



# Balanced Regional Development and Territorial Competitiveness

The Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion and Beyond

22.01.2009. Letterkenny

Gábor Novotny,

DG REGIO, Unit C2 (Urban development, territorial cohesion)

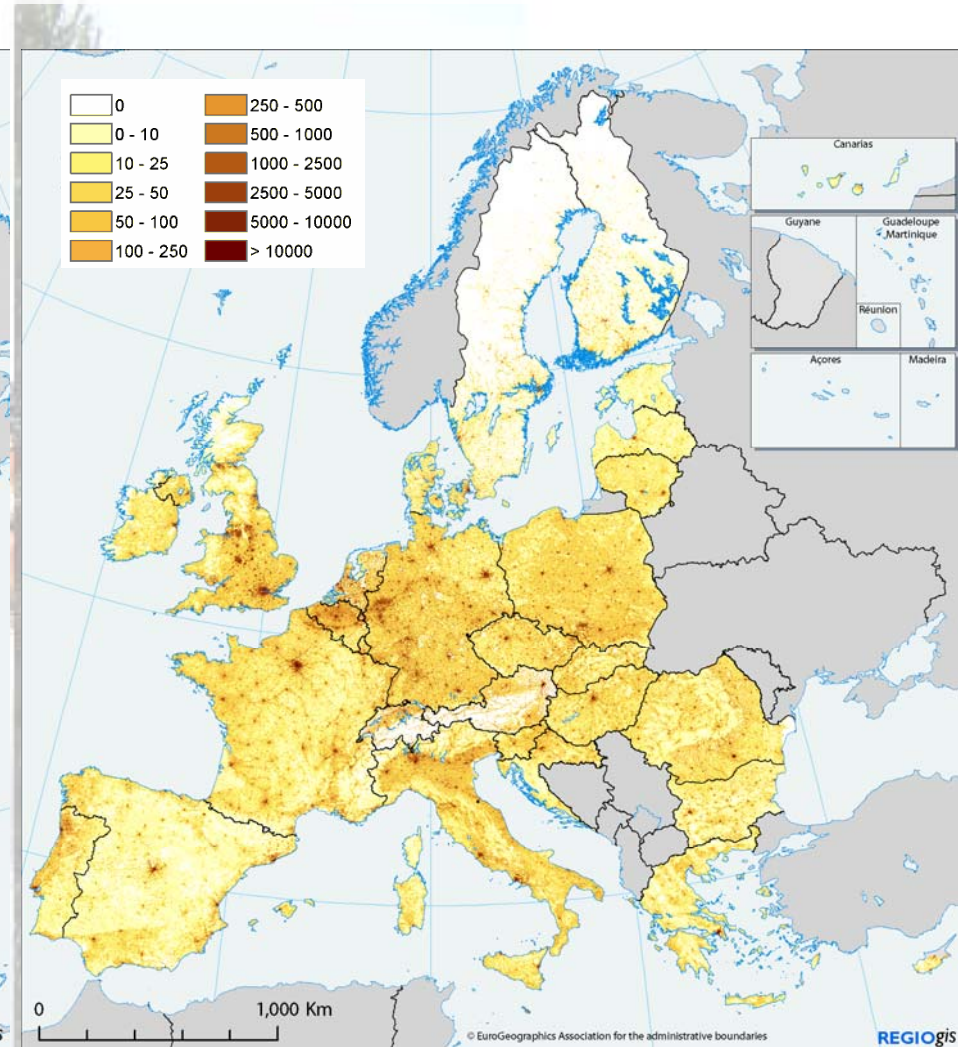
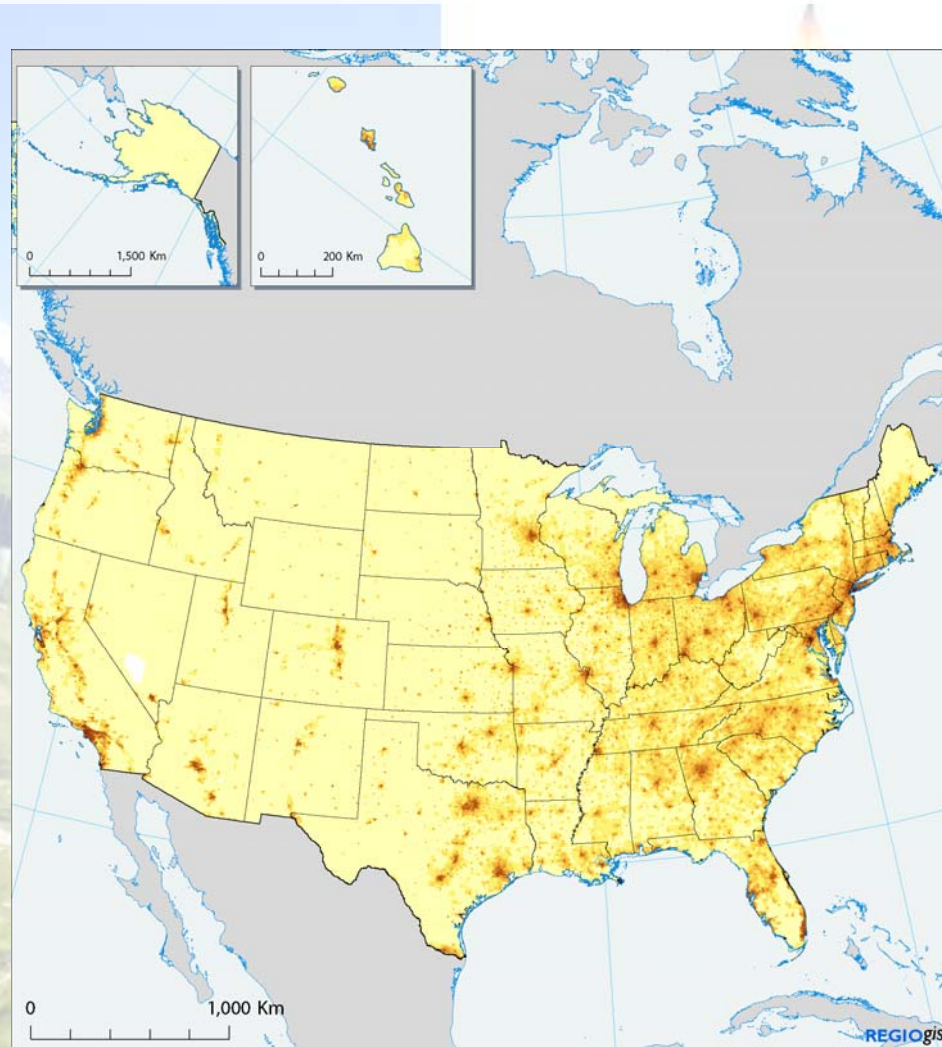
# The Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion and Beyond

