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Interreg

Challenges at EU's North-East External Borders (CHANEBO)



UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

NORDEVAL



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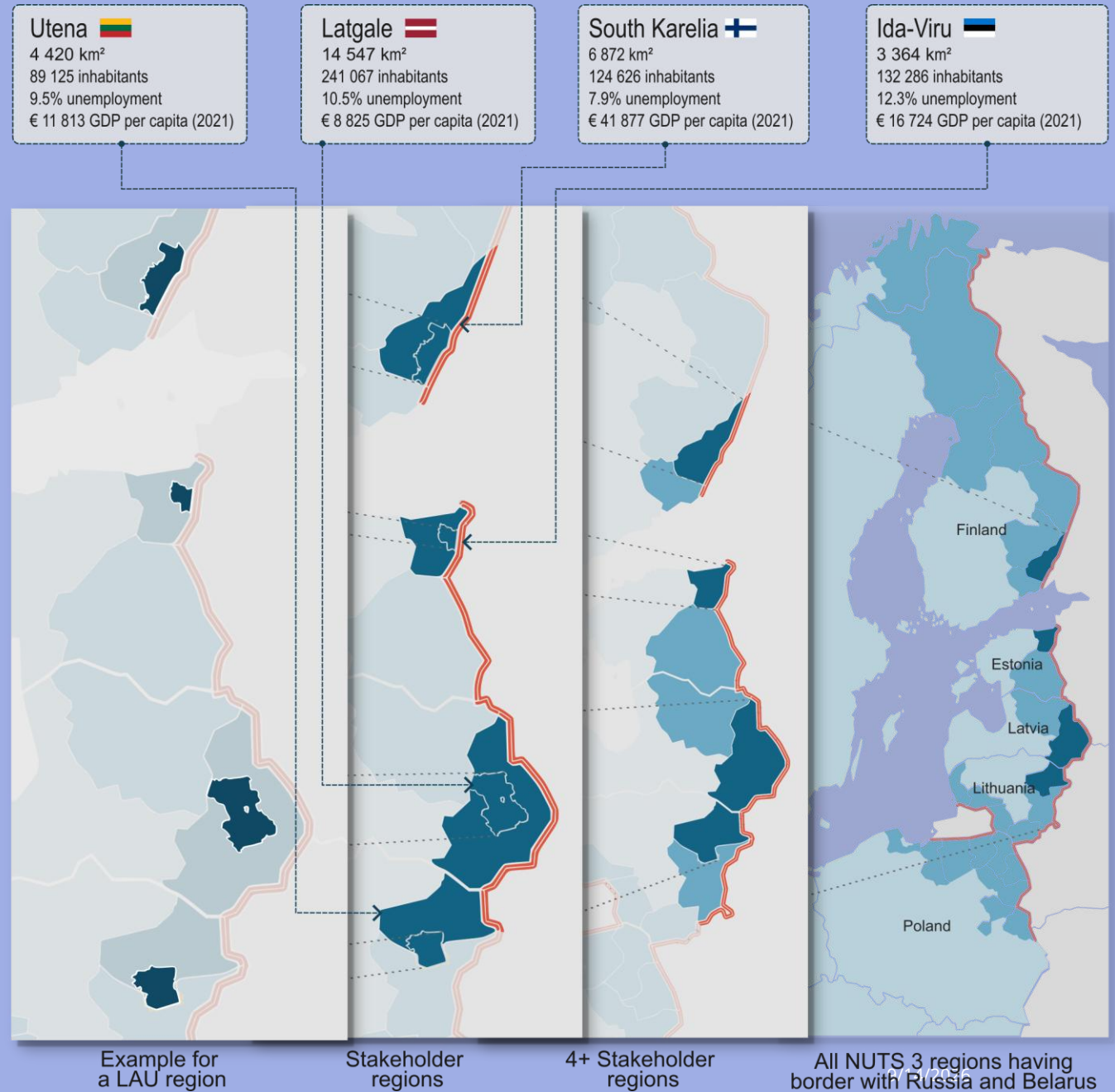
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CHANEBO regions of the targeted analysis

1. South Karelia, Finland
2. Ida-Virumaa, Estonia
3. Latgale, Latvia
4. Utena, Ignalina, Zarasai and Švenčionys // Euroregion “Country of Lakes”, Lithuania

