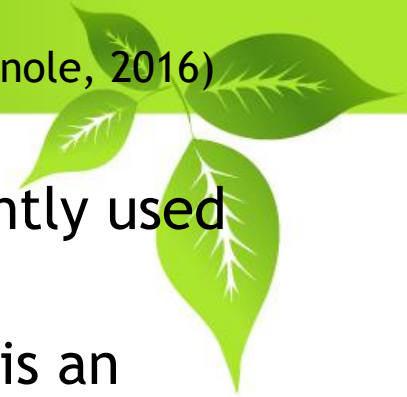




The Role of Polycentricity in Romanian Regional Development

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Definition of Polycentricity (Tache-Manole, 2016)



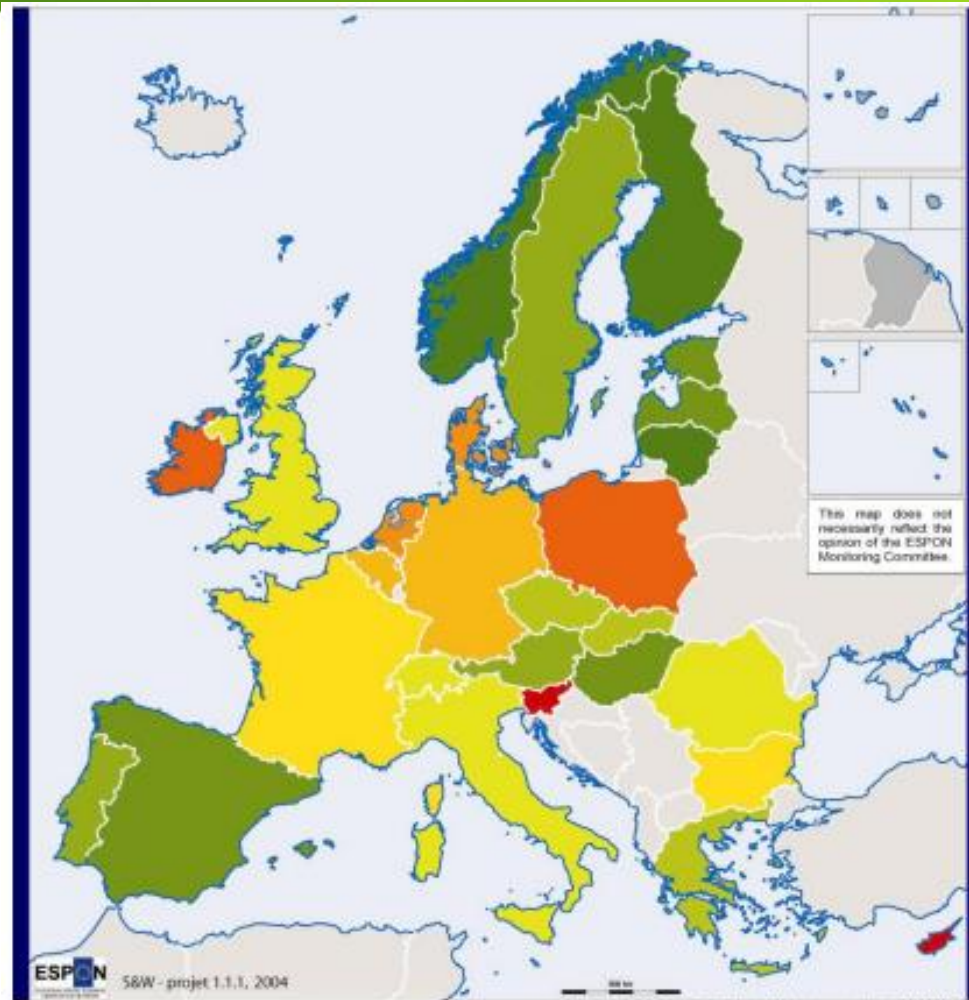
- Polycentric urban system: one of the most frequently used politic objectives of the spatial policy of the EU
- Multi-dimensional and multi-scalar nature - there is an ambiguity in how the concept is defined
- There is not any universally accepted method of measuring polycentrism
- ESPON 1.1.1. DEFINITION: Polycentricity has two complementary aspects:
 - The first relates to *morphology*, the distribution of urban areas in a given territory (number of cities, hierarchy, distribution).
 - The second concerns the *relations* between urban areas, the networks of flows and cooperation.

