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Towards a Europe of the Localities? Integrated place-based approaches in Cohesion policy in 2014-20 and beyond

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- Theorising the role of localities in Cohesion policy
- Expectations
- Methodology
- Empirical analysis
 - Territorial objectives
 - Territorial instruments
 - Territorial targeting and selection
 - Governance and implementation of territorial instruments
 - Informal governance framework
- Main challenges and opportunities
- Conclusions

EPRC Theorising the role of localities in Cohesion policy delivery

- **MLG** - sharing competencies between different levels of government
- **New regionalism** - substantive changes in the nature of policy intervention due to complexities of policy delivery in a globalised world
- **Place-based approaches** - mix of local understanding and external knowledge to tackle development challenges
- **New localism** - increased complexity of delivery of interventions requires devolving power away from central control to local democratic structures

Does the territorial dimension in EU Cohesion policy represent a paradigm shift?

- Rationale for development of territorial dimension
 - Effective and efficient delivery of public policy requires local involvement
 - More influence for localities in decision making structures
- Implementation expectations
 - No change - central authorities remain in control of most aspects of the implementation process
 - Radical change– significant increase responsibilities for localities in different aspects of policy delivery (strategic development, implementation and management)
 - Patchwork of change – differences between and within Member States). What explains these differences?

One of the longest-running knowledge-exchange networks on Structural Funds in the EU, set up in 1996

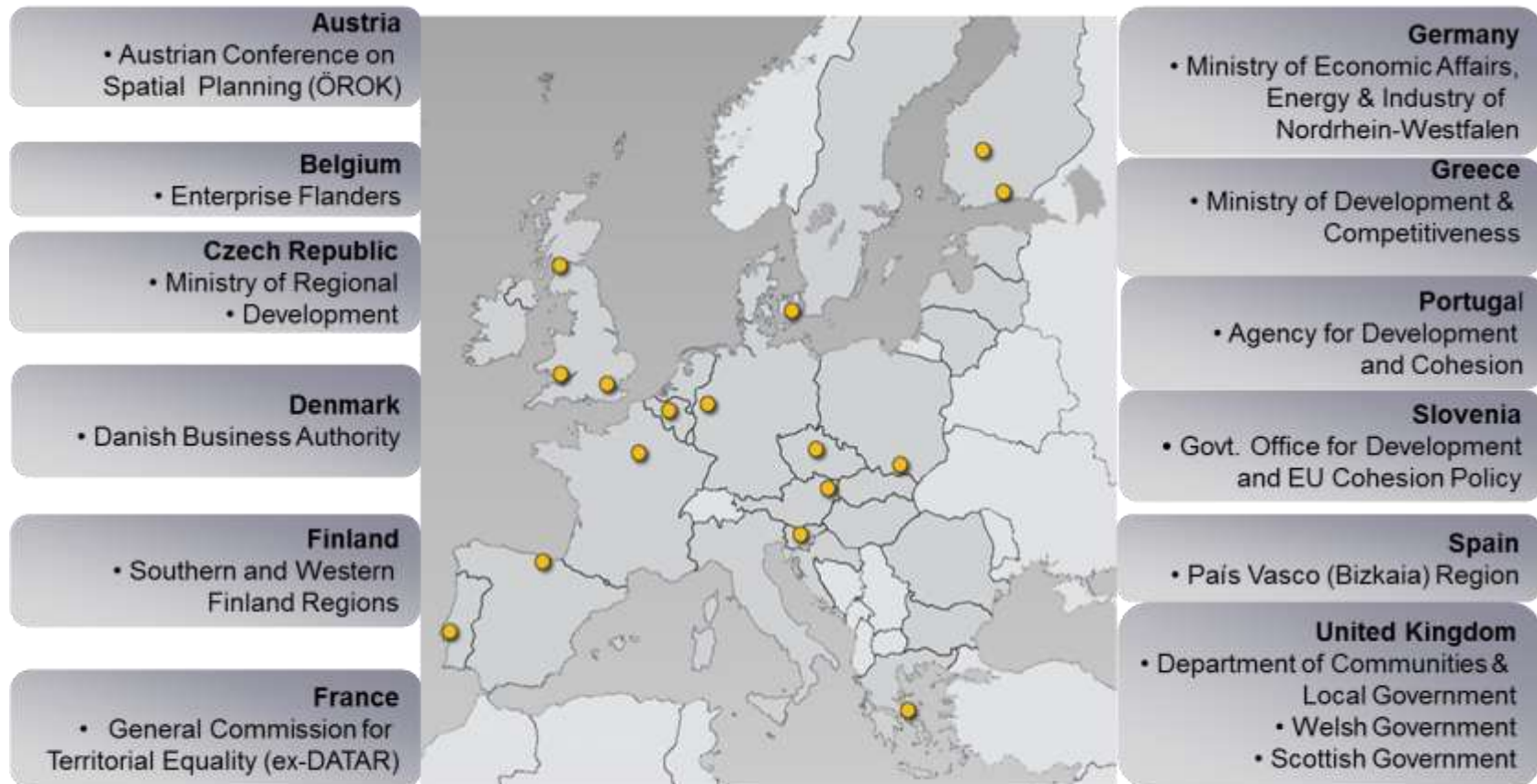
IQ-Net is a network which:

