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Cross-border governance networks: the case of Basel

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CEPS INSTEAD

MetroNet (2010-2012)

- Objective: to analyse the process of building Cross-Border Metropolitan Regions (CBMR) in Europe
- We examine the effect of policy networks dedicated to strategic planning and territorial promotion and evaluate their capacity to promote cross-border governance regimes
- A relational approach to the study of the construction of CBMR
  - Does not limit the analysis to predefined territorial configurations or geographic scales & transcends static definitions of space

Research questions

- Who are the actors involved in the policy networks and what determines their relationships?
  - Policy network analysis (following Knoke et. al. 1996)
- Does geography matter to the interaction between policy actors?
  - Spatial variables (Amin & Thrift 1994)
  - Actor attributes and preferences (i.e. homophily)
- Can relational structure be attributed to differences in policy outcomes?
  - Exceptional actors (Christopoulos 2006 & forthcoming)
  - Power and resource differentials

Case studies

- Selected on the basis of the level of their cross-border integration
- Focus on Basel Metro Area

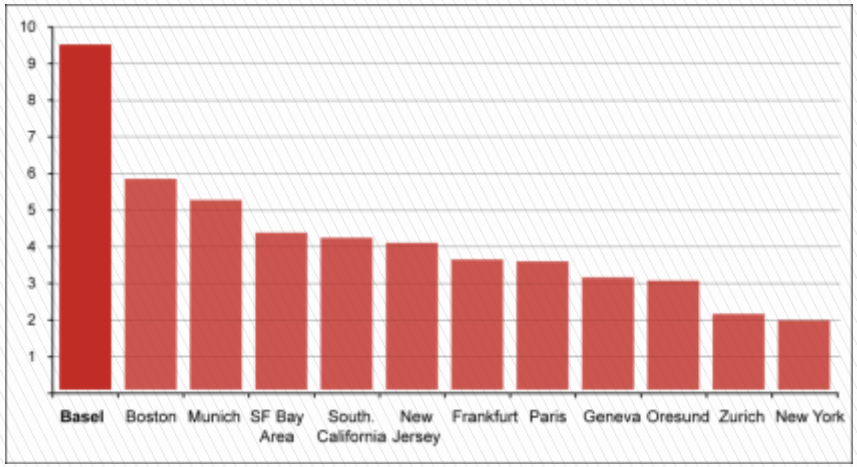
		Market-driven integration	
		Strong	*Low*
Policy-driven integration	*Strong*	Basel	Lille
	Low	Luxembourg	Vienna-Bratislava

Source: Metroborder, 2010

Basel: culture and life sciences

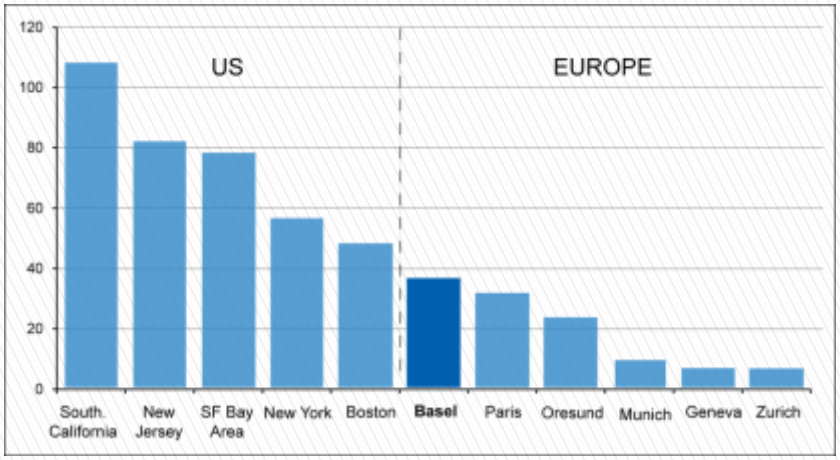
- Art Basel: the world's premier international art show for modern and contemporary works
- Highest share of R&D in GRP in the world
- Largest number of employees in life sciences in Europe

