

Regional Inequalities and Spatial Justice in a Europe of Flows

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Key Questions



- Are conventional ways of measuring and mapping regional inequalities appropriate?
- What happens if we approach regional inequalities from a spaces of flows perspective?
- Does this lead to new normative models for addressing inequalities?

Integrative Mechanisms for Addressing Spatial Justice and Territorial Inequalities in Europe

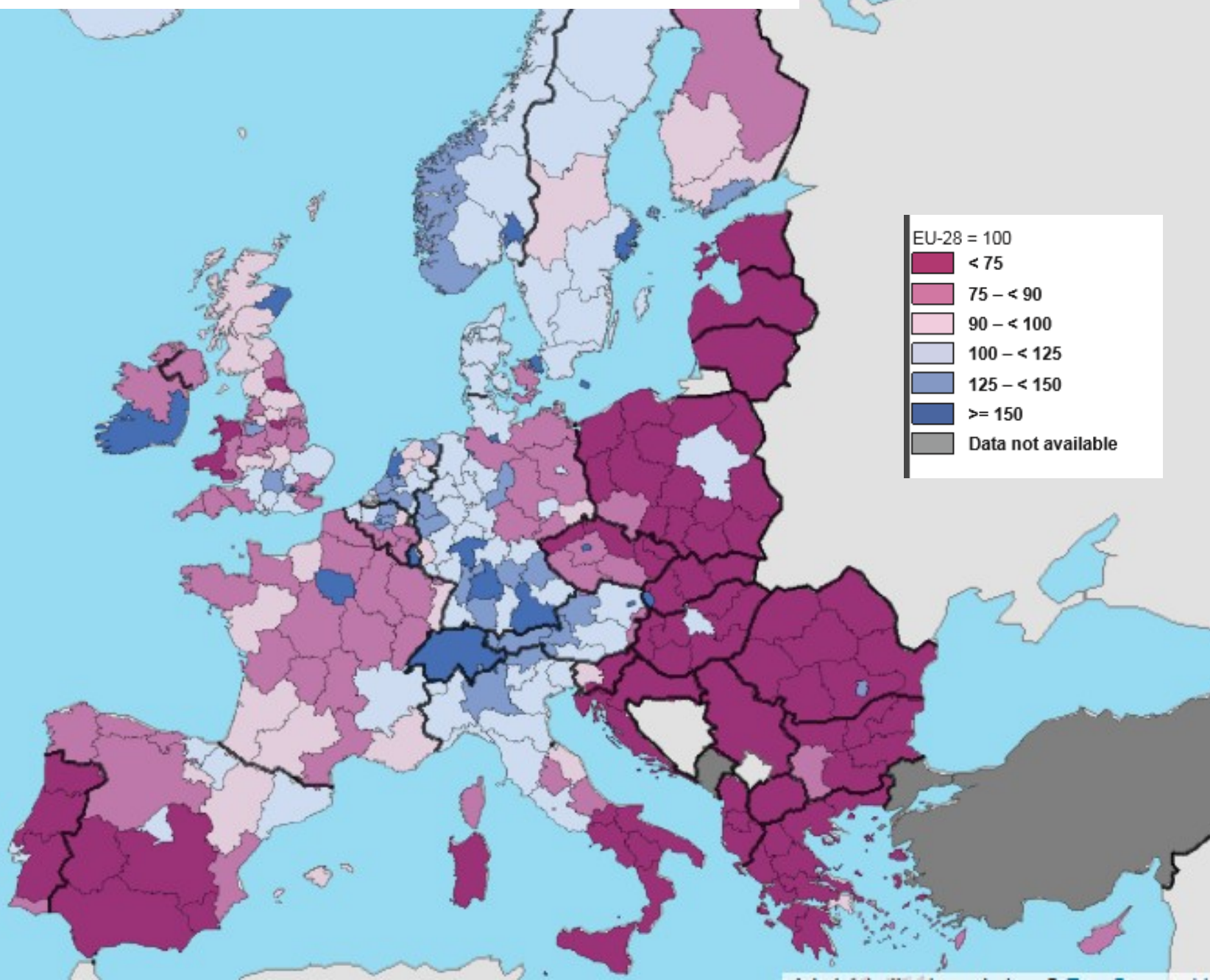


- Analysis of policy discourses
- Econometric analysis & mapping of territorial inequalities
- Survey of perceptions of spatial inequalities
- Migration, territorial inequalities & spatial justice
- Multilevel policy-making and spatial justice
- Autonomy movements and territorial inequalities
- Re-imaging Regional Futures



