

Discussion:

REGIO-ERSA Joint Lecture by Prof. Eveline van Leeuwen

Urban-rural interactions.

More important than ever!

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Eveline's message

- ❑ **Intedependancy** between rural and urban areas
 - ❑ less unbalanced than usually said > **potential reciprocal benefits**
 - ❑ questions diversity / specialization not only within the territories but also **between nearby rural and urban territories** (at **inter & infraregional** levels)
- ❑ Post-2020 Cohesion Policy: **new opportunities**
 - ❑ **emerging models tightening interdependencies** (circular economy, bio-based economy, food ... but also residential amenities: health, housing ...)
- ❑ Need to **mobilize urban and rural populations in a common project** despite trust deficit
 - ❑ coherence of behaviors, sense of belonging to the same community: **strengthen proximity and involvement**

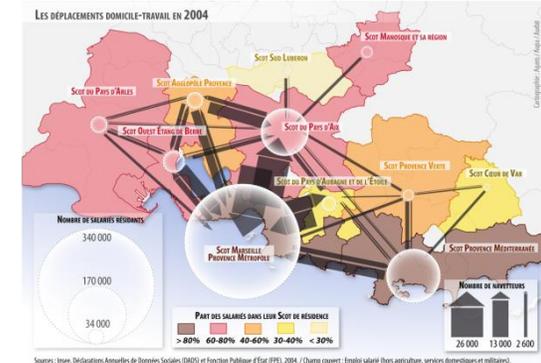
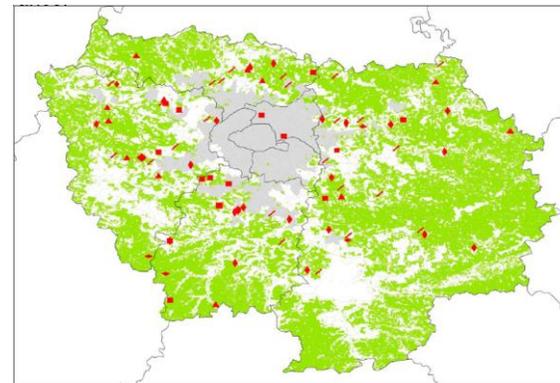
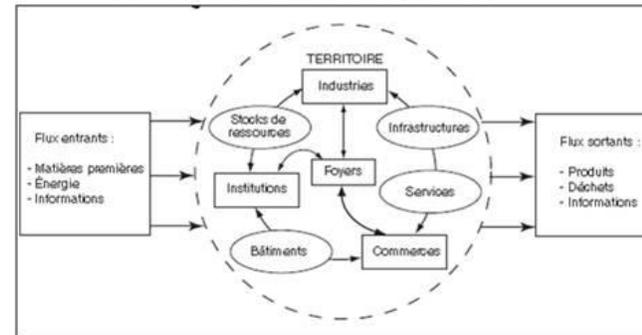
Place-based or metropolitan shift?

- ❑ Evolution of cohesion policies from **one-size-fits-all to place-based** (territorial diversity)
- ❑ But the **primacy of urban areas as places for regional development** because advantages in terms of **agglomeration**: cluster effects, urban externalities, innovation
- ❑ At the same time the **rural development paradigms have evolved** over time, but remain quite disconnected from those of the cities
- ❑ Often **two models** predominate:
 - ❑ the **city that derives the development of its hinterland**,
 - ❑ a **city disconnected from the rural**, and a rural connected (more or less effectively) to globalization (agricultural markets especially, tourism sometimes)

