



Ecosystem accounting to support regional/local policies

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The EU's Cohesion Policy

- The EU's largest investment policy (392 billion euro over seven years)
- Dedicated to two key goals:
 - Reducing economic, social and territorial disparities by focussing primarily on less developed regions and Member States
 - Increasing investments in EU priorities

Cohesion Policy priorities

- A more competitive and smarter Europe
- A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy
 - 30% ERDF and 38% CF for climate action, 10% MFF to biodiversity
- A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility
- A more social and inclusive Europe
- Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories

Environmental priorities and actions of cohesion policy

- Nature protection (Natura 2000) and promoting biodiversity; restoring ecosystems
- Improving waste water treatment
- Increasing recycling
- Reducing air pollution
- Reducing GHG emissions, especially outside the emissions trading schemes
- Promoting more sustainable transport
- Increasing energy efficiency through renovation of existing building stock
- Boosting renewable energy production
- Brownfield developments

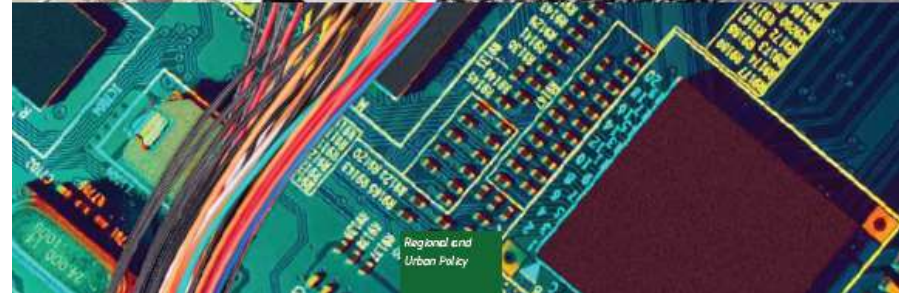
Cohesion report

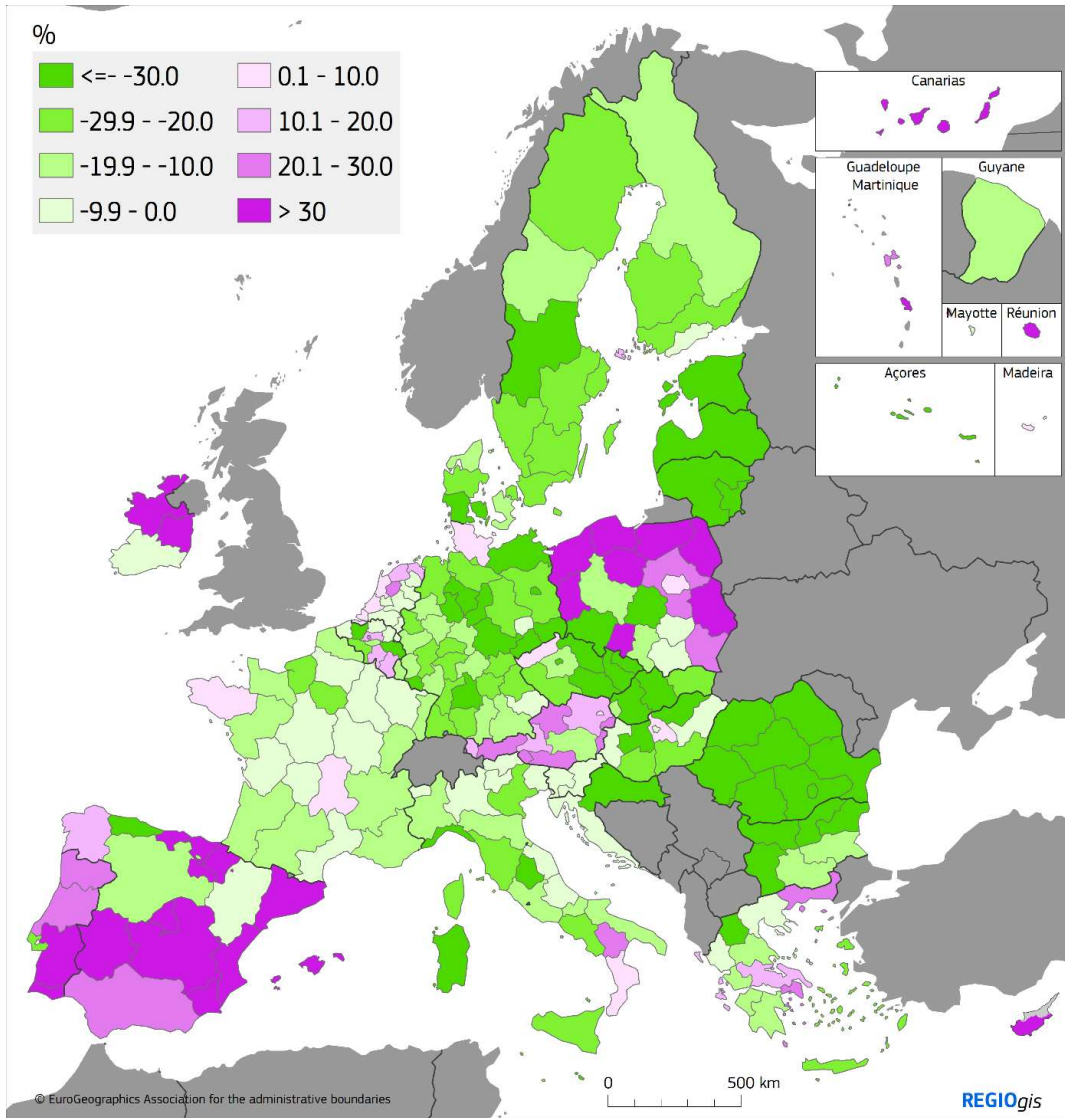
- Cohesion Report is a Treaty obligation – published every 3 years
- Required to set out the progress made towards achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion
- Proposals for policy development and implementation



