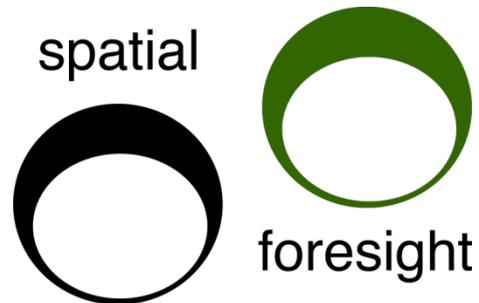


# Functional regions and integrated cross-border cooperation as means of trust building

in the light of the Territorial Agenda 2030

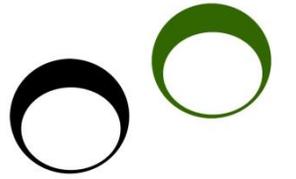
Kai Böhme



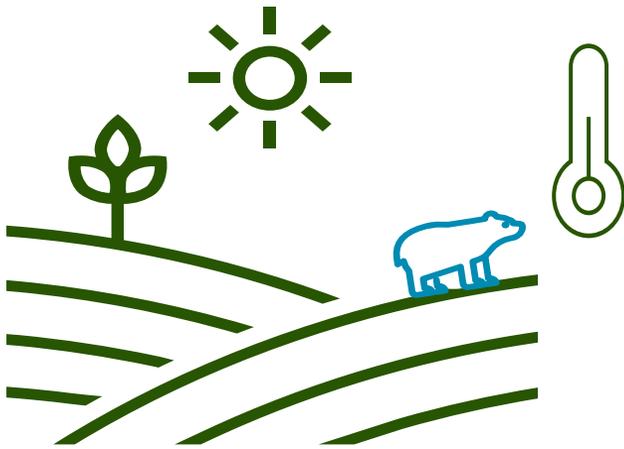
territorial policy support and [research](#)

# Today's challenges

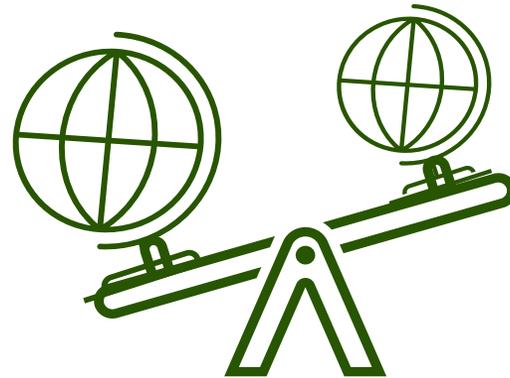
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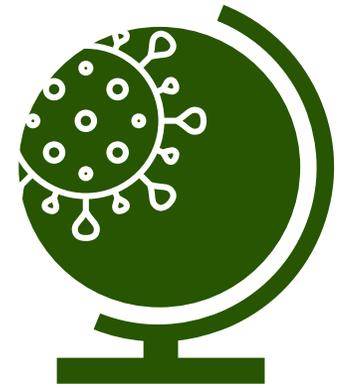
What territories, what Europe do we want to have?



Climate change and sustainable development



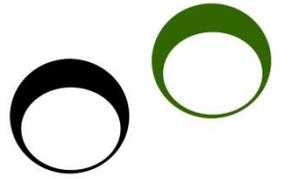
People and places drift apart



COVID-19 impacts on local and regional development

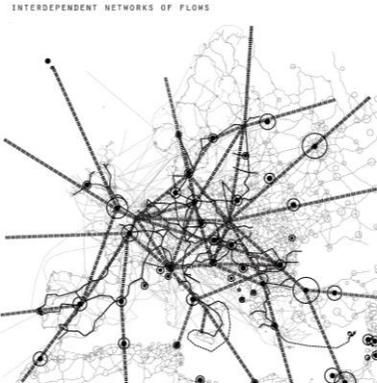
# Key challenges in territorial terms

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## Fragmentation and disintegration

- The economic geography is changing – accompanied by an increasing fragmentation
- Fragmentation has a social, cultural and political dimension
- Fragmentation has a territorial dimension (e.g. “places that do not matter”)



## Spatial interdependencies...

- Social and economic developments in one place have major impacts on other places
- Increasing negative and positive spill-overs and externalities
- Links and flows induce “new territorialities”



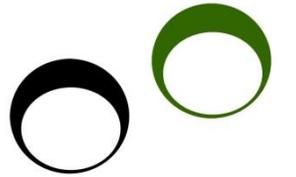
## ... mismatch of functionalities

- Policy decisions and actions reach beyond administrative borders
- Misalignment between geographies for policy making and the geographies affected

