

# ROADMAP



**EURODELTA - SURE**  
Strategic Urban Region Eurodelta



# ROADMAP EURODELTA - SURE

## 00> Foreword

The SURE Roadmap was commissioned by METREX, the Network of Metropolitan Regions and Areas, with the support of the City of The Hague, the City of Amsterdam, the Province of South Holland. Semi-structured interviews with all partners of the SURE Network and stakeholders in and outside the Eurodelta were conducted during the summer (July-September 2020).

The outcomes were translated into recommendations (actions and strategies) for the SURE Network, accompanied by illustrations for the development of the Roadmap. The guiding research questions were: What are the driving goals and underlying values of the alliance and why? Which actions and strategies can the network resolve in the future and how (organizational form)?

The Roadmap can be regarded as work-in-progress and thus, addresses flexibility and adaptability in the upcoming years. It shall be revised and updated by its partners and external stakeholders in frequent intervals.

# THE SURE NETWORK

## 01> Introduction

**The Strategic Urban Region Eurodelta (SURE) is an informal network originating from a working group within METREX<sup>1</sup>. SURE consists of numerous cities and territorial entities in The Netherlands, Belgium, Northern France and Western Germany.**

The SURE Network provides a platform for exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience among practitioners in the field of urban and spatial planning on the scale of the Eurodelta. The Eurodelta is a densely urbanised **megaregion** with approximately **45 Million inhabitants**. It is an area with a common history and mindset, i.e. Rhineland model<sup>2</sup>. Also it represents a core region in Europe with shared values and challenges and it is embedded in a network of transnational transport corridors, i.e. TEN-T<sup>3</sup>. The SURE Network is a collaboration between small and medium-sized cities and greater metropolitan areas in the river delta from the Rhine, Scheldt and Meuse.

SURE is striving for a region **without borders**, ensuring greater prosperity, mobility, safety and sustainability for everyone in the Eurodelta. This **megaregion** is therefore an ideal experimental laboratory for promoting European integration by coordinating and reconciling activities in a wide range of themes and activities:

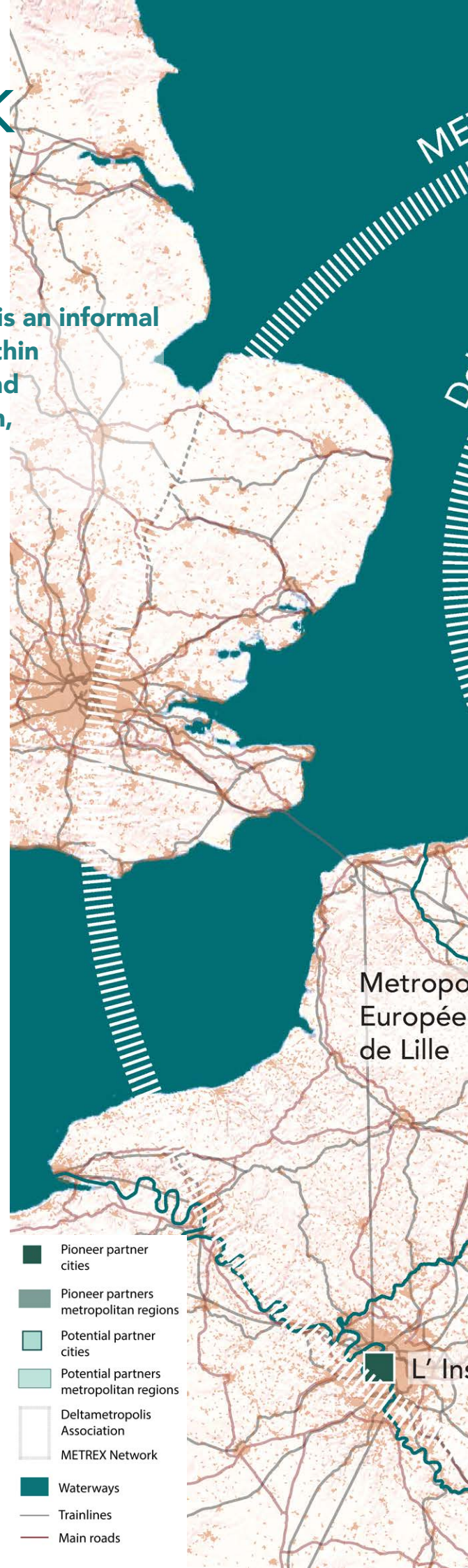
- ▶ **International and regional mobility**
- ▶ **Spatial and infrastructure development**
- ▶ **Circular and knowledge economy**
- ▶ **Climate neutral development and climate adaptation**
- ▶ **Compact urbanization and the relation between urban-rural**

The ambition is to conjointly investigate ongoing challenges and developments in order to set up a common **vision** and subsequently a **spatial-economic strategy** on the scale of the Eurodelta, accompanied by a shared agenda and **collaborative projects** as well as programmes.

<sup>1</sup> METREX - Network of Metropolitan Regions and Areas in Europe

<sup>2</sup> Rhineland Model vs. Anglo Saxon Model

<sup>3</sup> TEN-T - Trans-European Transport Network



ETREX (across Europe)

Metropolismetropolis Association (NL and Eurodelta)



Amsterdam

The Hague

Rotterdam

Provincie  
Zuid-Holland

Antwerp

Eindhoven

Metropole  
Ruhr Business

Ghent

Brussels-Capital  
Region

Liège

Metropolregion  
Rheinland

stitut Paris Region

EURODELTA-SURE Network

# SPATIAL CONTEXT

## 02> The Network and the Territory

The SURE Network aims to increase awareness of the Eurodelta as one megaregion and showcase the advantages of collaboration on this scale.



### Network

Incubator | Facilitator | Organizer | Connector

SURE, the network, can be considered as a **laboratory** for action-driven research and collaboration. It acts as an **incubator** for new solutions always bearing in mind the impact of its actions. At its full capacity it may operate as a catalyst for the implementation of cross-border projects and programmes to further develop and foster **integration within the Eurodelta**.

Fueled by an increased global demand for environmental technologies, the market for green investment will only continue to grow. Together with its partners, the **SURE Network** endeavours to become the frontrunner in exploring new methods of working together, in the integration of themes, projects and actions, as well as in fostering of a cross-border collaborative working environment. With a focus on cross-border cooperation combined with pioneering spatial-economic strategies for innovative solutions on the tackling of urban and regional challenges, the **SURE Network** aims to **brand the megaregion** as "SURE – the Strategic Urban Region EURODELTA".

The common **vision** is to increase awareness of this dynamic megaregion because of its strength in numbers (inhabitants, infrastructures, landmarks, cities as brands, etc).

