UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE FACULTY OF GEOGRAPHY – DEPARTMENT FOR SPATIAL PLANNING
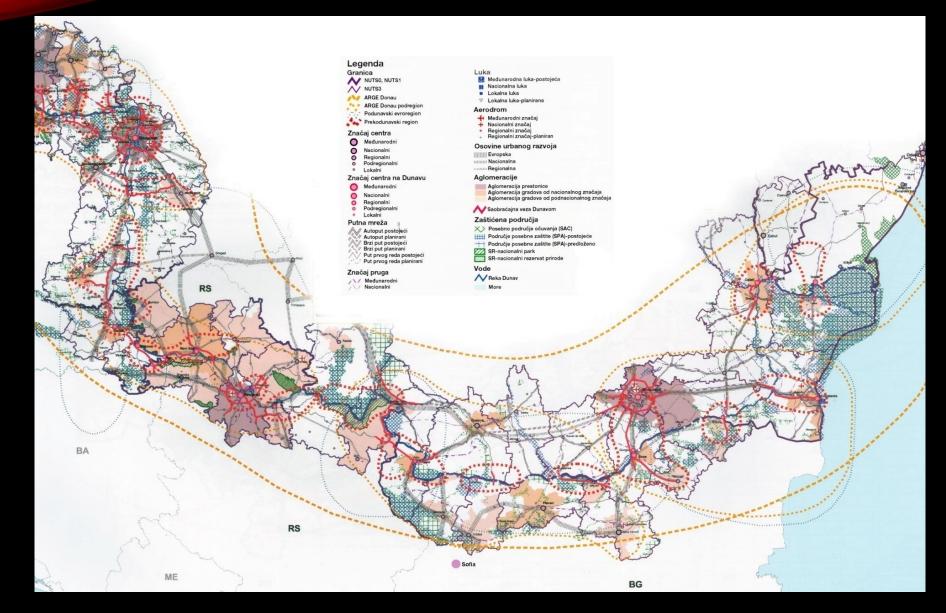
PROF. DR. BORISLAV STOJKOV, PROF. DR. VELIMIR ŠEĆEROV, PROF. DR. DEJAN FILIPOVIĆ

FROM SMART CITIES TO SMART FUNCTIONAL REGION IN LOWER DANUBE AREA

Spa-ce.net, Bratislava, 2018

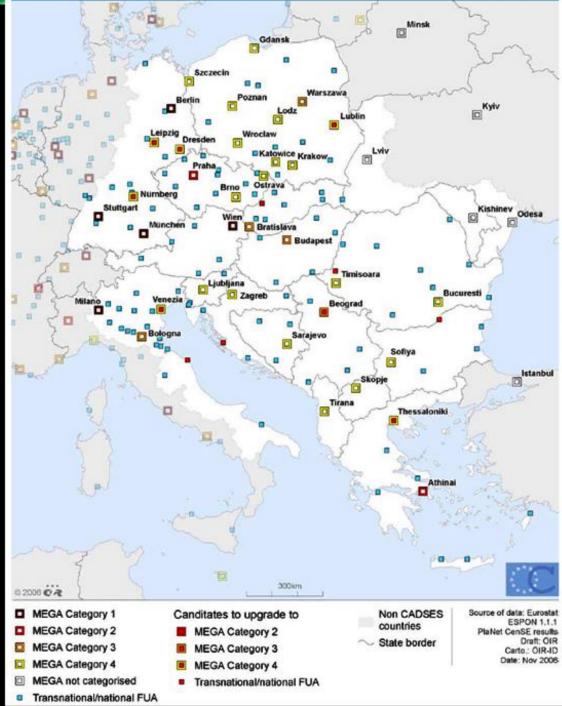# CHANGES AND CHALLENGES OF LDA LARGE CITIES

- Dynamic structural changes in SEE formerly socialist countries;

- The role of cities has been changed;

- *The changing economic and social contents, especially the demographic ageing and declining population that become associated with transition* (in SEE countries - B.S.) *had significant new impacts on urban development (European Cities in Transition, 2013);*

- A complex nexus of still undiscovered connections between cities, with their functions as a foundation for networking, with growing appearance of large metropolitan areas as functional regions, as a critical and challenging issue;

- City governance in LDA, and its responsibility to advance city competitiveness and the life quality.

COMPETITIVENESS OF LARGE LDA CITIES

- The competitiveness of large LDA cities depending on establishing their links with functional surroundings for sustainable use of common resources (experiences of developed countries);

- Cooperation based on new technologies, rationalized services and aggregated capital, as a vital development factor of large cities;

- Problems of LDA large cities communication with their surroundings could be efficiently solved by new technologies at different tiers (local, regional, public sector, civil sectorm business sector);

- The Baltic and Benelux experiences with multiple structural cooperation (including diferent types of public and private sectors), as a model for faster growth of economy.