Plurality of interactions between rural and urban

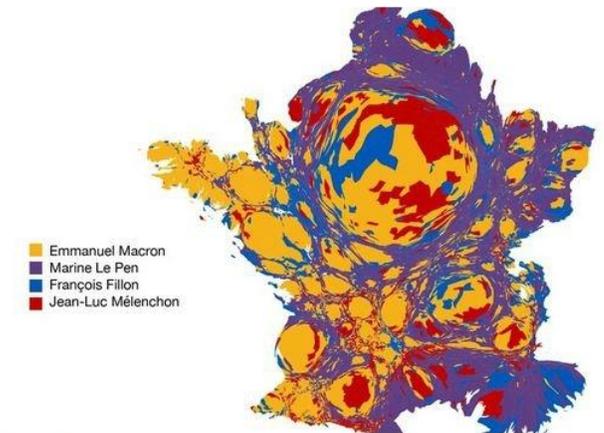
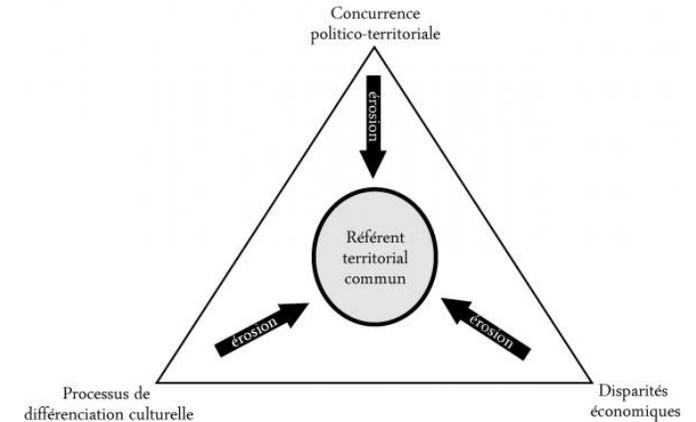
- flow: territorial metabolism
- labor market
- food flow (foodshed)
- interterritoriality: mobility, differentiation of uses of space (leisure, work...)
- contiguity and competition over land: land conflicts linked to urban sprawl

diagramme de flux territoriaux de ressources



Lack of clear identification of these interactions and interdependencies

- ❑ **Globalization model** favorable to disconnection (ex: food supply)
 - ❑ **Regional development patterns centered than factor endowments** and connection to global networks, rather than rural/urban flows
 - ❑ **Deficit in taking into account role of rural in cities** competitiveness/attractiveness (et vice versa), in global transition (land use, waste)
- ❑ **Risk of fragmentation** and underestimation of the "urban debt" for development
 - ❑ Mistrust of institutions, development models and political staff: **Political divide**
 - ❑ **Not feeling heard:** policies and rules are made for urban people and impose unfair constraints on rural people



Alexandre Léchenet pour Slate.fr.

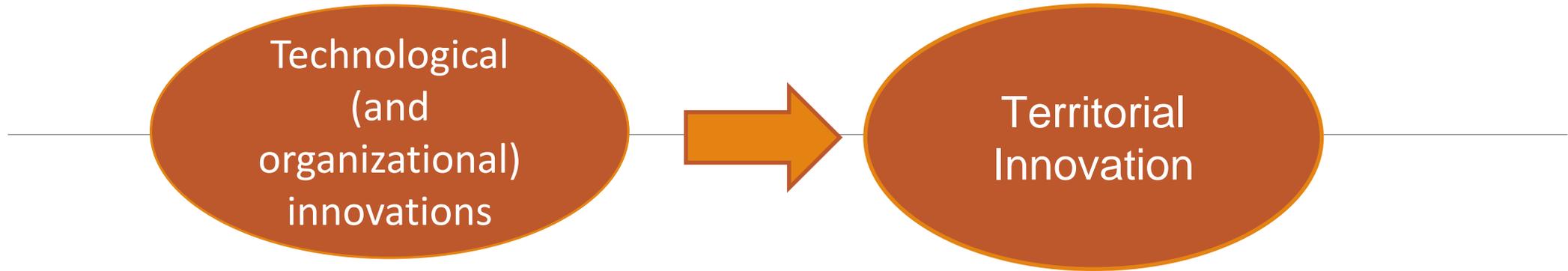
Is diversity the solution?

- ❑ Reflections on **smart specialization** focused on the notion of region-wide relatedness: **degree and type of specialization / variety within a region is questioned.**
- ❑ Interest of **Eveline's approach**: question the specialization / diversity taking into account the **interactions with other municipalities**
 - ❑ More than the own diversity of a territory, **the diversity of the nearby territories counts** in terms of access to the labor market, for all types but especially urban
 - ❑ Positive effect also for rural areas that can **borrow the size of populated neighbors**
 - ❑ **Specialized rural areas benefit less from nearby** (what about smart specialization?)

