



EUROPEAN UNION

Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

Alps 2050

***Common spatial perspectives for the Alpine area.
Towards a common vision***

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Director
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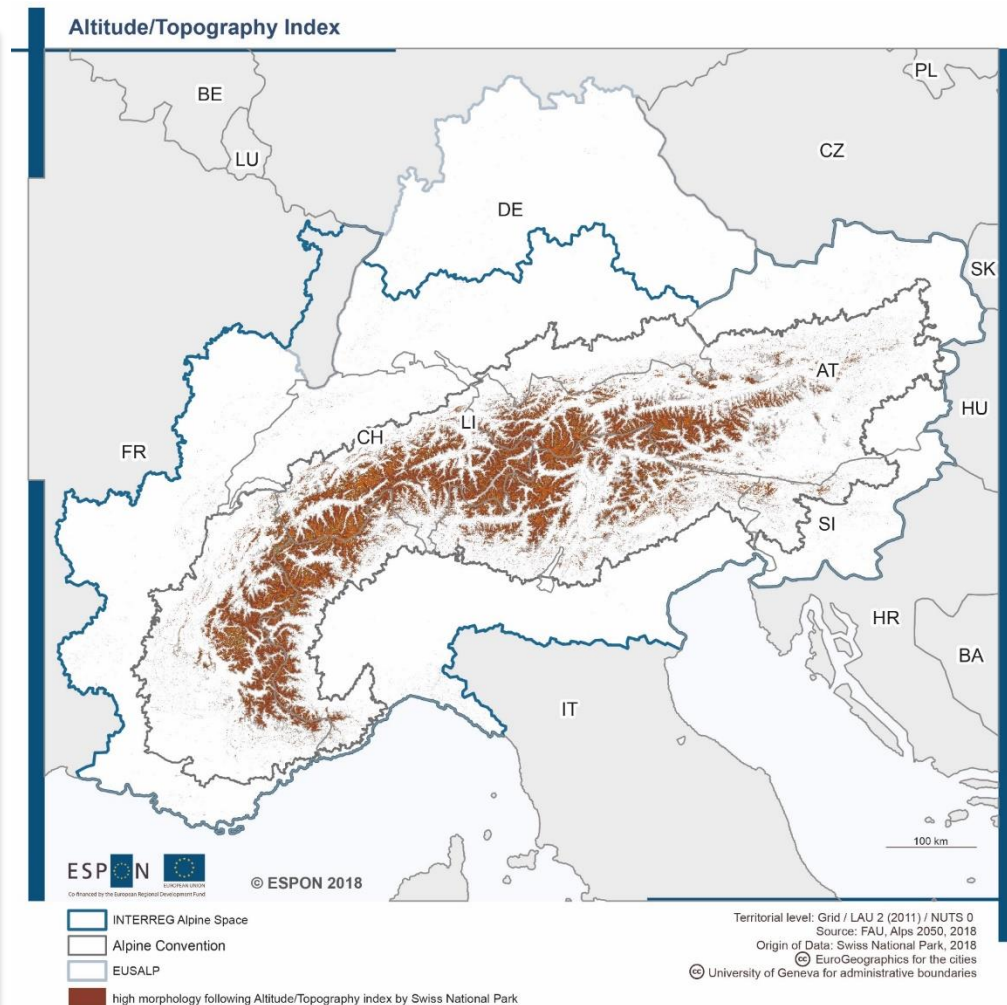
I. The Project

Alps 2050

The project

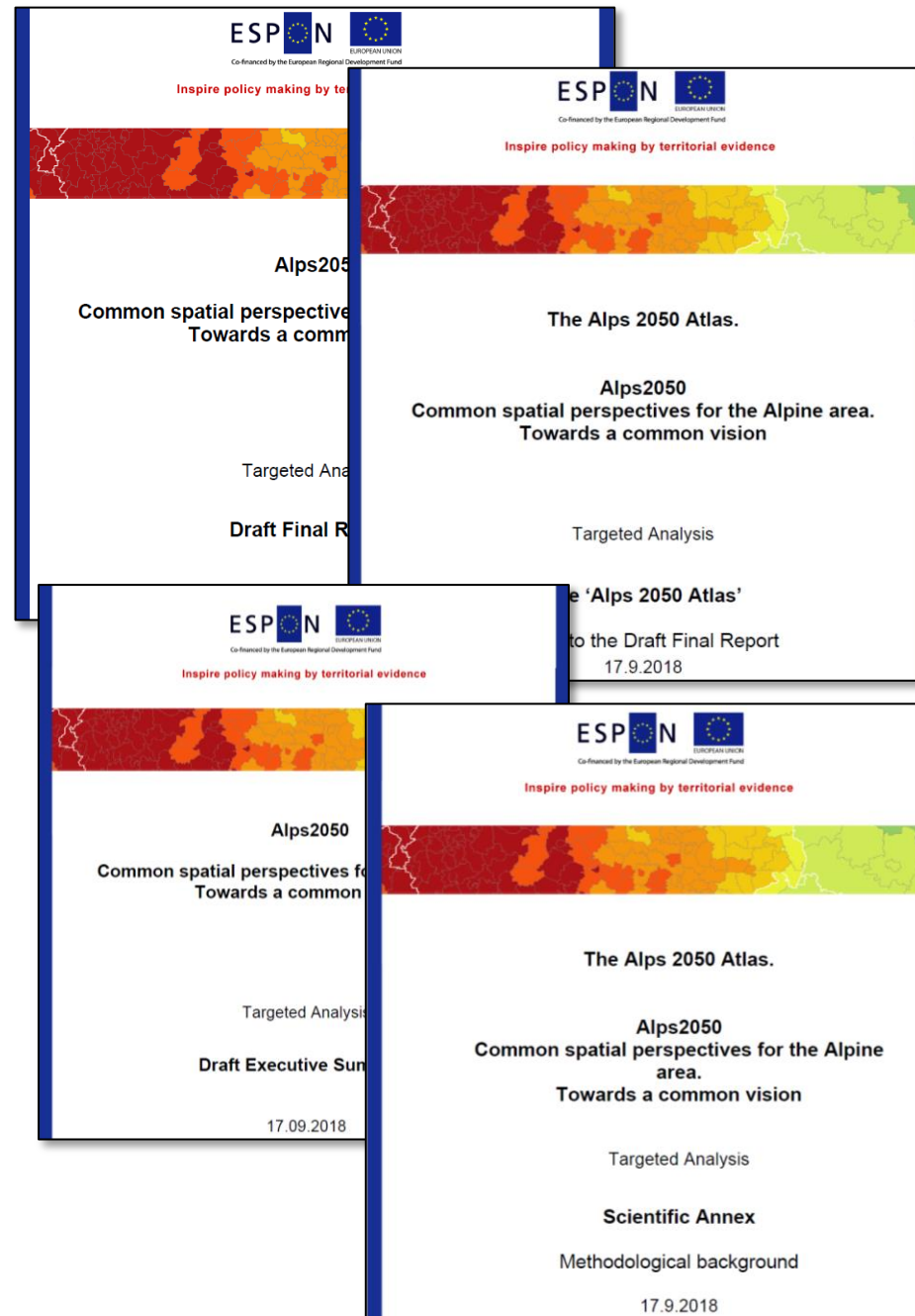
Main objectives:

- A territorial **vision** and common spatial perspectives for the Alpine area until 2050
- Effective solutions for a balanced **sustainable development** as well as help to strengthen informal and formal **cooperation** between actors
- **Guidelines** for the development of spatial perspectives and a spatial vision on the transnational level
- **Spatial focus:** Alpine region on the transnational level



The project

- **Stakeholders** develop the project idea and objectives:
Leadpartner DE, partners from AT, CH, FR, IT, LI, SI and Alpine Convention
- The **programme** ESPON finances the project and coordinating the process
- **Research consortium:**
Leadpartner DE, partners/subcontractors from AT, CH, FR, IT, SI
The **programme** ESPON finances the project and coordinating the process
- **Timing:** Nov 2017- Nov 2018
<https://www.espon.eu/Alps2050>

