



Conceptualization of the Multi-level Governance Structures and Policies. The Example of Polish Regions

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THE PLAN OF THE PRESENTATION

1. The roots, evolution, and challenges ahead of the MLG concept

2. Regional & Metropolitan Governance in Poland

3. The processes of formation and implementation of the EU Integrated Territorial Investment mechanism in Poland vs. the MLG framework

A PRACTICAL RELEVANCE OF THE MLG CONCEPT

1. A framework for the open-minded and inclusive activities and regulations provided by public authorities.

2. A set of guidelines for promoting different actors' involvement in the public policies.

THE ROOTS OF THE MLG CONCEPT

„ (...) In short, the European Community seems to be a part of a new political (dis)order that is multi-layered, constitutionally open-ended, and programmatically diverse.”

Marks, 1992: 221

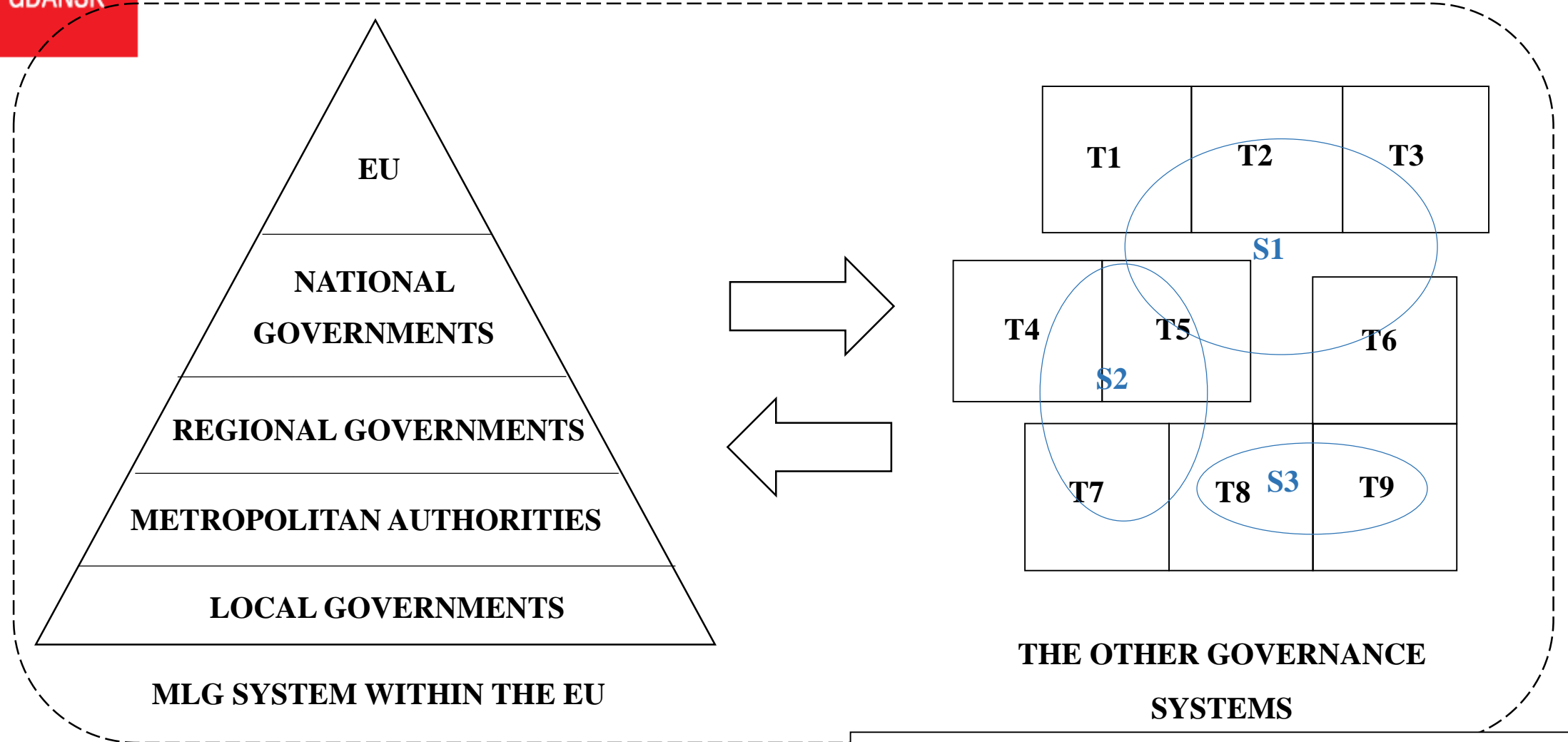
dependencies between states within the EU and MLG policies (Marks et al., 1996)

