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A look at Europe's shrinking rural regions: territorial evidence and potential lessons for their future

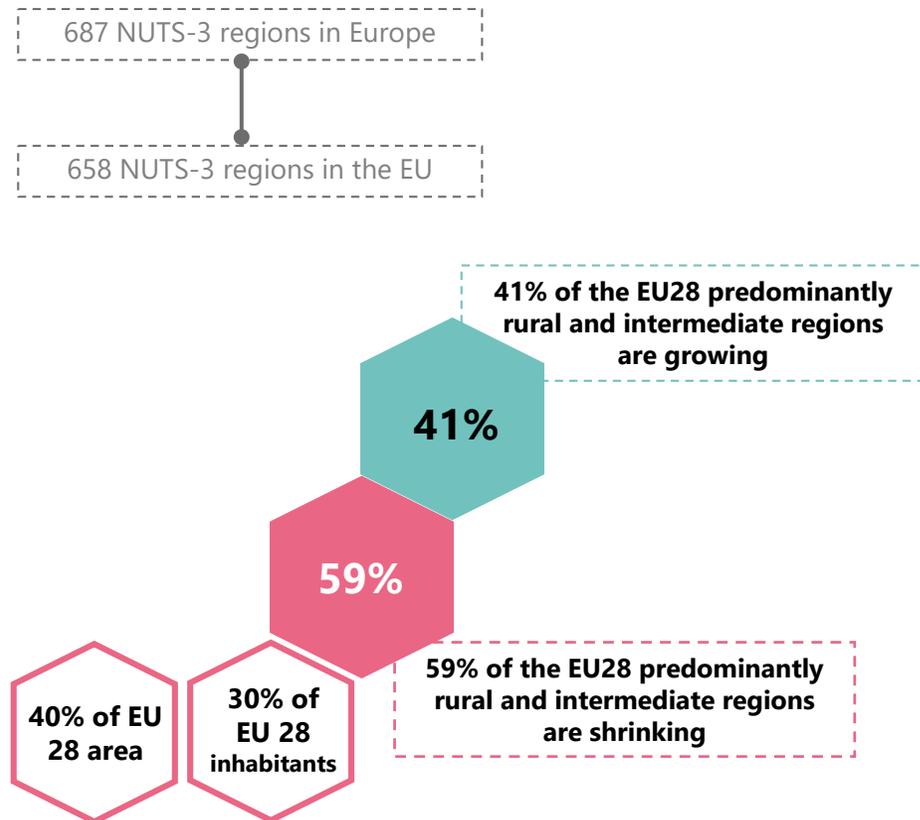
Session: Tools and methods for the Rural Pact