Four geographic layers of analysis



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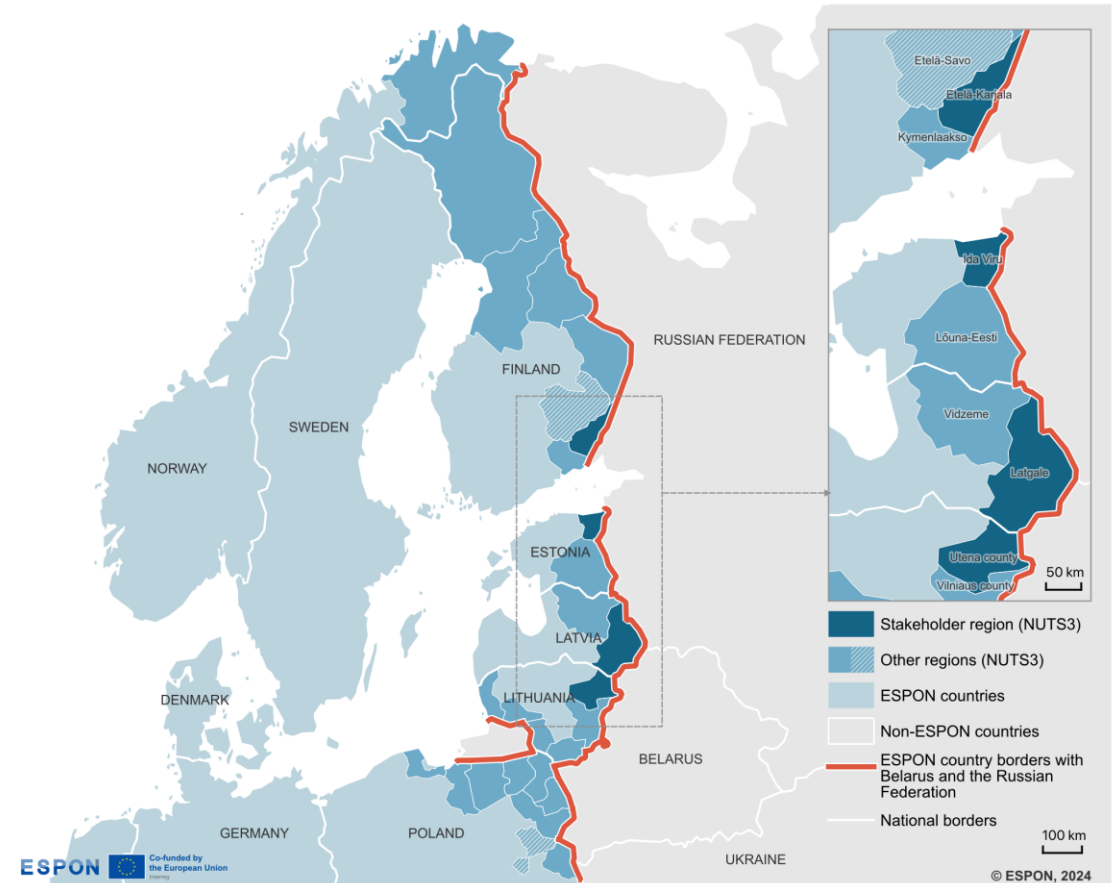


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ESPON regions having border with Russia and Belarus



MISSION LETTER

Brussels, 17 September 2024

Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Raffaele Fitto

Executive Vice-President-designate for Cohesion
and Reforms

- I would like you to work on providing support **the eastern border regions** most affected by Russia's aggression to address their specific challenges and support them in the reorientation of their local economy.

Task 1 Methodological framework

23 SEPTEMBER 2024

1. Policy needs identification
2. Development of key concepts and methodology
3. Identification of the data to be collected and their sources
4. Preparing the methodologic framework

Task 2 Review of current policies, tools and practices of cooperation

10 FEBRUARY 2025

1. Policy review by stakeholder region
2. Policy review at EU and macroregional level
3. Summary of review findings
4. Developing policy recommendations at the stakeholder region level

Task 3 Analysis and mapping the socio-economic situation

13 March 2025

1. Data collection at each stakeholder region level
2. Analysis of each stakeholder region
3. Developing a regional profile and a list of emerging trends at the stakeholder region level
4. A comparative analysis of the regional trends of all four stakeholder regions

Task 4 Vision setting

1. Elaborating potential scenarios for stakeholder regions
 - 2-3 territorial scenarios as a means of glimpsing into the future
 - outcomes of task 2 and task 3 will provide an outline of the challenges and trends at the regional level
 - global endogenous and exogenous trends and factors
 - development paths and the strategic vision will be translated into a few stories
2. **Participatory workshops in stakeholder regions**
3. Developing (ideally agreed) scenarios at stakeholder region level
4. Elaborating potential scenarios for the broader EU north-eastern border rim
5. **Joint participatory workshop for all stakeholder regions**
6. Developing agreed (ideally agreed) scenarios at the broader EU north-eastern border area level
7. Developing a set of recommendations for the future policies addressing the challenges at the wider EU north-eastern border area
 - a set of arguments for continued support of cross-border cooperation for the attention of the European Commission and national governments

