

ESPON

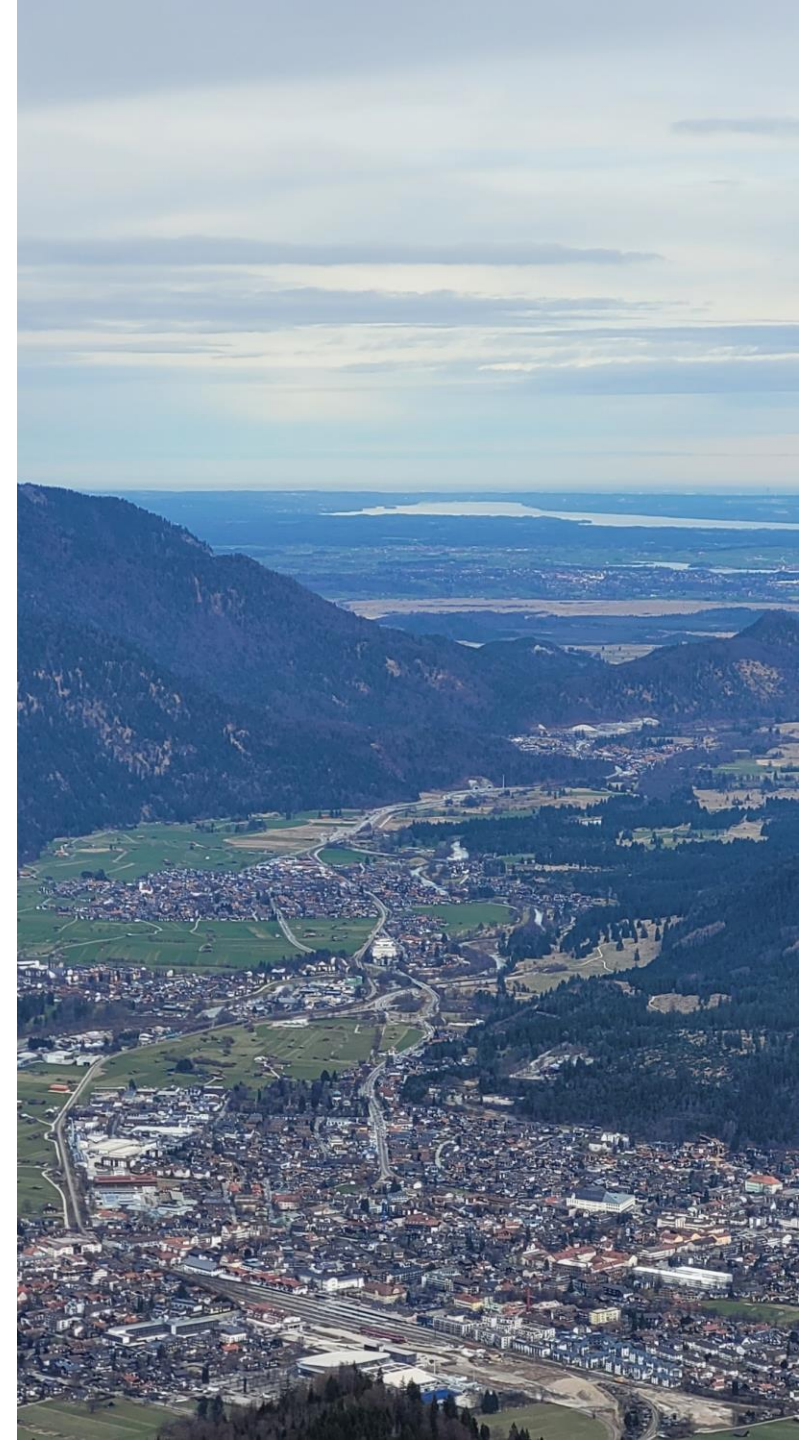


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Insights on functional areas and emerging geographies