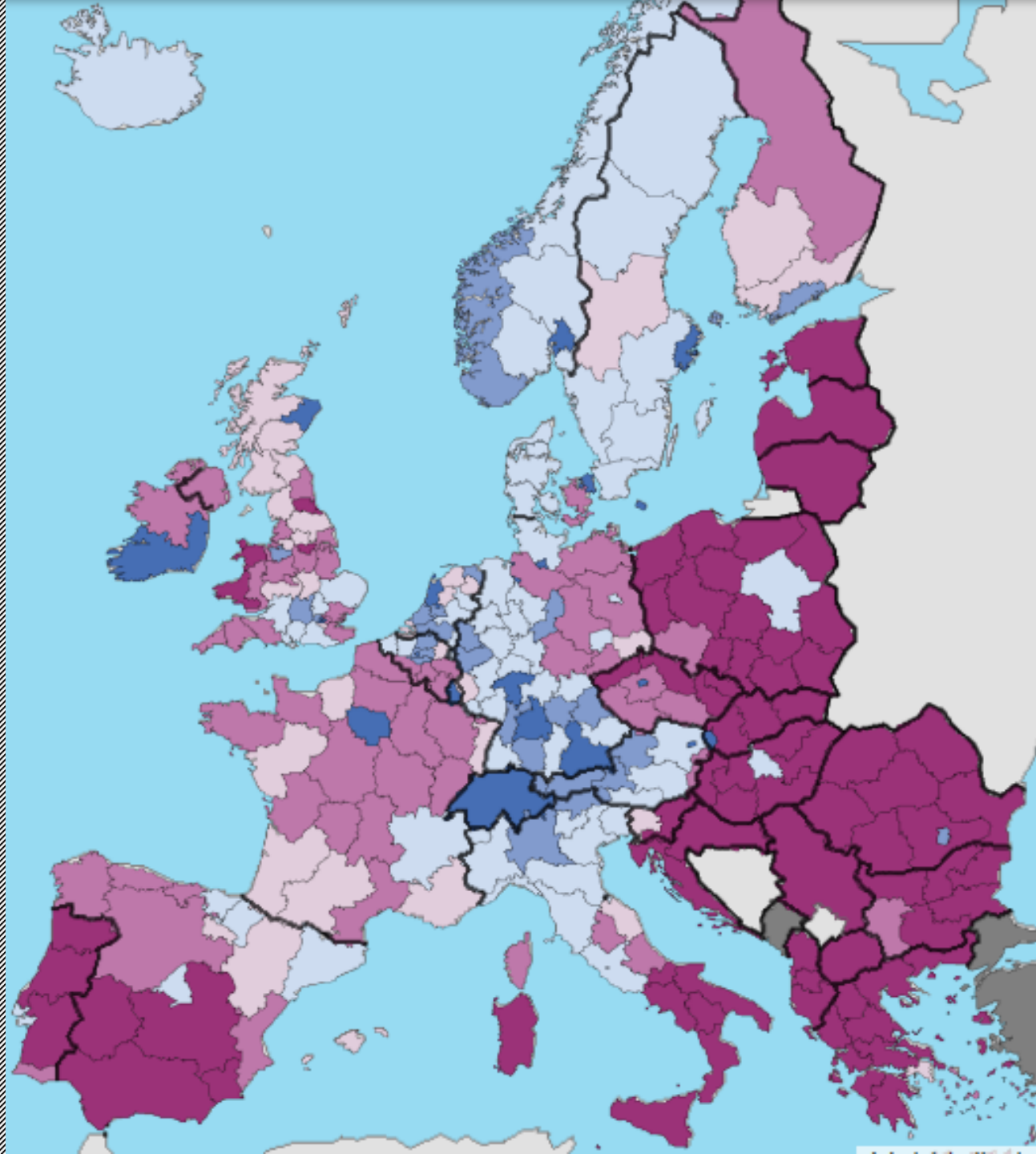
www.imajine-project.eu

Gross domestic product (GDP) per inhabitant in purchasing power standards (PPS) in relation to the EU-28 average, by NUTS 2 regions, 2015
(% of the EU-28 average, EU-28 = 100)



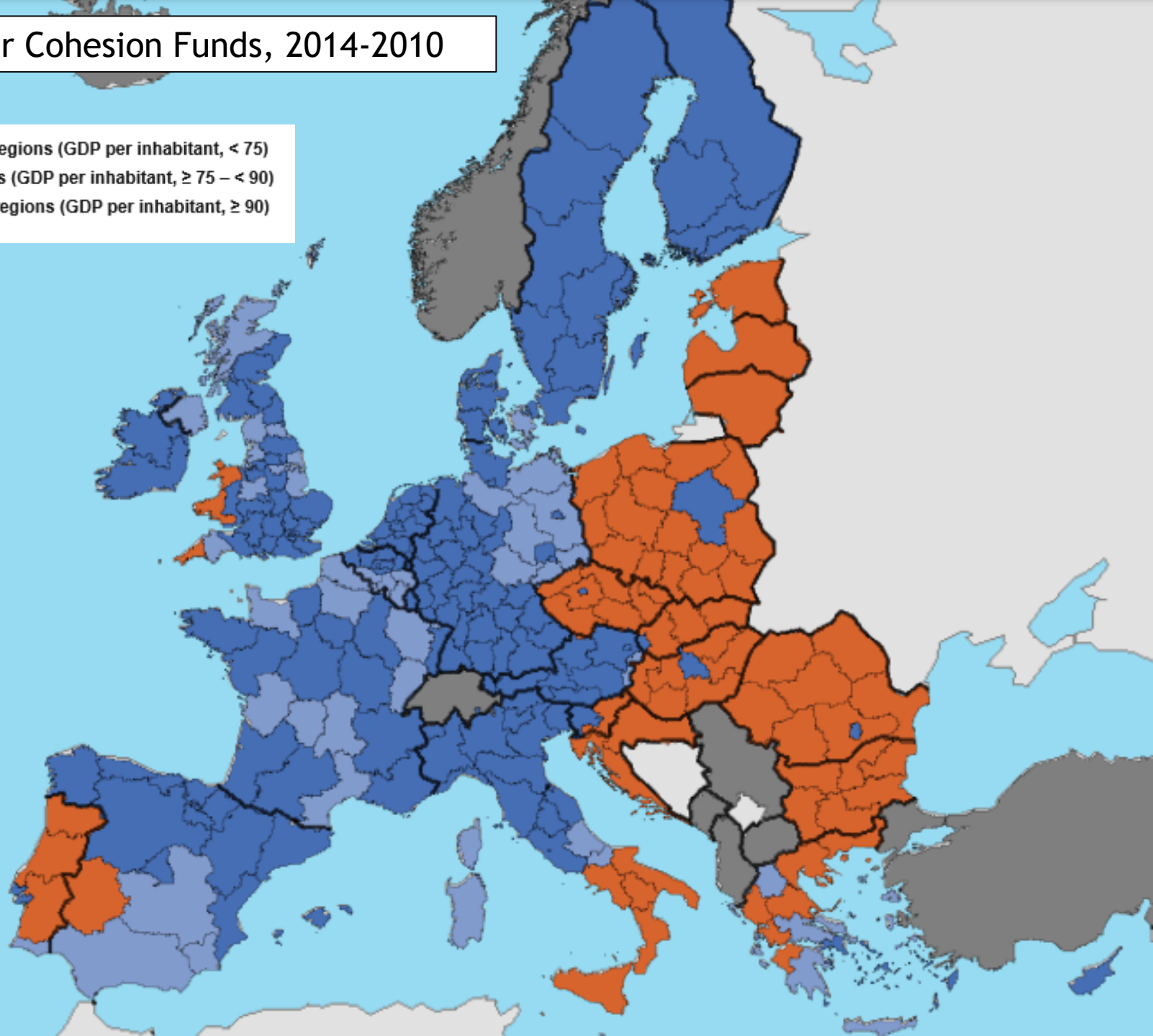
Critique

- Two-dimensional
- Static
- Bounded regions
- No intra-regional differentiation
- Just one indicator at a time
- Partial view
- No sense of dynamics behind inequalities or relations between regions