Policentricity on the EU level (ESPON 1.1.1., 2004, 2005)

- The program shows the operational methods of measuring the polycentrism of the urban system in Europe
- As analysis units in each countries, there were established the functional urban areas (FUAs): analysis dimensions are SIZE, LOCATION and CONNECTIVITY
- Based on indicators for each of these three dimensions, a comprehensive index of polycentricity was constructed
- Polycentricity index was confronted with indicators for economic competitiveness, social equity and sustainable development
- Is presented also the functional specialization, as an important dimension of polycentricity, in the case of analysed countries
- Romania: 59 FUAs, size index 78,3; location index 80,9; connectivity 46,6; polycentricity index: 66,3



Polycentricity index (ESPON 1.1.1., 2004, 2005)



Degree of polycentricity



- Parts of the ESPON study area not taken into account
- Other areas

Date: National statistical offices
Analysis and mapping: Klaus Speckermann (S&W), Michael Wegener (S&W)

Polycentricity index of counties in Romania (Tache-Tache, 2016:7)



The Polycentric development implies a triple approach in Romania:



- **Institutional**, by creating legal entities which must have the administrative capacity to support this process. This is accomplished by the possibility of creating intercommunity development associations as metropolitan areas or conurbations according to Law 215/2001 on local public administration.
- **Territorial**, by defining a spatial development concept of the conurbations and metropolitan areas, this is insufficiently regulated by Law 351/2001 on national planning.
- **Financial**, by creating funding mechanisms that will use the national budget and the metropolitan areas and conurbations budget, established in the growth poles and the urban development poles. This is insufficiently regulated by Law 273/2006 on local public finances

Methodology



- After the closure of the 2007-2013 programme cycle's eligibility period at the end of 2015, the year 2016 is the year of analysis on different levels linked to the efficiency of different funding programmes.
- The analysis is focused on ROP 2007-2013 priority axis 1 - urban development, MID 1.1.
- Applied methodology: secondary data analysis, analysis of documents
- Data sources: official programme documents, applicant's guide, projects, reports, official programme analysis

Urban development: ROP 2007-2013, priority axis 1, MID 1.1.