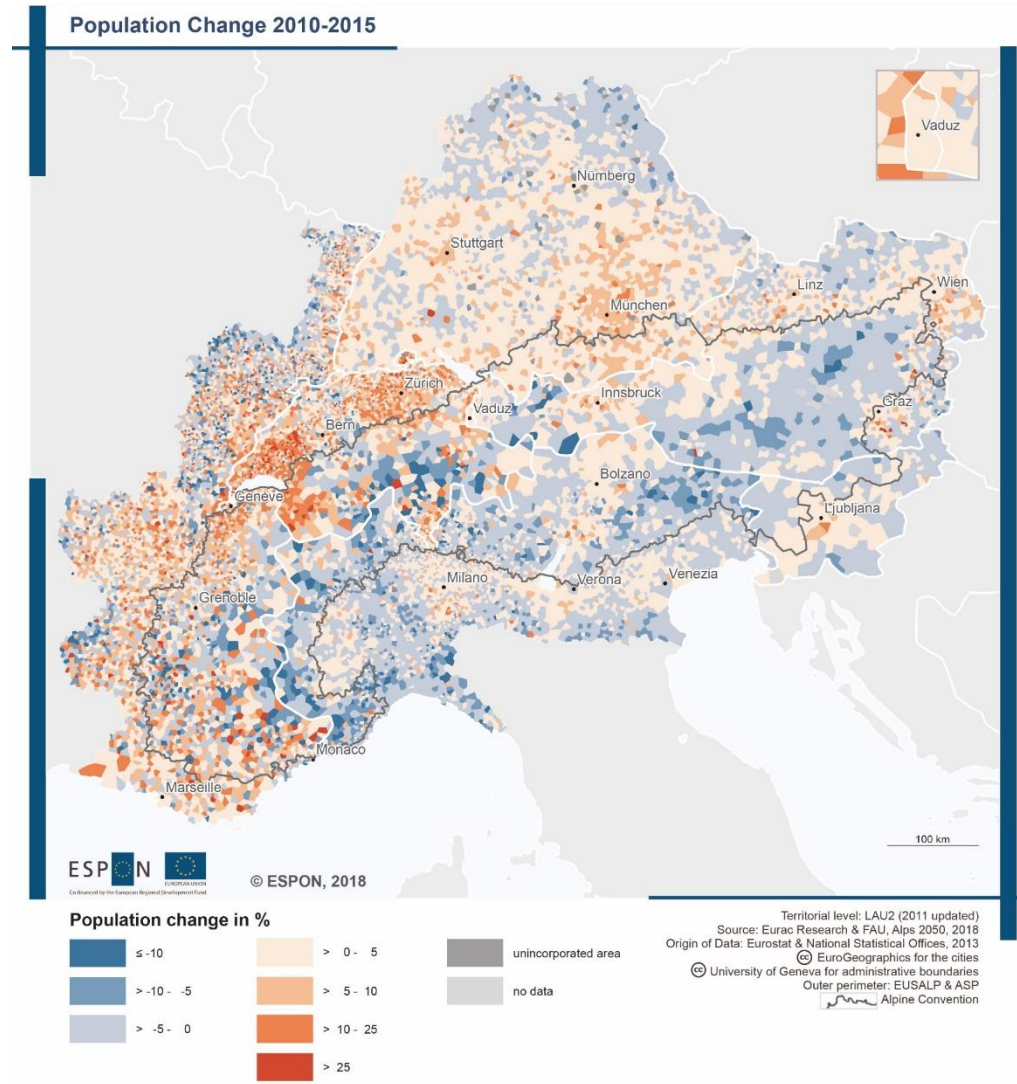


II. Territorial analyses

Alps 2050

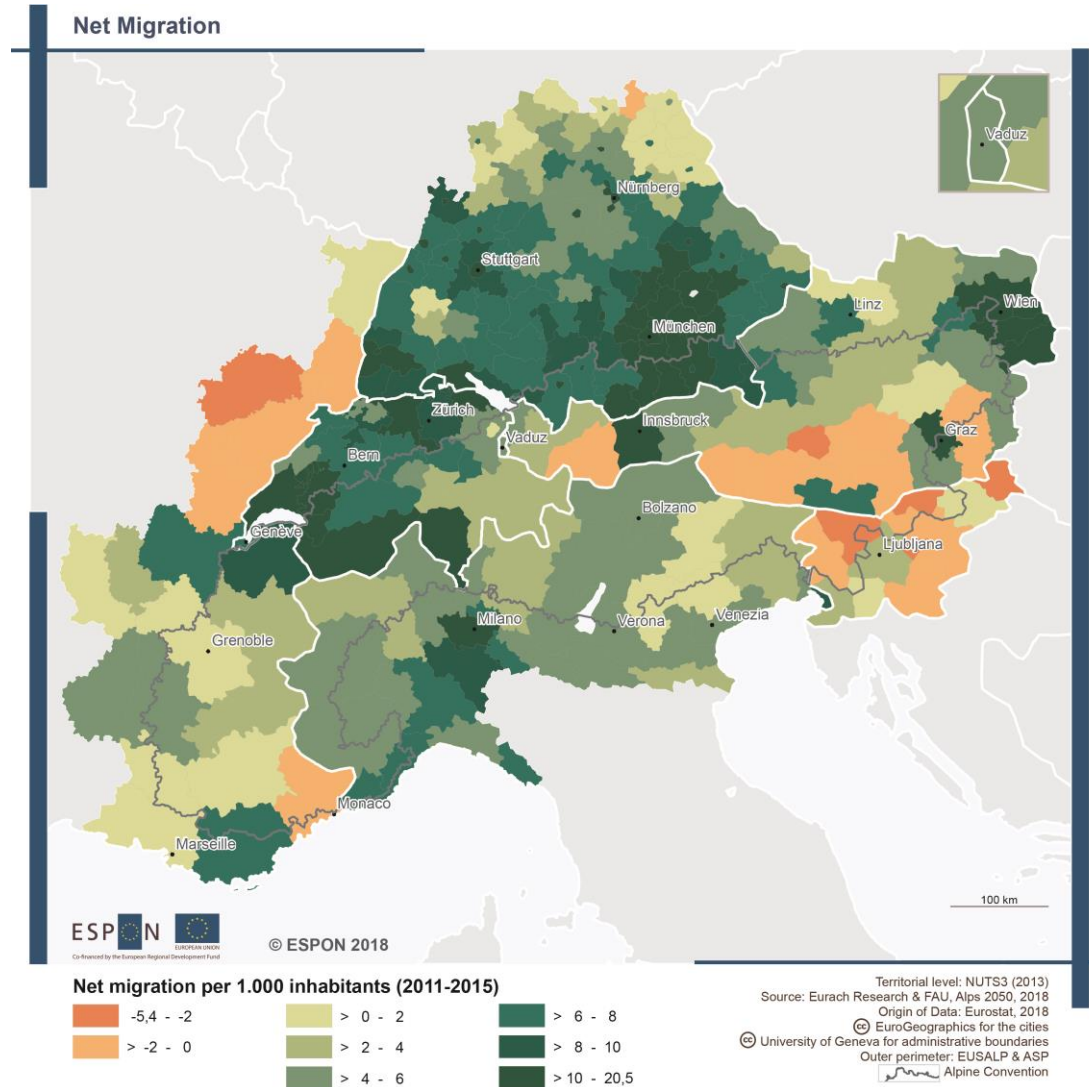
Demographic development: population growth

- Metropolises and the larger cities are almost always the centre of growth trends, i.e. trend of metropolisation (+2,9%)
- Higher growth in pre-Alpine compared to inner-Alpine
- The patterns in rural areas are much more diverse
- Large differences between the Alpine countries (6,6% CH, 0,6% SI)
- The importance of valleys, corridors (Inn, High Rhine, Brenner etc.) is very visible



