

**RegPol<sup>2</sup> National Workshop in the Czech Republic**

Current Issues for the Future of the Regions

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University of Economics, Prague, the Czech Republic

# EU multilevel cross-border governance: What is the experience of the Czech-Saxon borderland

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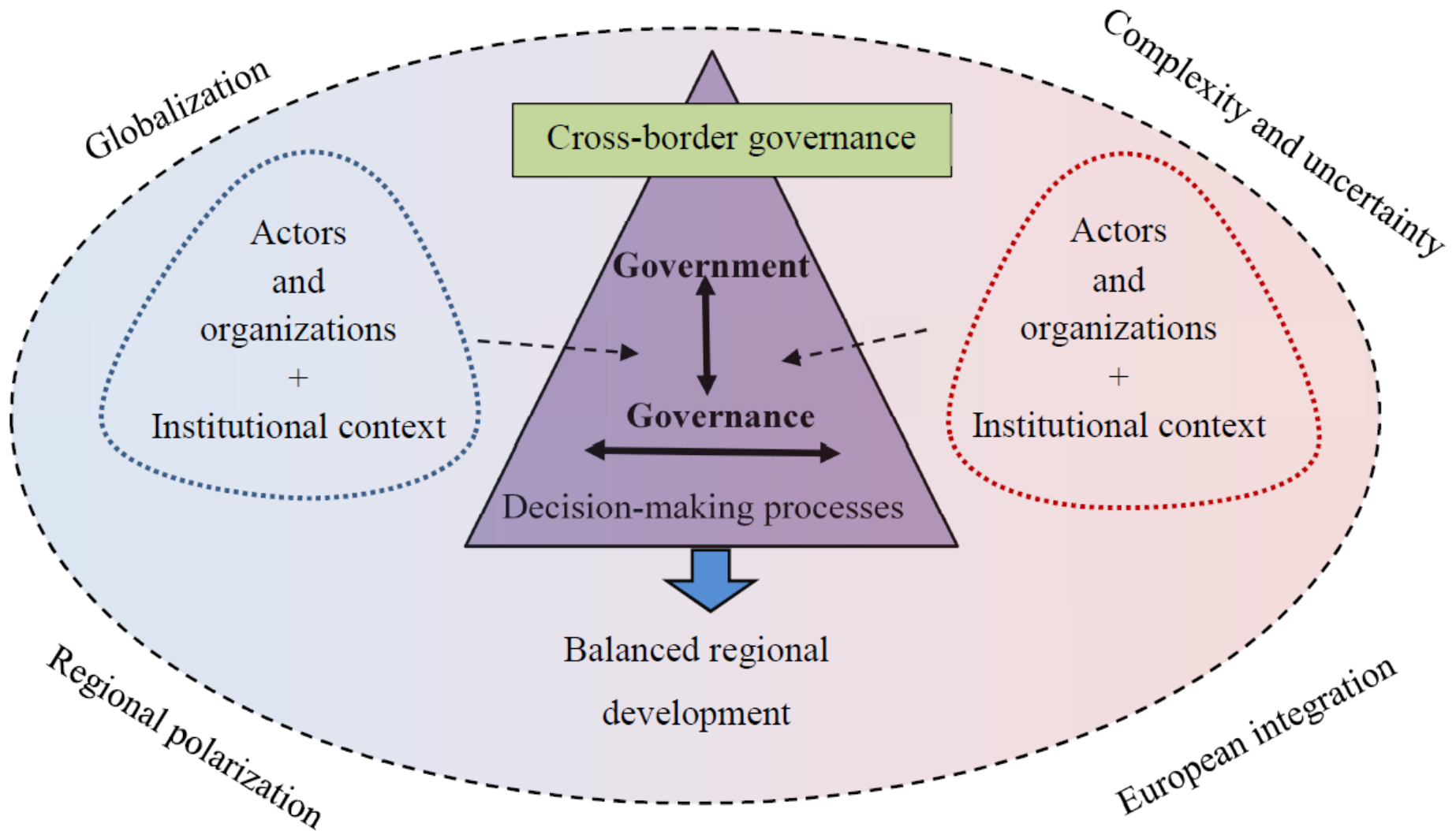
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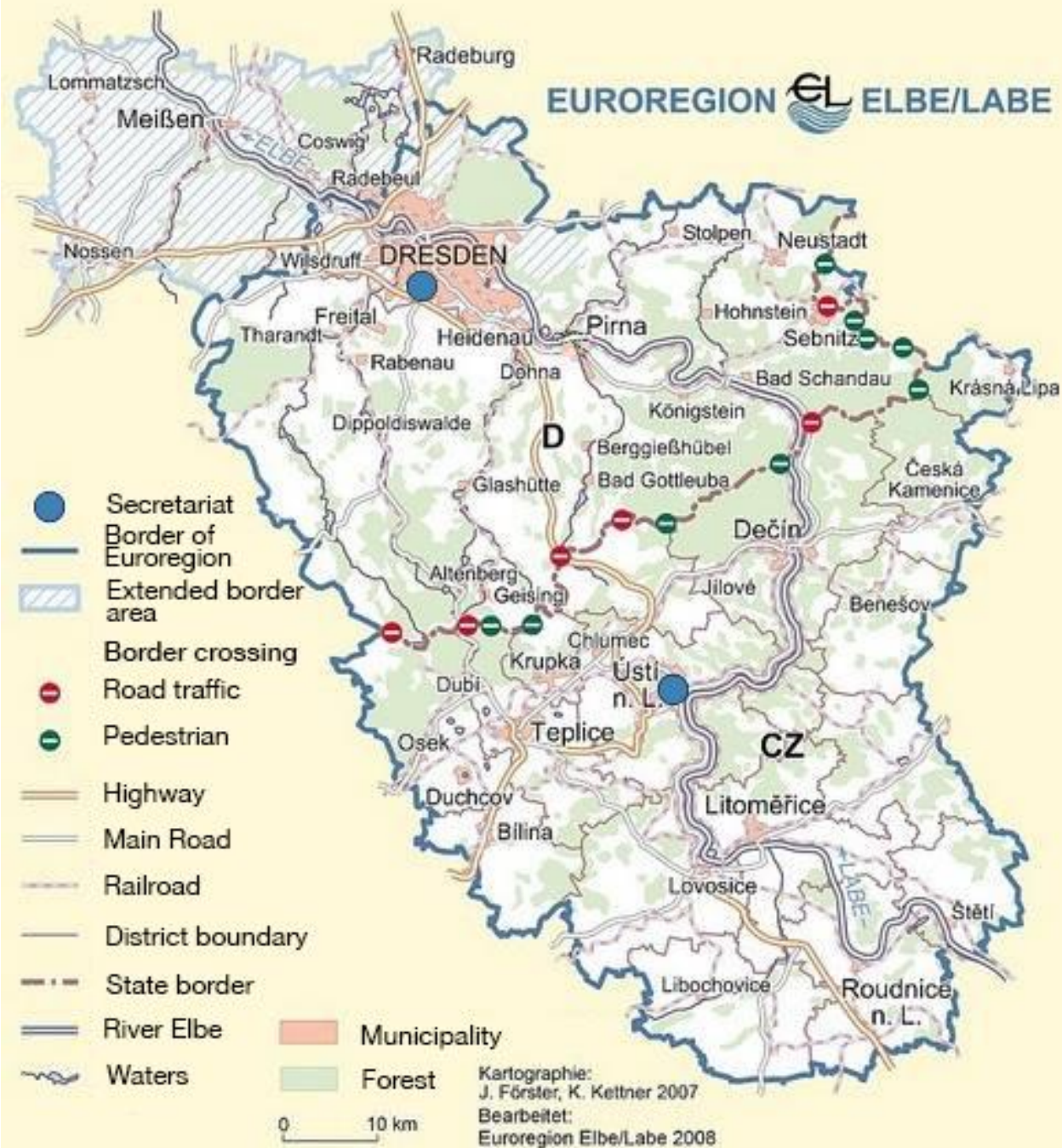
# Cross-Border Multilevel Governance



