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Eduardo José Rocha Medeiros

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Euro-Meso-Macro:

The new regions in Iberian and European space

Eduardo Medeiros*

**Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning (IGOT), Centre for Geographical Studies*

(CEG), Lisbon University, Portugal. Email: emedeiros@campus.ul.pt

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6 Abstract:
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10 The European integration process, which has been supported by European Cohesion
11 Policy since the end of the 1980s, is witnessing the establishment of an increasingly
12 large number of the so-called Euroregions and similar structures, mainly as a result of
13 experiments and projects carried out under the INTERREG community initiative, in all
14 its strands (cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation), in a quest to
15 search better adequate socioeconomic development and multilevel governance
16 solutions.
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29 This article explores the emergence of these new Governance Spaces in Europe and, in
30 particular, in the Portuguese-Spanish border area, and aims to assess their contribution
31 to inject new tailor-made regional/local development strategies and also to provide a
32 conceptual clarification of these spaces, which became more relevant with the advent of
33 the Macro-Regions that have come into being since 2007.
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43 Keywords: Euroregion, Macro-Region, Territorial Cooperation, Territorial Governance,
44 EGTC and INTERREG.
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49 INTRODUCTION 50 51 52 53

54 This article sets out to examine the territorial cooperation structures in the European
55 Union (EU) in general, and in the Iberian Peninsula (Portuguese-Spanish border area) in
56 particular, which may be contributing to the establishment of new models of territorial
57 governance, such as the Euroregions and Macro-Regions. These cooperation spaces aim
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3 to establish a shared intervention development strategy, in order to solve common
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5 problems in cross-border and transnational spaces. The empirical focus is mainly on the
6
7 Iberian cross-border spaces, because of the surprisingly short-term shift from a long
8
9 back-to-back cross-border relationship existence (MEDEIROS, 2010b), into a
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11 proliferation of cross-border associations and infra-structures (more than 80 –
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13 MEDEIROS, 2010), with special relevance to the recent implementation of three
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15 European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) and a similar number of
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17 Euroregions.
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25 In this context, particular emphasis will be given to the role of the INTERREG
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27 community initiative as the ‘creator’ of these ‘New European Regions’, as corollary of
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29 an in-depth analysis of its territorial impacts on the Portuguese-Spanish border, since its
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31 first generation (1990-1993), till the present, in a number of research projects conducted
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33 by the author over the last seven years (2003-2010) in this area, which implied
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35 numerous contacts and interviews with local/regional stakeholders and policy makers.
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37 All this work provided additional evidence that this initiative strengthened the
38
39 foundations for the emergence of structures designed to stimulate the process of cross-
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41 border cooperation (Euroregions and Working Communities) which did not exceed 33
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43 in Europe until 1990 (beginning of INTERREG), and now extend beyond 130 entities.
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51 In overall terms, the post-war efforts of some European cross-border local and regional
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53 authorities to work together through informal cross-border cooperation arrangements
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55 have become more solid at all levels, making most European cross-border regions
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57 suitable “terrains for producing new transnational actors and new opportunities for
58
59 existing actors” (PERKMANN, 1999: 657), thus drawing attention to pioneering forms
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3 of cross-border governance in the European Union (see KRAMSCH and HOOPER,
4 2006). In this scenario, where local and regional authorities play a major role in the
5 evolution of transfrontier initiatives (CHURCH and REID, 1999: 644), the cross-border
6 structures known as Euroregions intend “to provide the institutional framework within
7 which economic and social actors may come to formal and informal contacts and
8 relations across national borders” (VAN HOUTUM, 1998: 11).
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20 However, the auto-designation of Euroregion by many of these entities is very
21 controversial and is justified, in most cases, by the need to stimulate and accelerate the
22 cross-border cooperation process, and to facilitate the attraction of Community funds.
23 This is also the aim behind the recently created EUROACE (Euroregion Alentejo-
24 Centro-Extremadura) and the EUROAAA (Euroregion Alentejo-Algarve-Andalusia) in
25 order to promote cross-border and inter-regional cooperation. The ultimate goal of these
26 entities, which extend beyond the boundaries that separate one or more European
27 countries, is the establishment of a common development strategy with permanent and
28 strengthened capacity, with important participation and cooperation of several actors
29 from local to regional levels, and in particular the civil society. In parallel, it is intended
30 that the various types of cross-border flows are strong and, at the same time, help
31 structure the territory. In addition, the stimulation of the joint use of social/cultural
32 facilities and the economic/technological cooperation base should be pursued.
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53 At another level, this article aims to give a concise overview of the newly created
54 European Macro-Regions in order to clarify the main differences between them and the
55 Euroregions, since some transnational European spaces involving three or four NUTS II
56 are already calling themselves Macro-Regions (ex: Sudoeste Europeu – North of
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3 Portugal, Galicia and Castilla y León), which does not seem very appropriate. In this
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5 regard, special attention should be given to the Baltic Sea region, which marks a new
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7 beginning for the territorial cooperation policy of the European Union, since it is the
8
9 first truly integrated approach adopted by the Member States and other neighbouring
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11 countries (11 in total: Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Finland, Poland, Estonia, Latvia,
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13 Belarus, Lithuania, Norway and Russian Federation), that face the same set of
14
15 problems, with the intention of achieving a more effective coordination of financial
16
17 resources and reinforcing the main cooperation initiatives. Needless to say that the
18
19 implementation of this initiative is much connected to the transnational dimension of
20
21 the INTERREG community initiative, since one of its programmes covers precisely the
22
23 Baltic Sea region. Following a similar idea, the Danube Macro-Region, which involves
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25 14 countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania,
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27 Slovakia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine) drew
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29 up a joint regional development strategy, inspired by the need for shared responsibility
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31 in environmental preservation and sustainable development of all the region
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33 surrounding the Danube river.
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43 Finally, we will elaborate a critical analysis and reflection on the European Grouping of
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45 Territorial Cooperation legal instrument, in the Iberian Peninsula, which seeks to
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47 overcome the legal obstacles to cross-border cooperation, and to improve the multilevel
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49 governance process, by involving local, regional and national authorities in a single
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51 cooperative structure, in order to facilitate and consolidate the process of territorial
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53 cooperation in Europe.
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3 We must say, however, that in some European countries, the idea behind the formation
4 of an EGTC is still not yet very well welcomed yet. Interestingly, the first Iberian
5 EGTC (North-Galicia) was the third to be established in Europe, even taking into
6 account the long back to back cross-border cooperation history between the two Iberian
7 States, at least until the late 1980s. In line with this experience, two other similar
8 structures were established along the Northwest of the Iberian Peninsula (Duero-Douro
9 and Zasnet), and some others are thought to begin its work in the border area between
10 Extremadura and Alentejo and Algarve-Andalusia, in the nearby future, which makes
11 the entire Iberian border region a case study at European level in this issue.
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27 THE EMERGENCE OF 'NEW REGIONS' IN EUROPE