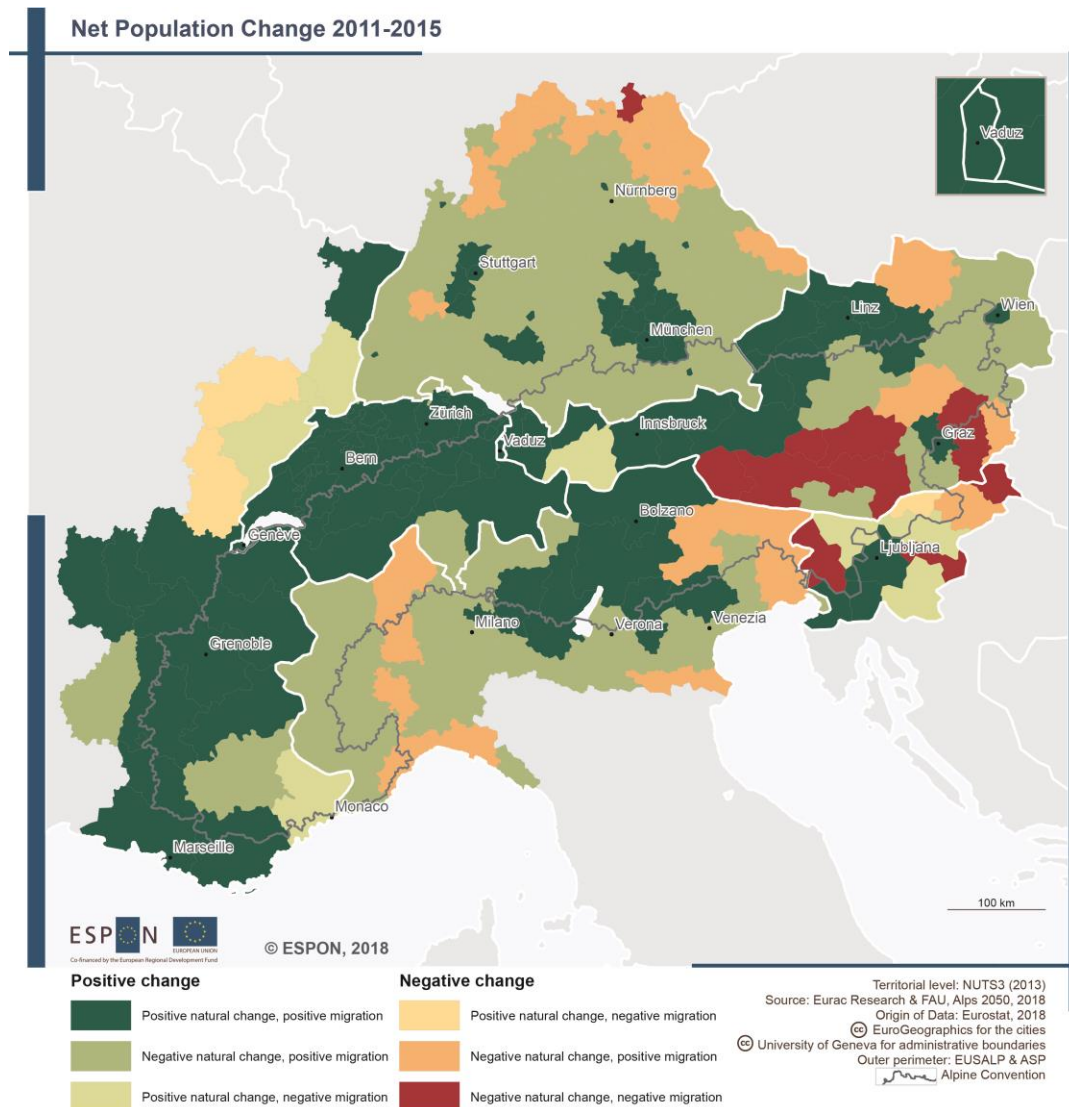
Demographic development: net migration

- Overall positive migration balance
- North-South divide
- The role of metropolitan spaces is more dominant



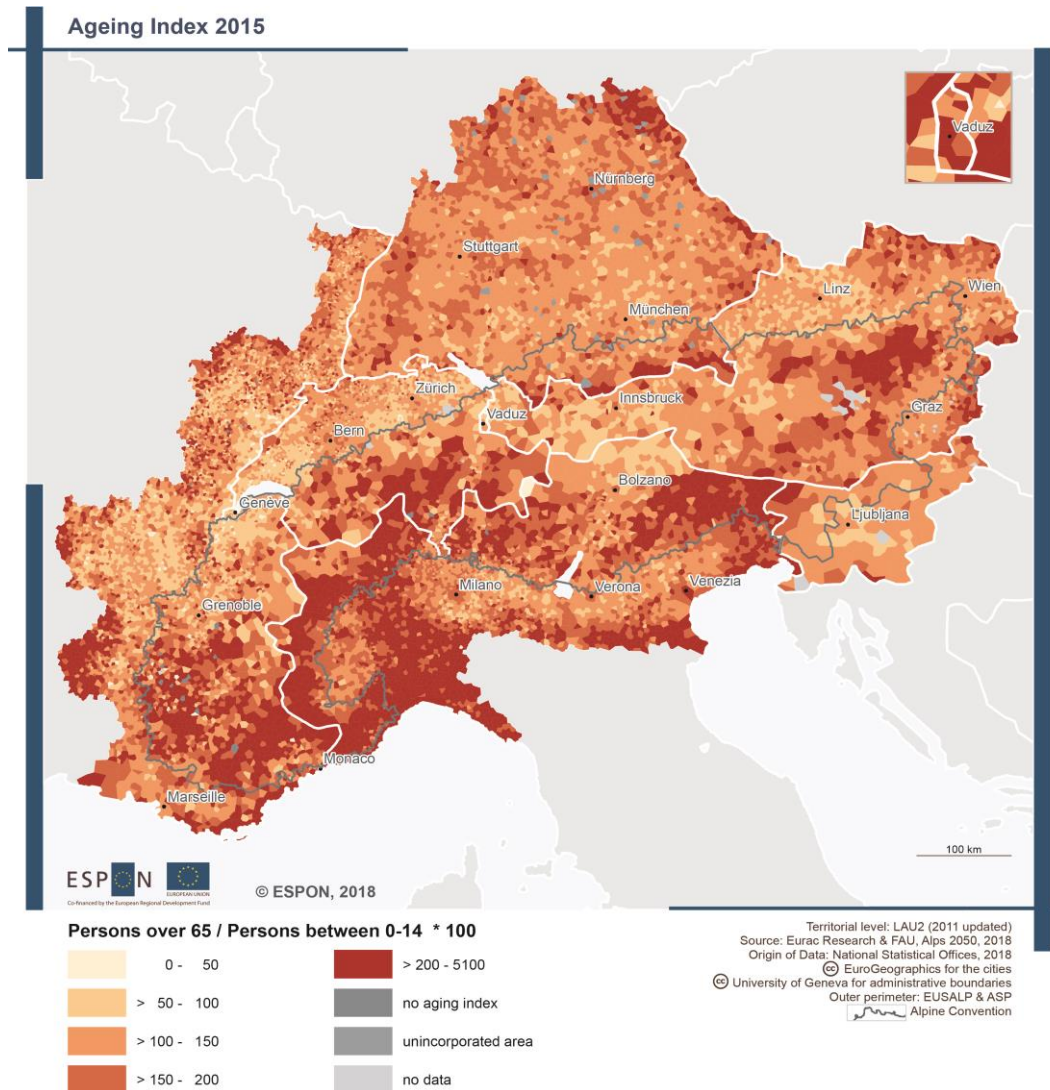
Demographic development: net population change

- Large diversity
- Positive developments in migration and natural development in most metropolitan areas, along the Brenner corridor and in Switzerland



Demographic development: ageing

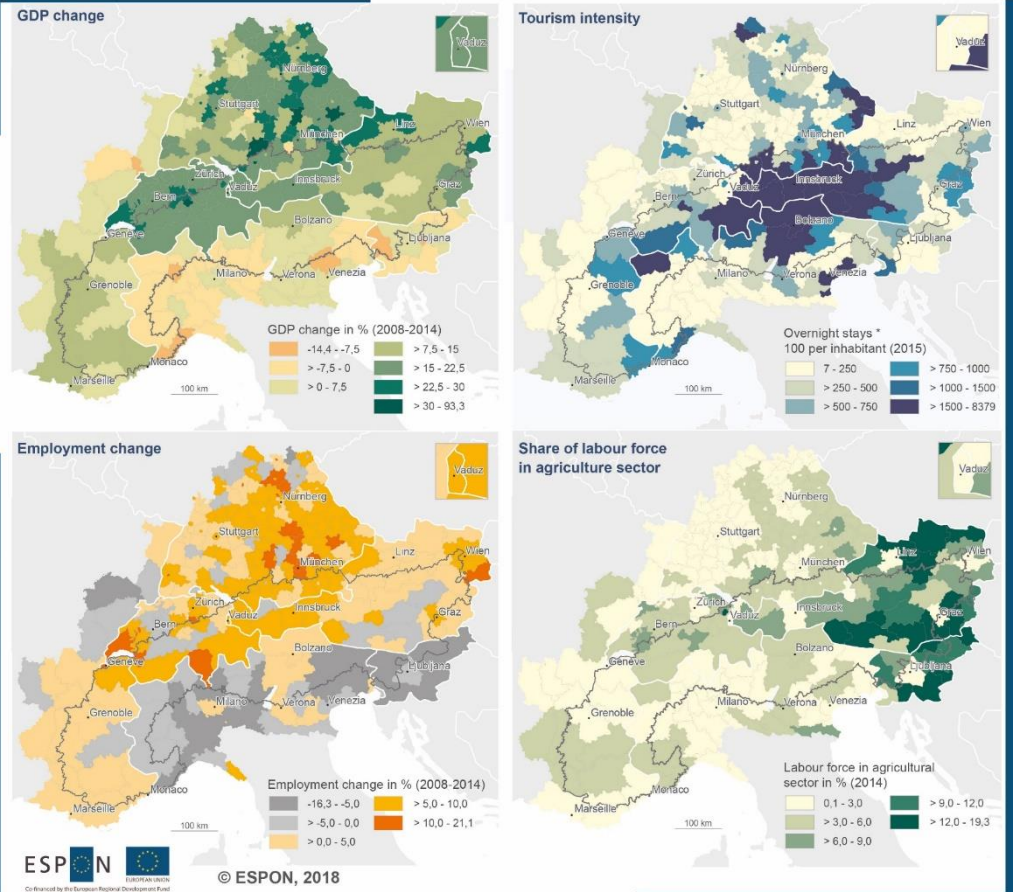
- Overall ageing pressure high
- Areas with strong immigration trends (urbanized regions and corridors) tend to be “younger”
- Highest ageing index in mountainous parts of all countries and large parts of Italian lowlands