- The motives and the process
- The “diagnosis”: balance in Europe?
- The “treatment”: Concentration, Cooperation, Connection – 3C
- The “most wanted”: specific territories, sectoral policies
- The questions
- The debate

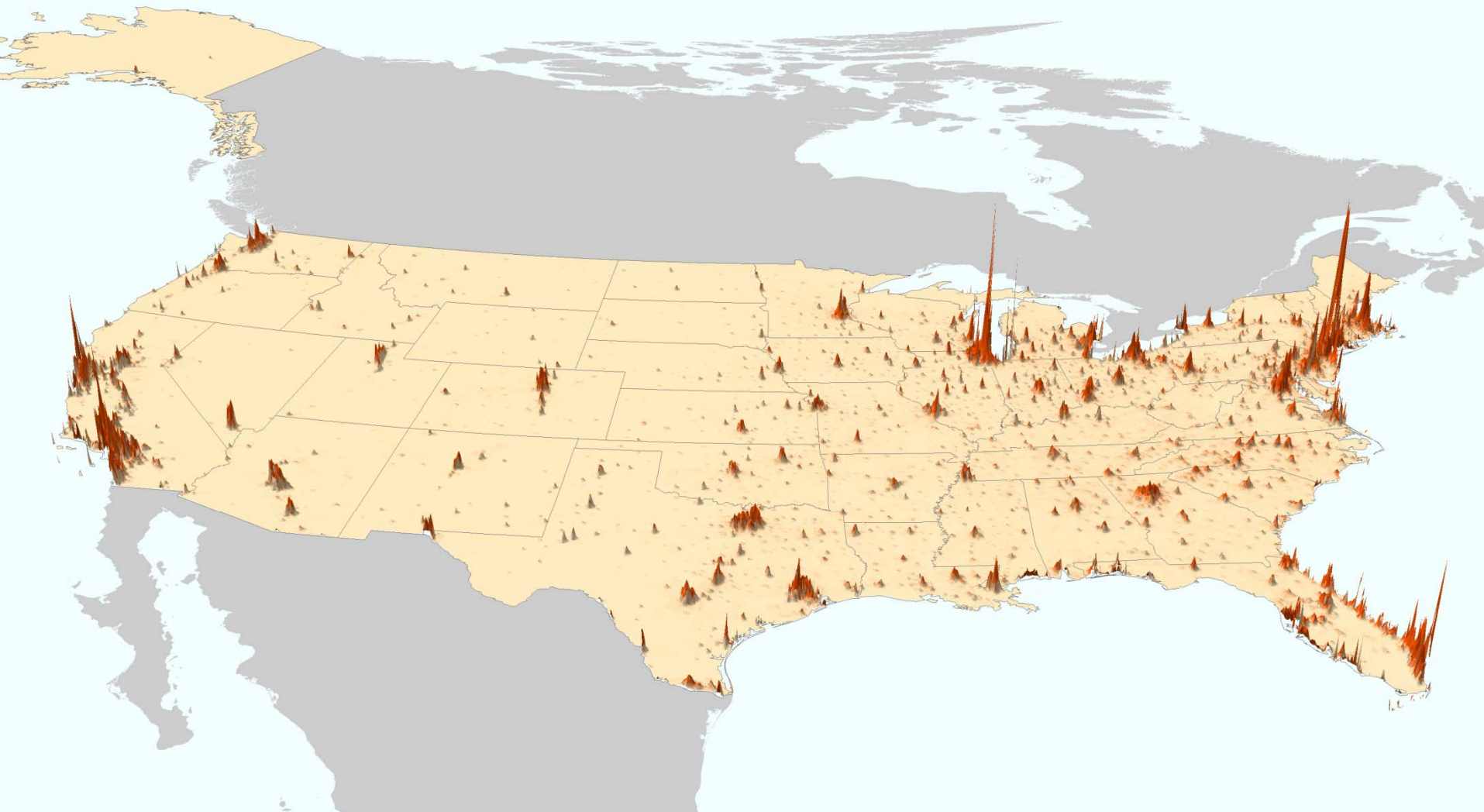
# The Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion and Beyond

- Motives behind: EP, informal ministerial meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> Cohesion Report consultation, associations representing specific types of territories
- Preparation process:
  - Stakeholder and expert meetings;
  - Inter-service group on territorial cohesion;
  - Analysis of NSRFs and OPs;
  - Questionnaire to MS
- GP – adopted on 6 October 2008
- Consultation period till end of February