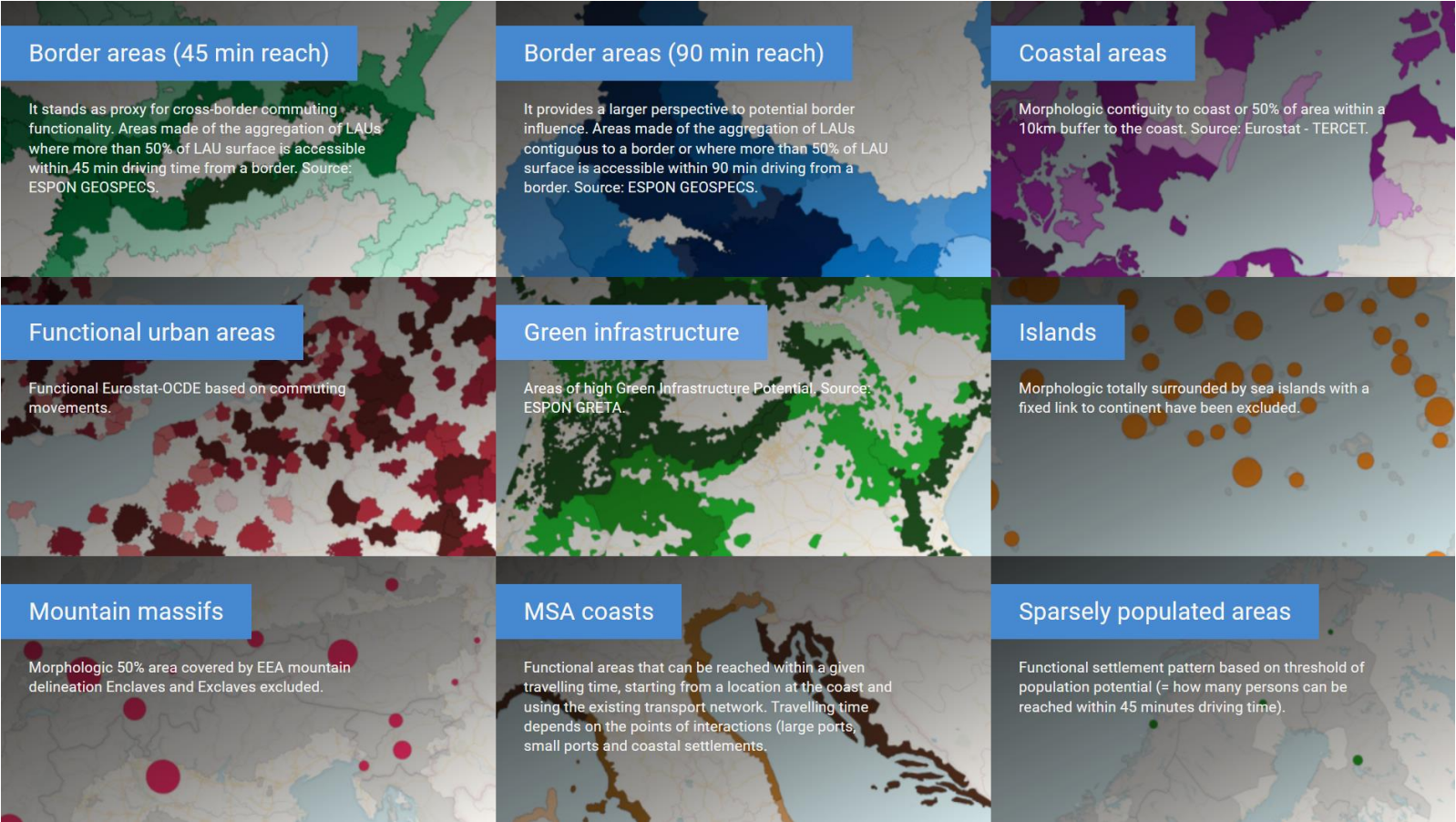
Functional areas: a powerful tool for territorial development

CoR COTER Conference – Balatonfüred
Nicolas Rossignol
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From evidence to policy making

Over the years, ESPON has developed **empirical approaches** to enhance the understanding of functional areas across Europe