the powers and representation of regions within the EU (Hooghe & Marks, 1996)

social movement activities towards EU institutions (Marks & McAdam, 1999)

actor-centred perspective on decision-making (Marks, 1996)

THE EVOLUSION OF THE MLG CONCEPT



Source: own work on the basis of Marks & Hooghe, 2001 and Faludi, 2012.

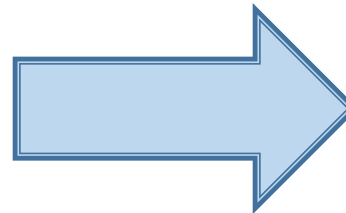
LEGEND: T – territory, S – governance system

THE NEED FOR „STRETCHING” AND PRECISING THE MEANING OF THE MLG THEORY

CONCEPTUAL STRETCHING

MLG as an under-theorised concept:

- **with several axes of ambiguity;**
- **with no clear orientation (a one-sided or omnirelevant notion, including processes & situations, strategies & structures at the same time).**



CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

MLG as:

- **a level of multi-level policies;**
- **a theory of the state transformation or as a theory of (EU) public policy;**
- **a tool for research into the functional aspects of ‘doing policy’;**
- **an element of metagovernance.**

THE WAY OF UNDERSTANDING OF MLG

	MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE	INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
ACTORS	At least one governmental actor and one or more NGO actors	Involves governmental actors as the primary decision-makers
SCALES	At least one actor is embedded at a different political/territorial scale from the other actor(s)	Actors can be from the same level or from multiple levels
NATURE OF DECISION-MAKING AND/OR IMPLEMENTATION	More inclusive process : governmental and non-governmental actors are co-producers of collective goods	More exclusive process: the state (governmental actors only) produces collective goods