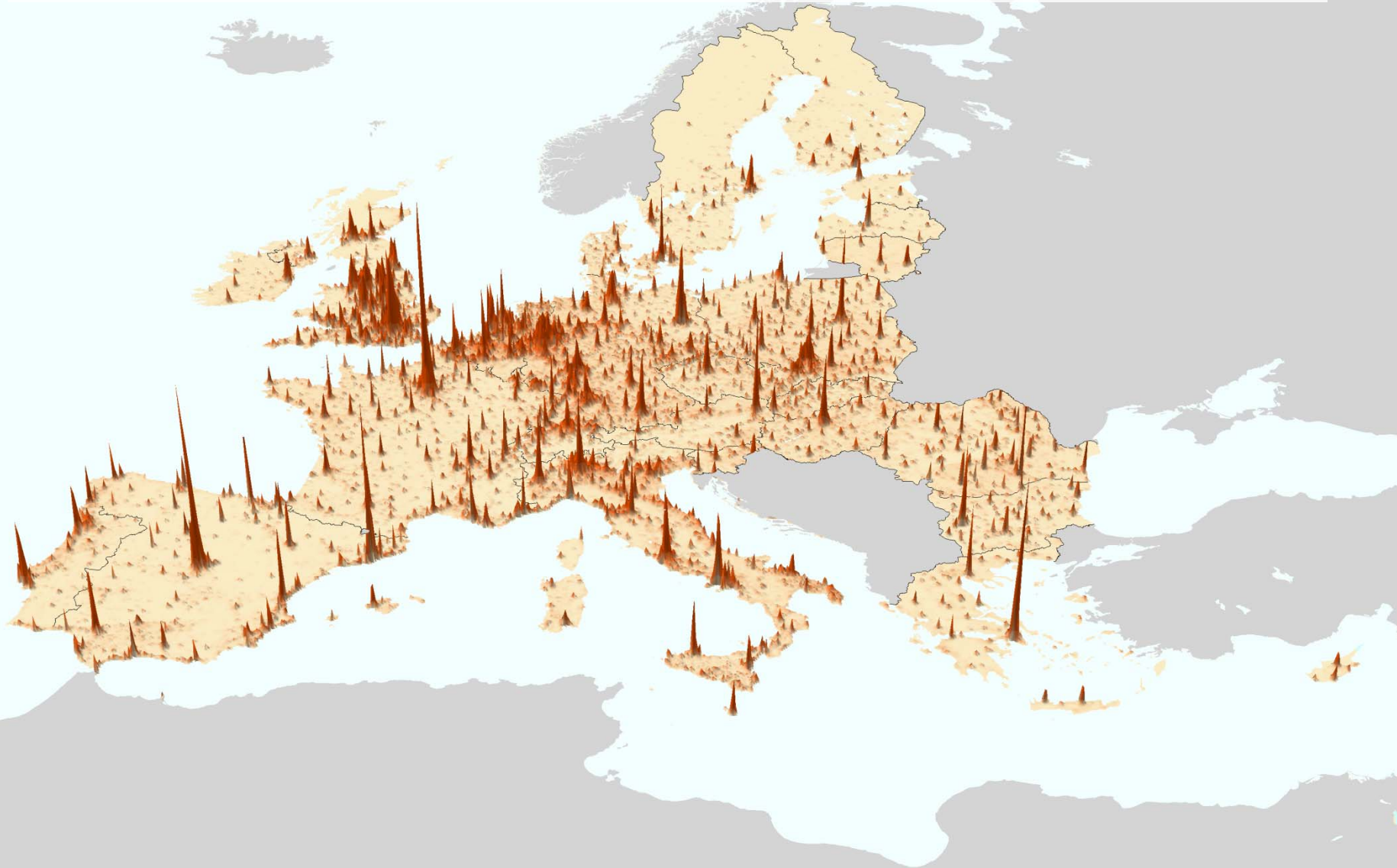
# EU and USA: distinct settlement structures



25% lives in agglomerations  
over 5 million



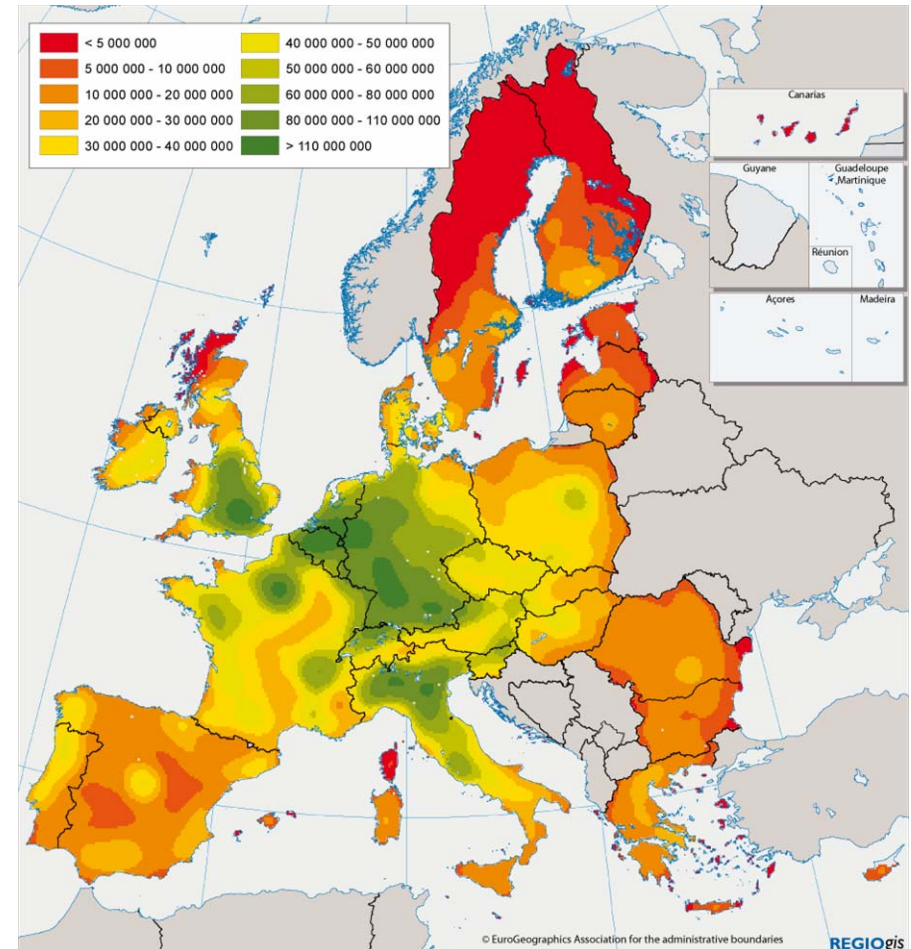
7% lives in agglomerations  
over 5 million



# Periphery or Polycentric

- The potential GDP that can be reached is highest in parts of the pentagon
- Many capital regions outside the pentagon stand out

