



UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

Polycentric Urban Development in Planning and Policy

Lessons from ESPON and Scandinavia

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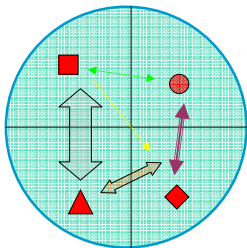
Informing Spatial Planning: Preparing for 2007-2013
A seminar arranged by
National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA)
International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD)
at
National University of Ireland (NUI) Maynooth
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Polycentricity

- Concept
- ESPON 111
- Denmark, an example

Considerations

POLYCENTRICITY



Complementarity

Proximity

Higher ranking

Two drivers:

- Regional enlargement
- Policy networking

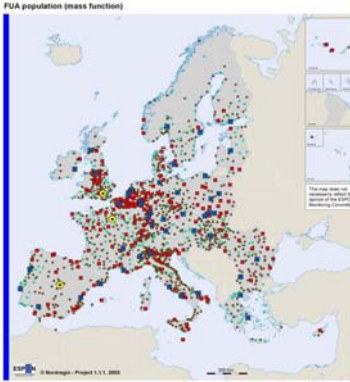
ESPON 111

1.595 FUAs
with more than 20.000 inh. in EU 27+2

Delineation - principles
SIZE:
Commuter areas
• Core > 15.000
• Commuter area
• > 50 000 in large countries (> 10 mio)
• 20 000 – 50 000 in small countries
FUNCTION:
Important national or regional functions

Delineation - praxis
National statistical bureaus or best choices by national experts

Problems
Variety of national definitions of FUAs
Most countries used 20.000 FUAs. Larger FUAs were used only by a few countries e.g. Poland, Spain, Bulgaria and Czech Republic.



Strongest FUAs: Metropolitan European Growth Areas (MEGAs)

Ranking MEGAs

Mass

Population

GDP

Competitiveness

GDP

Top 500 Companies

Connectivity

Passengers at airports

Multimodal accessibility

Knowledge basis

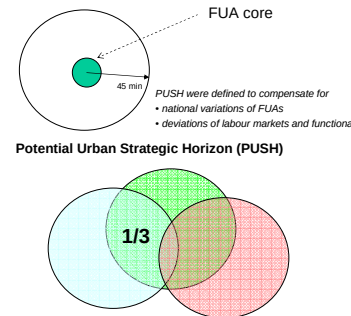
Education level

R&D share of employment

Strongest MEGAs within or close to the 5-gon!



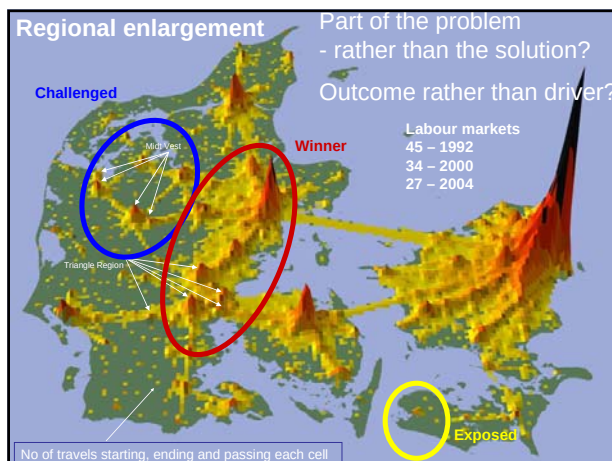
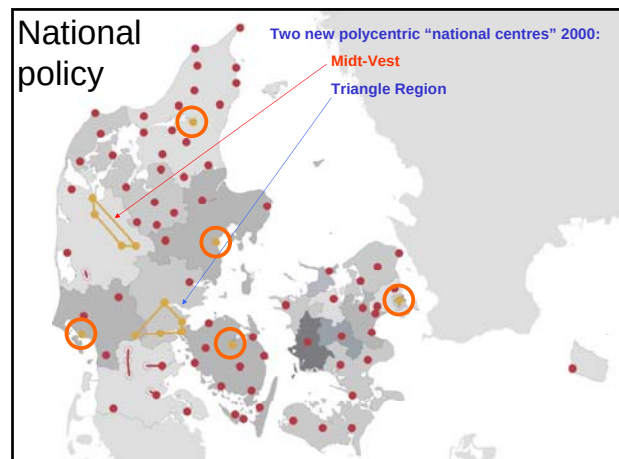
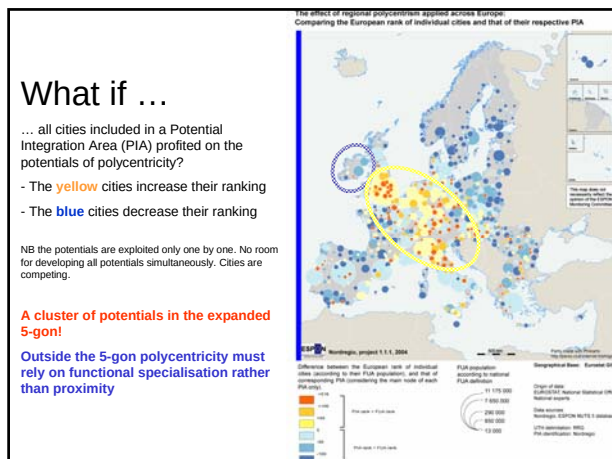
Polycentricity potentials