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31 In a sense, the title of this article suggests the idea of an emergence of 'new regions' in
32 the European space, which justifies the author's attempt to clarify some key concepts
33 associated with this process: (Region, Europeanization, Globalisation, Euro-
34 Regionalisation), in a necessarily brief way.
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43 Considering a 'region' as an internally consistent area in the Earth surface regarding
44 aspects of physical and human geography, making it a significant unit which can be
45 distinguished from the surrounding area (GOODALL, 1987), it would make some sense
46 that these new European transnational spaces showed some uniformity in certain
47 domains (economic, cultural), in spite of being purely political constructs. Yet, as Vidal
48 de la Blache (1911) noted many decades ago, the regional divisions depend on many
49 factors. In this regard, DUBOIS (2009: 17) stresses that, "under current usage the term
50 'region' can refer to anything from an administrative unit to a functional area".
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6 In equal measure, the idea that the regions are immutable can be called into question,
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8 taking into account the significant changes in the organization and dynamics of
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10 territories resulting, for example, from the process of globalization, which increases the
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12 development of the growing interconnections between several territorial units in the
13
14 world. As a consequence, ancient forms of space appropriation are changed, as the
15
16 distances are annihilated and the time is shortened in handling communications and
17
18 resources, products and people, which translates into major transformations in national
19
20 social spaces and significant changes in the role of the State and its attributes of
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22 independence, sovereignty and security, as well as on its role and institutions
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24 (ORTEGA and LÓPEZ, 1993).
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32 In Europe, and in particular in the European Union, these changes in spatial and
33
34 political organization have also been induced to accelerate the process of European
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36 integration, as a result of the adoption of European Union guidelines and policies (ex:
37
38 Cohesion Policy), in particular after the 'Delors Commission' decision to stimulate and
39
40 implement the 'single market' idea, in 1985, thus contributing greatly to the reduction of
41
42 barriers between Member States. Since then, the implementation of European policies to
43
44 enhance the degree of territorial integration (economic, social, environmental) of the
45
46 community space continues its progress, with implications in the policies of several
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48 Member States, which many call the process of Europeanization, in its simplest sense
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50 (MAGONE, 2006 and VINK, 2002), and can be viewed as a process of redistribution of
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52 power resources between actors in the domestic arena resulting from EU membership
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54 (KOHLEK-KOCH, 1996).
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3 The question that arises now is to know how these (Europeanization and Globalization)
4 and other on-going processes may contribute to the genesis of most of these new
5 cooperation spaces in the European area, taken into account that, in a purely
6 administrative viewpoint, a region usually refers to a territorial unit which exists
7 between local and national levels (DUNKERLEY et al., 2002), and it constitutes the
8 heart of any social interaction (ALBET I MAS, 1993), thus contributing to model
9 individual and collective identities (CLAVAL, 1993).
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22 Nevertheless, and given the breadth of this theme, we decided to focus mainly on
23 factors and motivations that led to the creation of so-called Euroregions, Meso-Regions,
24 Macro-Regions and the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation in Europe. We
25 also present a comprehensive picture of their main territorial strategies, viewed either as
26 new processes of 'institutional' or 'rebel' euro-regionalisation, or understood as a
27 process of transferring powers from the Central State to Transnational European
28 Regions, in order to improve the territorial management and promote regional economic
29 development.
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43 Curiously, Orlando Ribeiro (1987) said that when describing the major regions of a
44 country, climate and structural units are usually the forces behind their delimitation. It is
45 curious to note that, in many cases, these assumptions are still valid today. For instance,
46 it is clear that the two already established European Macro-Regions (Baltic Sea and
47 Danube), were delimited around a European transnational physical geography element
48 of large proportions: the Baltic Sea and the Danube River. However, was this the main
49 reason underlying the establishment of these spaces? After all, the creation of these
50 Macro-Regions is very recent.
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6 In essence, it seems to us that most of the auto-proclaimed Euroregions are essentially
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8 'subsidy-regions', both in the material sense of the term (facilitating access to
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10 community funds, including the community initiative INTERREG), and in the political
11
12 sense (application of the subsidiarity principle). Concerning the latter, João Ferrão
13
14 (1995), stressed that the subsidiarity and inter-territorial solidarity constitute two key
15
16 pillars to build a community space and that the territorial communities have gained until
17
18 recently unsuspected prominence, given that, in general, the restructuring of the Nation-
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20 State in most advanced countries has been followed by a rhetoric which favours the
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22 decentralisation process.
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30 Although the European political and institutional context is clearly favourable to
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32 establishing new European territorial units, the sustainability of some is questionable,
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34 especially if they do not establish strong links with the local civil society in
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36 implementing their regional development plan. Alongside, the creation of these
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38 'intermediate governance levels' should follow the model of an 'aggregated and
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40 sustainable decentralization'. By contrast, if they do not detach themselves from a
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42 permanent EU-subsidised paradigm, they will eventually wither, and fit the opposite
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44 model of 'fictitious or misleading decentralization' (FERRÃO, 1995).
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51 In our view, this New Europe of Euro-Meso-Macro Regions (Fig. 1), where new cross-
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53 border and transnational areas with supranational intervention strategies seem to emerge
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55 every year like mushrooms, can only make sense if they can provide a more balanced
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57 development of the territory and, as Jorge Gaspar (1982) stresses, can contribute to the
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59 equitable development of men. This will require that such 'territorial units' are indeed
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3 able to intervene in areas that have direct consequences on people's lives, in order to
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5 mobilize them to the regional cause.
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FIGURE 1

This intervention capacity requires some degree of autonomy in the regional administration which, according to Guimarães (1980), is normally facilitated by the presence of a 'functional region', which is a region with a strong network of relationships and interdependences, translated by the existence of flows between the main regional hubs. However, there is hardly any positive correlation between the establishment of these new territorial units and the location of the main European and Iberian urban centres (Fig. 2), mainly because most of them are located in border areas, which are normally peripheral spaces. Perhaps not entirely surprising is the creation of these more or less complex forms of 'New Administrative Territorial Hierarchies', in rural and depopulated areas, with small urban influences, such as the Duero-Douro EGTC, in order to materialize the subsidiarity principle and counteract the negative vicious development cycle. Anyhow, we believe that the sustainability of such experiences depend largely in the collective awareness of the local population/stakeholders, and its capacity to increase the quality of life of its citizens.

FIGURE 2

EUROREGIONS AND EGTC IN EUROPE

The financial support provided essentially by the INTERREG community initiative, to strengthen the process of cross-border cooperation in the EU territory justifies the

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2
3 largely proliferation of entities (over 70) which call themselves 'Euroregions', perhaps
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5 with a view to follow in the footsteps of the first Euroregion created in 1958, at the
6
7 border that separates Germany and Holland (Euregio). Additionally, some 60 entities
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9 known as 'Working Communities', are distributed over several European border regions,
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11 most of the times, with the same strategic objectives of the 'Euroregions'.
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17 In this largely confusing context, we decided to clearly distinguish what is the entity
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19 which manages the process of cross-border cooperation (the Working Community) and
20
21 the 'region' in which it operates, which can be viewed as an 'Euroregion', if it meets
22
23 certain criteria (MEDEIROS, 2011). To put simple, we can say that an Euroregion is a
24
25 'region' or 'sub-region', with an area of less than 200,000 km², which extends beyond
26
27 the boundaries that separate one or more European countries and when: (i) it has a
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29 perspective of a common sustainable development strategy, with high levels of active
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31 involvement of local and regional authorities and in particular the civil society, on both
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33 sides of the border. This strategy must be coordinated by a cabinet with institutional
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35 binding capacity (e.g. EGTC); (ii) the barrier effect in all its dimensions is greatly
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37 reduced through intense cross-border flows which contribute to structure the territory
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39 and provide positive socioeconomic effects on both sides of the border; (iii) the sharing
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41 of social and cultural equipment is largely disseminated over the border; (iv) there is a
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43 strong cooperation and networking levels between major research centres and cross-
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45 border business entities.
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55 As stated, we defend the idea that a 'Euroregion' must be understood in the
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57 geographical sense of the term. That does not mean that the various existing cross-
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59 border cooperation structures known as Euroregions should be regarded in a less
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3 important perspective, since many of them have had a crucial role in bridging border
4 territories in several European countries, and also in applying the principles of
5 subsidiarity and partnership which, according to the Association of European Border
6 Regions (AEBR, 2008), is a fundamental precondition for managing successful
7 programmes of cross-border development.
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12 Accordingly, we believe that the possibility of creating a European Grouping of
13 Territorial Cooperation (Regulation No. 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of
14 the Council of 5 July 2006), with the aim to facilitate and promote the process of cross-
15 border, transnational and/or inter-regional cooperation in Europe, could contribute to
16 reducing the administrative and legal trade obstacles between border regions, taking into
17 account that these Groupings have legal personality, within the limits of the powers
18 conferred by the national law. Such possibilities allow, for example, a grouping of
19 bodies from different Member States without need to sign prior international accords
20 ratified by national parliaments (CE, 2007). At the present moment ten of these
21 groupings are already in operation (Fig. 1) and other 25 are in preparation (CR, 2010):
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- 43 • Amphictyony (Greece, Cyprus, Italy and France)
 - 44 • EGTC Duero-Douro (Portugal and Spain)
 - 45 • Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau has declared its willingness (France and Germany)
 - 46 • Euroregion Pyrénées-Méditerranée (Spain and France)
 - 47 • Galicia-North Portugal (Portugal and Spain)
 - 48 • Ister-Granum (Hungary and Slovakia)
 - 49 • Karst-bodva EGTC (Hungary and Slovakia)
 - 50 • Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai (France and Belgium)
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- West-Vlaanderen/Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte D'Opale (Belgium and France)
- Zasnet (Portugal and Spain).

THE MESO AND MACRO-REGIONS IN EUROPE

Unlike a Euroregion, which covers a border area between two or more countries, without exceeding, as a general rule, the 200.000 km², a Macro-Region, as its name suggests, is a region which covers a very wide (transnational) territory. So, based on the available data of two already established European Macro-Regions, we propose the following definition for this type of 'Governance Units': a region with over 700.000 km², involving more than two countries with contiguous territories and a common development strategy in certain socioeconomic domains (ex: environment).

In this line of thinking, we also propose a definition for a similar type of 'transnational territorial groupings' (countries and/or regions) with a smaller geographical area, which we will designate as Meso-Regions: a region covering at least two countries (or vast areas of several countries) with contiguous territories, covering more than 200.000 km² and less than 700.000 km², with a common development strategy in certain socioeconomic domains.

