Metropolitan Conference – June 13th, 2011

Metropolitan Spatial Plans from a METREX Perspective

Vincent Goodstadt

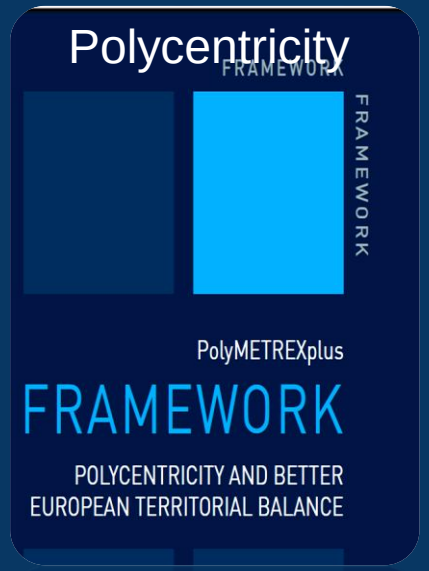
Head of European Affairs

METREX European Network

METREX

(Network of 50 European Metropolitan Regions and Areas)

- Exchanging
  - Knowledge (e.g. Benchmarking)
  - Expertise (e.g. Infrastructure,)
  - Experience (e.g. USA & China)
- Joint action on common issues
  - Climate Change
  - Polycentricity



Europe?

(+40 nations or 120 metropolitan regions)

Great diversity
+50 Planning Systems?
Geography
Cultural
Historical
Political
Legal

Despite the diversity there is now ....

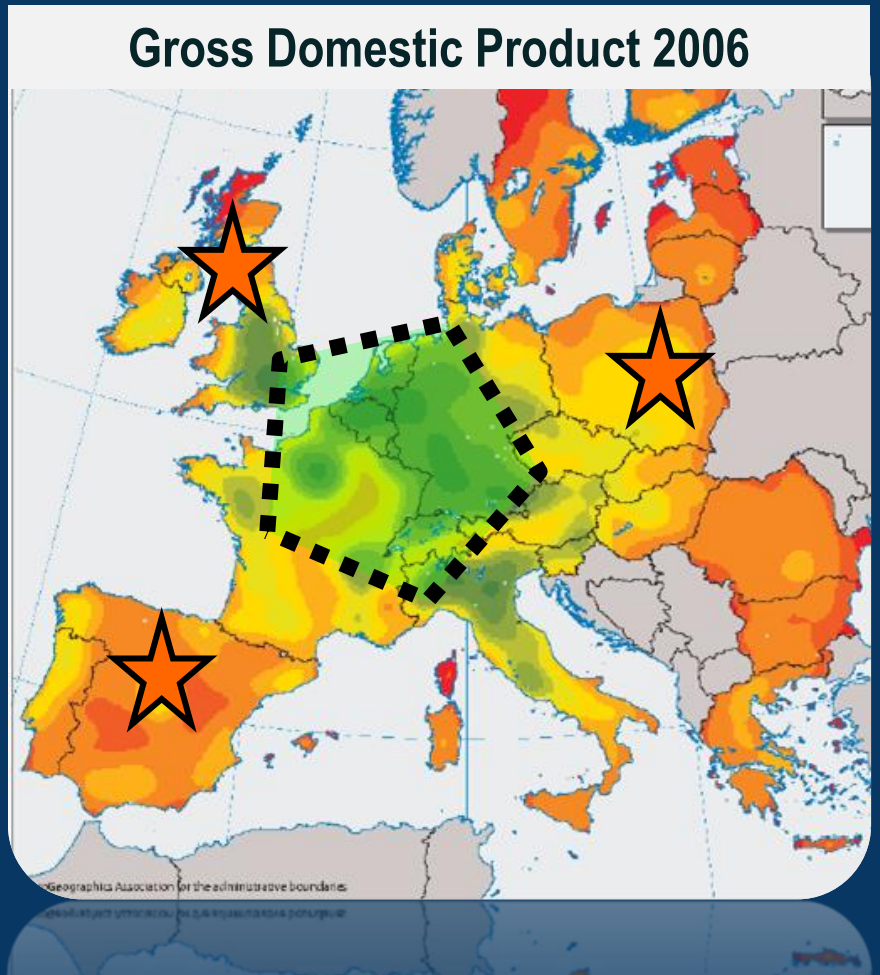
..... a consensus about

the role of Metropolitan Areas

Economic Competitiveness

Metropolitan Areas are the drivers of economic growth

- Established Metro-regions (e.g. London, Paris, Milan & Stuttgart)
- Growing Metro-regions (e.g. Glasgow, Madrid & Warsaw)



Social Cohesion

Major social needs are increasingly concentrated within the metropolitan cores

- Need for Employment
- Affordable Housing
- Quality of environment
- Health Standards
- Educational standards
- Racial Tensions

Environmental Sustainability

Major causes of environmental change are urban life styles and patterns of urban development

For Example

- Energy consumption
- Travel Patterns
- Waste generation
- Flood Risks
- Urban Heat islands
- Ecosystem threats

Apparent southward shift of European cities — due to climate change

Source EEA Quality of Life report 2008

…….Conflicting European Objectives!