Share of expenses in R&D in GRP, in %, 2008



Source: BAK Basel 2008

Life-science employment, '000, 2008

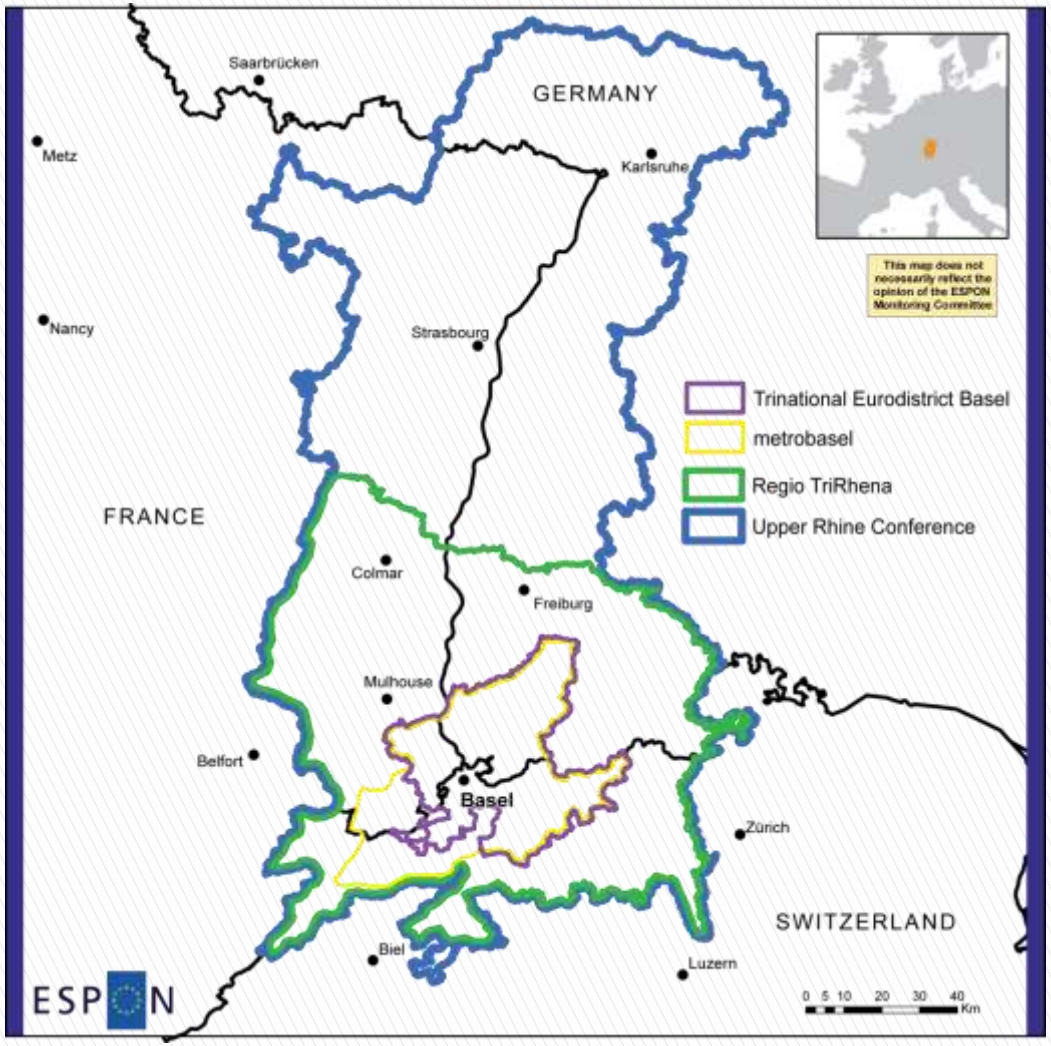


Source: BAK Basel 2008

Cross-border cooperation in Basel

- Long history of CB cooperation between Switzerland, France and Germany (1960s)

- Six CB institutions:
- Regio Basiliensis (1963)
- Upper Rhine Conference (1975)
- Regio Trirhena (1995)
- Rhineland Council (1997)
- metrobasel (2005)
- ETB (1997, 2007)