In these definitions, we essentially use the variable 'territorial extension' to differentiate the Meso from the Macro-Regions. However, Petrakos (1996), when discussing the formation of a future Macro-Region in the Balkans, invoked other factors beyond the geographical proximity, like the cultural/historical and other non-economic factors for its establishment. The same author underlines that it only makes sense to go ahead with

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3 this type of supranational entities if regions are able to fully exploit the opportunities
4 offered by the establishment of a transnational network of contacts.
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10 Even more so, the establishment of Meso and Macro-Regions “challenges the
11 installation of new modes of governance in order to literally fill the organisational and
12 institutional vacuum that emerges” once they are produced (DUBOIS *et al.*, 2009: 17).
13 In this view, the same author(s) regard Macro-Regions as a ‘specific interface between
14 different established scales’, which might provoke ‘power struggles’ between them.
15 Nevertheless, in this definition it is not clear which scales are involved. This might give
16 rise to some ‘confusion’ with the Euroregions which also revolve around several levels
17 of territorial governance (local, regional, national). Furthermore, Dieleman & Faludi
18 launch an interesting idea when they argue that Macro-Regions may not only consist of
19 nation-states (DUBOIS *et al.*, 2009: 18). Nonetheless, the idea of a polynucleated
20 Macro-Region cornered by the metropolitan areas of the Randstad, Rhine-Ruhr and the
21 Flemish Diamond defended by these authors seems to fit better on the Meso-Region
22 concept, due to the limited territorial dimension covered by the area concerned, when
23 compared, for instance, with the Baltic Sea Macro-Region. Yet, it is not completely
24 inappropriate to accept the existence of Macro-Regions within such vast countries as the
25 U.S.A, Canada and Russian Federation.
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50 In parallel, evidence suggests that these ‘Macro Territorial Agreements’ are not just a
51 result of a momentary European macro-regional political will, but instead, can be taken
52 as a step by step process which has been solidified by the experience gained through
53 various INTERREG B (transnational cooperation) programmes in the EU, which acted
54 as a kind of laboratory for transnational reinforcement bounds, thus enabling the
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3 consolidation of transnational networks between entities with common interests. To that
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5 extent, there seems to be a clear relationship between the INTERREG-B in the Baltic
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7 Sea Region and its Macro-Region, even though its territorial delimitation is not
8
9 precisely the same. Similarly, the INTERREG-B programme CADSES encompasses, to
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11 a large extent, the territory of Danube Macro-Region (Fig. 3).
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FIGURE 3

Seen from this standpoint, the INTERREG community initiative has been having a pivotal role in the emergence of these macro-spaces, by encouraging the involvement of various levels of government and governance in the process of territorial cooperation, while supporting the establishment of sustainable cooperation structures that finance and implement strategies of cross-border and transnational programmes.

In this regard, the reading of the main strategic guidelines proposed by the two already mentioned Macro-Regions demonstrates, firstly, the awareness that some of the major problems that affect them need a transnational, and even a trans-community approach (CROSSETO, 2010) (Table 1). On the other hand, it is also possible to infer that there are three main areas of territorial intervention touching their strategies:

- Environmental recovery and preservation;
- Improve the accessibility and connectivity;
- Maximising socio-economic development.

TABLE 1

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3 In more concrete terms, the recognition of the need of a common strategy for the Baltic
4 Sea Region was expressed in a European Parliament report published by the end of
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8 2006. One year after (14 December 2007), the Council of Europe proposed the
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10 establishment of a territorial intervention strategy for the region, which was launched by
11
12 the European Commission on 10-06-2009, with the purpose to address the
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14 environmental degradation of the Baltic Sea and to support the region's economic
15
16 growth. At the same time, it was intended to make the area more attractive, accessible
17
18 and secure (CE, 2009). However, it is worth noting the low level of public debate
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20 concerning this Strategy, and the uneven interest expressed by the 'member-countries'.
21
22 Concerning the latter, Sweden and Germany can be regarded as the large motors of the
23
24 Baltic Sea Region Strategy, with the argument that its implementation would increase
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26 employment and a better management of the region resources (NORDREGIO, 2009).
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34 Under a certain look, the genesis of such kind of 'Giant Natural Regions' can be seen as
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36 a milestone in the process of the EU territorial governance, in exploring new avenues of
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38 cooperation. It is clearly a new challenge, since it requires the coordination of a large
39
40 number of countries, regions and organisations involved in the approved transnational
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42 projects. Nevertheless, it is anyone's guess if this 'macro spatial level' can prove to be
43
44 adequate to resolve the main problems that affect those regions, when it comes to the
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46 application of the subsidiarity principle defended in the EU Treaty. At this point, we
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48 have our doubts. Concomitantly, in this issue, the Swedish Minister Cecilia Malmström
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50 acknowledges the limitations of the Baltic Sea Region Strategy, referring that it cannot
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52 solve all the problems of the region ^[11].
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3 To venture furthermore in this debate, one can also question the ‘capacity’ that these
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5 ‘new forms of regional cooperation’ have to be sustainable over time, in ensuring better
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7 coordination and cooperation on the trans-European scale. On the other hand, this type
8
9 of regions are characterized by the absence of independent political status and
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11 institutions (CR, 2010), and do not necessarily entail additional funding (INFOREGIO,
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13 2009). Furthermore, the inclusion of financial support to Macro-Regions is not on the
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15 EU political agenda, within the framework of the Cohesion Policy for the next
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17 programming period 2014-2021.
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24 Even so, from our point of view, the sustainability of such regions is largely dependent
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26 on the stability of the financial support, taking into account the great socioeconomic and
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28 demographic diversity that characterizes them (DUBOIS and SCHMITT, 2008;
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30 INTERACT, 2010). In addition, Crosseto (2010) discusses and examines these and
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32 other problems associated with the creation of Macro-Regions, questioning even the
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34 interventional capacity to act in a coordinated and integrated mode and their degree of
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36 efficiency, bearing in mind the lack of political legitimacy and the large territorial scale.
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39 Despite all these setbacks, there are clear indications that other Meso and Macro-
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41 Regions strategies are being elaborated in Europe (ex: Alps, Carpathians, the North Sea
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43 and the Mediterranean), maybe even with overlapping areas, as already happens with
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45 some INTERREG programmes, but always bounded around a natural element of
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47 European scale.
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55 It was in this ‘winds of change’ scenario that in June 2009 the Council of Europe called
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57 on the Commission to prepare a strategy for the Danube Macro-Region, to be presented
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59 until the end of 2010. However, the public consultation only started in February 2010.
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Ultimately, this strategy is supported on three strategic pillars: (i) improve communications/transport systems, energy, information society; (ii) preserve the environment and prevent natural hazards; (iii) strengthen the socioeconomic development (CR, 2010; INTERACT, 2010). In short, this strategy is intended to bring the Danube river to the fore, as a vital artery to the European socioeconomic development, by providing and enhancing the environmental, economic, cultural and tourist resources, for those who operate in the area, and by increasing the visibility and attractiveness of the region as a whole, thus creating conditions for a more balanced and sustainable territorial development.

With regard to these new Macro-Regions that are in the pipeline, we highlight the North Sea Macro-Region (channel tunnel), which intends to create a new level of supranational cooperation amongst the eight countries involved (Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, United Kingdom and Norway), in an area characterized by a large commercial and socioeconomic dynamic (it is one of the busiest maritime areas in the world), and a central European energy production hub (CR, 2010). Although this stating socioeconomic scenario seems quite favourable, important issues of environmental nature (pollution, depletion of fish stocks, introduction of invasive species, destruction of coastal areas, maritime traffic congestion, discharges of fluvial network, etc.) require joint transnational interventions, partly because new challenges present themselves in the coming years in areas such as tourism, renewable energy, integrated coastal area management, maritime research, the sustainable use of sea (CE, 2010). Based on this background, this Macro-Region advances the following strategic guidelines of intervention (CR, 2010):

- Protection of the ecological system;
- Adaptation to climate change;
- Use of the economic potential of the area;
- Development of marine resources, for example, maritime research;
- Transport and energy connections.

THE NEW REGIONS IN IBERIAN SPACE

For Chauvel (1995), Portugal and Spain are the Western European countries which have greater interregional diversity regarding the national sense of belonging within their regions. A more careful observation at the Iberian NUTS II (Fig. 4) predicts two regional outbreaks and a more prone solidification of the 'regional governance process' in Galicia and the Basque Country, both in Spain. As regards the rest of Europe, the same author reveals that the emergence of Euroregions in the 'Germanic Europe' is the result of a low citizen's sense of belonging to their respective countries in this part of Europe.