*Source: Own design*

# Research Objectives and Questions

- Political and theoretical discourses x practices in particular regions in Central and Eastern Europe
- Understanding of processes in the EU multilevel governance in relation to everyday practices = evaluation of multilevel cross-border governance
- Analytical framework: Actors, institutions, processes, nodal points
- 20 interviews with stakeholders in Usti nad Labem-Dresden region + document analysis
- RQ: Are actors from peripheral regions rather subjects or rather object of the EU Cohesion policy?
  - Which institutional challenges are they facing?
  - To what extent are decisions about regional development in the cross-border region top-down or bottom-up driven?
  - How the whole process of decision making involves non-governmental actors from the case study region?



Source: GeoBasis-DE / BKG, 2007 ([www.bkg.bund.de](http://www.bkg.bund.de)) with own corrections

# Main Challenges in Cross-border Cooperation

- **Multilevel mismatch**
- **Language**
- **Legislation**
- **No common strategy**
- **Sustainability**
- History
- Political will
- Different interests
- No political agenda
- Insufficient sources
- Different administrative cultures
- Size of territory
- Number of actors

# Multilevel Mismatch

<b>Federal Republic of Germany</b> <b>(82.175 mil., 357 340 km<sup>2</sup>)*</b>	<b>Czech Republic</b> <b>(10.554 mil.; 78 867 km<sup>2</sup>)*</b>
<b>Free State of Saxony</b> <b>(4.085 mil.; 18 420 km<sup>2</sup>)*</b>	<b>14 regions (kraj)</b> <b>(in average 0.754 mil.; 5 633 km<sup>2</sup>)</b>
<b>10 rural districts (Landkreis) and 3 urban districts (Kreisfreie Stadt)</b> <b>(in average 0.314 mil.; 1 416 km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>205 municipalities with transferred powers</b>
<b>432 municipalities</b> <b>(on average 9 456 inhabitants)</b>	<b>6253 municipalities, including national capital Prague</b> <b>(on average 1 688 inhabitants)</b>

Source: Own design Federal Statistical Office, 2016; Czech Statistical Office, 2016;

\* average population in millions and average size of territory in square kilometres, data for December 31, 2015

# Multilevel Mismatch

*(R02): „If you take for example city as a partner, firstly there is completely different territorial impact and political impact and secondly it solves completely different agenda than regions....there is diametrical difference in the competencies of particular institutions.“*

*(R06): „The Usti region has not any natural partner. There are different competencies at the municipal level, in Saxony they are merged.“*