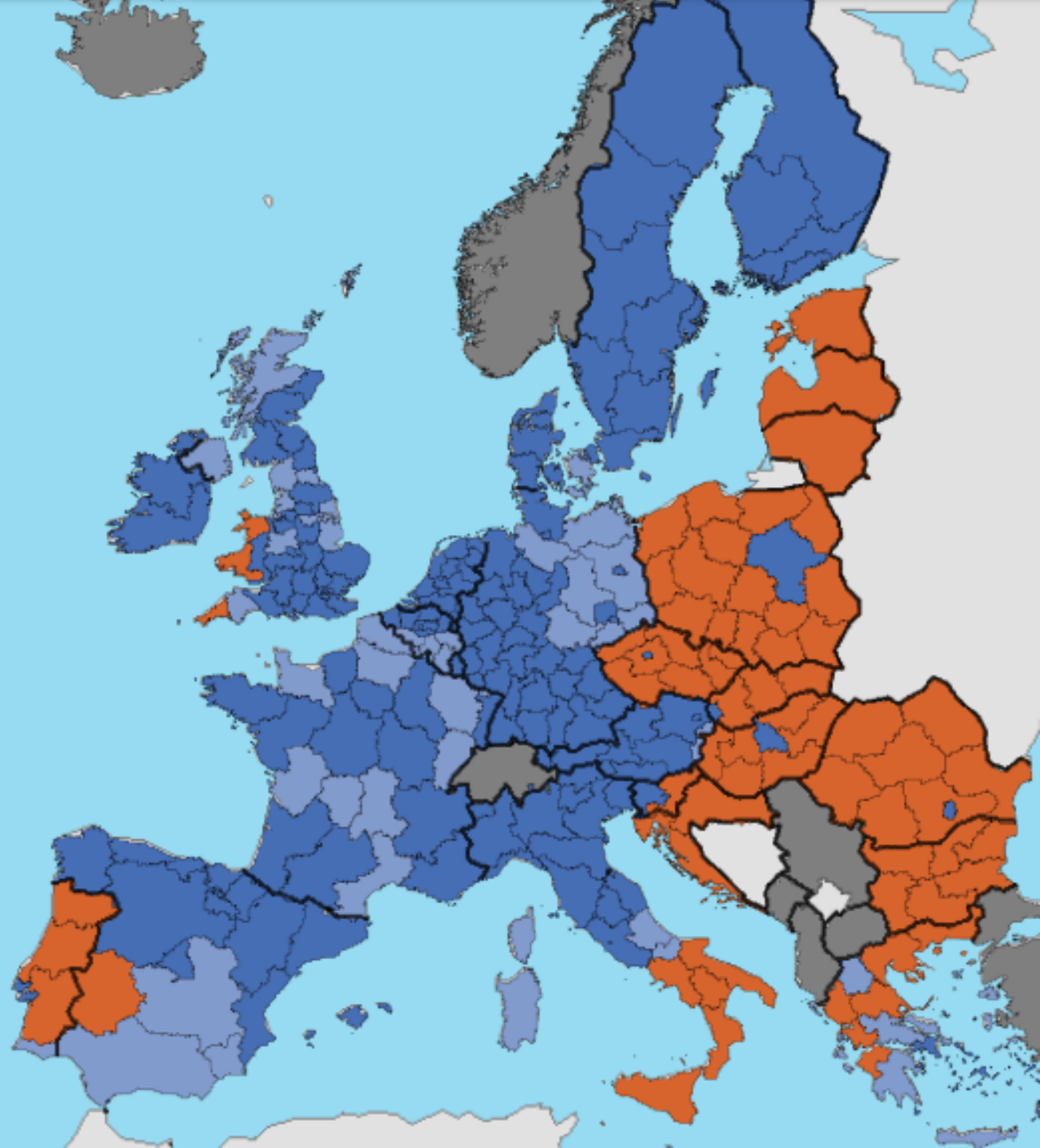
Eligibility for Cohesion Funds, 2014-2010

- Less developed regions (GDP per inhabitant, < 75)
- Transition regions (GDP per inhabitant, $\geq 75 - < 90$)
- More developed regions (GDP per inhabitant, ≥ 90)



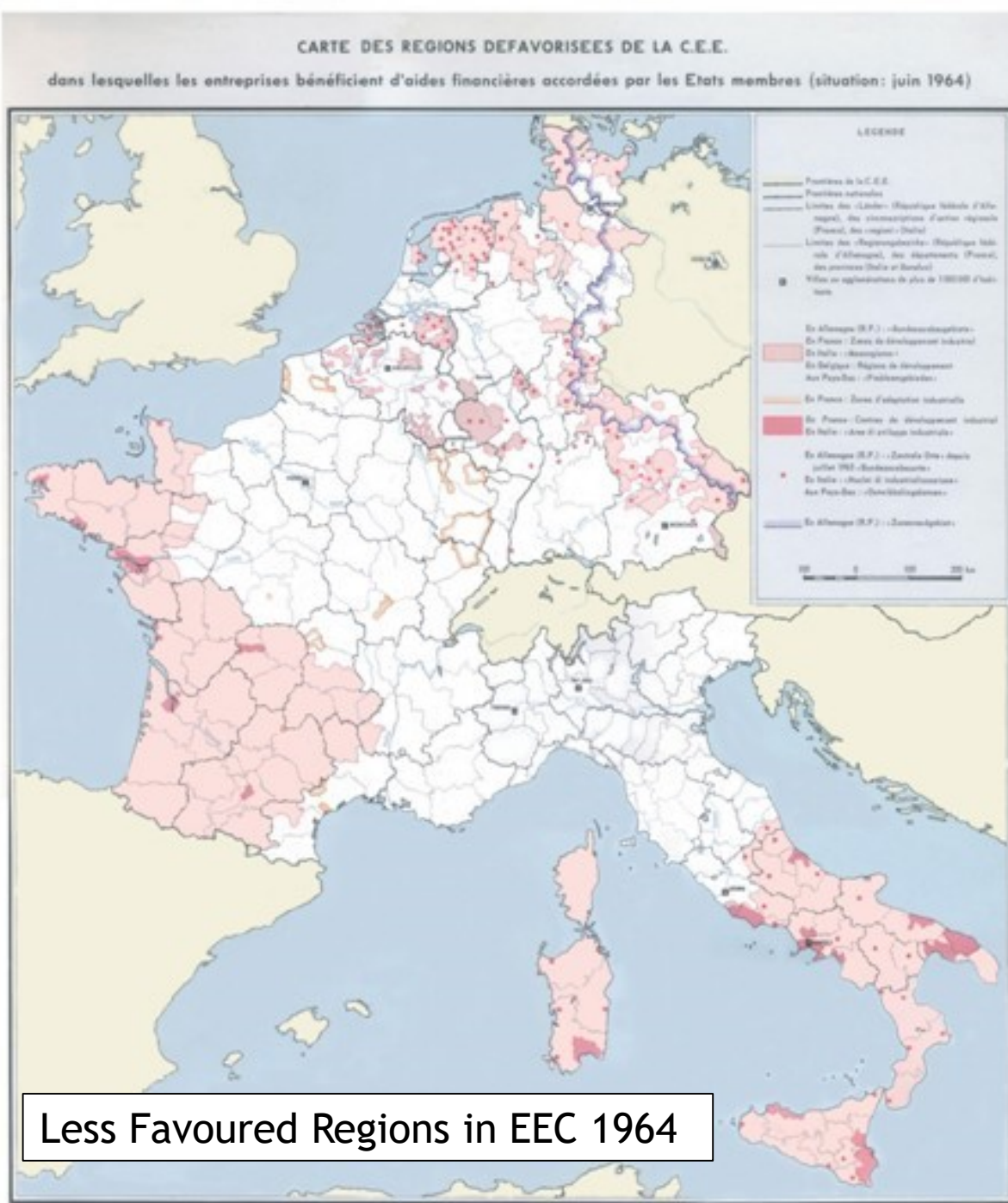
Critique

- Crude measure
- Bounded regions
- No intra-regional differentiation
- Focused on the symptoms of inequality not the causes?
- Ineffective?