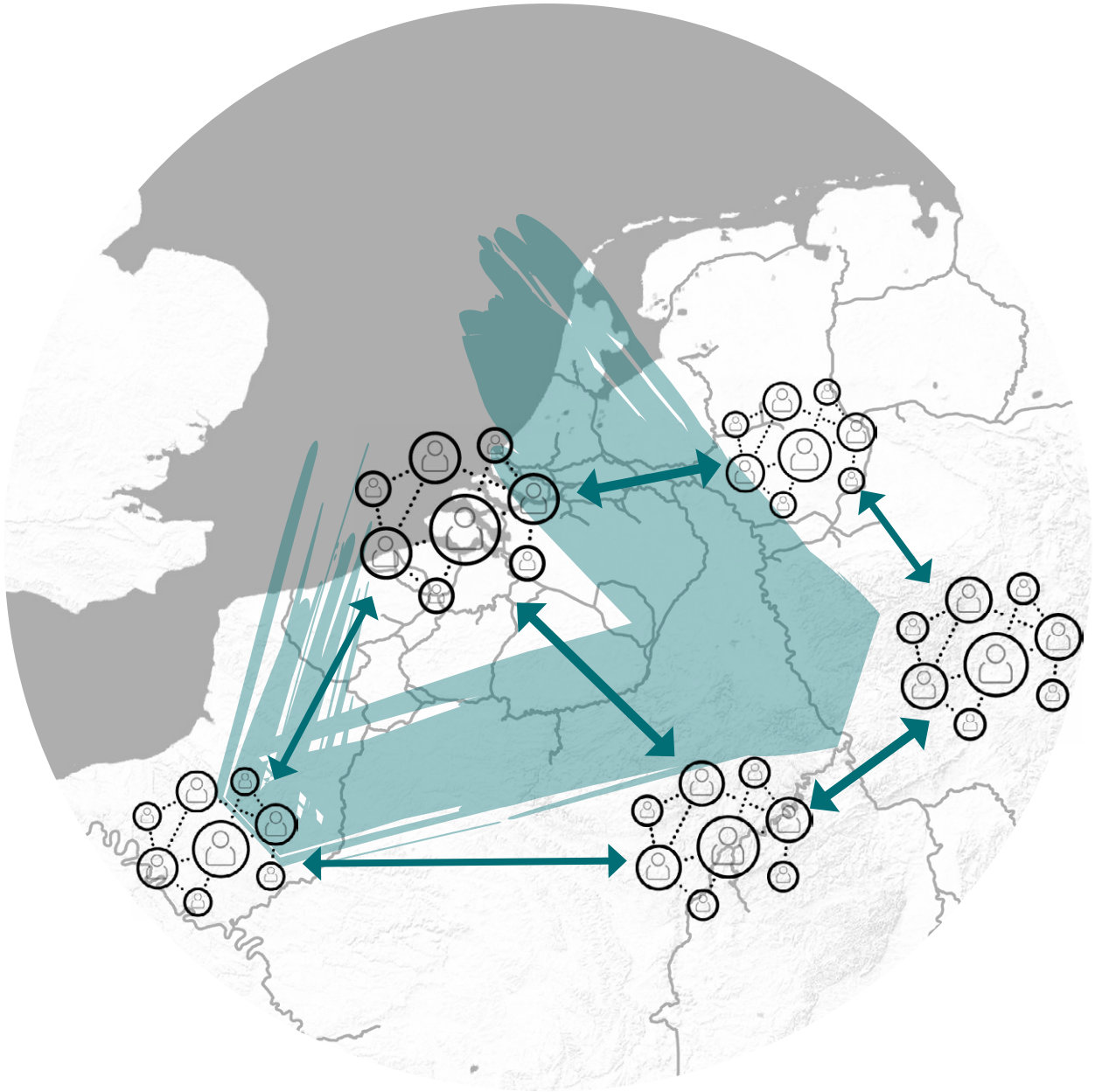


### Territory

Context-specific | Functional urban area | Megaregion

The Eurodelta territory connects cities and regions across four countries on various levels. The borders of the Eurodelta are not defined sharply yet. There are different definitions the of area. In the coming years it will become more clear which regions consider themselves as part of it. In the field of knowledge transfer, cross-border infrastructure, energy and labour market as well as integrated planning policies, collaboration is necessary. Also in respect to delivering on the New Leipzig Charter<sup>4</sup>, the European Green Deal<sup>5</sup> as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals<sup>6</sup> (SDGs). Representing some of the world's most innovative cities and regions (brands/trademarks on their own), the Eurodelta has a unique opportunity to lead the way towards a sustainable future and to **become a peer-region** on a worldwide scale.

In order to achieve this, the Eurodelta strives to be globally acknowledged as an innovative, sustainable and inclusive urbanized delta-region. It aims to be a leading **catalyst** of sustainable infrastructure that tackles climate change, thereby improving the lives and broad welfare of the 45 Million citizens. The borders of the Eurodelta are not defined sharply yet. There are different definitions the of area. In the coming years it will become more clear which regions consider themselves as part of it.



## Connection between the Network and the Territory

The SURE Network also intends to coordinate actions in which enthusiastic people (**new generations**) come together to develop innovative solutions for complex spatial problems and learn to tackle the common urban challenges of today.

<sup>4</sup> New Leipzig Charter

<sup>5</sup> European Green Deal

<sup>6</sup> UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

# BENEFITS OF SCALE

## 03> Eurodelta: A Megaregion?

**Increasingly, the most productive way to look at modern urban life is to focus on much larger units of territory, comprising vast stretches of land and water with collective populations – so called megaregions.**

The SURE partner cities and regions know this. As individual entities, they are considered relatively small on a global scale. However, combined and connected to each other, they reach a catchment area that encompasses approximately 45 million people. By working collaboratively, the Eurodelta **as one megaregion** the individual cities within the Eurodelta can benefit from the same advantages as megacities.

New economic geographies call for adjustments in the governance structures that are adapted to the new scale (that of a megaregion) in order to maximise the benefits. **Spatial clustering** allows for a variety of external benefits such as labour pooling, sharing of suppliers, and specialization; these in turn contribute to increased productivity and economic growth<sup>7</sup>. Both size and connectivity in (inter)national networks positively contribute to the presence of metropolitan functions<sup>8</sup>.

Especially smaller cities gain metropolitan functions from an increase in size, whereas larger cities profit from an increase in regional and (inter)national network connectivity. At this stage, however, empirical evidence on the economic and social benefits of megaregions as well as successful governance arrangements at this scale are lacking<sup>9</sup>. Nevertheless, the Eurodelta megaregion may serve as a basis for **future research** looking into drivers of megaregional success.

The rise of the **'city network economies'** leads to processes of borrowed size, where a link between urban dynamics and agglomeration theory is developed<sup>7</sup>. While the SURE Network establishes the relevance of network externalities, more attention should be paid to exploring the

different sorts of network externalities in the future. Specifically, it would be important to examine network externalities through matching and learning<sup>11</sup>. In other words, benchmarking with other networks on the scale of the Eurodelta and beyond.

Megaregions are, in its simplest form, cities that are blending into each other as a result of population growth. As a result, they are described as **polycentric agglomeration** of cities and their lower density hinterlands (i.e. the Western Scandinavian Case, Nordic-Baltic Space, Alpine Space, Donauraum). The idea is to balance the activity of scaling up (agglomeration economies of scale) with the necessity to address and resolve societal challenges on the level of the daily urban life of people. Cities and regions in the Eurodelta share their knowledge on this scale and beyond, i.e. The European Knowledge Network<sup>12</sup> (EUKN). The OECD<sup>13</sup> has defined the Eurodelta territory as a megaregion with great potential during the 4th Video Conference Meeting METREX SURE Eurodelta on the 29.6.2020.