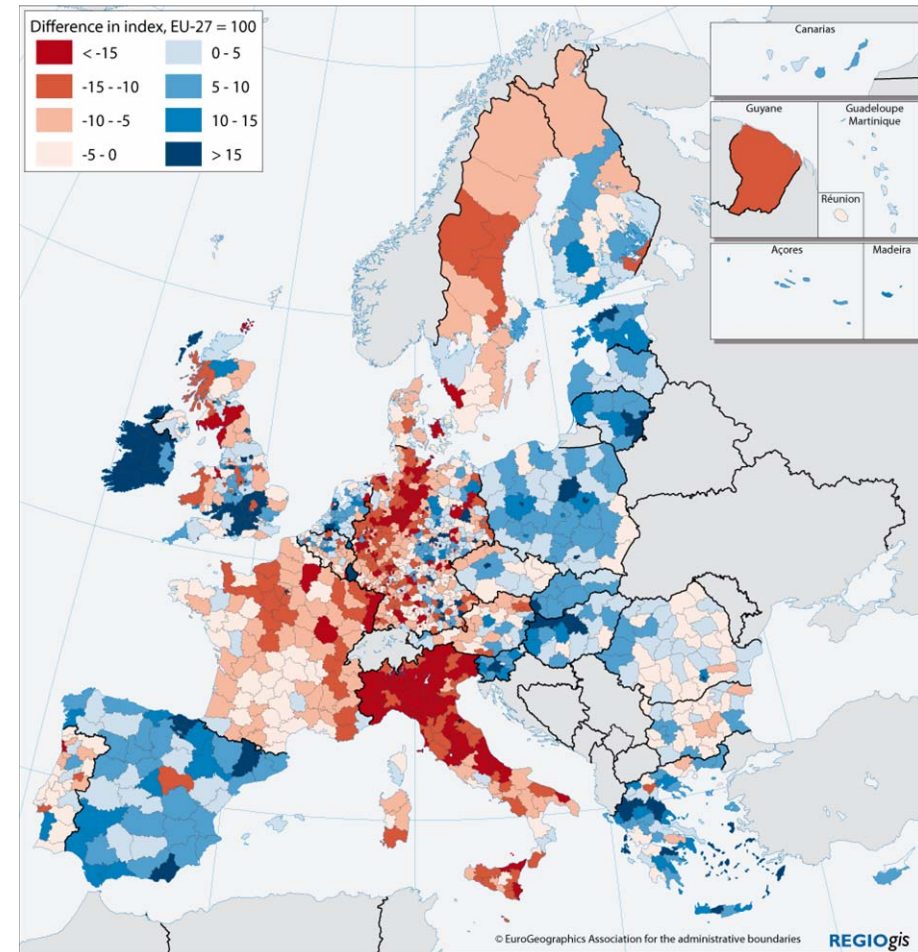
Potential GDP (PPS), 2005



# High growth outside the core

- Economic growth has been high in the MS outside the core
- This growth has contributed to convergence
- Varied pattern with poor performance along the Eastern border

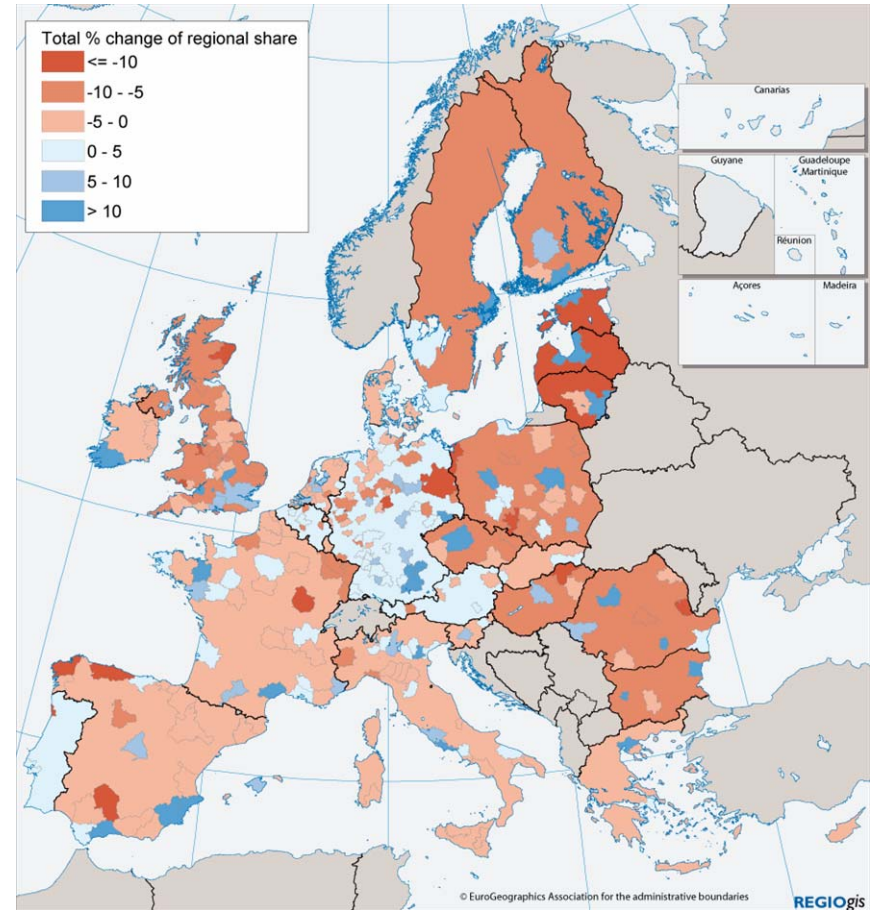
Change in GDP/head (PPS) at NUTS3 level, 1995-2004



# Metropolitan regions

- Many capital regions have increased their share of national GDP
- Some metropolitan regions have seen their share decline

Change in the share of GDP of metropolitan and urban regions, 1995-2004



# The Three C's

- Dense and rather balanced urban network – a historical legacy providing European “way of life” but more uneven economic structure
- Territorial cohesion is about
  - ensuring the harmonious development of different territories;
  - enabling citizens to make the most of the inherent features of these territories;
  - transforming diversity into an asset that contributes to sustainable development of the entire EU
- Harmonious development through 3 concepts:
  1. Concentration
  2. Connection
  3. Cooperation

