

Comparing cross-border integration in European metropolitan regions

Christophe Sohn and Olivier Walther

Public research centre CEPS, Luxembourg



Objectives

- (1) To examine the concept of cross-border integration
- (2) To challenge cross-border commuting as the ideal indicator of cross-border integration
- (3) To investigate the levels of cross-border integration by using different indicators
- (4) To identify pattern of cross-border integration in metropolitan regions across Europe

Cross-border metropolitan regions

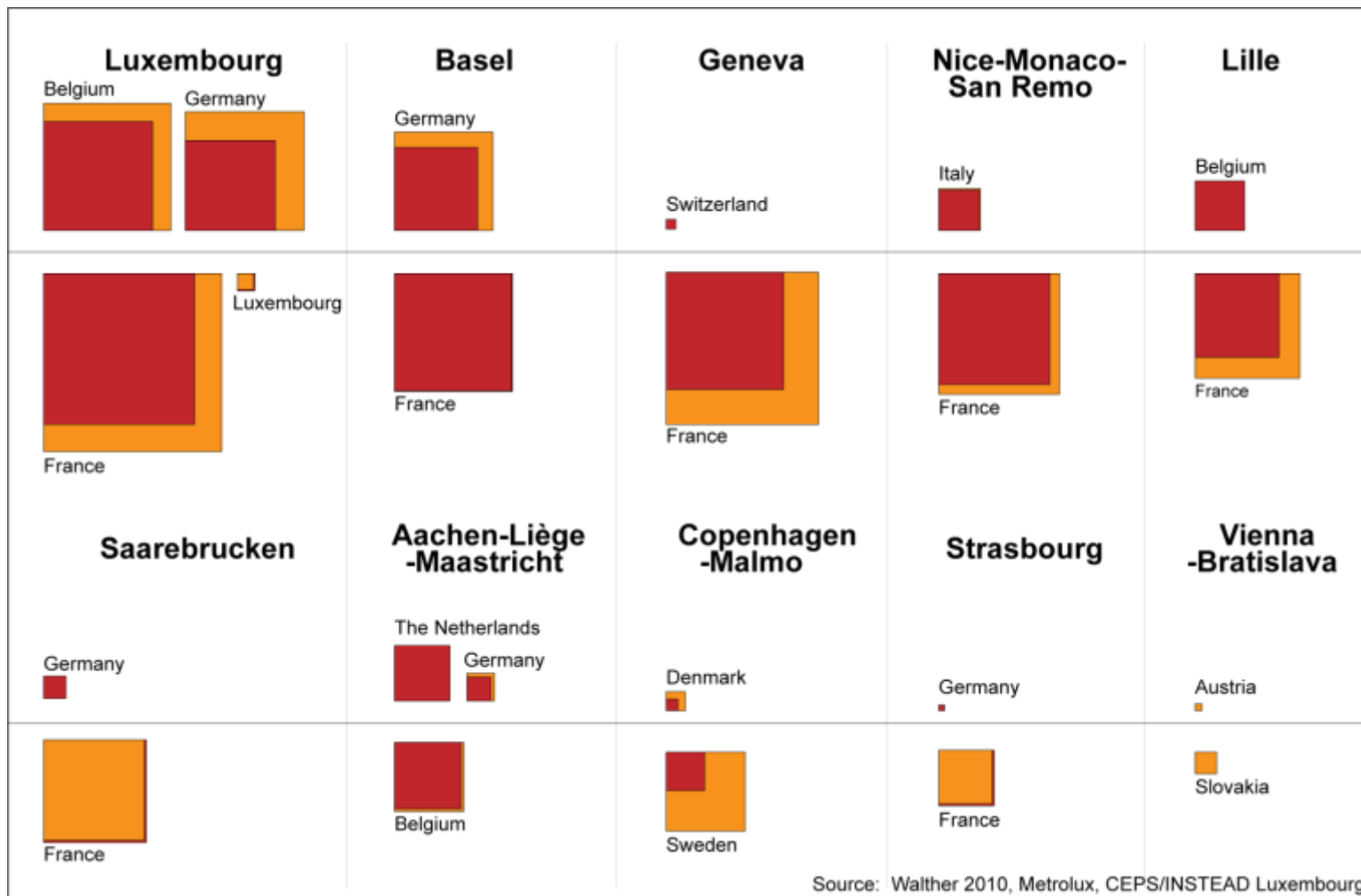
A specific geographic configuration



Cross-border metropolitan regions in Europe
Source: CEPS 2010

Cross-border commuting

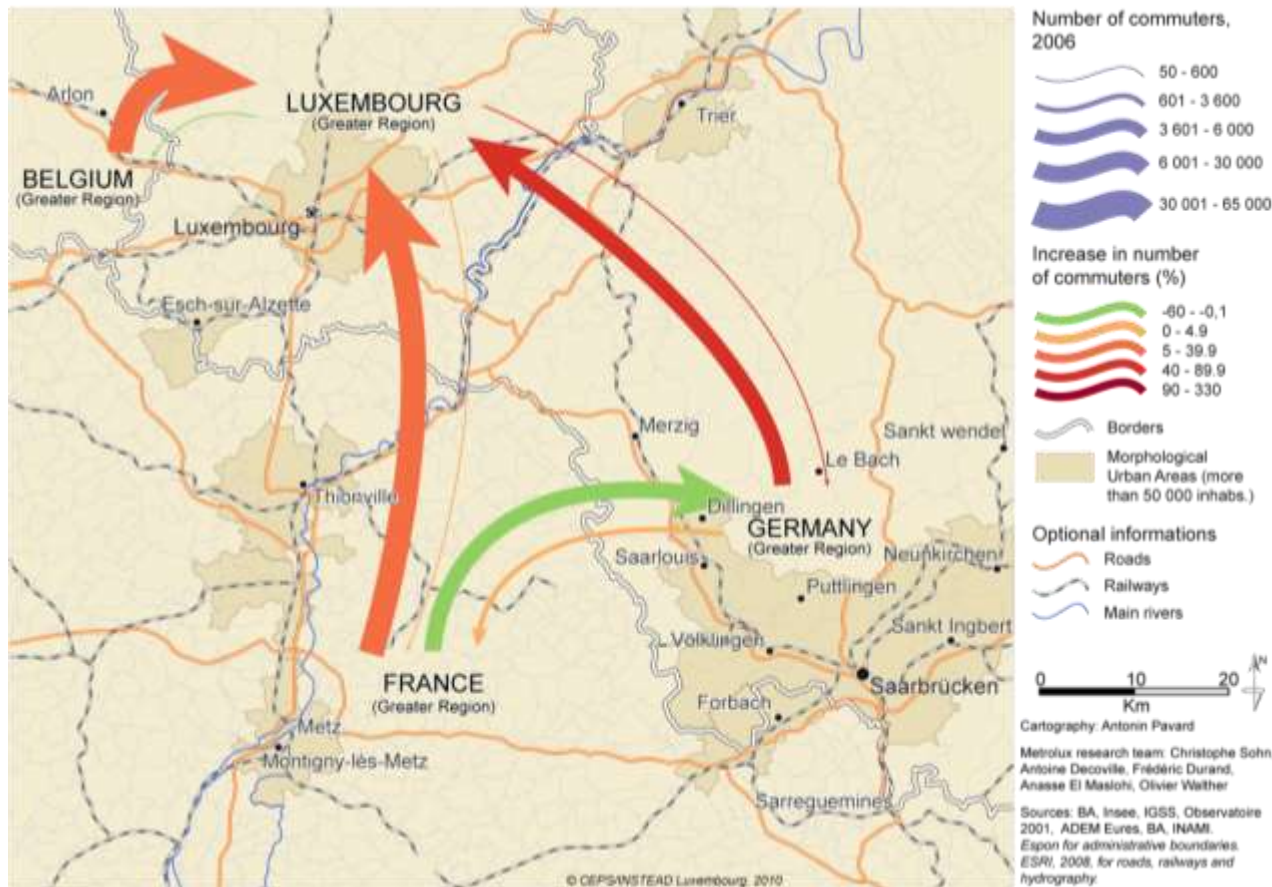
A widely used indicator for analyzing CB integration



CB commuters
in CB
metropolitan
regions in
Europe
Source: CEPS
2010

The ideal indicator?