Potential Urban Strategic Horizon (PUSH)

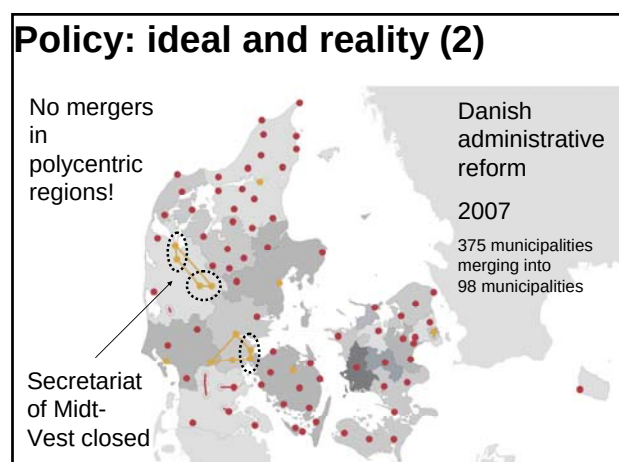
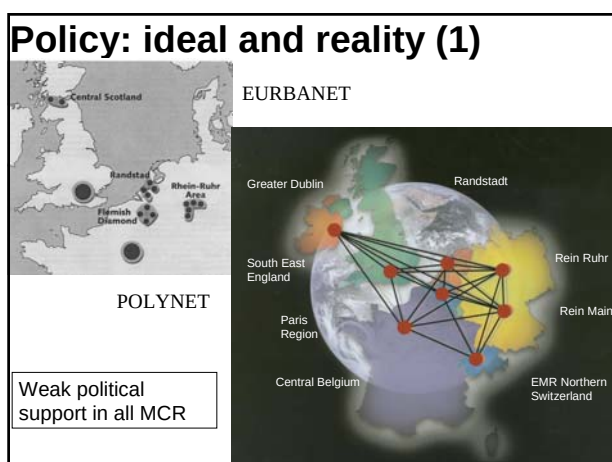
Potential Polycentric Integration Areas (PIA)





Polycentricity Considerations

- Policy: ideals and reality
- Urban development theories
- The economic agent
- The political agent



Two theories on urban and regional development

Cluster-theory

- Does polycentricity foster specialisation? (..No)

Urbanisation-theory

- Does the sum of e.g. 5 city centres compete with one metropolitan centre? (.. No)

Neither of the two theories ask for polycentricity!

The economic agent

Economy of agglomeration

- Urban advantages
- Location advantages (Clusters)

Economy of networking (Cabus)

- Local networking (polycentricity) – least
- Extralocal networking – most

The economic agent doesn't care about polycentricity

The political agent

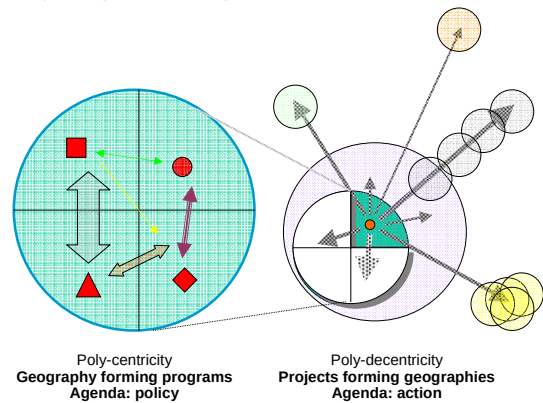
The idea of Polycentricity:

- Geography forms policy

The praxis of the political agent:

- Projects form geography

The city as agent of change



MECIBS

Medium sized cities
in dialogue
around the Baltic Sea
2002 – 2005
MECIBS

WWW.MECIBS.DK



Nyköping

- Neighbour
 - New harbour
- Neighbours
 - Fast rail connection
- SE-DK-DE
 - String
- Ryan Air cities
 - Skavsta
- Universities
 - House of knowledge

