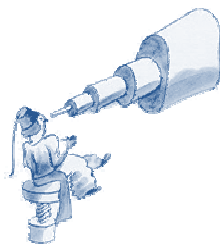


# Institutional development, multilevel governance and the EU Strategy for Danube

Gianluca Spinaci  
Budapest, 25Feb10

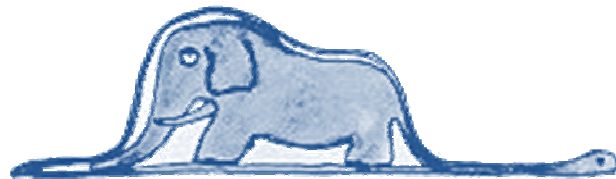


EUROPEAN UNION



Комитет на регионите  
Comité de las Regiones  
Výbor regionů  
Regionsudvalget  
Ausschuss der Regionen  
Regionide Komitee  
Επιτροπή των Περιφερειών  
Committee of the Regions  
Comité des Régions  
Coiste na Réigiún  
Comitato delle regioni  
Reģionu komiteja  
Regionų komitetas  
Régiók Bizottsága  
Kumitat tar-Reġjuni  
Comité van de Regio's  
Komitet Regionów  
Comité das Regiões  
Comitetul Regiunilor  
Výbor regiónov  
Odbor regij  
Alueiden komitea  
Regionkommittén

# EU Strategy for the Danube Region ...



**... a case of multilevel governance?**

**Strategy context**  
Strategy governance  
CoR initiatives

# Globalisation and integration: a dilemma for Europe?

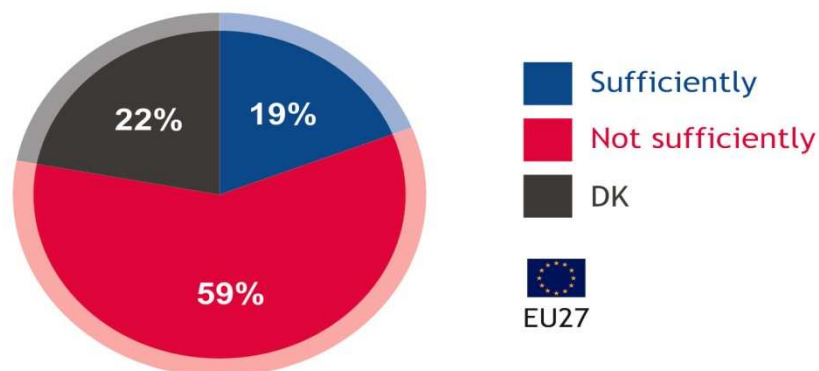
EU more and more  
outward-looking

but losing contact with cities/regions on the ground  
- the «Jump and Dump» Scenario

and leveraging on strong shared engagement  
-the «Jump and Join» Scenario

## EU Citizens and Multilevel Governance

In your opinion, are regional or local public authorities sufficiently or not taken into account when deciding policies in the EU ?



Special Eurobarometer 307  
“The role and impact  
of local and regional authorities  
within the E.U.”

Published: February 2009  
Survey: Autumn 2008

**«There are many goals which we cannot achieve on our own, but only in concert. Tasks are shared between the European Union, the Member States and their regions and local authorities»**



Berlin Declaration, 25 March 2007  
European Heads of State  
on the occasion of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of the signature of the Treaties of Rome

# The place of regional and local authorities in Europe

**Proximity:** nearly 95.000 local and regional authorities

**Competences:** significant in key sectors such as education, the environment, economic development, etc.

**Finance:** local and regional authorities represent\*  
16% of the GDP of the EU-27  
1/3 of public spending  
2/3 of all public investment expenditure  
56% of public employment

Huge potential  
for innovation

**European legislation:** local and regional authorities implement 70%

**Permanent decentralisation process**

\*Comparison: European Economic Recovery Plan  
1,5% of EU GDP = 0,3% (EU) + 1,2%(MS)  
3,3% if automatic stabilisers are counted



# Danube Region and sub-national level, a puzzle

Sub-national level						
Number authorities (2008)				Expenditure (2008)		
	1 <sup>st</sup> level	2 <sup>nd</sup> level	3 <sup>rd</sup> level	% GDP	% total public exp.	% public capital expenditure
Germany	12.312	301	16	19.4	44.4	76.1
Austria	2.357	9		16.6	33.8	70.7
CZ Rep	6.249	14		11.4	26.6	46.8
SK Rep	2.891	8		5.5	15.7	57.0
Hungary	3.175	19		11.4	23.2	43.1
Slovenia	210			9.0	20.4	50.0
Romania	3.180	42		9.8	25.6	44.4
Bulgaria	264			7.6	20.5	36.1
Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldavia, Ukraine						

Source: Dexia (2008), Subnational Governments in the European Union





Strategy context  
**Strategy governance**  
CoR initiatives

## Q1/ EU integration and macro-regions: win-win ?

- a) Renew interinst. partnership and dynamics
- b) Reinforce efficiency of community action
- c) Experiment, test and consolidate
- d) Link up with citizens