Economic Patterns

- The territorial analyses display very diverse patterns and sectoral complexity
- On the left hand side, two maps with spatial patterns of a **North-South divide**: the trends in employment and in GDP (economic strength)
- The map on tourism intensity based on overnight stays (upper right hand side) shows a **‘central-peripheral pattern’** showing the relative importance of the tourism economy in the inner Alpine areas
- **East-West gradient** for the share of labour in the agricultural sector

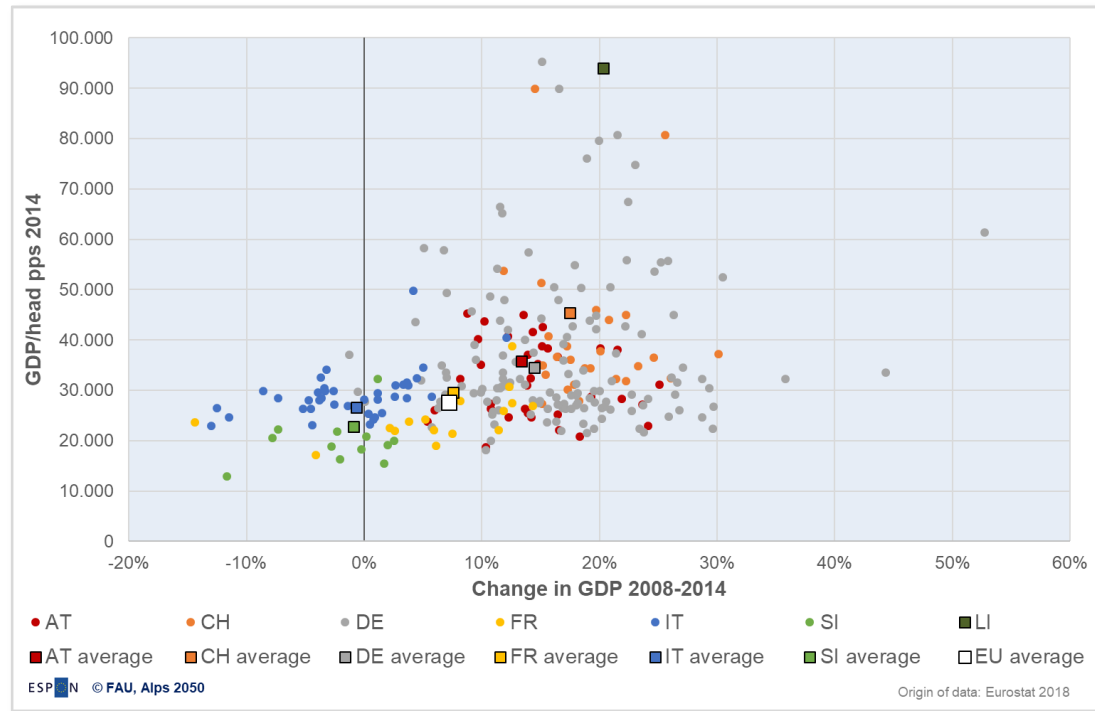
Spatial patterns and trends in different economic sectors



Territorial level: NUTS 3 (2013)
Source: FAU & Eurac Research, Alps 2050, 2018
Origin of Data: Eurostat & National Statistical Offices, 2018
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Economic development

- High relevance of **national differences** in GDP level and development: NUTS3 regions of each country make up a kind of a 'cloud' that can immediately be differentiated from other countries.
- Belonging to a specific nation-state determines the economic level and path to a high extent.
- The data do not reveal a urban-rural antagonism: Metropolitan regions tend to perform with more positive values, but there are very successful rural regions, too.

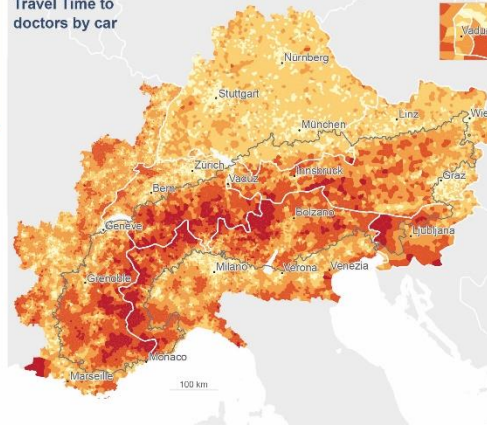


Services of general interest

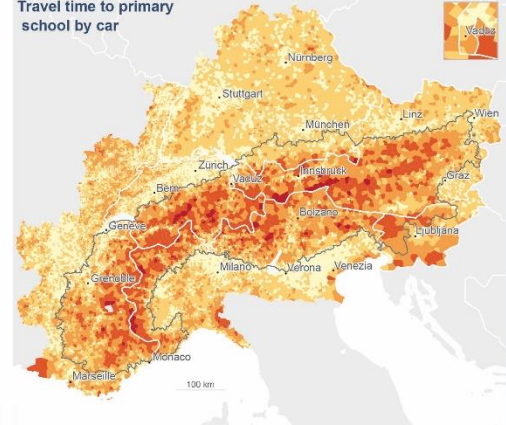
- The accessibility to different services of general interest – doctors, primary schools and train stations – shows similar spatial patterns
- There are lower values of accessibility for *inner-Alpine* than for the more urbanized and *pre-Alpine* areas – due to population density, transport infrastructure and investment schemes