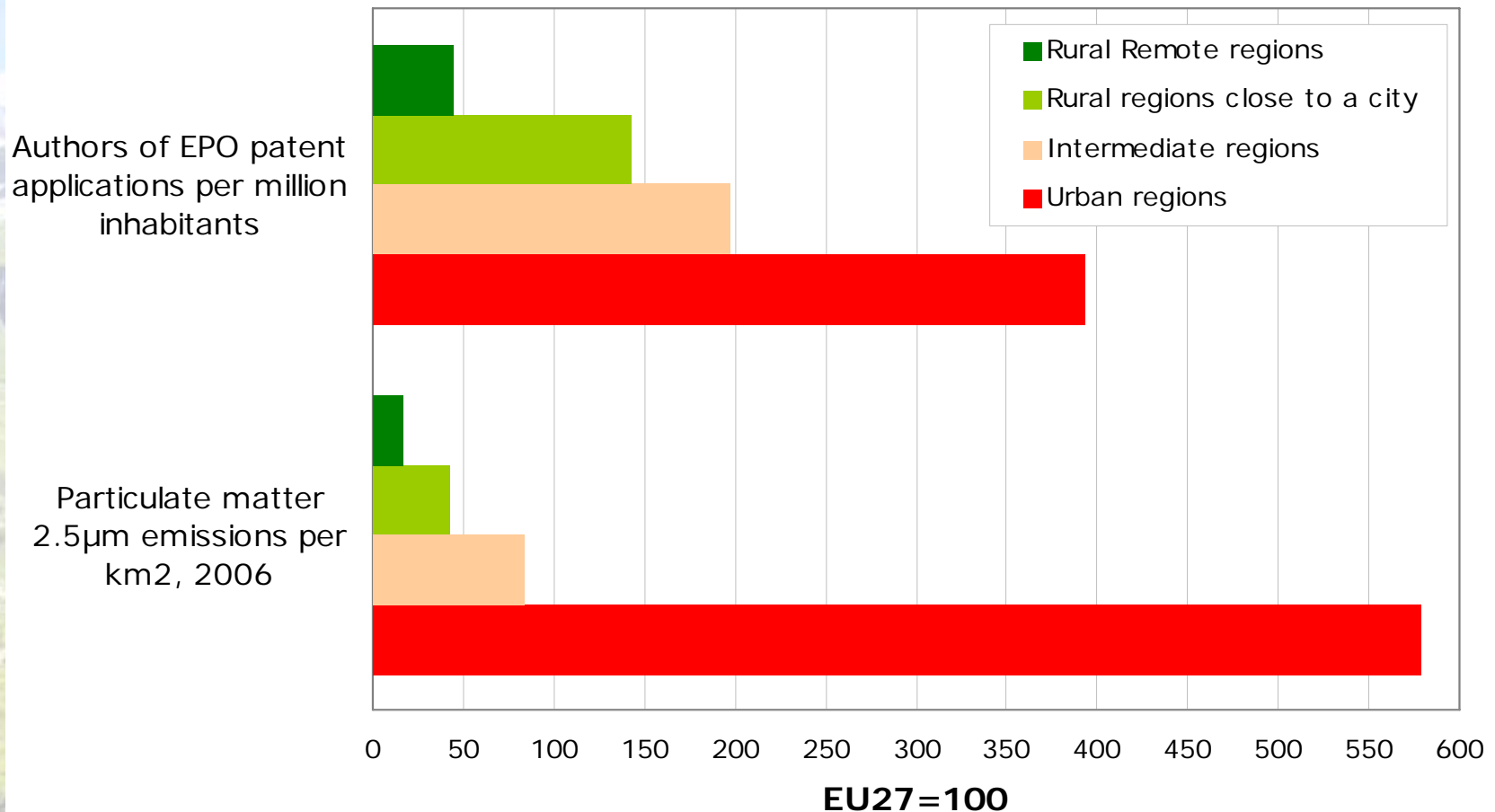


# Concentration

Overcoming differences in  
density

# Concentration

## Advantages and disadvantages of agglomeration



A collage of various landscape and architectural images. The top row features a clear blue sky, a modern building with a glowing orange spire, a blue sky with a tree, and a light blue sky. The middle row shows a white mountain range, a modern building, a lake with a reflection, and a green field with a church. The bottom row includes a green mountain slope, a lake with a reflection, a white waterfall, and a dirt path with tall grass.

