



# Cities of tomorrow

challenges, visions,  
ways forward

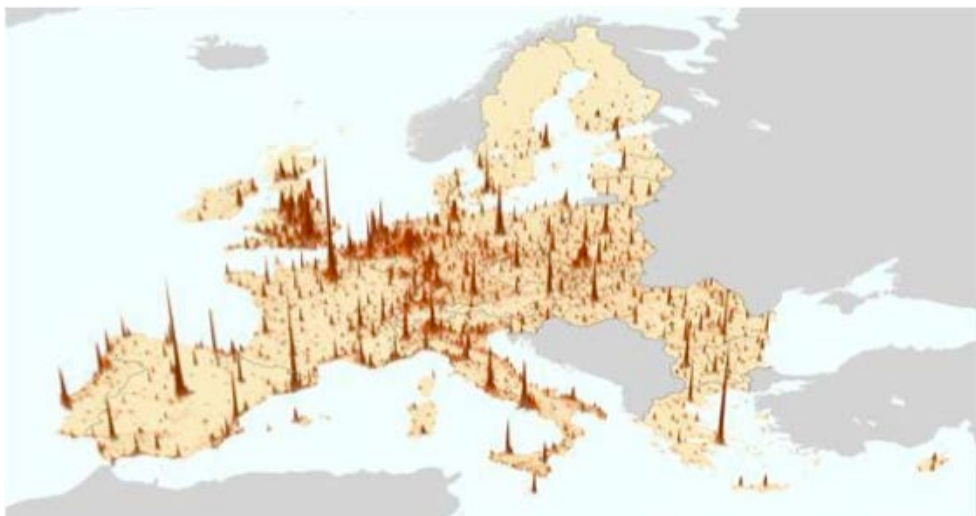
Christian Svanfeldt  
European Commission  
Directorate-General for Regional Policy  
'Urban development, territorial cohesion'

Katowice, 16 March 2012



# Rationale & process

# Urban Europe



*Note : Colours and peak heights represent population density by 1 sq km raster cells*

*Sources: Eurostat, JRC, EFGS, REGIO-GIS*

**Number of cities \***

**Population**

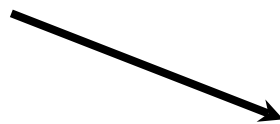
**Population Class**

	<b>Number of cities *</b>		<b>Population</b>	
	<b>absolute</b>	<b>in %</b>	<b>absolute</b>	<b>in %</b>
<b>rural population</b>			<b>154 125 040</b>	<b>32.1</b>
<b>towns and suburbs</b>			<b>156 398 720</b>	<b>32.6</b>
<b>50 000 – 100 000</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>26 690 068</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>100 000 – 250 000</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>35 708 402</b>	<b>7.4</b>
<b>250 000 – 500 000</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>21 213 956</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>500 000 – 1 000 000</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>27 041 874</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>&gt; 1 000 000</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>59 292 080</b>	<b>12.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>480 470 140</b>	<b>100.0</b>

# Rationale and process

- *Understanding and awareness of challenges ahead*
- *Inform the debate on Cohesion Policy post 2013*
- *Reference document for urban development  
...for local, regional, national and European actors*
- *Prospective analysis of cities and urban development  
beyond 2020*

**challenges**    **visions and models**    **governance**



**Cities of tomorrow**

Challenges, visions, ways forward



# Cities of Tomorrow - outcomes

Proceedings of workshops

Thematic issue papers

- *Urban environmental challenges*
- *Urban economic challenges*
- *Urban social challenges*
- *Urban governance challenges*
- *Urban challenges and visions (foresight mapping)*

Good practice case studies of cities tackling challenges

Collection of personal visions of cities of tomorrow

Synthesis report

**Cities of tomorrow**

Challenges, visions, ways forward

# Miasta jutra

Wyzwania, wizje, rozwiązania

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/citiesoftomorrow/citiesoftomorrow\\_summary\\_pl.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/citiesoftomorrow/citiesoftomorrow_summary_pl.pdf)



