

EoRPA: Comparative studies on regional policy and development in Europe

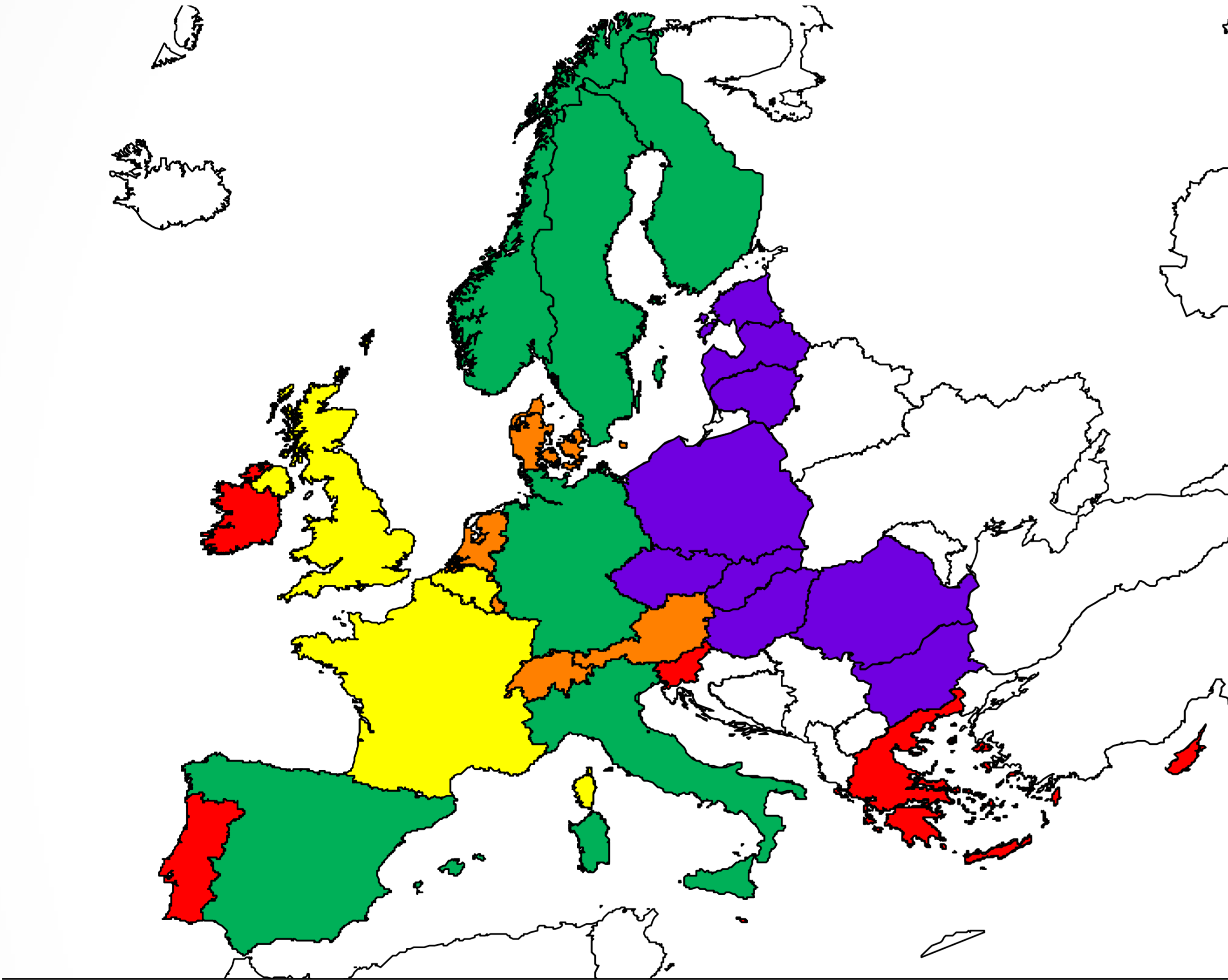
EoRPA produces a series of research reports each year, including an overview on recent developments in regional policy in the EU27 plus Norway and Switzerland, an update on Cohesion policy developments, a report on regional aid and a thematic study on a subject chosen by the EoRPA network members. Examples of recent reports include:

- Regional Policy in Europe: Divergent Trajectories? Annual Review of Regional Policy in Europe (EoRPA 11/1)
- A Budget and Cohesion Policy for Europe 2020: Let the Negotiations Begin (EoRPA 11/4)
- Setting the Scene for Competition Policy Control of Regional Aid 2014+ (EoRPA 11/5)
- Peripheral Regions: A Marginal Concern? (EoRPA 11/6)
- Regional Policy and Recovery from the Economic Crisis (EoRPA 10/1)
- Dealing with Demographic Change: Regional Policy Responses (EoRPA 09/4)
- Where does all the money go? Operationalising the allocation of funding under EU and national regional policy (EoRPA 07/5)

For more information and to download EoRPA reports since 2001 see:

<http://www.eprc.strath.ac.uk/eorpa>

How do European countries promote regional development?

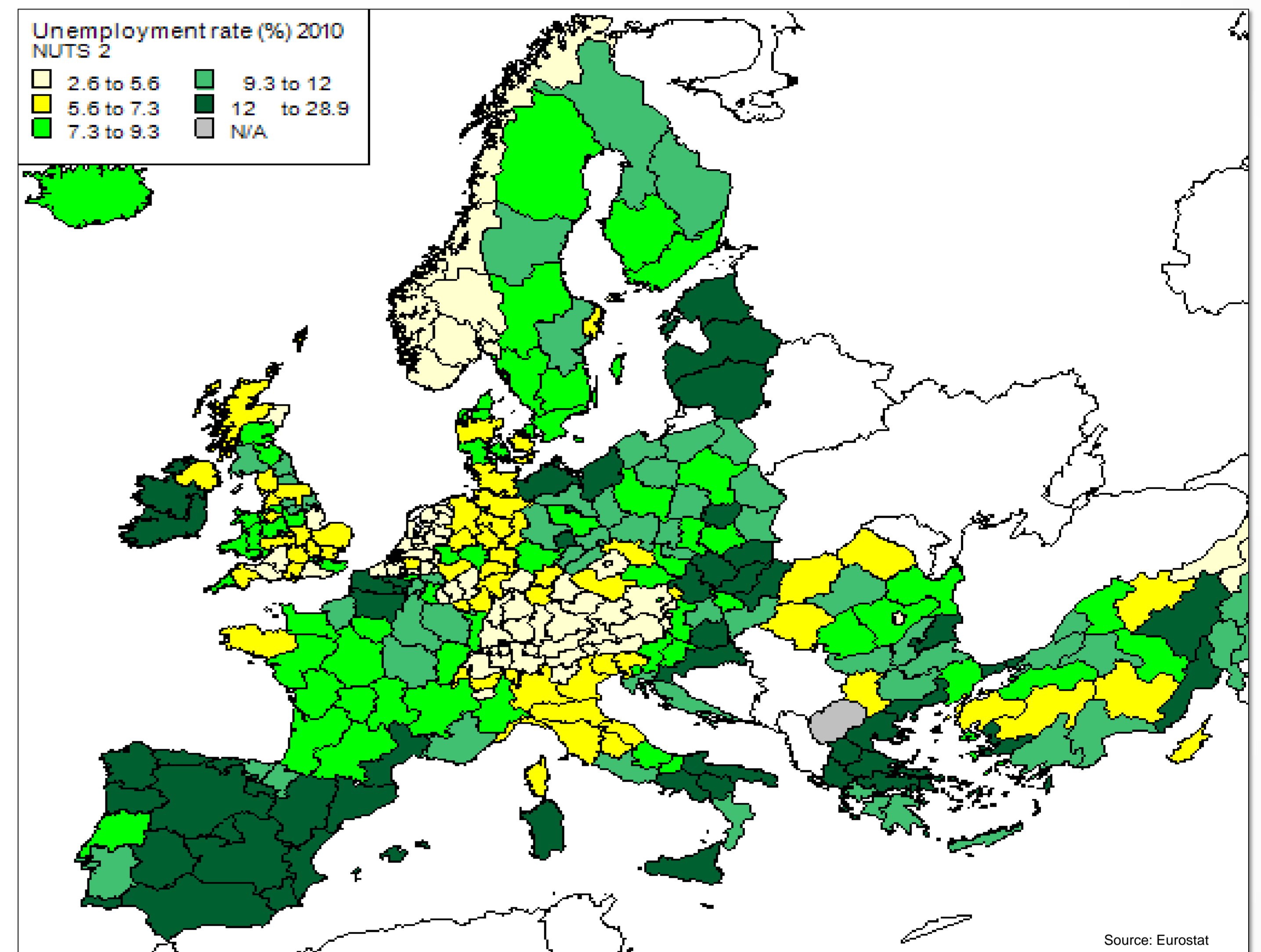


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| Prominent regional disparities - regional development policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden • National legal or constitutional commitments to reducing disparities • Prominent regional differences accepted as principal focus for spatially differentiated policies • Important / well-funded domestic regional policy instruments |
| Diverse geographical issues - national development policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia • Important geographical issues in EU context (peripherality, insularity) or internally (islands, mountain areas, isolated regions, capital city dominance) • Smaller countries, mainly just under EU average of GDP per capita • Focus on national development and competitiveness • Some internal disparities may be significant and getting policy attention |
| Limited regional disparities - national competitiveness policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austria, Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland • Limited regional disparities • Small, prosperous countries • Priority given to enhancing national competitiveness • Emphasis on social cohesion • Focus on support for the business environment |
| Diverse territorial challenges - regional competitiveness policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belgium, France, United Kingdom • Diverse territorial challenges (old industrial, rural, urban, etc.) • Limited prominence given to regional disadvantage (though some targeted measures) • Focus on regional competitiveness as contributor to national growth • Many small-scale territorial instruments |
| Widening regional disparities - national growth/development policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia • Focus on national growth and development; shifting from low-cost to innovation driven model • Widening territorial disparities (esp. between metropolitan areas and other regions) • Less prosperous countries; internal disparities recognised but weak domestic regional policies • Objectives/financing of economic development driven by Cohesion Policy |