Effectiveness?

- Regions have lost eligibility for EU Cohesion Funds due to the shifting threshold not necessarily economic growth
- Territorial inequalities within the EU have increased since 2007



Less Favoured Regions in EEC 1964

Towards a Relational Perspective



- Conventional models show *relative* regional inequality (i.e. comparing regions to each other)
- Need to move towards *relational* regional inequality (i.e. how relations between regions produce inequalities)
- Thinking in terms of spaces of flows

Regional Inequalities and Spaces of Flows



- Flows as indicators of inequalities
- Flows as causes of inequalities
- Flows as means of addressing inequalities

Two examples

- Capital / finance
- Migration

Financial flows as indicators of inequalities



- Flows of tax payments from regions
- Flows of taxes vs flows of benefits
- Flows of inter-regional investment

Average income tax per tax payer 2012-11

Elmbridge	£16,100
St Albans	£10,900
Windsor and Maidenhead	£10,200
Guildford	£9,830
London	£8,580
UK average	£4,398

Total tax paid 2010-11

Elmbridge	£1,180m
Glasgow	£898m
Bristol	£843m
Sheffield	£812m
Aberdeen	£728m
Cardiff	£589m

Source: Daily Mail

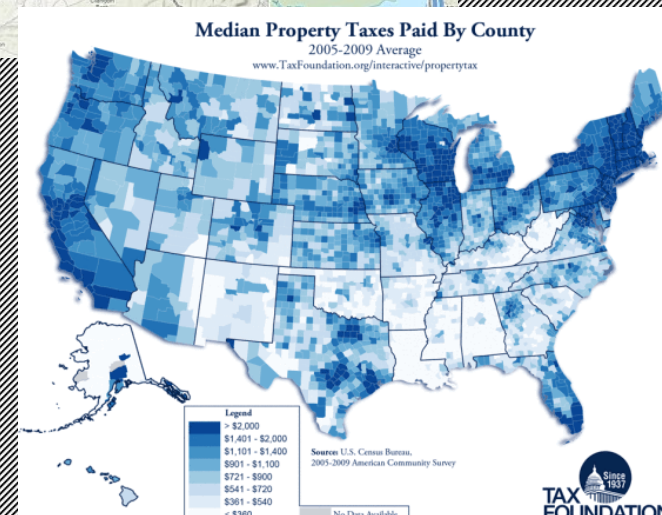
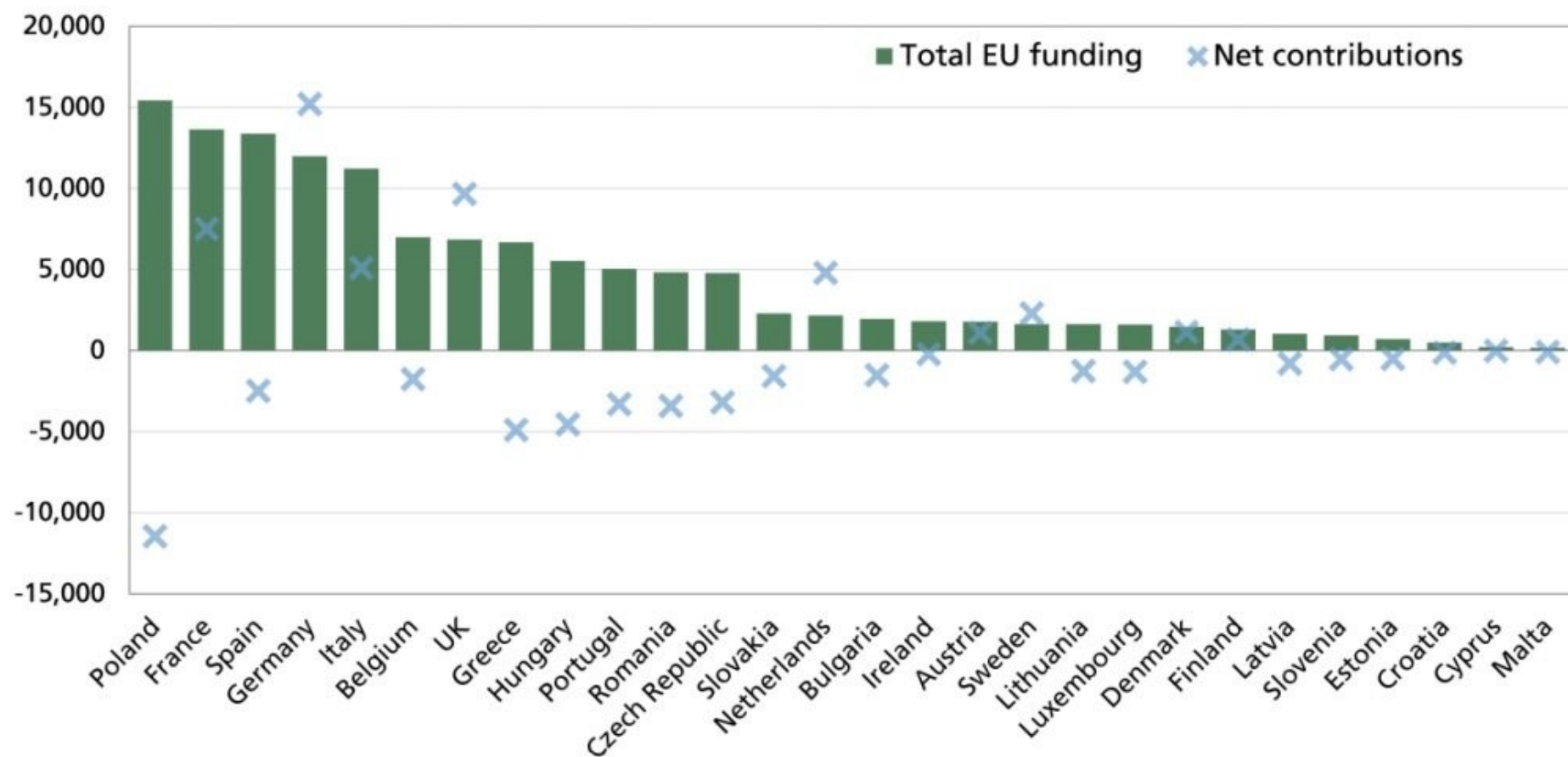