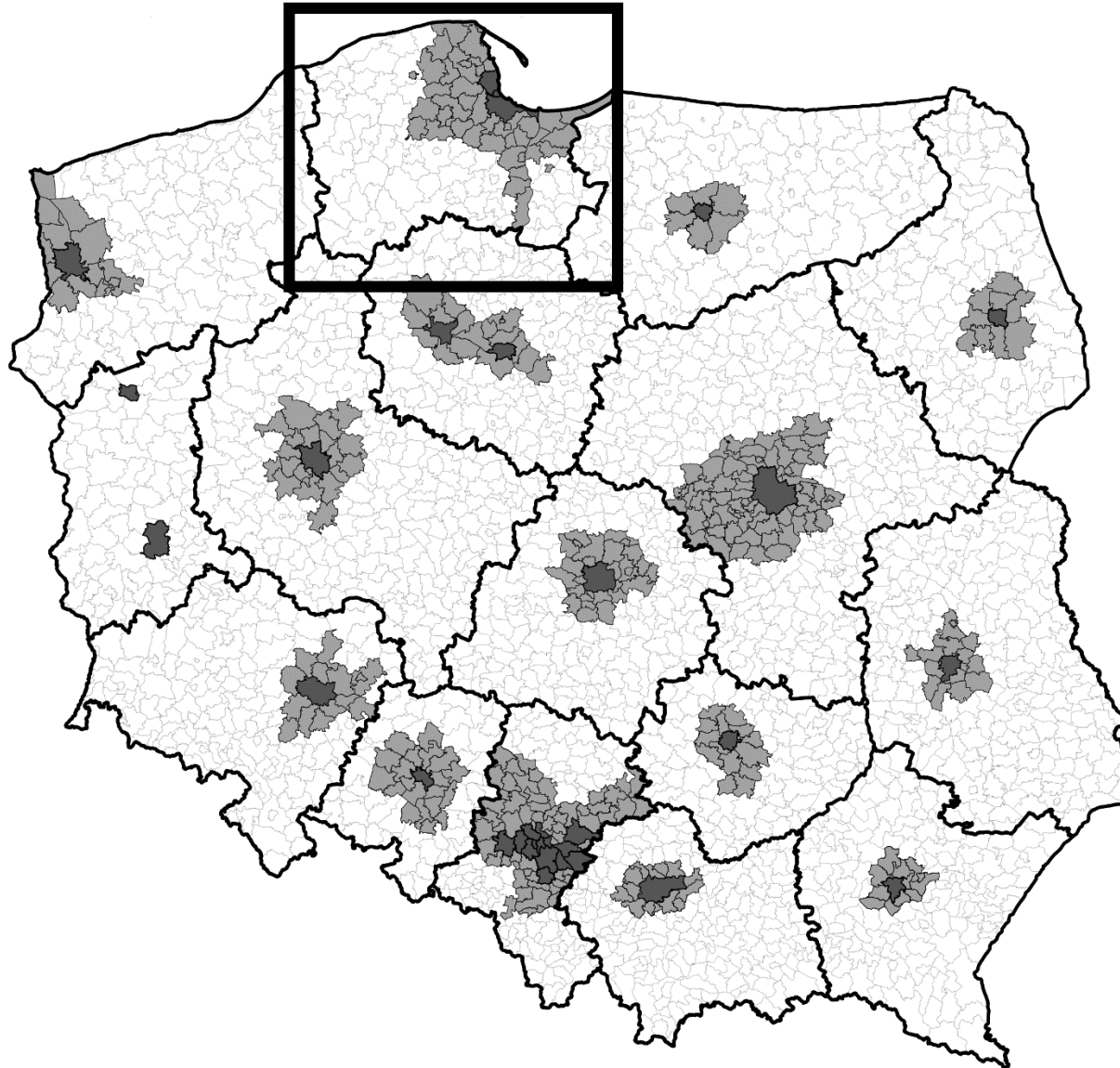
A NORMATIVE DIMENSION OF MLG

„We stand for a multilevel-governance Europe ‘based on coordinated action by the European Union, the Member States and regional and local **authorities** (...).”

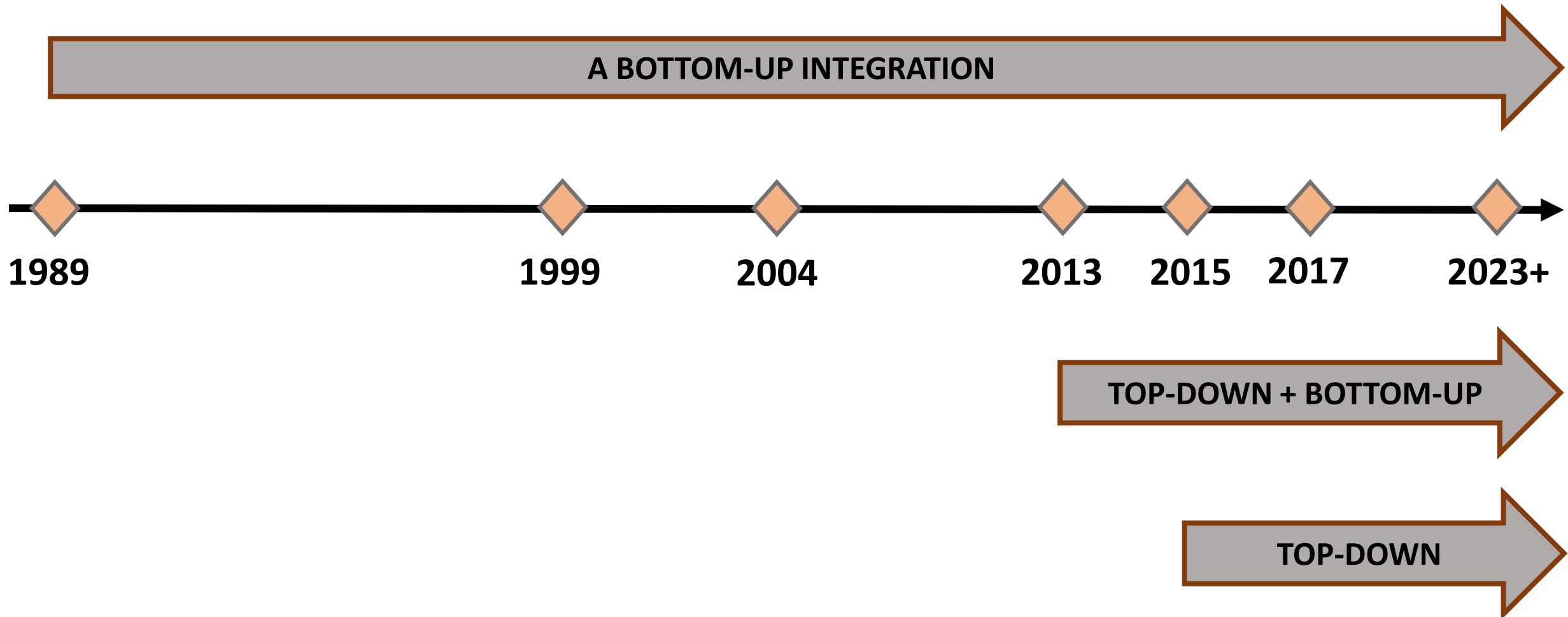
„The objective of this Charter (...) is to connect regions and cities across Europe, whilst **promoting** MULTI-ACTORSHIP with societal actors such as the social partners, universities, NGOs and representative civil society groupings. (...)”