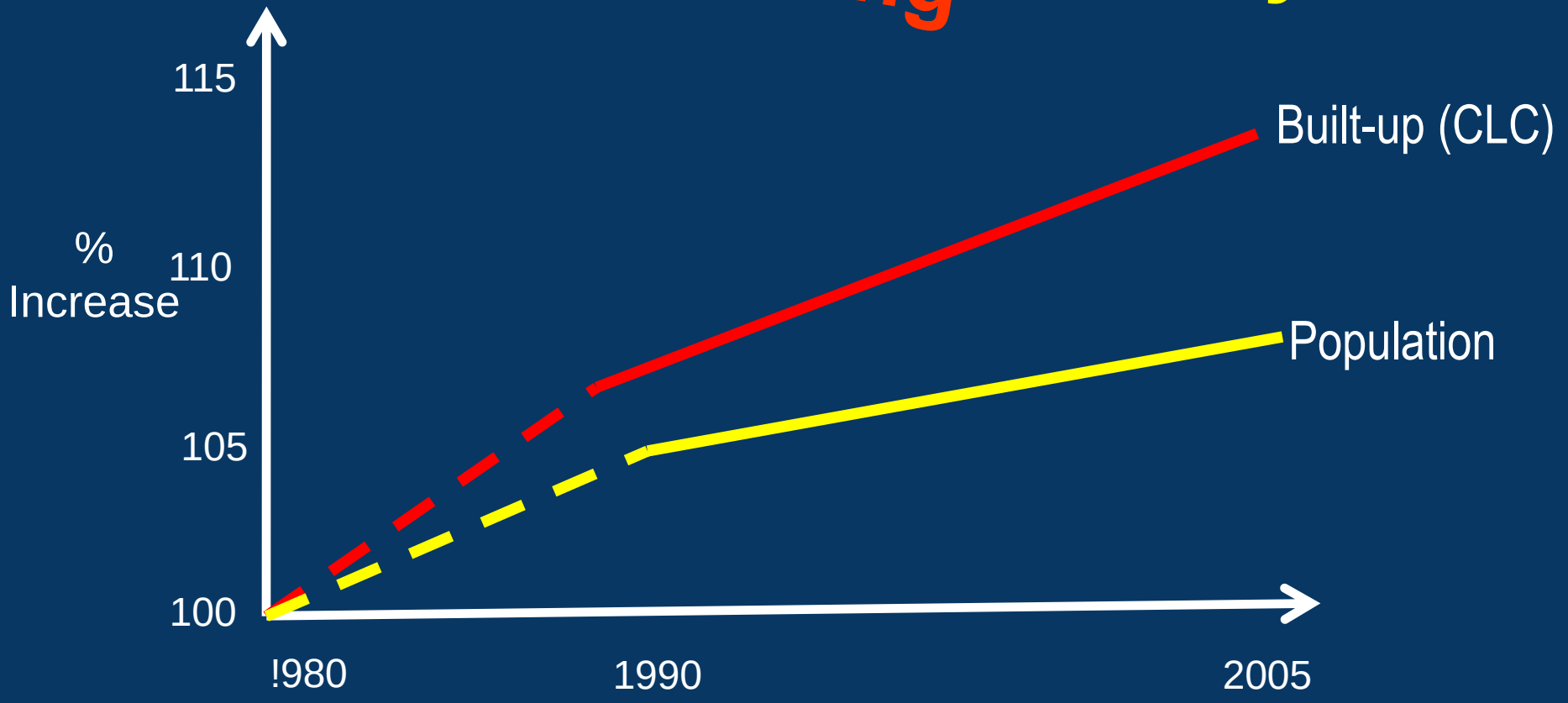
Growth v. Environment

Growth v. Cohesion

Cohesion v. Environment

For example:

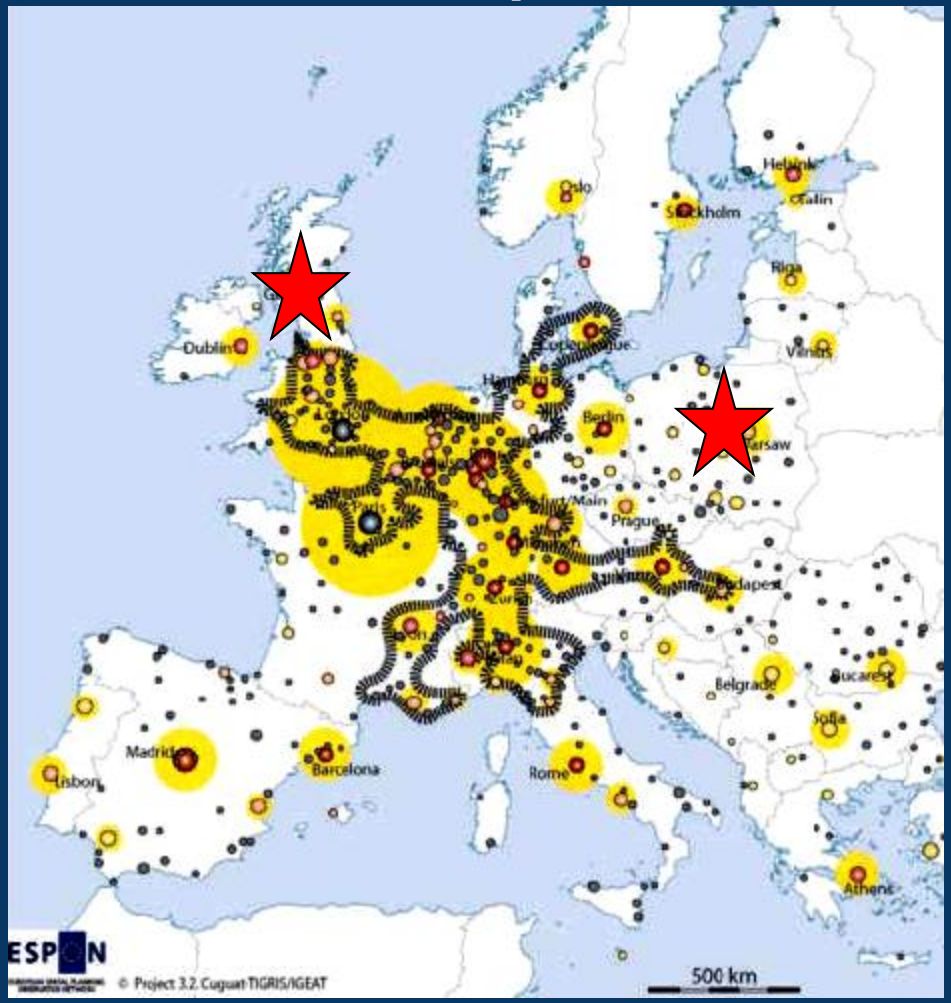
we are *loosing* density



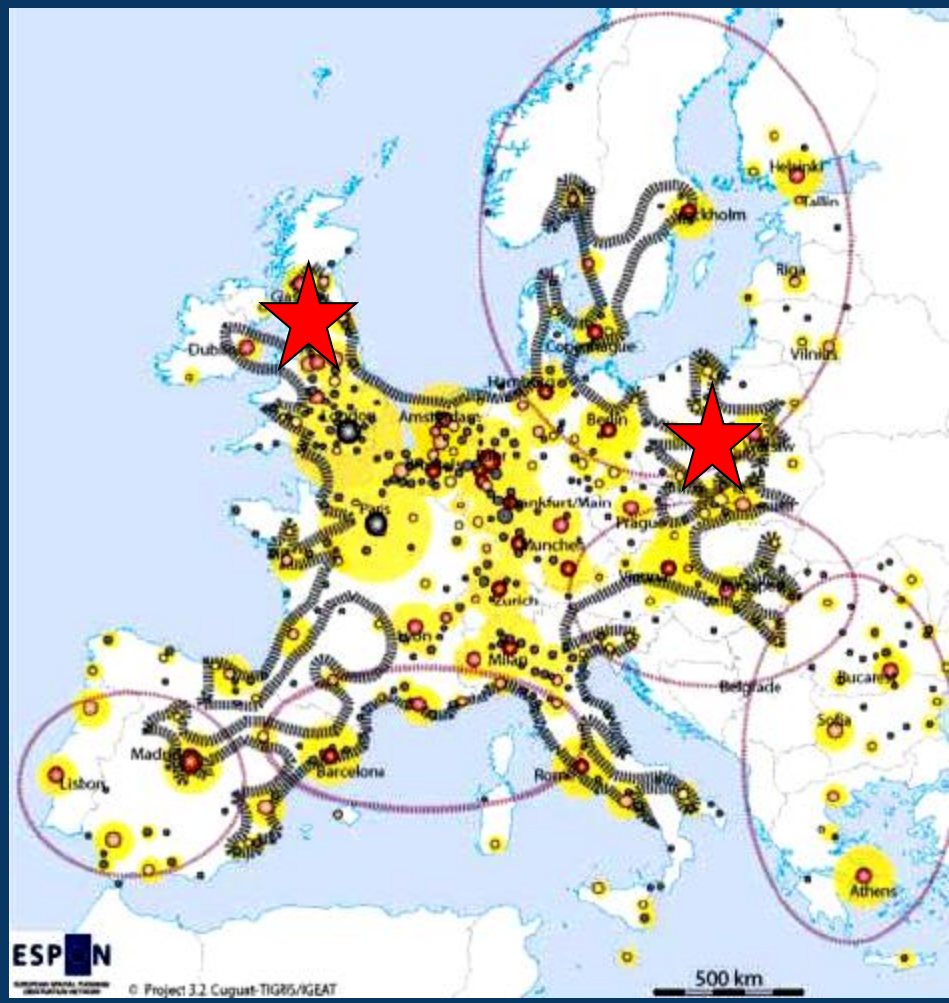
Source: EEA, 2009, Corine Land Covaer

Therefore there are real Options for Spatial Structure and Urban Hierarchy in 2030

Economic Competitiveness?



Social Cohesion?