Rural Pact Conference,

3 & 4 May 2023 in Uppsala, Sweden

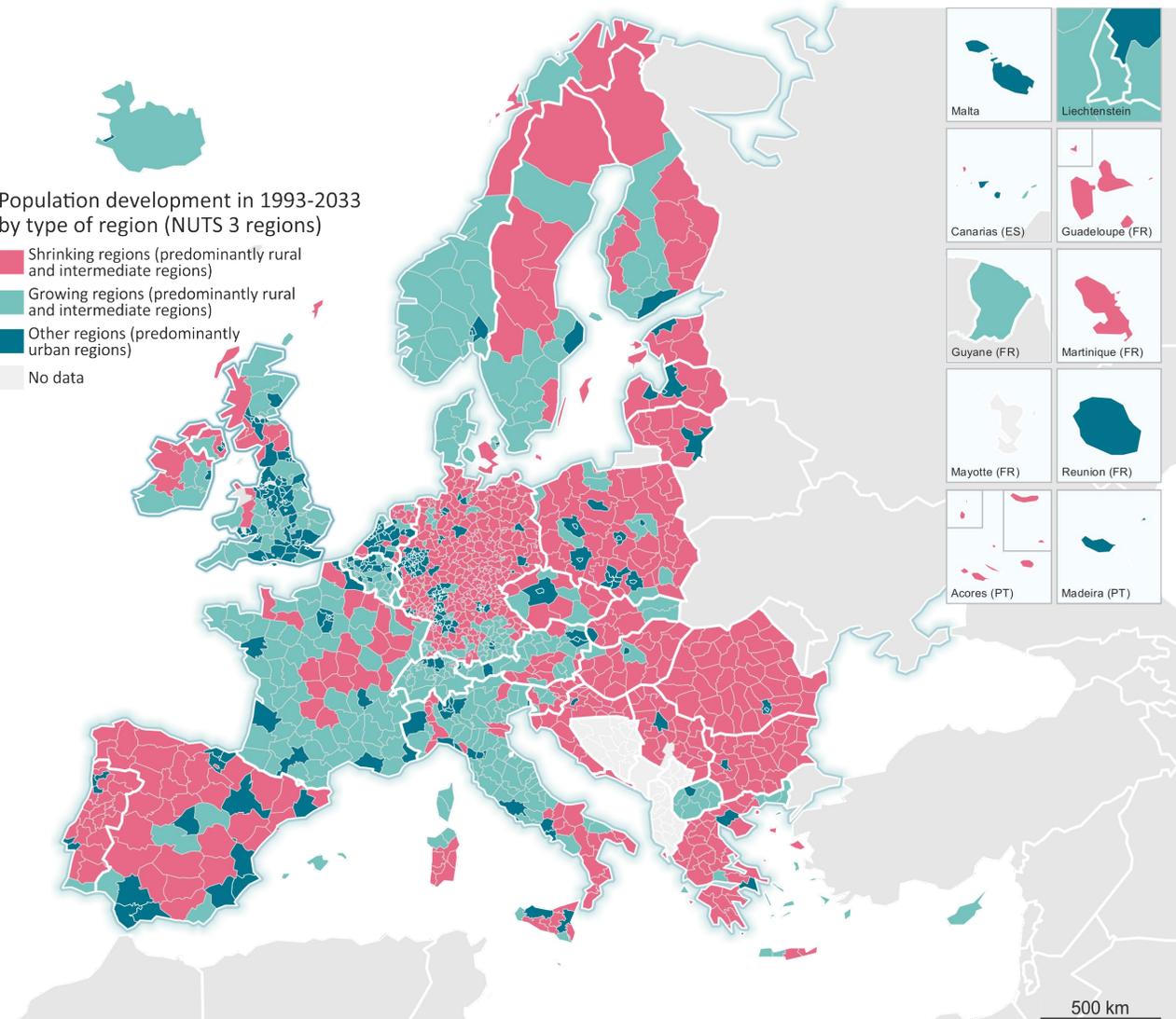
Andreea China, ESPON EGTC

Building a sustainable and prosperous future looking at all types of rural regions



Population development in 1993-2033 by type of region (NUTS 3 regions)

- Shrinking regions (predominantly rural and intermediate regions)
- Growing regions (predominantly rural and intermediate regions)
- Other regions (predominantly urban regions)
- No data