„MLG **helps** us to (...) **SHARE** BEST PRACTICES and further **develop** PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY, bringing the European Union closer to the citizens. (...)”

TERRITORIAL DIVISION / DELIMITATION OF REGIONS & METROPOLITAN AREAS IN POLAND



THE PROCESS OF FORMATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE IN POLAND – THE FOCAL POINTS



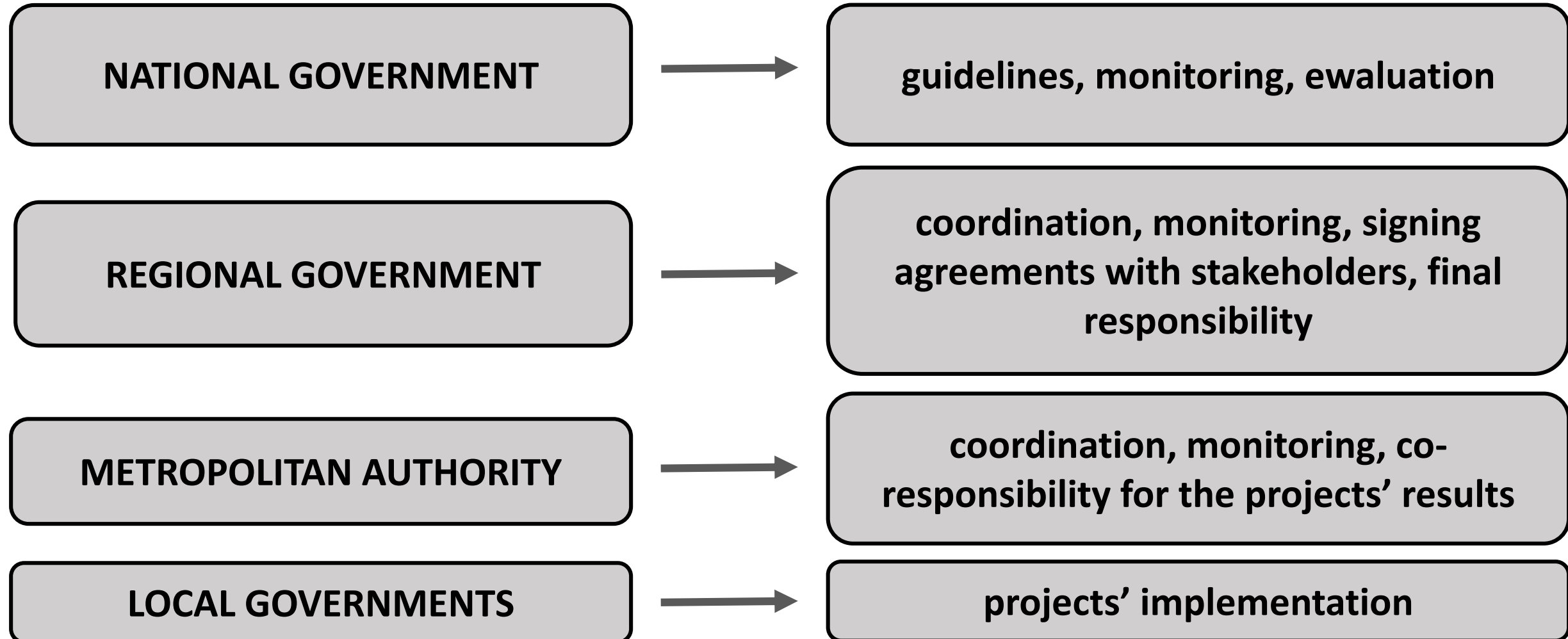
ITI GUIDELINES AND ITS OPERATIONALISATION

ITI EU ASSUMPTIONS – public institutions in the centre, but also cross-sectoral approach

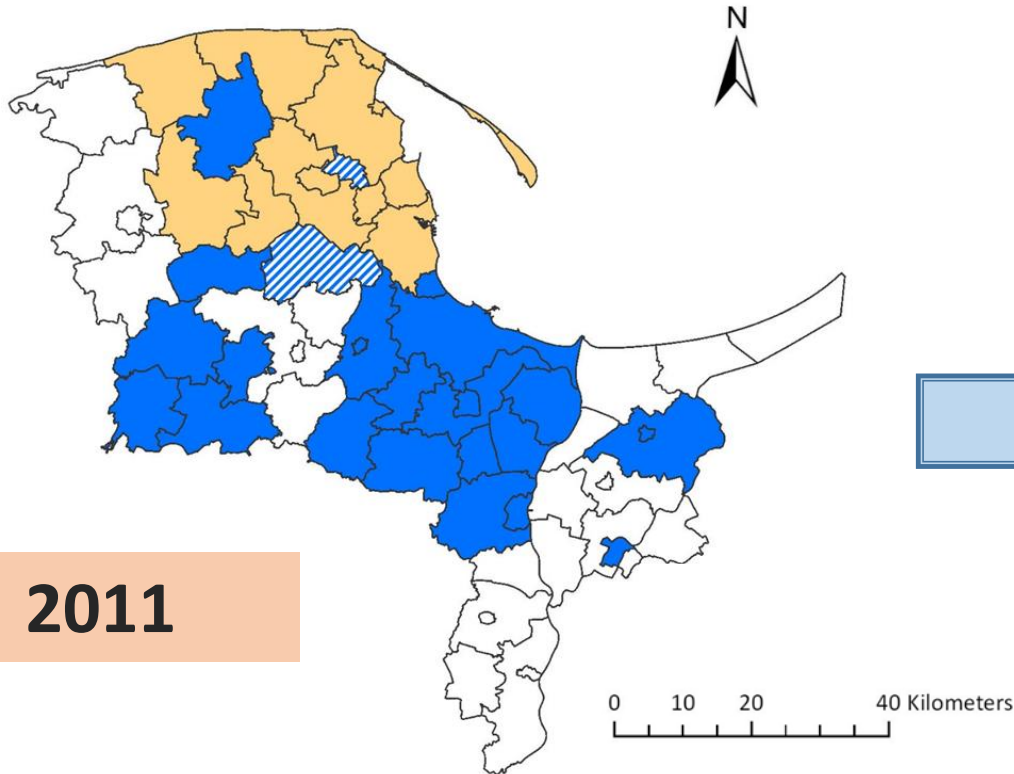
NATIONAL LEVEL – technical approach, no need for cross-sectoral participation as a guideline

ITI STRATEGY – no need for cross sectoral-cooperation or civic participation within the process of governance