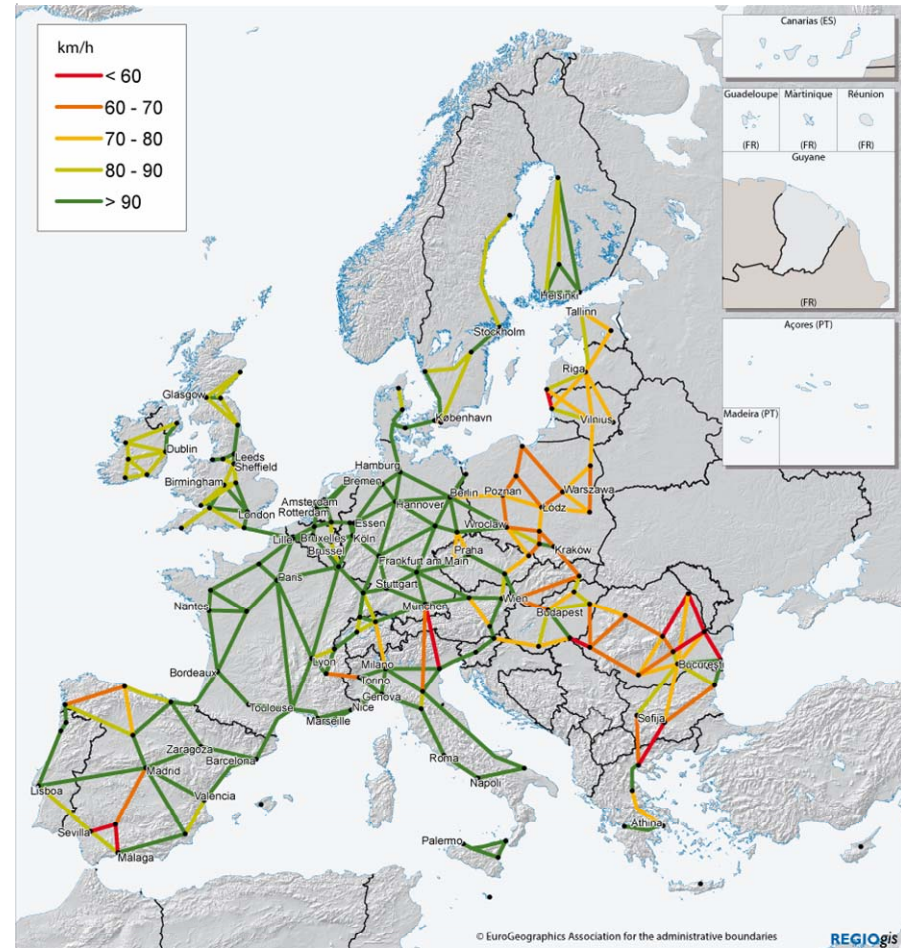
# Connections

Overcoming distance

# Connecting large cities

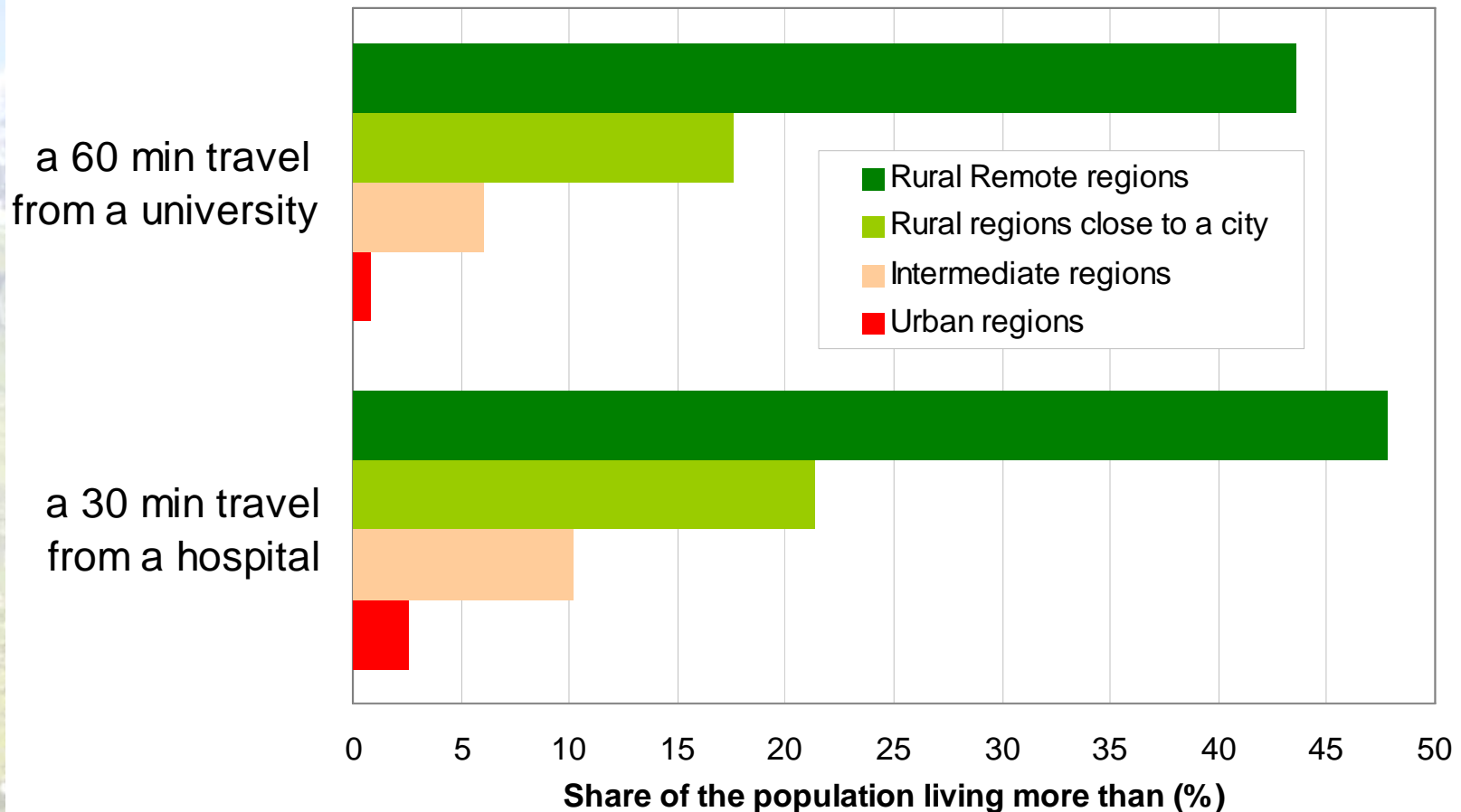
- The availability of road infrastructure is highly uneven
- Quality and quantity of high speed roads in the East is lacking
- Portugal, Spain and Greece have improved

Road efficiency between major urban agglomerations



# Poor access to services in remote regions

## Lack of access to universities and hospitals



A collage of various landscape and architectural images. The top row features a clear blue sky, a modern building with a glowing orange spire, a blue sky with a tree, and a light blue sky. The middle row shows a white mountain range, a semi-transparent white box containing the word "Cooperation", a semi-transparent white box containing the word "Overcoming division", and a green field with a church in the distance. The bottom row includes a green mountain slope, a lake reflecting the building, a white rocky stream, and a dirt path with tall grass. The text "Cooperation" is centered in the middle row, and "Overcoming division" is centered in the bottom row, both within semi-transparent white boxes.