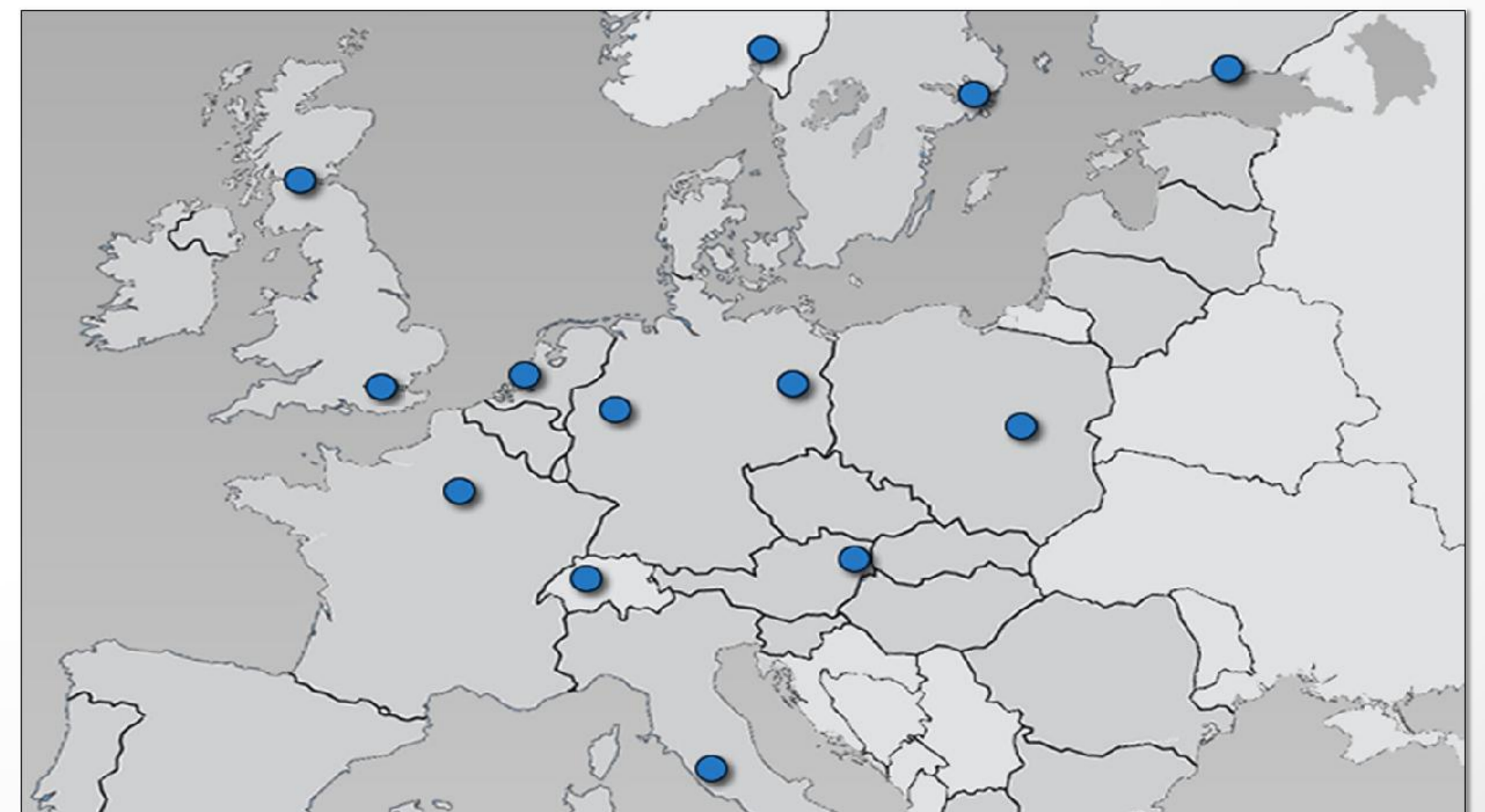
Focus on equity or efficiency? Different approaches to deal with trade-offs

Efficiency: business investment in all regions	Mainly efficiency but higher funding in weaker regions	Efficiency & equity - business investment in weaker regions	Equity - job creation or quality of life in weaker regions
Regional government economic development strategies in all regions: AT, CH, DE, ES, IT, UK	EU Cohesion policy as a whole - additional domestic bias towards weaker regions in e.g. DK, DE, FI	Grants for business investment/innovation in weaker regions: AT, BE, DK, DE, EL, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, PT, SE, UK	Transport aid in weaker regions: EL, FI, NO, SE, UK
State-region contracts for economic development in all regions: FR	Economic development strategies in all regions but with higher funding for weaker areas: DK	Tax relief for business investment/innovation in weaker regions: CH, DE, FR, IT	Grants for job creation in weaker regions: DE, IT, SE
Economic development programmes in all regions: CH, FI, SE		Funding for business context/infrastructure in weaker regions: DE, ES, FR, IT, PT	Tax relief for job creation in weaker regions: FR, IT, UK
Business-led strategies in any region: UK			Tax relief for all firms in weaker regions: FR, NO
Clusters: FI, NL, NO			Funding for local services/quality of life in weaker regions: EL, NO
			Fiscal equalisation mechanisms: All countries

How does unemployment differ across European regions?



EoRPA government sponsors across Europe



Ross Priory: venue for EPRC knowledge exchange

The European Policies Research Centre (EPRC) is a research institute at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. EPRC has specialised in regional and industrial development in Europe for over 30 years and provides research expertise for both public and private organisations across a range of policy areas. EPRC has extensive competence and experience in comparative research on regional problems and policies in Europe and on the evaluation of Structural Funds programmes and projects within the EU, as well as a wide range of other regional policy and regional planning studies.



EPRC knowledge exchange meetings on regional policy