Cross-border commuting overemphasizes economic interactions over social and territorial cohesion objectives



Cross-border commuting flows, 2000-2006

Source: CEPS 2010

Spatial integration: interactions and convergence

Cross-border integration should include not only **interactions** but also processes of **convergence** between territories

Relationships can be asymmetric and be fed by strong differentials

Strong links do not necessarily lead to territorial convergence

A process of convergence does not necessarily imply that flows are being exchanged between border regions

Alternative indicators

There is a need for alternative indicators reflecting the diversity of cross-border integration in metropolitan regions

Domains	Economic interactions	Economic disparity	Territorial homogeneity
Housing market			Residents' citizenship
Labour market	Cross-border commuters		
Economy		Differential of GDP per capita	

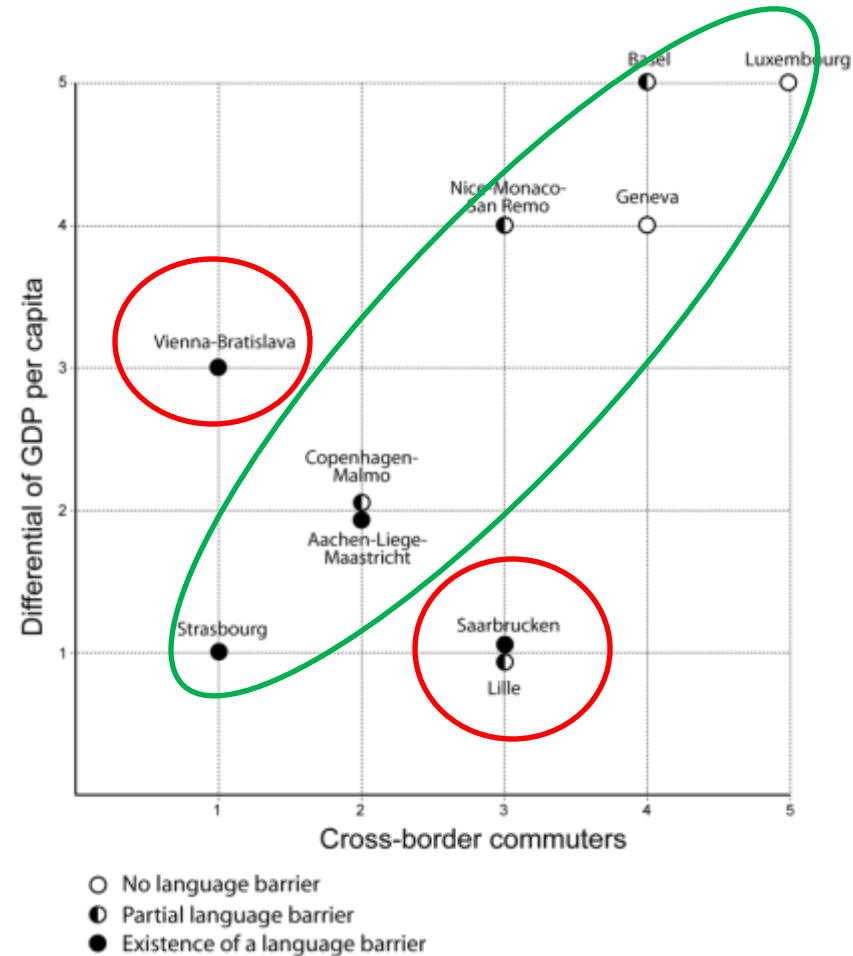
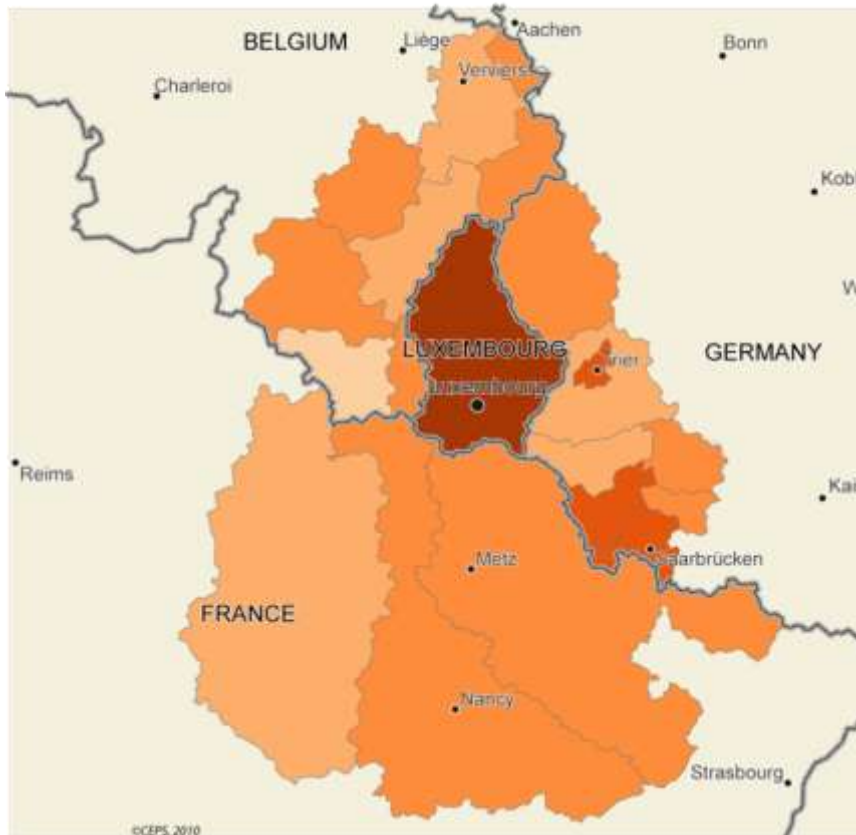
Global results