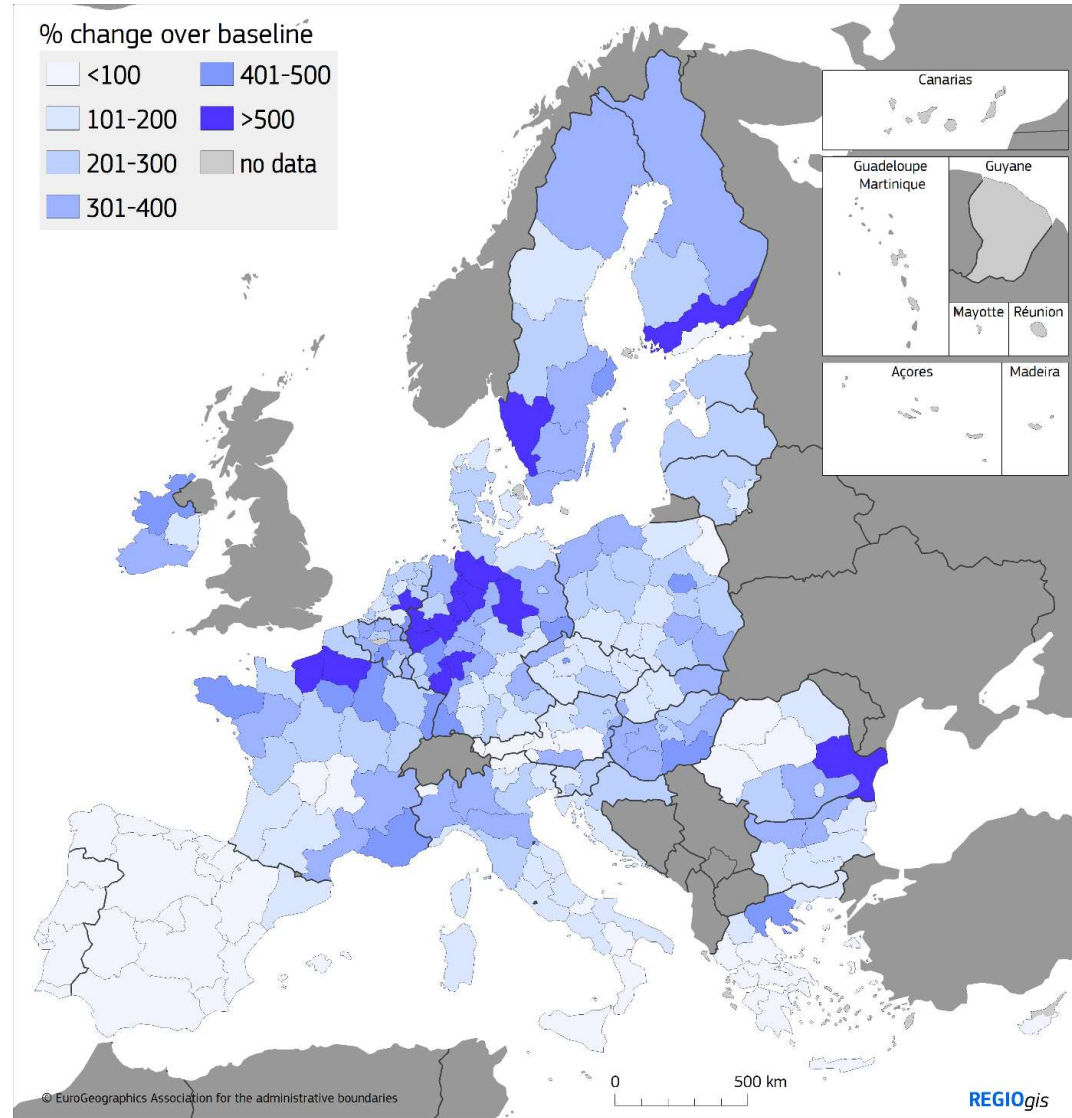
Cohesion in Europe towards 2050

Eighth