# 1. A European vision of the City of Tomorrow



# Shared European visions & principles

## *...of urban development*

- Places of advanced social progress
- Platforms for democracy, cultural dialogue and diversity
- Places of green, ecological or environmental regeneration
- Places of attraction and engines of economic growth

*(Liepzig Charter, Toledo Declaration)*

## *...of territorial development*

- Balanced economic growth
- Balanced territorial organisation
- Polycentric urban structure
- Good accessibility to services of general economic interest
- Compact settlement structure with limited urban sprawl
- High level of protection and quality of the environment

*(Territorial Agenda 2020)*

**+ Territorial Cohesion objective**



## 2.

# A European urban development model under threat

*= > diagnosis of  
weaknesses and threats*

# Social challenges

*Growing income disparities*

*The poor getting poorer*

*A concentration of  
inequalities:*

*poor housing*

*low-quality education*

*unemployment*

*Difficulties or inability to  
access certain services:*

*Health*

*Transport*

*ICT*

*Closed sub-cultures*

*An increasing number of  
'society dropouts'*



# Environmental challenges



- Climate change
- Energy dependency
- Environmental risks

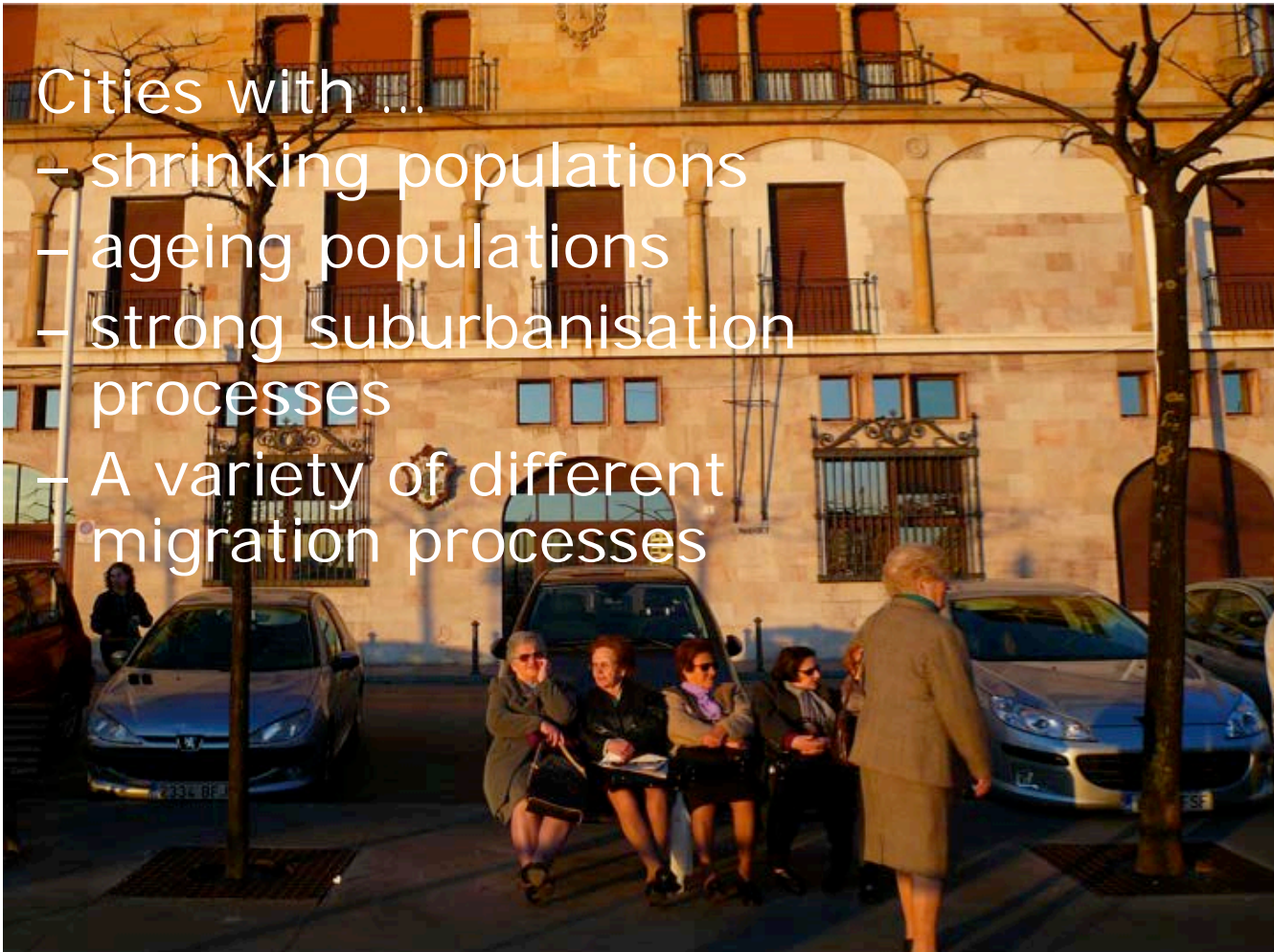
- Urban sprawl
- Sustainable use of resources
- Urban & rural eco-systems



