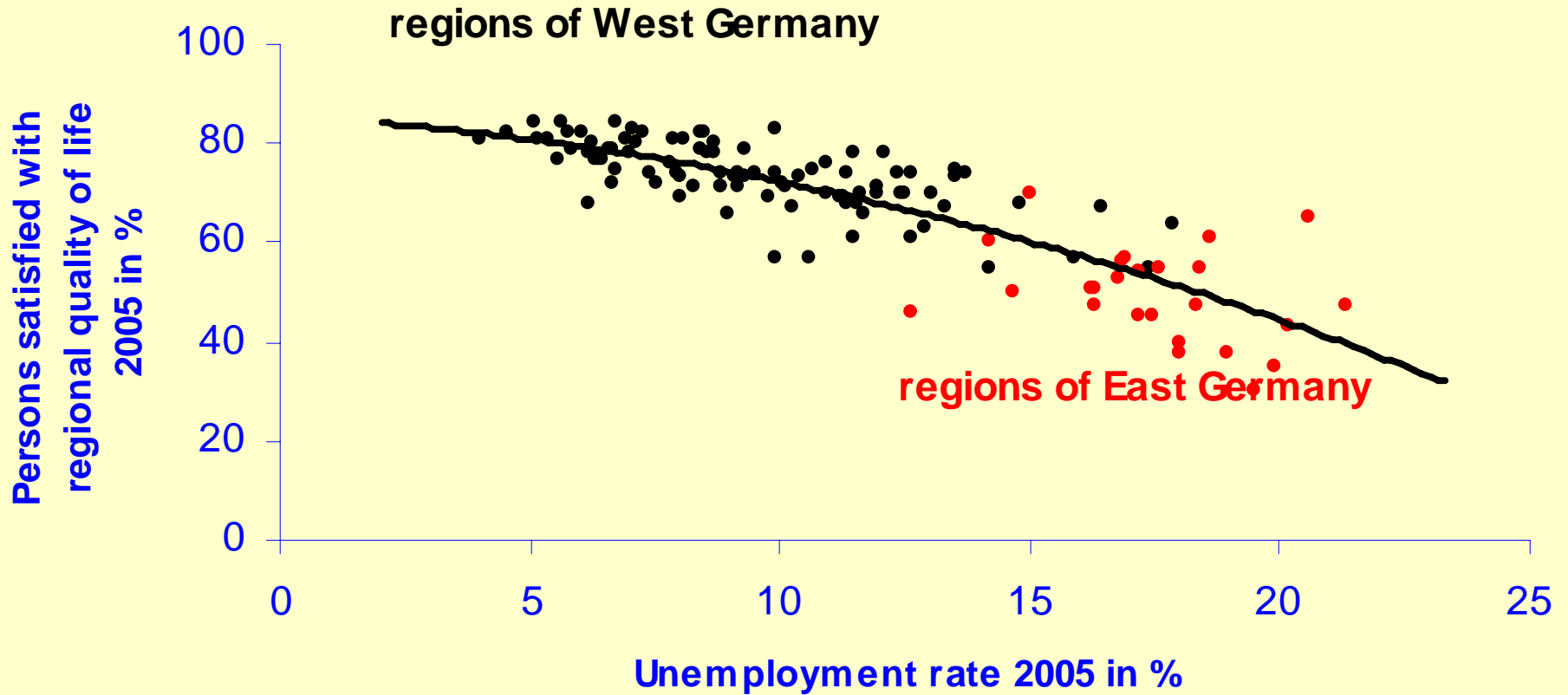


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Relation between unemployment and quality of life



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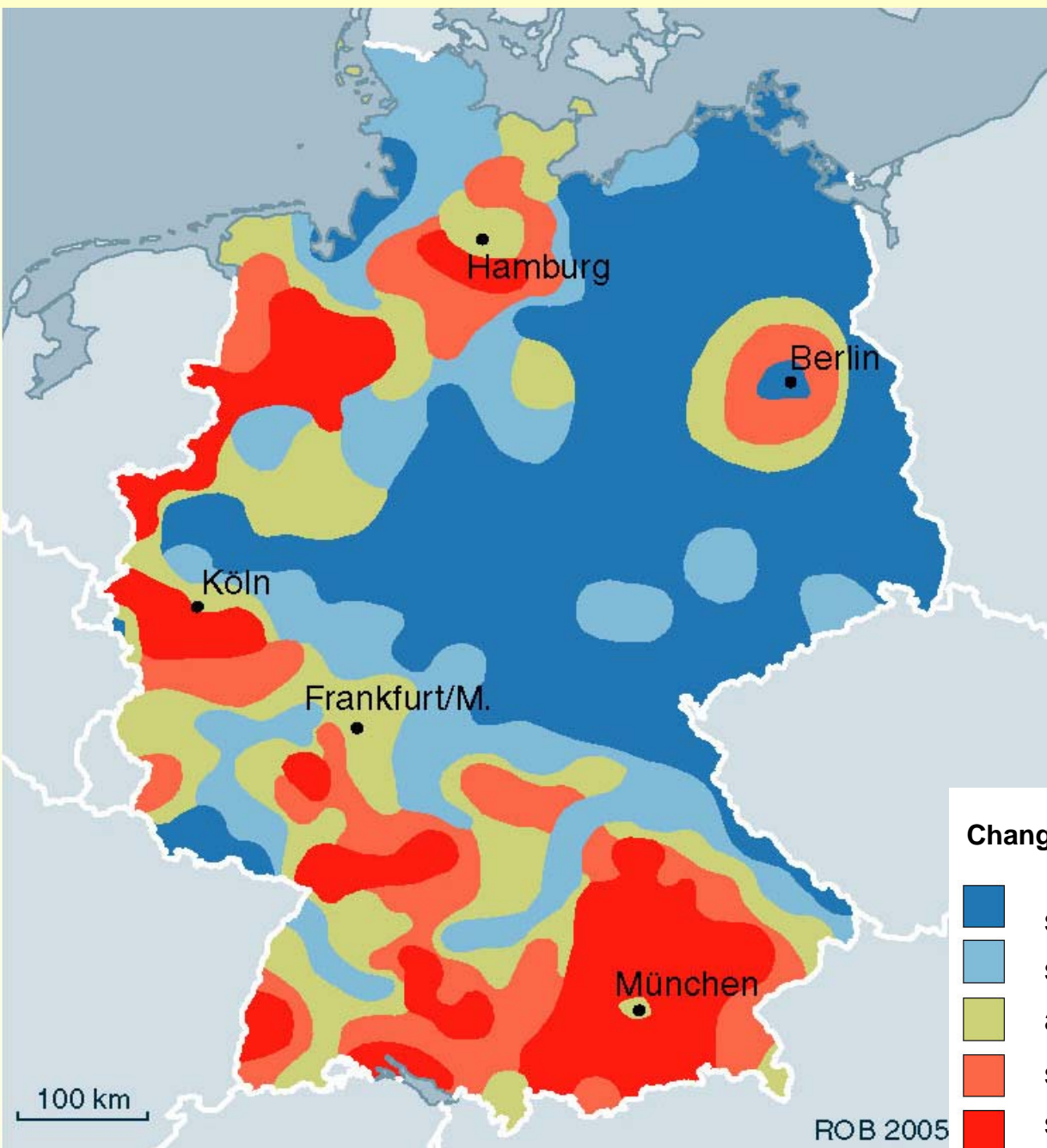