Source: Metroborder, 2010

2-mode analysis: a first explanatory step

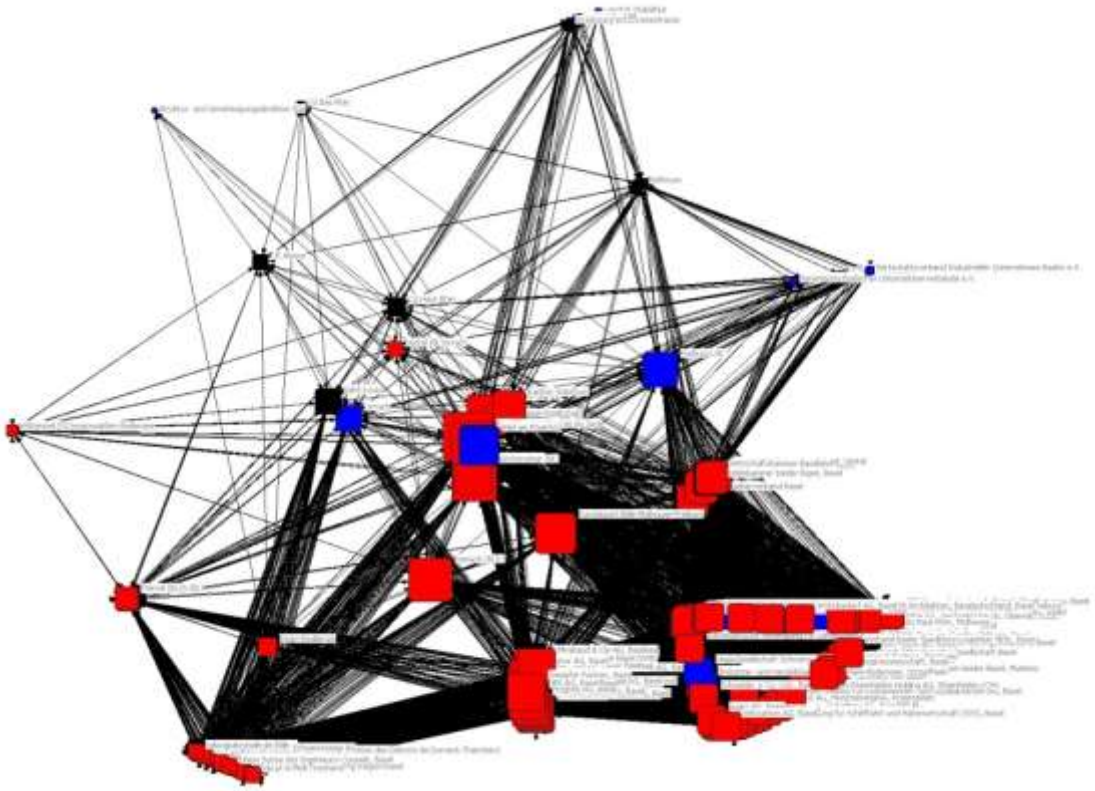
- Data has been collected on the membership of the institutions promoting cross-border cooperation
- 334 different members
- 10 types of actors, including:
  - Firms
  - Local, regional or state authorities
  - Chambers of commerce and professional associations
  - Education and research
  - CB structures
- 3 national categories:
  - Swiss (244),
  - German (51)
  - French (39)

Elementary network characteristics (1)

- Typical of 2-mode networks this is a very dense network with almost half of possible ties present (global density of 0.46)

Basel graph weighted by degree

Swiss (red), German (blue) and French (black) actors, MDS (334 actors)

