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Abbreviations

AfDB	African Development Bank
AO	Autonomous oblast
ARIJ	Applied Research Institute Jerusalem
ARLEM	<i>Assemblée Régionale et Locale Euro-Méditerranéenne</i>
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Nations
BSR	Baltic Sea Region
CAP	Common agricultural policy
CBC	Cross-border cooperation
CBSS	Council of the Baltic Sea States
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
CIHEAM	<i>Centre International des Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes</i>
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CNRS	<i>Centre national de la recherche scientifique</i>
CORLEAP	Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership
EaP	Eastern Partnership
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EEAS	European External Action Service
EIB	European Investment Bank
ENCs	European Neighbourhood countries
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ENPARD	European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development
ENPI	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
ESPON	European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion
EU	European Union
EUSAIR	EU Strategy for the Adriatic and the Ionian Region
EUSBSR	EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
EUSDR	EU Strategy for the Danube Region

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign direct investment
FP7	Framework Programme
FYROM	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDI	Human Development Index
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ITAN	Integrated Territorial Analysis of the Neighbourhoods
LNG	Liquefied natural gas
M4D	Multi-dimensional data design and development
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
ND	Northern Dimension
NTA	Neighbourhoods Territorial Agenda
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OME	<i>Observatoire méditerranéen de l'énergie</i>
oPt	Occupied Palestinian territory
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PPP	Purchasing power parity
RTAs	Regional trade agreements
SEZ	Special economic zone
SNUTS	Similar to NUTS
TEN	Trans-European Networks
TERCO	Territorial Cooperation
TIGER	Territorial Impact of Globalization for Europe and its Regions
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
VASAB	Vision and Strategies Around the Baltic Sea
WTO	World Trade Organization

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Introduction. Should and Could Europe Use a Territorial Approach to Regain the Influence It Has Lost in Its Region?

European neighbour territories are of utmost importance, given the increasing role of neighbourhoods not only for Europe but also in the other world regions, namely the two leading ones: East Asia and North America—which has included Mexico since the North American Free Trade Agreement. This book recalls the scientific and political issues of the “regionalisation” of the world’s spatial organisation and the importance of geographical *proximity*, be it for environmental purposes, economic or cultural exchanges. There is no “end of geography” nor “end of history”.

The atlas is based on hypotheses. The first is that Europe and its neighbourhoods constitute one world region—what we call the “greater European region” due to the leading role of (Western) Europe in this vast area that stretches from the Sahara to the Middle East, Western Balkans, European Russia and the Arctic. We acknowledge that the phrase “European region” will not suit South Mediterranean countries for instance, because they do not consider themselves to be “European”. But there is no alternative phrase for this region, and as this atlas stems from a European research project [Espan¹ “Integrated Territorial Analysis of the Neighbourhoods”, ITAN (Beckouche 2014)], we have retained this euro-centric wording. We believe that the content of this atlas will convince the non-European readers that its authors have a critical analysis of the current core–periphery relationship between Europe and what the European Union calls its “neighbours”.

Our second hypothesis is that this region shows greater opportunities than threats, contrary to what European stakeholders all too often believe. To our view, neighbourhoods should be regarded as a driver for the European economic growth and a treasury for mutual cultural fertilisation, rather than as territories where migration should be controlled so as to prevent Europe from contagious unrest, for buying oil, and sunbathing on cheap beaches.

¹The European Spatial Planning Observation Network was established in 2002 in order to support policy development and the European scientific community in the field of territorial development and spatial planning. It is funded by EU Member States, partner countries (Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland and Switzerland) and the European Commission (DG Regio).

We also believe that a territorial approach is a good way to foster partnership when diplomatic relations are stalling, and when Europe's neighbours increasingly deal with other global or emerging players (US, China, Brazil, Gulf...). Promoting a territorial approach would be a competitive advantage for Europe in its neighbourhoods: Asian importers can buy Ukrainian cereals, Emirati investors can develop a tourist resort in North Africa, US businessmen can buy an IT Turkish enterprise, Chinese operators can build an Egyptian motorway, but none of them can be involved in integrated planning, long-term sharing of the value chain, a common energy transition and cooperation in renewable energy related to rural development, and in profound exchanges of experiences in sustainable urbanism or access to sanitation. That kind of broad multi-sectoral cooperation—what economists call a “regional *deep* integration”—belongs to neighbours who share multiple knowledge and partnership.

Chapter 1 presents the rising importance of the regionalisation issue, from a political and a scientific point of view. However, mapping the greater European region is not easy. Building a comprehensive local database compliant with European local data turned out to be incredibly difficult: countless local geometry changes in a contentious recent history, and sometimes complete territorial changeover due to wars (Palestine, Libya, Syria...); difficult access to data; changes in quality of data; insufficient data reliability (informal activity in almost all neighbourhoods: East, Mediterranean, Western Balkans); impossibility of addressing the urban data issue; and virtually impossible data standardisation. Still, this atlas presents the main results of the ITAN project: (i) pioneering harmonised data so as to provide, for the first time, a complete cartography of the greater European region on a local scale; (ii) several “composite indicators” on international openness, on the local level of human development, on territorial dynamics and on territorial potential, of all the neighbour local territories; and (iii) the main stakes and opportunities of each of the European neighbourhoods. It is the first attempt at such comprehensive analysis of this greater region.

Chapter 2 presents the major territorial challenges of the neighbourhoods: environmental risks, territorial inequality and non-inclusive growth, market fragmentation and political unrest. It also describes their opportunities: labour forces—increasingly skilled—and rising markets, and natural resources, namely energy. It assesses the degree of integration of this greater region, with rather bad news when it comes to the declining influence of the EU countries upon their neighbourhoods and to the still prevailing core–periphery pattern between Europe and its neighbours. It provides the first results of pioneering research based on media data.

Chapter 3 analyses the territorial stakes of the different neighbourhoods: Northern (Arctic), Eastern (the Eastern neighbour countries including Russia, without which no relevant Eastern Partnership can really be set up), Western Balkans and Mediterranean.

The last chapter presents the policy orientations for decision-makers: the utmost importance of promoting the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the notion of a greater region (Europe + neighbourhoods), but, at the same time, the need to profoundly reformulate the neighbourhoods. The failure of the ENP is

obvious, and in 2015, the EU launched a wide consultation “Towards a new European Neighbourhood Policy”. This atlas recommends improved cross-cutting between the ENP and the European cohesion policy and other European policies with a strong territorial component: CAP, transports, environment, energy—indispensable if European stakeholders want to master the Eastern neighbourhood’s issue—and *mobility* rather than a “migration” policy. As a conclusion, we make one overall recommendation: Europe could greatly benefit from a “Neighbourhoods Territorial Agenda”, which could provide a comprehensive vision of territorial stakes, opportunities and projects in this world region.

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