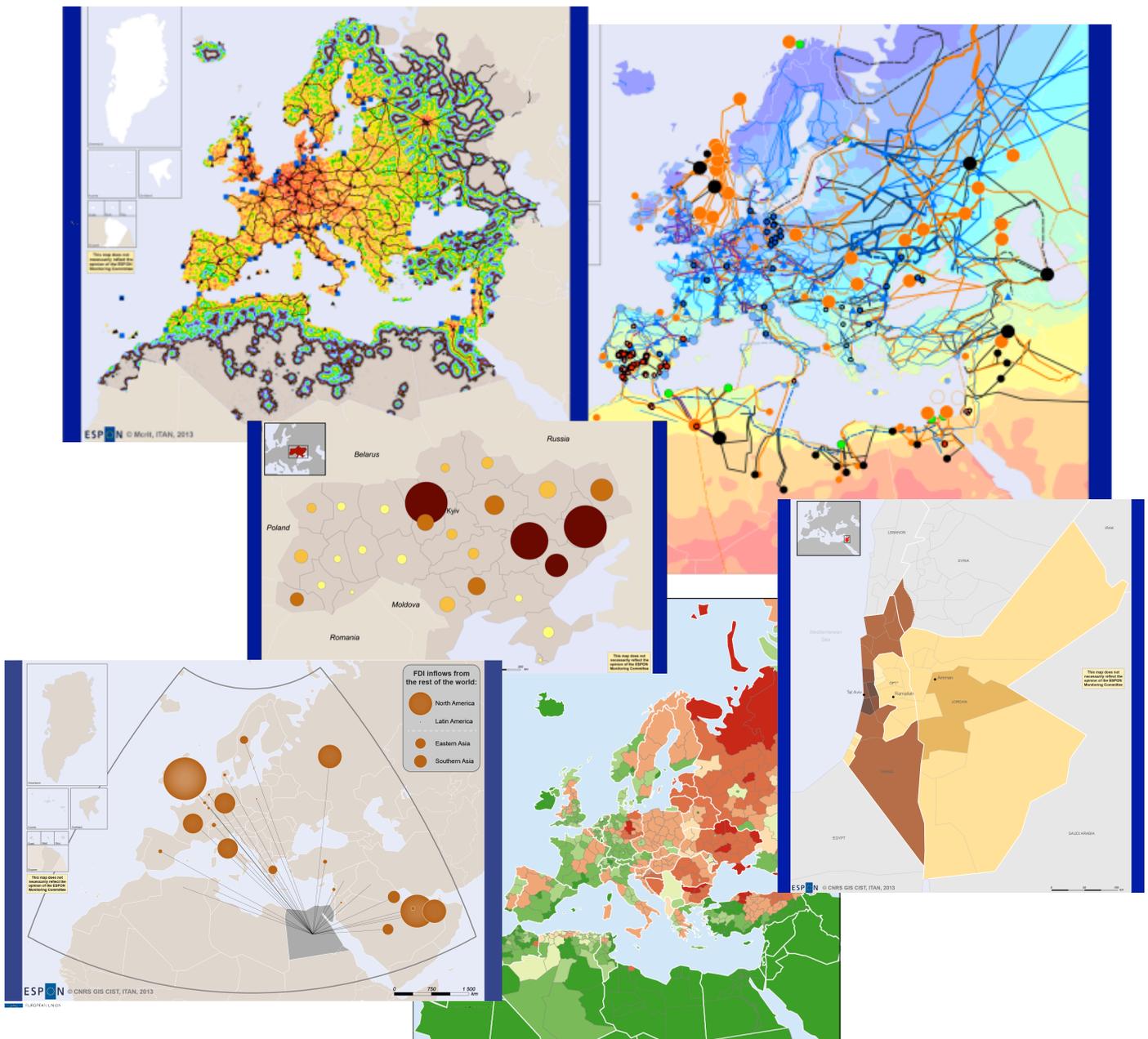


Brussels and Barcelona dissemination events, November 2014
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ESPON « ITAN » project (Integrated Territorial Analysis of the Neighbourhoods")
http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/itan.html

Dissemination event, 12th November 2014, Committee of the Regions, Brussels
"What territorial cooperation between Europe and its Neighbourhoods?"

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Introduction of the event

Michel LEBRUN, President of the Committee of the Regions (CoR), stresses on territorial cooperation in the Neighbourhoods. Indeed, the territorial approach of the Neighbourhood issue is of utmost importance. In this respect, the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC, launched by the EU in 2006) and Macro-regional strategies are excellent tools. The CoR relies on CORLEAP (Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership) and the ARLEM (Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly) to exchange experiences, promote the extension of the Cohesion policy to the Neighbourhoods, and develop the territorial approach within the European Neighbourhood Policy. This is why the CoR is happy to host this ITAN dissemination event.

Ann-Gritt NEUSE, representative of the ESPON Coordination Unit, stresses on the importance of cross-border cooperation with Neighbour countries. The policy context is favourable – see the Cohesion policy and Territorial Agenda, which both speak of Neighbour territories. Due to the growing integration of regions and cities in the world market, demographic, environmental as well as energy concerns and the relevance of infrastructure links enhancing connectivity and accessibility of places, a wider territorial perspective is inevitable. This is why the ITAN project, its findings and territorial evidence are of such high relevance, highlighting potentials and challenges and identifying comparative advantages.

The Scientific coordinator of the ITAN project, Pierre BECKOUCHE (CIST), says why the Neighbourhoods have become such a key issue. This is due to the regionalisation of globalisation, with the strengthening of several large region associating developed and developing countries. In the European case, an integrated vision of the region encompassing the EU and its Neighbour territories is lacking. Hence the goals of ITAN: setting-up a sustainable local database compliant with European databases, and providing policy orientations toward a deeper regional integration.

Western Balkans: ITAN recommendations for a better territorial integration

Emmanuelle BOULINEAU (CNRS/EVS) shows how relevant the ITAN database is, when it comes to accurate demographic data – which international or national official databases do not always provide, because of the complex backlash of Yugoslavian wars. She also points out the fragmentation of these countries: internal integration of Western Balkans is a prerequisite to any successful integration to the EU; the latter should help at it, in particular thanks territorial projects.

Gerard SCHUMANN-HITZLER, Director at DG Enlarg, confirms the Western Balkans internal integration issue, both technical (infrastructure) and commercial (Central Europe Free Trade Agreement). If Yugoslavia had not fallen apart, it would probably be an EU member today. The actual territorial issues there have much to do with structural reform, decrease of the – very high: almost a half – informal economy, standards and norms closer to EU's. Macro-regional strategies (Adriatic, Danube) are an excellent way for that. The need for comparable local data is strong if one wants to design, implement and monitor such territorial projects on the long term. The new thinking in DG Enlarg is to take a longer time to let the applicant countries adopt the *acquis communautaire*, rather than accelerating premature membership. When it comes to Western Balkans, positive steps are the Energy community between these countries and EU, improvement of the CEFTA, on-the-ground cross-border cooperation successes, actual structural reforms, and the active role of the EDRB.

What does ITAN tell us about the Ukrainian territorial stakes?

