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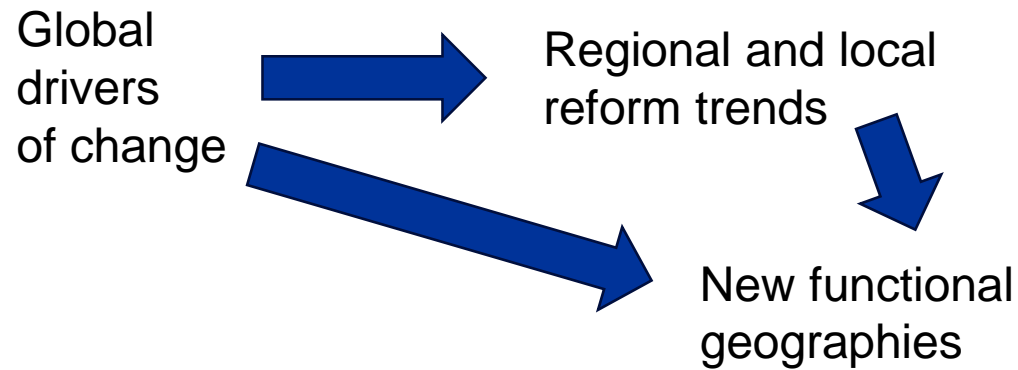
ESPON NoStaGeo – An Exploratory study of emerging geographies

Erik Gløersen, Spatial Foresight

Estonian Planners Conference, 14th March 2024, Tartu, Estonia

Session: 'How has today's security paradigm changed Estonia's border regions?'

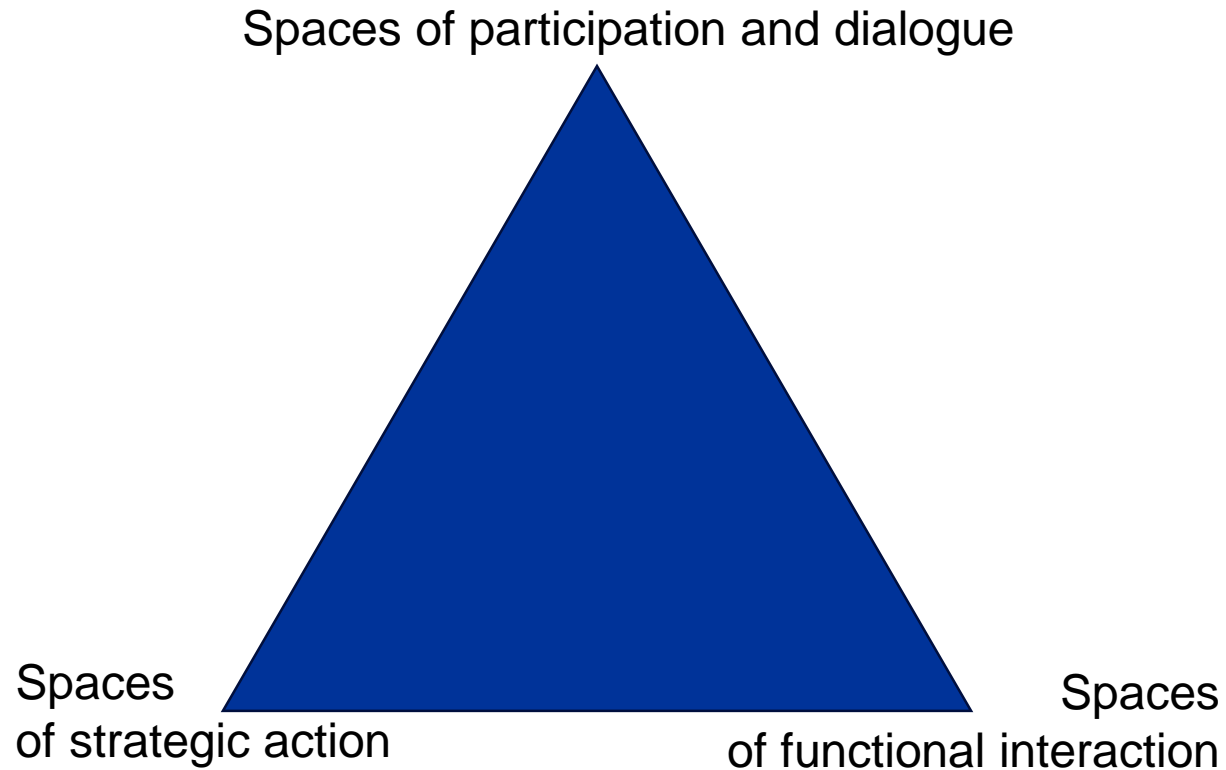
Starting points



Two important perspectives:

- Identify appropriate scales of governance and planning
- Develop methods and tools to support local and regional decision making in a context of
 - Rapid changes in framework conditions,
 - Increasing complexity and uncertainty

Functional approaches to Optimise Regional and Local Resilience



Impacts of the new security paradigm on industrial transitions

Regional transposition of 'de-risking' strategies:

- Economic dependencies could be weaponised,
- European Commission has introduced the notion of '[Open Strategic Autonomy](#)',
- [Global Gateway strategy](#) as an alternative to the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative,
- Corporate '[friendshoring, onshoring and reshoring](#)'.