3. Common Issues
&
Planning Responses

Local Issues need strategic solutions

Balance of Housing & Jobs

Length of Commutes

Affordability of Housing

Impact of Mega-stores

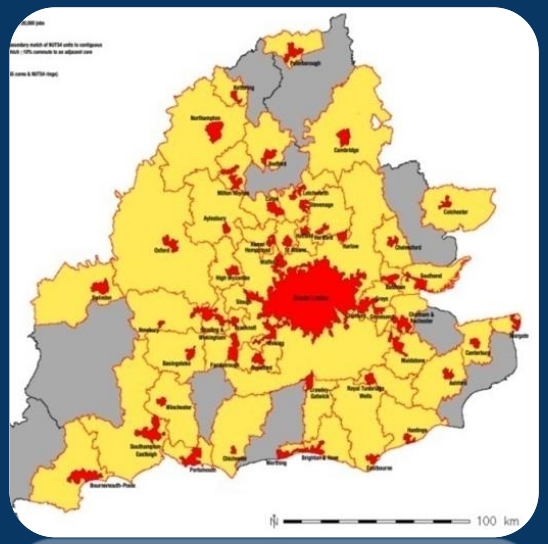
Carbon Footprint

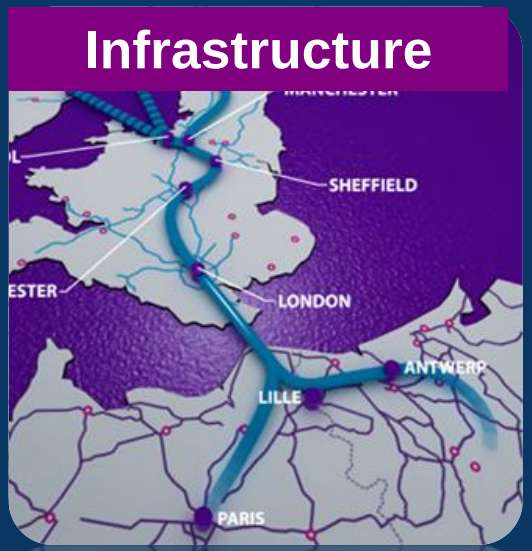
Flooding

Traffic

Etc

Etc

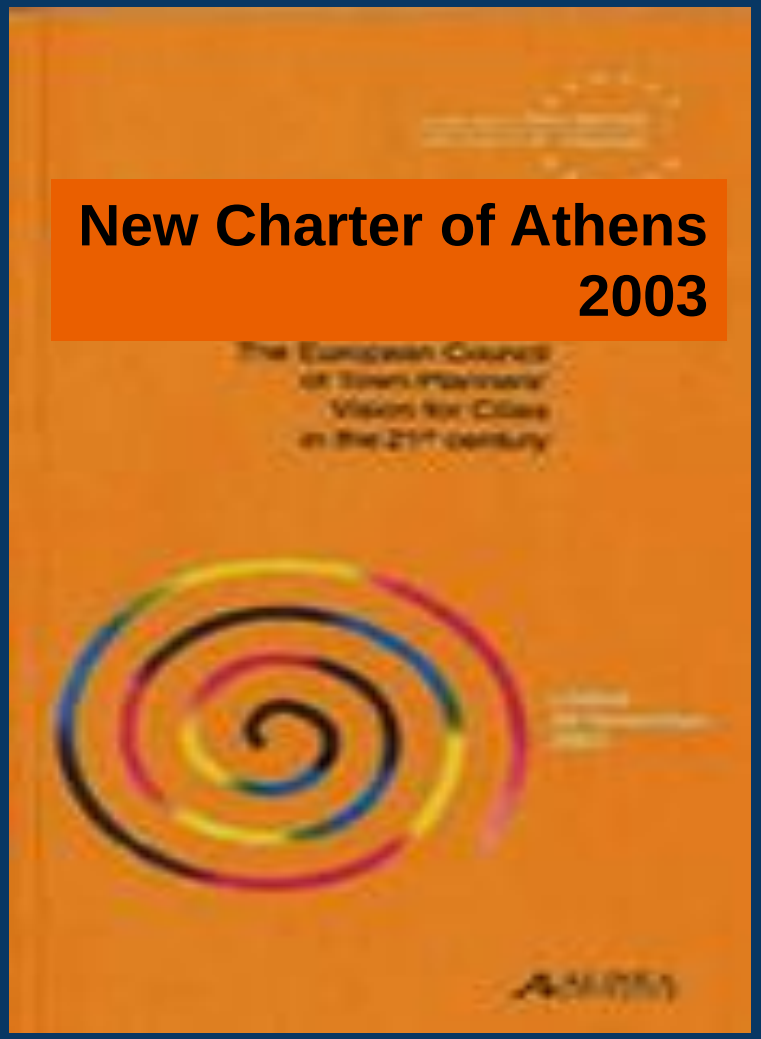




Creating Sustainable Communities

We know what to do!