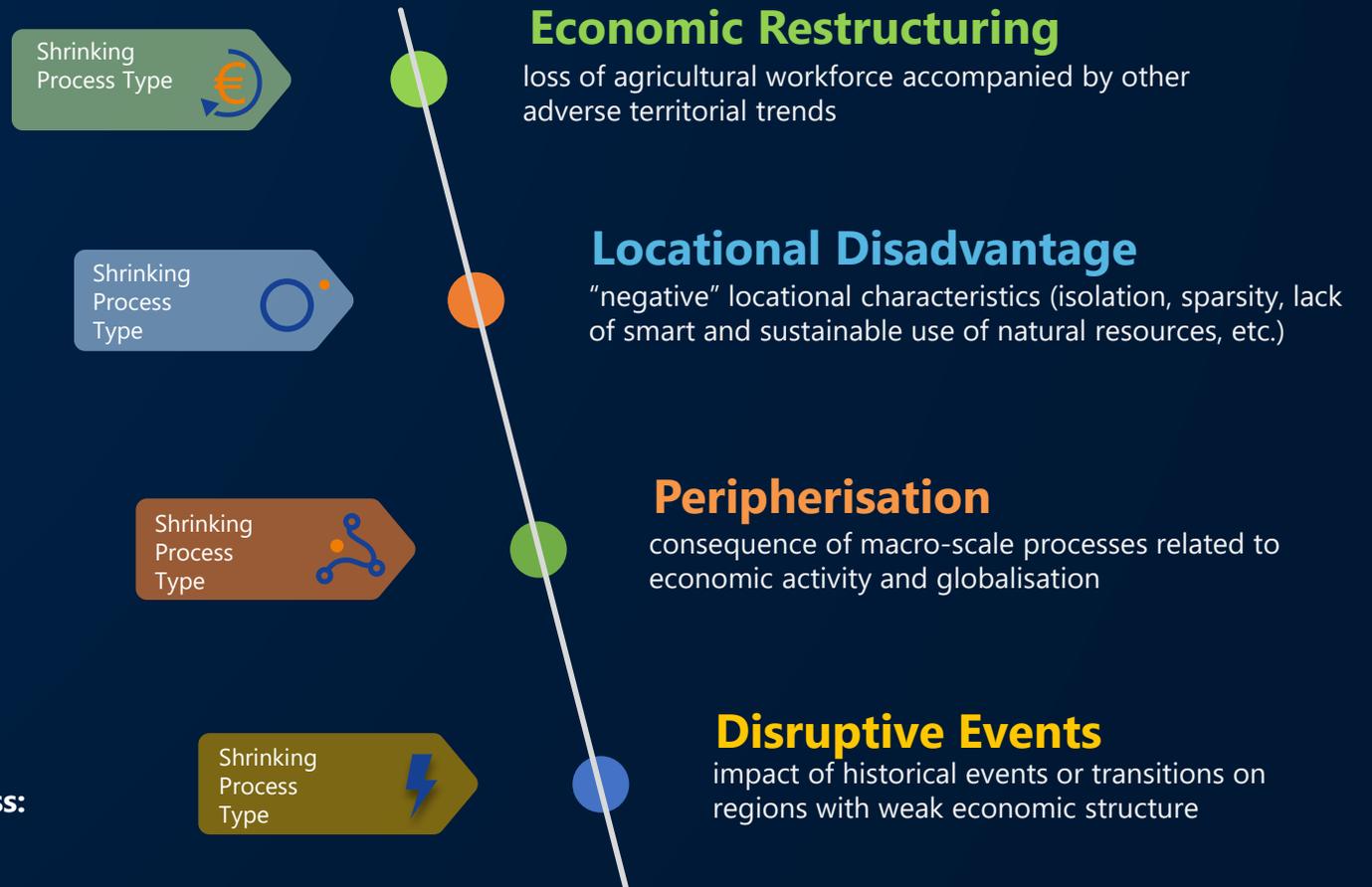


Understanding **different drivers** behind rural shrinkage

Shrinking: an old problem,
many faces, different responses

Active Shrinking, driven by current migration, **usually combined with Legacy Shrinking**, caused by age structure effects

Four Types of the Shrinking Process:



Main takeaways and possible lessons learnt



Functional Rural Areas concept could better address the geographies of rural development phenomena



Further developing **different mitigation and adaptation strategies** for coping with rural shrinkage