## European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

- a) Encourage participation and ownership
- b) Decline territorially major EU policies
- c) Deliver real benefits. From words to action
- d) Build EU /regional identity of neighbourhood

## Q2/ regions, cities, municipalities, which contribution?

### From intermediaries to fully-fledged partners

Participate in the **national setting of priorities**

**Link** EU and regional / local strategies

Implement **actions and flagship projects**

Excellence, best practice... **raise the «internal» game!**

**Share within EU platforms**, links, alliances, networks  
(experience-gates for «Danube's outsiders»)



Participate actively in **consultation, follow-up, review (Forum)**

**Bring Strategy to citizens** (visibility, build regional and local identity)

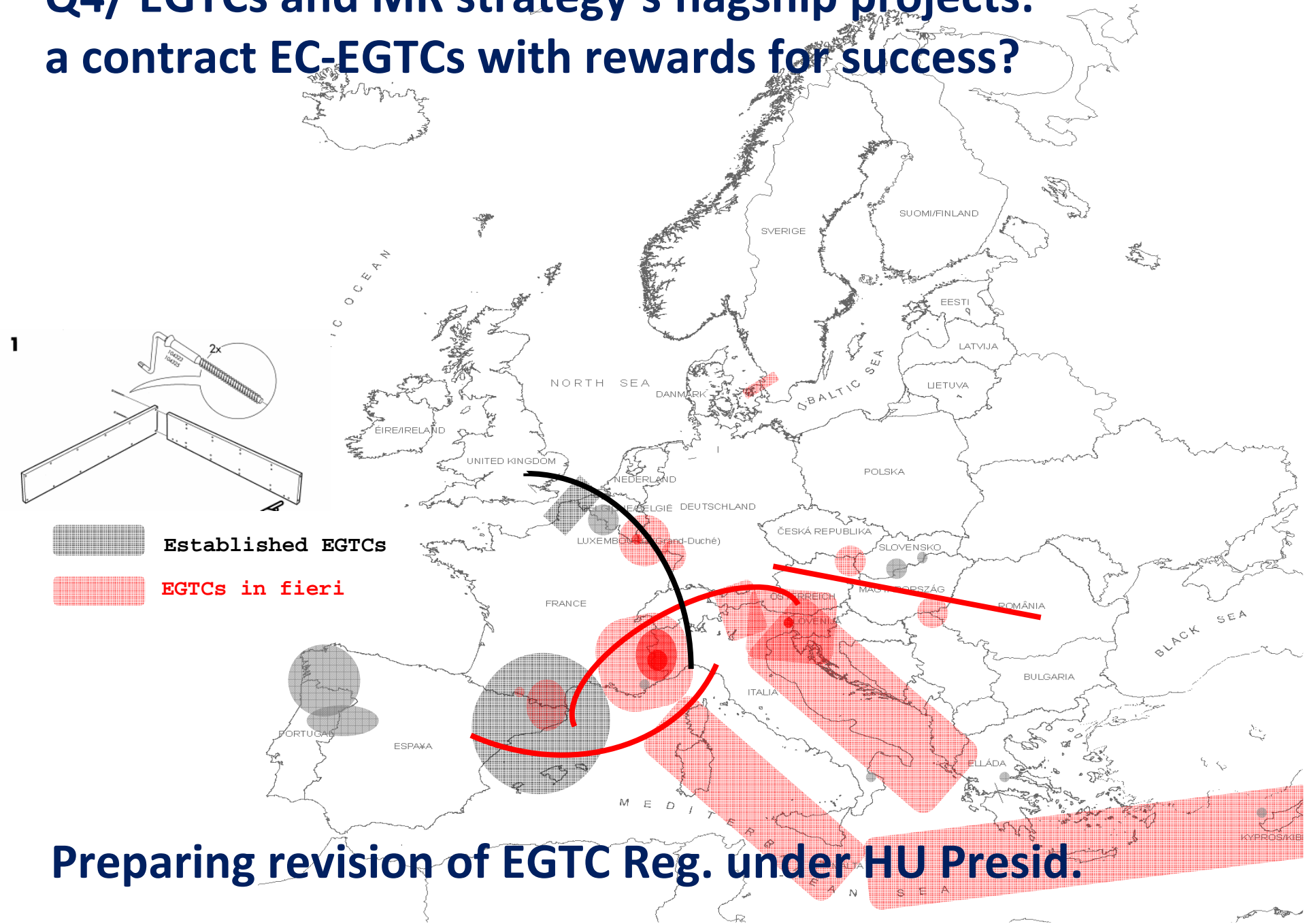
**Facilitate** cooperation with no-EU neighbours (city diplomacy, etc...)



# Q3/ Link up with neighbouring (mushrooming) MRs?



# Q4/ EGTCs and MR strategy's flagship projects: a contract EC-EGTCs with rewards for success?



**Preparing revision of EGTC Reg. under HU Presid.**

## Q5/ A pilot experience with spill-over effects?



### **Raising the game outside the macro-region:**

leader in e.g. river basin management, wetlands protection, “river economy”, socio-cultural integration, etc.

**Danube: from enhanced enforcement of EU law into Region initiating practices/standards/laws for the whole EU**



## Q6/ Territorial cohesion and governance in practice?

Business as usual....