DIVERSE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIALS, DECREASING TO THE EAST

(source: espon 1.1.1

THE ROLE AND MEANING OF THE SMART CITY CONCEPT

- The exponential growth of LDA large cities, with serious threats such as climate change, urban fragmentation, growing economic and social demands, endangered environment, and immigration, asks for more sophisticated system sustainably related to economy, social and ecological sensitivity;

- The smart city concept and new technologies not as a goal but as an efficient tool for solving many problems and improving the life quality of large cities;

- integral, systematic approach of implementing the SC concept over LDA

SMART FUNCTIONAL URBAN AREA (MA)

6 Smart City criteria:

governance, people, economy, mobility, life quality, energy

7th criteria:

Smart Metropolitan Area (Functional Urban Area)

Indicators:

- Smart FUA governance (horizontal links between local comunities in the network, smart governing body links, smart staff)
- Smart FUA environment (water, climate change, ecosystem)
- Smart FUA capital infrastructure (energy, water, telecom)
- Smart FUA public services (education, health, comunal system)
- Smart FUA mobility (commuters, transport)
- Smart participation in FUA (stakeholders, people)
- Smart FUA info system

REASONS FOR ESTABLISHING MA (ECONOMIC-FUNCTIONAL, STATISTICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE?)

- Coordinating planning activities between city and surrounding local communities (FUA);
- Coordinating local policies and communications for joint activities;
- Connecting public services in terms of rationalization, higher efficiency and better accessibility;
- Activating underused human resources;
- Win-win relation between center/periphery and urban/rural population, production, supply;
- Better control, use and protection of endangered eco-systems;
- Mitigating impacts of climate change and improving urban and rural resilience;
- Coordination, marketing and enlargement of tourstic programs;
- New role of urban and rural local communities in the new governence mode.

THE EFFECT OF MA TO STAKEHOLDERS

- What is the he role of development strategies in the context of smart MA governance (administration)? The experience with LDA is that *strategies are rarely developed or implemented. Activities in the public sector are not coordinated, and frequent political changes and a shifting of responsibilities as well as persons create an unreliable partner over time (Socio-Economic Assessment of the Danube Region, 2015, 29).*

- The smart concept would have a spill-over effect on multitude of various stakeholders: businesses, financial institutions, civil sector, and general public. The researches on MAs and cities in LDA (GoCo) on their key characteristics, their development potential, administrative organization models, and institutional capacities for MAs networking, should be further elaborated.

INCREASING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE BY SMART MA GOVERNANCE AND SMART INFRASTRUCTURE

- By promoting the new methodology of strategy making, focused to relations between resources and energy flows and greenhouse gas emissions,
- emphasizing low-carbon development and re-examining infrastructure investments tor achieving low-carbon development and stronger climate resilient MA,
- organizing, managing and promoting general MA resilience,
- new mode of integral and cooperative governing for mitigating CC impacts,
- coordinated planning beyond administrative borders,
- multi sector and coordination to overcome administrative hurdles for controling hazards,
- preparation for networking with other cities (LDA Green Area)
- from MA towards a regional cooperation.
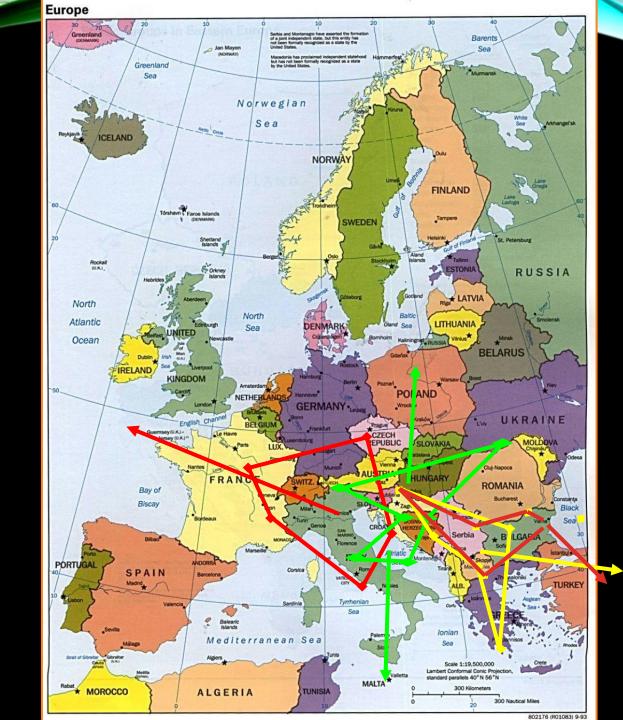
THREATS TO IMPLEMENTING THE SMART MA CONCEPT

THE CRUCIAL THREATS:
- **(de)centralization,**
- **administrative borders (EU, national, local),**
- **Problem of MA governance mode,**
- **EU membership differences,**
- **lack of metropolitan areas as a political option (legislative),**
- **internal political weaknesses and conflicts at the local tier,**
- **clash between planning and policy making,**
- **weaknesses of administration.**

Positive experiences of Rom, Bulg, Croat, and B&H (Rep. Srpska)

Macro networking – European level: the role, capacities and responsibility of large cities governance (4 capital cities)

Rhine-Danube Multimodal Corridor

WELCOME TO THE LDA SMART FUTURE!