

Jacek Szlachta

Warsaw School of Economics

Evidence: what inputs do we have  
for a discussion of European territory  
visions? Impulse statement

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My experience is based on participation  
in:

- I. VASAB (chairman when first Vision and Strategies around Baltic was approved)
- II. ESPON project European Territory 2050 (member of research team)
- III. National Spatial Development Concept (NSDC) for Poland 2030 (member of Team of Scientific Experts preparing Expert Draft of NSDC until 2033)

# What elements do the vision contain (1)

- **Features:**
- territory is competitive and innovative thanks to the potential of the polycentric network of metropolises;
- territory integrated and coherent; opened
- space is preserving the assets of its natural and cultural heritage;
- space resistant to various threats related to energy and natural security

# What elements do the vision contain (2)

- **Elements of the spatial system**
- An urban network of international importance (pearls)
- Effective and sustainable links between cities (strings)
- Other areas supporting dynamism and quality of life (patches)
- Comprehensive spatial planning in function (system)

# What elements do the vision contain (3)

- **Long term policy aims to achieve territorial development – openness and polycentricity. How to make it?:**
- Connecting Europe globally
- Promoting co-development with neighbouring regions
- Unleashing regional diversity and endogenous development
- Supporting a balanced urban structure
- Managing natural resources sustainably

# Challenges for territorial visions

- **Soft character of presented documents (indicative)**
- **Dual system of long term visioning 1) socio-economic and 2) spatial (territorial)**
- **Very limited implementation capacity (lack of action plans)**
- **Very complicated communication with medium term European, national and regional documents**
- **Process of preparation is long (three to seven years)**

# The political process behind the scenarios

- **Growing uncertainty of future development of Europe and its territory**
- **Economic crisis and deteriorating position of EU. Searching for extra capacities, one of them quite important – territorial. Do politicians know it?**
- **Political obstacles concerning awareness, that it is not plus sum game for all (winners and losers of different scenarios)**
- **Necessity to prove that idea „one solution fits all” is wrong concept – territorialisation of policies is necessary**
- **Short term versus long term approach**

# Expected legacy of the documents

- **Plays important role of facilitator:**
- **Wide-spread promotion of vision (territory matters)**
- **Dialog with policy makers (model of multilevel governance) - different policies give different spatial structures**
- **Integration of socio-economic and spatial dimensions of development**
- **Mobilization of and dialog with different stakeholders concerning spatial development**
- **Generation of ideas (projects etc.)**
- **Impact on public policies, also European, key target cohesion policy**



Thank you for your attention

[j.szlachta90@upcpoczta.pl](mailto:j.szlachta90@upcpoczta.pl)