FIGURE 4

According to more recent data (CASTELLS, 2004) suggests an East/West dichotomy regarding the national sentiment in Europe, which is slightly stronger in the West (South-Western Europe-64%; North-West Europe-62%). In equal measure, he notes that the emergence of these 'New Transnational Regional Spaces' with some degree of autonomy (Euroregions, EGTC, Macro-Regions) in Europe are mainly a result, directly

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2
3 or indirectly, from specific EU interventions to facilitate and encourage the
4 establishment of networks of institutional, social and political relations, whose
5 magnitude and complexity will increase in the coming years, as new countries fully
6 integrate into the European Union. The same author argues that this trend will not make
7 the Nation-States disappear. However, it can contribute to converting them into hubs of
8 a wider network of political institutions (national, regional, local, non-governmental and
9 international) forming a 'New Europe' governed by a State network of shared
10 sovereignty and multiple levels and instances of a negotiated decision-making process.

11
12 In the case of the Iberian Peninsula, it is safe to assume that this process of 'shared
13 multilevel territorial sovereignty', at the cross-border level, seems to have entered into
14 an irreversible process of experimentation and implementation, as the set up of several
15 European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation and the so-called Euroregions seem to
16 suggest. Indeed, Diéguez (2004) says that the time has come for continuous cooperation
17 and to put aside the Spanish arrogance/indifference and the Portuguese suspicion, in
18 order to cement a common peninsular development path process, which history did not
19 favour, and also to highlight an inter-European trans-nationality which contributes to
20 mitigate the Iberian peripherality (SANTOS, 1993).

21
22 At the same time, this new adventure in creating 'new governance spaces' in Iberia,
23 may contribute to modify the long standing Portuguese preference for developing its
24 coastal area, which was one of the pillars of the political survival against its giant
25 neighbour country (MEDEIROS C., 1998). It might also help to reduce the excessive
26 degree of 'localism' which is, according to Gaspar (1982), rather than the regionalism,
27 the most notable feature of the Portuguese territoriality, most often institutionalized at
28 two levels: municipalities and counties.

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Needless to say that this new ‘Iberian Territorial Cooperation Panorama’ at the national and regional level is essentially a result of the EU integration process, which reduced the border barriers and started a new dynamic of joint participation in projects financed with funds from the European Union, with special relevance to the INTERREG programme which, in our point of view, has been playing a central role, for the establishment of local/regional networks, thus helping to foster long-term sustainable cooperation. In this regard, the creation of cross-border structures, like the so-called Euroregions and the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation, can be seen as a decisive step to solidify the territorial cooperation process in Iberia.

THE EUROREGIONS IN IBERIAN PENINSULA

As we have noted, we do not entirely agree with the use of the word Euroregion to denominate the cross-border cooperation structures, especially if the border region where they operate have not yet reached a genuine type of cross-border cooperation, and consequently achieved high levels of border permeability in all the dimensions of the barrier effect (see: MEDEIROS, 2011). Such criteria may seem too demanding, however, they usually represent the corner stones of the so-called Euroregions development strategies, including the three already established Iberian ones (Table 2).

TABLE 2

The reading of the Iberian Euroregions strategic main intervention axes reflects a collage with the ones chosen for the implementation of the INTERREG-A in those

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2
3 areas, which makes a lot of sense. Even so, the principle of concentration, which should
4
5 guide the development of these strategies, by limiting the number of thematic priorities,
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7 does not seem to have been achieved yet, in any of three Iberian Euroregions, partly
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9 because the chosen strategic guidelines are immensely similar to one another, and do
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11 not detach themselves from the regional development strategies drawn for each region
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13 involved (North, Galicia, Alentejo, Algarve, Centro, Extremadura and Andalusia).
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19 In equal measure, those strategies reveal, in a large degree, a lack of perception of their
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21 own geographical specificities, and consequently they do not always focus their
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23 attention in the uniqueness of their regional socioeconomic, cultural and environmental
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25 element, and incorporate their territorial diversity in concrete policies. Indeed, this type
26
27 of a very general and technical intervention generates an endless number of written
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29 objectives, which shows a lack of selectivity and realism. Notwithstanding, there are
30
31 some positive elements which counteract this general rule. For example, the Galicia-
32
33 North Euroregion seeks to enhance cooperation under the sea and marine resources, as
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35 well as initiatives to clean the Galician rivers and estuaries in the North of Portugal,
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37 thus ultimately focusing in exploring one of the most important regional resources of
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39 this region.
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48 In the case of the EUROACE, established on 21/09/09, their 2020 intervention strategy
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50 shows a limitless ambition, perhaps unrealistic and utopian, by trying to intervene in
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52 virtually all the areas of development. Still, some very interesting proposals emerge: (i)
53
54 promote a polycentric nature of the urban system; (ii) correct the absence of cross-
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56 border public transports; (iii) create quality brands for local products (iv) create a local
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58 investment platform; (v) maximise tourism.
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6 With these remarks we do not want to criticise all the efforts put by an immense number
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8 of local and regional actors, involved in the elaboration of the EUROACE strategy.
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10 However, in our view, it would make more sense to build its strategy around a central
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12 topic and build the whole strategy around this main goal. For example, the latest of the
13
14 three Euroregions discussed in this study, the EUROAAA (established on 08/06/2009),
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16 could perfectly have focused its action plan on the exploitation of the solar energy
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18 sector. From there, the cooperation could be extended to: (i) the cooperation between
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20 local universities and institutes in the field of solar energy efficiency; (ii) supporting the
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22 local production of solar energy related equipment; (iii) support human capital by
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24 creating specific courses with a view to prepare young students to work in the solar
25
26 industry; (vi) to engage a new era of green technology use, in order to reduce the energy
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28 bill and to take advantage of the energetic solar potential of this area, which should be
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30 associated with the use of the most modern technologies for seawater desalination, in
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32 order to increase the regional agriculture demands for this precious liquid.
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41 In parallel to this shift into a more simplified and dedicated policy measures, we also
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43 believe that the EUROACE and EUROAAA areas should be considerably reduced and
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45 should avoid the present scenario of overlapped territories (Fig. 5), which is a result of a
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47 'institutionally correct' regional policy option, leading to the inclusion of all the NUTS
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49 II territory. However, this political choice gives rise to several setbacks in the
50
51 implementation of a truly effective territorial development strategy. In this respect, we
52
53 stress an opinion from an Alentejo Tourism officer, which remembered that the strategy
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55 of EUROACE focuses primarily on inland tourism and totally disregards coastal areas.
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58 To solve this problem, the Euroregion area should cover only the border NUTS III,
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3 following the example of the INTERREG-A programme, thus avoiding, for instance,
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5 the presence of all Andalusia area in this endeavour, which obviously does not make
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7 any sense, taking on consideration the main goals of these transnational structures.
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FIGURE 5

Just as important, however, are the implications and transformations in the ‘Iberian Territorial Governance’ in establishing these cross-border structures, which may constitute a major turning point in creating opportunities for producing ‘new bottom-up strategic interactions’ by giving this intermediate administrative territorial level a formal role in the EU policy-making process (euro-institutionalization). At the same time, it is expected that the vertical interactions and interdependencies between all levels of government, as well as the horizontal interactions between governments and the civil society will increase overtime. Basically, it is intended that these Euroregions can actively ensure the legitimacy of political interventions and promote innovative governance tools tailored to the needs of regional development. To this end, it would make sense that the Iberian Euroregions would structure themselves around the more articulated Iberian cross-border urban networks (Fig. 6), in order to take advantage of the presence of human capital and innovation centres in the main border urban agglomerations. And in fact, the three analysed Iberian Euroregions are located alongside the only three cross-border Iberian articulated urban axes.

FIGURE 6

THE EGTC IN IBERIAN PENINSULA

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3 The EGTC is the first European cooperation structure with legal personality and was
4 adopted by the European Parliament in 2006, following two studies prepared by the
5 Association of European Border Regions^[21], with a view to decentralize the process of
6 territorial cooperation at local and regional level (AEBR, 2008). Basically, this new
7 community instrument with regulatory scope is expected to open up the prospect of new
8 forms of multilevel governance by allowing a deeper involvement of national, regional
9 and local authorities and territorial cooperation entities with their own legal personality
10 (CR, 2007). Ultimately, this instrument brings a profoundly innovative approach
11 (VENADE 2006) to the territorial cooperation process in all its strands (cross-border,
12 transnational and interregional cooperation) by providing a more stable legal framework
13 than the past less binding instruments, thus contributing to simplifying its administrative
14 and regulative burdens (CR, 2010b).

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34 Secondly, according to the AEBR (2008), the legal basis for cross-border cooperation
35 permitted by this 'instrument' should ensure that the process of territorial cooperation is
36 genuine, sustainable, and impermeable to political and administrative changes. At the
37 same time, it is intended that it ensures binding forms of social involvement and
38 constant monitoring and evaluation from the regional and local authorities in the
39 implementation of cooperation projects, to strengthen the decentralisation of community
40 programmes.