Services of general interest

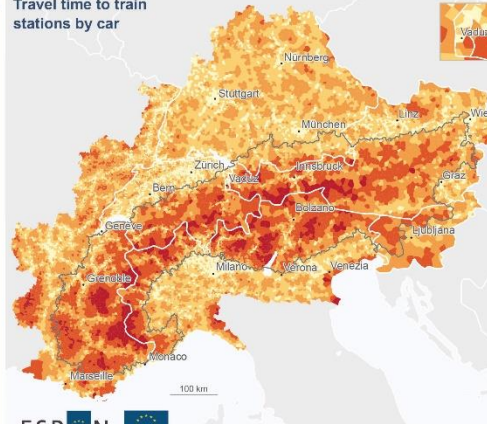
Travel Time to doctors by car



Travel time to primary school by car



Travel time to train stations by car



Alpine Morphology



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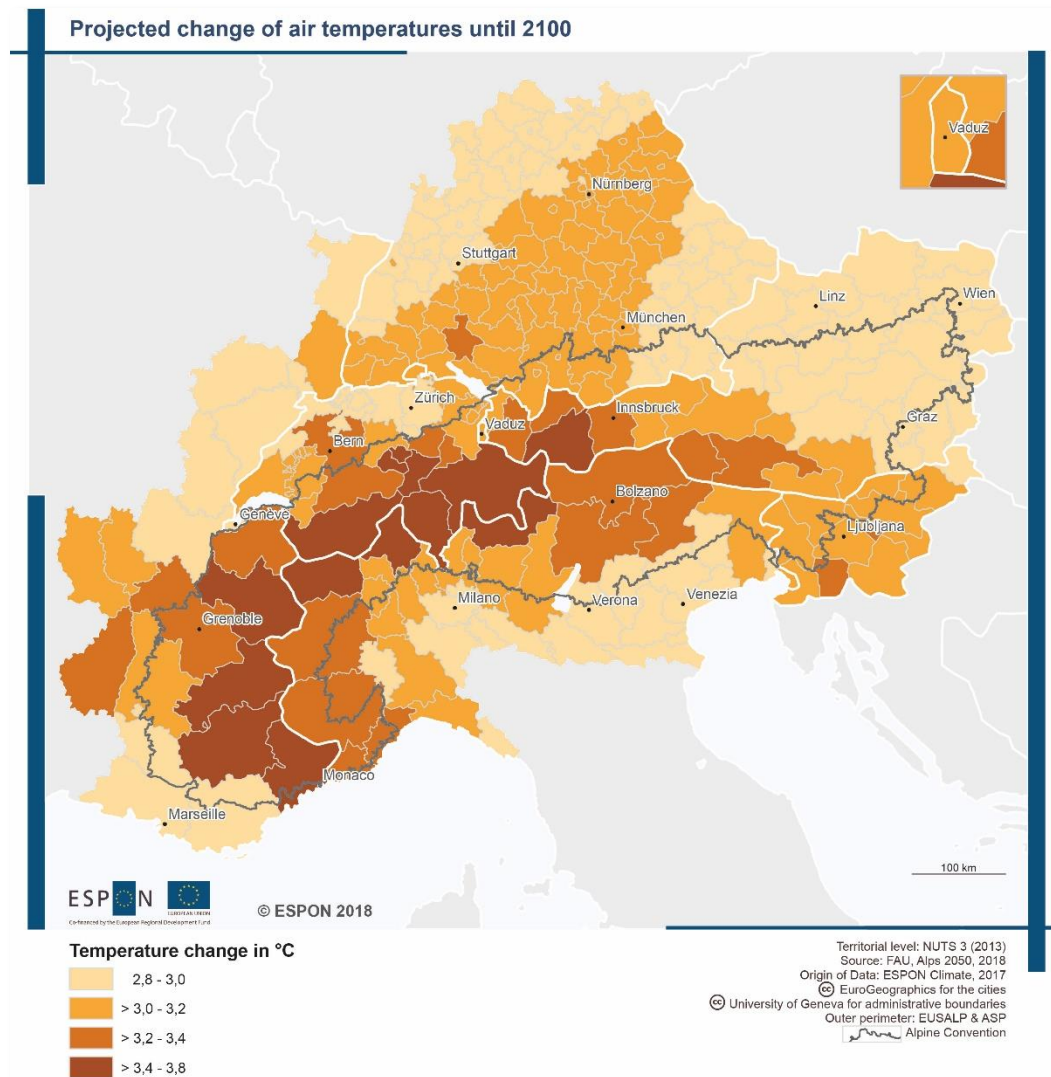
Travel Time by car in minutes



Territorial level: LAU2 (2011)
Source: RRG & FAU, Alps 2050, 2018
Origin of Data: ESPON Profecy, 2017; Swiss National Park, 2018
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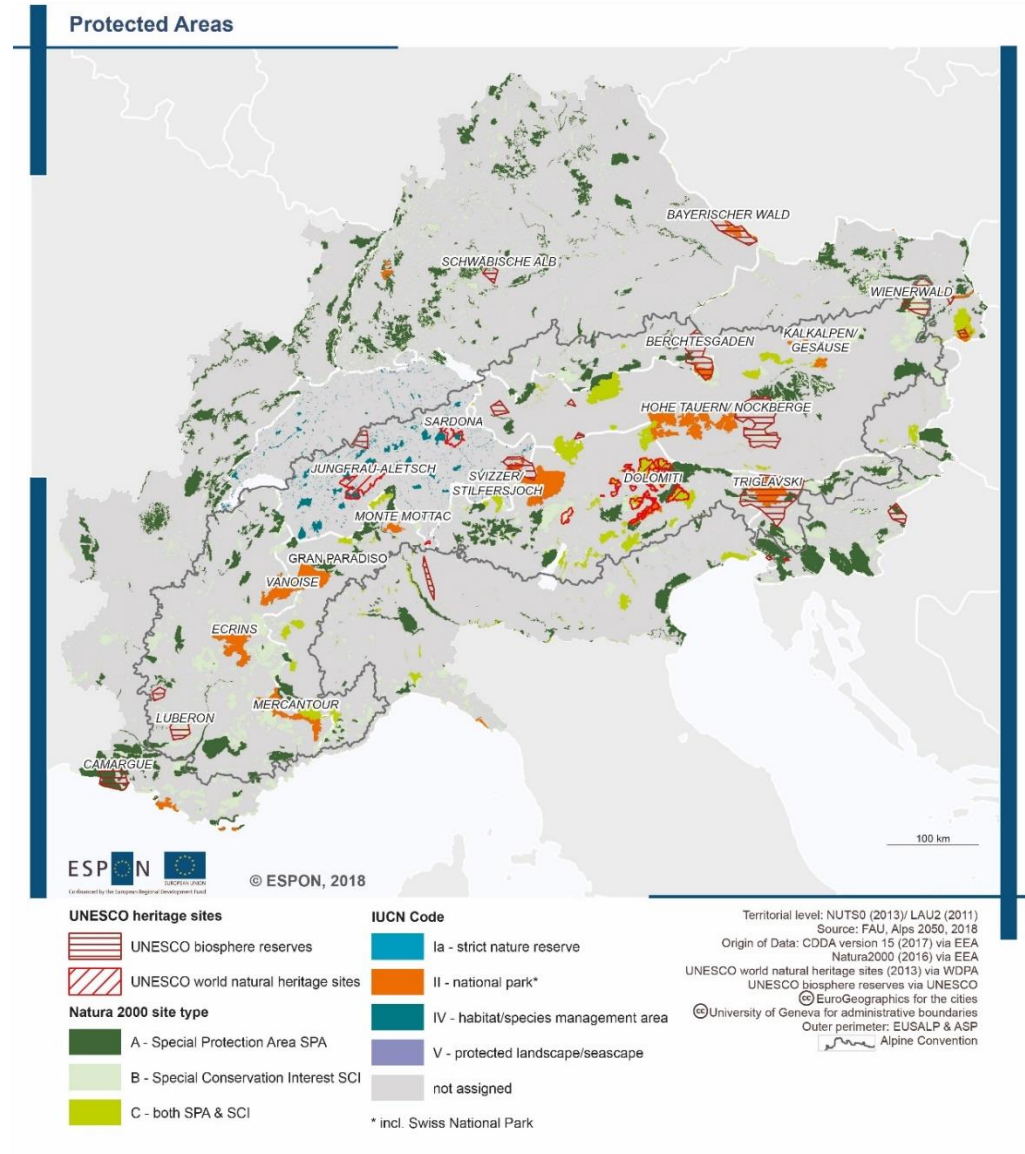
Climate change: projection until 2100

- The projected changes of the (air) temperature
 - higher increases in the inner-Alpine areas than in the area of the spaces beyond the mountain topography
 - In particular, the Southern side of the Alpine mountain range is characterized by the highest changes in annual mean temperature, in particular in the Western part.
 - Climate change adaption comprises measures concerning disaster risk management, touristic adaption strategies, new energy concepts etc.