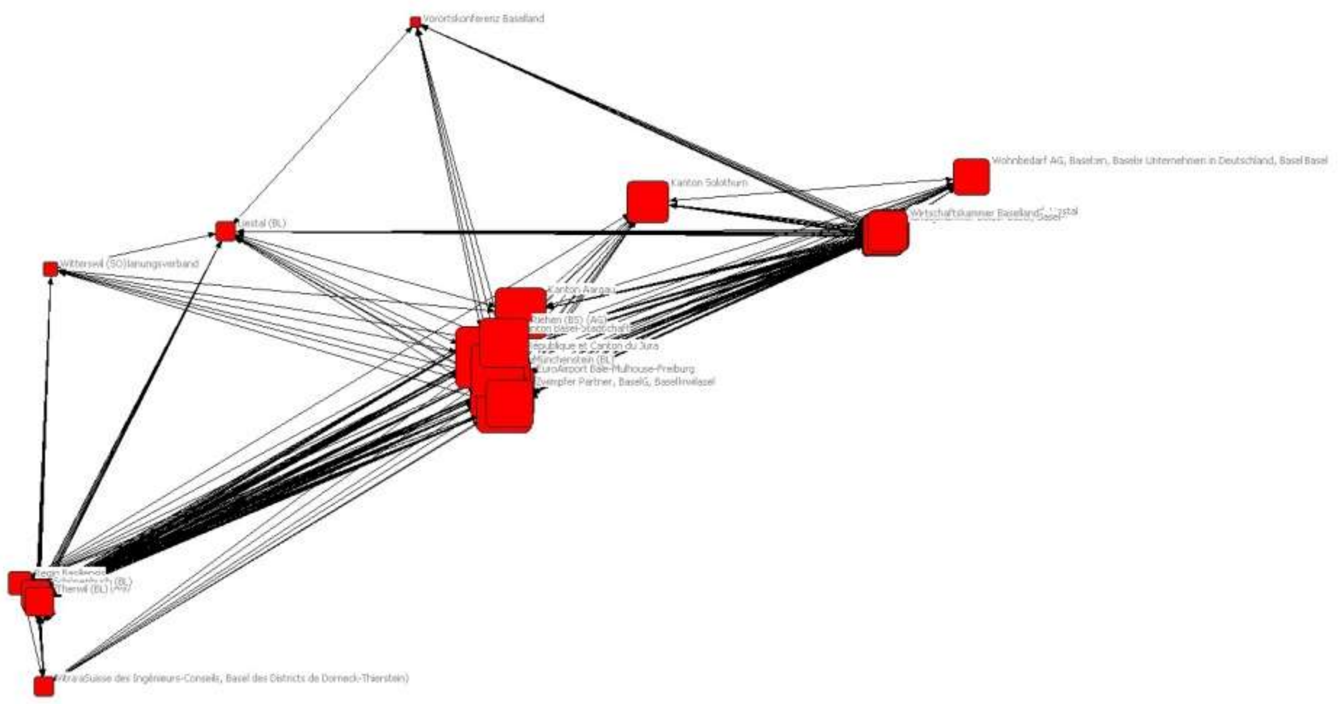


Elementary network characteristics (2)

- Centrality profiles of the different nationality cohorts vary considerably
  - The Swiss comprise four identifiable clusters
  - The most central among the French are peripheral within their own network but relatively central in the "global" network (i.e. network brokers)
  - There are two components to the German network

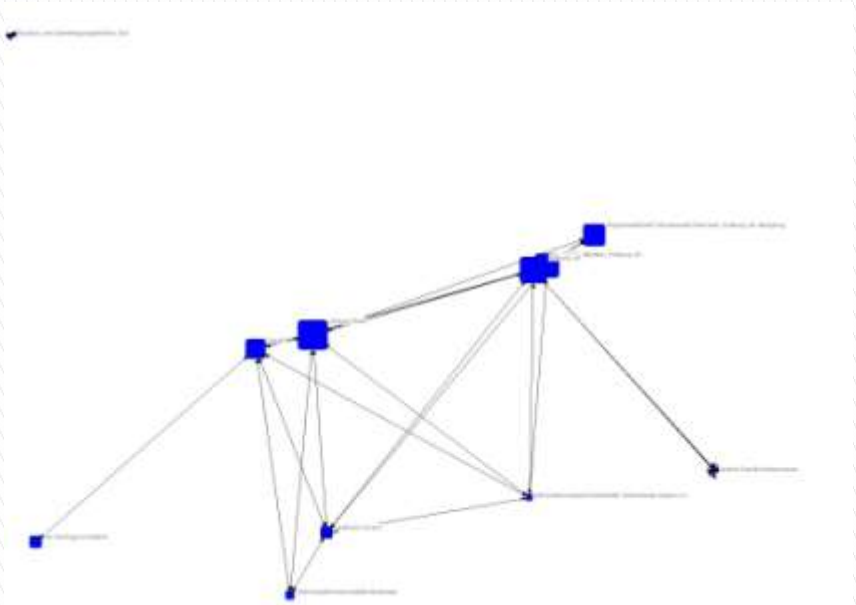
- There is evidence of negative homophily in regards to nationality of actors (rescaled E-I index -0.62, significant at $p<0.05$)

Basel graphs weighted by degree (1)

