

POLYCENTRICITY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT: *The new European political target to reduce development disparities and a more appropriate distribution of development funds within regions. In the ESPON (European Spatial Planning Observation Network) since 2006 there have been studies on policentricity. They support the idea that a polycentric urban structure with a more marked character will contribute to more balanced regional development and to increase European competitiveness. However, studies fail ESPON overlap and a common approach to the two concepts, polycentricity and regional competitiveness.*

KEY WORDS: *region, regional development, regionally polycentricity, territorial competitiveness*

In generally, polycentricity is largely regarded as a means of achieving a more balanced pattern of development space and a high level of international territorial competitiveness through the so-called anchor. Regionally polycentricity is rather the result of general trends in contemporary urban geography, advanced post-industrial societies, which led to regions with more centres. In Europe, in the early 60s, was seen a transition from urban models dominated by the functional entities of a central city counted its surroundings by urban network systems of several centres of residence, employment and services.

Due to the prevailing trends of de-concentration space, many urban functions, such as: residence, industry sectors based on offices, retail, wholesale, warehouses, leisure services were extended to all those territories extended (enlarged) by the new centres to the suburbs or places that are located in strategically in terms of transport. Generally speaking, the traditional functional hierarchy and duality of the city centre and many places of the suburbs are eroding in many regions-cities. In these regions, the principles are developed to a higher level and offer a possible model containing the wider Europe: a polycentric urban system, as balanced as possible, avoiding excessive concentration and marginalization phenomena, such a space would result in a network protecting resources.

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These regions are more urban centres deserve attention because they are the result of this process of spatial reorganization. It is actually kind of region composed of a system of urban centres. The specific case of regions where we meet separately, in historical terms, independent cities, both administratively and politically, which are at a distance greater or less - we can say within a distance of switch - and are connected via infrastructure. These cities have merged both functionally and morphologically, in larger urban systems, regional spread and spread (Dieleman and Faludi, 1998, Ghent Urban Studies Team, 1999; Bontje, 2001, Champion, 2001). Dominant patterns of respect when hierarchical relations operation and mobility between central cities and the hinterland have been supplemented with several models from the former independent regions cities. Often cited examples of urban regions with more centres are in the Netherlands Randstad, Rhein Rhur in Germany and Flemish Diamond in Belgium. Other examples can be found in other parts of Europe, for example regions of Italy: Padua-Treviso-Venice and Emilia Romagna and the Basque Country.

Such regional systems with multiple centres above are the different concepts that are in a wider urban area synonymous with the concept of multiple centres, used here, for example, network city (Batten, 1995), networks City (Camagni and Salone, 1993), metropolitan regions with multiple nuclei (Dieleman and Faludi, 1998b) or clusters of cities (CEC, 1999). Literature on urban areas with more centres is still limited and not yet well consolidated (Bailey and Turok, 2001). Consequently, a variety of definitions sometimes more or less involved, operationalisation and approaches to this type of urban configurations are still in the vehicle (Kloosterman and Musterd, 2001).

Randstad is one of the 6 regions with multiple centres and consists of a ring of towns located around a relatively 'Green Hearts', which contains the 4 major cities in the country: Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht. For the Netherlands, the policy is comprehensive. Cities preparing for an urban network are required to prepare space programs and plans in mutual cooperation, while they are seen to be integrated both in the public transport system and the private sector (Ministry of VROM, 2001).

Urban area with several centres. European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) has contributed decisively to the debate on a polycentric development within Member States and thus to encourage the application polycentricity spatial planning policies at national or regional level, although in some countries was called into question before this strategy to be published. In such cases polycentricity is often applied at regional, often for reasons of international competitiveness. Integrated development of urban areas with more centres (with multiple centres) is initiated by governments rather than national or regional areas. Examples of top-down implementation of this concept are regions Flemish Diamond (Brussels-Antwerp-Ghent-Leuven) (Albrechts, 1998) and RheinRuhr (including cities like: Cologne, Bonn, Dortmund, Essen and Düsseldorf) (Blotevogel, 1998, Knapp, 1998). The Dutch government gave more attention to regions consisting of several urban systems, new space policy referring to regions with more urban areas - as an urban network. 6 were established as urban networks of national importance. The 3 types of opportunities for regional coordination and work in the polycentric urban regions may be distinct.