- Green transport links
- Green Network
- Disaster proofing
- Zero carbon development
- Mixed uses and of housing types;
- Social and community facilities
- Neighbourhood centres
- High design standards

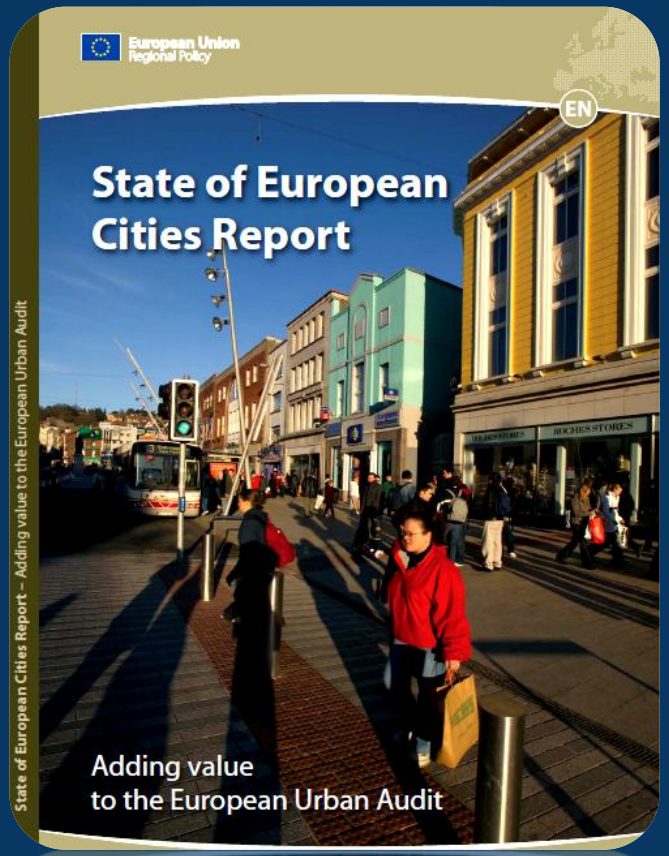


..... and yet .....

….. the Outcomes!

- Imbalanced development
- Congestion
- Unaffordable housing
- Environmental degradation
- Overloaded infrastructure

- Climate change



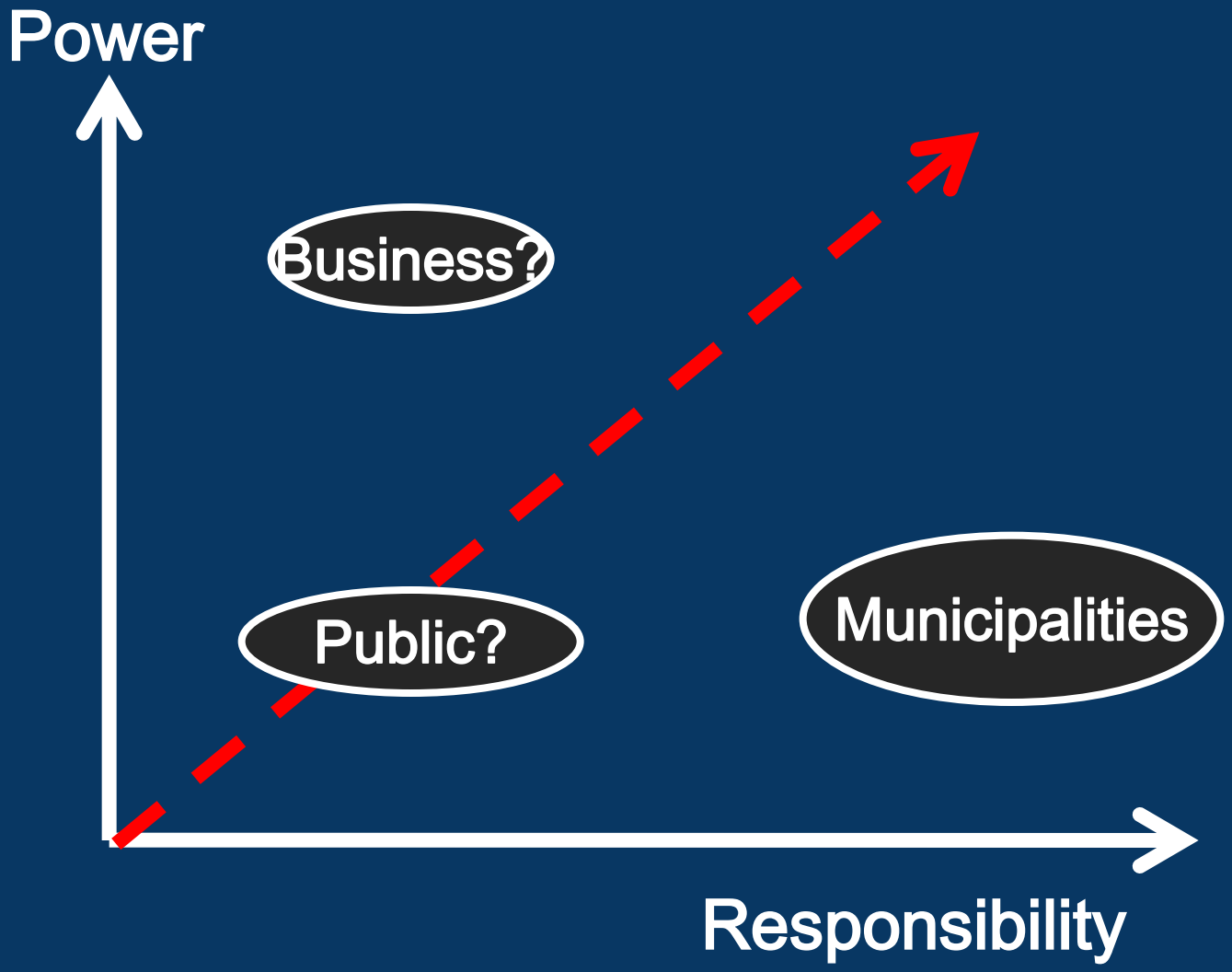
The Lisbon Agenda Conundrum

Can we Achieve Competitiveness & Liveability?