- brings together Structural Funds **managing authorities and implementing bodies** from across the EU
- involves a structured **programme of knowledge exchange** – research and debate on the design, management and evaluation of programmes
- enables programme managers and their partnerships to **exchange experience and share good practice**



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Case study programmes

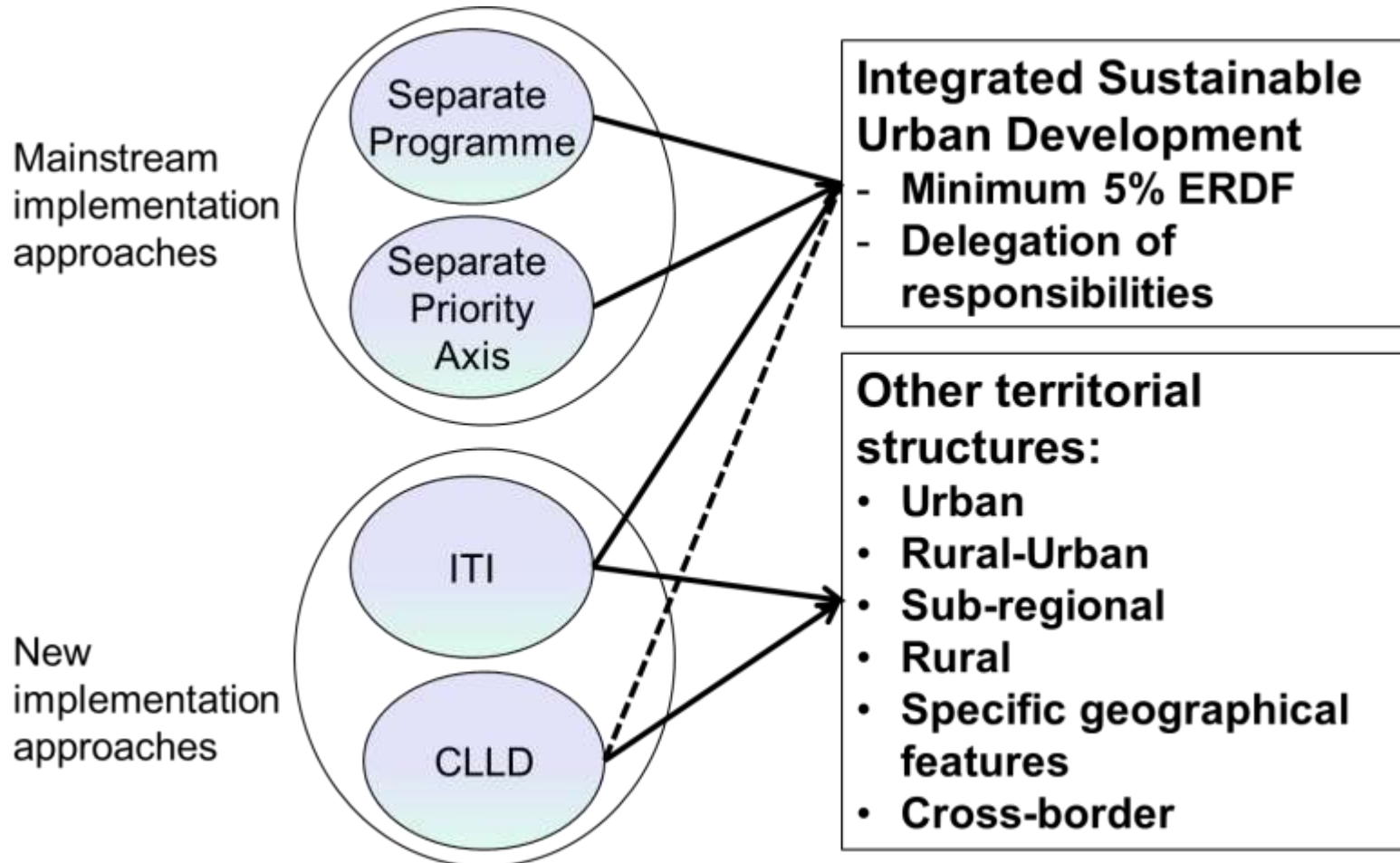


- the territorial objectives set out in the treaties, partnership agreements, operational programmes;
- the instruments set out in the new regulatory framework (e.g. SUD, ITI and CLLD);
- the extent of territorial targeting and selection of eligible localities;
- the implementation and governance of territorial instruments, and
- the informal EU governance in relation to the territorial dimension.

- Increased focus on the territorial dimension
- An important and obligatory feature in the partnership agreements

But...

- Throughout the Cohesion policy framework a sectoral logic prevails



- 20 Member States intend to use ITIs
- 17 Member States use CLLD (ERDF and ESF)
- Uptake also varies internally
 - ITI is a major implementation mechanism in Flanders
 - CLLD a major feature in Czech Republic but in Austria only one region.

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Implementation tools for territorial approaches

	Priority Axes for SUD	ITI for SUD	ITI for other territories	CLLD with ERDF/ESF
Austria	X	-	-	X
Czech Republic	-	X	-	X
Denmark	X	-	-	-
England	X	-	X	X
France	X	X	X	-
Finland	-	X	-	-
Greece	-	X	X	X
Nordrhein- Westfalen	X	-	-	-
Pais Vasco	-	-	X	-
Portugal	X	X	X	X
Slovenia	-	X		X
Vlaanderen	X	-	X	-

Selecting ITIs

- Criteria for selection often set centrally (Top-down, bottom-up and geographical indicators)
- Political process (Snowballing, historical precedent, city rivalry)
- Competitive calls

Selecting CLLD

- Shaped by rules on population coverage
- Historical precedent is important (based on Leader)
- Inclusive geographical approach (Czech Republic)
- Territorial eligibility is determined on a *de facto* basis (England)