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53 These general assumptions should be followed by each Member-State specific rules and
54 regulations that take into account the particular situation of their cross-border process.
55 Thus, considering the case of the two Iberian countries, an agreement was signed
56 (MAOT, 2009) where recommendations and suggestions were made to guide and direct
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3 the establishment of EGTC in the Iberian space, which can be seen as a EU case study
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5 in the early implementation of such 'territorial cooperation structures' (MEDEIROS,
6
7 2009), since there are already three of them functioning in the northern part of the
8
9 Iberian border area (Fig. 5), and at least four more are planned to be established in the
10
11 nearby future (Guadiana Central, Chaves-Verin, EUROACE, EUROAAA). In
12
13 summary, the Iberian agreement recommends that the EGTC brings an added value and
14
15 shows an increased efficiency compared to other cooperation instruments. At the same
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17 time, the strategic objectives must be clear and geared towards the achievement of
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19 territorial competitiveness, quality of life and territorial cohesion (MAOT, 2009).
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21 Finally, it suggests a relatively long duration period of the EGTC (ex: 5 years), with
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23 successive renewals being admitted and that the location of the headquarters should be
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25 balanced on both sides of the border.
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34 Concerning the Iberian EGTC main intervention areas, there are no clear distinctions
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36 from the Iberian Euroregions, since they intend to leave their footprint in most of the
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38 territorial development spheres (socio-economic, environmental, cultural, rural, urban,
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40 infrastructural and innovation). Beyond this, it should be noted that in Portugal these
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42 groupings must have specific territorial cooperation tasks or projects co-financed by the
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44 European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund or the Cohesion Fund
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46 ^[3]. In turn, in Spain, the Council of Ministers may prohibit any activity of the EGTC
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48 which violates internal rules of public policy, public security, health or public morality,
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50 contrary to public interest ^[4].
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58 Under this new scenario of innovated experiments in territorial governance, one should
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60 raise the question if this 'new intermediate levels of territorial management' can

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3 promote a more effective supranational approach by improving the quality of decision
4 making and the prospects for effective bottom up development policies which can
5 capture benefits in creating sustainable jobs and regional economic growth. This issue
6 arises since these groupings have a clearly demarcated territory. Yet, it is sometimes
7 coincident with a so-called Euroregion, as is the case of the first EGTC established in
8 Iberia: EGTC Galicia-Northern Portugal, which intervenes in these two NUTS II
9 (CCDRN, 2008). However, in this particular case, the role of this grouping is clearly
10 identified, as being responsible for the implementing and the operational management
11 of contracts and agreements signed within the framework of the working community, as
12 well as to contributing to the achievement of the main objectives set out in the strategic
13 plan for cooperation between the North and Galicia (2007-2013) (ALMEIDA, 2008).
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31 Thus, the third established European EGTC (North-Galicia on 23/10/2008), is a tool to
32 facilitate the promotion of more effective and sustainable common policies, with a view
33 to strengthen territorial cooperation and to convert the Atlantic Arc into a peninsular
34 space for innovation and growth in the 21st century (CCDRN, 2008), in an area with
35 high degree of economic interdependence and cross-border mobility.
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46 As noted above, there seems to be enough 'administrative space' to establish Working
47 Communities/Euroregions and EGTC in the same region, if the competences are clearly
48 demarcated. However, given the preferences of the North-Galician territorial
49 cooperation strategy to the maritime economy, thus neglecting the most rural and
50 peripheral/interior and undeveloped areas, one might think that this was a major factor
51 behind the establishment of the other two regional EGTC (Duero and Douro - Zasnet),
52 which expand their domains into the Spanish NUT II of Castilla y León. From this
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3 perspective, one of the central purposes of the Zasnet EGTC (established on
4 27/01/2009) strategic intervention regards the collaboration with the Bragança-Zamora
5 working community (Table 3) in implementing its development strategy. Nevertheless,
6 this EGTC is considered by some regional actors as a mere 'financial engineering
7 instrument' in order to promote and enhance the region's economic progress through
8 joint initiatives by building new infrastructure and public services, promoting business
9 development and enhancing the cultural values, ethnography and tourism^[5].
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21 TABLE 3
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26 Finally, the Duero-Douro EGTC, established on 07/03/2009, can be regarded as the
27 most interesting case study of them all, due to the obtained results so far, and the
28 interesting bottom up approach to development revealed in the proposed strategy. In
29 fact, some months ago, we had the opportunity to visit its headquarters in Trabanca
30 (Spain) where we could see some of the projects which are being carried out in the
31 present moment and those in the pipeline for the next years. However, to gain a better
32 understanding of the reason why this EGCT intends to focus in virtually all areas of
33 development (equal opportunities, economic and local development, public transport
34 accessible to all citizens, new technologies, environment, sustainable development,
35 education, training and employment, health, social services and welfare, tourism,
36 culture and heritage, local administration, research, innovation and development,
37 transport and communications, sport, leisure and recreation) instead of choosing two or
38 three flagship development domains, its General Director, José Luis Pascual, explained
39 us that the main regional purpose is to establish a single tourist brand with worldwide
40 recognition (Duero-Douro) which, in turn, requires a more global regional development
41 strategy.
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6 To this end, the Douro-Douro EGTC aims to strengthen the socioeconomic cohesion in
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8 that largely depopulated area which covers a similar area of the Zasnet EGTC (Fig. 5).
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10 This step forward in terms of territorial governance aims to open a new range of
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12 opportunities for the development of a strongly peripheral Iberian region, but with a
13
14 huge touristic potential. In this view, this entity aims to stop the continuous process of
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16 depopulation, to create new jobs through an integrated employment plan and the joint
17
18 management of the region, while ensuring the application of the principle of
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20 subsidiarity, advocated in the European Union. In this regard, we would like to mention
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22 some of the most emblematic projects that are being carried out by this EGTC:
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- 29 • Schools cooperation and sharing of leaning materials;
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- 31 • Cross-border cooperation Forum for young people;
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- 33 • Creation of a coordinated response social platform;
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- 35 • Heritage recovery protocols;
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- 38 • Self preventive – Incorporate the goat to protect fires and create a local quality
- 39 brand.
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46 Given this emergent scenario of 'New Iberian Territorial Cooperation Spaces', which
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48 can be viewed as the children of an unfinished Europe without frontiers project, it is
49
50 important to monitor their results, effects and impacts, because they depend directly on
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52 the degree of their administrative maturity, which usually passes through three cycles:
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54 in the initial phase, the system and governance is still based on 'soft negotiation
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56 procedures' without a legal structure. Subsequently it enters in a stage of intensification
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58 of cross-border institutionalization. In a second phase, there is a process of renewal of
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3 integrated spatial vision. Finally, specific actions are implemented, focusing in
4 particular on the border population's daily life problems (URBACT, 2010). In this
5 concern, a different typology is proposed by another study (CR, 2010b), which argues
6 that there are four evolutionary steps of EGTCs: (i) start-up (cautious initial
7 commitment and small budget); (ii) expansion & specification of portfolio (short-term
8 commitment and medium budget); (iii) consolidation (medium-term commitment and
9 pluri-annual budget); (iv) specialisation (long-term commitment and significant budget).
10 However, in our view, it is still early to draw definitive conclusions regarding the
11 position of the Iberian EGTC's in these typologies. Be that as it may, it looks like the
12 Iberian space is going through an irreversible change of its territorial governance
13 panorama.

31 CONCLUSION

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36 Since 1988, the EU Cohesion Policy has been providing some contribution to stimulate
37 institutional and administrative change (vertical and horizontal) in the European
38 Territory, as a result of the process of European integration. In this article, we consider
39 the process of territorial cooperation one the main responsible factors for these changes,
40 namely in generating 'New Intermediate Levels of Territorial Governance', like the
41 Euroregions and Macro-Regions. Apparently, however, as case-studies show (see
42 BACHE, 2008), in most cases, subnational actors are not necessarily empowered, even
43 thought they were clearly mobilized, with a view of a maximum absorption of the EU
44 available funds.