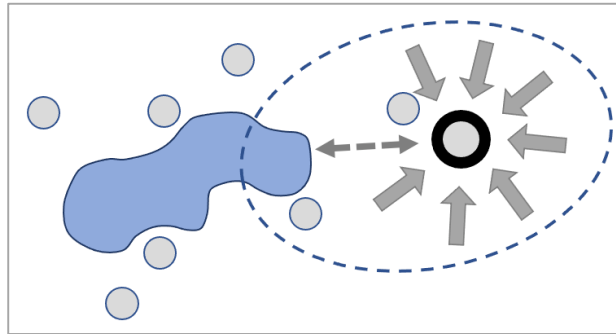
From evidence to policy making

More recently, our focus has shifted to assessing **the impacts of functional approaches to better serve policy needs** in various territorial contexts, in particular in so-called “emerging geographies”

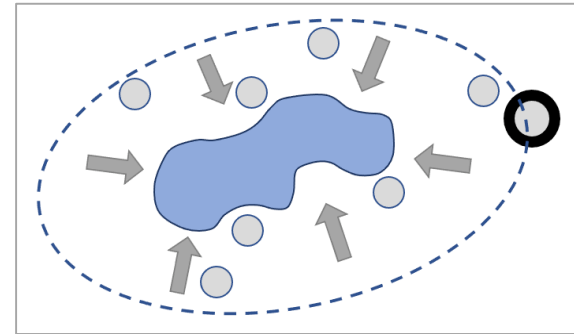
- ✓ Shifting perspectives for the governance of large lakes (e.g. Lake Balaton)
- ✓ Delineating suitable policy frameworks for rural transformation (e.g Romania)
- ✓ Preparing the next generation of INTERREG programmes