Fig 1. Average annual funding received and net contributions by member states, 2011-2015 (€ million)



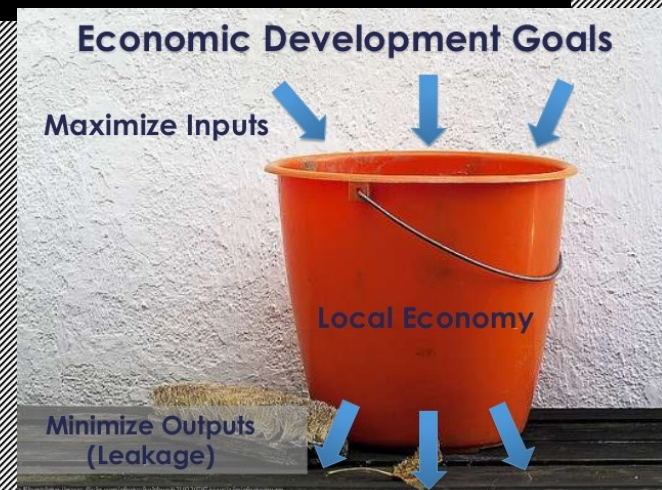
Source: European Commission, EU Financial Report 2015

Source: Business Insider

Financial flows as producers of inequalities

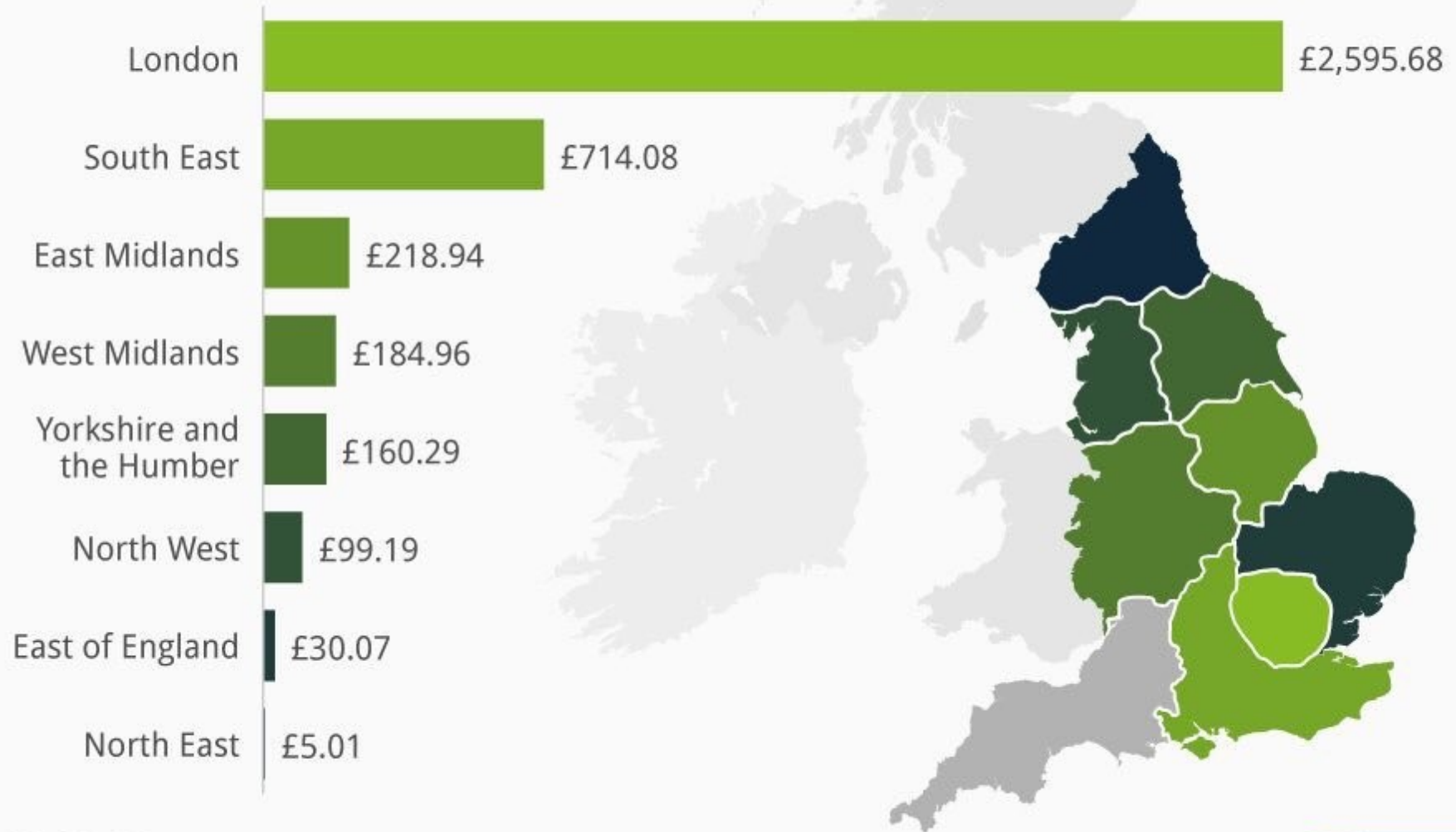


- Flows of commercial transactions
- Leakage from local economies
- Industrial relocations



The UK's Extraordinary Imbalance in Transport Expenditure

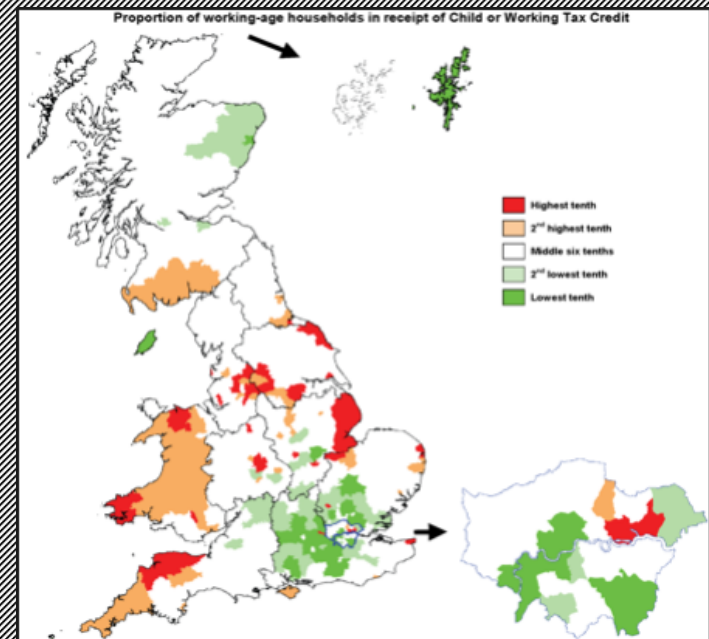
Spending per head of the English population on transport infrastructure by region* (in GBP)