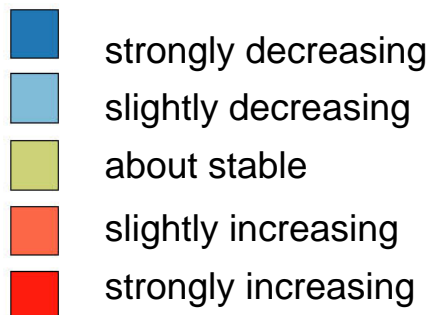
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Demographic change

- increasing disparities in the future
- consequences for infrastructure, economy ...



Change of population stock from 2002 to 2050



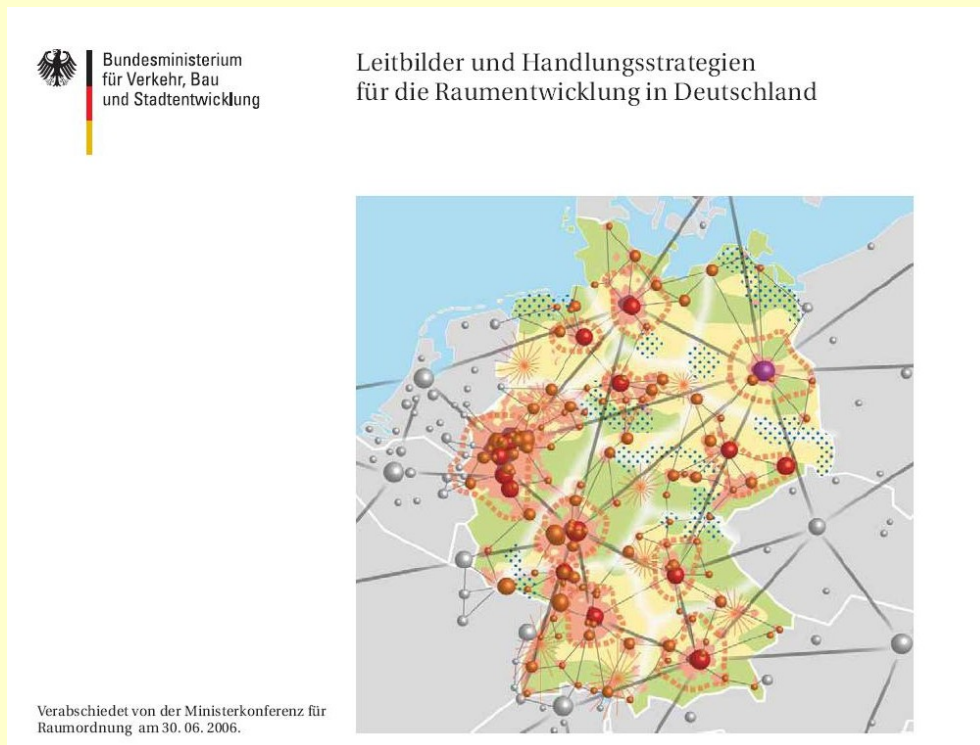


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**Is balanced development possible
on the regional level – if difficult
on the national one?**

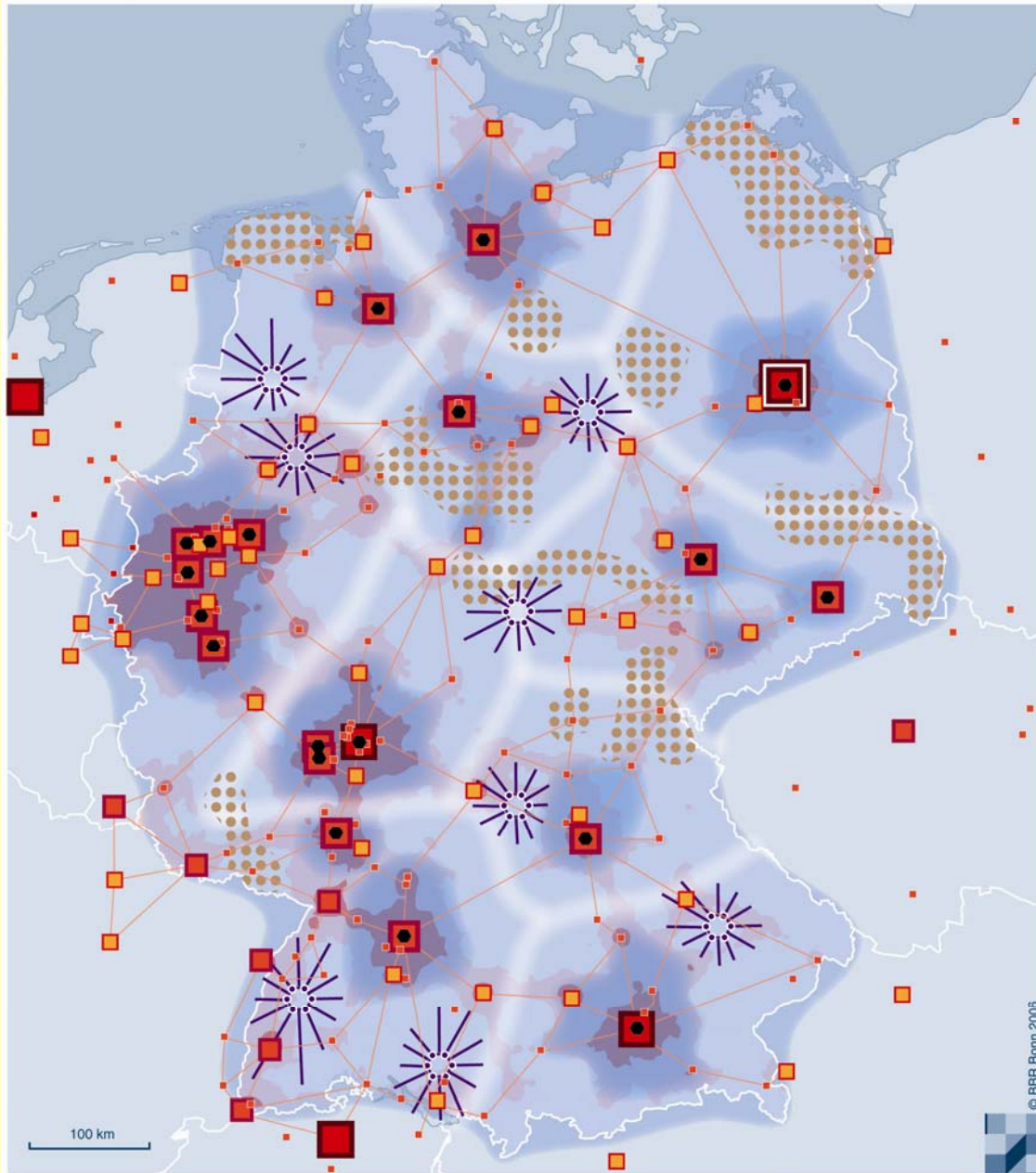
Sound framework from national and EU level