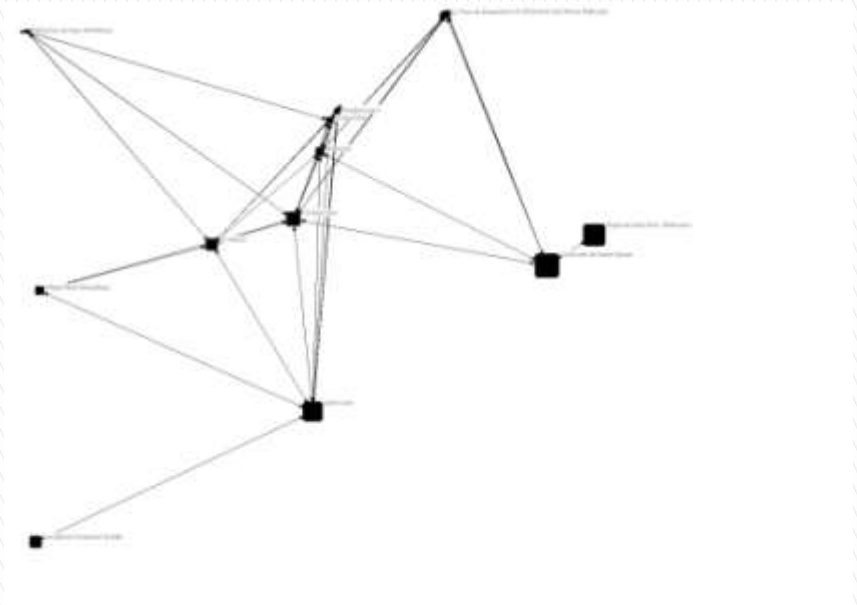


Swiss actors MDS (244 actors)

Basel graphs weighted by degree (2)

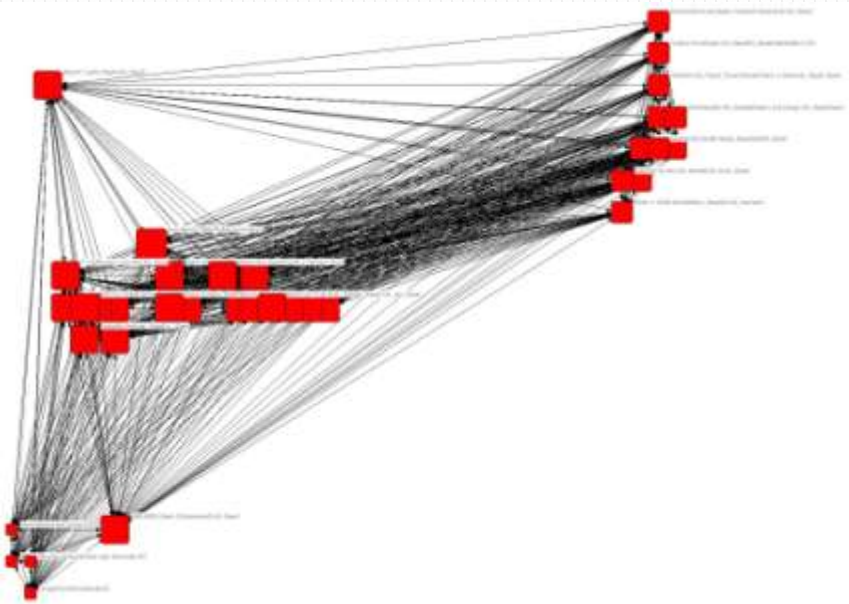


German MDS (51 actors)