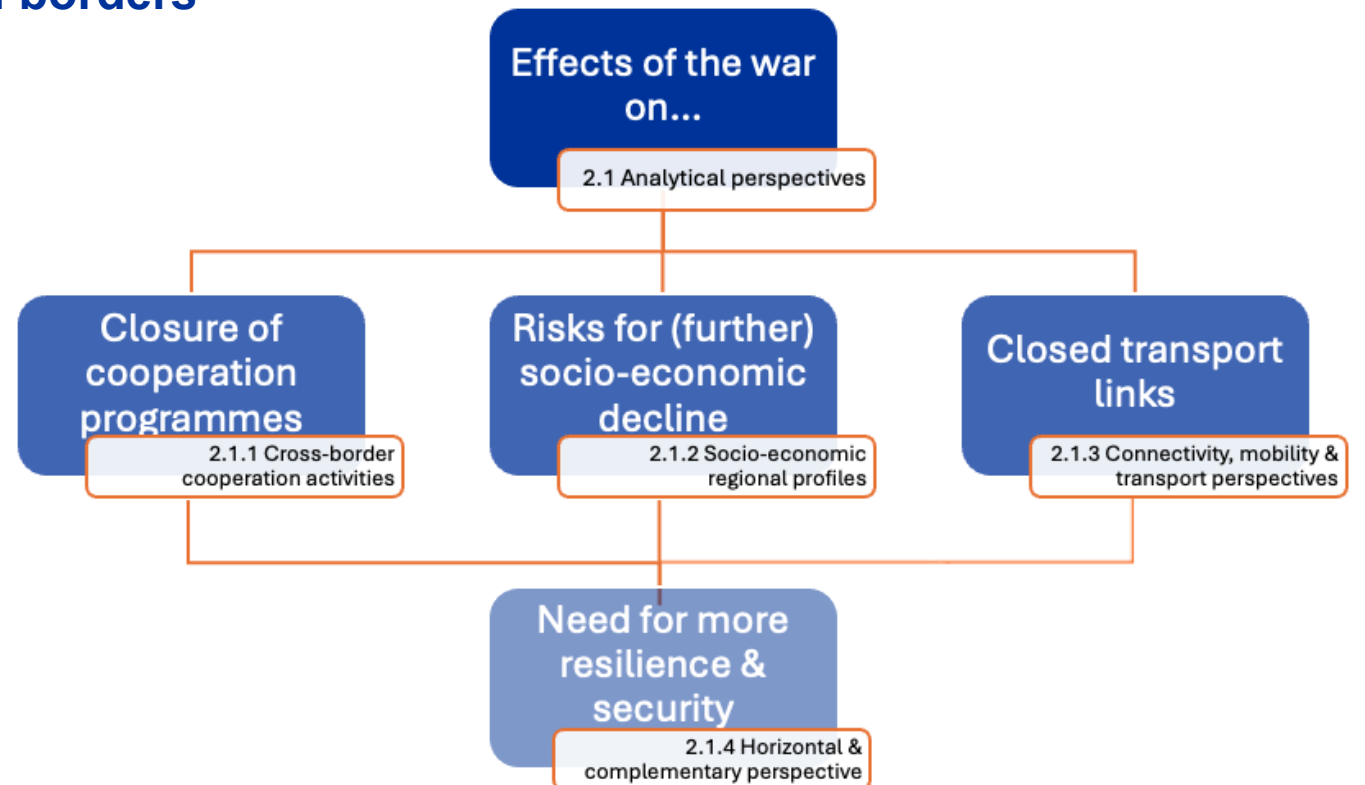
17 APRIL 2025

5 MAY 2025

Methodological framework

Analytic perspectives:

- I Cross-border cooperation at external borders
- II Socio-economic data
- III Connectivity, mobility and transport
 - * Horizontal: Resilience and security