“We need new forms of partnership and territorial governance between rural and urban areas.” (**Territorial Agenda 2007**, p. 5)







“... establishing large-scale communities of responsibility and developing them further.” (**Concepts and Strategies for Spatial Development in Germany 2006**, p. 16)

Concept: Growth and Innovation



Metropolitan Region

-  Cores of the Capital Region and of existing European Metropolitan Regions
-  Other cities with Metropolitan Functions
-  Metropolitan Region
-  Areas of influence including rural areas
-  Transition region between Metropolitan Regions



Growth regions outside Metropolitan Regions



Stabilisation areas



Spatial structure

-  Central area of high density
-  Dense intermediate area

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The map is illustrating the concept. However, the signature do not stand for determined planning.

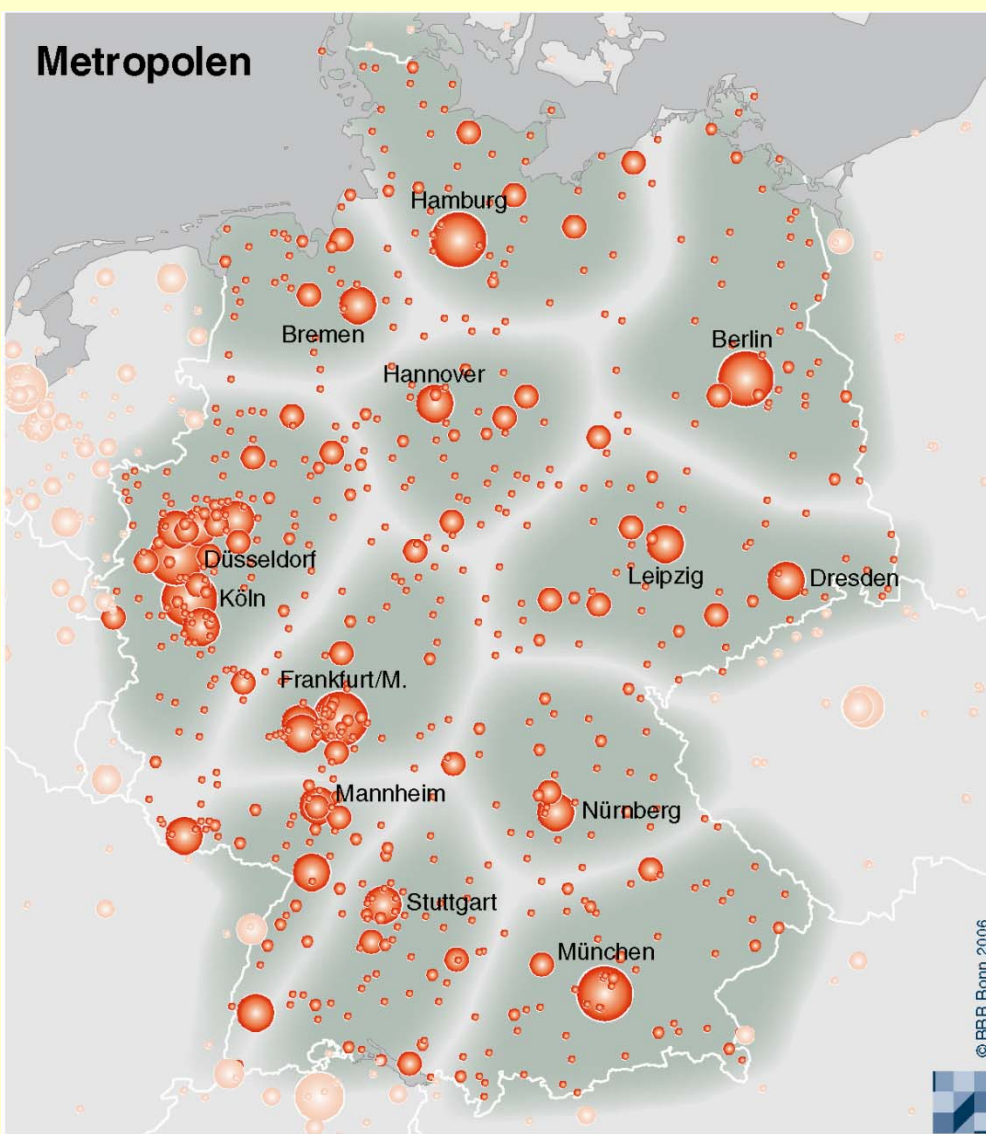
Importance of metropolitan regions and other gateways



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- engines of economic, social and cultural growth
- gateways (traffic, ideas, innovation)
- specific functions
- outstanding importance/central places for different levels
- good conditions for knowledge society, networks
- responsibility for catchment area, functional regions