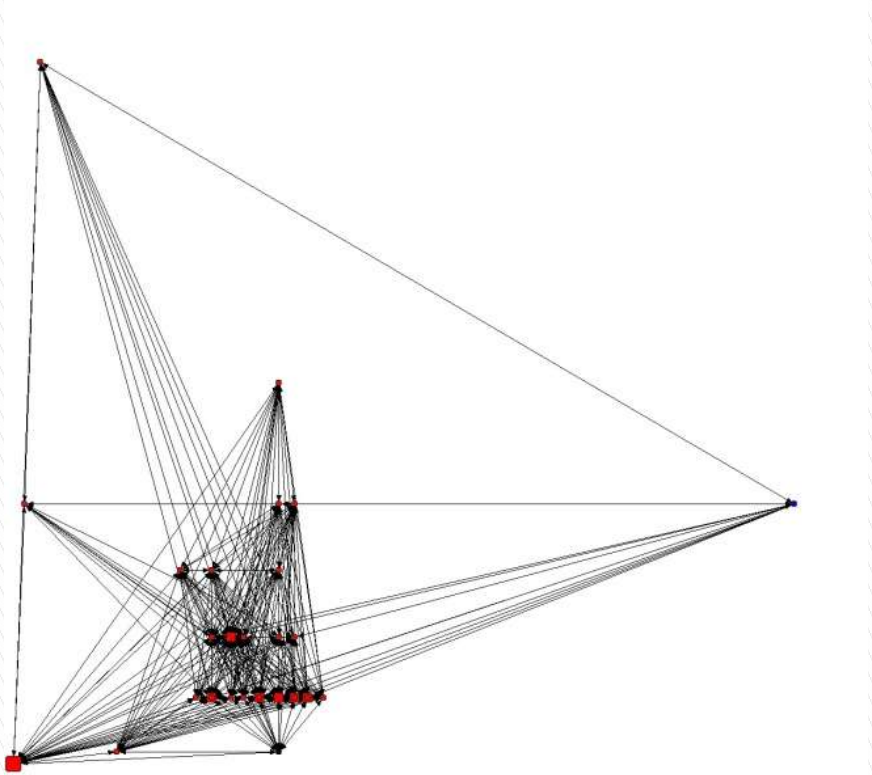


French MDS (39 actors)

Comparing MDS with geography for corporate actors (162 actors)

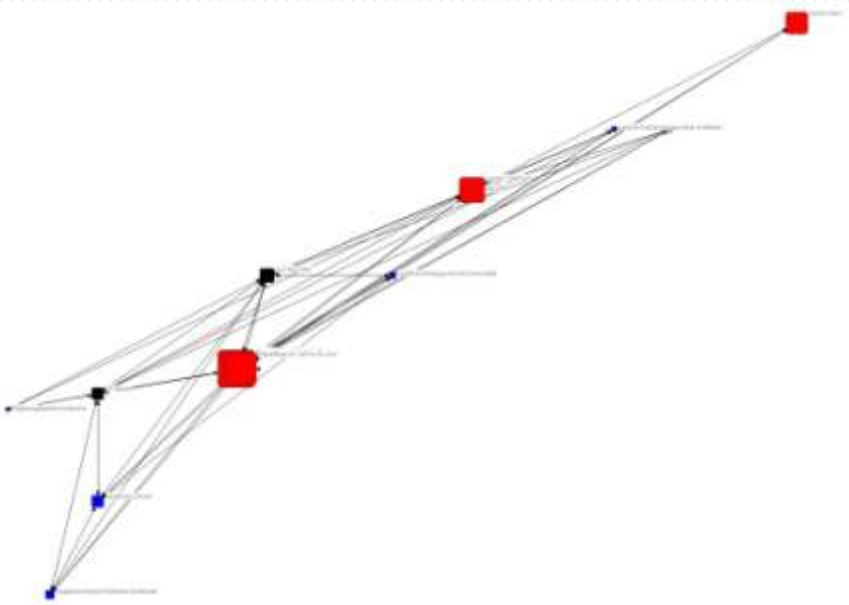


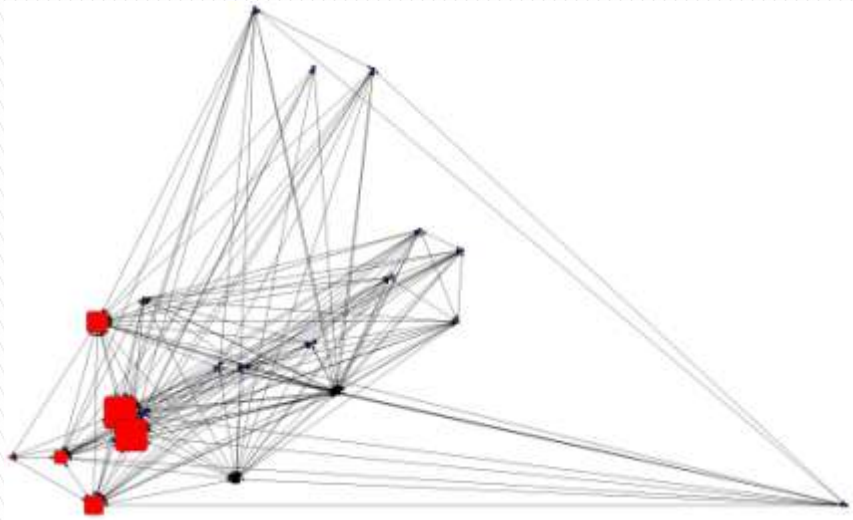
MDS firms weighted by degree



GEO firms weighted by degree

MDS with GEO regional authorities (23 actors)