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3 In this anti-globalizing scenario, in the sense that it seems to revitalize the UE regional
4 arena, the true innovative territorial approach consists in the emergence of EU Macro-
5 Regions (Baltic Sea, Danube), which generates a completely new 'intermediate
6 territorial level' between the EU and the Member-States, established around a
7 transnational European natural geographic element, which has been negatively affected
8 by human activities, thus requiring a common intervention multisectoral strategy to
9 solve the main problems affecting these spaces.
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22 Regarding the emergence of cross-border cooperation structures in the EU, sometimes
23 known as Euroregions, which already exceed 70 units, the novelty focuses on its
24 increasing proliferation in the EU border regions, as a consequence of the INTERREG-
25 A community initiative financial support. In any case, their main goal is to imitate the
26 first entity of this kind, created in 1958 at the border region between the Netherlands
27 and Germany (Euregio). Nevertheless, the great majority of these cross-border
28 structures choose to call themselves Euroregions to facilitate the mobilization of sub-
29 national actors in order to intensify the process of cross-border cooperation in the
30 institutional field and attract national and community funds, which accelerate regional
31 development.
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48 Similarly, the Iberian Peninsula embarked in an experimental process of establishing
49 new cross-border structures, especially along the Portuguese-Spanish border area
50 (Working Communities, Euroregions, EGTC), with the aim to strengthen institutional
51 interdependencies and establishing common territorial development strategies, to
52 counteract the syndrome of disadvantage in a largely depopulated and socioeconomic
53 weak region and to take full advantage of the benefits of the expanded EU single market
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3 (AEBR, 2008: 49). Yet, ultimately, the greatest challenge is to convince an over-
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6 centralized country (Portugal) and the opposite regionalized neighbour (Spain) that such
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8 intermediate levels of governance contribute to their development political agendas.
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12 In the meantime, the willingness of regional and local actors in overcoming these and
13
14 other obstacles to cross-border cooperation and joint development led to the
15
16 establishment of one Euroregion and three EGTC in the northern part of the Iberian
17
18 border in the last couple of years. Soon after, two Euroregions were established in the
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20 southern part of the border (EUROACE-2009 and EUROAAA-2010), and their
21
22 intervention priorities follow closely the main strategic guidelines of their northern and
23
24 older counterpart (Galicia-North of Portugal), whose strategic plan (2007-2013) already
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26 shows a high degree of maturity, by focusing in more restrictive and selected
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28 intervention goals, when compared with the largely dispersed strategic development
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30 plans of the southern and younger Iberian Euroregions.
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39 It is also worth noting that this action plan (Galicia-North of Portugal) expresses the
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41 desire to take advantage of the potential offered by the legal possibility to establish a
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43 European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) in the Euroregion, which
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45 facilitates the materialization of the strategic objectives and contributes to improve
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47 administrative effectiveness and economic efficiency. Nonetheless, we must wait for
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49 2013 to draw the first conclusions based on the results and effects of this first Iberian
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51 EGTC (3rd in Europe), and the other two already established in close proximity (Douro-
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53 Duero 2009 and Zasnet 2010). Concerning these two, our analysis indicates the former
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55 (Duero-Douro) has showed a far larger dynamics than the latter (Zasnet), in promoting
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57 tailor-made development projects, some of them with innovative character, with the
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3 objective to reinvigorate the regional economy by creating a recognized international
4 brand (Duero-Douro), that immediately brings to mind the region main attractions.
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10 However, there is ample evidence that the national administrative level in Portugal, and
11 the national/regional level in Spain continues to dominate the local/regional
12 development agendas in the most peripheral Iberian areas, as well as the established
13 multilevel-partnerships. Even so, against this background, a new dialectic of
14 administrative territorial scales is on the raise in Iberia, and a more bottom-up approach
15 is likely to come into play in a slow and incremental way in the next decade, with the
16 secular establishment of other transnational entities with greater territorial autonomy,
17 which is already interfering with the established territorial *status quo*. Such
18 considerations explain the refusal of the Castilla y León President to talk with the
19 President of the Duero-Douro EGTC, and that the other regional structures such as the
20 EUROACE and the EUROAAA do not seem to look favourably to the establishment of
21 an 'outsider' EGTC (Central Guadiana) in their territory.
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41 On a more general level, however, it is fair to say that the territorial relations between
42 Iberian adjacent regional levels seem increasingly solidified. An example is the
43 intention to establish a large cooperation area including the North of Portugal, Galicia
44 and Castilla y León NUTS II, revealed in 17/09/2010, to take advantage of the on-going
45 debate around the next Cohesion Policy programming period (2014-2020)^[6]. Curiously
46 they denominate this area of approximately 145,055 km², as a Macro-Region, which
47 goes against the conceptual framework we propose in this article. In fact, we believe
48 that it would be more appropriate to call it an Iberian Meso-Region or even a 'Large
49 Euroregion'. Whatever the case, more important than its proper designation is its
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3 capacity to provide both a coordinated and inclusive framework which improves the
4 quality of life in the region. It is also worth mentioning that this new cross-border
5 structure shows a 'healthy' intention to enlarge its territory to other peninsular adjacent
6 regions, which might one day lead to the establishment of an Iberian Meso-Region as
7 we proposed in a recent seminar ^[7].
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17 Finally, this analysis permits us to underline, once again, the crucial stimulus that the
18 'Territorial Cooperation Process' in the EU, supported by the INTERREG community
19 initiative, gave to shape new transnational cooperation spaces in Europe, by providing
20 vital funds and increasing vertical interactions and interdependences between all the
21 government and governance levels (European, national, regional, local). Faced with the
22 emergence of several Macro-Spaces in Europe, we strongly suggest that both Iberian
23 countries would gain more in establishing an Iberian Meso-Region in order to resolve
24 problems that are common to both countries, instead of embarking in several potential
25 European Macro-Region projects which might follow the on-going experiences of the
26 transnational INTERREG-B programmes (Atlantic Area, South West Europe and
27 Western Mediterranean), whose intentions to create a more effective and sustainable
28 development path is yet to be proved.
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49 valuable comments, which provided useful suggestions to clarify the research questions
50 addressed and other aspects of the paper. We also would like to thank Graça Rønning
51 for comments on early versions of this paper.
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46 ^[1] Article on euobserver-<http://euobserver.com/886/28787>

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^[5] <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/en->

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^[6] <http://www.ccr-norte.pt/noticia.php?id=660> – seen on 18-09-2010

^[7] Cycle 22 – The Iberian Peninsula as a Meso-Region of the European Union – 22-02-2010 – FLUL

Table 1. European Union Macro-Regions Synthesis

	Baltic Sea	Danube	North Sea
Countries (full area)	9	12	8
Countries (some areas)	2	2	0
Countries (EU)	7	8	7
Countries (total)	11	14	8
Km ² (approx.)	2.400.000	1.000.000	(sea) 645.000
Inhabitants (approx.)	110.000.000	83.000.000	88.000.000
Population density	46	80	44

Source: Data: (NORDREGIO, 2009 + CR, 2010 + INTERACT, 2010 + Eurostat)

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For Peer Review

Table 2. Iberian Euroregions main strategic guidelines

North-Galicia (EURONORGAL)	Alentejo-Centro- Extremadura (EUROACE)	Alentejo-Algarve- Andalusia (EUROAAA)
-Promoting competitiveness and employment promotion	-Promoting competitiveness and employment	-Promoting competitiveness and employment
-Environment, heritage and risk prevention	-Environment, heritage and natural environment	-Environment, heritage and natural environment
-Planning and accessibility	-Accessibility and spatial planning	-Accessibility and spatial planning
-Socio-economic and institutional integration	-Promotion of cooperation and socioeconomic integration	-Promotion of cooperation and socioeconomic integration

Source: Data: (CCDRN, 2007 + CCDRALE, 2009 + CCDRALG, 2010)

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For Peer Review

Table 3. Iberian EGTC main strategic objectives

North-Galicia	Duero-Douro	Zasnet
-Promote transnational relationship	-The elaboration, implementation and management of a programme of employment in rural areas	-Articulate the common area and promote cross-border relations (environment, tourism, culture, firms)
-Develop and promote competitiveness of the business fabric (innovation and knowledge)	-The establishment and management of new features, new services and new social infrastructure	-Implement the cross-border territorial cooperation in local policies for each Member
-Convert the Euroregion into a more attractive territory (transport and	-The creation of an action plan for the conservation and sustainable	-Cooperate with the working community and Bragança-Zamora

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accessibility)	development of natural protected spaces	Territorial Community of Cooperation of Douro Superior-Salamanca
-Increase social and institutional cohesion	-The drafting and managing a tourism program	-Enhance the potential of endogenous resources
		-Stimulating the establishment of the population and generating synergies to attract new inhabitants to the territory