# Demographic challenges

Cities with ...

- shrinking populations
- ageing populations
- strong suburbanisation processes
- A variety of different migration processes



1. Size of the  
economic base

## Non-viable cities?

2. Income  
distribution

- Economic decline or stagnation
- Decoupling of economic growth and social development
- Increasing income disparities
- Increasing poverty
- Competition as a negative-sum game

3. Cultural  
diversity

4. Age  
composition

5. Environmental pressure



# Economic challenges

*“There are reasons to believe that a*

***large number of European cities have ‘insufficient’ development potentials (or ‘adjustment capacity’)***

*in relation to the challenges raised by the new competitive context.*

*If we do not act soon by ‘empowering’ them, we shall experience numerous*

***cases of absolute urban decline in Europe in the next decade.***

*This will imply, first,*

***less territorial cohesion and, secondly, less national growth***  
*– because declining cities will not fully exploit their potential.”*

[Antonio Calafati]

# Core challenges

## *How to...*

- counter social/spatial **segregation/polarisation**?*
- foster **social inclusion & economic integration**?*
- ensure **economic transitions**?*
- manage and adapt to **demographic changes**?*
- stimulate **job creation & skills**?*
- achieve a **sustainable mobility**?*
- achieve greater **energy efficiency**?*
- manage **natural resources**?*
  
- ensure **territorial cohesion & coherence**?*
- foster cities' **attractiveness**?*
- ensure **financial sustainability**?*

*...not only  
interrelated  
but also a*

**strong  
territorial  
dimension**



**3.**

# **Challenges for European cities of tomorrow**

*=> turning threats  
into opportunities*



# Threats or opportunities?

- *The challenges for the cities of tomorrow are not problems to be solved but **opportunities to be exploited***



1. Size of the  
economic base

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*Long-term strategies*

*Understanding & awareness of challenges ahead*

1. Size of the economic base

2. Income distribution

## **Viable cities**

- Future orientation
- Resilient and inclusive local economies
- Glocal 'excellent relevance' & 'relevant excellence'
- Strategies for living with change

*Cooperation to ensure critical mass & global attractiveness*

*Build on local & territorial assets to create resilient local economies*

3. Cultural diversity

4. Age composition

*Focus on investing in the future instead of fixing problems of the past*

*social innovation as lever to meet multiple challenges*

5. Environmental pressure

## Identifying the right challenges



*Is climate change the challenge for cities or is it clean air, non-congestion, healthy mobility, reduced urban sprawl, etc?*

*Climate change & energy security: how to reduce energy insecurity & CO<sub>2</sub> emissions whilst avoiding segregation and marginalisation of those who cannot afford or access new technologies, etc?*



## The diverse and innovative city

- How to allow diversity (ethnic, social, cultural, age-related, etc) whilst avoiding segregation, polarisation, intolerance, etc?



*Photo-montage: Carmen Vossen*

*= > Adaptive capacity to change: values, habits, traditions, thinking, consumption... social innovation*

# The liveable city



Photos: Ivan Tosics

- Combating spatial exclusion and energy poverty with better housing is key to making urban areas agglomeration more eco-friendly and liveable.....