Financial flows and addressing inequalities



- Redistribution of public funding
- Not just regional development spend
- Fiscal transfers for public services etc



Source: The Poverty Site

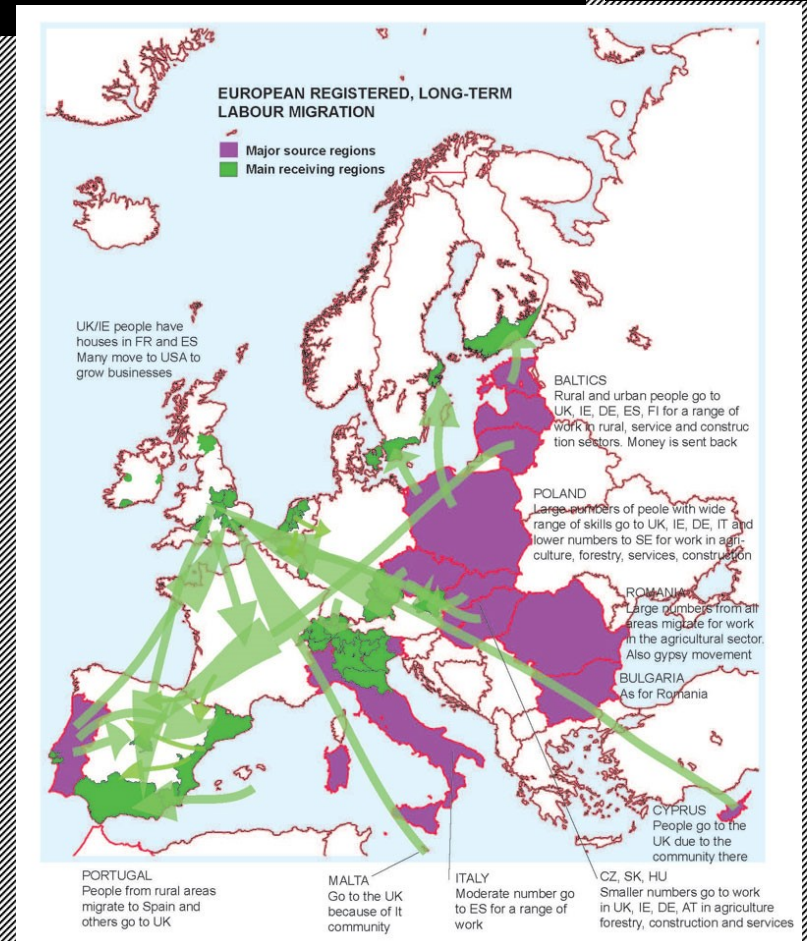
Migration flows as indicators of inequalities



- Migration reflects perceptions of relative wealth and opportunities

Source:

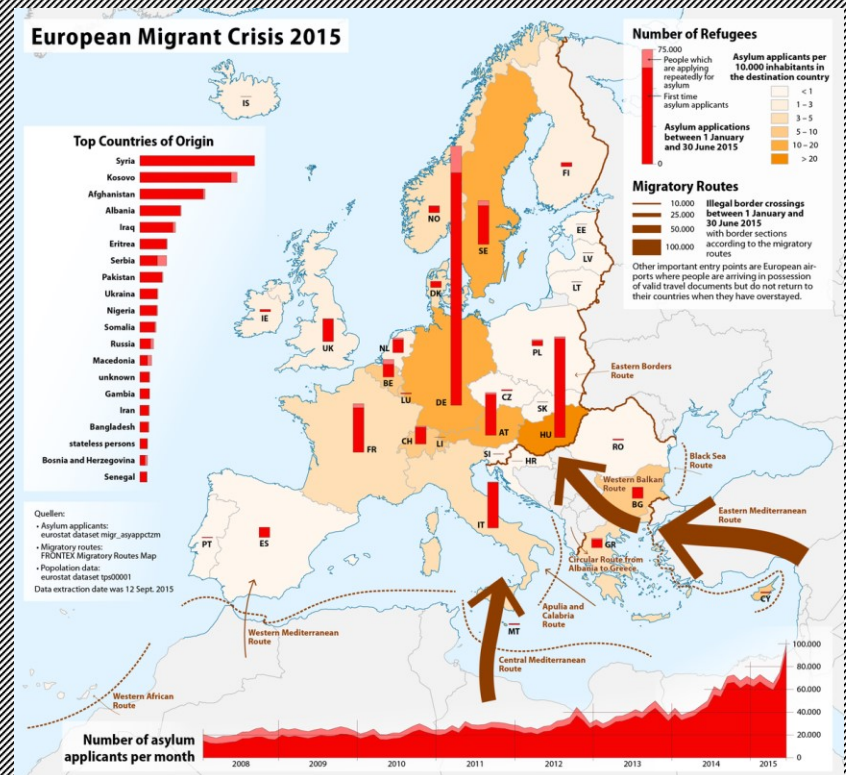
<http://lrlr.landscapeonline.de>



Migration flows as indicators of inequalities



- Migration reflects perceptions of relative wealth and opportunities
- Also migration from outside Europe



Migration flows as producers of inequalities



- Spiral effect on sending localities
- Dying villages
- Out-flows of young and working-age residents
- Impacts of flows of professional workers (e.g. healthcare)