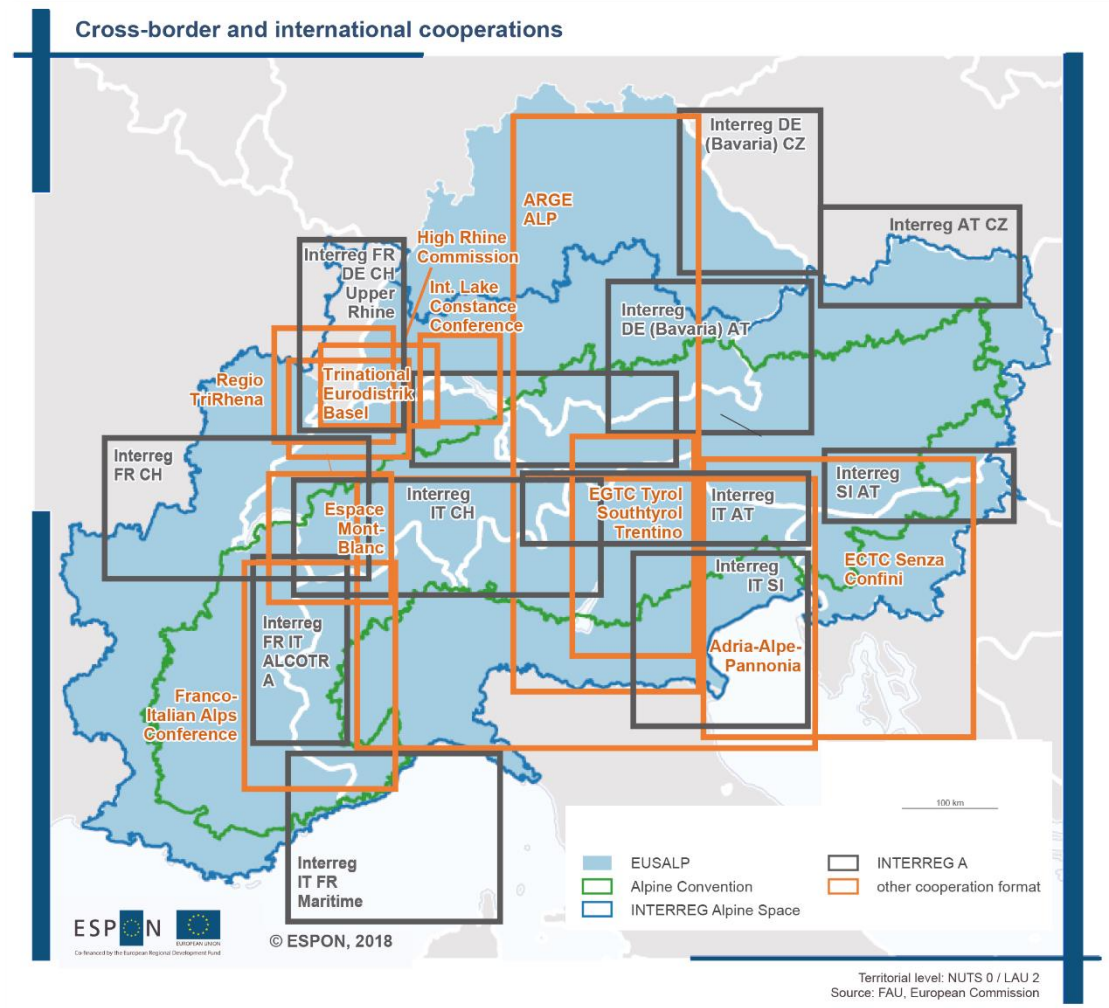
Protected areas

- Overview of the main existing protected areas
- Clear differences between national protection regimes
- Few cross-border formats
- Ecological connectivity major concern: enduring sufficiently large functional ecological systems by – ideally – connecting in a way that flora and fauna can inter-exchange and develop eco-system services



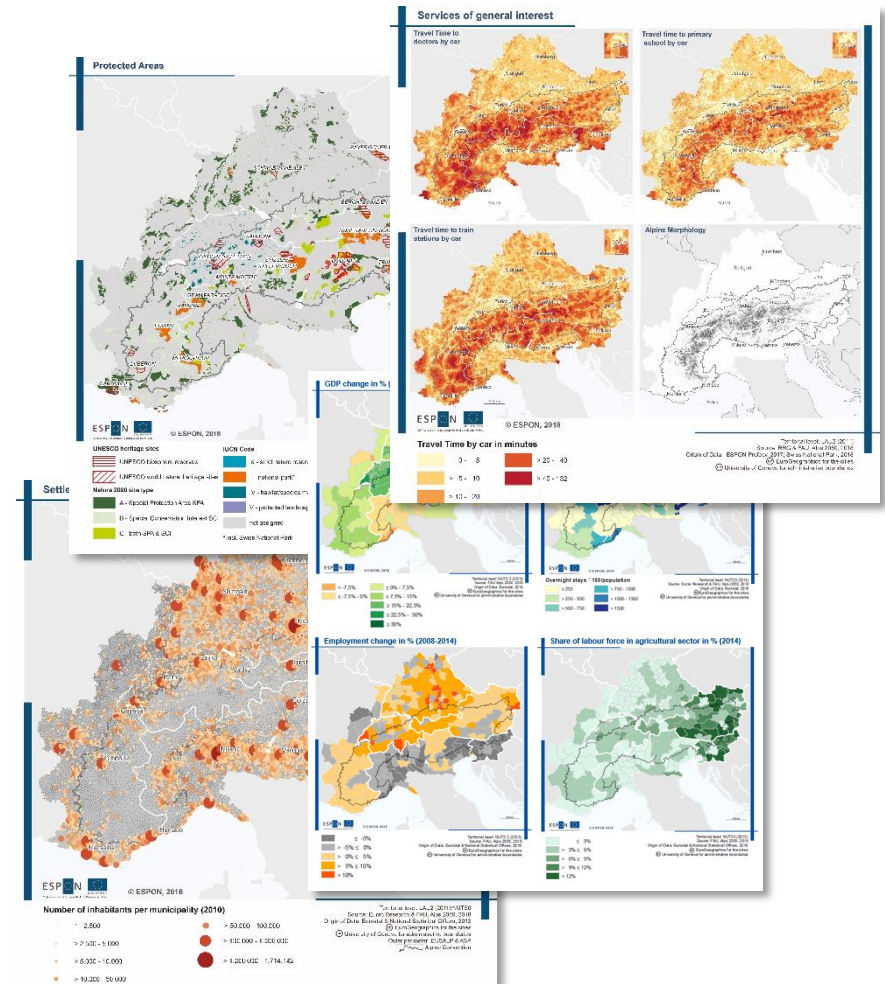
Governance

- **Institutional diversity** in the Alpine region, including EU and domestic instruments as well as cross-border programmes for many issues of regional policy and spatial development
- **Long-standing experience** in territorial cooperation, going back at least to the 1970s
- Importance of **instrumental ‘softness’**



Territorial analyses – summary

- Many positive trends (above average socio-economic performance in most of its parts, impressive diversity and density of territorial cooperation etc.)
- Considerable challenges of spatial development – in particular
 - Lacking coherence, linkages and strategic orientation between its different types of territories
 - Considerable challenges of sustainable development



III. Perspectives, scenarios and a vision

Alps 2050

Scenarios and Perspectives

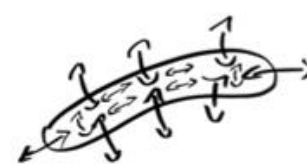
Scenarios

Status quo

Protected Alps

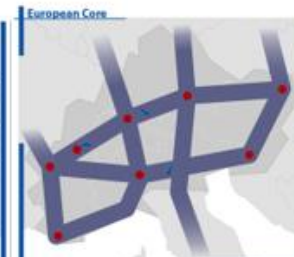
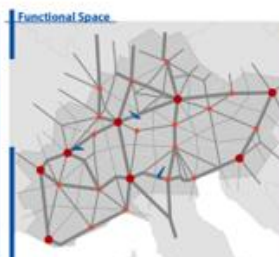
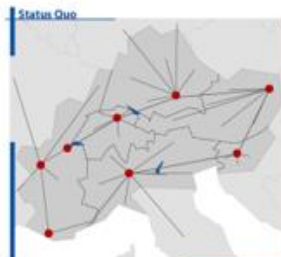
Functional space

European Core

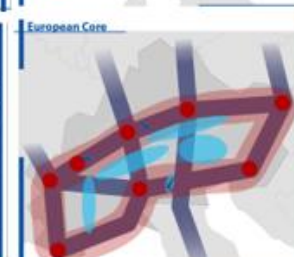
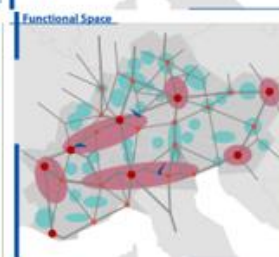
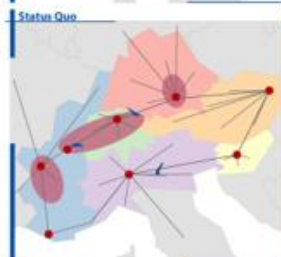


Perspectives

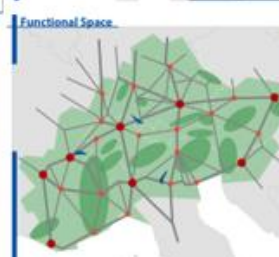
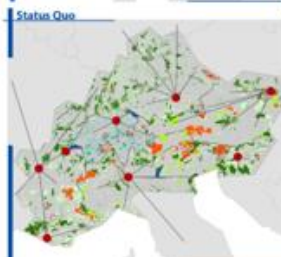
People and territories