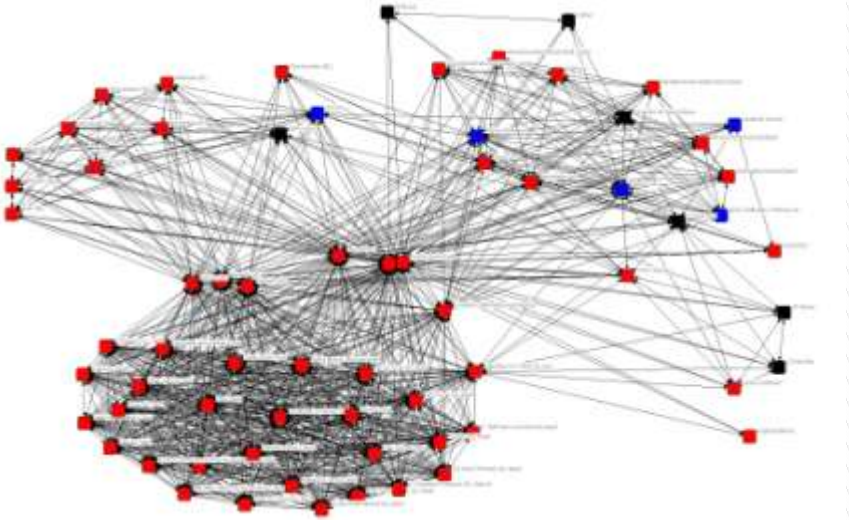
Regional authorities MDS

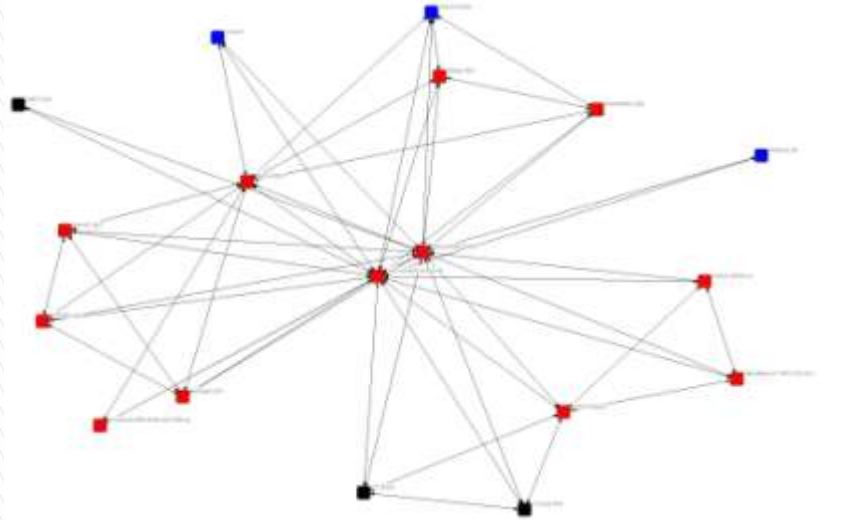
Regional authorities GEO

Clustering & brokerage

- Within all national break downs anticipated homophily effects are present: universities and research institutes, local authorities, and firms tend to be linked to one-another
- High value brokers tend to be: cantons (CH), local authorities & territorial promotion actors (DE), local and regional authorities (FR)
- Actors in-between others are predominantly political agents with an interest in territorial promotion

Raising the 2-mode 'threshold'