# #TerritorialAgenda

## A future for all places

[www.territorialagenda.eu](http://www.territorialagenda.eu)



### A Just Europe



that offers future perspectives for all places and people

#### **Balanced Europe**

Better balanced territorial development utilising Europe's diversity

#### **Functional Regions**

Convergent local and regional development, less inequality between places

#### **Integration Beyond Borders**

Easier living and working across national borders

### A Green Europe



that protects common livelihoods and shapes societal transition

#### **Healthy Environment**

Better ecological livelihoods, climate-neutral and resilient towns, cities and regions

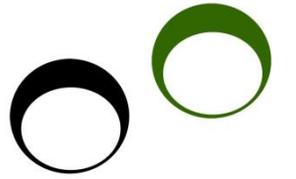
#### **Circular Economy**

Strong and sustainable local economies in a globalised world

#### **Sustainable Connections**

Sustainable digital and physical connectivity of places

# Functional Regions



Convergent local and regional development, less inequality between places

Cooperation  
needs trust



Territorial guiding  
principles / vision

Diverse bottom-up territorial vision for  
Functional areas EU & neighbourhood

Functional macro-regions

Functional cross-border regions

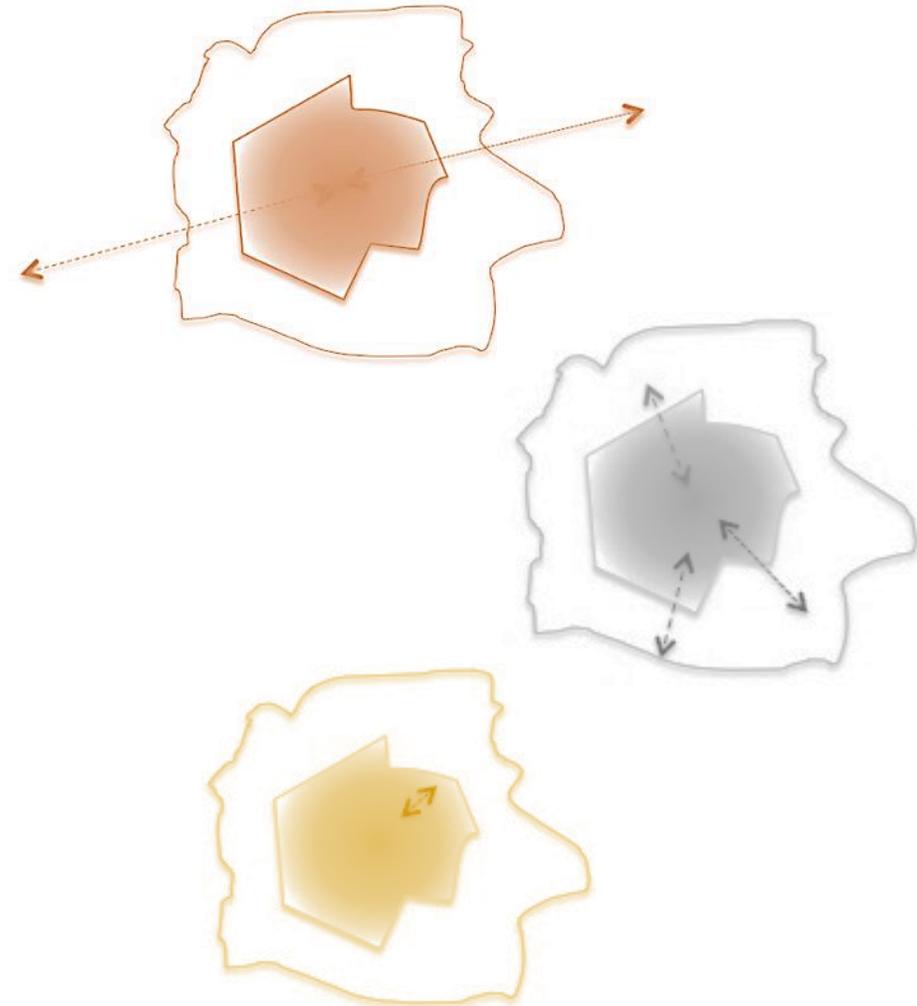
Functional regions

Functional urban areas

...

**Stimulate and empower to develop bottom-up visions**

- Integrated multi-level governance approaches
- Cooperation on long-term place-based strategies





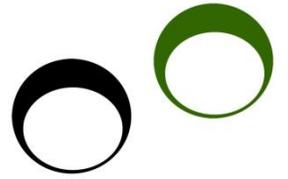
# It can deliver

Level of main Impact



Western Balkan Network on Territorial Governance | TG-WeB |

# Thank you !



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WESTERN BALKAN NETWORK  
ON TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE

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A future for all places