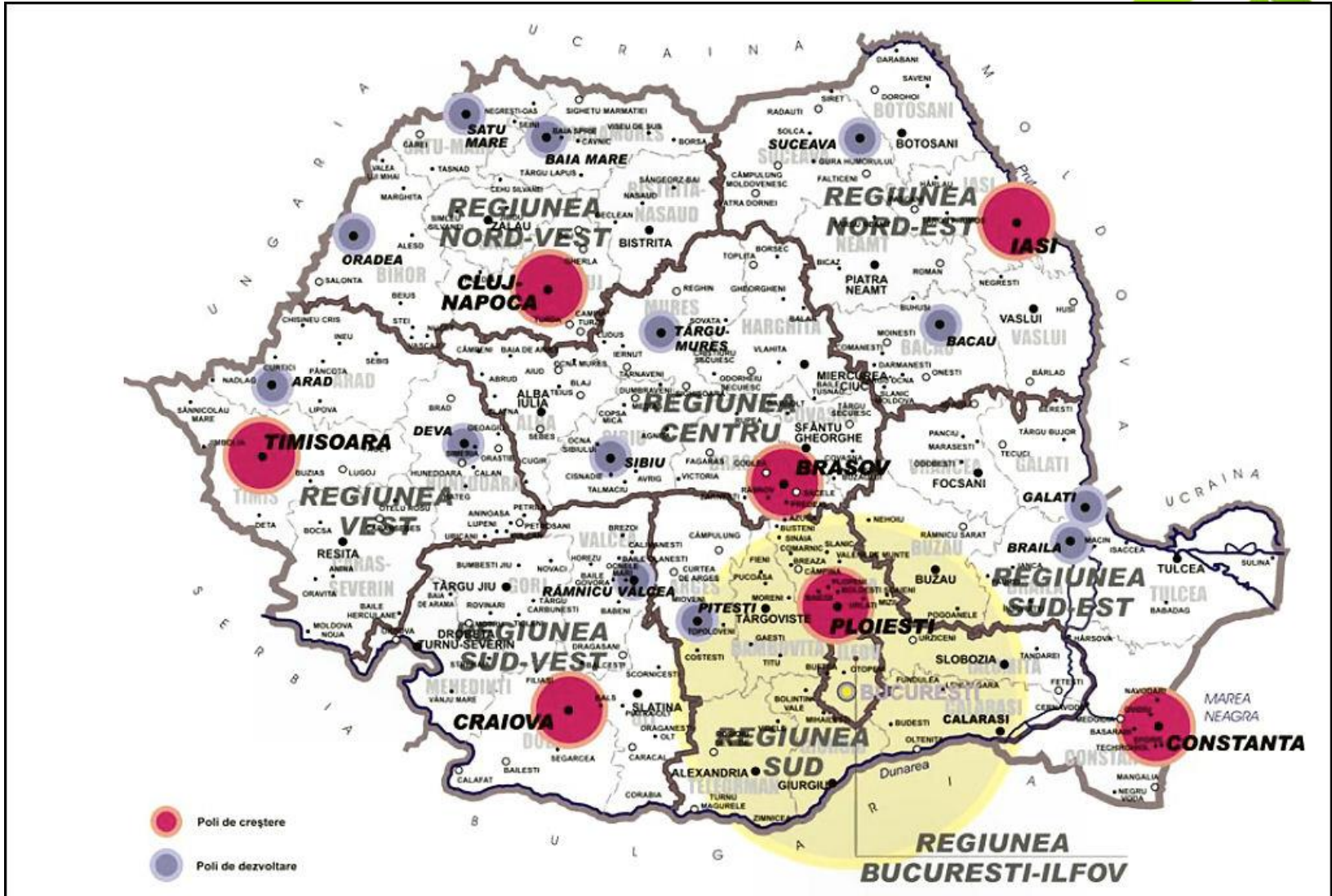
998/2008 GD

- 7 growth poles: Braşov, Cluj-Napoca, Constanţa, Craiova, Iaşi, Ploieşti and Timişoara (50% direct allocation)
- Cities over 10,000 population (50% non-direct allocation - open project calls)
- 1,4 billion EUR

1149/2008 GD

- 7 growth poles (50% dedicated allocation)
- 13 urban development poles: Arad, Baia Mare, Bacău, Brăila, Galaţi, Deva, Oradea, Piteşti, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Satu Mare, Sibiu, Suceava, Târgu Mureş (20% dedicated allocation)
- Urban centers: Cities over 10,000 population (30% non-dedicated allocation)

7 growth poles and 13 urban development poles in Romania (source SDTR Romania, 2014)



ROP 2007-2013, priority axes 1, MID 1.1 - growth poles (www.inforegio.ro)



151 PROJECTS	ERDF	499.7 MIL EUR
	STATE BUDGET	109.7 MIL EUR
	OWN CONTRIBUTION	72,3 MIL EUR
	INELIGIBLE COSTS	139 MIL EUR
	TOTAL	821,8 MIL EUR
NV REGION CLUJ-NAPOCA 22 PROJECTS	ERDF	68,7 MIL EUR
	STATE BUDGET	15,1 MIL EUR
	OWN CONTRIBUTION	25,7 MIL EUR
	INELIGIBLE COSTS	23,9 MIL EUR
	TOTAL	133,6 MIL EUR

ROP 2007-2013, priority axes 1, MID 1.1 - urban development poles (www.inforegio.ro)



113 PROJECTS	ERDF	238.6 MIL EUR
	STATE BUDGET	52.1 MIL EUR
	OWN CONTRIBUTION	13.7 MIL EUR
	INELIGIBLE COSTS	61.2 MIL EUR
	TOTAL	365.7 MIL EUR
NV REGION 21 PROJECTS (Satu Mare, Oradea, Baia Mare)	ERDF	40.3 MIL EUR
	STATE BUDGET	8.5 MIL EUR
	OWN CONTRIBUTION	3.2 MIL EUR
	INELIGIBLE COSTS	13.9 MIL EUR
	TOTAL	66.2 MIL EUR
ORADEA 6 PROJECTS	ERDF	68,7 MIL EUR
	STATE BUDGET	15,1 MIL EUR
	OWN CONTRIBUTION	25,7 MIL EUR
	INELIGIBLE COSTS	23,9 MIL EUR
	TOTAL	133,6 MIL EUR