	Economic interactions	Economic disparity	Territorial homogeneity	Cultural differences
Cross-border metropolitan regions	Cross-border commuters	Differentials of GDP per capita	Residents' citizenship	Language barrier
Aachen-Liege-Maastricht	2	2	5	Yes
Basel	4	5	3	Partial
Geneva	4	4	4	No
Lille	3	1	3	Partial
Luxembourg	5	5	5	No
Nice-Monaco-San Remo	3	4	3	Partial
Copenhagen-Malmo	2	2	2	Partial
Saarbrücken	3	1	2	Yes
Strasbourg	1	1	1	Yes
Vienna-Bratislava	1	3	1	Yes

Economic disparities vs. cross-border commuting

What relationship between cross-border commuting and the creation of wealth?

Luxembourg – Regional GDP per capita, 2006

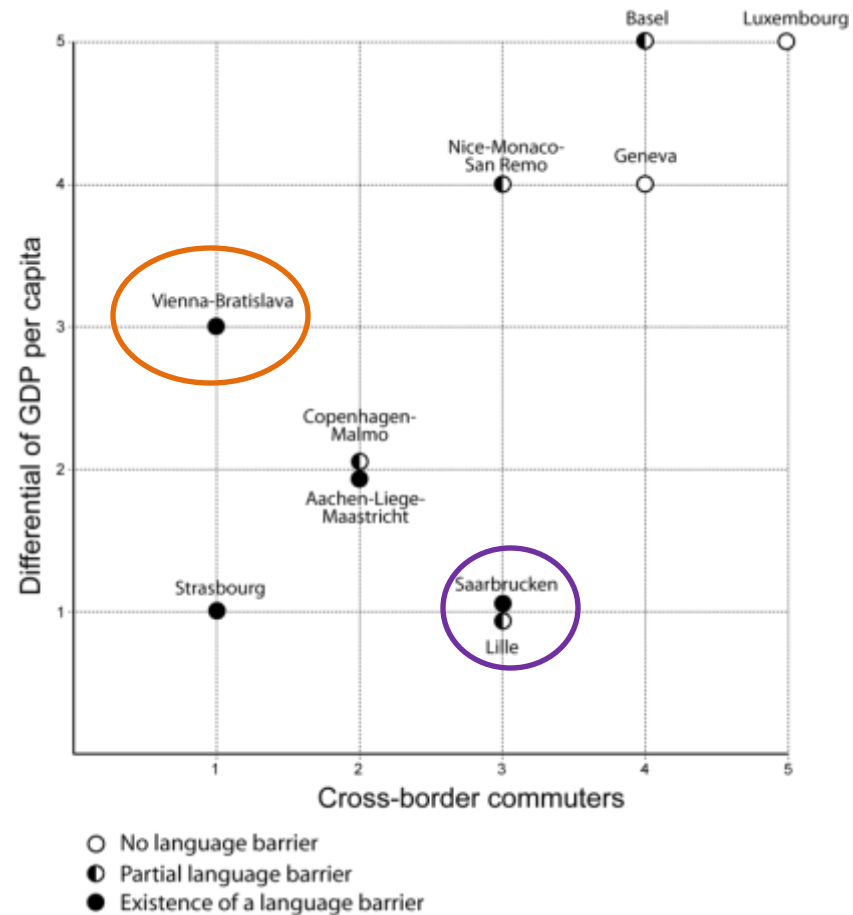


Economic disparities vs. cross-border commuting

What relationship between cross-border commuting and the creation of wealth?

Other factors to be taken into account:

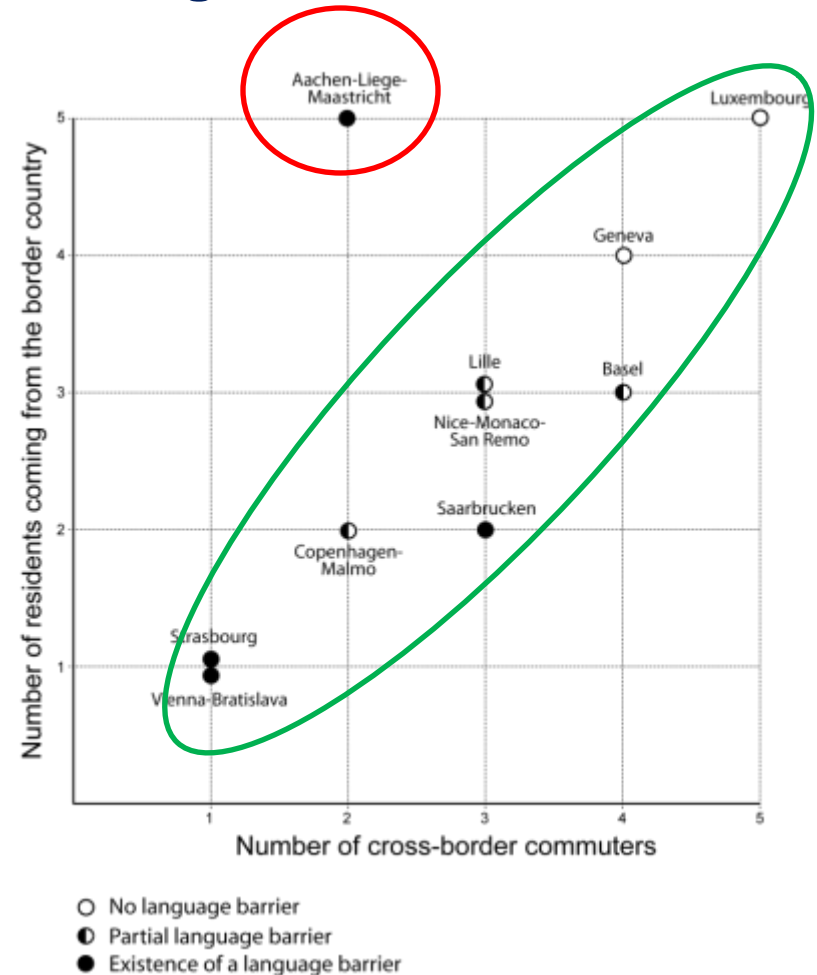
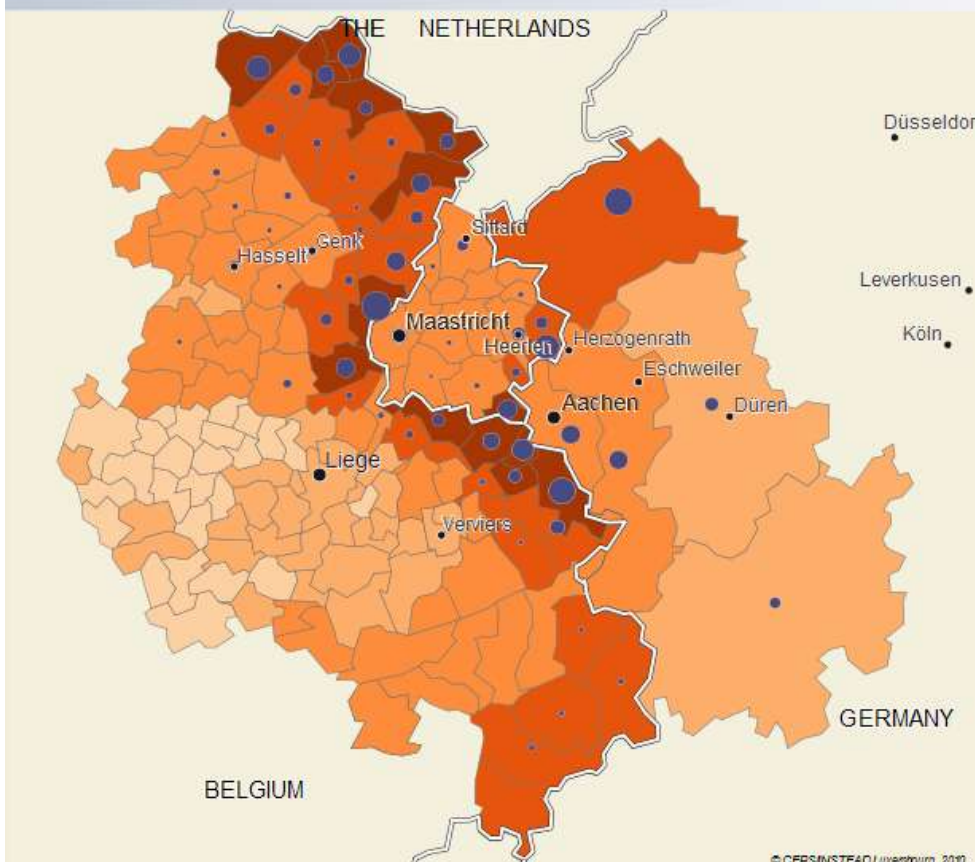
- Conditions on the labour market/jobs availability
- Regulatory restrictions (work permits)
- Linguistic differences



Cross-border commuting vs. residential integration

The higher the number of commuters, the greater the percentage of foreigners from neighbouring countries

Aachen Liege Maastricht – Distribution of foreigners from neighbouring countries, 2006