Pierre BECKOUCHE shows the major findings of the ITAN team. Clearly the Eastern part of Ukraine contributed highly to the modern national-building era but (i) remains the major source of export (namely toward Russia) of the country, (ii) gathers the most important taxpayers despite declining

wages, (iii) sends its youth to capital region and suffers from depopulation. The Ukrainian / Russian conflict create there a jaws effect.

Irnerio SEMINATORE, President of the European Institute for International Relations (IERI), focuses on the manifold Ukrainian crisis: crisis of the Ukrainian politicians and of their EU and Russian counterparts collectively unable to set up a win-win partnership; international crisis both political and military, which EU hardly tackles. The crisis weakens the political and moral position of the EU.

Debate

Serguey SAIENKO, Counsellor at the Mission of Ukraine to the EU, considers ITAN a very valuable platform for actual and further territorial analyses and projects. He declares ready to help for further elaboration on the Ukrainian case. Some of the issues raised by the ITAN project such as fiscal decentralisation are under discussion along with the CoR.

Gilles LEPESANT (CNRS/CERI) is also available for cooperation in the Ukrainian analysis, in particular when it comes to data on the “belonging feeling” in the Ukrainian regions and on the so called “Ukrainian nationalists”, which are questionable.

Jean-François DREVET, former member of the DG Regio, confirms: in the Neighbourhood we rather have a “circle of fire” than a “circle of friends”. The European Neighbourhood Policy is stalling. Further enlargement are postponed, many Neighbour borders are uncontrolled. The very purpose of the ENP – transferring the *acquis communautaire* without membership – is at stake: a less ambitious objective should perhaps be elaborated, yet the territorial side of the *acquis* should remain as a good platform of cooperation with neighbour countries.

Sinisa TRKULJA, from the Serbia Republic Agency for Spatial Planning, asserts that ITAN is of major interest. Many things about Western Balkans remain unknown in the EU. Territorial analysis and cooperation bring useful knowledge and confidence. In particular, local database are of utmost importance for further collaboration. He warmly supports the idea of a “Neighbourhoods Territorial Agenda”, enhanced by ITAN.

Other ITAN findings and feedback from the participants

Pierre BECKOUCHE presents ITAN main achievements: (i) the first step of a sustainable local database compliant with EU databases; (ii) a comprehensive view of the wider region, namely thanks to maps of energy networks, transports networks and accessibility at the scale of the whole region; (iii) an assessment of the regional integration between Europe & Neighbour territories, namely thanks to innovative composite indicators (local international openness, local Human Development Index, etc.); (iv) recommendations for territorial cooperation. He also emphasises what remains to be done in order to complete the ITAN local data collection, and the need for a partnership gathering Eurostat, national statistics bodies and researchers so as to promote local data harmonisation for the wider region.

Patrice BERGAMINI, Head of the division Regional Policies for Southern Mediterranean at the European External Action Service, agrees on the importance of cooperation for local data. The Union for the Mediterranean might support that kind of initiative. In the political field of the Neighbourhoods, he emphasises three points: (i) the coming years will be difficult for Neighbourhood policies, due to political turmoil and economic difficulties; solution are thinkable but hardly feasible. (ii) The ENP will be reformulated next year, with more pragmatism and visibility, and a lesser focus on the *acquis communautaire*. We have to acknowledge that aid amounts from the Gulf States are very high, compared to that of the EU. (iii) Good news is that the UfM is boosted: its Secretariat general has been reorganised, many inter-governmental meetings have been held during the last year, several projects with a territorial component have been supported by the UfM – which proves that ITAN is on the good track.

François MASSOULIÉ, Head of Euro-Med and Middle-East at the Directorate Regions of the European Parliament, agrees and explains that in Mediterranean uncertainty, what is at stake is to identify the structural trends, challenges and opportunities: a necessary improved mobility, sectoral opportunities for business, a need for a better civil protection – linked to a renewed migration policy because the rise of illegal people crossing the Mediterranean, since the collapse of the Libyan regime, is not acceptable.

Gilles LEPESANT thinks that the ENP will be clearer if it better differentiates Eastern and Southern Neighbourhoods. Furthermore, the Southern Neighbourhood should be analysed in its link vis-à-vis sub-Saharan Africa. BERGAMINI agrees but where to place Turkey, which plays a leading role for both Southern and Eastern Neighbourhoods? Another connection to take into account is that of the Gulf States vis-à-vis the Near-East. MASSOULIE also agrees on the necessary larger scope: Eritrea in a way belongs to the European Neighbourhood, in a large sense. Jean-François DREVET agrees on the necessity to reformulate the ENP so as to make it more efficient, and to increase its budget since it is very limited. BERGAMINI insists on the European values that this reformulation might take in higher account.

Conclusion

Lewis DIJKSTRA, Deputy Head of the Analysis Unit of DG REGIO, supports the idea of an international cooperation between European and Neighbour countries in the field of local data harmonization. Maybe the funding could come from EuropeAid. Trying to involve Eurostat would be a good idea but it will not go beyond official administrative data. Among issues that such cooperation should address, the urban issue is one of the most relevant, along with environment (water, air quality...) and transport networks. The suggestion of a “Neighbourhood Territorial Agenda” is relevant if it is not a simple discourse nor a top down blue print, but a genuine partnering process with neighbour countries.

ESPON « ITAN » project (Integrated Territorial Analysis of the Neighbourhoods)
http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/itan.html

Dissemination event, 27th November 2014, University of Barcelona
“Further steps for territorial analysis in the wider region Europe + Neighbourhoods”

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Executive summary

The ITAN project held in Barcelona its last dissemination event, on November 27th 2014, during the Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders organised by IEMed. The goals were:

- (i) gathering all the ITAN research team, including the project's country-experts, in order to consider further scientific cooperation,
- (ii) disseminating to stakeholders ITAN main results in particular on Euro-Mediterranean territorial cooperation,
- (iii) setting up a common platform dedicated to territorial prospective in the Neighbourhoods, gathering researchers, Euro-Mediterranean study centres and statistics national or international bodies, so as to promote international cooperation in the field of local data.

During the scientific meeting, results on Eastern and South-Eastern (Western Balkans) Neighbourhoods were presented. It showed the key added value of country-experts in any European research dedicated to Neighbourhoods. Local experts are indispensable for fine-tuning data that official and international databases provide sometimes with non-accurate values. They are also indispensable for data interpretation and territorial analysis. The major part of the morning dealt with the Mediterranean Neighbourhood. The session on local data showed the absolute need for better harmonisation *upstream*; otherwise harmonisation of heterogeneous data done *after* they are collected, proves incredibly difficult.

Mrs Joana Ortega, Vice-President of the Catalan Government and ARLEM Member, and Senen Florensa, Executive President of IEMed, introduced the afternoon dissemination session. They stressed on the utmost importance of territorial approach of the Neighbourhoods, and the need for local data to nurture such approach. They insisted on the opportunity to develop three macro-regions within the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation framework.

Three actors reacted to the presentation of the scientific results of ITAN and of another research project dedicated to Euro-Mediterranean territories (Pegaso): the Director of the UNESCO Chair on World's food system, the EBRD Managing Director for Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, and a Senior Advisor of UfM Secretariat General. They said that researchers and actors need a common Neighbourhoods "local knowledge base" (not only national); that Cohesion policy and Neighbourhood policy should be crossed; that decision-makers lack integrated databases and analyses for policy orientation. According to them, an open local data platform associating researchers and actors dedicated to territories could provide important support to decision-making, for a Euro-Mediterranean deeper integration.