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion

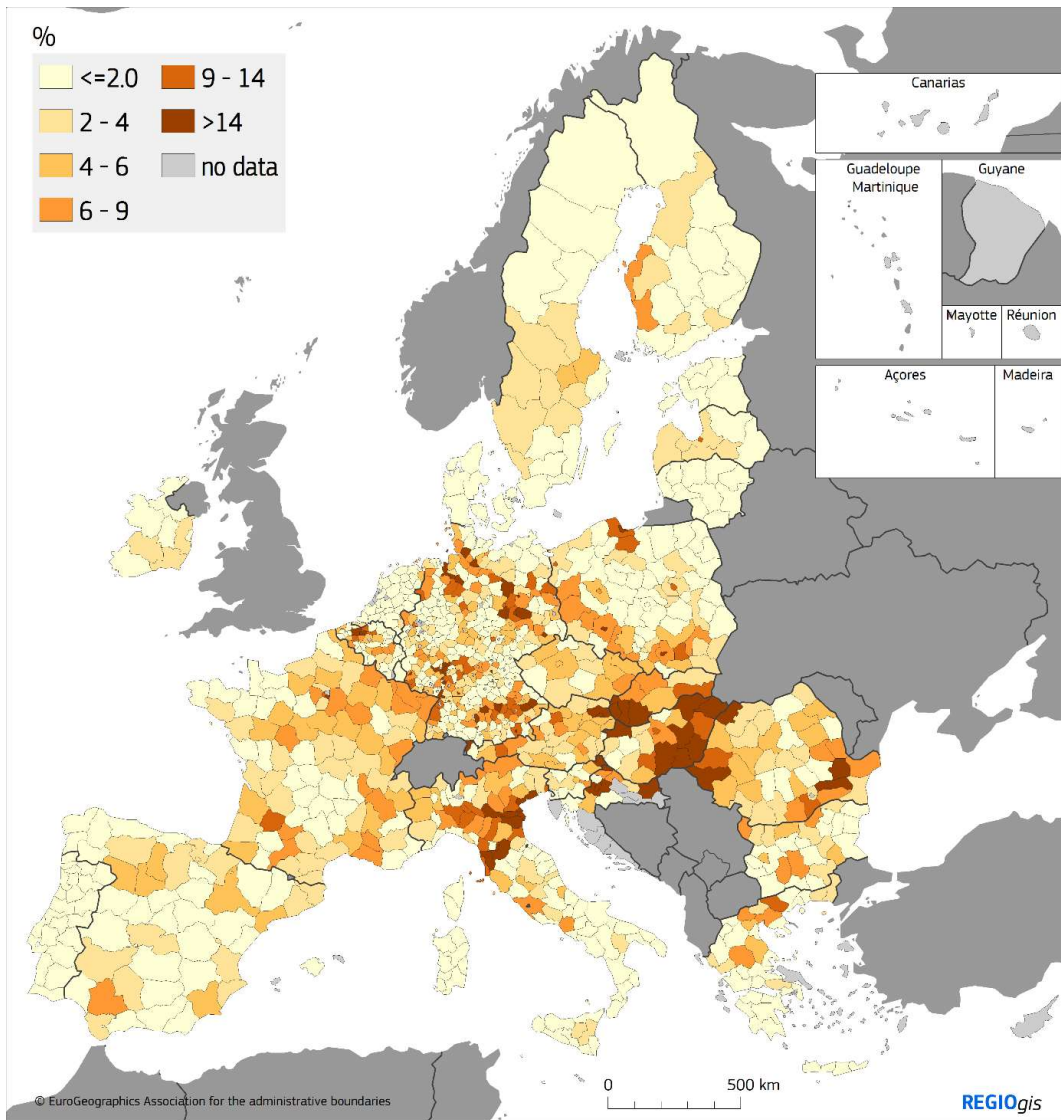