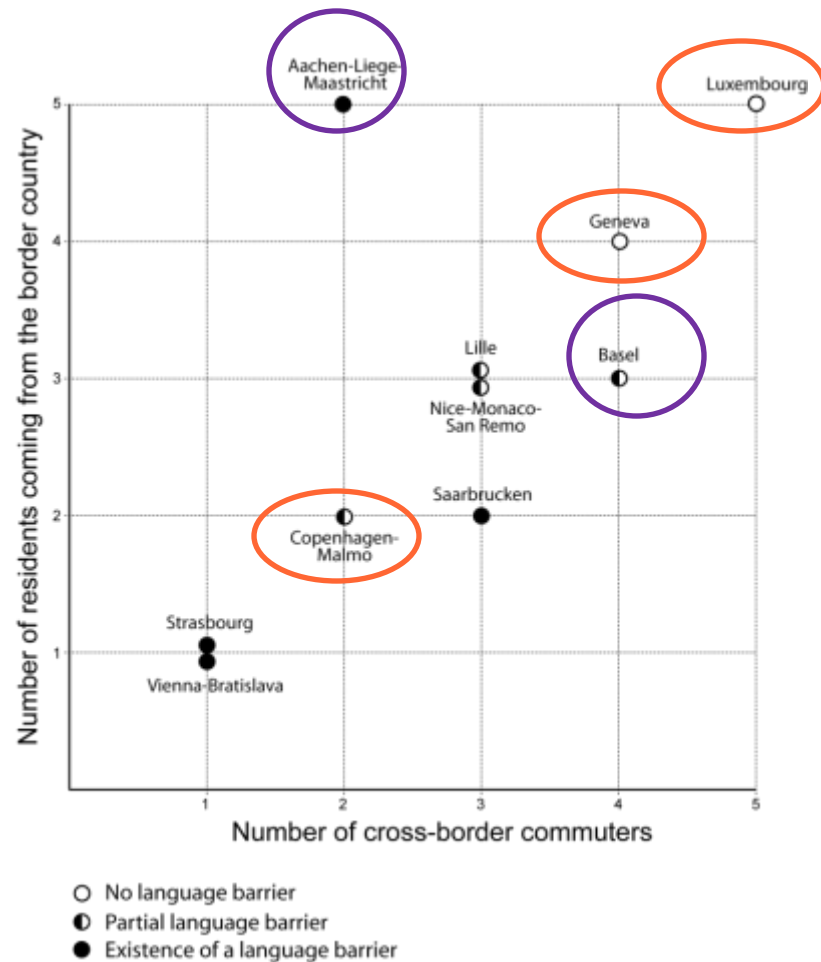
Source: Decoville, Durand, Sohn, Walther 2010

Cross-border commuting vs. residential integration

The higher the number of commuters, the greater the percentage of foreigners from neighboring countries

Other factors:

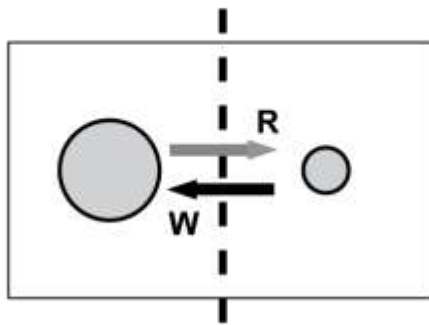
- Taxation of cross-border workers (double taxation)
- Price differentials in the property market
- Linguistic and cultural proximity



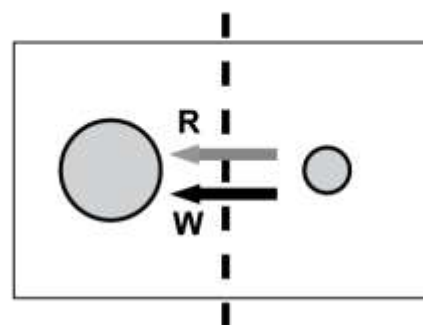
Typology of cross-border metropolitan integration

Three models of cross-border metropolitan integration

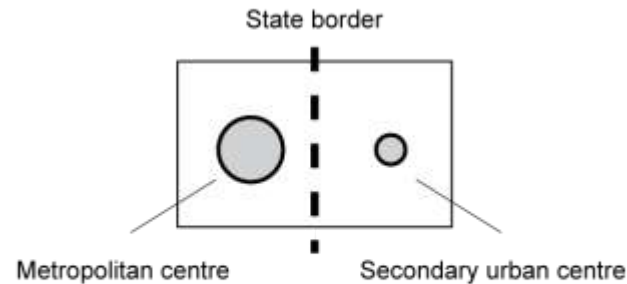
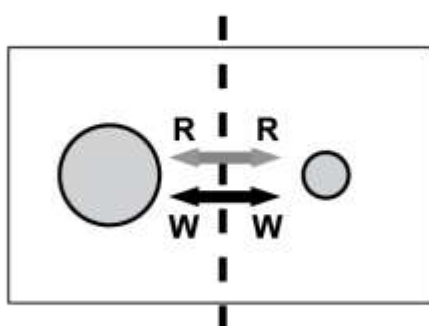
I. Integration by specialisation