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Territorial targeting

Country	Urban	Sub-regional	Specific Geographical Features	Inter-regional
Vlaanderen		X		
Finland	X*		-	X
France	X*	X	-	
Czech Republic	X*	-	-	X
Greece	X*	X	X	X
Portugal	X*	X	X	-
Pais Vasco	-	-	X	-
Slovenia	X*	-	-	-
UK (England)	-	X	-	-

* ITIs used to implement SUD

- Local bodies significantly involved in strategy development and implementation
- Limited use of intermediate bodies both for ITIs and CLLD
- Opt for shared management model
- Apprehension to delegate responsibilities in relation to project selection?
 - Tension between territorial and sectoral dimension
 - Concerns relating to institutional and administrative capacity
 - Scale of funding limited

- Working group for Territorial Cohesion and Urban Matters (TCUM)
- Institutionalisation of informal territorial dimensions offers potential to mobilise local actors

But...

- The governance model remains largely informal and lacks transparency
- Representation is structured to national institutions

Benefits

?

- Efficiency savings
- Increased local engagement
- Innovative tools
- Change in mind-set
- Inspiration and diffusion

Challenges

- Administrative capacity
- Limited critical mass
- Political challenges
- Governance challenges
- Result-orientation and impact
- Guidelines and approval

- Emerging commitments to a territorial dimension in Cohesion policy
- Delefbolia? - an irrational fear of delegating responsibilities?
- The largely voluntary nature of the instruments means uptake varies but also provides room for testing and experimenting the new approach
- Two competing interpretations/expectations?
 - Commission is concerned with more effective and efficient programme delivery?
 - Localities focused on securing ring-fenced budgets?
- Evaluation and monitoring with a focus on whether territorial strategies are successfully implemented and whether they contribute to Europe 2020.

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THANK YOU!

PALDIES!

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