In order to become a **competitive megaregion**, there needs to be a clear agreement about its **vision and concrete steps** need to be collectively defined. To initiate cooperation amongst partners within a megaregion, a concrete project that creates positive spill-overs can serve as motivation for greater collaboration.

<sup>7</sup> Guliano, G. et al., 2019, p. 378

<sup>8</sup> Meijers, E.J., et al., 2016, p. 193

<sup>9</sup> Glockner, D., 2018

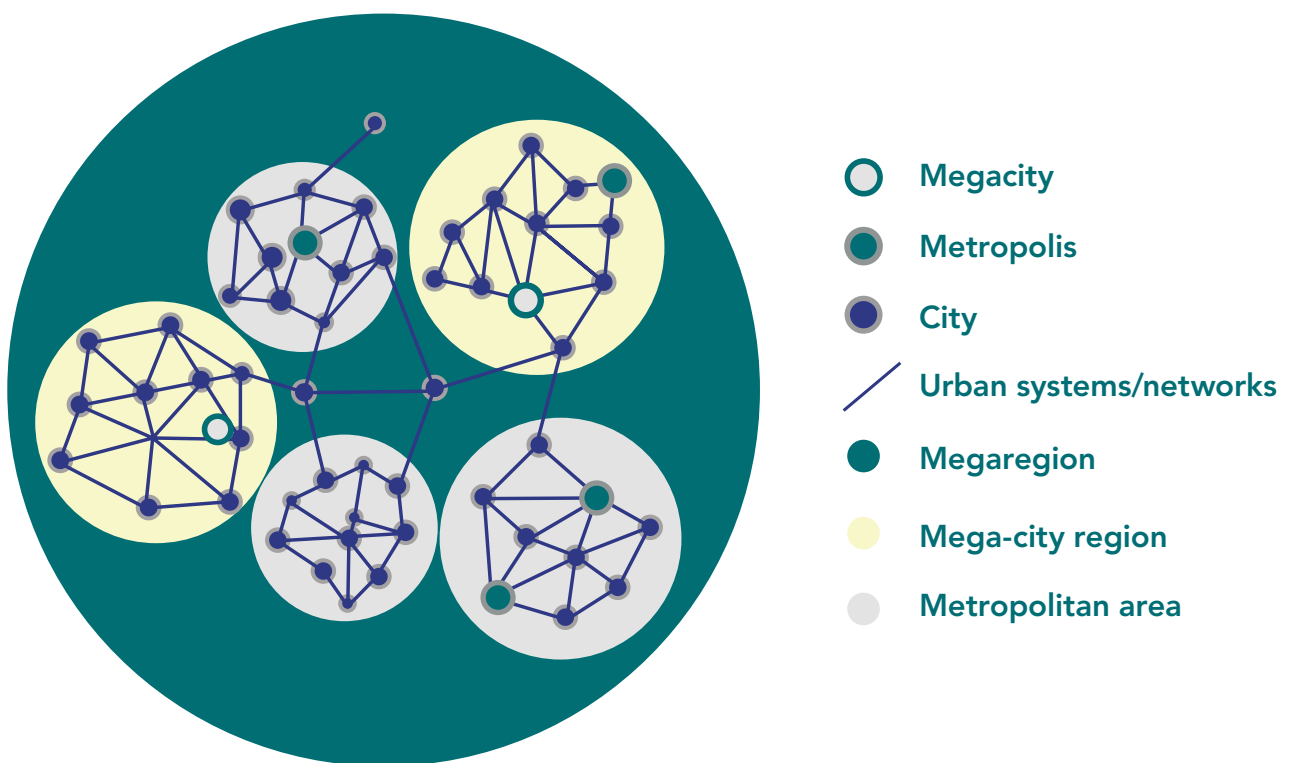
<sup>10</sup> Meijers, E.J., et al., 2016, p. 195

<sup>11</sup> Duranton and Puga, 2004

<sup>12</sup> EUKN - The European Knowledge Network

<sup>13</sup> OECD - The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development





### Megaregion in an urban system context

An **integrated collaborative process** with stakeholders of all relevant scales can help define a spatial-economic vision for the entire Eurodelta area, which at its core remains a dynamic territory without borders, open to new partners.

Image source: Shiliang Su et.al., 2017 (Pages 1-19)

# COMBINING EFFORTS

## 04> Overview of Existing Networks

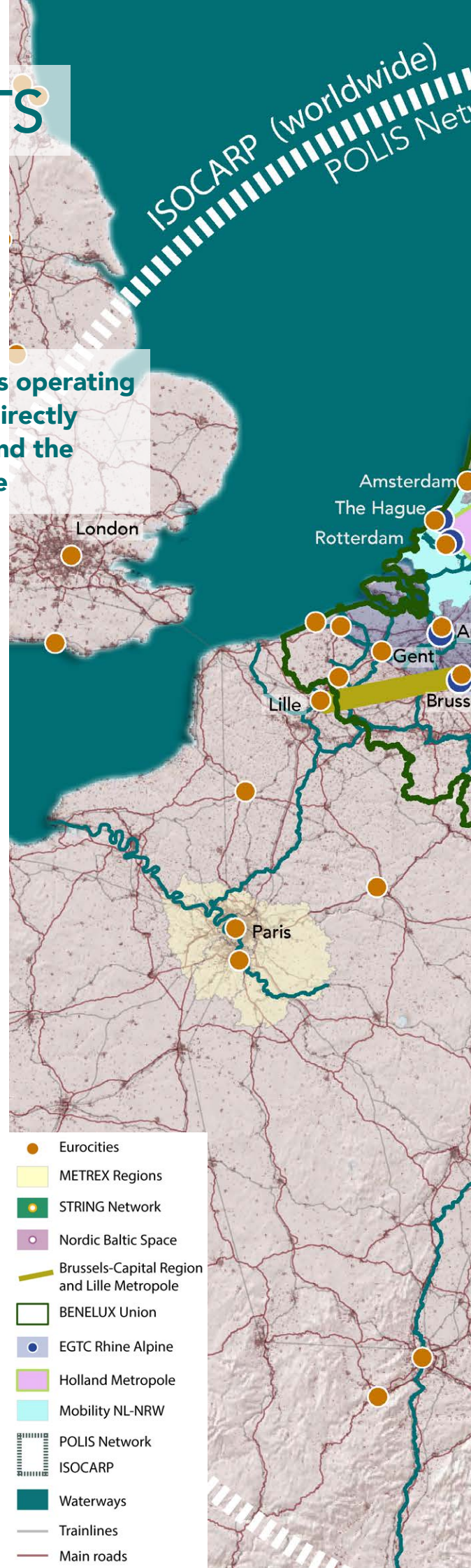
**There are several urban and regional networks operating across Europe. Some selective networks are directly linked to Eurodelta-SURE. It is important to find the right network for the right needs and combine efforts where possible and necessary.**

The SURE Network is working towards becoming a **pioneer megaregion** dealing with innovative, circular, inclusive, sustainable, and economical strategies to foster cooperation on the scale of the Eurodelta. Primary focus is placed on **cross-border infrastructure, energy transition, research and cultural exchange**. In advance, evidence-based figures on cross-border workings need to be identified and supported by means of structural investments in ongoing and future cooperation. The idea is to combine the multinational, regional and city agenda by implementing a new way of **multilevel governance coordination**.