Source: Data: (<http://www.ifdr.pt>)- summarized and adapted by the author

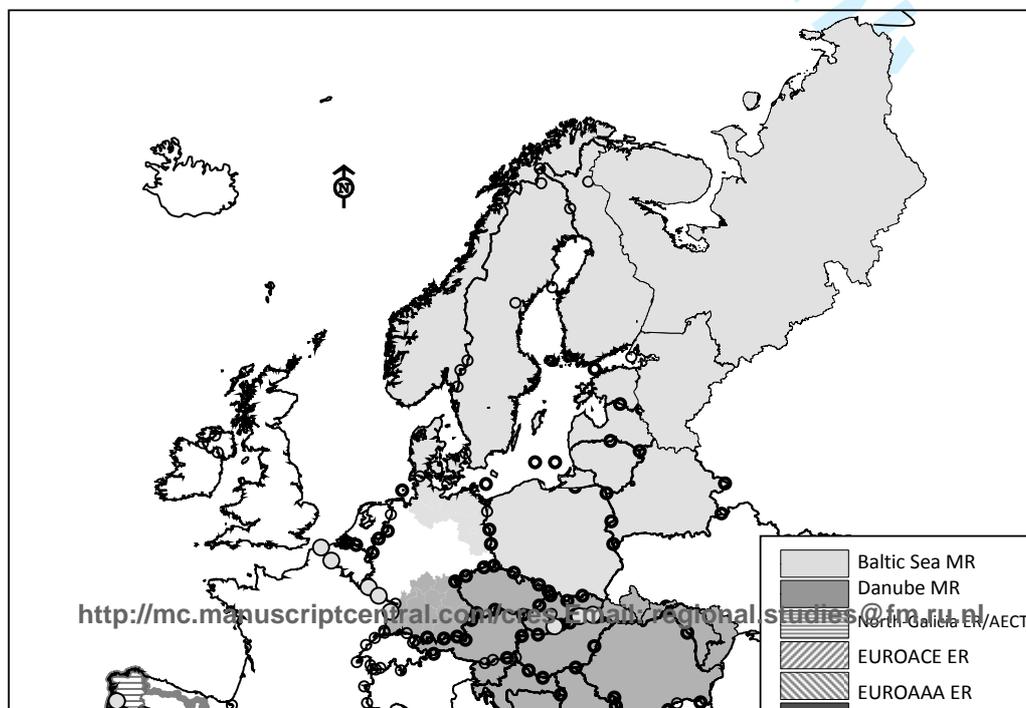
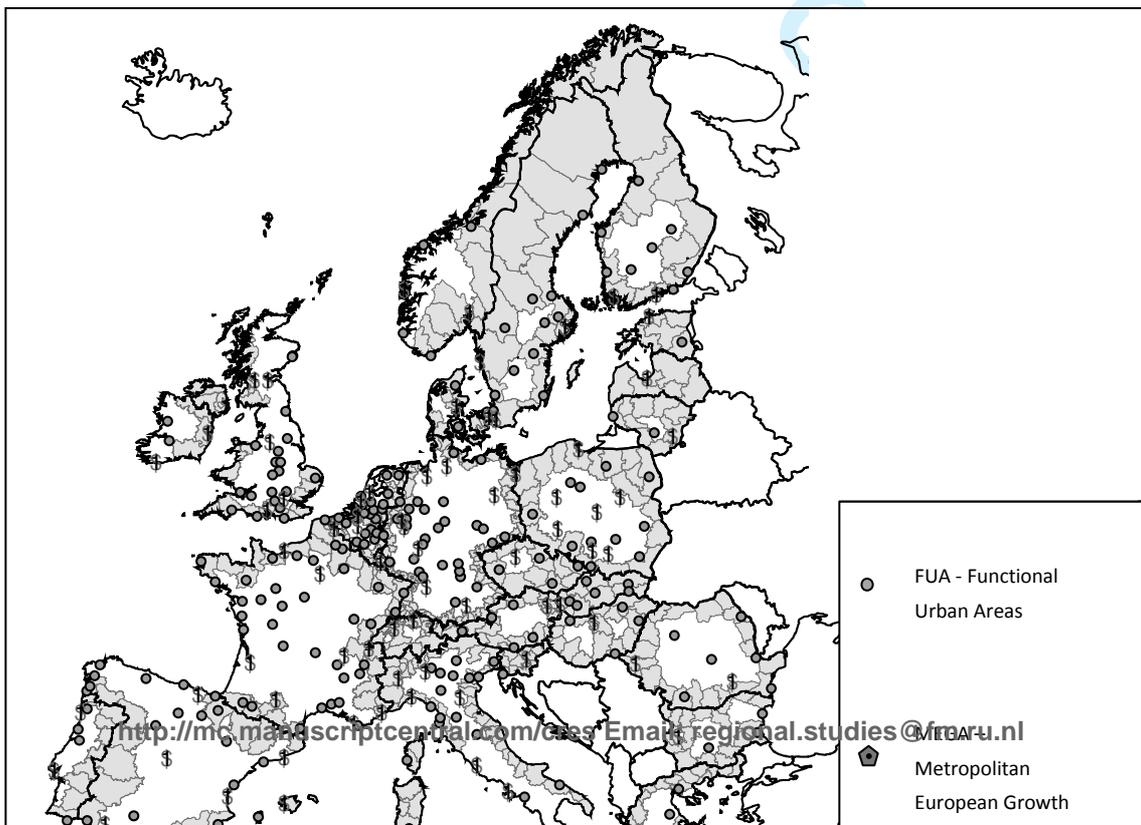


Fig. 1 - The New Europe of Euro-Meso-Macro Regions - 2010

Source: Data (several) – Author Cartography



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Fig. 2 – Border Areas, FUAS and MEGAS in EU - 2010

Source: Data (several ESPON studies) – Author cartography

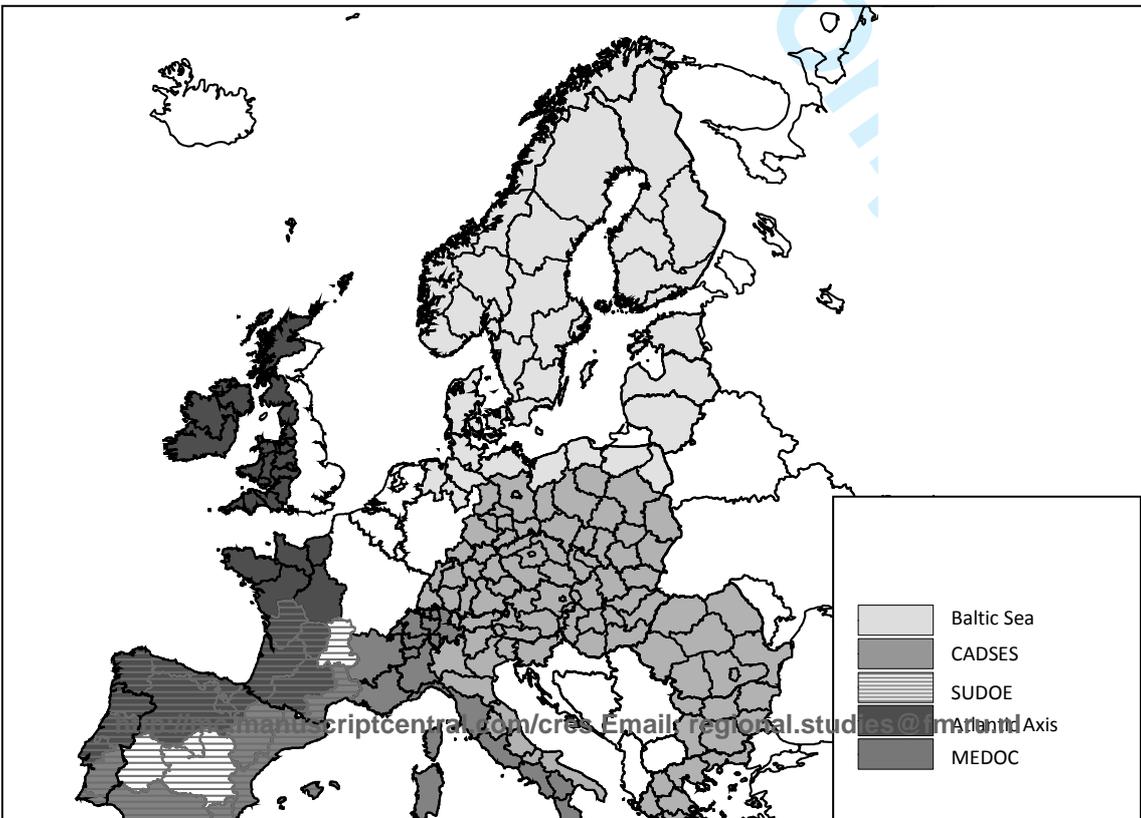


Fig. 3 - INTERREG-B in the Iberian Peninsula and in the areas of intervention of
European Macro-Regions - 2010