**...or enhanced and innovative working ways**

- between EU Institutions (EC role / Council formats / EP role / CoR)
- between Commission and national and regional actors
- within the Commission (e.g. new REGIO role and inter-DGs)
- at macro-regional level (Annual Forum, HLGs, etc.)



## Q7/ Macro-regions, which place for these “places”?



by Esko Antola

No new internal borders, **how to cooperate with adjacent EU regions?**

«Internal strategy», **how to nurture a built-in (hidden?) ext. coop?**

Subsidiarity, **macro-region as a new testing-level?**

Territorial cohesion, **macro-regions for territorial impact assessment?**

Open Method of Coordination, **also between macro-regions?**

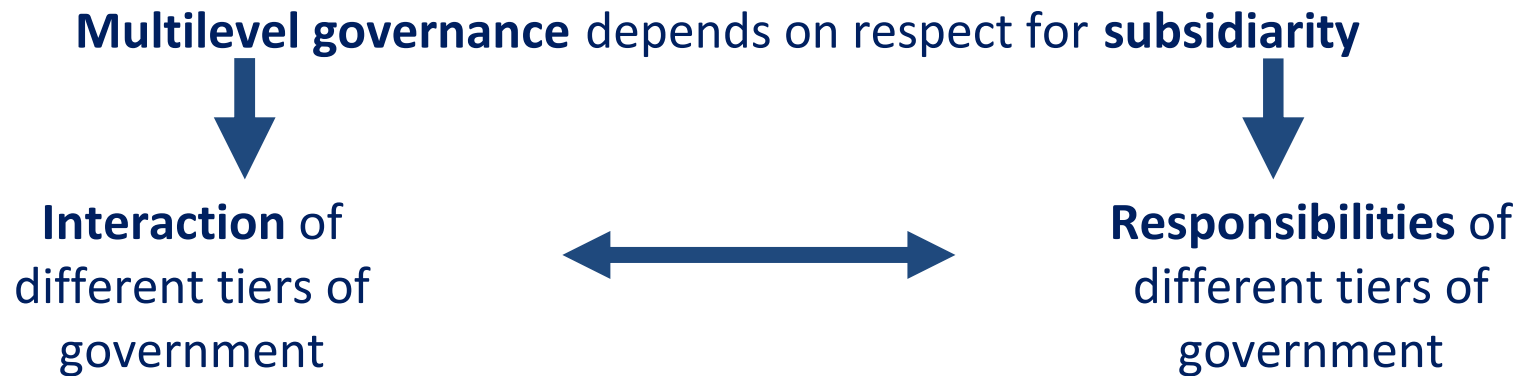
European Budget, **flashing cohesion resources to macro-regions?**





Strategy context  
Strategy governance  
**CoR initiatives**

# CoR (2009), White Paper on Multilevel Governance



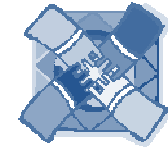
**13 main recommendations** on partnership and cooperation in EU policy making

**10 examples** where MLG's added value is emerging  
(integrated policies, macroregional strategies, EGTC, Covenant of Mayors, etc.)

«Regional and local authorities  
Are genuine partners rather  
Than mere intermediaries »



# Few proposals to put MLG into practice



Reinforcing **integrated policies approaches**

**Territorial impact analysis** should become standard practice and its evaluation mechanisms reinforced

Reinforcing the **partnership practice, both vertically** (regional and local authorities - European Union) **and horizontally** (regional and local authorities –civil society)

Establishing appropriate tools to support **participatory democracy**

Reinforcing the **administrative capabilities of local and regional authorities**

Allocation of additional resources to the three aspects of **territorial cooperation** and developing the potential of **EGTC**

Reforming the **open method of coordination to make it more inclusive**, and examining the options for an open method of regionalised coordination

Use of **experimentation** at regional and local level in certain areas of intervention of the European Union



# CoR, macro-regional cooperation and governance

The EU's Assembly of  
local and regional  
representatives



## Interregional Groups

(Baltic Sea, Danube, North-Sea, Inter-Mediterranean, etc.)

emerging and coordinating their agendas on similar dossiers

EGTC Expert Group



Open Days 2010: decentralised “Danube” events ?



# 13 April 2010: Forum on Europe's macro-regions: Integration through co-operation

Among others (see CoR interregional groups):

- Baltic Sea Region
- Danube Region
- North Sea Region



## Sharing experiences and thinking ahead

What are lessons to be drawn?

What is the role of local and regional authorities?

Can macro-regions be comprehensive in their approach?

Should macro-regions deliver significant EU funding?



# Europe's success, key to BSR, Danube, et



20y/5y... 2009... 5y/20y



BSR, Danube's success,  
key to Europe





Gianluca Spinaci  
Cabinet of the President  
Committee of the Regions

[www.cor.europa.eu](http://www.cor.europa.eu)  
[gianluca.spinaci@cor.europa.eu](mailto:gianluca.spinaci@cor.europa.eu)  
Tel. +32 2 282 2541

**The EU's Assembly of Regional and Local Representatives**