Is
economic dynamism
inevitably
associated
with
congestion,
poor environment,
housing shortages
ghettos
etc?

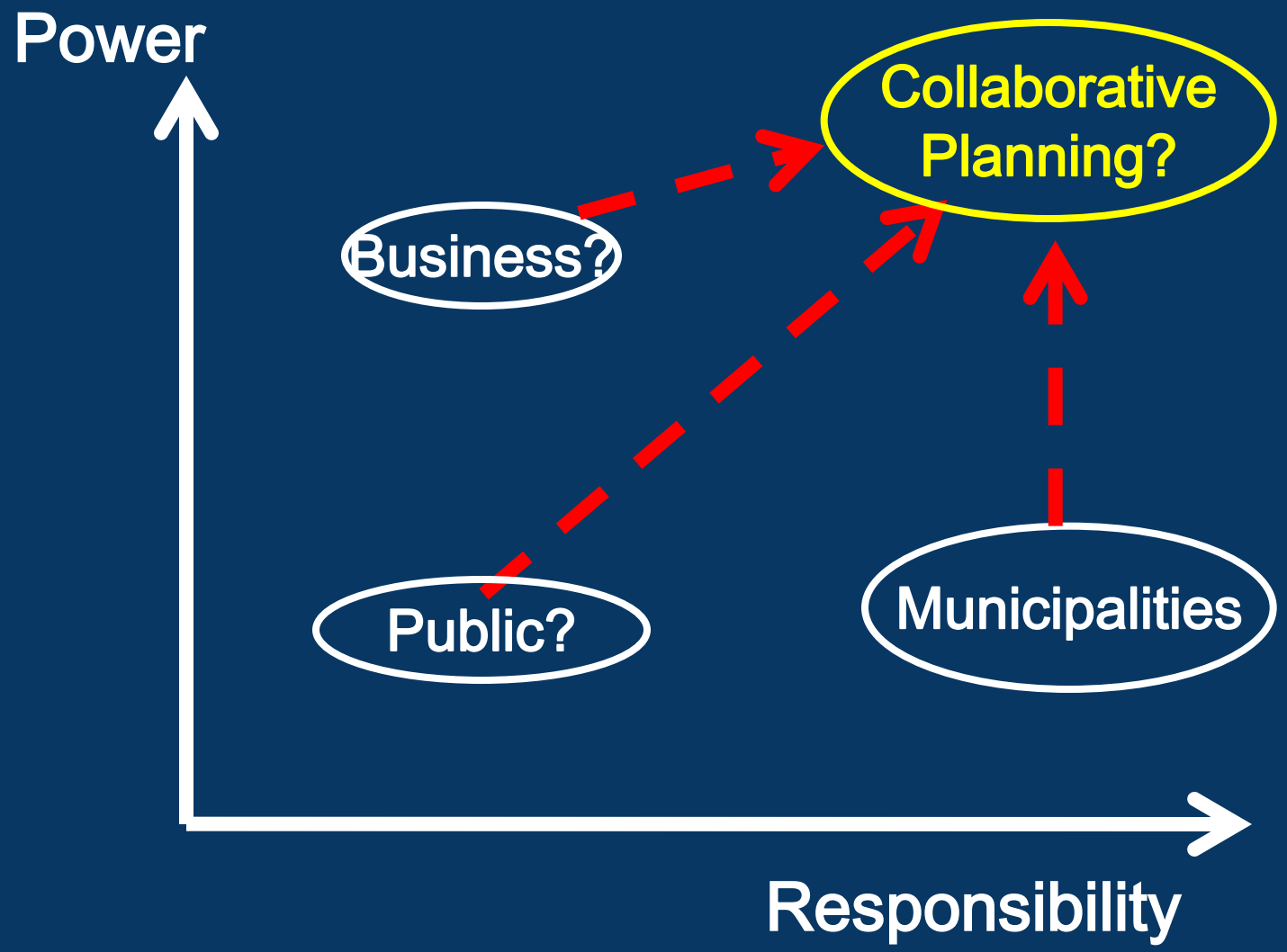
Converging Planning Agenda?

Reconnect Power & Responsibility?