Poor smart development policies for rural areas

- ❑ **Rural areas mainly lack of several smart development factors**, like Embeddedness; Relatedness; Connectivity; Entrepreneurship; Critical mass
- ❑ **Smart development strategies are adapted to well developed or intermediate regions** with both urban and rural areas if they have a sufficiently large population base
- ❑ But they offer only **very limited possibilities for peripheral/ remote regions**, because of the lack of scale
 - low density (lack of - strong - relations)
 - lack of diversification (technological relatedness only apply to highly diversified firms structure)
 - lack of intermediate organization and innovation brokers

The question of innovation



- ❑ Innovation at the rural level is not limited to technology
- ❑ A large part of innovations is not linked with the production process, but with social processes:
 - **organizational** innovation,
 - **social** innovation
 - **institutional** innovation
- ❑ A way to go ahead: an integrative perspective for innovation in all its dimensions and to all kinds of territories: **territorial innovation (innovation is not only metropolitan)**

Adapt policies to the peculiarity of rural contexts and to their diversity

- ❑ **Innovation in rural areas is based on specific processes** due to lower density, structure of the economies (SMEs, agriculture, etc.) and deficit in accompanying measures
- ❑ **Related variety more people-based** than techno-based
- ❑ **Adapt innovation support for specific businesses and rural areas:** lack of relativity, connectivity and entrepreneurial density
- ❑ **Nature and culture based amenities and food production** are competitive **advantages** of rural areas (**foster multifunctionality of smart agriculture**)
- ❑ **Synergies between various land uses** must be taken into account
- ❑.Reflection on **relations between (more or less) urban and rural areas** are at stake specially for local food productions
- ❑.New knowledge about **socioeconomic, ecological processes** and **territorial governance**

Questions addressed to research

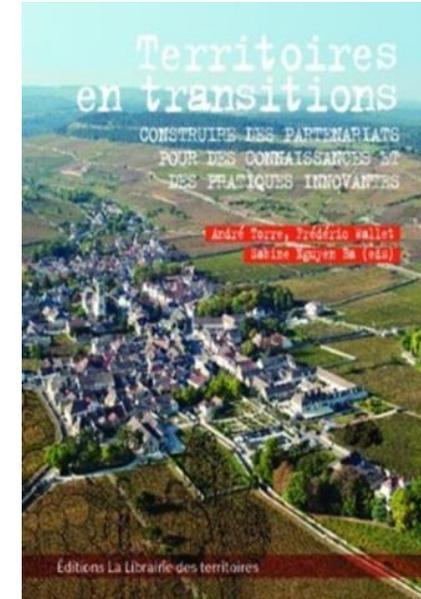
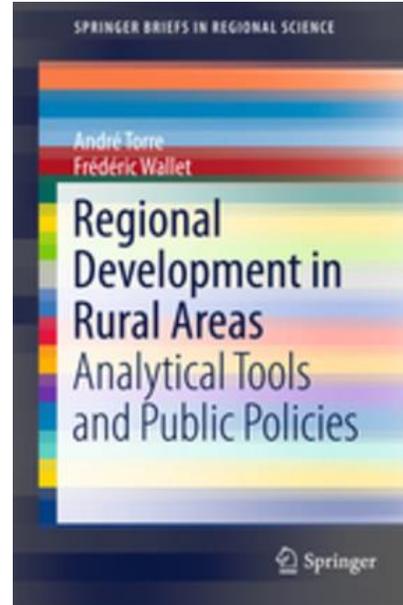
- ❑ Develop **robust analytical frameworks...and data** to capture the diversity and complexity of rural-urban interactions
- ❑ Better understanding of the **specificities** of the forms of innovation, entrepreneurship, and connection in **rural areas (linked to urban)**, and to adapt policies and support systems to this end
- ❑ **Validity:** Are rural-urban interactions valid for **all profiles of rural areas**? For all **sizes of urban areas**? For **all EU-27** countries? Specificity of **border regions**?
- ❑ How to deal with the **risk of capture of agricultural (or bio-based) value added** by farms located in urban areas (Von Thunen)? How to deal in a region with the question of the **hierarchy of places** (Christaller)? Differences between rural and urban regions (**clusters and shapes**)?

Suggestions for post-2020 Cohesion Policy

- ❑ **Assess place-based and smart specialization CP shift** : is it better or does it reinforce the core-periphery effects?
- ❑ **Adapt the orientation of cohesion policies** and support systems **considering rural/urban interactions**: allocation of means and incentives
- ❑ Going through **place-sensitive distributed development strategies** (Iammarino et al., 2017)
- ❑ **Encourage experimentation** with respect to **new opportunities (bio-based)**
- ❑ **What governance** for integrated and balanced rural / urban interactions? (Importance of **quality of governance and institutions** in regional performances)

Thanks for your
attention

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