ROP 2007-2013, priority axes 1, MID 1.1 - urban centers (www.inforegio.ro)



267 PROJECTS	ERDF	510.9 MIL EUR
	STATE BUDGET	112,1 MIL EUR
	OWN CONTRIBUTION	16.6 MIL EUR
	INELIGIBLE COSTS	181.5 MIL EUR
	TOTAL	821,1MIL EUR
NV region 31 projects		
BH- 3 projects	ERDF	2.1 MIL EUR
	STATE BUDGET	459,662.22 EUR
	OWN CONTRIBUTION	52.086,44 EUR
	INELIGIBLE COSTS	649,862 EUR
	TOTAL	3.2 MIL EUR

Evaluation of ROP 2007-2013, priority axis 1, MID 1.1.



- Positive impact in terms of increased quality of life and creating jobs, reducing unemployment, attractiveness of cities, human capital etc.
- Interventions are characterized by a similar “defensive“ approach by including in IUDP, predominantly infrastructure projects
- Impact on administrative challenges for cities in Romania - positive contribution to promoting a polycentric approach
- Positive contribution to the launch and promotion of an integrated approach
- Accessibility of the measure allowed the beneficiaries to plan and carry out highly complex projects, particularly in urban infrastructure
- Urban development policies implemented by urban development intervention represent significant and positive results

Evaluation of ROP 2007-2013, priority axis 1, MID 1.1.



- In the next programming period will be essential in order to define the contribution of strategic focus on strengthening the following aspects:
 - The integrated approach; urban development plans should include not just a joining of projects. It will be necessary to promote local development strategies shared between stakeholders, taking into account a common definition of needs. It will be important to improve economic dimension of IUDP, as was in the case for the GP, where the ratio of infrastructure projects, social and economic was more balanced compared to the situation of UDP and UC
 - Polycentric approach, diversification policy making, based on socio-economic needs of the various urban areas and to define the roles for different types of cities
 - Link to sustainable development: increasing importance of projects that promote energy efficiency, sustainable public transport etc.

What comes in 2014-2020?



- Partnership Agreement Romania: *“The basic principle behind the growth poles policy is sound and Romania will continue this approach in the 2014-2020 programming period.”*
- (The concept of polycentricity: appears 2 times in the text of the Partnership Agreement)
- ROP 2014-2020: 11 priority axes, 8.25 billion EUR (6.7 billion EUR ERDF, 1.5 billion EUR state budget) (ROP 2007-2013: 3.54 billion EUR)
- ROP 2014-2020: promoting polycentric development and support territorial specialization
- ROP 2014-2020: “They will be helped further growth poles...and the other county capitals that have significant growth potential and impact at sub-regional level”
- ROP 2014-2020: Cities will have to design integrated strategies for sustainable urban development (including economic, social, environmental, climatic and demographic dimensions)

What comes in ROP 2014-2020?



PA 1	Promoting technology transfer
PA 2	Improving the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises
PA 3	Supporting the transition to a low carbon economy
PA 4	<i>Support sustainable urban development</i>
PA 5	<i>Improving the urban environment and conservation, protection and sustainable use of cultural heritage</i>
PA 6	Improving road infrastructure of regional importance
PA 7	Diversification of local economies through sustainable tourism development
PA 8	Health and social infrastructure development
PA 9	<i>Supporting economic and social regeneration of deprived urban communities</i>
PA 10	Improving educational infrastructure
PA 11	Geographical expansion of the system of property registration in cadastre and land register

Conclusions



- ROP: The concept behind 2007-2013 is not reflected in the 2014-2020 programme documents (the 3 types of poles)
- Promoting polycentric urban development reflects in programme documents on declarative level
- The intervention levels (priority axes) are promoting urban development with “hidden polycentricity”
- The present analysis offers a screening about the phenomenon, from the perspectives of the projects
- It is necessary a wide macro-analysis focused on project and program indicators applied in a polycentricity measuring methodology



Thank you for your attention!

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