During the last session and debate, Euro-Mediterranean study centres and national statistics institutions' representatives confirmed the need for a common Neighbourhoods Local Data Platform. However, the term of "platform" connotes too much to a technocratic action; rather than being directly dedicated to "data", such initiative should be more ambitious and tackle strategic needs of the region, namely a territorial prospective with various scenarios to be set-up with stakeholders and proposed to decision-makers. It should promote international cooperation in the field of local data within existing cooperation programmes and stay a light body rather than creating a new structure per se. A common call is to be further elaborate so as to disseminate the say of this ITAN event's participants, and of other groupings which would like to join our initiative.

During the final debate, several tracks were highlighted for setting up and funding such initiative on the long term (Medstat next forum, ENPI, UfM, H2020), otherwise our local database will not be updated nor useful, and will rapidly die. The driving principles of such initiative are (i) a gathering of researchers (majority) and statistics bodies, (ii) from both Europe and other countries of the wider region (the term "Neighbourhoods" should be avoided), (iii) a strong interaction with territories stakeholders.

1. Introduction and goals of the meeting

The scientific coordinator of the ITAN project, Pierre Beckouche, warmly thanks the welcoming speech of Andreu Olesti Rayo, head of the Public law institute of the University of Barcelona – Prof. Laura Sancho Huici let the University wonderfully host this ITAN event. He thanks all the ITAN team – both the consortium (CIST, EVS, Igeat, Mcrit, Nordregio) and the country-experts who have brought a strong added value to the project. He says how efficient the CIST team was to manage this three years process (Dioulde Diallo for administrative and financial tasks, Marion Gentilhomme for communication, Hugues Pecout for data management and cartography), with special thanks to the ITAN Project Manager Pierre Besnard who made all this work possible.

He congratulates the ITAN team for the project's Final Report, which will soon be releasable online, once the ESPON coordination unit will have agreed on final adjustments. This report is impressive, with innovative composite indicators (Local International Openness, Local Human Development Index...), a pioneer comprehensive multi-scalar view of the region that encompasses Europe and its Neighbour territories, relevant country-analyses made by country-experts and comprehensively available in the report. It shows how important territorial approach of the Neighbourhoods issue is, especially when inter-governmental diplomatic relations are stalling.

Plus, ITAN has set up a pioneering database of the Neighbour territories, compliant with European databases, which allows this comprehensive vision of our wider region. It can back up many further scientific works on this region and genuine support to decision-making.

The goal of this Barcelona last dissemination meeting is to circulate such assets, and to confirm that our wider region shows bigger opportunities than threats. It is also to figure out further step for territorial analysis of the Neighbour countries, thanks to a common platform which could gather research teams, study and statistical bodies of the whole region. The morning session will strengthen the actual and potential scientific gathering; the afternoon session will host policymakers and Euro-Mediterranean bodies, so as to put this common platform project forward.

2. Morning session – Scientific meeting

Main findings on Eastern Neighbourhood

Julien Grunenfelder (Nordregio)

ITAN report stresses on underdeveloped physical infrastructure connecting this Neighbourhood to Western Europe. A key to promoting both regionalisation (flows) and regionalism (cooperation agreements) is the building-out of transport infrastructure. When it comes to the Baltic region, the exclusion of Russia in the developing process of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is a significant deficit. Among good practices of territorial development strategies is the introduction of a bilateral local border traffic agreement between northern Poland and Kaliningrad in 2012. On the other hand, since November 2013 Eastern Partnership Summit and the contest between EU and Russian influence upon Ukraine, an increasing geopolitical tension is among the main threats to territorial cooperation. Due to the central role of energy in this Neighbourhood, a European Energy policy is an prerequisite for a genuine partnership between EU Member States and Russia, and an overarching condition for better territorial cooperation at all scale between EU and Eastern Neighbours.

Main findings on South-Eastern Neighbourhood

Emmanuelle Boulineau (CNRS / EVS) and Byron Kotzamanis (Demobalk)

Western Balkans (WB) are a “small” Neighbourhood, in terms of territory and of population. Still, it is a key territory, a hub of influences (vis-à-vis Western Europe but also Eastern Neighbourhood – see the recent thinking about the Russian influence upon Western Balkans). Territorial discrepancies here are important, yet WB are all too often regarded as a whole. Moreover, there is low partnership between scientists of Western Europe and WB. Data are a particularly tricky issue, due to (i) important administrative reforms: new States, new statistical bodies, new geometries, hence the tremendous

work ITAN to deliver a comprehensive analysis of these changes; (ii) political instability: data were difficult to collect during the wars and turmoil (e.g. in Albania which experienced a lack of... paper for Civil Status registration data!), including for basic data such as mortality. International and European standards have been adopted, harmonisation efforts have been done by these countries – but important discrepancies in data temporal series remain. To cope with it, ITAN has set up a partnership with the “Demobalk” research network. For instance, thanks to the World Bank, Demobalk could get the good Albania 1989 census which data were not available. Demobalk also helped coping with puzzling data, e.g. emigrant people according to the Albania 2001 census, that is to say 34 000 people whereas other sources speak of 700 000. Cooperation with Neighbour country experts proved indispensable for ITAN database and analysis. Partnership with local partner institutions showed also very valuable; as an example, the Serbian Agency for Spatial Planning was helpful to get a regional breakdown of FDI in Serbia. Without such partners no possible good data – and without data no possible thorough territorial analysis nor support to decision-making.

Main findings on Mediterranean Neighbourhood. Country examples

Israel: Yinon Cohen (Columbia University) describes the way Israel counts its population, including the annexed East Jerusalem (with specific status), Golan Heights, and West Bank (WB) settlers. The Israel Central Bureau of Statistics provides a lot of data by district, nevertheless ITAN had to make specific calculation to analyse the specific population of East Jerusalem and the settlers. The guideline of the country report was to analyse territories through data provided by religion, especially “Jews” and “Muslims” or sometimes “Arabs”. As an example, Arabs’ fertility is going down; Jews’ is catching up in particular due to Jerusalem and WB & Gaza figures. Public employment is very high among Jews in Jerusalem and WB & Gaza, which means a de facto robust public back up to settlers; when it comes to Palestinians, degrees from Al Quds University are not recognised by Israel public authorities: this hampers Palestinian access to public employment. A major output of ITAN is that the project calculated an index of Palestinian / Jews segregation, by district. All of these facts bring back to the 1947-1948 war.

Occupied Palestinian Territory: Issa Zboun (ARIJ) reminds that during and after the 1948 war, a transfer policy was carried out and four out of every five Palestinians in the area inside Israel became refugees. 78% of Mandate Palestine was taken to form what is presently known as the State of Israel, where around 800,000 Palestinians were evicted from their lands and homes. When the Palestinian Authority took the Administration in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1994, it divided the West Bank into 11 governorates and the Gaza Strip into 5 governorates. In 1997, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics conducted the First Palestinian Census in the oPt. The second was conducted in 2007. The data of the census and surveys in the PCBS underwent a series of tests and editing, procedures to ensure data reliability in all its phases of execution, in addition to the intensive and continuous follow-up that aimed to ensuring data accuracy and comprehensiveness. The ITAN oPt report provides the project with the main demographic, social and economic trends in Gaza strip and West Bank. It also assesses the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian economy and the cost of the Israeli occupation, in particular when it comes to the electricity issue.