→ Reorganisation of manufacturing activities and input/output flows based on new assessments of vulnerabilities linked to critical infrastructure and critical supplies

Impacts of the new security paradigm on energy transitions

Enhanced focus on energy security and resilience:

- Linked to geopolitical uncertainties,
- In a context of climate change pose significant risks to energy infrastructure and supply chains,
- Seeking to capitalise on technological advancements in renewable energy production, energy storage solutions, and smart grids,
- While at the same time transitioning to a low –carbon energy system.

→ Rethinking of energy supply strategies to ensure energy resilience in case of disruptive events.

Impacts of the new security paradigm on water management

Multiple challenges requiring cross-border dialogue and cooperation, e.g.

- More frequent floods,
- Droughts,
- Water scarcity and competition,
- Cooperative approaches to water quality and to the preservation of freshwater biotopes.

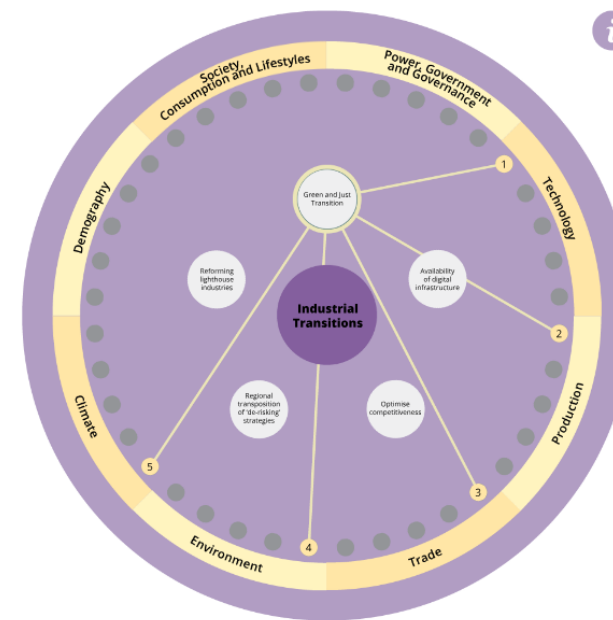
→ Cross-border regions are confronted to specific difficulties in the implementation of functional approaches to water management.

Challenges for regional and local authorities

- Remain updated on policy developments, debates, analytical report, data resources, events...
- Incorporate adaptations in local and regional reform processes



Industrial Transitions



- Biodiversity Preservation
- Energy Transitions
- Health and Aging
- Industrial Transitions
- Water Management

Green and Just Transition

Green and Just Transition presupposes a combined focus on

- Transformation of industrial production processes with **high greenhouse gas emissions** and/or **excessive environmental impacts**. Regions heavily reliant on fossil fuels or carbon-intensive industries may face significant economic dislocation, requiring targeted support for reskilling, job creation, and diversification of local economies.
- Taking advantage of **economic growth opportunities** in fields such as green technologies and other ecological innovations. Supporting research and development initiatives, fostering collaboration between local industries and research institutions, and promoting entrepreneurship are vital for unlocking the potential of regions to drive the green transition.
- **Investments** in fields such as renewable energy projects, sustainable transport systems, and energy-efficient buildings. Strategic planning is essential to ensure equitable distribution of infrastructure investments across regions, addressing disparities in access to essential services and enhancing regional connectivity. These investment needs cannot be met by public authorities alone. It is essential to set up funding strategies combining public and private funding.
- **Social Cohesion**, ensuring that **no region or community is left behind**. Addressing inequalities in access to education, healthcare, and social services is crucial for enhancing social cohesion and building resilient communities capable of adapting

TREND

Green and Just Transition

FUNCTIONAL AREA IMPLICATIONS

Rethinking of the spatial organisation of manufacturing activities, e.g. with respect to access to green energy, sustainable use of natural resources, reduced environmental impacts.

KEY EXTERNAL DRIVERS

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| Technology | 1 | Advancements in clean energy technologies |
| Production | 2 | Promotion of circular economy principles, eco-friendly manufacturing processes, and responsible resource management |
| Trade | 3 | Focus on sustainable sourcing, fair labour practices and environmental standards |
| Environment | 4 | Pressures to preserve and restore biodiversity |
| Climate | 5 | Pressures to accelerate decarbonisation |

Inform Policy Objective 5 'Europe Closer to Citizens'

- Local and regional capacity to engage in functional area cooperation is limited
- Objective: focus on synergies between functional areas, identifying functioning compromise delineations and actors setups
- Objective : inform and inspire Integrated Territorial Strategies allow for flexibility across EU Funds and thematic fields (policy objectives / specific objectives)

Inform Policy Objective 5 'Europe Closer to Citizens'

Report of the high-level group on the future of cohesion policy

Build a genuinely place-based, people-based and future-oriented cohesion policy:

- Partnership principles,
- Participation,
- Promotion of transformation / reform / reinvention,
- Enhance inter-regional links and collaboration,
- Integrate Cohesion Policy with broader development goals.

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Thank you!

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