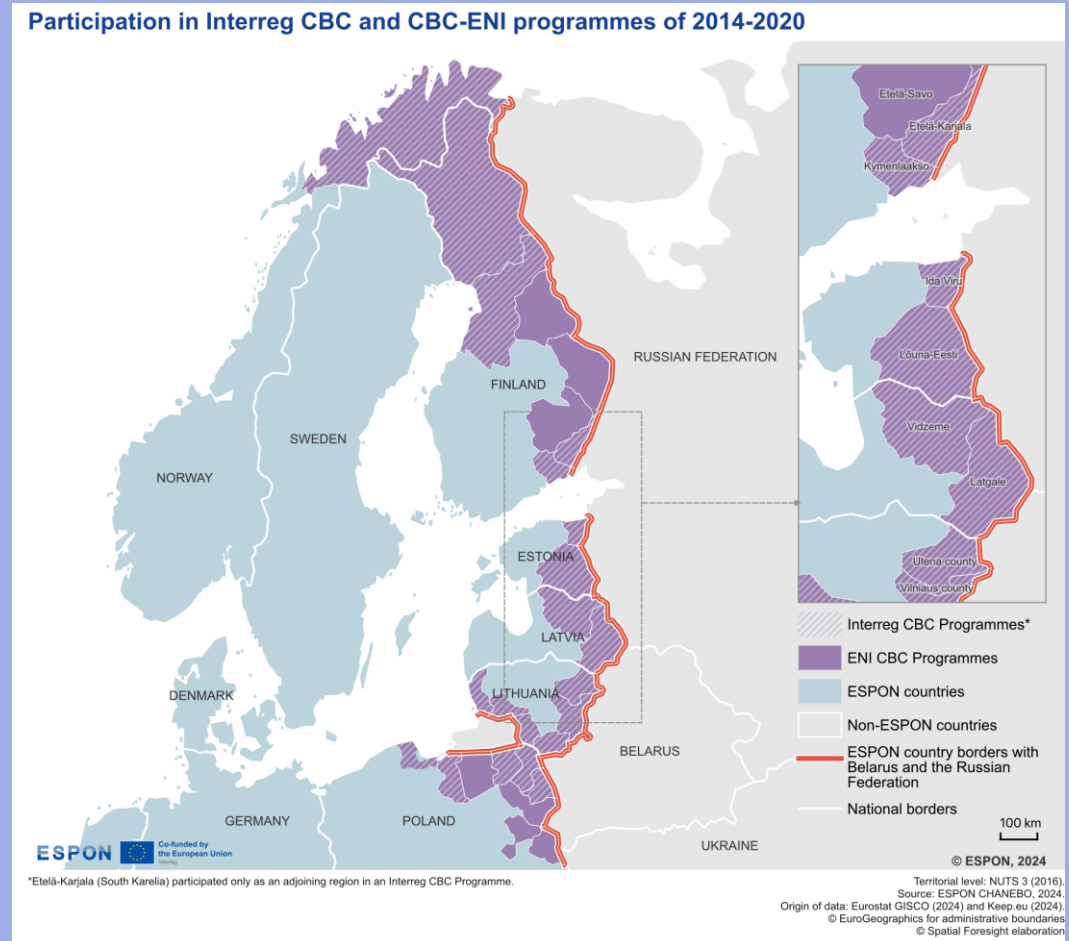


I Cross-border cooperation at external borders

- Past engagement 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 ENI CBC programmes