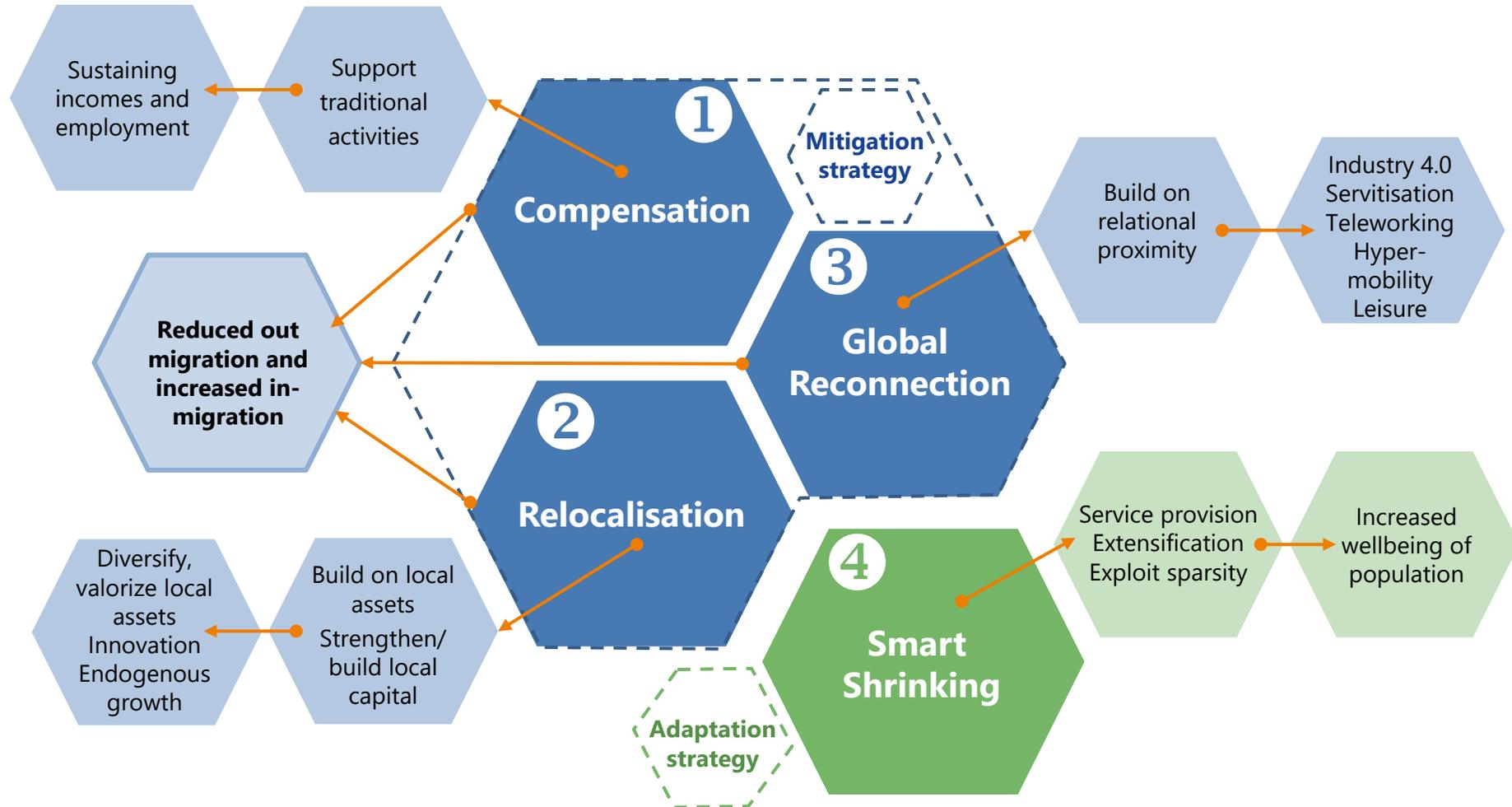


EU projects running over longer periods and **simplified funding processes**



A **multi-level governance structure**, extending from EU levels through national, regional and local levels could be more efficient in dealing with shrinking rural areas

Policy reboot and possible tools



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// Thank you

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