II. Integration by polarisation



III. Integration by osmosis



R: cross-border residential mobility
W: cross-border workers

I: Copenhagen-Malmö, Geneva

II: Luxembourg, Basel

III: Lille, MAHHL

Conclusion

1. Cross-border commuting is a good indicator of social and economic interactions taking place in borderlands
2. But the intensity and direction of work flows (as well as residential moves) are heavily influenced by benefits granted by some differentials and by the barrier effects generated by the presence of national borders
3. Need for a critical assessment of the phenomenon that could challenge its positive meaning as an indicator of cross-border integration

On-line atlas on cross-border metropolitan regions in Europe available at: <http://metrolux.ceps.lu>



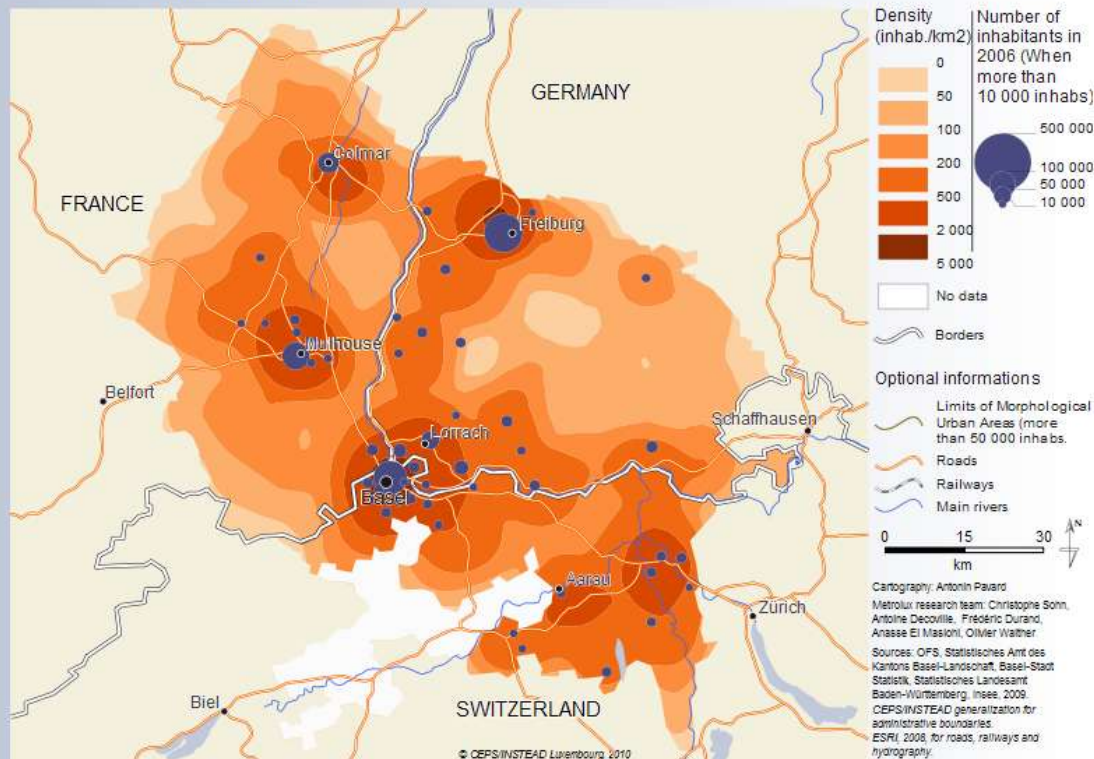
CROSS-BORDER METROPOLITAN REGIONS
ATLAS



EUROPE

CASE STUDY

Basel – Population distribution, 2006



Indicator

Population

First Value

Density

Date

2006

Second Value

Residents

Second Date

2006

Region

(Choose your Region)

CEPS
INSTEAD

Realised By Antonin Pavard
Copyright ©CEPS/INSTEAD