

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

#### **ESPON ACTAREA** Thinking and Planning in Areas of Territorial Cooperation

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Regional and national spatial planning: new challenges and new opportunities

Territorial Monitoring in Cross-Border Areas – Berlin – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018

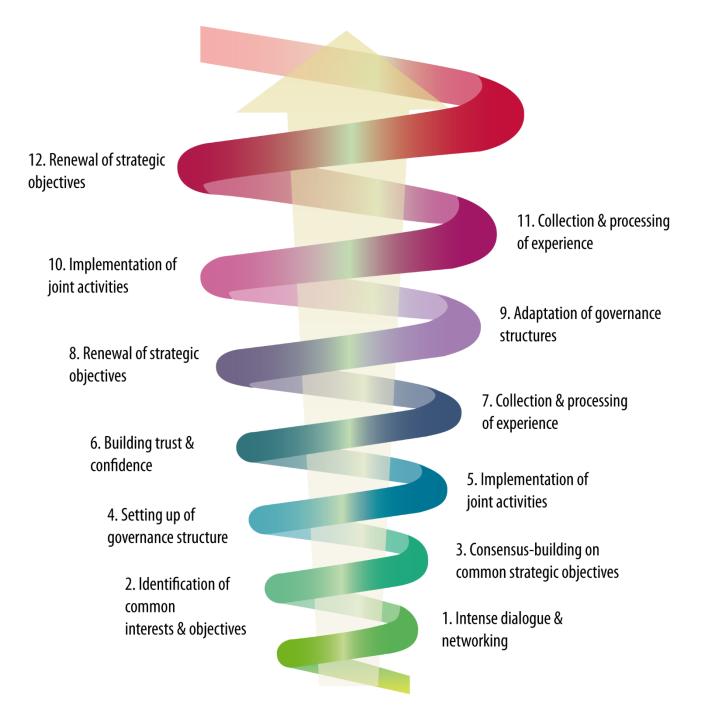
**Soft territorial cooperation areas** are initiatives that define the sectoral scope and geographical boundaries in an "open" or "fuzzy" way, based on a notion of "community of intent".

# What is soft territorial cooperation?

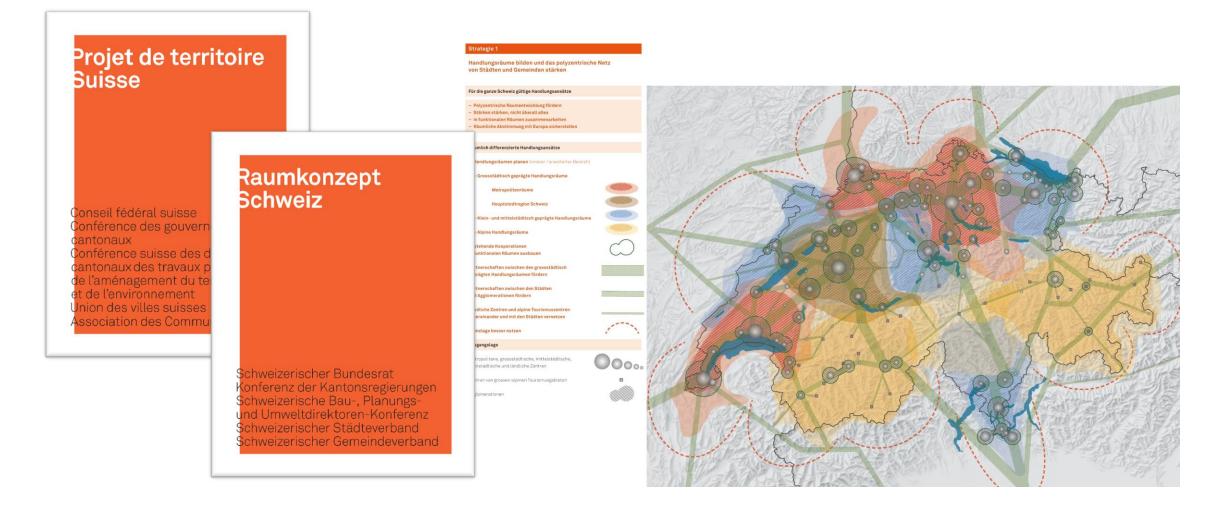
- Long term objectives
- Seeks to enhance the capacities of involved players, making them actors of their own development
- Renew relations between
  - Levels
  - Sectors
  - Types of actors
- Open and Fuzzy
  - sectoral scope
  - geographical boundaries
  - partnership

### The notion of 'communities of intent'

- Identifying issues and topics for which a 'territorially embedded consensus' may be identified
- Does not presume a pre-existing 'community'
- Does not imply that soft territorial cooperation is about promoting consensus
- Does not negate the fact that actors and territories may be in competition