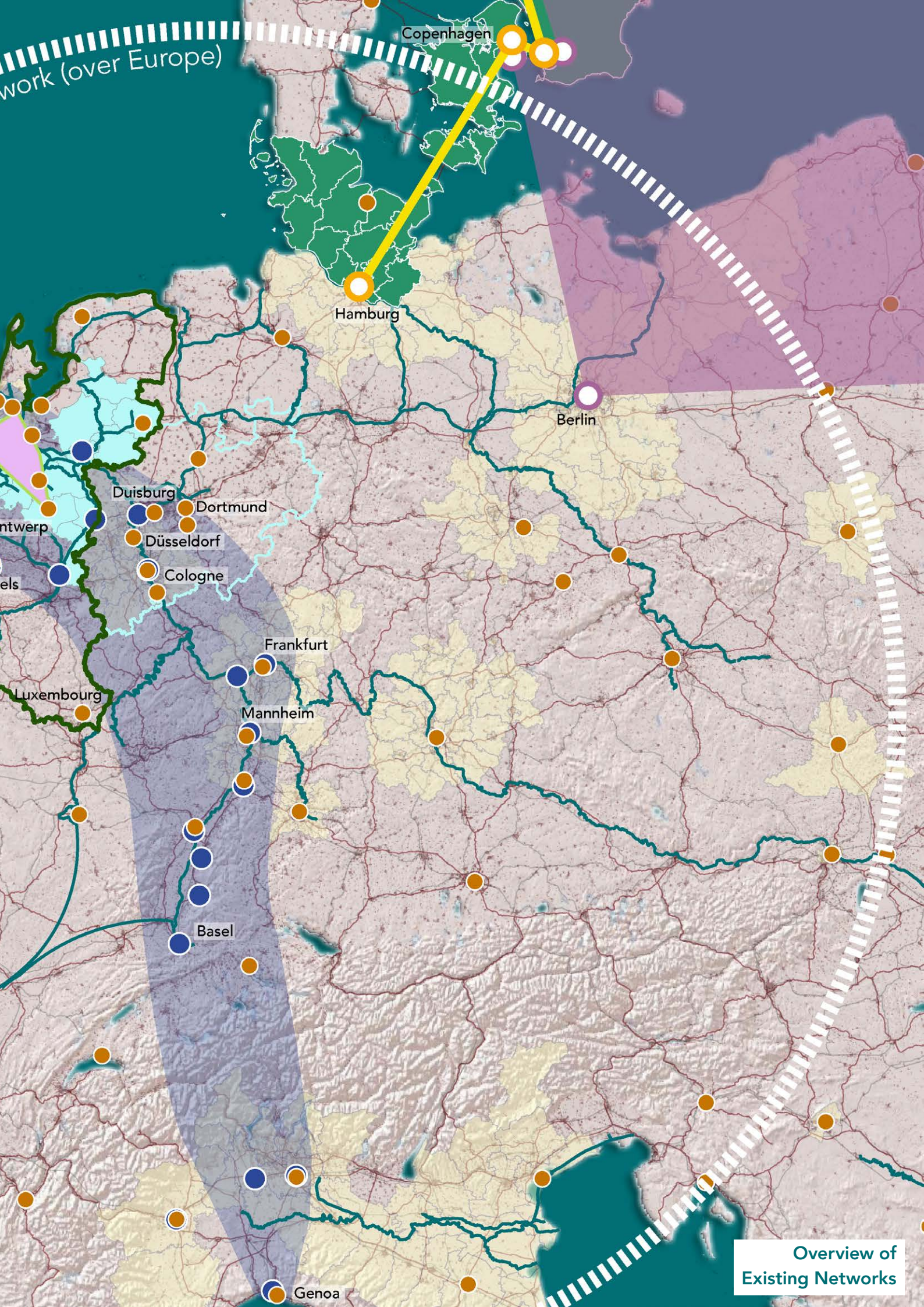
SURE can structure operations by using existing networks to advocate interests of the members involved. Therefore, it is vital to encourage project-based collaboration on specific common themes and to **form partnerships** where necessary in order to find the avenues of advocacy and solutions that the partners align for.

Defining issues or topics of intervention by exploring other networks' agendas is key to the **bottom-up, action-driven** working method of SURE. It is about understanding the developments on the scale of the Eurodelta in respect to the EU/ World and respond concertedly.

With its holistic approach the SURE network mediates, enhances and facilitates the organization of **cross-border and project-based** collaboration. This can be done by focusing on the integration of topics on a megaregional scale (energy, food production, transport, innovation, etc).



work (over Europe)



Copenhagen

Hamburg

Berlin

Duisburg

Dortmund

Düsseldorf

Cologne

Frankfurt

Mannheim

Basel

Genoa

Overview of Existing Networks

**Many networks and sub-organisations deal with similar issues. However, SURE prevails by exploring the spatial and economic cohesion on the scale of the Eurodelta. It is vital to coordinate activities, share agendas and align actions where necessary, particularly towards the EU.**



## **EUROCITIES Network**

EUROCITIES is a formal network of major European cities. Members are the elected local and municipal governments of major European cities. Through six forums, a wide range of working groups, projects, activities and events members are offered a platform for sharing knowledge and exchanging ideas.

SURE can advocate cross-border activities/projects which correlate with the focus areas of Eurocities. This way Eurodelta-specific **key messages** can be delivered concertedly to the EU institutions and increase the awareness of actions on the scale of the Eurodelta.

[www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)



## **ISOCARP – Community of Practice**

ISOCARP is the international Society of City and Regional Planners. In regard to their initiative of setting-up a Community of Practice & Research around the Eurodelta, it is important to combine efforts with the SURE initiative in order to avoid missing links and develop common targets.

Both initiatives strive for a borderless megaregion and put emphasis on the involvement of the **next generation** (students and young planners) to work together on the design of a spatial-economic vision for the Eurodelta.

<https://isocarp.org>



## **EGTC Rhine-Alpine**

The Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor EGTC<sup>14</sup> aims to strengthen cross-border cooperation by advocating integrated spatial and infrastructure development along the main North-South transport route in Europe. Corridor development is integral to the practices within the Eurodelta.

SURE and EGTC Rhine-Alpine shall align their agendas in the corresponding focus areas, i.e. **transport and infrastructure development**. Using formats like the #Rhine-Alpine Talks help to coordinate common actions on the scale of the corridor and in respect to the Eurodelta. Also working together on related EU-projects avoid redundancy from a European perspective.

<https://egtc-rhine-alpine.eu>



## POLIS Network

POLIS is the leading network of European cities and regions working together to develop innovative technologies and policies for local transport. Coordinating between local, regional and national initiatives is key to the mobility transition within the Eurodelta.