Metropolen

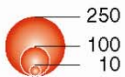


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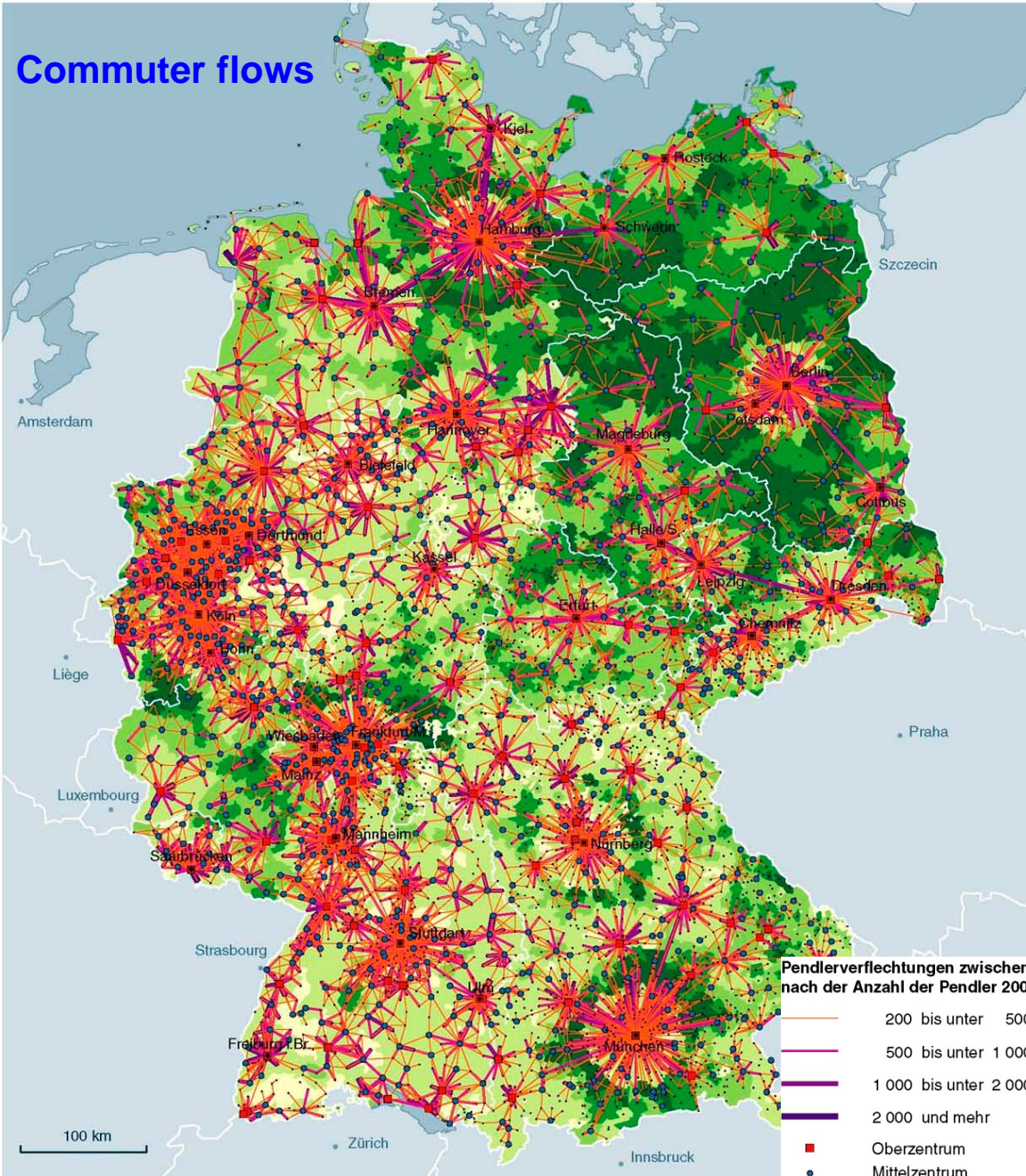
- analytical background
- attempt to quantify metropolitan functions
- simple result but much data search and processing behind the map (many indicators)

Index of metropolitan functions

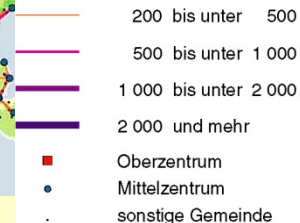
Area of metropolitan influence



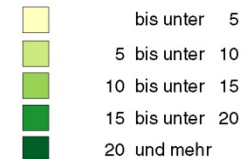
Commuter flows



Pendlerverflechtungen zwischen Gemeinden nach der Anzahl der Pendler 2003



Anteil der Pendler mit mehr als 50 km Pendeldistanz an allen SV-Beschäftigten 2003 in %



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- backbone of economy
- important sources of household incomes



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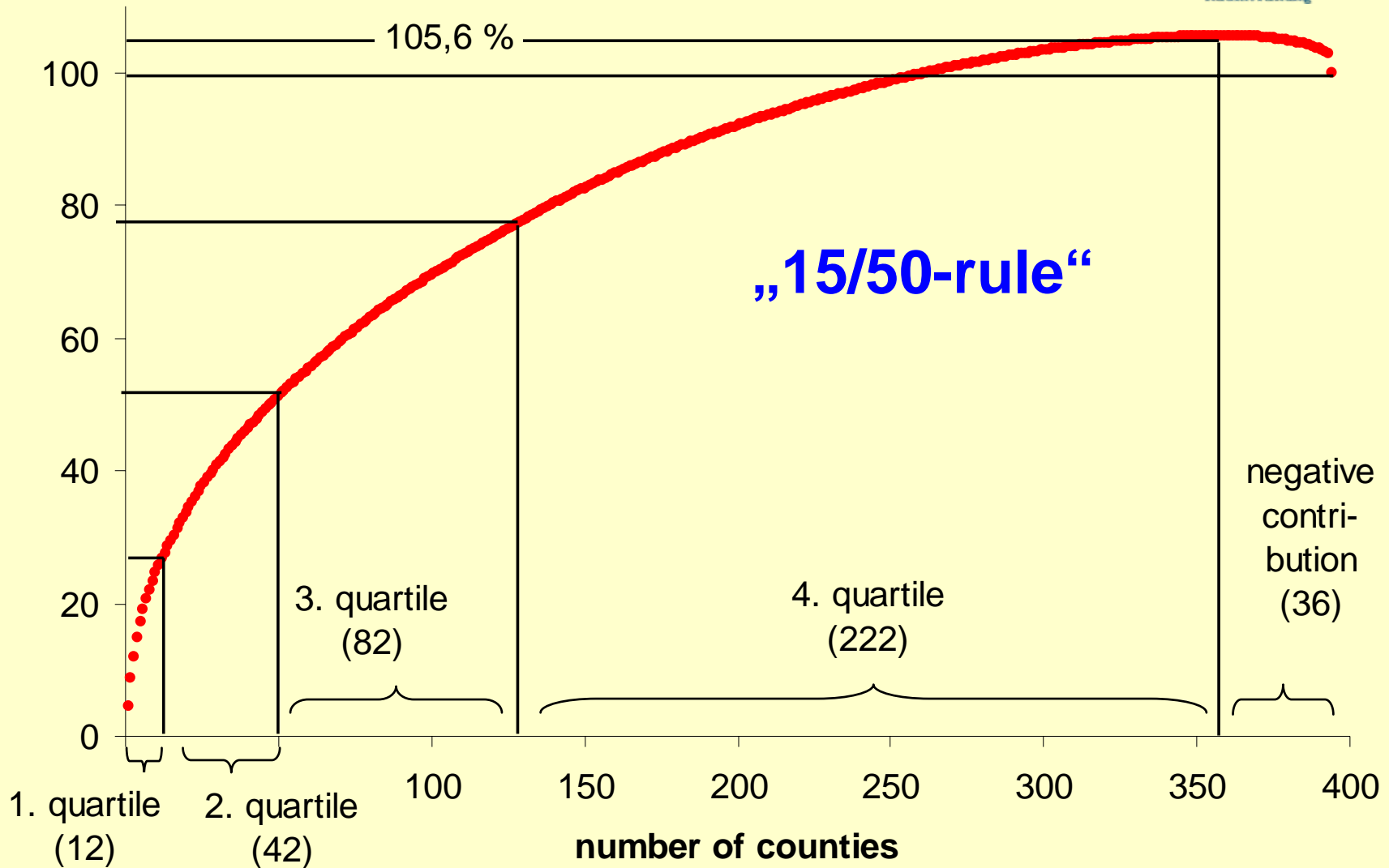
Rural growth areas