Jordan: Myriam Ababsa (IFPO Amman), who has recently published an atlas of Jordan, found with ITAN the opportunity to enlarge the scope of territorial analysis. Jordan researchers never meet Israeli ones. The country report stresses on the importance of the refugee status of Palestinians in Jordan, since 1948. Other important migration waves are Iraqi migration (approx. 200 000), then 700 000 Syrian refugees (in very poor condition). 500 000 Egyptians workers and Asian workers (namely in the Qualifying Industrial Zones) are to be added. Thus, Jordan shows as a stable country, but with a very high level of foreign born people, a terrible geopolitical regional context, a high dependence on foreign aid (the country is World number 2 for ODA per inhabitant) and remittances (20% of the GDP). On all these fields and on other territorial issues, recent data collection is made difficult due to the Syrian refugee problem and to the economic crisis. Yet, as a whole, numerous data are available at local scale.

Egypt: Delphine Pagès El Karoui (Inalco and Urmis) stresses on the important density issue. She also stresses on the transition issue: Egypt is clearly a country in transition – economic transition, urban transition (with a largely dominant urban population), environmental transition (with a growing water concern), and political transition (with a revolution and a counter-revolution phase). Territorial analysis

is made difficult because the urban structure of Egypt does not fit with the Governorates administrative delineation, and because delineation are changing which hampers data collection and interpretation. The urban / rural issue shows particularly tricky when seen through administrative data, due to a very complex territorial official classification. Territorial analysis is characterised by rapid social changes (decline of fertility rate, rise of the educational level, rising status of women, growing urbanisation), increasing inequalities (e.g. dualisation of health and education systems), strong divide between the North and the South of the country, and rising terrorism in peripheral areas of the country. Another driving element of territorial analysis is the environmental concern: water shortage but also land reclamation in the desert and loss of arable land because of urbanisation. The national cohesion is at stake, and this has a strong territorial component.

Libya: Rafaa Tabib (Manouba University) added an important value to the project because he provided ITAN with territorial data in a country where data is incredibly difficult to get. The major political turmoil has provoked and is still provoking a huge transformation of the Libyan territory, with geometries change, vast migratory movements, and destroyed cities. Statistically, demographically gaining cities have been agglomerated in larger territorial units, so that the final result of the 2012 Census largely hides these territorial transformations. Moreover, Libyan families often have migrant members, who do not live there; as Census officers hardly enter houses, the head of the household over-declares the population of its household – to get larger subsidies (aid redistribution is a key mechanism of Libya). The country has one million civil servants for six million Libyans: this scheme works like a national system for income redistribution and access to services. Internal and external migrations play a major role in actual and potential territorial change (partition tomorrow?). For instance, the Tobou ethnic group counts two million people in the Sahel territory – but less than half million in Libya, and migratory movements are very hard to document. A key issue for understanding the Libyan territory is the tribes' organisation. Gadhafi regime could not turn this organisation into a nation State. Last, official data show very questionable (all the more as the census services have been destroyed during the war), such as the real population of Tripoli. Some areas have not been surveyed because of the political unrest. "Prisoners" and "disappeared people" (often former members of the Khadafy wheel) are very under-estimated. Many former pro-Khadafy today live in neighbour countries, especially Tunisia (between 0,6 and 1,6 million).

Session on local data: the need for better harmonisation

Moderator: Gilles Van Hamme (Igeat)

Pierre Besnard (CIST, ITAN Project Manager)

Collecting and harmonising local data of more than twenty countries has been a huge task – far beyond tasks usually allotted to research teams. 27 countries * 8 data files * 10 to 20 indicators * 10 to 30 SNUTS by country make more than 60 000 statistical data, to be added to energy data, water data (thanks to the Plan Bleu), investment data (thanks to Anima), transport data, and media data (stemming from the "Geomedia" project). ITAN carried out his role but, clearly, that kind of work should be made by a gathering of research teams and statistical institutes. Plus, ITAN had to assume an amount of geometries changes, geometries denomination difficulties (various languages), fuzzy borders (Golan Heights, Transnistria...). We had to tackle various definitions of the "same" indicator (e.g. income); lacking indicators and use of proxys (e.g. tertiary education for local GDP per inhab.), etc. Last, non-concordance of censuses years drove us to also harmonise time series.

Nidhal Ben Cheikh (CRES, Tunisia)

Tunisia benefits from a good quality of data, produced by INS and other administrations, at a quite local territorial level (SNUTS 3: Governorates). Since the first census (1921) many censuses and surveys have been completed... but many delineation changes occurred. Another problem is that economic data are largely lacking; income and poverty data are insufficient, and data definitions are not stable over time. Moreover, the territorial issue (e.g. unemployment is 32% in Centre-West but 10% in North-eastern coastal areas in the framework of the insertion of Tunisia in international flows but with low impact on the inner country) has long been under-estimated by the public authorities of the country. Inter-census surveys (employment, households' consumption) under-represent inner areas. This has dramatically changed since 2011. In the last decades the State tried to overcome the traditional tribal organisation, but without developing an integrated national territory. Along with the territorial issue, the national statistical system should pay higher attention to comparable data with other countries of the region.

Zahia Ouadah-Beddidi (Paris-Diderot University, France, Algeria country-report)

Participating in ITAN project was a great opportunity for comparison with other countries (Maghreb, Europe...). But accessing to Algerian data is difficult – even for policymakers sometimes. Data difficulties are partly local and partly national. Like in Tunisia, there are numerous sources of data. But transparency is low, access is often much lower than what is officially said “available” (everybody complains about this, researchers to begin with); temporal series are often lacking (punctual inquiries, financed by international donors for instance, are hardly reproduced); definitions of indicators change and are not always documented (including for basic data such as fertility or migration). Some indicators disappear from a Census to another (e.g. degree level, read and spoken language, etc.). Moreover, local inter-censal information is rather reducing. Birth is not really documented spatially since the data deal with the place where the child was born (hospital) and not where his family lives. Without valuable demographic indicator, how to launch credible population policies (oldies boom, territorial rising differences in fertility decrease ...)?

Oguz Isik (Middle-East Technical University, Turkey)

The main problem for ITAN was to provide time series data. One reason is delineation change (67 provinces in 1960, 81 today), all the more as administrative delineation is a very political issue. Since 2000, things are doing better, namely thanks to the adoption of the Eurostat norms (NUTS system). But major data are only available at NUTS2 level. In term of territorial analysis, rapid fertility decrease and rise of education show an uneven territorial pattern, with three different “Turkey” (West – with now negative natural growth but positive demographic growth thanks to in-migration / central / East). Public investment rather *increases* these territorial disparities.

Mustapha Bouzaiene (Tunisia INS Central Director of the Economic Context Observatory)

Statistics system shows similarities with other Mediterranean countries (Morocco...). But its modernisation could not cope with social and economic changes. Moreover, INS was dedicated to data collection, and not to analysis. Last, INS does not produce all public Tunisian data, but is responsible for coordination. There is some misunderstanding between official indicators and ratios (on employment...) and reality felt by population. Hence the need for better statistical information. Another stake is the perspective of decentralisation of the country. Since 2011, INS tasks are (i) taking higher advantage of existing information, (ii) improving dissemination, (iii) making methodological choices about surveys size, and higher use of econometric and model technics. This will be a long run work. It will need a new mind-set, stronger regional teams (which should not be limited to data collection), training and exchanges of experiences. Tensions could occur between national / and local data teams.