Large lakes as functional regions

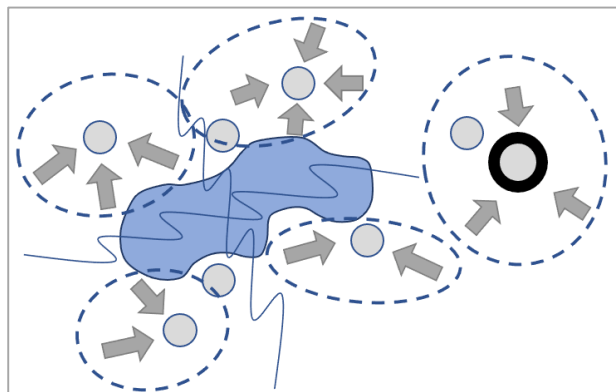
(1) From lakes as *subordinates*



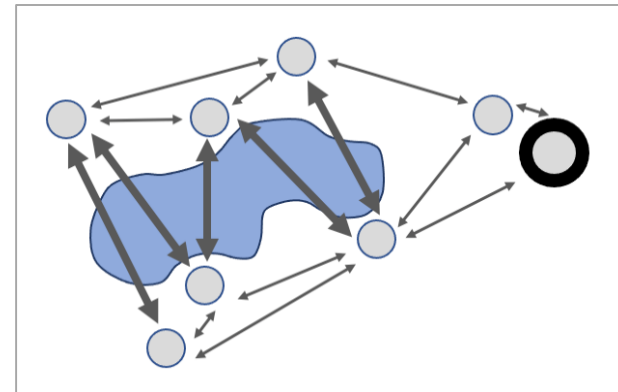
to lakes as *centres of attention*



(2) From lakes as *barriers* for cooperation



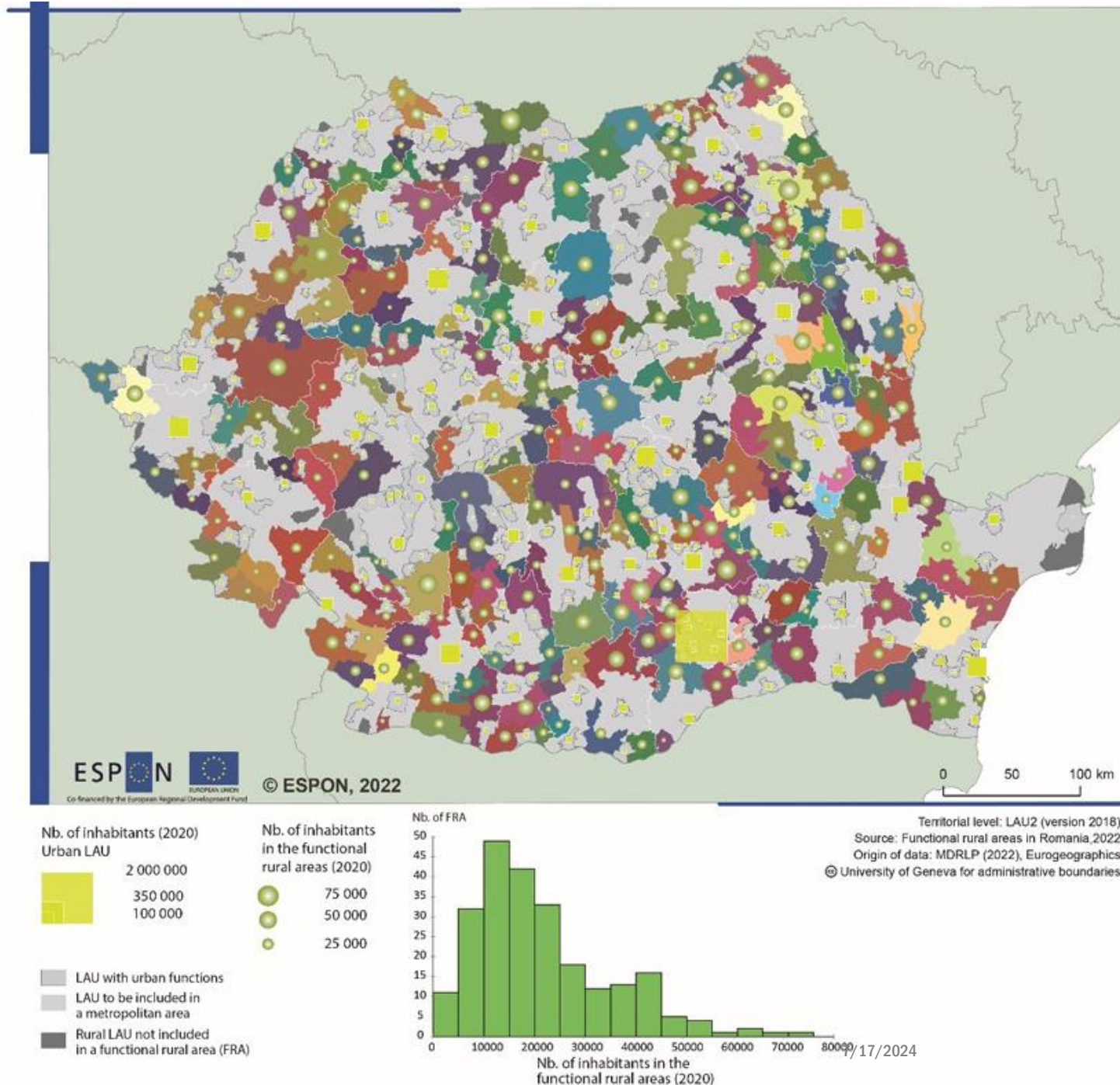
to lakes as *catalysts*



Functional rural areas in Romania

Creating a suitable policy framework for rural transformation by **defining a methodological and conceptual framework for functional areas**

- ✓ Considering new forms of cooperation and the possibility to establish new administrative consortia in rural areas
- ✓ Considering public service delivery (social, education and healthcare)
- ✓ Supporting new economic practices in agriculture (looking at self-employment for example)
- ✓ Increasing the efficiency of deploying investments, etc.