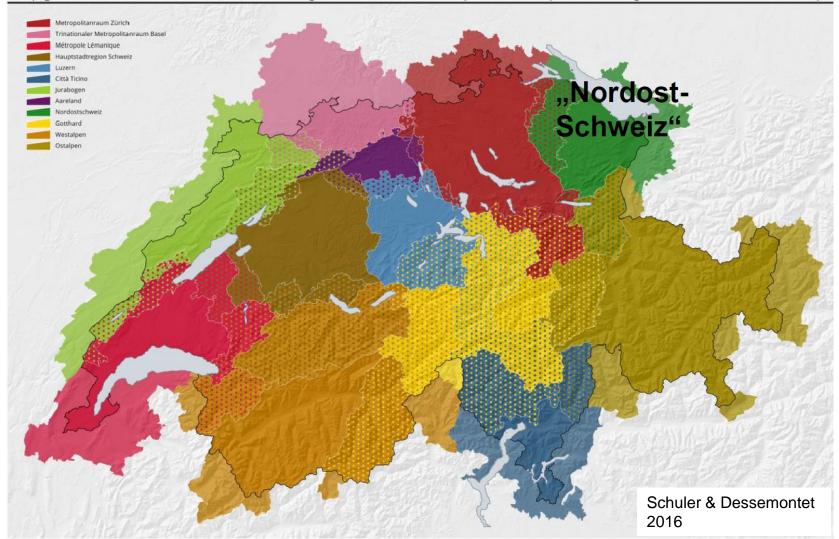
#### Swiss Spatial Strategy & Swiss Action Areas

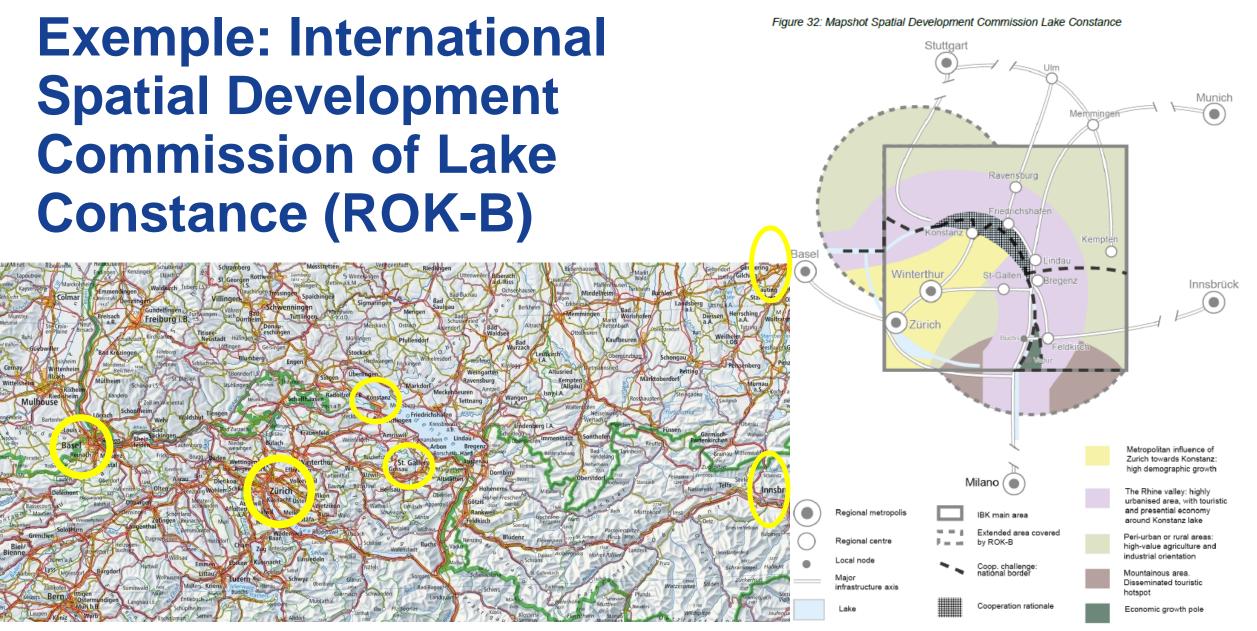


#### Schweizer Handlungsräume



Hauptgebiete und erweiterte Gebiete der Handlungsräume des Raumkonzeptes Schweiz (Schweiz und grenzüberschreitende Gebiete)