Source – Data (several) – Author Cartography

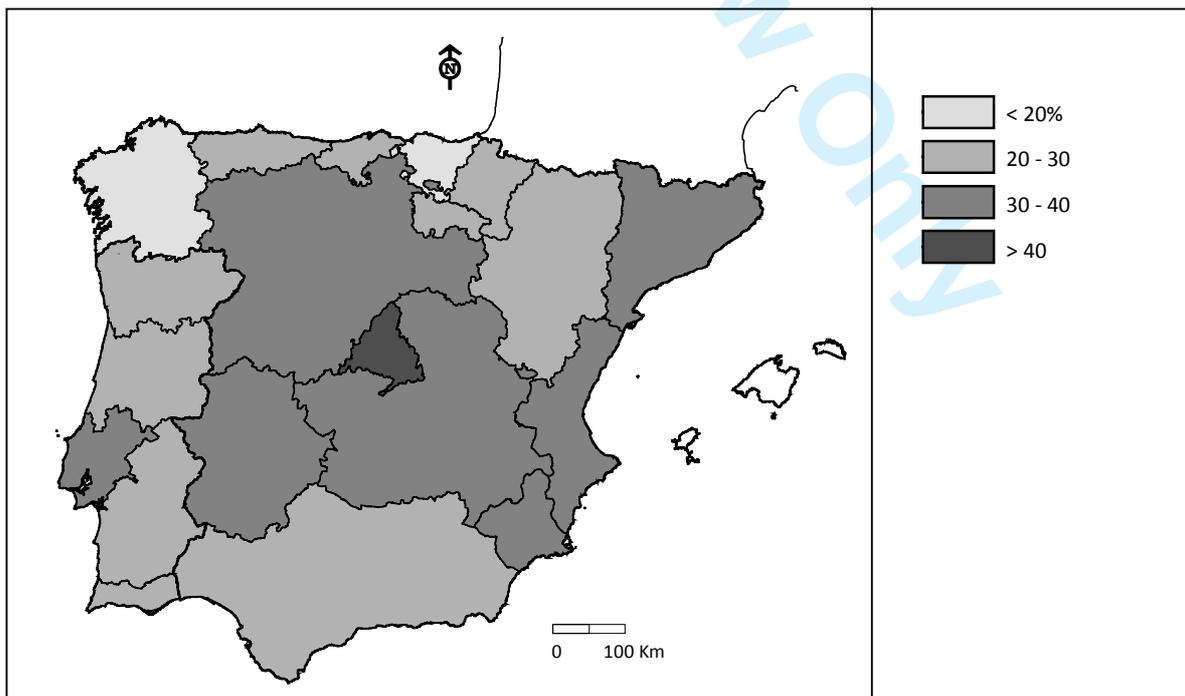
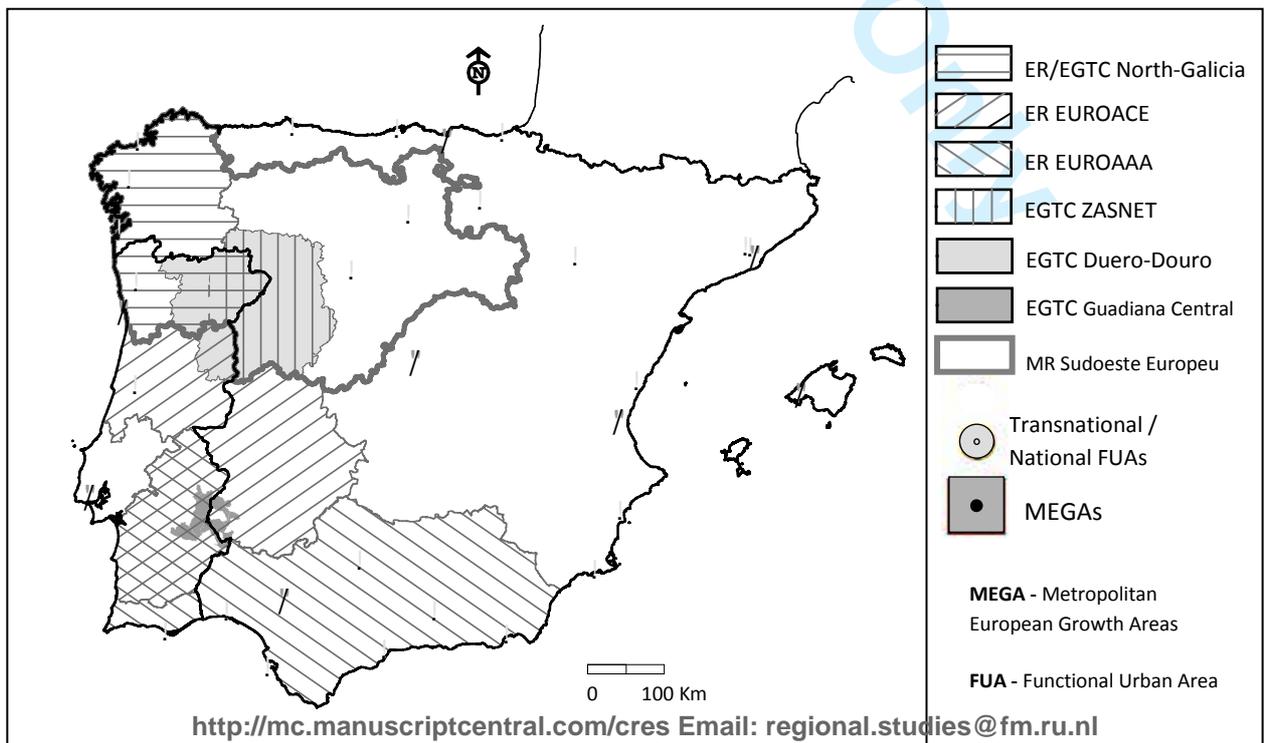


Fig. 4 - Feeling of belonging to the Country in the Iberian Peninsula - NUTS II

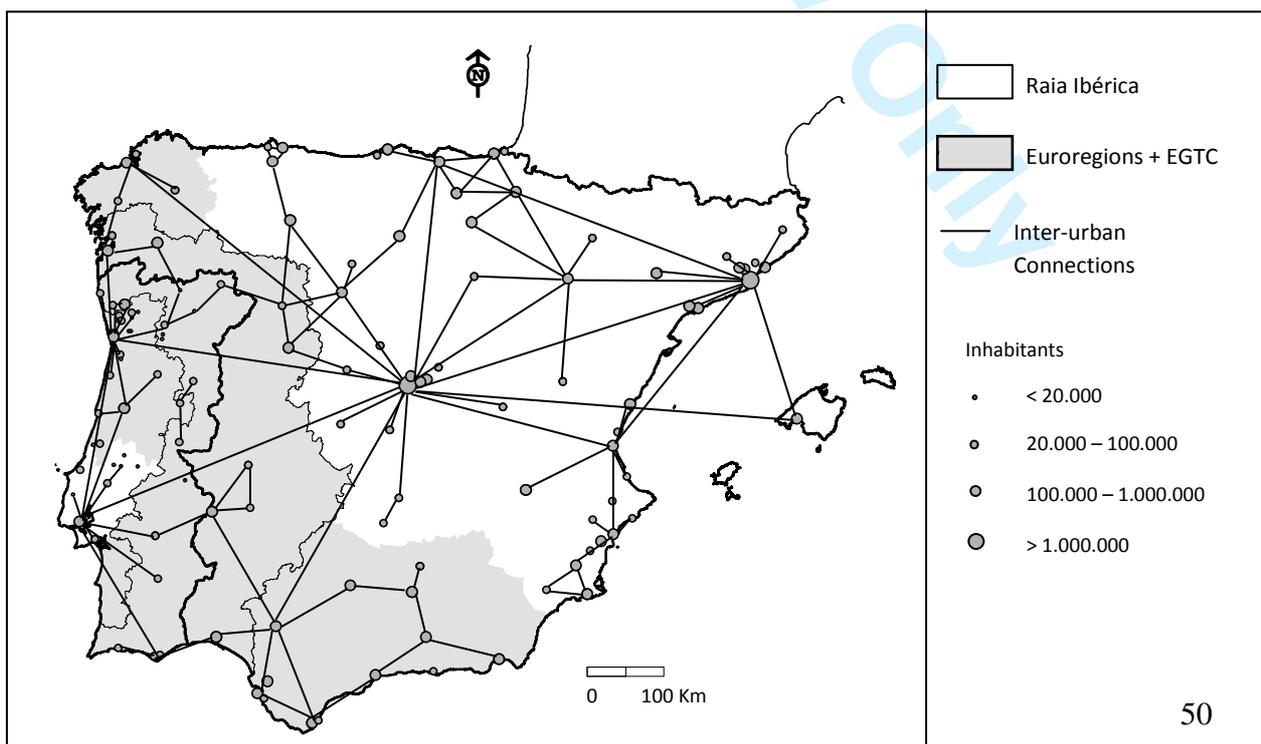
Source: Data (CHAUVEL, 1995). Author Cartography - adapted



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Fig. 5 - MEGAS and FUAS / Iberian Euroregions and EGTC - 2010

Source: Data (several). Author cartography



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Fig. 6 - Main inter-urban connections in Iberia - 2010

Source: Data (MEDEIROS, 2009 + INE, 2003 + ESPON ATLAS, 2006 + DGOTDU, 1997, 2001,2002,2003,2006 + PRECEDO LEDO, 1987 + DGPT, 1994) – Author

Cartography

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