Olivia Blum (Israel Central Bureau of Statistics, Director of International Relations)

As data producer, CBS often wonders if and how these data are used by researchers – ITAN shows that they are! Israeli data is good, international standards steer data quality. In Israel – a unitary and not federal country – data production is centralised: districts do not produce data. But the coordination between CBS departments and between the various ministries has to be made, even in a centralised system. In civil status registers, problems come from the fact that, for example, people do not report migration. CBS is setting up a business register, but addresses are lacking. A dwellings register, including location of work, is under construction. A rolling census is envisaged. In territorial terms, “peripheries” had to be defined because the government wanted to invest more in such “peripheries”.

3. Afternoon session – Dissemination

Institutional introduction

Joana Ortega i Alemany (Vice-President of the Catalan Government, ARLEM member)

The ITAN project shows the importance of territorial approach of the neighbourhoods. It helps avoiding consider the neighbourhoods as a threat. Indeed, we should not see migration like a threat but, rather, mobility as an opportunity. We should envisage with the Neighbour countries an energy transition for less carbon consumption and higher use of the region’s solar potential. We should consider water as a key question, to be dealt with in a sustainable, multi-scalar and participative way. A territorial approach of these stakes is a necessary and valuable input for the European Neighbourhood Policy. As a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Local and Regional Assembly (ARLEM) and of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CRPM), I contributed in February 2014 in a report for the plenary

session of ARLEM showing the utmost importance of territorial cooperation between Mediterranean actors, for a sustainable and inclusive growth, compliant with the 2020 EU Strategy. This report proposes a renewed territorial cooperation at horizon 2030, which brings us to the future ENP and UfM action. A macro-regional Mediterranean strategy could learn from the Baltic and Danube regional successful attempts. We should envisage three Mediterranean macro-regions, based on a multi-scalar governance and participation of local actors: Adriatic, Western Mediterranean, Eastern Mediterranean.

Senen Florensa (Executive President of IEMed)

Studies on Mediterranean territories can be very useful to Euro-Mediterranean political and institutional actors. When it was launched, the Barcelona process was focused on a large free-trade area. The scope was general. Today, we obviously have to be more accurate. Since the Arab Spring, the situation is changed, our region is more differentiated than ever: strong hope for democracy in Tunisia, authoritarian turn in other countries such as Egypt, destroyed States (Libya, Syria), countries which try to maintain status quo thanks to their resources (Algeria...). The territorial approach matches such diversity, and the need for in-depth Neighbourhoods' modernisation. Hence the importance of territorial data, and the crossing of demographic, water, energy data with territorial approach. This could contribute to the renewal of EU action in the Mediterranean, instead of today's disorientation. In that perspective, IEMed can help interaction between experts and actors. The idea of three Mediterranean macro-regions should be further elaborated; it could be the framework of the future public cooperation. In this respect, a Western Mediterranean macro-region could take over the actual 5++5 dialogue. This view should remain imbedded in a large Euro-Mediterranean regional vision, according to the principles of the UfM: enhanced cooperation, and variable-geometry projects.

Mediterranean: ITAN recommendations for a better territorial integration and cooperation

Pierre Beckouche (CIST) presents ITAN main achievements: (i) the first step of a sustainable local database compliant with EU databases; (ii) a comprehensive view of the wider region, including maps of energy networks, transports networks and accessibility at the scale of the whole region; (iii) an assessment of the regional integration between Europe & Neighbour territories, namely thanks to innovative composite indicators (Local International openness, local Human development index, etc.); (iv) recommendations for territorial cooperation – namely in the fields of energy, water and sanitation, agriculture, transports and territorial planning. He also emphasises what remains to be done in order to complete the ITAN local data collection, and the need for a partnership gathering national statistics bodies and researchers so as to promote local data harmonisation for the wider region. If Euro-Mediterranean stakeholders want to have an accurate integrated vision of the region's territories, they have to ease access to comparable local data.

Andreu Ulied (Mcrit) presents the main results of ITAN Gibraltar case study. The two sides of the straight are all too often viewed as belonging to very different territories. In reality, ITAN shows their striking cultural likeness and convergence. Flows between the two sides are rising, socio-demographic structures are converging, migration too (North-South and South-North) on the long term. Economically, the Southern side will progressively catch up with the Northern. In terms of territorial cooperation, it has to be highlighted that the Spanish constitution forbids inter-regional cooperation, which hampers relationship between local actors, despite the progress of State de-concentration in Morocco and higher competencies of the Tangiers-Tetouan region.

Françoise Breton (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Pegaso Project Manager)

Territorial cooperation is not an abstract thing; it implies information, and real cooperation between *people* and between institutions – a key for success. More than 1000 people have participated in Pegaso project (PRCD, 2011-2013, Mediterranean and Black Sea coastal and marine territories). Cooperation continues after Pegaso is ended (e.g. platform on governance of coastal areas). Pegaso lead to a Land cover 2000 and 2011 picture and analysis of the Mediterranean Basin, and to innovative index of ecosystem vulnerability. One output is the evolution of the divers land use – forests, urbanisation, agricultural land... It has also lead to tight common work with local authorities and experts so as to avoid errors of satellite data interpretation, and set up participative scenarios. A shared DB is open to scientists and local actors. A collaborative atlas is being made. Thus, strategic questions on following up are the same as for ITAN: how to enlarge cooperation between researchers and actors, how to ensure further territorial data collection and analysis, how to share cartographic representation methods, how to update data and take advantage of the amount of data and

collaborative networks set up during the project? All these issues should be pursued with other projects dedicated to Neighbourhoods' territories – ITAN to begin with.

Feedback from territorial development's stakeholders

Jean-Louis Rastoin (Director of the Unesco Chair on World's food system)

The Mediterranean food issue calls for a new paradigm – all the more as there will remain 100 million people in rural areas in the coming decades in South Mediterranean countries. Reducing territorial disparities implies further work on Sustainable Welfare Index, on civil societies actions, and on three issues where knowledge is lacking: (i) informal economy, (ii) enterprises, (iii) health, level and quality of people consumption. In rural areas in particular, action depends on better knowledge on health and food consumption, pollutions and biosphere condition, cultural heritage, and governance. Researchers and actors need a common “local knowledge base” – not only national. This common base should be open and sustainable. Ensuring free access would suppose public funding, if one wants to avoid that tomorrow Google and other big data major players monopolising data. We should set up networks for free access to sustainable development information and public debates, and further surveys on food local consumption according to comparable methods in South Med countries – Maghreb to begin with. This could promote food territorialised systems for a better food security.