Economy



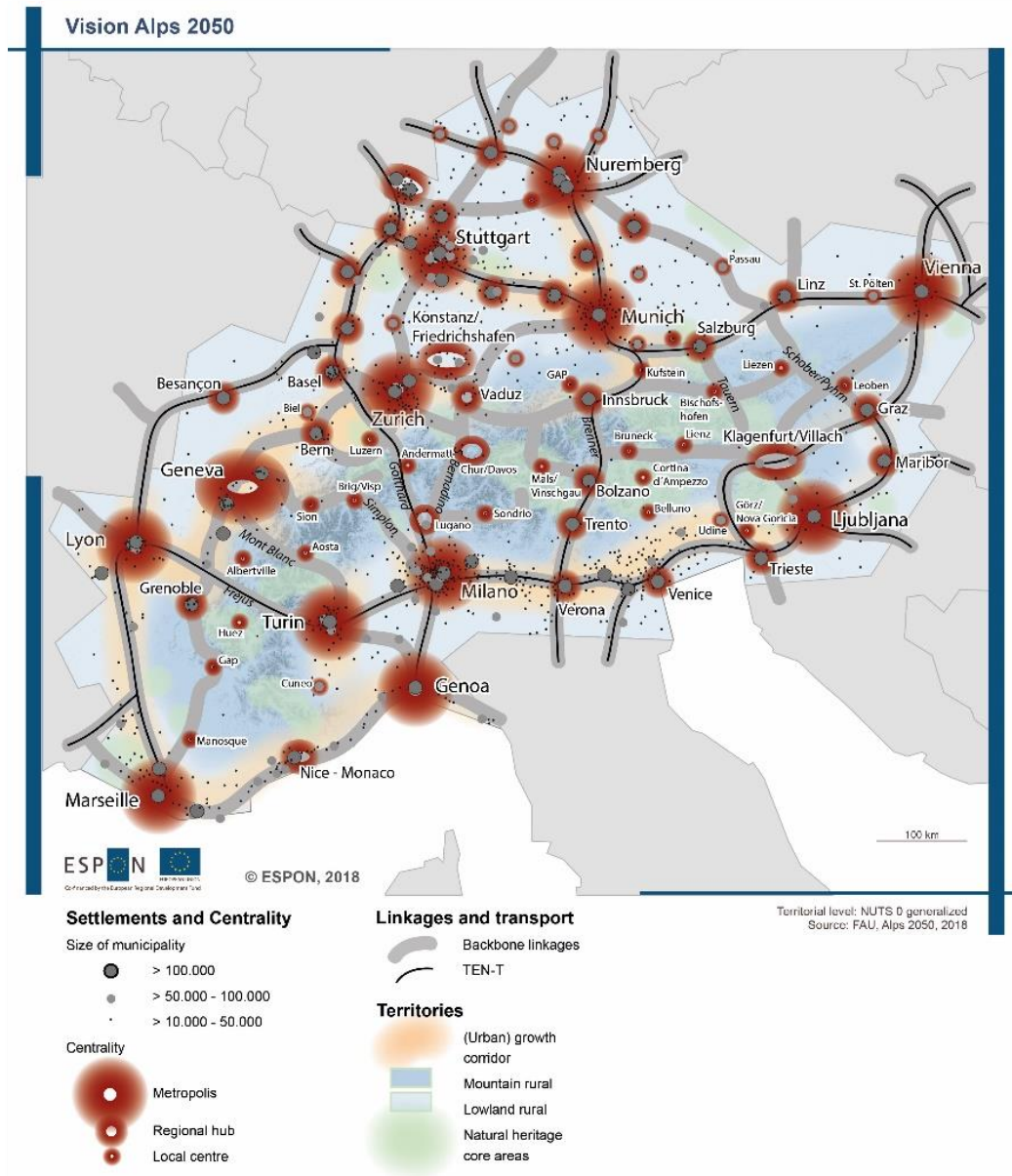
Environment



Towards a common vision

The vision:

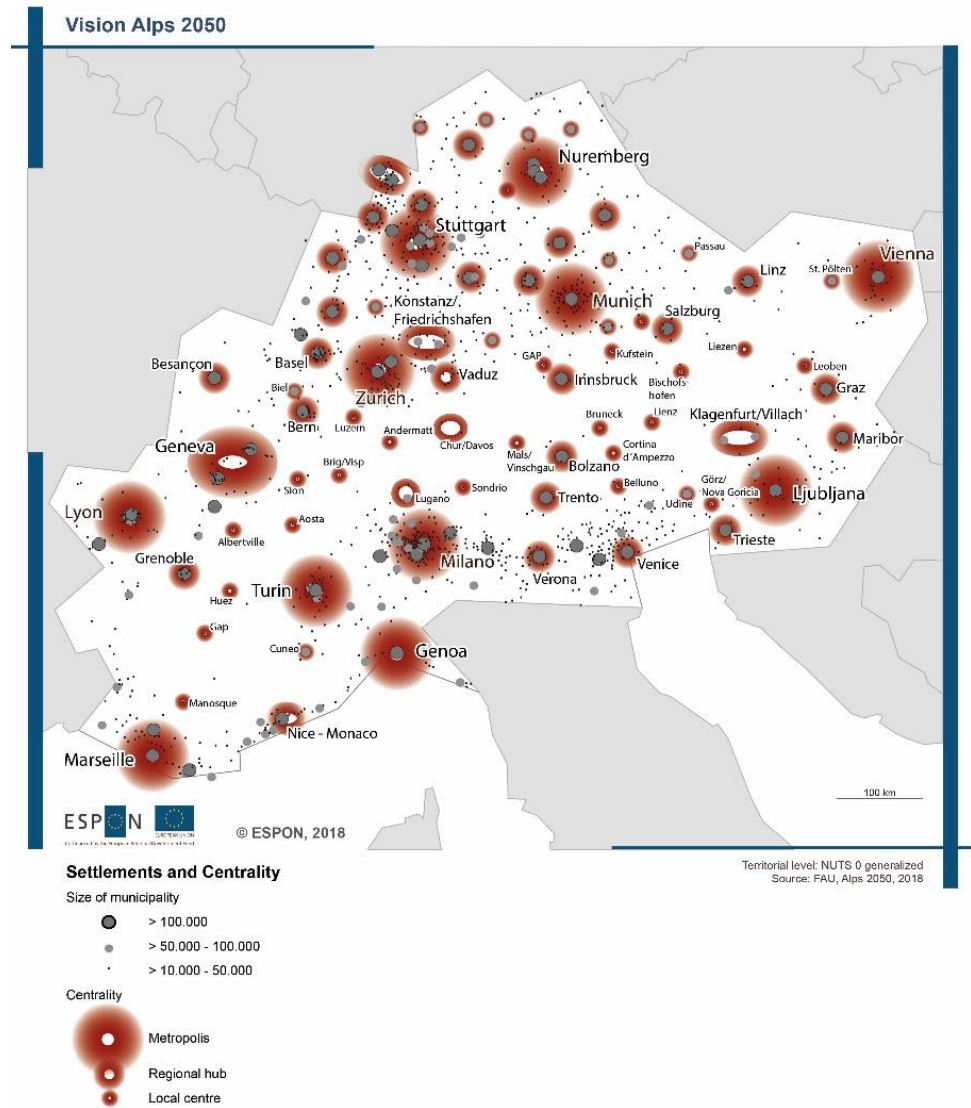
- A draft document as basis for further political concretisation
- Aiming at a common space on the transnational scale, comprising both mountainous and lowland parts that are based on a joint inter-related spatial organisation
- Aiming at balanced spatial development based on sustainability, safeguarding a good quality of life and an efficient management approach of governance
- Based on three layers – settlement system, linkages and territories