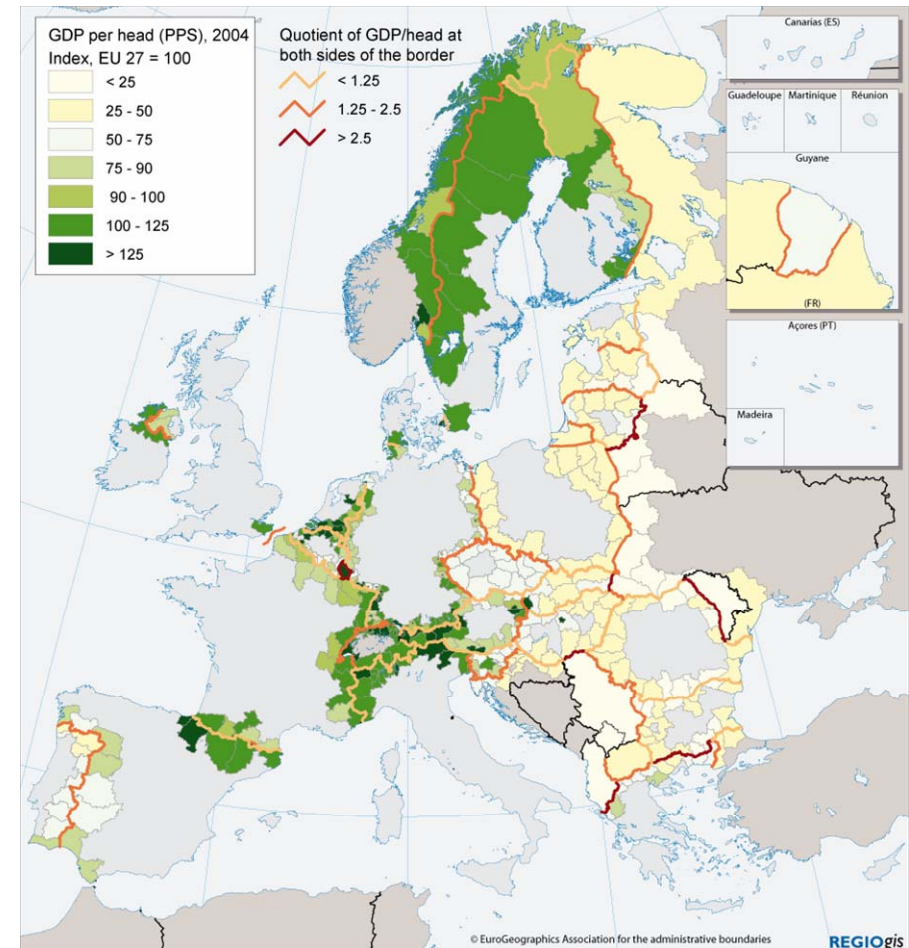
Cooperation

Overcoming division

# Territorial cooperation

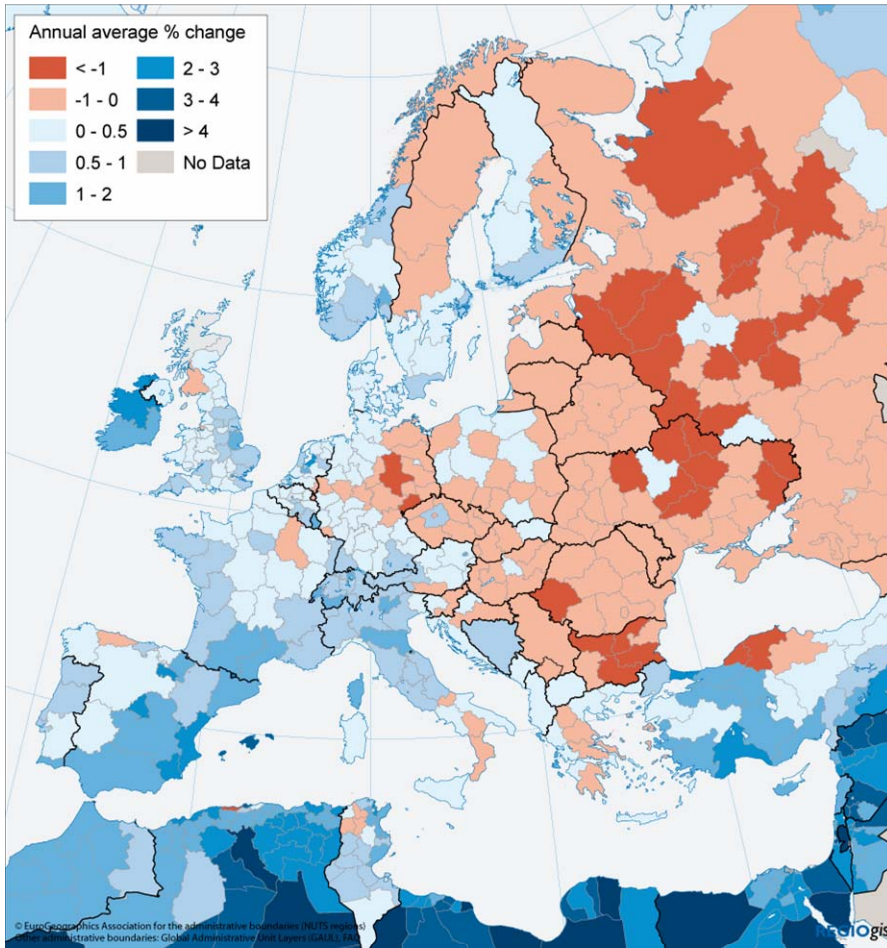
- Internal EU15 borders have benefited from many years of cooperation
- Borders between EU15 and EU12, internal EU12 borders and the new external borders far less so