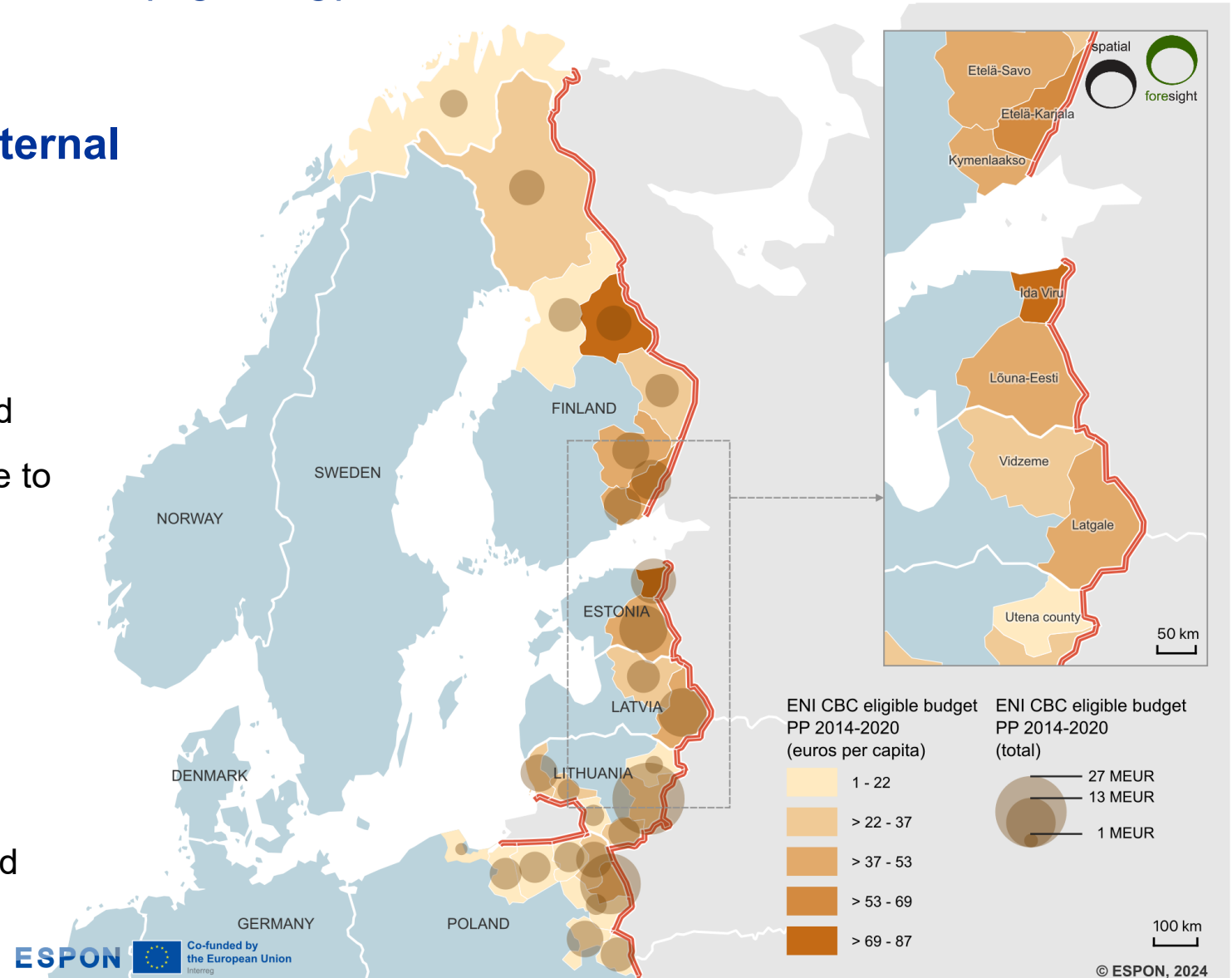
ENI CBC programmes
Number of projects
Total value in euros (2014-2020)
Total value in euros as % of the total EU funding & in comparison to internal CBC cooperation
Main thematic objectives (in EUR) (2014-2020)
Number/type of benefiting organisations

- 2021-2027 Interreg NEXT programmes
- Time and thematic dimensions (qualitative comparison 2014-2020 vs. 2021-2027)



Cross-border cooperation at external borders – lost opportunities

- Interreg CBC – ENI (European Neighbourhood Instrument) suspended
- Networks lost / new networks take time to be recreated and enabled
- Investments
- Safety and security not in focus in the current Interreg programmes
- No prepayments leads to dropout of smaller organisations
- Trust and faith in the future undermined



II Socio-economic data

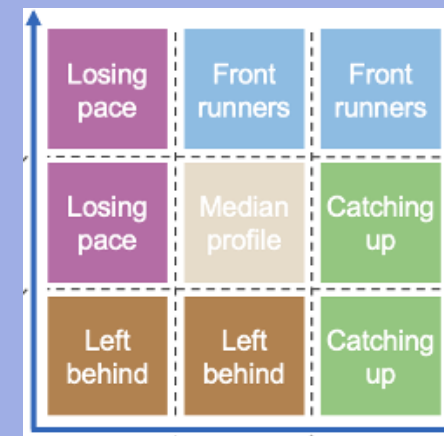
For CHANEBO regions

- A set of 16 comparable indicators
- Individual region-specific analytics
- Review:
 - regional development documents and previous studies and surveys
 - other ESPON studies to be consulted
 - Eurobarometer

REGIONAL PROFILES	
1.	Demographics
2.	Education and labour market
3.	Economics and trade
4.	Businesses demography and development
5.	Energy
6.	Tourism and culture
7.	Resilience and security