Towards a common vision

Settlement system

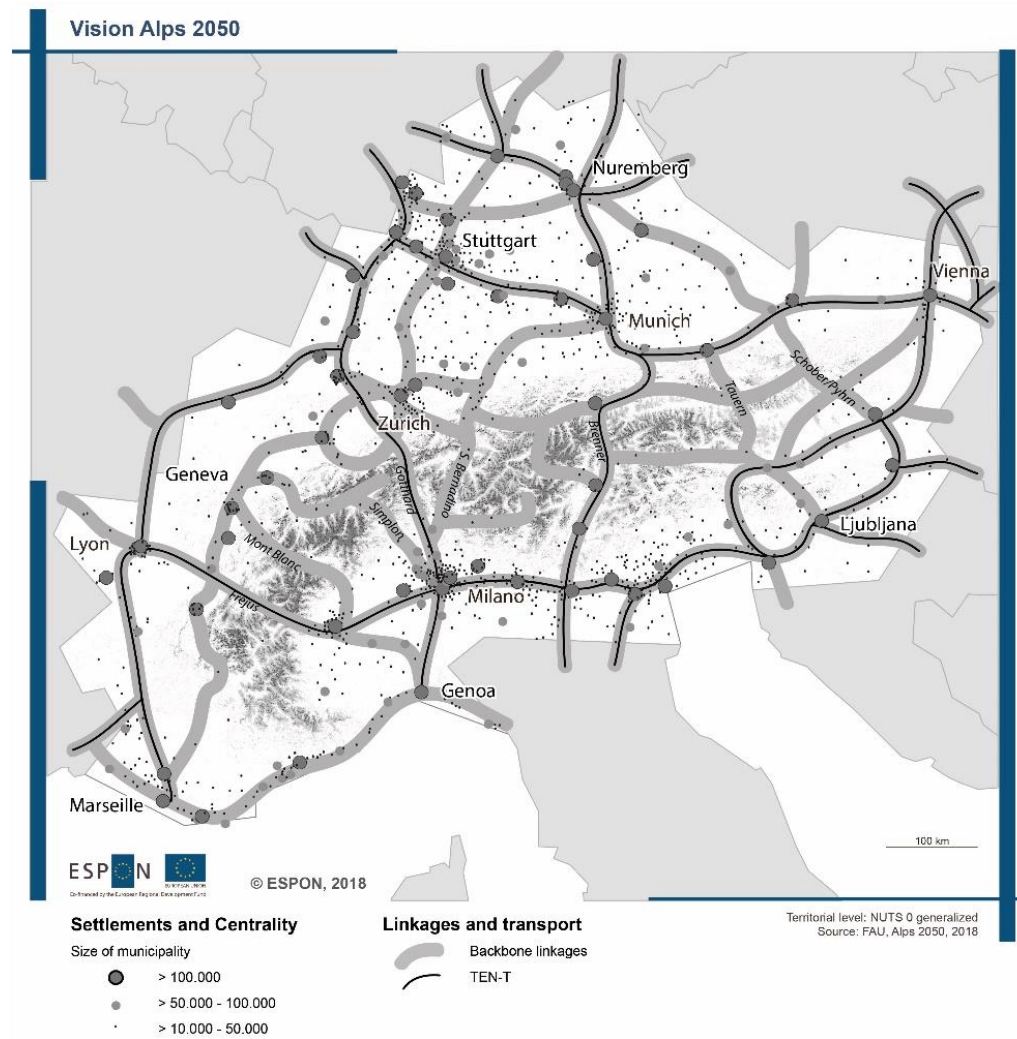
- Developing a settlement system on the transnational scale, based on
 - **Metropolises:** hosting economic headquarter and innovation functions and large scale political decision-making, gateways for incoming professionals
 - **Regional hubs:** hosting important functions in economy and policy for the larger region, safeguarding a critical mass of high ranking R&D infrastructure, a complete offer of services of public interest and the potential for development without affecting rural spaces nearby ('decentral centrality'),
 - **Local centres** with a high importance for rural spaces, in particular with regard to services of public interest and for economic incentives.



Towards a common vision

Linkages

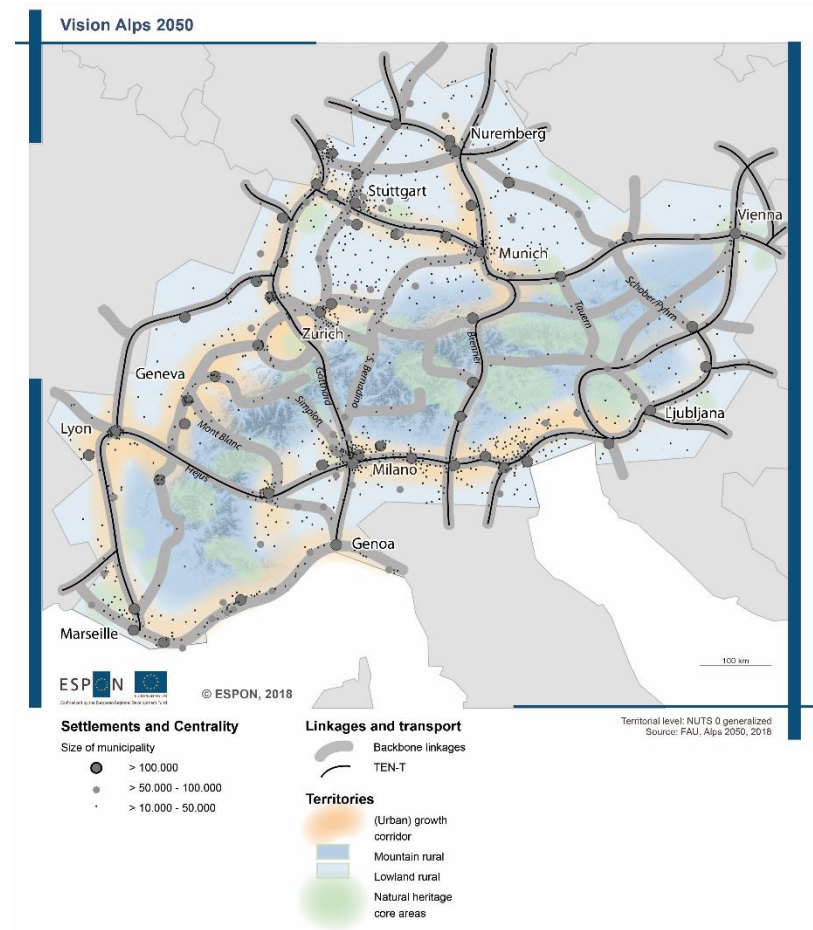
- Developing flows and functions across borders in a sustainable way
- Backbone linkages:** The (inter-) regional axes further strengthen the existing transport and settlement systems, taking into account of the morphological structure - ensuring efficient spatial structures
- TEN-T:** Many of the backbone linkages host the TEN-T infrastructure. It is important to implement the investment measures that were decided on the European and transnational level.



Towards a common vision

Territories

- defining relations between urban and rural as well as between inner-Alpine and pre-Alpine spaces and across boundaries:
- (Urban) growth corridors:** Concentrating growth dynamics in order to avoid settlement sprawl and to achieve an efficient spatial organisation
- Mountain rural:** ensuring public services, supporting rural innovation systems, comprising technological, agricultural and touristic dynamics
- Lowland rural:** Developing endogenous potentials and developing fruitful linkages to the metropolises and other centres
- Natural heritage core areas:** Protecting, developing and connecting natural heritage, taking into account touristic potentials wherever reasonable (in the map based on existing UNESCO sites and national parks).



Policy options: spatial development

Settlement system

- Work towards a possible political definition of a common typology of settlement functions on the transnational level as proposed in our map.
- An action plan on the removal of cross-border barriers would improve the organisation of public services across boundaries.

Transport

- **Sectoral level:** completing the TEN-T system including connecting routes, enhancing multi-modality, a transnational toll policy might be an important element in this respect, supporting internal accessibility (passenger transport) has to be developed in a sustainable way.
- **Integrated spatial development:** Transport policy has to be closely interwoven with general spatial planning processes. There has to be a clear differentiation of transit flows of high quantities and accessibility on the regional and local level have to be closely linked to the settlement system

Territories

- Supporting innovation with R&D infrastructure, networking facilities on a transnational level in order to develop endogenous potentials has to be organised in a cross-border way where possible.
- **Cross-border protection regimes:** The hitherto established protection areas are predominately selected and restricted to national boundaries. Strengthening the cross-border dimension seems very promising, considering the primary challenge for ecological connectivity.

Policy options: shrinking rural areas

EU Shrink Smart indicates there are three potential policy responses:

- “Do nothing”
- “Reverse the trend and stimulate growth”
- “Accept and adapt to decline”

Planning for shrinkage:

- Shrinkage as an opportunity
- Effective government-led policy interventions
- Place-based approaches

Mobilising endogenous resources

From an economic point of view, it is important to

- Diversify the local economy by using comparative territorial advantages
- Increase resilience and adaptive capacity by downsizing infrastructure and rightsizing the local economy
- Improve environmental sustainability
- Ensure access to basic services and infrastructure

Promoting social innovation and ICT

- ICT for public services and new employment opportunities
- Social innovation to develop a new intergenerational pact

Examples:

- “Silver economy”
- “White economy”

Fostering ecosystem services and the green economy

- Use the “natural green advantage”
- Promote low-carbon economy
 - Circular economy
 - Promoting local produce supported by technology and ICT
 - Smart diversification in agri-food, energy, biomass, tourism and cultural activities

Key policy messages

European level

- Improve **pan-European comparative** research for shrinking rural regions
- Improve **access to Cohesion Policy funding** to address challenges in depopulating rural regions through place-based multi-fund approaches
- Roll-out the **‘Smart Villages’ concept** included in the Cork 2.0 Declaration

National and sub-national level

- Promote enhanced multi-scale **integrated strategic spatial planning**
- Improve **scenario planning and demographic checks** in policy processes
- Take a **long-term perspective** with committed leadership and far-seeing governance processes
- Strengthen **institutional capacity** at the local scale
- Improve **communication, participation and local partnerships**
- Develop **alternative economies** and promote **smart diversification**

Thank you!

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