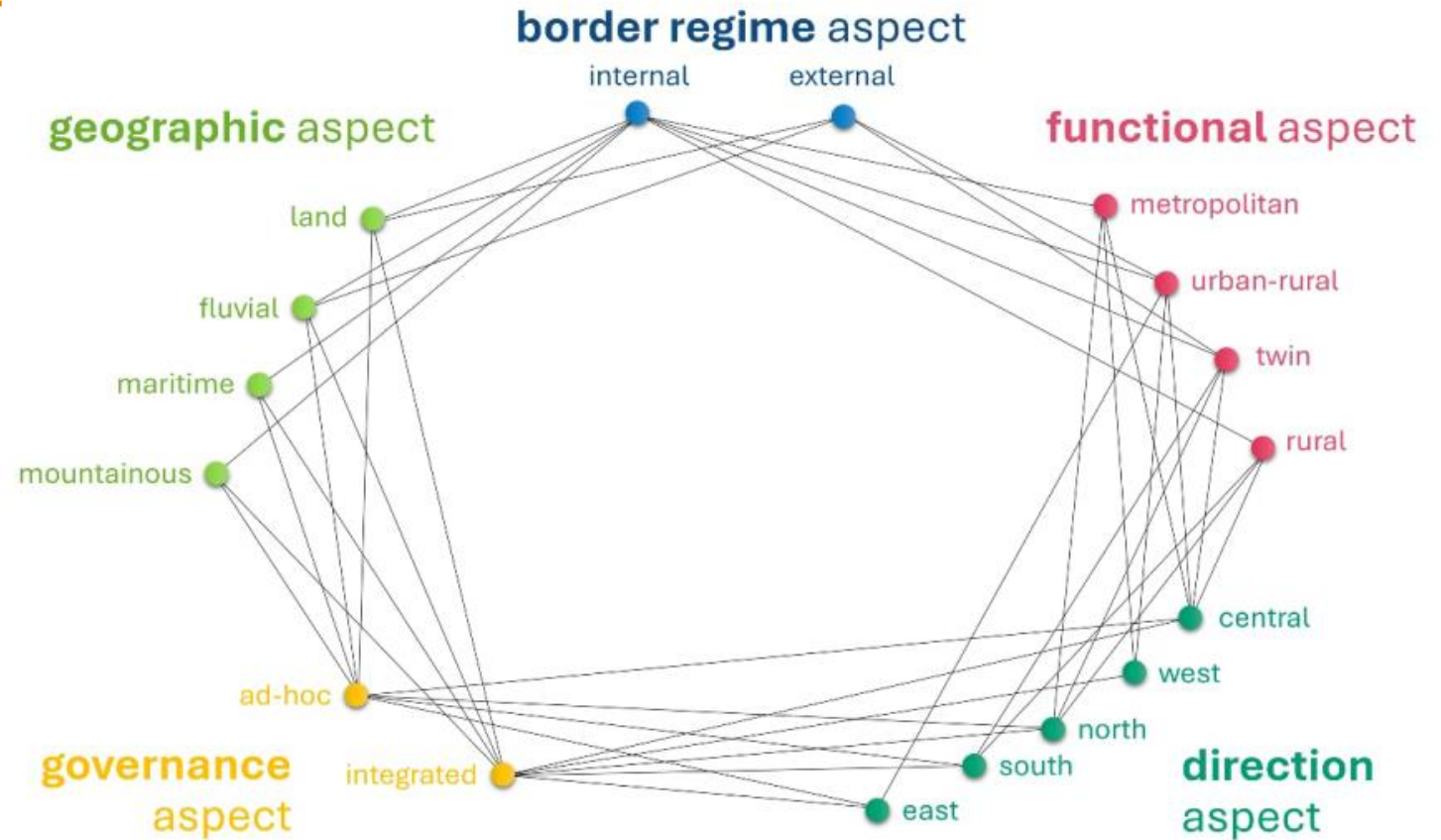


Mapping cross-border functional areas

Exploring the **governance mechanisms for cross-border functional areas**

A vast pan-European research project aiming at delivering an **updated atlas on cross-border functional areas**

The ambition to collecting and analysing data that will be used for the **preparation of the next generation of INTERREG programmes**