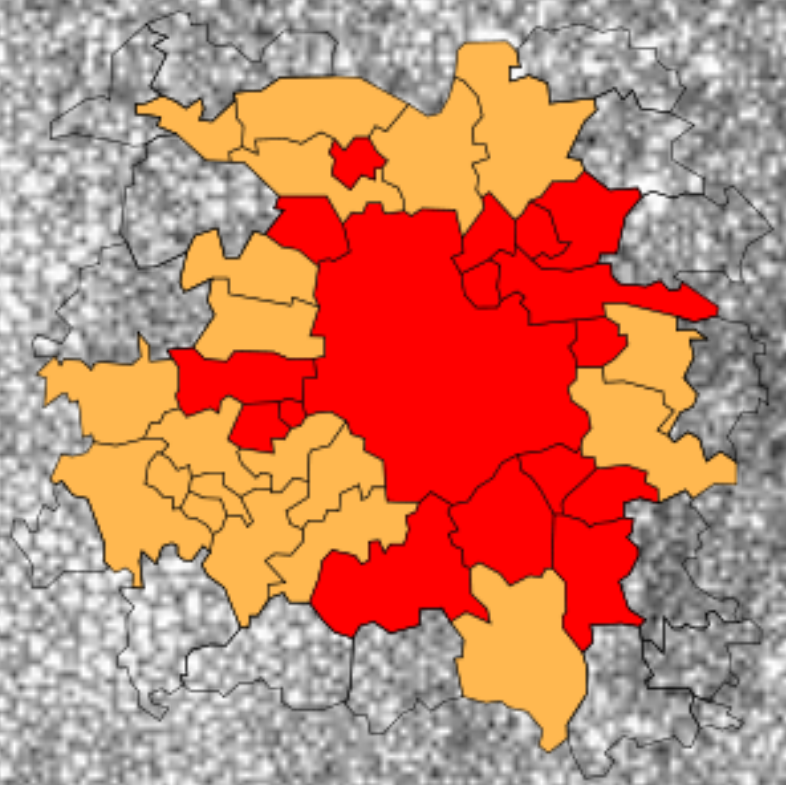
Converging Planning Agenda?

Reconnect Power & Responsibility?



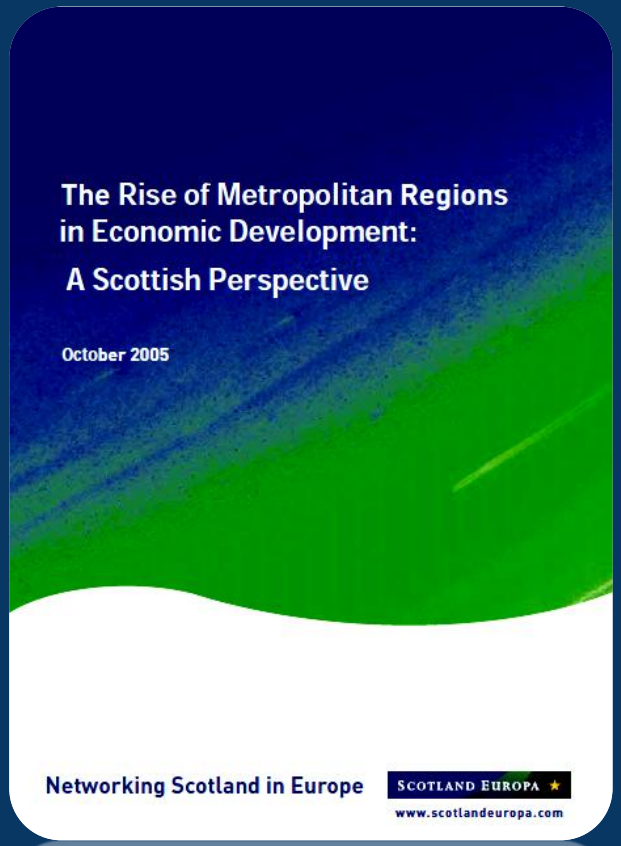
Challenge : 100,000 Municipalities
Response: Coherent Planning Areas

- Tackle Parochialism between town-suburb-rural areas
  - Use functional regions
- Reduce fiscal challenges
  - Balance burden & benefits
- Have Real Priorities
  - Avoid ‘spreading the jam thinly’



Challenge : Fragmented Governance?
Response : Link Plan Making & Plan Delivery

- **Link Plan with Corporate Policies**
  - **Within a Common Community strategy**
- **Link Programmes within the Plan**
  - **Through Implementation Plans**
- **Link Budgets to the Plan**
  - **Apply the ERDF funding Model?**

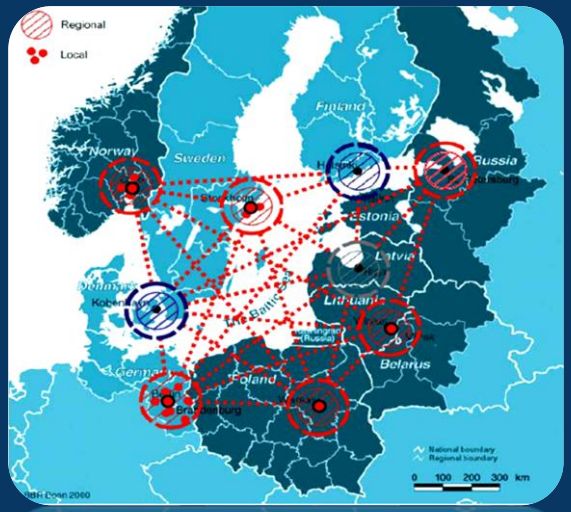


Challenge : Intercity Relationships?

Response: Multi-level Cooperation

- Cooperation or Competition?

  (e.g. Glasburgh & Baltic Region)



The Real Competition is Global!