Hildegard Gacek (EBRD Managing Director for Southern and Eastern Mediterranean)

EBRD has become a Mediterranean actor: its loans will reach €b 2,5 in 2016 in the four Mediterranean countries of its mandates. EBRD invests particularly in agricultural, food production and distribution. Energy is another key sector due to large rise of energy demand there; in 2013 EBRD worked with OME on renewable decentralised energy. EBRD just signed its first project in renewable energy with private sector (Jordan). Gender assessment is another major issue. ITAN results are highly important for a better understanding of the Mediterranean region. Its Report accurately addresses the issue of regionalisation; it shows that Mediterranean Neighbour countries are less and less connected to Europe, which is very challenging. Its threat & opportunities section is particularly relevant. As the report says, economic spaces' fragmentation in Mediterranean Neighbourhood is a shortcoming. So are territorial disparities, of which ITAN make the comparative analysis (Turkey, Tunisia, Ukraine...).

Guy Fleuret (Senior Advisor at Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat General)

The UfM based on co-ownership (and not dissymmetry) and projects promotion. All inter-governmental meetings of Europe with Mediterranean partner countries are now held in the framework of the UfM. We have to acknowledge that the Mediterranean region is economically lowly integrated, compared to East Asia or North America. Plus, Mediterranean relations are very dissymmetrical. We remain far from the objective of integration. Yet, needs are enormous. Needs for urban investments in the 15 coming years account for €b 130, for the only response to the demographic growth; plus 70 for facing the energy demand. This argues in favour with what the ITAN report calls “more opportunities than threats”. Public-Private Partnership will be indispensable, given the current difficulties of public finances. Would not the Neighbourhoods need a “Juncker plan bis”? Catalan Vice-president and IEMed president are right calling for Mediterranean macro-regions. However, the Euro-Mediterranean policy should remain, so as to avoid bilateral approaches. ITAN report is right when it promotes crossing Cohesion policy and Neighbourhood policy. Indeed, data is a very important issue: decision makers lack integrated databases and analyses for policy orientation; an open local data platform associating researchers and actors could provide important support to decision-making, for a Euro-Mediterranean deeper integration.

Discussion

- Euro-Mediterranean market integration is low, yes, but look also at universities and cultural Mediterranean links.
- Could EBRD and the UfM finance a Neighbourhoods Local Data Platform? The Bank cannot finance such initiative, but could collaborate via its Chief economist namely on territorial disparities issue, transports and data issues. UfM is a political institution, not donor; but it can help vis-à-vis donors. Good projects can find funding, problem is to find the relevant way to meet the accurate donors; here UfM can help.

Towards a common “Neighbourhoods Local Data Platform”?

Olivia Blum (Israel Central Bureau of Statistics, Director of International Relations)

It would be better to join forces (e.g. Medstat) than to create a new initiative. There is a lot of international cooperation on national scale data, for instance within ENPI. Maybe the next Medstat stage could integrate regional (what this conference calls “local”) statistics; but it has to be kept in mind that Medstat has primarily to focus on sustainability of data and data infrastructures (metadata...), and that national statistics bodies are already overloaded by harmonisation tasks (with ILO and Eurostat standards, SDMX Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange, etc.). Another track is big data, not yet on the table, but it could be relevant for local data (e.g. cell phones information). Last, indeed an index of sustainable welfare (stemming from the Stiglitz report) is an interesting track to follow. In all cases, the convincing argument should be to make local data *accessible to researchers*.

Mustapha Bouzaiene (Tunisia INS “ Central Director of the Observatory of Economic Context)

Local data are indeed very important and necessary. A lot could be done by taking advantage of what already exists, because creating more data files is money generator and time consuming. An international cooperation could cope with common methodology, and institutional capacity building (twinning is a good way for that). Indeed, Medstat is an opportunity; the Medstat 4 Forum will be launched next Spring, will we have time to incorporate local data ? This issue should be discussed with EuropeAid.

Jeanne Lapujade (ANIMA, Network & Development Coordinator)

In 2003 Anima launched its observatory of investments in the Mediterranean. It is based on various professional (investment agencies) and press information, in a anticipation perspective, at microeconomic scale. Data are partly confidential: agencies do not want to circulate their data, but it is possible to anonymise data. In 2009 it launched a GIS and a FDI mapping tool; an FDI atlas has been published. But a GIS needs competencies and money to update data and maps. Hence the interest for ITAN. Mapping is a real added value; ITAN proves efficient for instance when it crosses FDI / and territorial dynamic. Last, Anima has just launched an initiative for assessing impact of FDI and public investments (funding Feder and ENPI). On all these subjects, a common platform dedicated to Neighbourhoods local data would be relevant. In this respect, the French Agency AFII (Anima member) has launched an observatory of FDI in Europe; it could be interesting to mutualise with Anima so as to have a comprehensive vision of the region.

Hugues Ravenel (Director of Plan Bleu)

Initiated by the Mediterranean Action Plan forty years ago, the Plan Bleu is an interface between scientists and decision-makers, on the field of environment. It is a “meta-observatory”, and not an observatory itself, it holds no database on the long run. In that perspective, the 2005 Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development is a key document, but is hardly known... Could we cooperate through a “Neighbourhood Local Data Platform”? The approach seems too technical, it should be converted in a more problematized way, raising the major issue of the Euro-Mediterranean region, for instance its territorial prospective and scenarios. The regional deeper integration could be one of those scenarios, along with a scenario of active energy transition. Under these conditions, Plan Bleu and its 21 countries of the Barcelona Convention might be interested in participating. Its goals and geography would then have be clarified, its wording too (avoid “Neighbourhood” which is to related to a EU policy). The platform should, as the IPCC at beginning, gather more researchers than public administrations. Like IPCC, it could progressively encompass more public bodies, which would produce their own executive summary stemming from the scientific report.

Dania Abdul Malak (University of Malaga - Project Med-IAMER)

Med-lamer project works on “eco-regions” of the Western Mediterranean. It provides statistics on men pressure per eco-region, maps, key messages to policy-makers (policy briefs), best practices, and scientific papers, just like ITAN. It also produces comparable seamless information. A common action with ITAN could be devoted to further seamless territorial data and data common standards.

Debate

Neighbourhoods delineation:

- Are ITAN delineation agreed by public authorities? No but they stick to administrative boundaries. They have been set up by a partnership between ITAN and the M4D ESPON project so as to become ESPON delineation for Neighbourhoods.
- Our Platform should namely take in charge the delineation issue, its changes and local data availability.

What should be the name and target of our common initiative ?

- Territorial prospective and scenarios would be relevant.

What funding for the Platform?

- A "Neighbourhood ESPON"?
- We could try an ERC project (€m 1,5), with South Mediterranean partners
- Could the CMI in Marseilles help?
- EuropeAid via Medstat? Problem is that the project would be too much administrative. We would better have a more scientific common project, though connected to Medstat 4 if it would be partly dedicated to local data
- During the ITAN dissemination in Brussels UfM representatives confirmed that it could finance such an initiative
- H2020 calls are also a good opportunity. Some calls deal with cooperation between Europe / and other parts of the world. They are not purely scientific projects, and have to include universities, national public bodies, private sector. They do not have to cover the whole region – applicants just have to say the rest of the region could be potentially interested. The call will be open soon, deadline May 2015. Amount: €m1,5 to 2.
- See also the new ENPI call.

List of participants

Last name	First name	Institution	Country	Function
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The Barcelona call for a “Neighbourhood Territorial Prospective Alliance”

The hereby signatories, either researchers (individuals or teams) or bodies dedicated to territorial data and analysis of the wider region Europe + Neighbourhoods, call for a long term common alliance on Neighbourhoods Territorial Prospective.