MLG STRUCTURE WITHIN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ITI MECHANISM



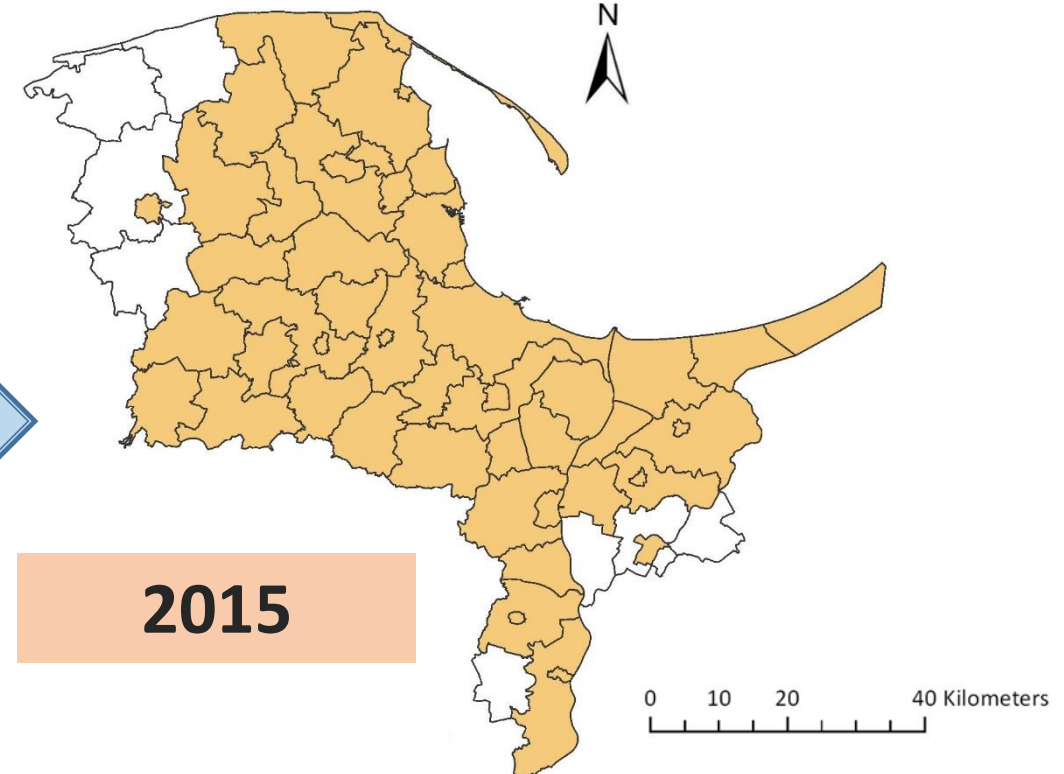
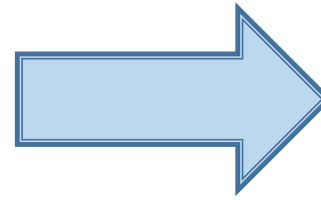
OVERESTIMATING THE TERRITORIAL DIMENSION OF INTEGRATION?



2011

Legend

- Founders of the Gdańsk Metropolitan Area Association
- Founders of the NORDA Partnership Agreement
- Founders of GOM&NORDA
- The other LGs



2015

Legend

- Members of the Gdańsk-Gdynia-Sopot Metropolitan Area Association
- The other LGs











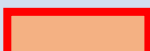
THE WAY OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE ITI VS. MLG FRAMEWORK

1. The Integrated Territorial Investment (Regional Operational Programmes) formation process & governance














2. The process of the ITI (ROP) projects' implementation

Do we really govern or just implement projects?