- ....but also making them more attractive and competitive

# 4.

## **Governance for the cities of tomorrow**

*= > a holistic integrated  
territorial approach*

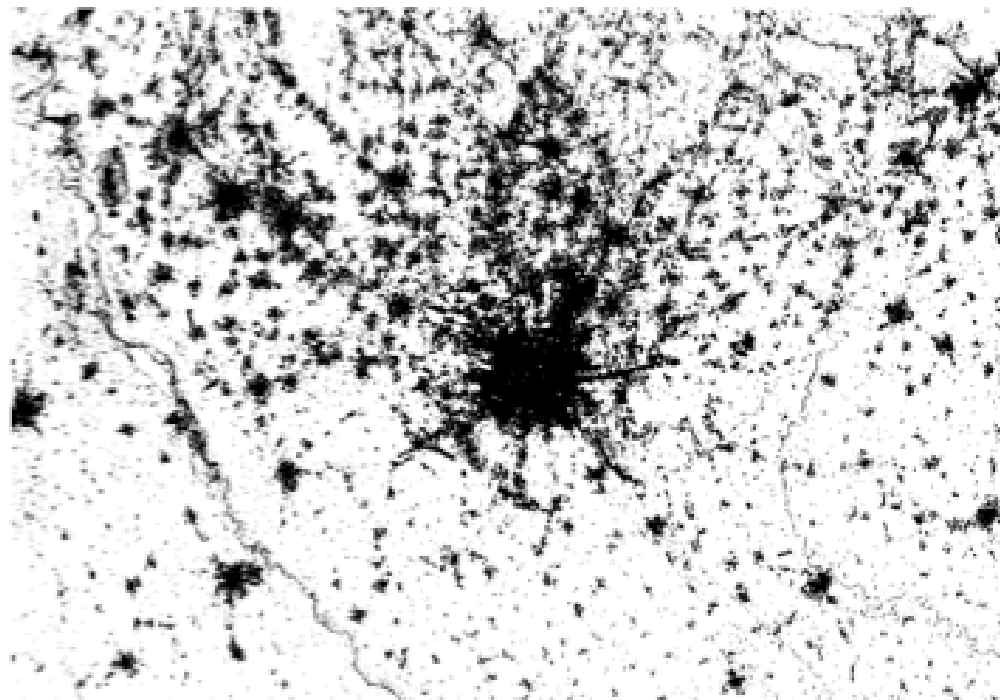
# Integrated approach to challenges

**Challenges cannot be addressed individually**

*interrelations and contradictions need to be properly understood*

**Challenges do not respect administrative borders**

*need to be formulated to concur with overall objective of sustainable territorial development with liveable cities across Europe*