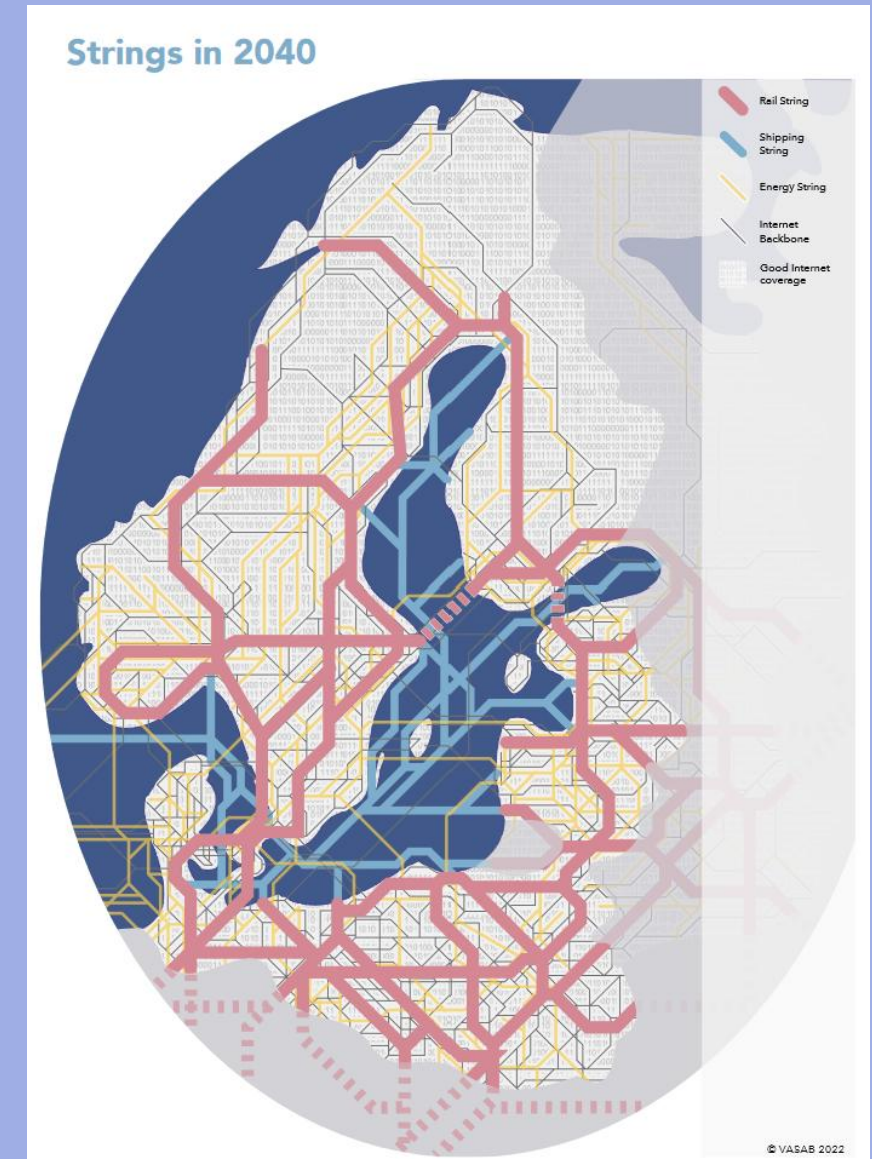
For all 27 NUTS3 regions

- GDP per capita at current prices in EUR
- Population and its density
- Old age dependency
- Net migration per 1000 inhabitants
- Employer business demography by NACE Rev. 2
- Nights spent at tourist accommodation establishments
- Changes in GDP PPS mapped highlighting shifts over the decade 2012-2022 benchmarking them against national and EU average - approach was inspired by a conceptually similar exercise carried out within the ESPON Territorial Reference Framework Applied Research Activity in 2019