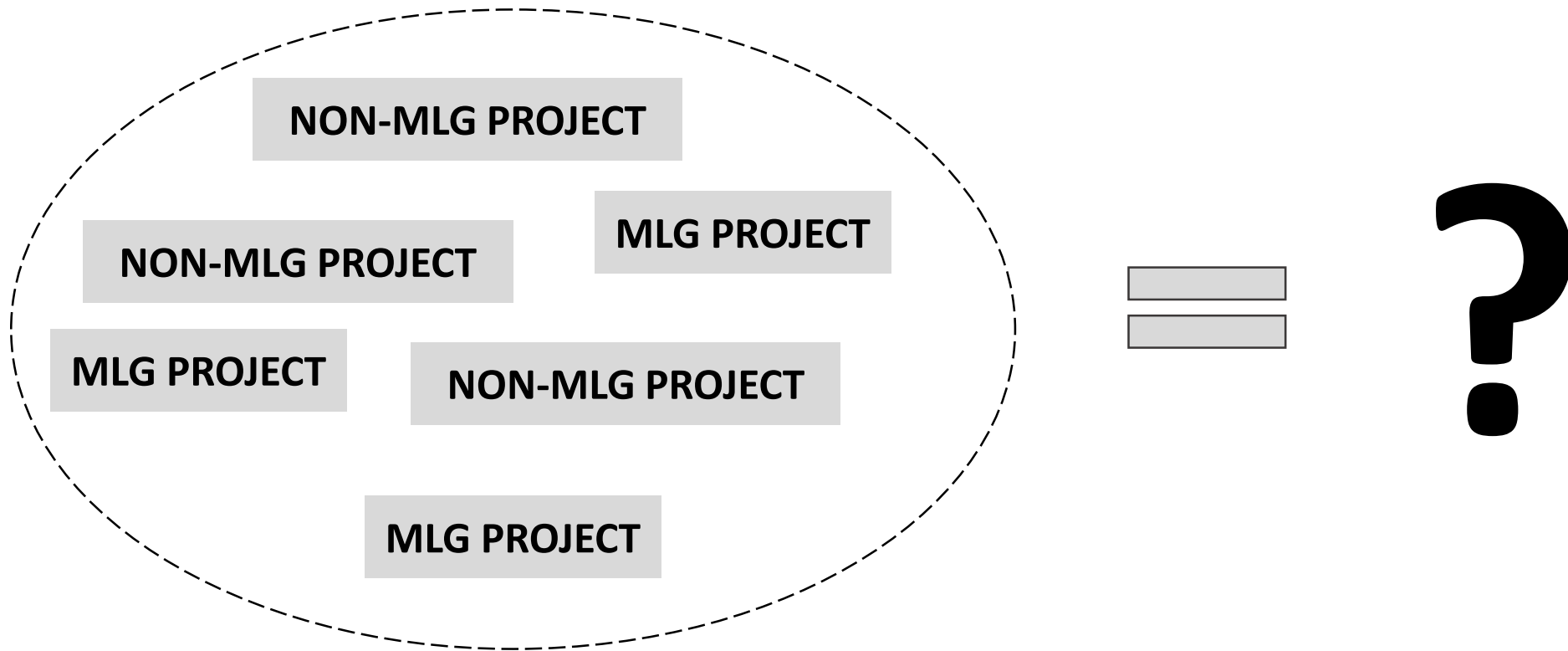
ITI GOVERNANCE / IMPLEMENTATION VS. MLG „EXTENDED” GUIDELINES

	MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE	ITI FORMATION	ITI GOVERNANCE	ITI PROJECTS' GOVERNANCE
ACTORS	At least one governmental actor and one or more NGO actors			 / 
SCALES	At least one actor is embedded at a different political/territorial scale from the other actor(s)			
NATURE OF DECISION-MAKING/IMPLEMENTATION	More inclusive process : governmental and NGO actors as co-producers of collective goods			 / 

REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES GOVERNANCE / IMPLEMENTATION VS. MLG „EXTENDED” GUIDELINES

	MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE	ROP FORMATION	ROP GOVERNANCE	ROP PROJECTS' GOVERNANCE
ACTORS	At least one governmental actor and one or more NGO actors	 / 		 / 
SCALES	At least one actor is embedded at a different political/territorial scale from the other actor(s)			
NATURE OF DECISION- MAKING/ IMPLEMEN- TATION	More inclusive process : governmental and NGO actors as co-producers of collective goods	 / 		 / 

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD



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Thank you for your attention!

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