Border disparities in GDP/head (PPS), 2004

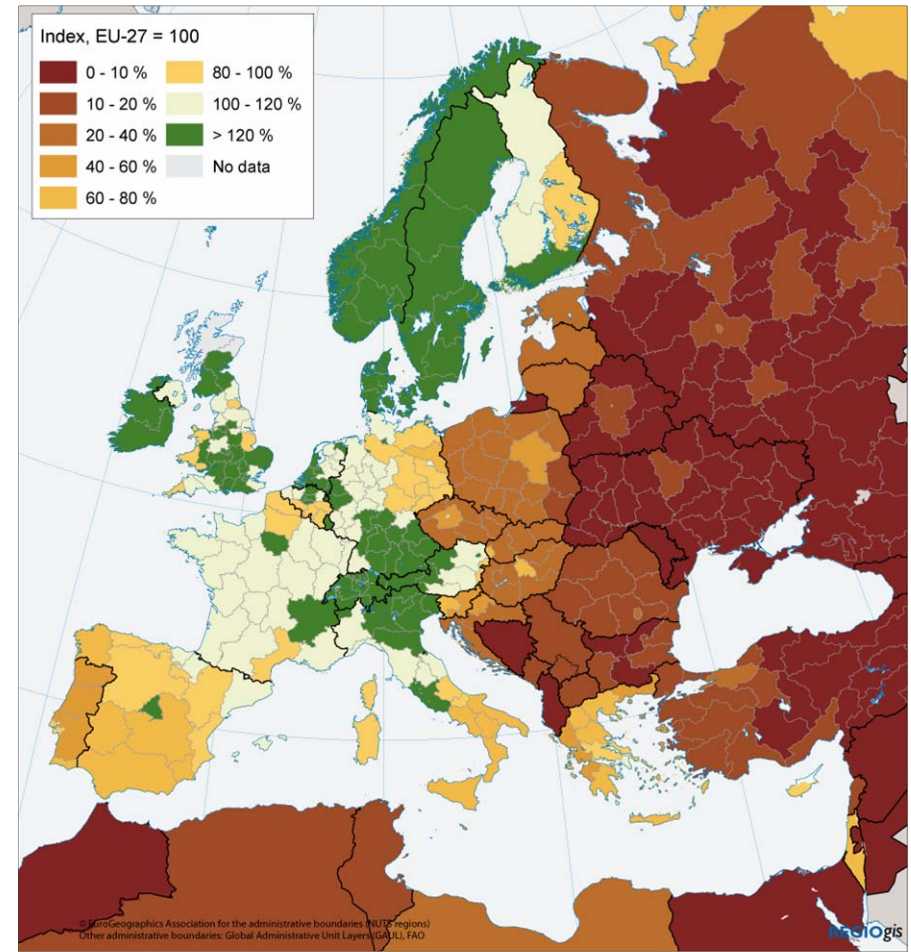


# Neighbourhood Policy

## Population growth, 2000-2005



## GDP/head (Euro), 2005



# New Geographies

- Metropolitan areas
- River Basin
- Mountain ranges
- Coastal zones
- Local level cooperation
- Networks of small and medium-sized towns...



# Specific territories

Mountains, islands, sparsely  
populated regions...

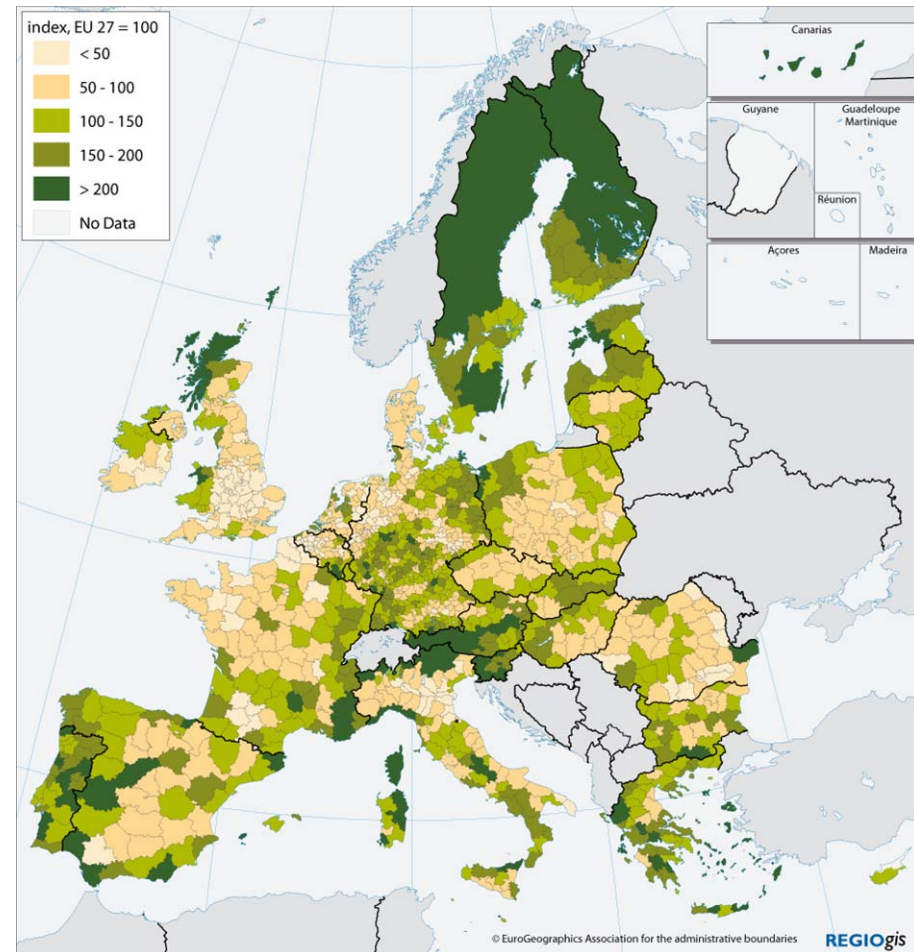
# Geographical handicaps or assets?

- Mountains and islands are highly heterogeneous, some rich some poor, some growing, some not
- No proof of handicap or need for permanent compensation
- Access to services may be an issue
- Further research needed, ESPON and others

# Proximity to nature

- Mountains and islands have very high proximity to nature
- Very popular tourist destinations
- Good air quality
- Expanding services sector

Combined indicators of proximity to natural areas



# Sectoral Policies

- Energy policy
- Transport policy
- Common agricultural policy, including rural development
- ICT policy
- Environment policy
- Maritime policy
- Research policy
- Competition policy
- Employment policy

# 6 Questions:

- 1. New Themes: what does it add to economic and social cohesion?*
- 2. New Geographies: both supra and intra-regional*
- 3. Better cooperation: between regions inside and outside the EU*
- 4. Better coordination: between sectoral and territorial policies*
- 5. New Partnerships: with a strong local dimension*
- 6. New indicators to measure territorial development and cohesion*


# What happens next?

- The public consultation is opened until the 28th of February;
- The Commission will then produce a first synthesis of the discussion in March and a more in-depth analysis in May 2009.

# The Debate

More than 20 position papers so far + discussions on different occasions

- Definition – needed?
- Cooperation – reinforcing ETC, external borders, urban-rural (CZ Pres, DG Regio Seminars);
- Services – faire, equivalent? (cross-sectoral);
- Territorial impacts – the 1<sup>st</sup> Action Programme of the Territorial Agenda (FR Pres, NL, ESPON)
- Indicators (for allocation/analysis), monitoring



**Thank you for your attention!**