We assume that:

- the world’s regionalisation and the rising “Neighbourhoods” issue confirm that proximity matters, and that cooperation between neighbouring countries is a major economic, environmental, social, cultural and political stake
- Within this Neighbourhoods issue, the territorial approach is a way to ease functional integration between neighbours, cross-border networks and cooperation, shared action in environmental issues, decentralised cooperation and civil societies support.

But without territorial prospective analysis, no shared vision of our common region can become reality. Some projects have targeted territorial analysis of this vast world region, but methods remain various, data heterogeneous and findings scattered.

A alliance is therefore necessary. It would be a coordinating label for various projects targeting territorial analysis of the wider region, in the long run. The Alliance would meet for needs:

- SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION – Help coordinating the various projects dedicated to integrated territorial geometries and databases of the wider region
- PROSPECTIVE SCENARIOS – Set up long run shared goals, methods and tools between researchers and data providers of the region’s countries so as to produce prospective scenarios of the region’s territories
- LABEL – Ease coordinated projects’ recognition by international funders
- PUBLICATION – Produce a regular online multi-scalar “Neighbourhoods territories prospective” on perceptions and trends; enhance a “Neighbourhoods Territorial Agenda”
- RESEARCH/ACTION COOPERATION – Steer the collaborative work between experts and decision makers on shared spatial tools for decision, and build interfaces with territorial stakeholders.

An alliance’s common “Neighbourhoods Local Data Platform” would have following tasks:

- Collect and update territorial delineation at the wider region scale
- Set up metadata models and sustainable local databases
- Harmonise local data (harmonisation of data definition, of spatial geometries, of temporal discrepancies) and disseminate them according to open data principles.

The alliance would respect two principles:

- presence of research networks and national / international bodies dedicated to territorial data and analysis
- parity between EU and non-EU countries.

Signatories (proposal):

Universities or research units

- Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
- Universitat de Barcelona
- Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
- Université Libre de Bruxelles
- Moscow
- Turkey
- Tunisia
- Morocco, etc.

Data and study centres

- Anima?
- Plan Bleu?
- Observatoire Méditerranéen de l’Energie?
- Ciheam?
- Avitem? etc.

National or international institutions

- EEA?
- National and international statistics bodies

Projects coordinators

- ITAN
- PEGASO, etc.

Research programmes

- ESPON?

1. Why?

1.1. The world's regionalisation and the rising "Neighbourhoods" issue (proximity matters!)

Regionalisation, that is to say the rising integration of neighbour countries, is a complementary major pattern, along with the "globalisation" pattern, of the internationalisation of human activities and stakes since a few decades. Three factors explain the rise of the regionalisation – thus the "neighbourhood" – issue. The first factor is economic: in a knowledge economy, an increasing part of the resources are less and less *taken to* other players but rather *produced with* other players. The deeper the interaction with other players, the larger the new resources. Thus, the "neighbour" gets a new status: it less and less depicts the historical military enemy and more and more becomes the necessary economic partner – see the new East Asian policy of China, which has turned in the 1990s its regional strategy from confrontation to partnership. For decades, the international trade has more increased at the scale of large international regions than at the scale of the world.

The second factor is environmental: the rise of the climate and natural resources' concerns has of course a global dimension, but it also has a regional dimension because dissemination of air or water pollution happens in neighbouring territories. Environment is the most convincing domain that proves that proximity has not been dissolved in globalisation and matters more and more. Moreover, the perspective of costlier long distance transports because of energy cost, could promote shorter supply chains, hence growing economic interaction with neighbours.

The third factor is political: the collapse of purely national regulation since the 1980s did not give way to an alternative regulation at global scale. The recent failures of global regulation in the financial area (2008 international crisis), in the environment area (2009 Copenhagen climate change conference), and in the trade area (Doha round's successive adjournments), have shed light on a necessary international regulation at regional scale, of which the European Union gave a first instance. As a result, international institutions (the World Bank, the IMF, the OECD, regional development banks...) and think tanks increasingly figure out internationalisation through the regional pattern. The regional issue has also been targeted by rising academic publishing since the beginning of the 2000s.

1.2. The European Neighbourhood Policy shortcomings

The rise of the regional integration in America (Nafta) and Eastern Asia (Asean Plus Three), the European need for new markets since the beginning of the financial crisis, the Arab spring and the outburst of the regional crisis in Eastern Ukraine, have made this Neighbourhoods issue still more relevant. A large set of EU policies draw a favourable context for a renewal of the European territorial actions related to neighbourhoods: launched in 2007, the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) for the first time gave an accurate scope to the wider world region that encompasses EU and its Neighbours; the Europe 2020 Strategy "*can offer considerable potential to candidate countries and our neighbourhood and better help anchor their own reform efforts*"; EU *Cohesion Policy* promotes cross-border and transnational cooperation and macro-regions including neighbouring countries.

Seen from the standpoint of the non-European countries of our common region, this regional integration is regarded as strategic. The Arab Mediterranean countries have been partners of the Barcelona process since 1995, and the Arab League is one of the stakeholders of the Union for the Mediterranean launched in 2008. Yet the Arab Spring and the subsequent political unrest have put this regional perspective into question – all the more as the actual results of the ENP showed many shortcomings. In Eastern Europe, the Ukrainian turmoil shows that the EU and its Eastern partners have not managed finding an efficient path for regional integration. There is a rising contrast between increasing agreements or discourses on the one hand, and stalling on-the-ground cross-border cooperation. One of the reasons is that the *territorial* side of the neighbourhood issue has been hardly taken into account.

1.3. Within the Neighbourhoods issue, territorial issues matter

Territorial cooperation is a way to ease functional integration between neighbours. Cross-border networks and cooperation, shared action in environmental issues (see the Unedp ECAP Ecosystem Approach), decentralised cooperation (between local authorities, hospitals, universities of both sides of the border) are useful when diplomatic inter-governmental relations are at a standstill. Moreover, a territorial approach of regionalisation is a driver to mobilise rising civil societies.

EU *Territorial Agenda 2020* states that “*cohesion at the external borders is crucial, as disparities in legal, social and political systems have important consequences especially in terms of migration and trade*” and that “*growing interdependence of regions generates demand for better connectivity*”. Nevertheless, tools for a better cooperation with neighbouring territories are to be improved. As the “Territorial State and Perspective of the EU” (2006) stated, “*the current territorial cooperation system is composed of three loosely co-ordinated blocks: territorial cooperation within the EU, territorial cooperation with neighbouring, candidate and potential candidate countries, and cooperation with other countries*”. We are still there. A comprehensive vision of our wider region is lacking. Given the potential role of territorial cooperation with the European neighbour territories, it is of utmost importance to fill the gap of territorial knowledge on the two sides of the border between neighbours.