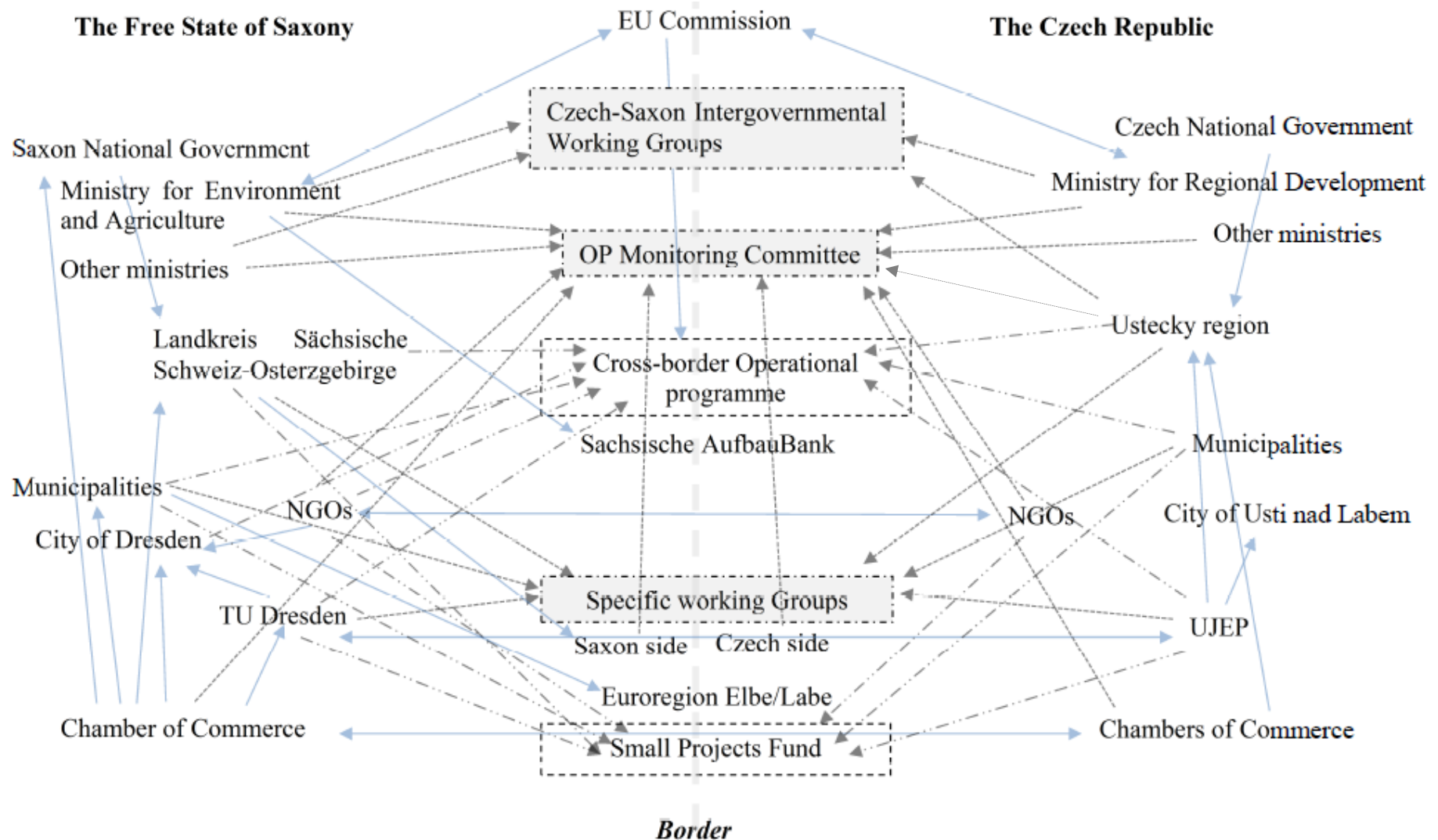
*(R32): „You do not really know to whom to speak because it might be different governance systems, different competencies and might not to be equal partners.“*

*(R01): „Saxony feels like a state at the level of the Czech Republic, the region has city for the partner who does not have regional influence.“*

*(R20): „There is huge difference between ours and theirs competencies. We are collapsing and they are thinking that if they are federal state that it is the same...but it is not the same.“*



# Main Actors Involved in Cross-Border Cooperation





# Conclusions

- Wider tendencies to invite non-state actors from the private and non-profit sectors into the decision-making process
- Exclusion of relevant regional as well as social and economic partners from decision taking
- Significant differences from normative conceptualization of EU multilevel governance in theoretical and political discourses
- Multilevel mismatch and different institutional context
  - Limitations of multilevel hierarchical structures =>
  - Solution? From territorial to cross-border functional polycentric governance

# Acknowledgement

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# Thank you for your attention

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