SURE shall contribute regularly in POLIS working groups to exchange best practices and share knowledge on sustainable **urban mobility** on the scale of the Eurodelta. The Polis Annual Conference provides an opportunity for the SURE Network to showcase their alliance achievements to large audience of mobility experts, practitioners and decision makers.

[www.polisnetwork.eu](http://www.polisnetwork.eu)



## STRING Network

The STRING Network is a political cross-border organisation working to create a new green megaregion in Northern Europe. The Network strives to be a globally acknowledged Green Hub and a leading implementer of sustainable infrastructure to combat climate change while improving the lives of our citizens.

In respect to the activities of SURE, the STRING Network can be regarded as a **benchmark** for working towards clearly defined goals. The SURE Network can thus learn and gain experience in terms of **alliance-building**.

[www.stringnetwork.org](http://www.stringnetwork.org)



## METREX Nordic-Baltic Space

The Nordic-Baltic Space project is a macro-regional analysis that aims to coordinate regional policies and processes with the city-regions across the Space in order to manage growth and the city-region structures in a coordinated way. It aims to work together to strengthen spatial planning solutions for the overall benefit of the wider macro-region.

The METREX / Nordic-Baltic Space outcomes can help SURE to improve **functional cooperation** across the megaregion and to develop of a **joint vision**, a spatial-economic **strategy**, for the entire Eurodelta.

<https://www.eurometrex.org/publications/nordic-baltic-space-transnational-development-perspective/>

# EURODELTA - SURE

## 05> Added Value of the SURE Network

**The SURE Network can act as the facilitator, connector and incubator for joint activities in order to shape and foster cross-border cooperation within the Eurodelta megaregion and beyond.**

SURE is forming the alliance by sharing knowledge and information in an iterative manner by means of organizing topical webinars, developing an interactive website/platform for exchange, and commissioning studies as well as projects in the realm of planning, mobility, economy, innovation, and academia (new generation).

SURE is facilitating the **formation of coalitions and partnerships** between members instead of further endorsing competition within the Eurodelta (by means of cross-border project-based collaboration).

SURE gradually develops into a strong alliance in order to design and develop a **cross-border spatial-economic strategy** for the entire Eurodelta in the upcoming years.”

### **Benefits of scale vs. Borrowed-size**

To understand the benefits that emerge from megaregions, the appropriate geographic scale needs to be identified. Megaregions may benefit from the potential to borrow agglomeration. Given their scale, they have the potential to host a broad range of types of agglomeration economies that may complement each other. Urban agglomerations tend to outperform less densely populated areas due to economics of scale, networking benefits, and a larger and more skilled workforce.

Smaller functional urban areas located between larger metropolitan areas (as it is the case in the Eurodelta) benefit from this **proximity** in terms of, i.e. higher wages. The closer a region is located to a city the easier it is for its businesses to access these functions and the easier for residents and

businesses in the region to borrow **agglomeration economies** from the city. This is enabled through interactions in networks of cities across multiple spatial scales (as it is done within SURE). These networks serve as a substitute for the benefits of agglomeration. Theoretically, the borrowed-size concept demands a recasting of the geographical foundations that cause agglomeration effects (cost savings that arise from urban concentration and clustering of economic activity).

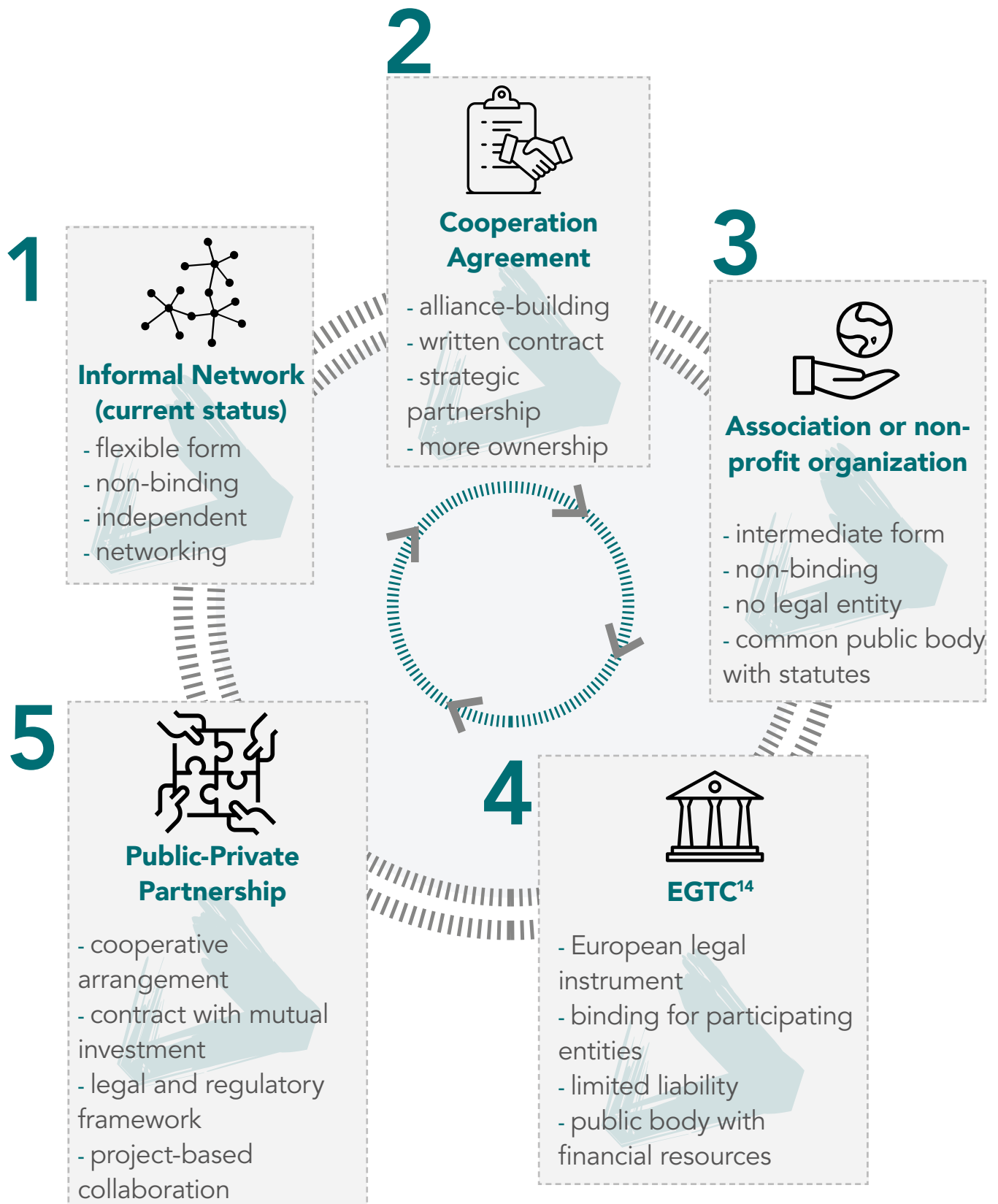
### **Integrative approach**

Due to the complex spatial, economic and environmental composition of the Eurodelta, it is crucial to strengthen the **identity** of the SURE network by re-evaluating the defined set of **values** for cooperation at various stages. Thus, the underlying values of the alliance are continuously subject to change, remain adaptable and can be embraced by new members along the way (of development). This **integrative approach** will bestow the network with more ownership for its ambition and actions in the years to come. The idea is to continuously work on finding identity in diversity within the Eurodelta.