1.4. Without local data non possible shared vision of our common region

Several European research projects have begun paving the way for local databases common to the region's countries. Dedicated to territories, the ESPON programme has recently launched projects in this perspective: ITAN (Integrated territorial analysis of the Neighbourhoods) has set up a first local (NUTS 2-3) database compliant with EU database; BSR-TeMo (Territorial monitoring for the Baltic Sea region) deepened it for the Baltic region. The ESPON M4D project is dedicated to local databases harmonisation in Europe but also in the Neighbourhoods. Several projects have gathered first elements for data on the region's common seas: ESaTDOR (European seas territorial development opportunity and risks, ESPON), ENVIROGRIDS (environmental vulnerability of the Black Sea catchment, FP7), EU4SEAS (sub-regional cooperation in Mediterranean, Baltic, Black and Caspian Seas, FP7), and PEGASO (gathered comparable local data so as to support integrated policies for the coastal and maritime realms of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea basins, FP7). The “Copernicus” Earth Observation European Programme intends to extend its scope to the Neighbourhoods.

However, three shortcomings make all these effort only starting points of a much larger need:

- (i) Low coordination between such pioneer projects – those cited here and some others as the attempts made within the Eurostat “MedStat” programme to set up local Euro-Mediterranean databases.
- (ii) Absolute need of common tools to set up NUTS and LAU local geometries for the whole region and follow up their endless delineation change.
- (iii) Incredible barriers to set up common databases: difficult access to data; changes in quality of data; insufficient data reliability (informal activity...); largely heterogeneous data (statistical, grid, networks...); hardly possible data standardisation.

1.5. The four goals of a local data platform

Hence the need of a common platform, which would:

- 1) Help coordinating the various projects dedicated to integrated geometries and databases of the whole wider region
- 2) Set up long run shared goals, methods and tools between researchers and data providers of the region's countries
- 3) As a well identified label, ease such coordinated projects' recognition by international funders (instead of scattered applications to various calls)
- 4) Organise interaction between researchers and territorial development actors.

2. How?

2.1. Collecting and updating territorial delineation at the wider region scale

Definition of spatial divisions is a major issue of any territorial study. Several solutions are available to enable comparisons among territorial divisions. The choice is namely based on the study of relevant territorial division, whether administrative (municipalities, provinces, governorates, oblasts, etc.) or functional (employment and living area, water catchments etc.). Anyhow, such choices have to be made in a coherent manner along time and research projects, so as to ensure (i) comparability between countries over time, (ii) multi-scalar analysis from very local to national and macro-regional scales, and (iii) bridges between discontinuous data to grid (continuous) data. The common platform should handle that.

2.2. Setting up metadata models and sustainable local databases

In database field, sustainability is the major stake. Too many excellent databases have died before providing all their potential, because they were not sustained – neither financially nor technically. Data have to be traceable, definitions clear, and sources identified. This is at stake for three reasons. First, because it is the condition for updating databases. Second, because it is the condition for relevant harmonisation. Third, because it is the condition for integrating data of heterogeneous nature (satellite, grid, network, statistical, including information from new providers such as social networks, mobile phones and other non-public administration data). This implies choices for selected data, for which traceability would be ensured. The platform's endeavour should lead to a small number of robust comparable data, which could progressively be enlarged, rather than to a too rapid set of numerous but insufficiently documented data.

Thus, building the metadata model would be nodal for the platform. It would give all necessary information about the way data are defined, produced, collected, and made available. International metadata standards for territorial data are available and can help a lot, such as the EU INSPIRE directive, ISO-19115 and ISO-135 norms. Nevertheless, there are no absolute standards; in other words, the Neighbourhood local data platform will have to fine-tune tailor-made metadata standards.

2.3. Harmonising data

The platform should ensure a four-fold harmonisation:

- (i) semantic harmonisation, that is to say common agreed variables' definition
- (ii) statistical harmonisation, that is to say common methods for reducing inconsistency & outliers
- (iii) spatial harmonisation, that is to say common methods for overcoming delineation heterogeneity, were it within national data or between national data
- (iv) temporal harmonisation, necessary because dates of data production and collect are many.

2.4. Building open access interfaces with territorial actors

So as to meet the fourth objective of the platform and ease researchers-actors interaction, an information system and user-friendly interactive cartographic tools should be set up by the platform. Each project placed under the platform's label would remain independent. But it would benefit from the platform services and data only if it would accept (i) adopting the platform's methods and standards, and (ii) delivering to the platform its data in open access.

2.5. Producing regular reports on Neighbourhoods territories and policy recommendations

The platform would make a regular online "Neighbourhoods territories" survey on perceptions and trends + policy monitoring report. Furthermore, it could in charge of enhancing the project of a "Neighbourhoods Territorial Agenda" ("NTA"), by which the policymakers would give the shared vision of the region's territorial perspectives.

3. How long?

Setting up a common platform will take time. Still, it has to be handled in a coherent manner, shared by the stakeholders of the process. To begin with, it could associate a reasonable number of countries of the region, and could progressively enlarge to other countries.

Two conditions are to be respected:

- the presence of both research networks and national or international bodies dedicated to data
- parity between EU and non-EU countries. Participation of EU partners (including Eurostat) is indispensable because EU has a strong know-how in the field of national data coordination and harmonisation. Participation of non-EU partners is indispensable because a process that would be designed and driven by the sole EU institutions would be inconsistent with a wider region's shared vision.

Under such conditions, the platform could play its role vis-à-vis territorial actors and vis-à-vis the various projects funders. A wide set of projects, funded by various donors and dedicated to different specific territories, would progressively contribute to integrated local databases, common cartographic tools and shared visions of our region.

Table 1. Six steps to a common platform

	step 1 <i>design, fund raising</i>	step 2 <i>consortium, methods</i>	step 3 <i>projects synthesis, DB</i>	step 4 <i>first data harmonisation</i>	step 5 <i>information system</i>	step 6 <i>dissemination, data update, NTA</i>
objectif	définition des objectifs de la NLDP, fund raising	définition des méthodes de la NLDP	capacity building; stockage de quelques données clé dans une BD commune	premières représentations comparables	analyses comparatives intégrées; feed-back des décideurs du dévt territorial	diffusion large des outils et rapports. Premières propositions stratégiques ("NTA")
public concerné	identification des porteurs clé, côté chercheurs, et côté institutionnel (instituts statistiques)	mise en place du consortium NLDP (chercheurs / instituts stats), pour un nombre limité de pays volontaires + UE	groupe technique restreint; élargissement possible à d'autres pays volontaires	techniciens du développement territorial	décideurs du développement territorial	acteurs du développement territorial
BD commune: collecte des données	pas de collecte	analyse des données disponibles et des données à harmoniser	archivage de données et métadonnées, pour une année	base de données à plusieurs dates	interface requêteable et interface cartographique aidant la décision	actualisation de la base de données et du système d'information
BD commune: harmonisation des données	x	choix des méthodes	pas d'harmonisation des données	harmonisation partielle	harmonisation plus complète	harmonisation élevée
outils cartographiques	x	x	non	oui (simples)	oui (interactifs)	oui (interactifs)
outils de diffusion	x	espaces numériques de travail	portail web des projets dédiés aux données locales des Voisinages	site web propre, fonctionnalités restreintes	site web, fonctionnalités larges	site web, fonctionnalités larges
produits	x	x	Synthèse des projets dédiés aux données locales des Voisinages	Rapport d'étape "Les territoires des Voisinages"	Premier rapport "Les territoires des Voisinages"	"Neighbourhoods Territorial Agenda" ("NTA")
durée de l'étape	1/2 année	1/2 année	1 année	1,5 année	2 années	1 année