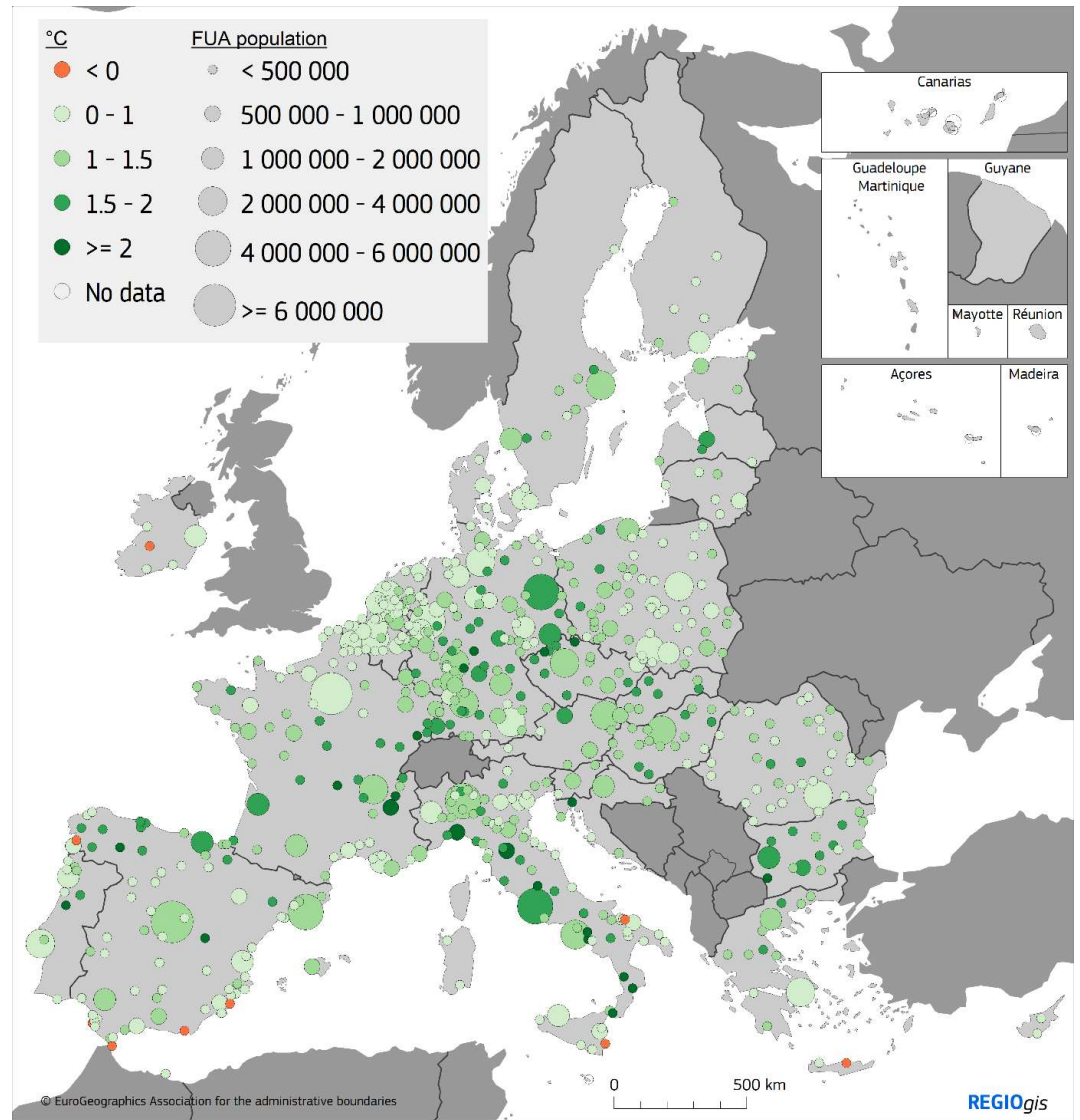
Change in total CO2 emissions from fossil fuels between 1990 and 2018