Exploring the possibility of developing an intermediate common body within the realm of METREX (as an affiliated yet independent association) can be a **hybrid way** of forming a **new alliance**, yet building up on existing resources and experiences. In respect to the stages of development, i.e. „possible forms of cooperation’ it can be interesting to look into the potential of collaborating with Holland Metropole<sup>15</sup> (Public-Private Partnership) in the long run. The action-driven approach of SURE brings insightful solutions to the development of **Eurodelta – SURE**.

# THE NETWORK ORGANISATION

## 06> Possible Forms of Cooperation

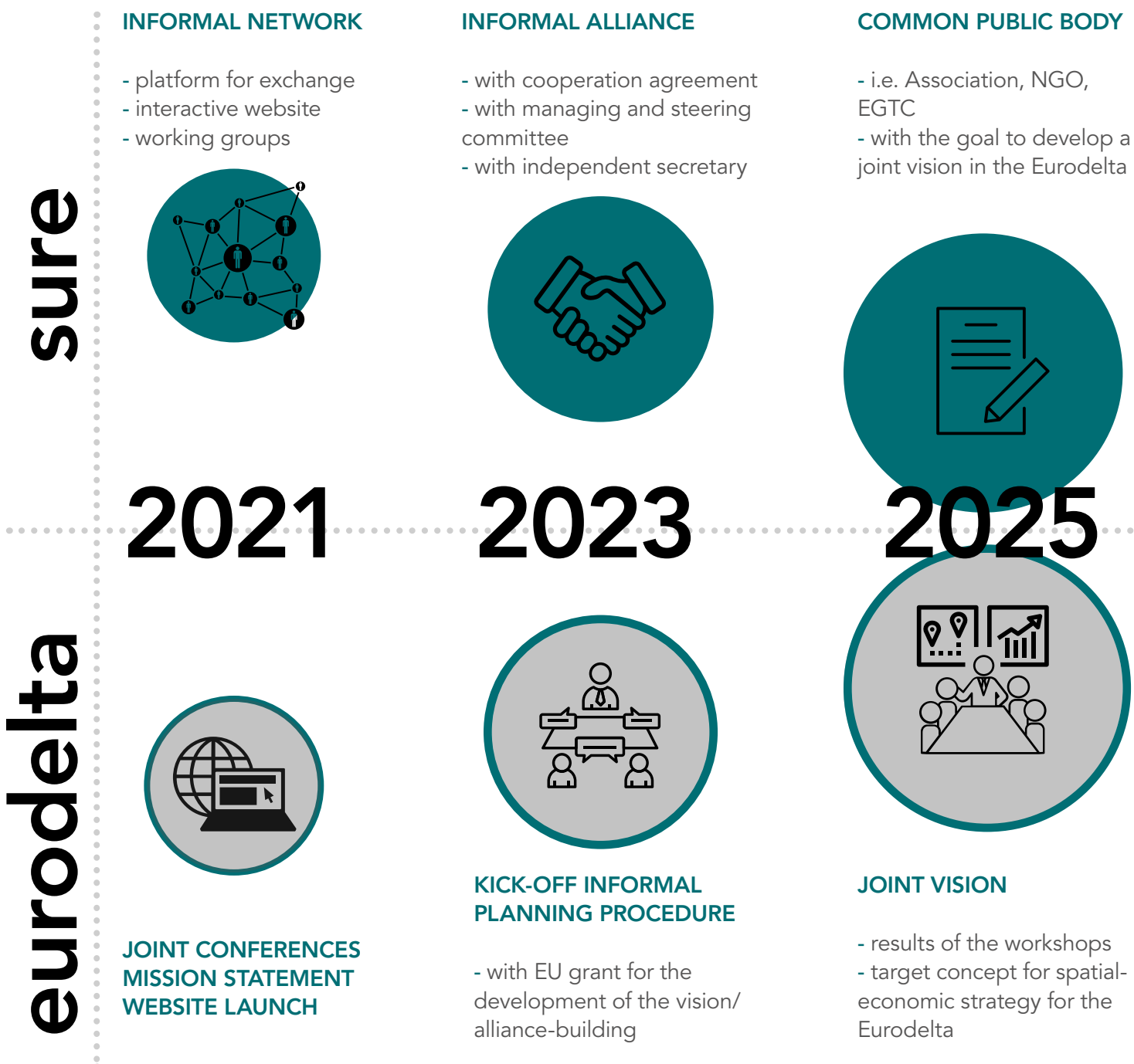


<sup>14</sup>EGTC European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation

# ROADMAP

## 07> Step by Step Development

**Eurodelta - SURE is a two-folded initiative. The Eurodelta is a dynamic, densely populated territory with strong interdependencies and the SURE Network shapes and fosters cross-border collaboration within the megaregion and beyond.**



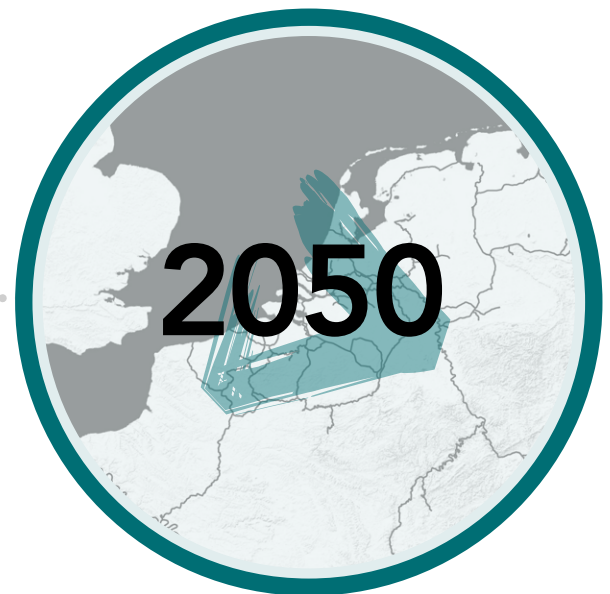
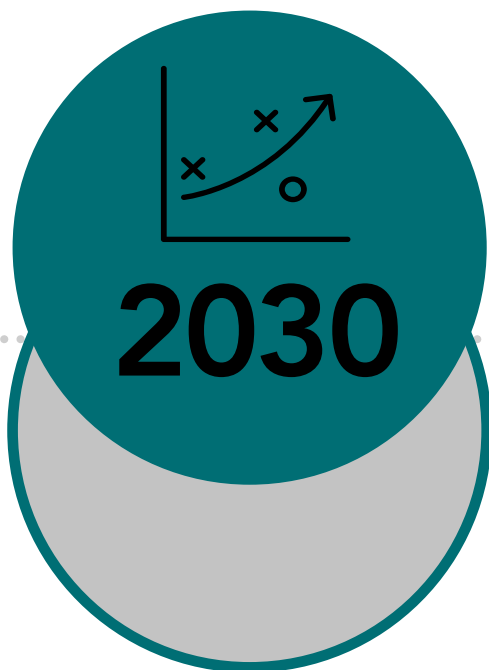