Regional cooperation and coordination in these regions can open: (1) go accumulation of resources in order to share facilities and services to achieve a balance, (2) develop and operate a balanced complementarities and (3) optimization of spatial diversity, which is mainly related to improving the quality of open spaces.

First regional approach in polycentric urban regions is the ability to actually have a pool of resources for the whole region. Thus, regional businesses have access to a wider variety of resources such as labour, suppliers and customers than the individual nodes or urban locations. In some cases the labour market can resolve a situation of unemployment in an area of the region and lead to labour shortages in other. In addition to this pool of resources, encouraging interaction between neighbouring cities in the polycentric urban region can result in specific specialties. Where such specialization is complementary rather than competitive (the second option), polycentric urban region as a whole can offer a broader service quality for metropolitan services business, households, consumers, workers and tourists.

These services can be promoted as: service delivery, education institutions and research and development, specialized retail, cultural facilities and leisure, and not least, a residential (Ipenburg and Lambregts, 2001). A wide range of complementary services available to qualified and fast, universities, business, warehouse in a polycentric urban region creates an environment for innovation that is clearly a competitive advantage in investment. But cooperation, not competition, is what creates such a set of complementary local media.

The third possibility of regional planning, improving the quality of open spaces, added spatial diversity, ie as a competitive economic resources fund mentioned above and additional facilities in urban polycentric.

All these possibilities require regional coordination and a policy approach to achieve the best results (Evert Meijers and Arie Romein, 2003). It can be assumed that the challenge for actors in polycentric urban regions is to create a regional organizational capacity to be able to master and use these opportunities. Ability regional organization involving regional coordination through a network of regional policy, such as various forms of regional cooperation forum, where all relevant shareholders (different public actors but also private market parties and NGOs), meet, discuss, and decide on planning policies and their implementation. Also, capacity building of regional organizing spatial functionality is conditional, political and institutional context and the regions culture. In general, the main constraints in these regions can be defined as an institutional fragmentation combined with internal targeting key people (like politicians who make policy or markets). Also a higher limit could be the lack of identification with the region in the smallest details.

Conclusion. Stakeholders both in polycentric urban regions and at other levels (eg national), who wish to implement the principle polycentricity must prepare their application in practice of spatial development policies. This may lead to new forms of regional coordination and capacity building of regional organization. This may not guarantee success, because success depends on the operation of such networks for coordination and partnerships. However, without a regional organizational capacity, the danger is that the term polycentric urban region to remain only in the planning.

Reviewing current policies on polycentric urban regions shows how the construction of the regional organizational capacity necessary to implement this concept is often forgotten. Lack of coherence functional, cultural, political and institutional will not result in failure to achieve the organizational capacity of regional. Rather, this lack limits what is possible to obtain in this first phase. If the constraints in terms of cultural policentricity or there, and where functional coherence can also be relatively limited, the best start is made with small steps (Evert Meijers and Arie Romein, 2003). In this case, the voluntary cooperation of a limited number of players on simple problems (and not too sensitive ones) or well-defined projects in which the actors to reap the benefits is the best thing. Mutual trust and understanding and working relationships will likely develop, giving the possibility of implementing such policies or more complex projects in the next phase. In such cases, such as Randstad (Netherlands-Area Evert Meijers and Romein, 2003), where the constraints are relatively limited, a more structured cooperation offers several advantages.

Here, the ability of regional organization truly must be developed to enable deliberation, debate, negotiation and decision-making by all stakeholders continuously on a wide variety of projects, more or less complex. However, regional interest, individual actors are sometimes required concessions.

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