Whitaker Institute

NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

IMAJINE

Integrative Mechanisms for Addressing Spatial Justice and Territorial Inequalities in Europe

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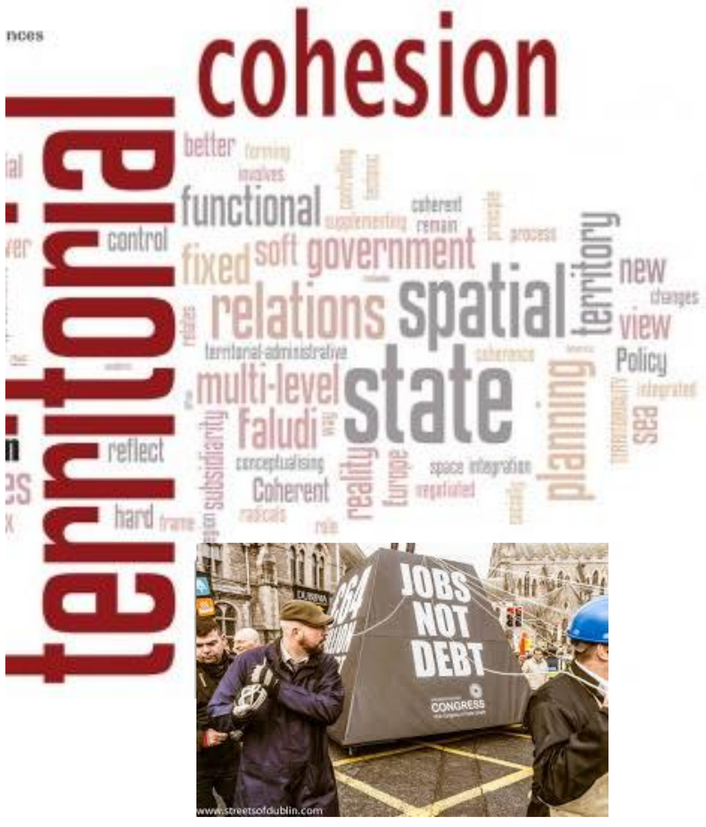
IMAJINE

The core aim of IMAJINE is to **formulate new integrative policy mechanisms to enable European, national and regional government agencies to more effectively address territorial inequalities within the European Union,** and to imagine a future for European regions in which the distribution of resources is consistent with principles of social and spatial justice.



Key IMAJINE Objectives

Enhance **conceptual understanding of spatial justice and territorial inequalities**.

Enrich the **empirical knowledge base on territorial inequalities** in Europe.

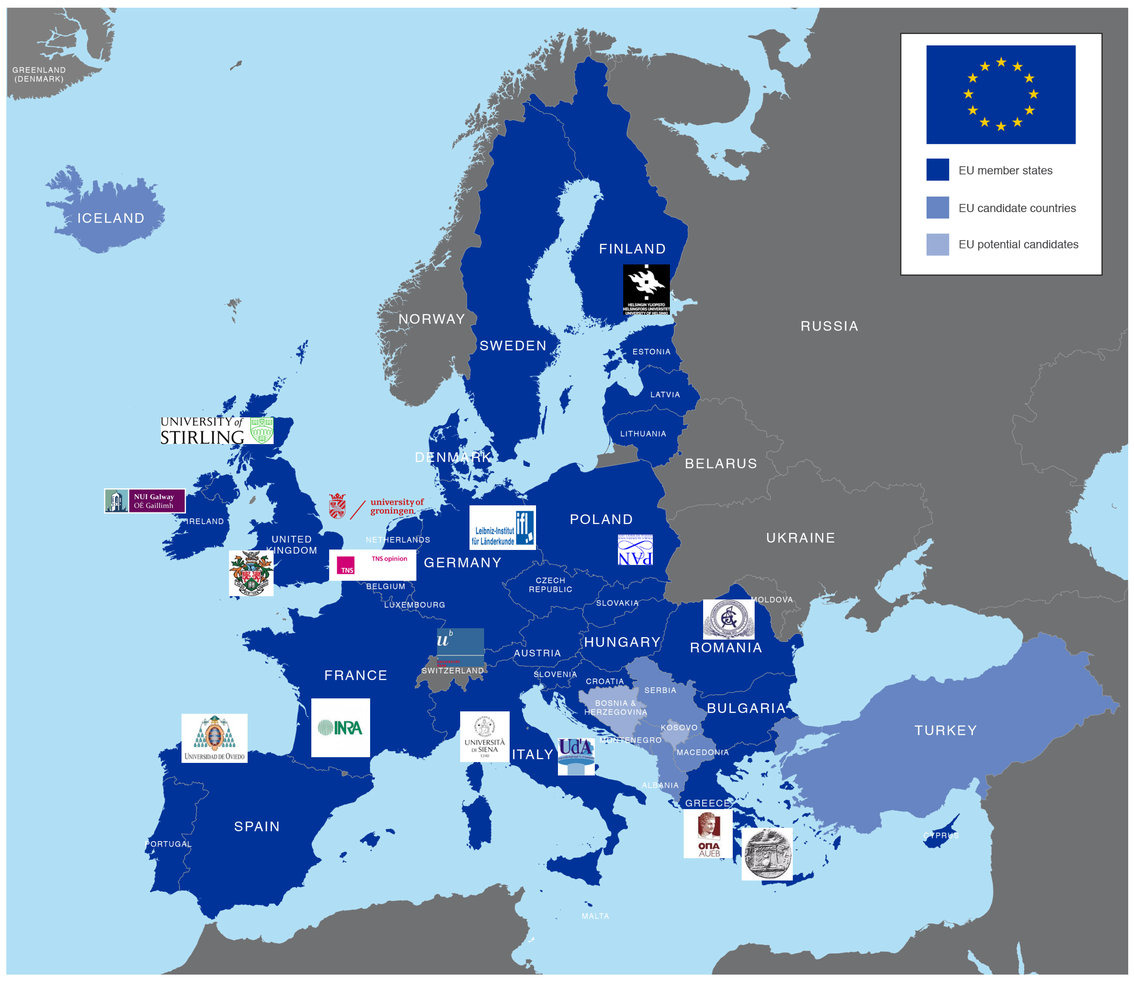
Evaluate the **impact of the economic crisis and the adoption of austerity policies on perceived and measurable territorial inequalities** in Europe, and on the **capacity of public services** to address inequalities and promote spatial justice.

Assess the effectiveness of forms of **regional autonomy** as mechanisms for promoting spatial justice.

Examine processes such as **migration** to assess whether there exists an **interconnected regional dynamic** to territorial inequalities, in order to inform appropriate scales of policy intervention.

The main issues

Territorial cohesion is a guiding principle for EU policy, alongside social cohesion and economic cohesion. However, in recent years territorial inequalities within the EU have widened as the post-2008 economic crisis and adoption of austerity policies have had an uneven geographical impact. There is, accordingly, a pressing need to re-appraise the appropriateness and efficacy of existing policy instruments for tackling territorial inequalities, and to consider and develop alternative mechanisms.



Project Partners

IMAJINE involves 16 international partners from the UK, Romania, Greece, Finland, France, Ireland, The Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Poland, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium. It is led by Aberystwyth University, Wales (Prof. M. Woods).

The project runs for 5 years (2017-2022).

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