### FROM STRATEGY TO PROGRAMME

- i.e. EGTC, Public-Private Partnerships
- For the implementation of the spatial-economic strategy
- development and implementation of the spatial-economic strategy of the Eurodelta

### EURODELTA - SURE

Advocate megaregion as incubator and catalyst for innovative, sustainable, spatial, economic solutions



### PROGRAMME CONFERENCE

- on the spatial-economic strategy of the Eurodelta
- operationalisation of the strategy, programme, regional key projects

### LARGE SERIES OF REALIZED PROJECTS

A borderless, balanced, integrated, inclusive and sustainable megaregion

# ROADMAP

## 08> Action and Process-driven Approach

**The SURE Roadmap aims to formulate internal and external strategies, actions and milestones which the network can resolve in the future.**

The **Roadmap** shows the core objectives of the alliance and illustrates the next steps to be taken in order to explore activities (scope) and developments on the scale of the Eurodelta. The main goal behind the Roadmap is to **become** the Strategic Urban Region Eurodelta! Hence strategies and corresponding common actions can be formulated and the ambition that the network is willing to pursue is gradually revealed and reflected upon with the partners and external experts of the network at various stages of the **process**.

### **Main goals of 'Becoming SURE'**

- To strengthen the feeling of a common cross-border living area
- To provide an international image of the cross-border region
- To combine the means, know-how and resources to acquire critical mass
- To bring more spatial and functional coherence through the elaboration of common territorial strategies

# 2021

### **ACTIONS**

#### **Internal**

- Set-up interactive platform/website for exchanging information, methods, projects
- Set-up managing and steering committee, working groups on specific common interests, i.e. Eurodelta vision/ spatial-economic strategy process / student involvement.
- Revise mission statement/narrative
- Prepare cooperation agreement signed by all partners
- Explore and apply for EU-funds, i.e. Interreg

#### **External**

- Launch website/interactive platform
- Collaborate with ISOCARP and Deltametropolis Association on Community of Practice + Eurodelta
- Scan and combine actions with other existing networks (Polis, Eurocities, EGTC Rhine-Alpine, BENULEX Union, etc.)

### **MILESTONES**

#### **Organizational products**

- Working groups, managing and steering committee
- Participation in Corridor Week, Isocarp Congress, METREX Conference, ESPON/STISE<sup>16</sup>, Week of the Regions

#### **Content-driven products**

- Contribution to Corridor Week Conference in February
- Configuration with ESPON/STISE research; lessons learned for SURE
- Adapted mission statement/narrative
- Position paper towards EU on "Shift from Air to Rail"

# 2023

## ACTIONS

### Internal

- Set-up of an independent Eurodelta-SURE secretary
- Combine actions / agenda with existing networks (Eurocities, EGTC Rhine-Alpine)
- Acquisition of cross-border cooperation funds (INTERREG, ERDF, etc)
- Approve mission statement/narrative and cooperation agreement

### External

- Promote cooperation agreement to politicians
- Brand informal planning procedure of the Eurodelta vision
- Acquire more members, i.e. provinces, ports, research institutes

## MILESTONES

### Organizational products

- Independent secretary
- Kick-off event for the official cooperation agreement with politicians (2022)
- Kick-off informal planning procedure on Eurodelta Vision/Strategy

### Content-driven products

- Intermediate report on acquired EU-funds/ programmes
- Process booklet for the development of the Eurodelta Vision
- Branding the alliance Eurodelta-SURE as an informal planning procedure to arrive at a joint strategy for the Eurodelta

# 2025

## ACTIONS

### Internal

- Align content of working groups to focus on the development of a spatial-economic strategy process
- Acquire EU-funds for developing the strategy (Interreg)
- Conduct workshops, expert discussion and round tables with stakeholders

### External

- Promote spatial-economic strategy as a process for the entire Eurodelta
- Steering committee accompanies and advocates the strategy process
- Acquire more stakeholders, supporters (Letter of Intents) for the strategy process

## MILESTONES

### Organizational products

- Call for tenders (contributions on spatial-economic strategy by external planning teams)
- Workshops with steering committee, partners, stakeholders and planning teams

### Content-driven products

- Letter of Intents by member organizations advocating the interim results
- Conference and documentation on the development of the strategy process and interim results

# 2030

## ACTIONS

### Internal

- From desired actions to concrete projects/ programme
- Set-up development-agency (PPPs) for implementing the programme
- Map benefits of scale to continuously encourage collaboration

### External

- Promote the consolidated strategy and act as benchmark worldwide
- Operationalisation of the programme
- Continuous acquisition of members (i.e. development agencies, transport companies, environmental associations)

## MILESTONES

### Organizational products

- From strategy to programme (implementation of concrete projects)
- Development Agency
- Public-Private Partnerships

### Content-driven products

- Documentation of the process, outcomes, strategy
- Final Conference with all stakeholders, international audience

# 2050

## ACTIONS

### Internal

- Facilitate the organization of cross-border projects/collaboration on the scale of the Eurodelta
- Match working methods, planning instruments
- Continuously foster European integration by generating benefits of scale

### External

- Advocate megaregion as incubator and catalyst for innovative sustainable, spatial, economic solutions
- Continuous acquisition of members

## MILESTONES

### Organizational products

- Free movement of people, goods and competencies, making the Eurodelta one fully interconnected, dynamic, cross-border megaregion

### Content-driven products

- Large series of realized projects (show cases)

# EURODELTA - SURE

## 09> Next Steps

**The SURE Network can facilitate different actions and platforms to unite partner cities, regions and other stakeholders and thus, grow into an organization which can initiate projects.**

The SURE Network was founded by an expert working group within METREX and, thus, can be regarded as a spin-off. Currently, organizational matters ensuring the functioning of the SURE Network are primarily on the hands of one founding partner, namely the City of The Hague.

In order to grant **future growth and autonomy** of the network, a possibility can be to gradually set-up an **independent secretary** which is unbiased by nature and an organization which can facilitate projects. This way, other SURE partners can take initiative on a level playing field and the secretary can, for instance, prepare, step by step, the development of a **cooperation agreement** (signed by all involved parties).

In due course a common public body (organisation) can be established associated to METREX in order to secure scale sovereignty and eligibility when applying for **EU-funds for cross-border projects**.

In other words, personnel and administrative costs can be shared by either its members or acquired through targeted alliance-funding programmes by the EU. Raising funds from the EU will help to develop the argumentation and organization of the network.

### 1. Working Groups

Working groups are established by the partners of the SURE Network and put in place for the advancement of specific interests and actions. The groups research, develop and promote actions as well as projects on cross-border collaboration. Example: Working group on "spatial-economic strategy process", to set-up the accompanying informal planning procedure.

### 2. Managing Committee

The Managing Committee is appointed by the SURE Network and consists of 3-4 partner authorities who rotate every 2 years. The idea is to informally give the managing committee the power to strategically set organizational tasks and milestones that the Secretary pursues in due course.