Expected annual damage to infrastructure due to inland flooding under a global warming scenario of 3°C



Artificial area with ecosystem deficit, 2012



Cooling effect of vegetation in FUAs, 2018

Spatial data to support place-based policies

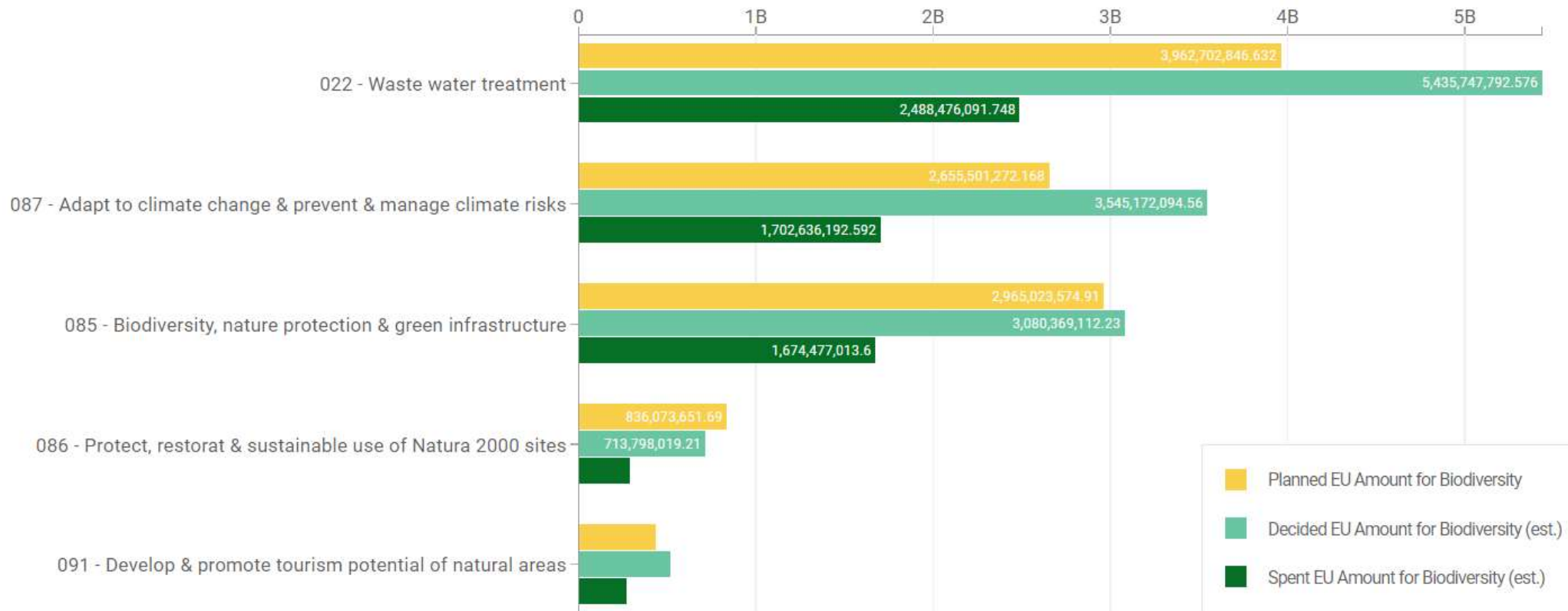
- Cohesion policy invests in places (regions and cities).
- It thus relies on **regularly updated spatial data**
 - Policy development
 - Implementation and monitoring
 - Assessing the impact of investments
- Data sources: Copernicus, EU data providers, international institutions, ...

Policy questions that require regionalised ecosystem accounts

- Dependency of regional economies on ecosystems
- Potential of (rural) regions to contribute to climate change mitigation (incl. removal of carbon dioxide)
- Climate change mitigation – climate resilient development of regions
- Impact of depopulation on land use and ecosystems (challenges, opportunities)
- Tracking of biodiversity financing

Impacts of investments in biodiversity

2014-2020 Biodiversity tracking cohesion policy funds - Intervention fields (filters per year/fund/MS)



Legend X

Thank you



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