- strong contribution to national growth of GDP
- mainly located in West Germany
- different structures, e.g. one big companies (BMW), many middle size firms, sometimes knowledge intensive (aircraft industries)
- some of the were really poor areas before, take-off is possible

Cumulated contribution to national economic growth 1994-2003 in %



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Stabilisation areas

- 3 indicators for selection: unemployment rate above average, out migration of young people above average, growth rate of regional GDP below average
- above average means half a standard deviation
- different average for East and West Germany due to structural differences
- location at the national borders or inner periphery



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**How to promote a partnership
between these types of regions?**

Search for best practice:

Demonstration project

”Supraregional partnerships”

- Way for federal level to bring ideas to the regions and to verify practicability (promoting good practice for transfer to other regions)
- 7 demonstration regions with 30 projects, selected out of 60 project ideas
- covering 52% of Germany with 48% of the population
- 495.000 Euro from federal level, 619.000 Euro from regions
- duration: 1/2008 to 6/2010, but internal start in 5/2007
- + cross-border project since last month

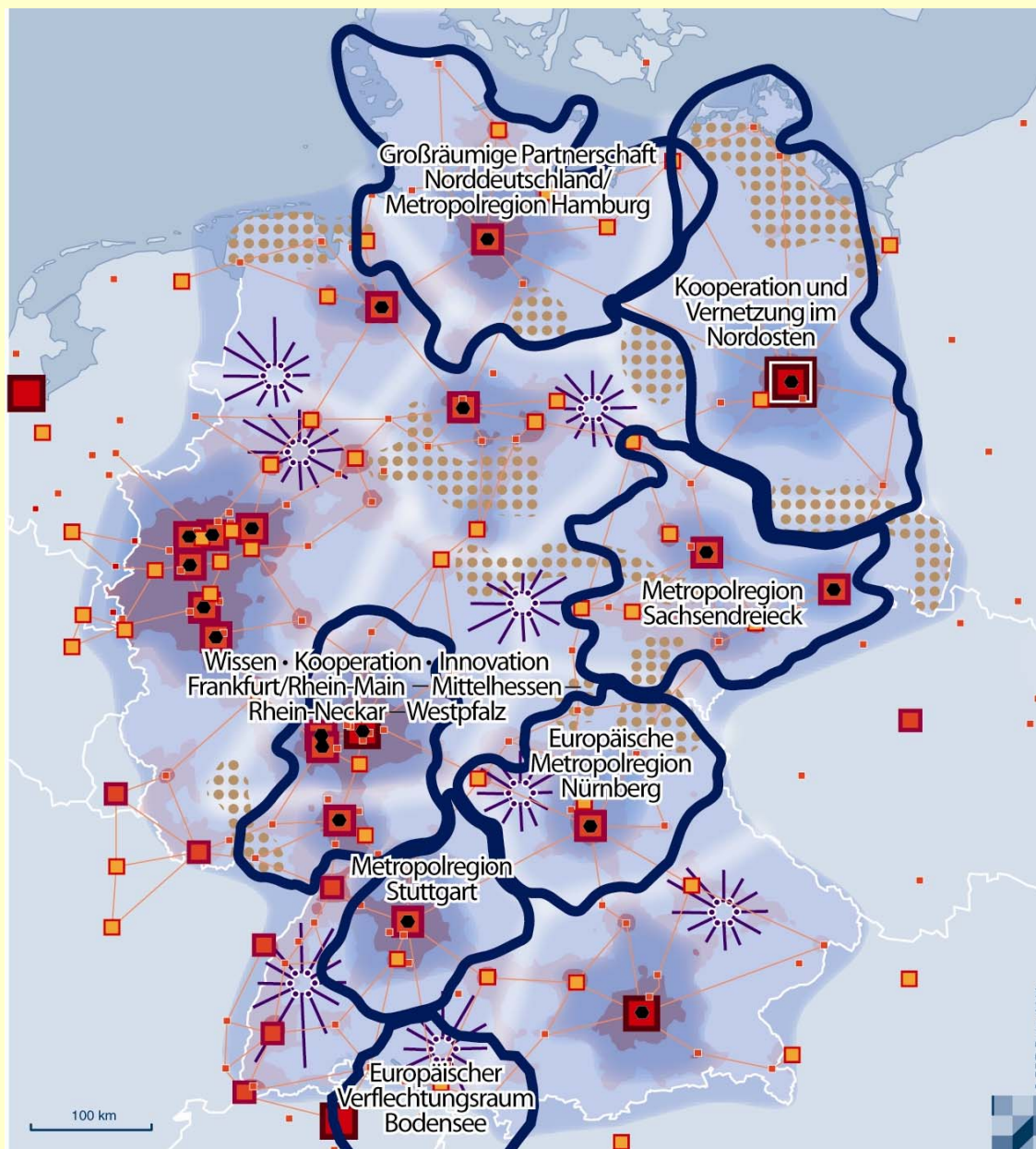


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supraregional partnerships (= urban-rural partnerships)

- 7 demonstration regions with 30 projects, selected out of 60 project ideas
- large variety of topics
- covering 52% of Germany with 48% of the population
- 495.000 Euro from federal level, 619.000 Euro from regions



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Some examples for projects in the demonstration regions

Networks and clusters



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within branches (e.g. design, logistics, energy, maritime economy)