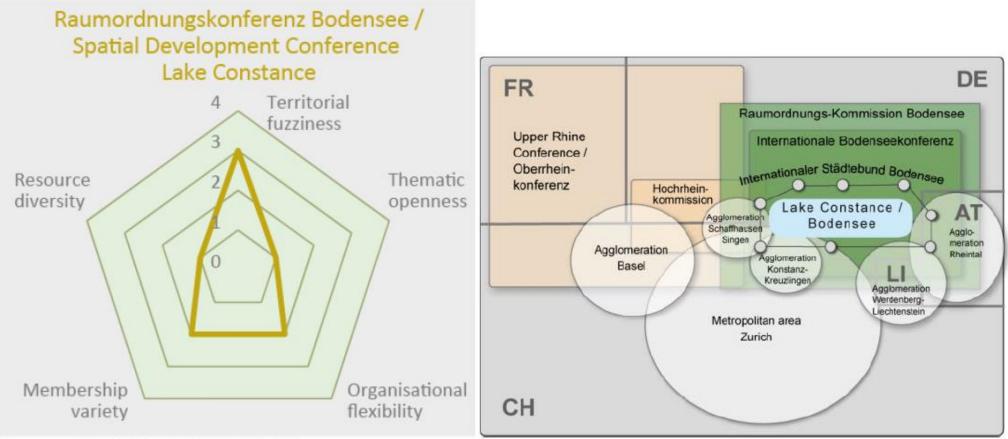




Source: map.geo.admin.ch

# **ROK-B: policy framework and existing collaborations**

Figure 2.10: Spider graph (1–very low to 4–very high) Figure 2.11: Cooperation landscape around the ROK-B cooperation



<sup>9</sup> Source: ESPON ACTAREA (2017)

## **ACTAREA Workshop's with ROK-B**

Bigger picture

Proposed possible future developments

Support discussions on new developments (organisational and thematic)

«door-opener»

## **Advantages of Soft Territorial Cooperation**

- Openness to involve different tiers of government and public and private stakeholders on equal footing.
- Flexibility to choose the «optimal» scale and geographic boundaries for policy design and implementation
- Voluntary and participatory nature of governance
- Complementary to other existing and more institutionalised collaboration
- Don't replace traditional spatial planning

#### **Potentials**

- Filling gaps in spatial planning in the pursuit of territorial cohesion
- Challenges the focus of Functional Area
- Could be a central component of future cohesion policy

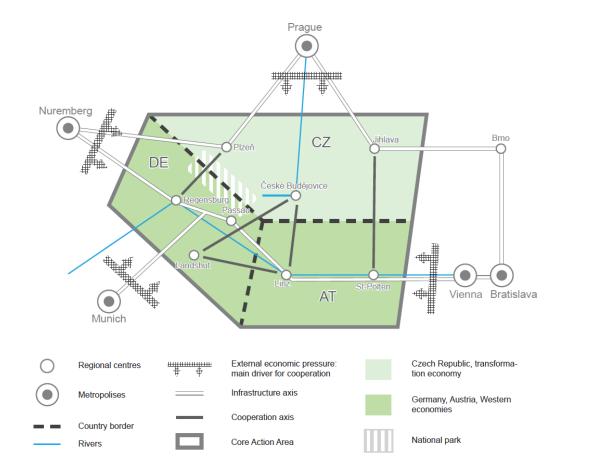
#### Recommendations

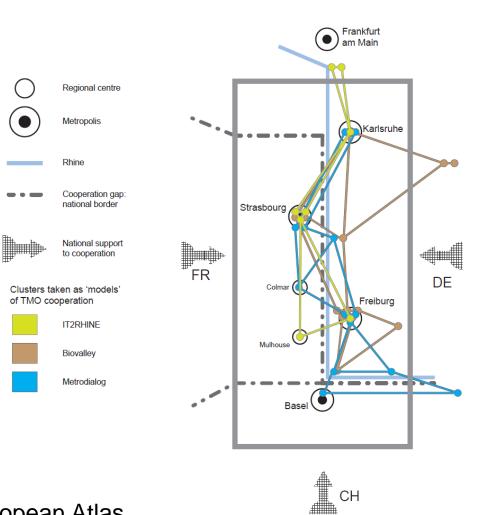
- Many advantages associated to fuzzy approaches to cooperation
- No need for dedicated funding. However, stable resources for facilitators essential.
- Coherent multi-level governance does not emerge spontaneously

#### **Publications**

- Final Report  $\rightarrow$  General conclusions
- Handbook  $\rightarrow$  explanations on the STC and how to create one
- Atlas of European Studies → EUROPEAN CASE STUDIES
- Swiss Spatial Strategy and Action areas  $\rightarrow$  SWISS CASE STUDIES

#### Euroregion Donau Moldau (EDM) Trinational Metropolitan Region Oberrhein





#### > ESPON ACTAREA: European Atlas



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## // Thank you

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