### 3. Steering Committee

The Steering Group is also appointed by the SURE Network and consists of practitioners, officials and key actors/experts within the Eurodelta and beyond. They should be representing all levels of governance and critically reflect upon the actions of SURE. The Steering Group shall meet up to four times a year to decide the operational approach.

### 4. Eurodelta-SURE Secretary

The Eurodelta-SURE Secretary is the permanent body within the network responsible for the structure and organization of common projects, lobby activities at all scales to promote the benefits of the work/output done by the partners. In due time, it may comprise staff members overseen by a managing director.

### 5. Political Advisory Board

Political Advisory Board is the most senior level of decision-making in the Eurodelta. Comprised of national representatives from each member state as well as the corresponding European members of parliament (MEP), the board can meet three times a year to propose the priority areas of action and political agenda for the organisation.

# APPENDIX

## Relevant EU-funding Programmes

**For the development of the alliance and a corresponding informal planning procedure SURE shall consider applying for EU-grants in the framework of the Regional Development and Cohesion Policy for the upcoming 2021-2027 programming period.**

### (A) Informal Planning Procedure

The design and implementation of a process for the development of spatial-economic strategy for the Eurodelta can be financed with funds from the EU and the federal states of the involved national governments. The process is trans-disciplinary, integrated and relies on the participation of experts, politicians and stakeholders of all scales (urban, regional, national). In the framework of the EU regional policy the upcoming new funding period 2021-2027 is renewing funding programmes like the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), INTERREG A and B, Horizon Europe, and the newborn European Urban Initiative. In most cases co-financing rule is applicable when applying for a grant. This will have to be revised by the partners of the SURE Network.

### (B) Alliance-funding programmes

- INTERREG A, B, C – Cross-border cooperation (A), transnational cooperation (B), interregional cooperation (C)

The new generation of interregional and cross-border cooperation (“Interreg”) programmes will help Member States overcome cross-border obstacles and develop joint services.

- ERDF – European Regional Development Fund  
The ERDF supports measures which advance innovations, research and technological development, as well as those which contribute to climate protection. Both the European fund for regional development and the cohesion policy support the implementation of the “Europe 2020” strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

- European Urban Initiative  
A new networking and capacity-building programme for urban authorities. This initiative aims to strengthen integrated and participatory approaches to sustainable urban development and provide a stronger link to relevant EU policies, and in particular, cohesion policy investments.

- CEF – Connecting Europe Facility  
It is a key EU funding instrument to promote growth, jobs and competitiveness through targeted infrastructure investment at European level. It supports the development of high performing, sustainable and efficiently interconnected trans-European networks in the fields of transport, energy and digital services.

# Bibliography

- <sup>1</sup> METREX the Network of Metropolitan Regions and Areas in Europe
- <sup>2</sup> The term 'Rhineland model' is a term that was originally used to describe the principles of the economic model and of society in Germany and the countries around Germany. In most cases it is used as opposite to the Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-American model, which gives ample room for the entrepreneurial powers within a free market system, and with as little control from governments as possible.
- <sup>3</sup> TEN-T 'The Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) policy addresses the implementation and development of a Europe-wide network of railway lines, roads, inland waterways, maritime shipping routes, ports, airports and railroad terminals.
- <sup>4</sup> New Leipzig Charter – The New Leipzig Charter is the EU's new territorial agenda and it promotes integrated and sustainable urban development in Europe. In it, they identify joint basic principles and guidelines that they will apply in national spatial planning policy. Three main objectives are identified: A fair, green and productive Europe. The European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) had a leading role in the development of the New Leipzig Charter and is key partner in the development of sustainable cities and regions. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2020/652020/EPRS\\_ATA\(2020\)652020\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2020/652020/EPRS_ATA(2020)652020_EN.pdf) (Accessed on 19.9.2020).
- <sup>5</sup> European Green Deal – The European Green Deal provides an action plan to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy and to restore biodiversity and cut pollution. The EU aims to be climate neutral in 2050. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en) (Accessed on 19.9.2020).
- <sup>6</sup> SDGs – The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> (Accessed on 19.9.2020)
- <sup>7</sup> Guliano, G., Kang S., Yuan, Q., 2019. Agglomeration economies and evolving urban form. Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature 2019 (accessed on 1.9.2020).
- <sup>8,10</sup> Meijers E. J., Burger M. J., Hoogerbrugge M.M., 2016. Borrowing size in networks of cities: City size, network connectivity and metropolitan functions in Europe. Papers in Regional Science, Volume 95 Number 1 March 2016. Website: <http://evertmeijers.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Meijers-E-Burger-M-Hoogerbrugge-M-2016-PiRS-Borrowing-size-in-networks-of-cities.pdf> (accessed on 14.9.2020).
- <sup>9</sup> Daniela Glockner, 2018. The Rise of Megaregions: Delineating a new scale of economic geography. OECD Regional Development Working Papers 2018/04. (Accessed on 18.8.2020).
- <sup>11</sup> Duranton G., Puga D., 2004. Micro-foundations of urban agglomeration economies. In: Henderson V, Thisse J-F (eds) Handbook of regional and urban economics, vol 4. North-Holland, Amsterdam, pp 2119–2171 (accessed on 22.8.2020).
- <sup>12</sup> EUKN – The European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) is the only independent Member State driven network in the field of urban policy, research and practice. <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-mobility/policy-lab-metropolitan-and-cross-border-functionality> (Accessed on 19.9.2020).
- <sup>13</sup> OECD The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.
- <sup>14</sup> EGTC European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation.
- <sup>15</sup> Holland Metropole: The cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Utrecht, and Eindhoven are working together to ensure a stable, innovative and inclusive for all their inhabitants. For this purpose, the mentioned cities have to grow into a medium-density and multi-centered metropolis, which will be one integrated and independent region. <https://hollandmetropole.com/>
- <sup>16</sup> The ESPON EGTC is a European Grouping on Territorial Cooperation. The STISE project (Sustainable Transport Infrastructure in the Strategic urban region Eurodelta) shall develop a new knowledge base on existing and potential flows at the level of the targeted area. The results will be presented by autumn 2021 and are useful for integration into the actions of SURE.

## Image Sources:

Shiliang Su et.al., 2017. China's megaregion policy: Performance evaluation framework, empirical findings and implications for spatial polycentric governance. Elsevier. Land Use Policy, Vol. 63, April 2017, Pages 1-19 (accessed on 28.8.2020).

All maps and diagrams are prepared by Deltametropolis Association.

**'Becoming SURE' is the driving goal and process leading the Eurodelta towards a green, inclusive and balanced megaregion in the upcoming years. The Roadmap is the first milestone.**



**Become an active part in the process!**

**Editor**

Dr. Cecilia Braun – Spatial Planner, Consultant

**Contributors**

Robert Broesi – MUST Städtebau GmbH

Alankrita Sarkar – Deltametropolis Association

October 2020

**Contact**

Peter Pol – Strategic Planner  
Urban and Regional Planning  
City of The Hague

Postbus 12600, 2500 DJ  
The Hague, The Netherlands

[peter.pol@den Haag.nl](mailto:peter.pol@den Haag.nl)  
[www.den Haag.nl](http://www.den Haag.nl)