Emerging geographies

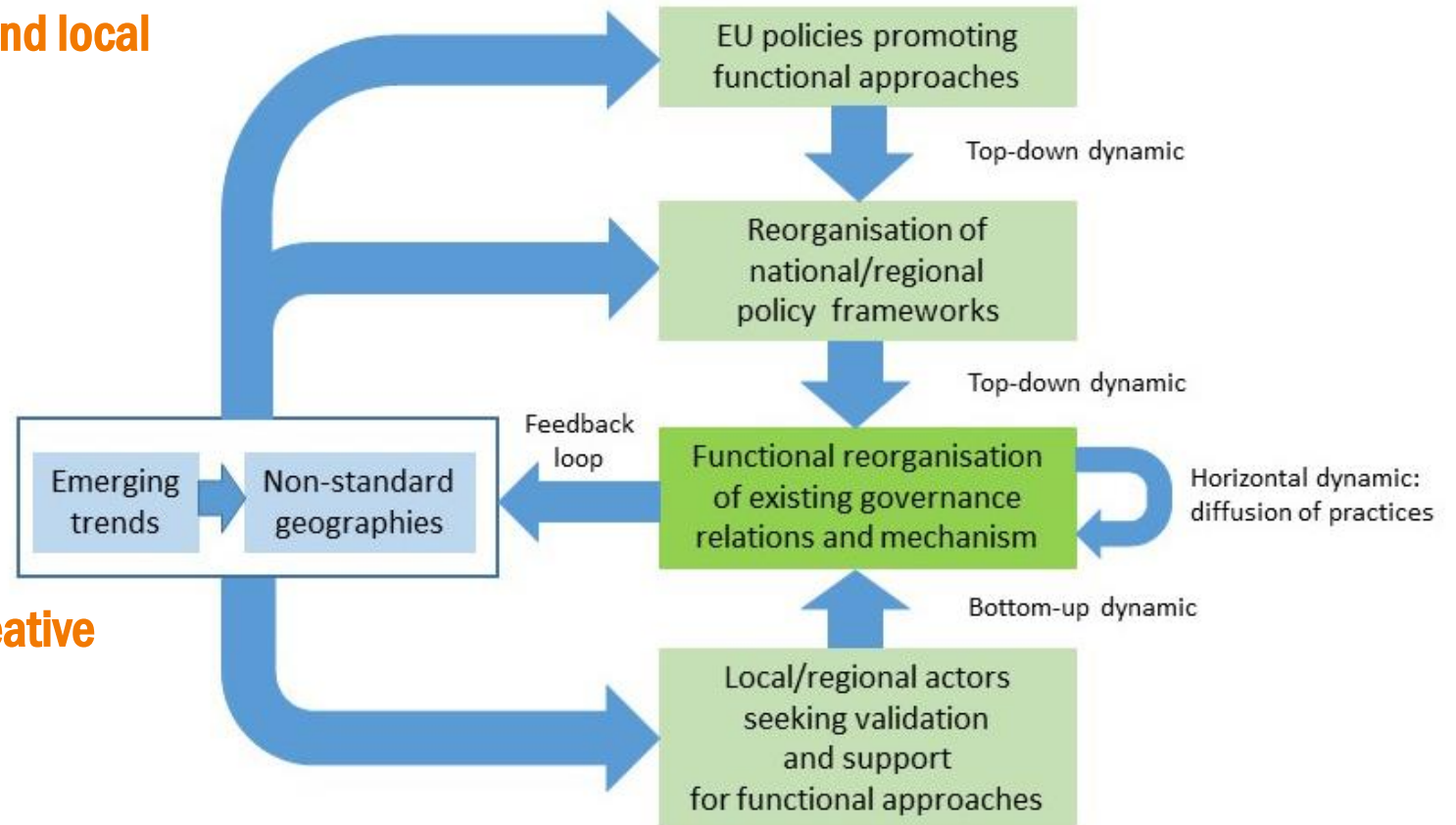
Functional approaches to optimise regional and local resilience

Spaces of participation and dialogue

Spaces of strategic action

Spaces of functional interaction

Functional areas as an evidence-informed creative processes



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Thank you!

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