III Connectivity, mobility and transport

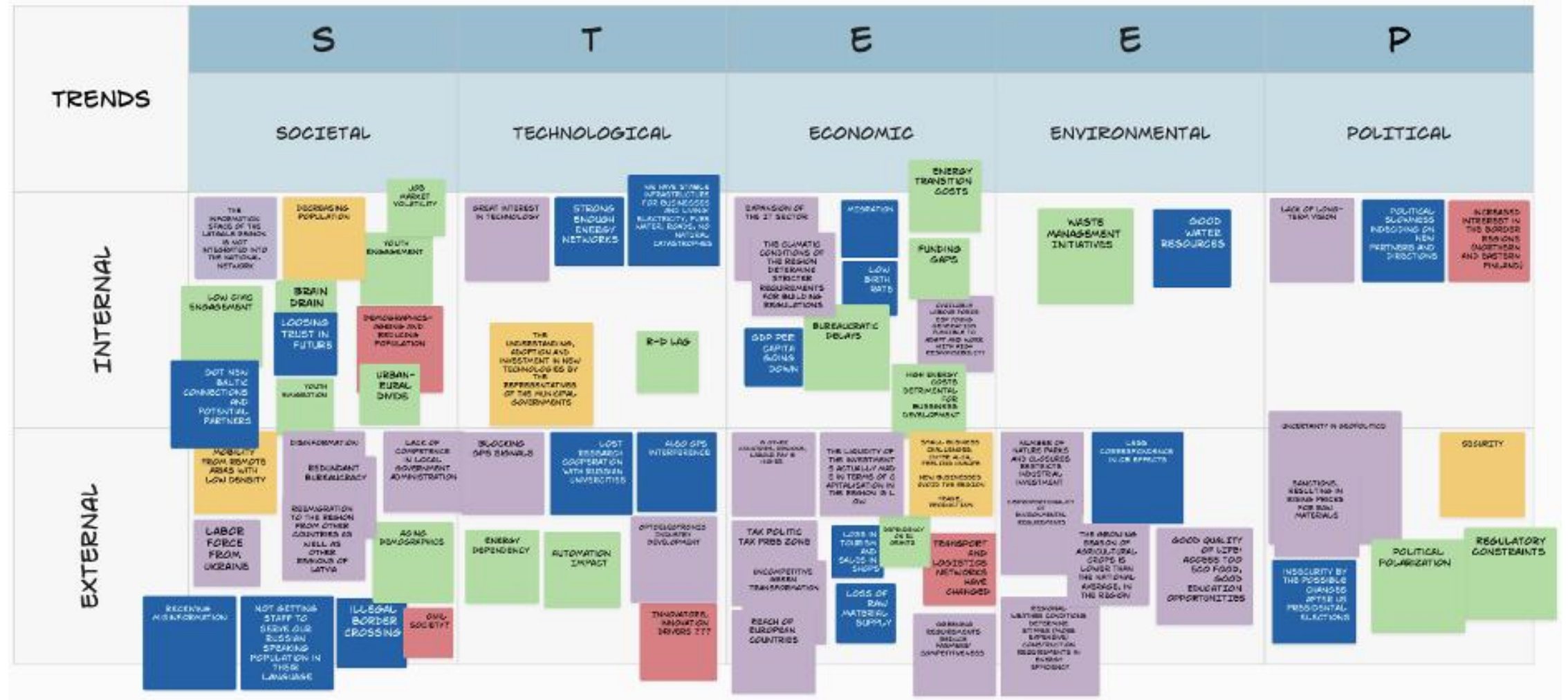
- Actual situation of cross-border connectivity, mobility, transport:
 - Connectedness of the stakeholder regions by transport infrastructure modes, freight & people and purposes
 - Dual-use potential of infrastructure
- VASAB 2040 vision as well as the related national and regional spatial plans
- Finnish research area:
 - South Karelia Mobility Strategy 2030
 - Green transport corridors
 - TEN-T North-South axis
- Baltic research area:
 - North Sea Baltic Corridor (NSB CoRe) project
 - Kotka – Sillamäe ferry connection
 - Eastern String (Austrumu stīga) in Latgale region



Common policy needs of CHANEBO regions identified during stakeholder consultation

1. the CHANEBO regions have a specific attention from the national and international security point of view
2. heightened social tensions due to geopolitical concerns and security issues
3. disruption of East-West transport corridors has left regions feeling isolated, contributing to economic and social uncertainty
4. the war exacerbates existing economic disadvantages
5. the negative image hinders investment and tourism, affecting economic growth
6. retaining and attracting businesses, particularly SMEs, is crucial, with potential opportunities linked to near-shoring, dual-use infrastructure and the defence industry
7. closure of borders has impacted tourism, especially with the loss of visitors from Russia and Belarus
8. social integration of Ukrainian refugees, political exiles from Russia and Belarus and low skilled migrant workers is challenging, particularly in non-Russian-speaking areas
9. addressing security vulnerabilities related to infrastructure ('hardware') while strengthening societal resilience ('soft' power) is essential
10. media literacy is critical to counteract hybrid warfare, including disinformation aimed at weakening societal resilience