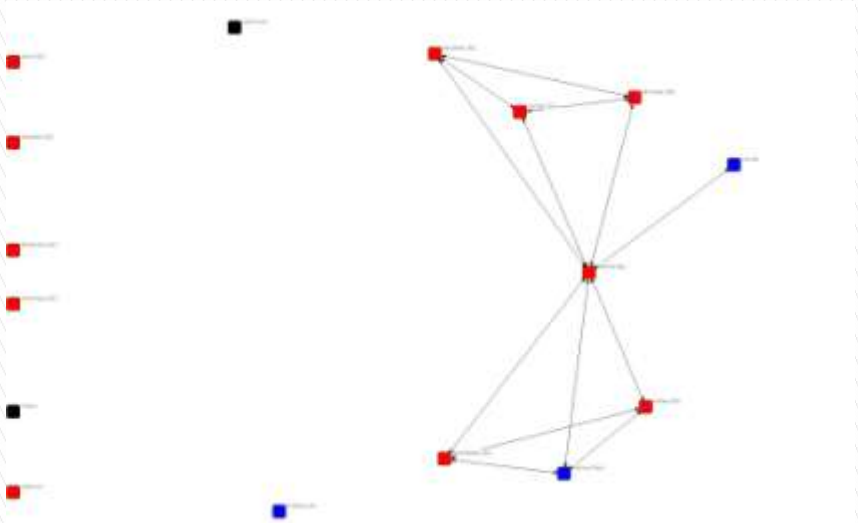


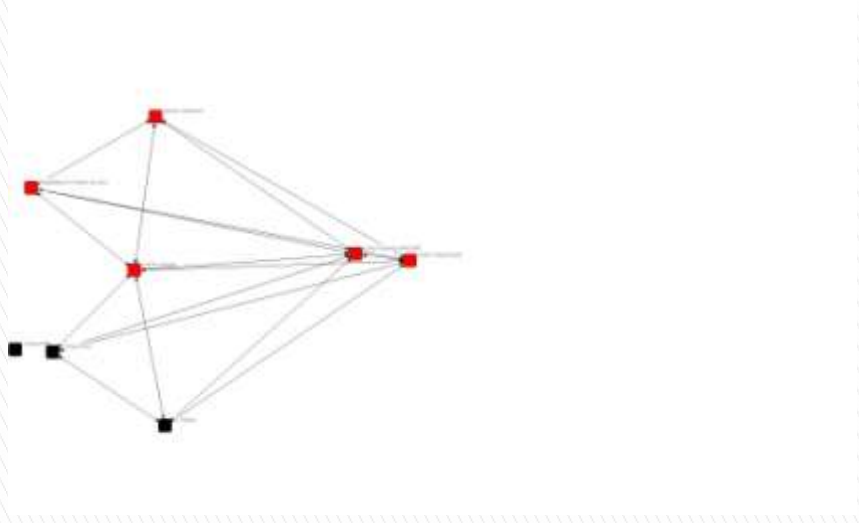


Co-membership of more than 2 events (68 actors)

Co-membership of more than 3 events (18 actors)

Connected at more than 3 events





Local authorities

Regional authorities

Challenges of 2-mode analysis

- 2-mode data are an indication of potential affiliation or exercise of influence but not a guarantee of the existence of such a relationship
- Some actors appear to be connected to everybody else, as they belong to all six associations under study. It is an unrealistic depiction of underlying networks
- Prominent actors, either in terms of centrality or in terms of brokerage, appear to be political agents
- We would need to validate the existence of influence and resource flows between these actors

Employing 2-mode analysis in refining an operationalisation strategy

- Presumed ties through affiliation are a blueprint that will allow us to explore actual relations of influence, resource and information exchange
  - informants will validate their direction or relevance
- We can already detect globally strong brokers, that can be our initial targets as gatekeepers
- We have already identified clusters, which give us a good starting point for selecting gatekeepers of all clusters and components for snowballing
- We have an overview of the policy space that is not biased by researcher assumptions

2-mode analysis and expert survey

- Low level of intersection between the two sets
- Intersection is best for degree centrality (44%) and betweeness centrality (35%)
- 2-mode analysis underestimate Regional authorities and overestimate Swiss actors
- Expert survey underestimate Firms, Local authorities and overestimate French and German actors

	Number of actors identified by Expert survey	Number of actors identified by 2-mode analysis
Firms	4	8
Local authorities	7	14
Regional authorities	11	8
Swiss actors	15	25
French actors	10	4
German actors	9	5

Based on Degree centrality. N=34 actors

Related publications

- Christopoulos DC. 2006. Relational attributes of political entrepreneurs: A network perspective. *Journal of European Public Policy* 13(5): 757–778.
- Sohn C (ed.) 2010. *Luxembourg. An emerging cross-border metropolitan region*, Brussels: Peter Lang (forthcoming).
- Sohn C, Reitel B, Walther O. 2009. Cross-border metropolitan integration in Europe: the case of Luxembourg, Basel and Geneva. *Environment and Planning C* 27: 922-939.

- For more information: http://metrolux.ceps.lu