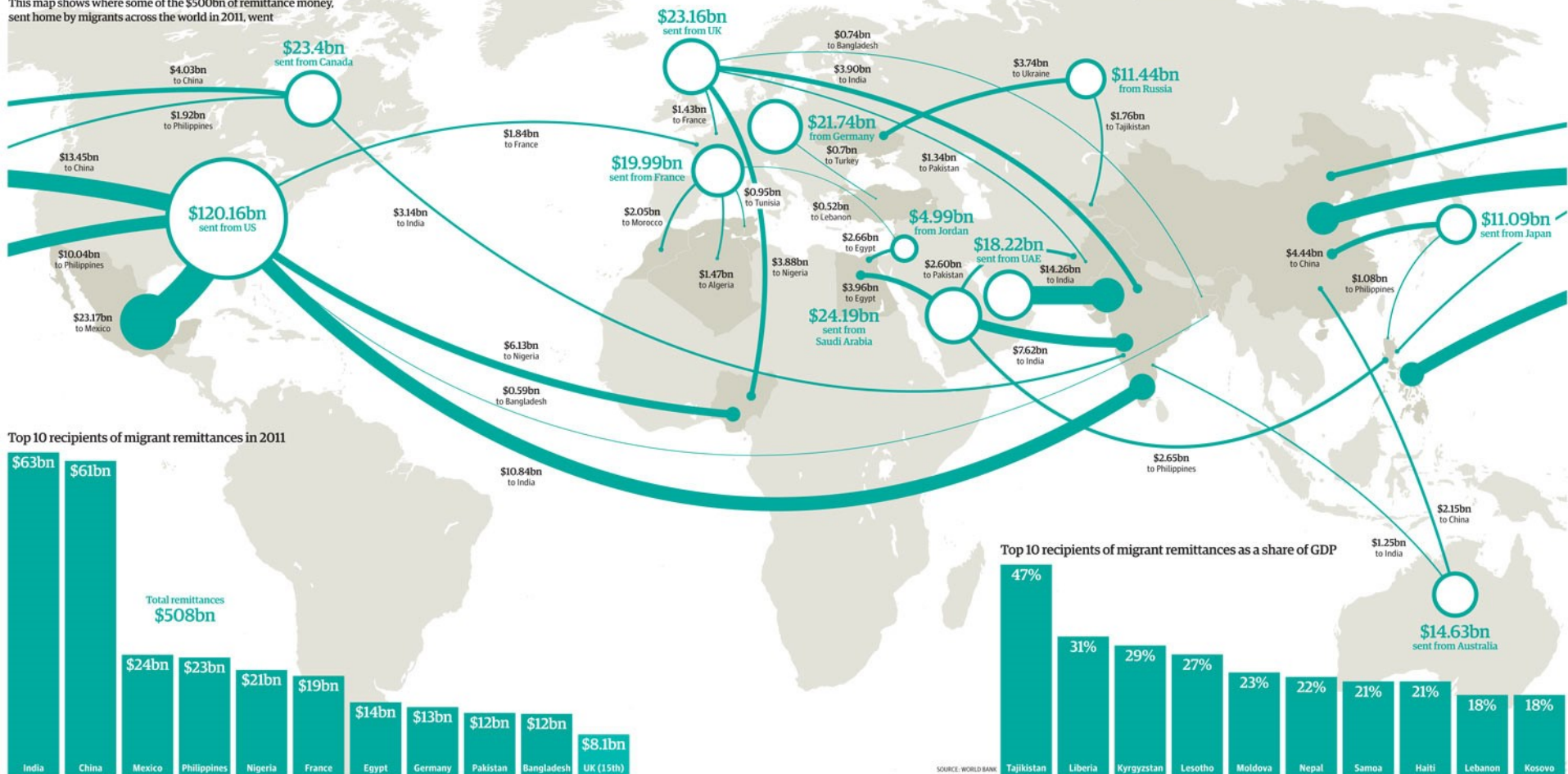
Migration flows and addressing inequalities



theguardian

Where the money goes

This map shows where some of the \$500bn of remittance money, sent home by migrants across the world in 2011, went