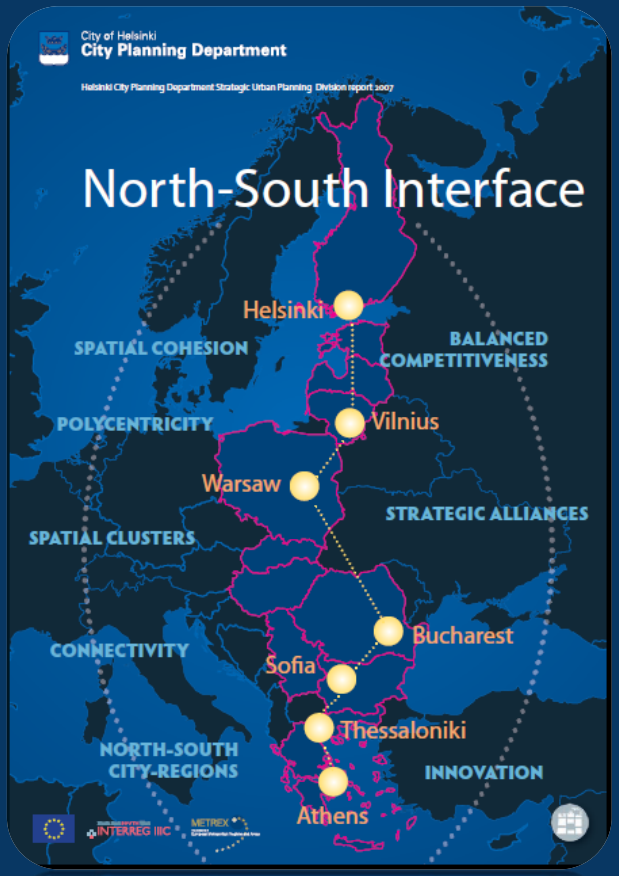
- Enhance Capacity through intercity Partnerships (local or international)

Challenge : Balancing Local and Central Government?

Response: National Planning Frameworks

- The Need for a “Level Playing field”?
  - Set national ‘policy standards’
- Identify National Role?
  - Establish National Priorities
- National Priorities?
  - Joint Programme Commitments

Cross Border Cooperation Required



4. Implications for Metropolitan Planning

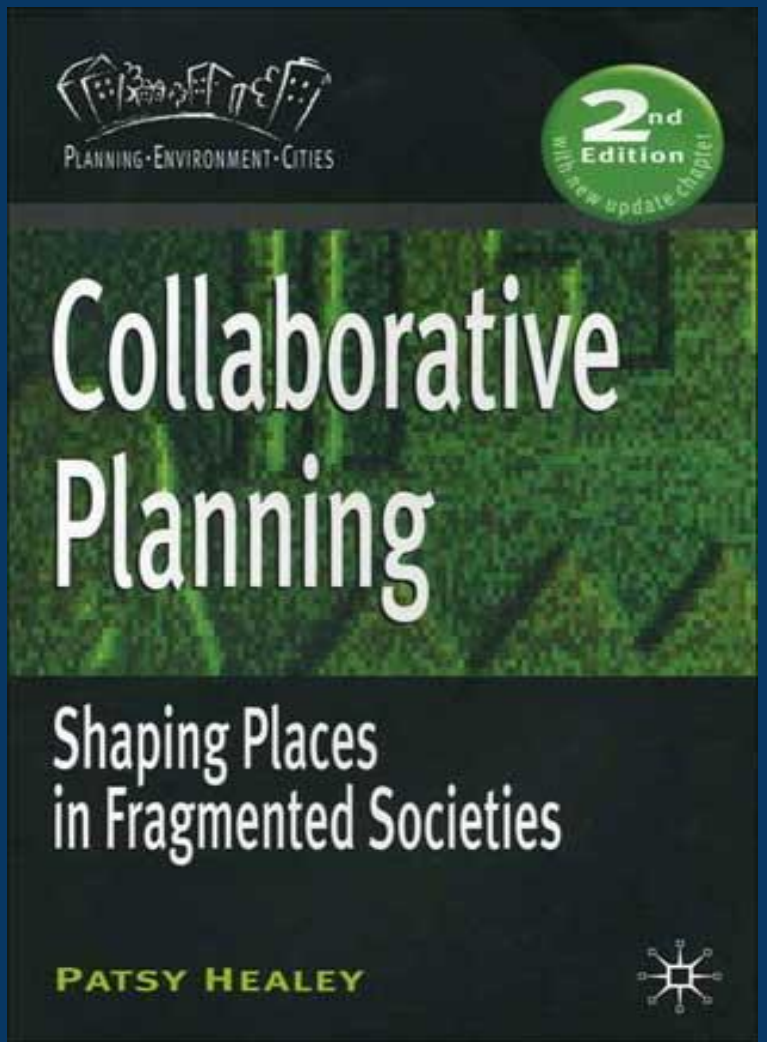
The Emerging Metropolitan Planning Frameworks?

Metropolitan Regional Plans
(for areas people within which people choose to work, shop and live)

National Plans
(Inter-dependence of regions, environment resources & governmental expenditure)

Inter-state Plans
(Level economic playing field, not beggar my neighbour & consequential cross subsidy)

Shift from Government to Governance



Local Planning without a Strategic Context
The Risks!

- Lack of Certainty
  (e.g. Major Infrastructure)

- Lack of Realism
  (e.g. Overbidding for Resources)

- Lack of a Sense of Place”
  (e.g. How many world class Growth sectors are there?)

"Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood"

Daniel Burnham

The Imperative of Metropolitan Planning

The Common Response to Global Challenges

Thank You!