Source: Alessandro Balducci

**= > Governance is *the* key challenge**

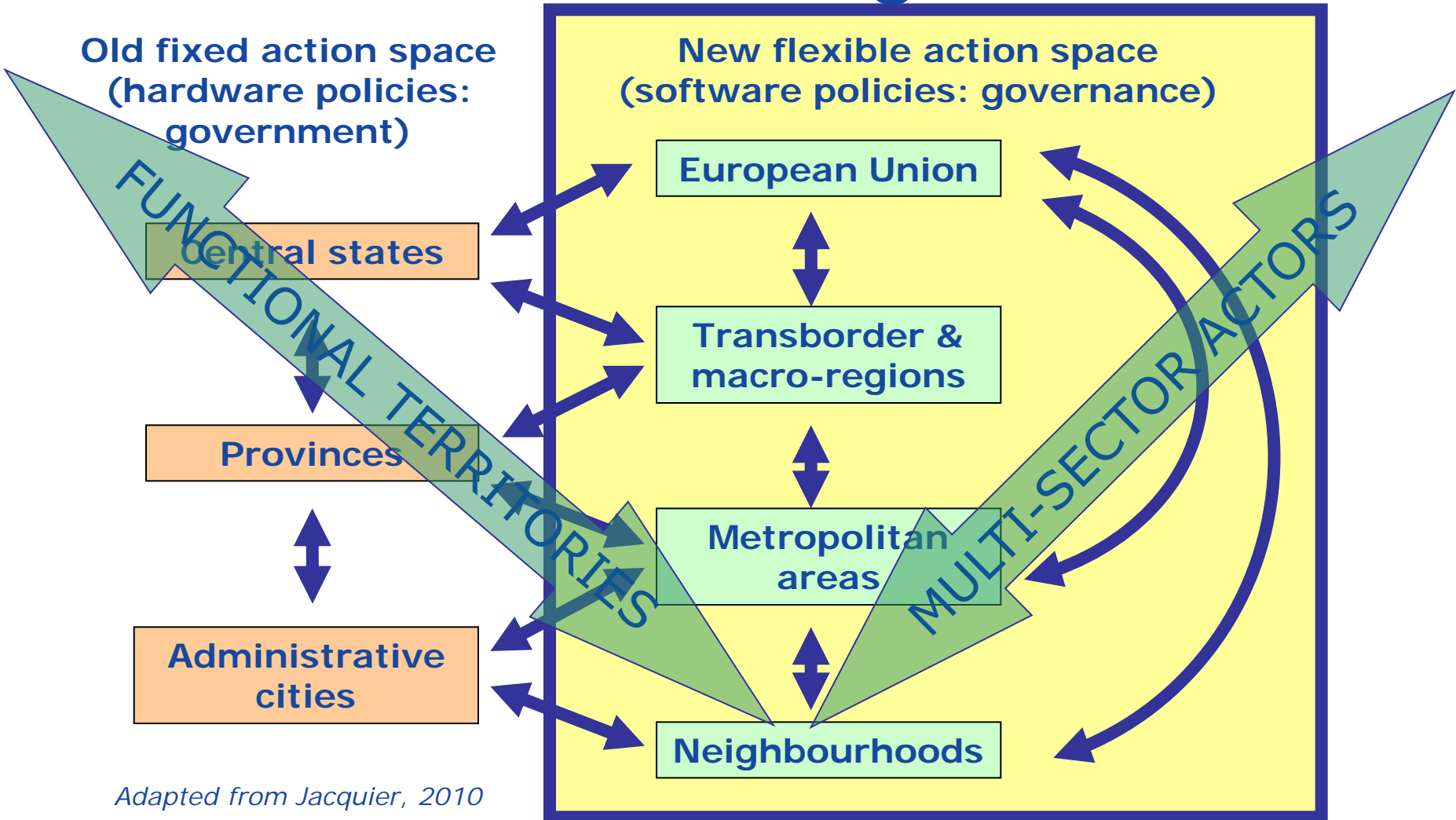




# From government to flexible multi-scalar governance

Old fixed action space  
(hardware policies:  
government)

New flexible action space  
(software policies: governance)



Adapted from Jacquier, 2010

## New governance modes

Feature	Dominant Responses	<i>Alternative Responses</i>
Objectives	Econo-centric	<i>Varied</i>
Measurements	Tangible	<i>Intangible</i>
Scales	Global excellence	<i>Glocal 'excellent relevance' &amp; 'relevant excellence'</i>
Processes & Mechanisms	Linear, push-pull models; Technological, mechanistic solutions	<i>Ecosystems, networks and flows ; Multiple interventions mechanisms</i>
Knowledge & Learning	Narrow; disciplinary; sectoral; codified; Transferable models	<i>Broad; interdisciplinary; cross-sectoral; tacit; Context-sensitive</i>
Social Interests	Elites: corporate, governments, major institutions	<i>Wide stakeholders, beneficiaries &amp; participants</i>



# Conclusions

We need to **invest in our cities...**

*...but not just question of levels of investment*

- We need adopt an **integrated territorial approach**
- within **new governance frameworks**
- with new ways of **working across sectoral boundaries**
- with a **wider set of partners**, including citizens
- focusing on **long-term shared objectives**

➤ **A qualitative shift is needed to exploit the full potential of our cities**

# Thank you for your attention!

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/citiesoftomorrow/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/citiesoftomorrow/index_en.cfm)

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