Europe starts here



Connectivity, mobility and transport

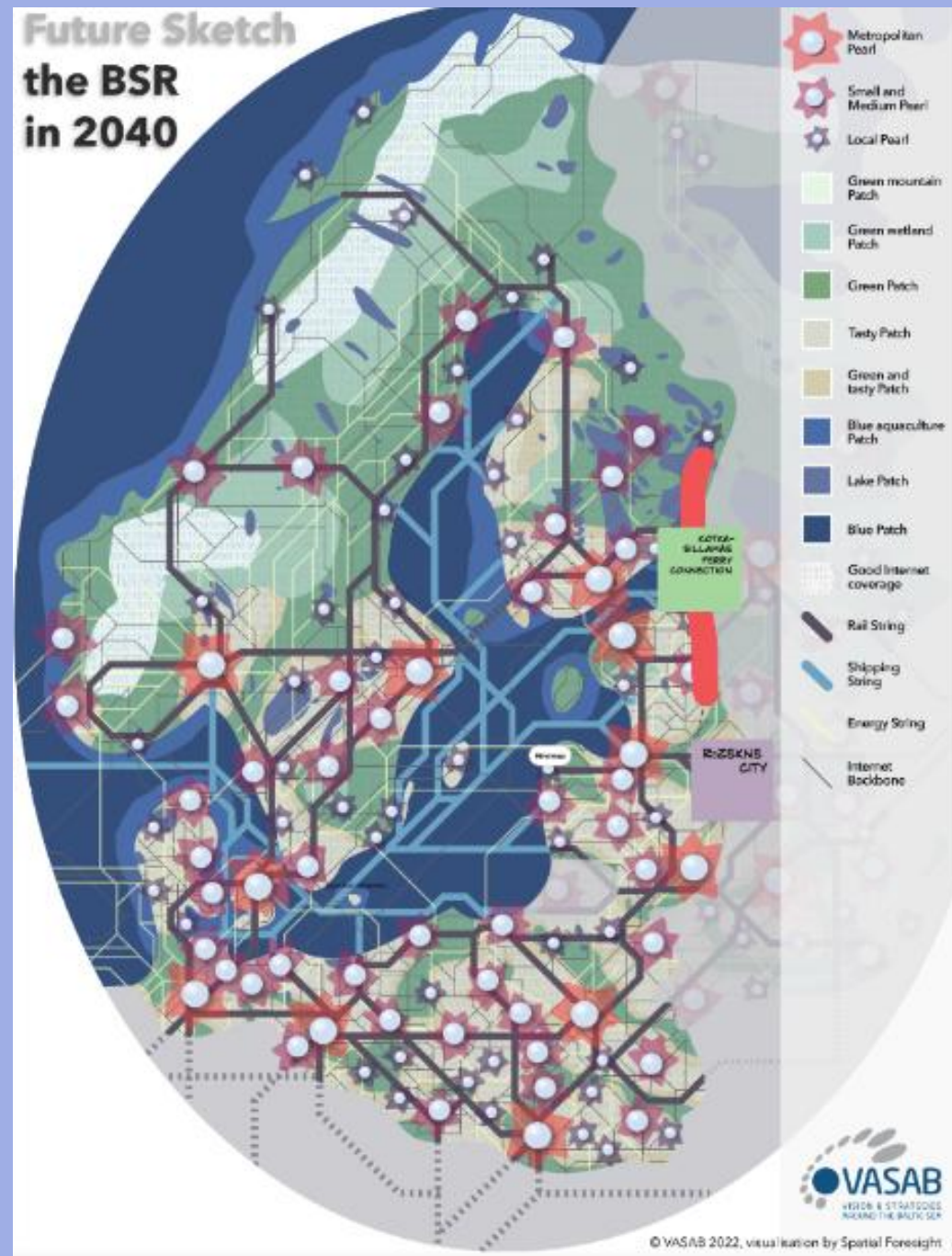


Kotka - Sillamäe connection potential

Arto Ahlberg 2023–2024

KYMEN
LAAKSON
LIITTO

- Project funder and main funding source: The Regional Council of Kymenlaakso, Supporting the Sustainable Growth and Vitality of Regions (AKKE) funding



Policy questions to be responded by the targeted analysis

1. How to differentiate and develop new growth pattern with near-by EU regions, to open new markets and to engage with new business partners?
2. Which policies and tools can enhance the relations with regions located at the northern and southern part of the CHANEBO area, including cultural policies and mobility connections?
3. How can Cohesion Policy further support the regions at EU's north-east external borders become stronger and resilient to future challenges? How to better involve Interreg-specific objective "Safer and more secure Europe" in these regions?
4. What medium and long-term visions can be built in the studied area that can turn the crisis into an opportunity by also indicating how to develop success factors at regional and international scale?

**Interreg
Europe**



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Tackling the regional development challenges caused by Russia's war on Ukraine

Moderated policy learning approach with the
regions/countries most affected

Regio-Silience



Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

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PALDIES!