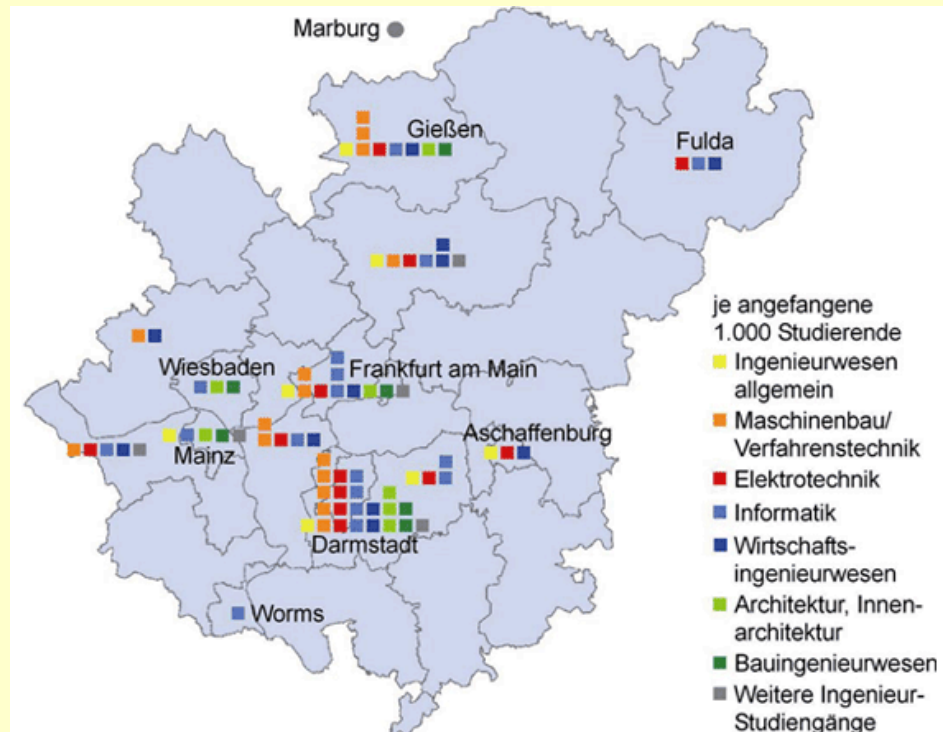
between branches (e.g. life sciences)

between research institutions and economy

Energie-Landkarte

der Europäischen
Metropolregion Nürnberg

Netzwerke und
Institutionen



Infrastructure



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on large scale (how to use transport corridors)
on small scale (e.g. public transport from rural to urban regions)
between different means of transport (e.g. ports, railway)



Regional chains of value added

Food stuff, craftsmen



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relationship between producer
and consumer
large canteens are customers
regional logistics
marketing activities
Craftsmen (wood)



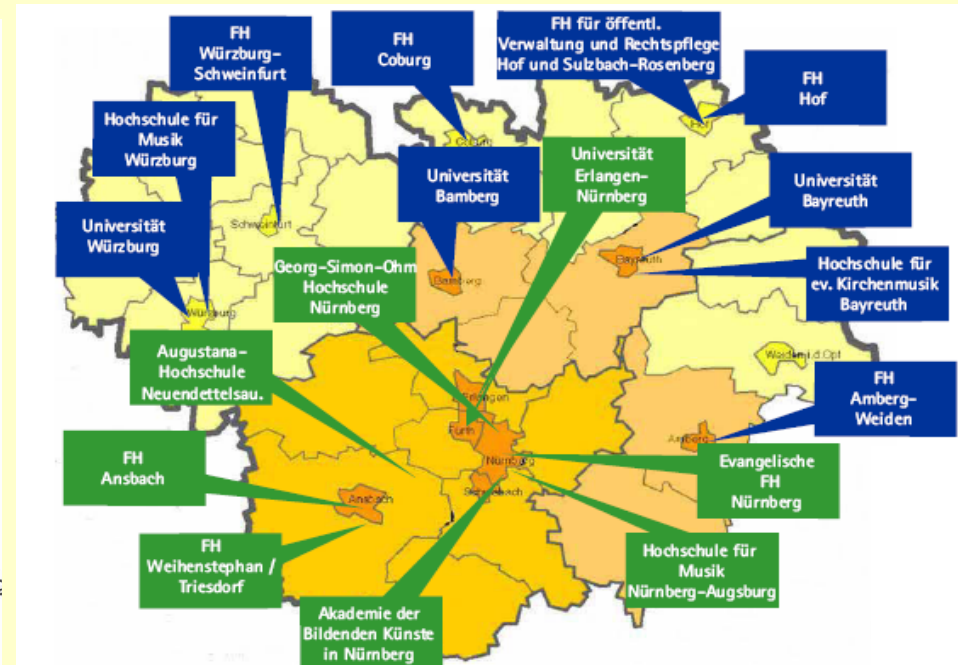
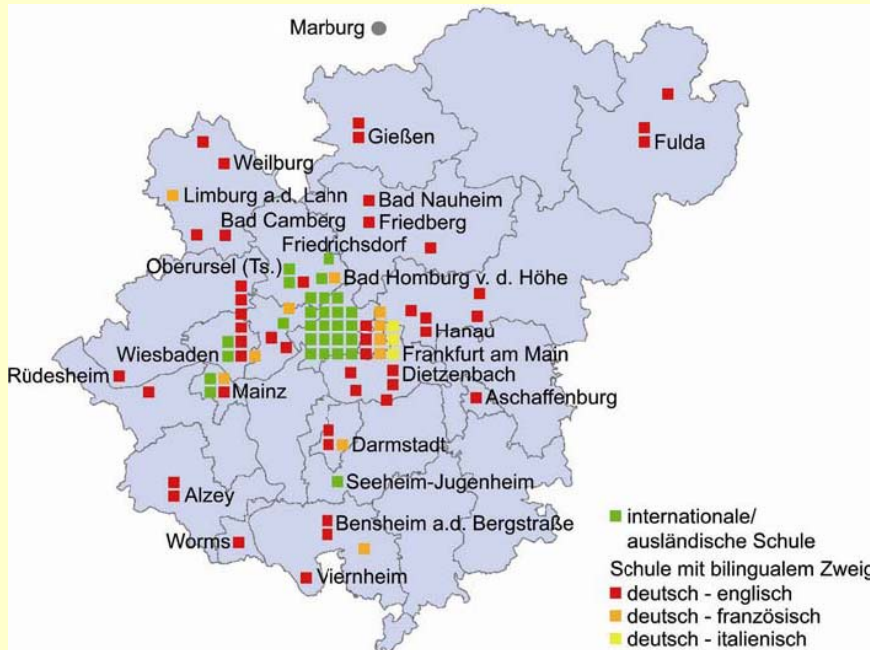
Qualification