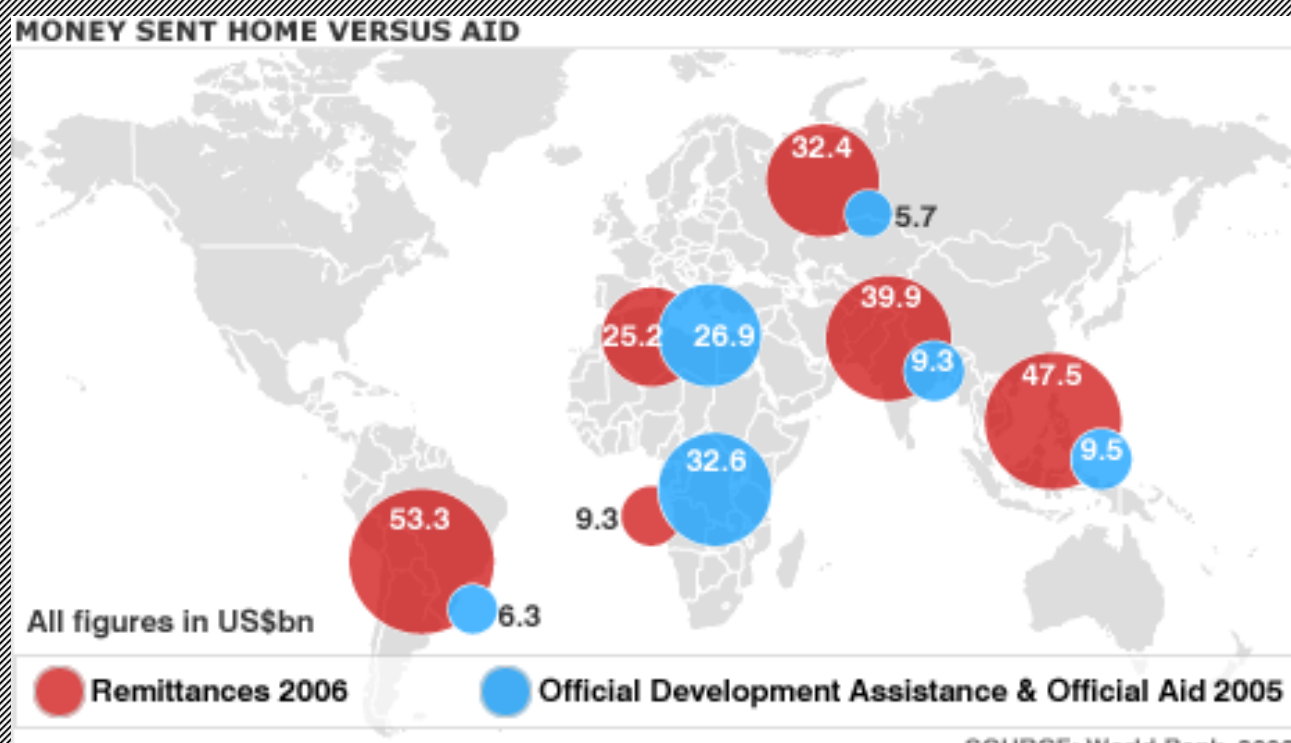


SOURCE: WORLD BANK

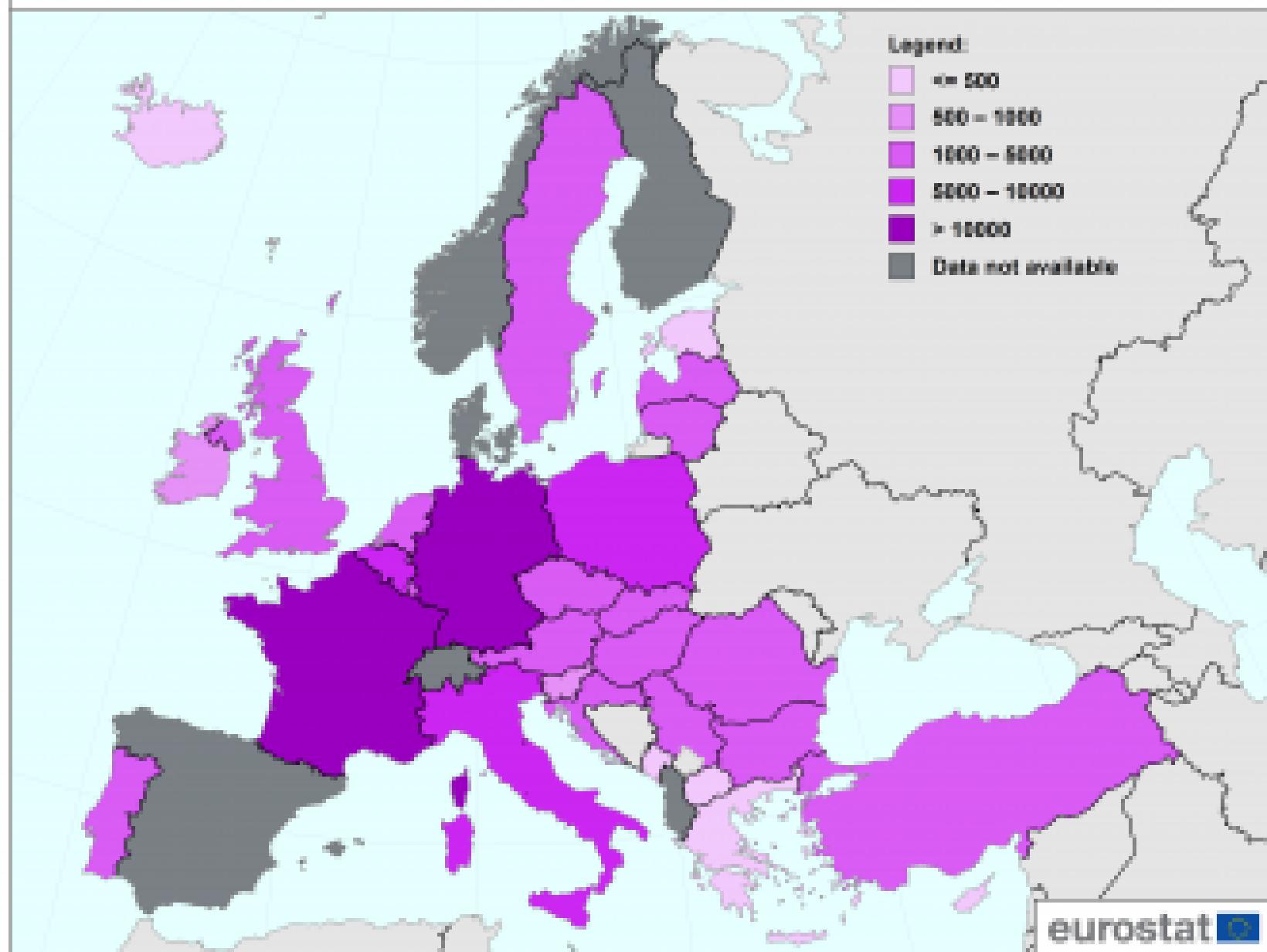
Migration flows and addressing inequalities



- Remittances as redistribution of wealth



Inflows in personal remittances in Europe



eurostat 

Receiving Europe...

One-third (US\$36.5 billion) of flows remain in Europe

Share over 90%	Population	%
Estonia	1,220	96
Slovak Republic	2,121	91
Albania	1,118	91

Share 80% to 89%	Population	%
Republic of Moldova	1,981	87
Romania	3,431	86
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,900	86
Lithuania	2,309	83
Ecuador	476	83
Belarus	1,258	83
Latvia	790	83
Croatia	1,524	80

Share 50% to 79%	Population	%
Ukraine	7,587	78
Czech Republic	2,637	78
Serbia	3,656	77
Poland	7,486	76
Montenegro	441	71

Share 40% to 49%	Population	%
Hungary	4,473	68
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	367	62
Bulgaria	1,710	42



Source: IFAD

Regional Inequalities and Territorial Cohesion



- EU policy response to regional inequalities conventionally shaped by principle of territorial cohesion
- “to help achieve a more balanced development by reducing existing disparities, preventing territorial imbalances and making both sectoral policies which have a spatial impact and regional policy more coherent” (European Commission 2004: 27)

Regional Inequalities and Territorial Cohesion



- Polycentric spatial patterns of development (Faludi 2005)
- Place-based development enabling the place-based needs, characteristics and potentials to be taken into account (Mendez 2013)
- Unleashing the “territorial capital” of European regions (Finka 2007)
- Viewing Europe as an integrated whole (Faludi 2007)
- A “Europe of places” rather than an “Europe of flows” (Holder and Layard 2011)

Spatial Justice



- Territorial dimensions of social justice
- Spatial distribution of wealth and resources
- Lefebvre's (1974) *La production de l'espace*, and the 'right to the city'
- The right to access, occupy and use space
- Ed Soja (2010) *Seeking Spatial Justice*
- 'spatial (in)justice refers to an intentional and focused emphasis on the spatial or geographical aspects of justice and injustice. As a starting point, this involves the fair and equitable distribution in space of socially valued resources and the opportunities to use them.' (Soja, 2009, *The City and Spatial Justice*, p 2)

Spatial Justice



- Move towards spatial justice?
- Less concerned with the equal distribution of wealth than with the fairness or justice of the processes and dynamics that produce spatial difference
- Justice is a qualitative perception, inequality is a quantitative measure
- More compatible with a space of flows perspective?

Spatial Justice



- Emphasis on the production of space: what are the political-economic processes, structures and policies that produce spatial difference?
- Impact of unfair dynamics on rights to space (e.g. the right to live and work in a particular place)
- Perceptions of regional inequalities and fair treatment (and link to regionalist, separatist and populist movements)
- Normative model for how inter-regional dynamics should function

Conclusions



- Sketched out some initial thoughts about regional inequality, space of flows and spatial justice
- Shifting focus of research and analysis
- Methodological challenge of collecting, mapping and modelling data
- Challenge for policy
- From territorial cohesion in a Europe of regions to spatial justice in a Europe of flows?