Networking of educational institutions

Prevention of lack of skilled workers in future by training



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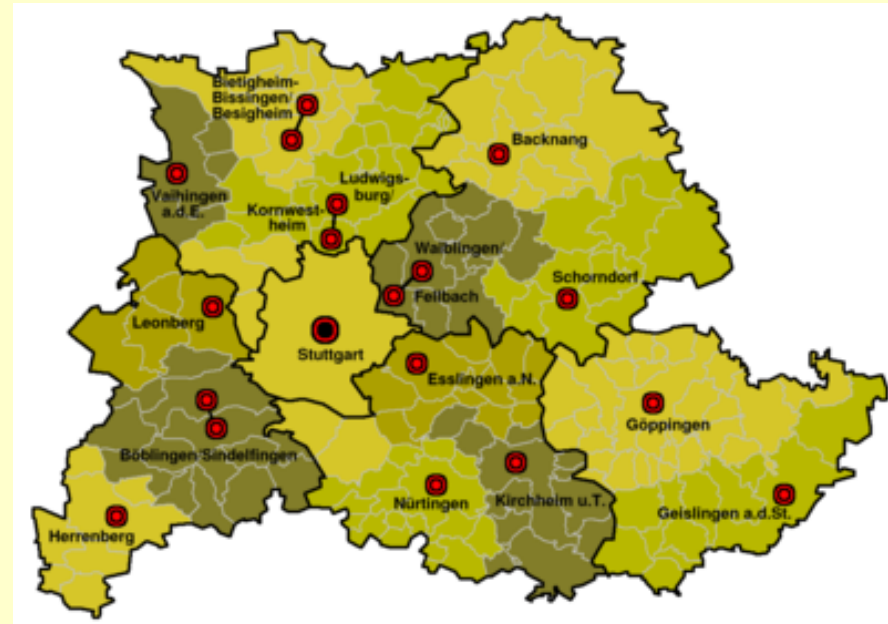


Spatial planning

use of joint data platforms (e.g. across borders)
establishing joint regional development plans between regional
Planning associations



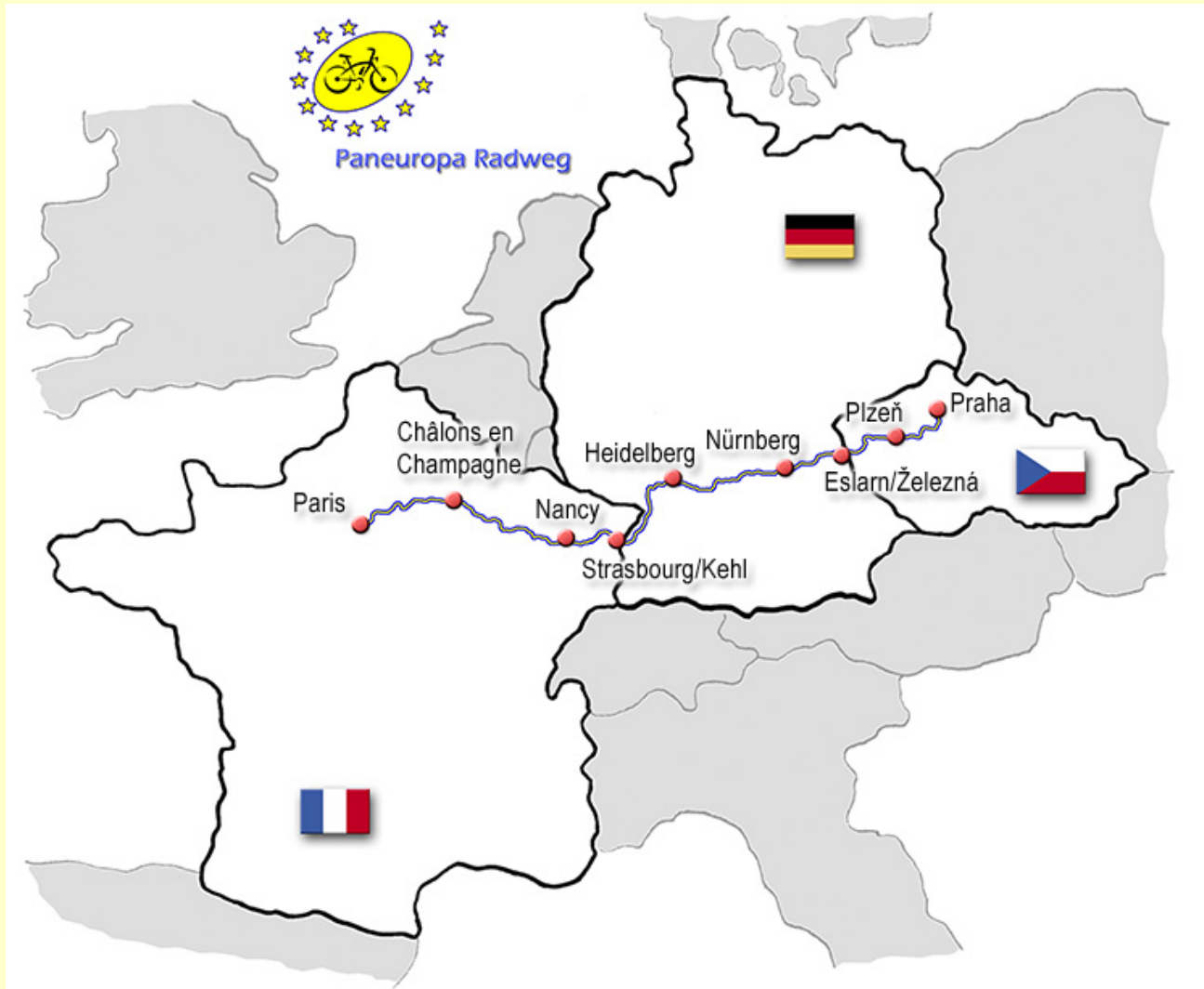
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Internal and external marketing



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symbolic actions
and creation of
concepts for
(global) attention

Cross border co-operation



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e.g. in Nuremberg:

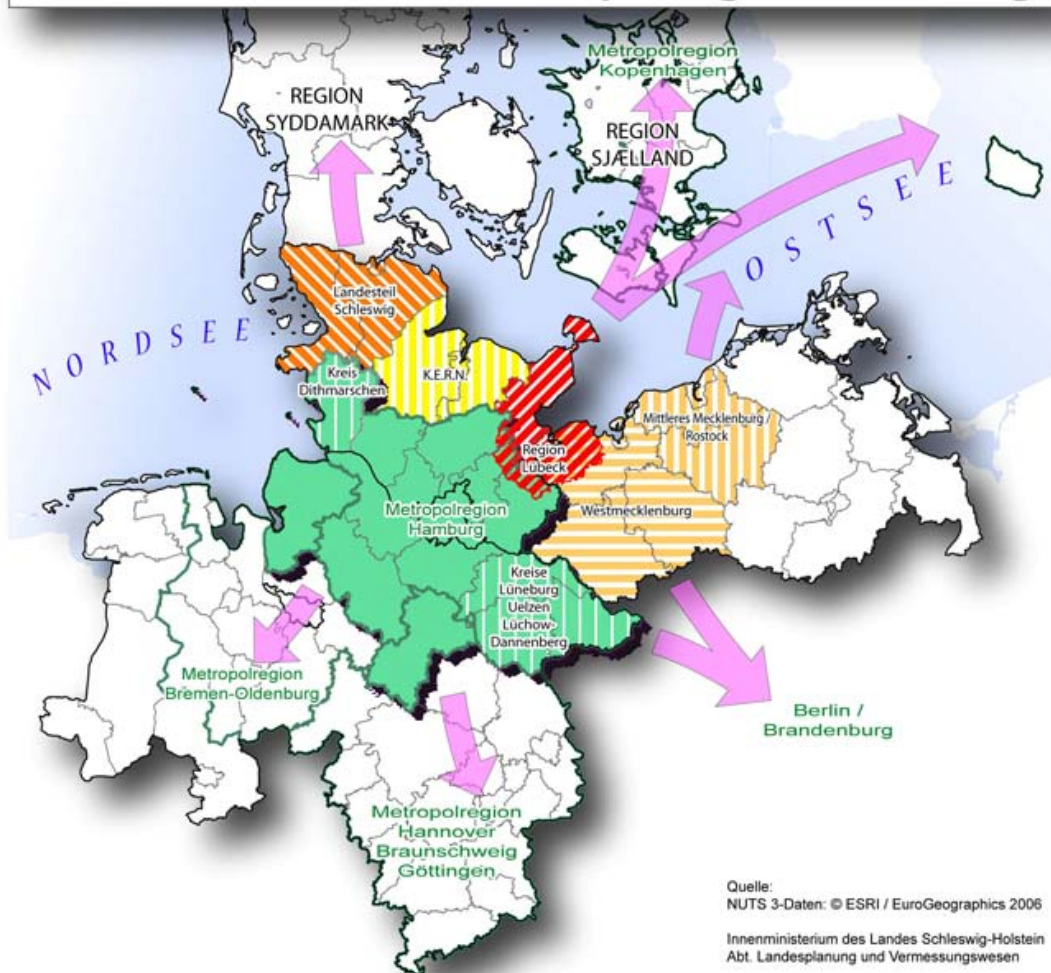
wellness, universities,
glas industry, intercultural
competences

Governance models



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Großräumige Partnerschaft Norddeutschland / Metropolregion Hamburg



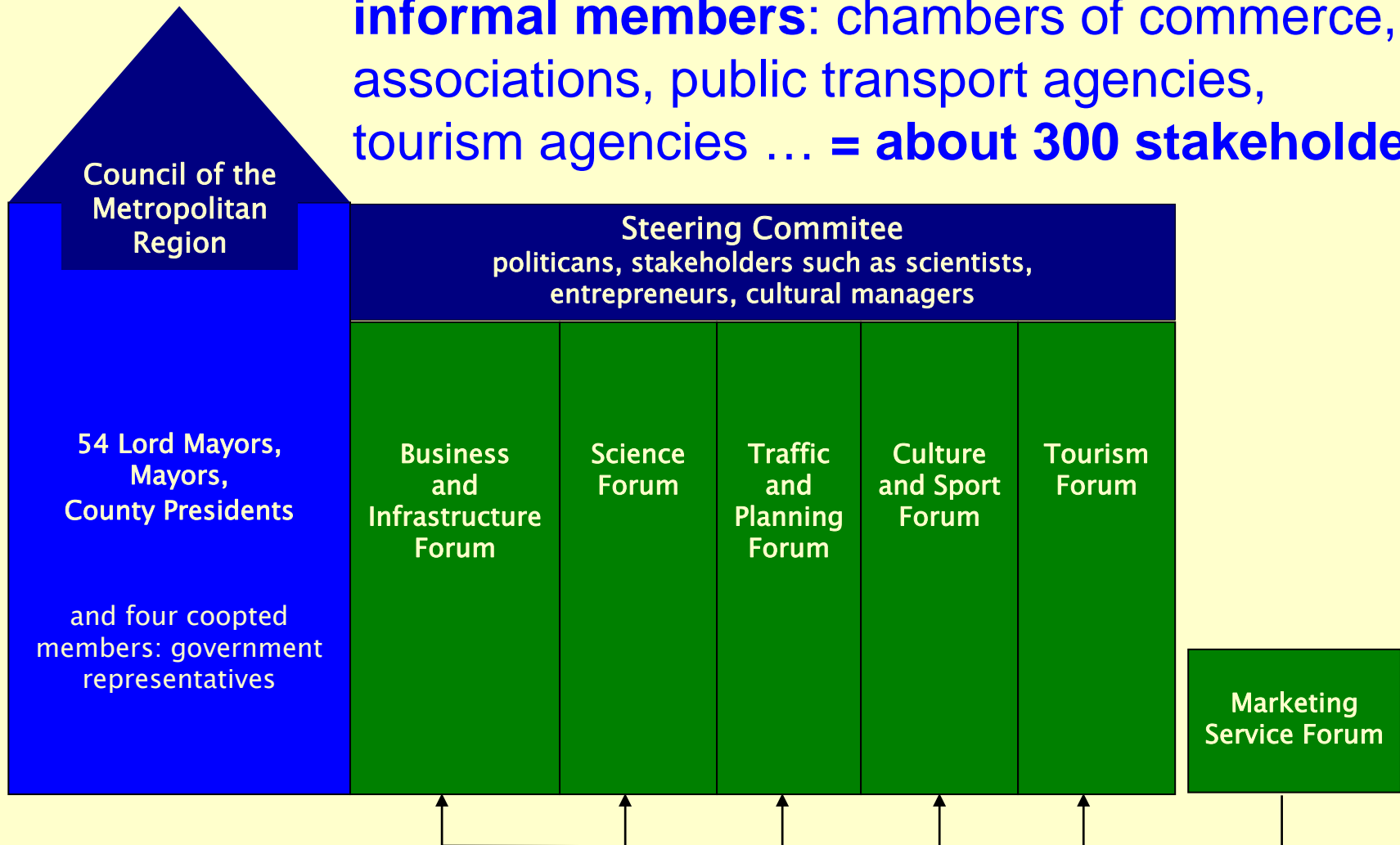
finding appropriate and sustainable solution

Governance model in Nuremburg



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formal members: mayors and county headmen
informal members: chambers of commerce,
associations, public transport agencies,
tourism agencies ... = **about 300 stakeholders**



Some aspects about the Nuremburg governance model



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- signed Charta with definition of goals and most important fields of action – corporate identity
- voluntariness of the actors
- openness for other actors
- importance of actors (formal system vs. individual engagement)
- shared responsibility of actors from politics, research, administration, economy, civil society, culture
- principle of same eye level of all actors (especially in votes)
- importance of rural areas, Nuremburg does not dominate



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Conclusion



- no general recipe possible, many ways of urban-rural partnerships
 - topics dependent on regional potentials
 - all regions should contribute to growth and innovation according to their functions and strengths
 - all regions should participate in growth and innovation
- ⇒ Reduction of spatial disparities on regional level?
- ⇒ Compromise between growth and balancing policy?
- not possible to measure effects statistically (e.g. GDP, unemployment rate)
 - but hope to improve quality of life for population (e.g. less commuting time)



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Thank you for your attention!

Please feel free to contact me

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