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Inspire policy making by territorial evidence

PROFECY – Processes, Features and Cycles of Inner Peripheries in Europe

(Inner Peripheries: National territories facing challenges of access to basic services of general interest)

Applied Research

Final Report

Annex 9 Methodological Case Study Approach

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Authors
Paulina Tobiasz-Lis, Karolina Dmochowska-Dudek, Marcin Wójcik, University of Lodz (Poland)
Francesco Mantino, Barbara Forcina, Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (Italy)
Sabine Weck, Sabine Beißwenger, Nils Hans, ILS Dortmund (Germany)

Advisory Group
Project Support Team: Barbara Acreman and Zaira Piazza (Italy), Eedi Sepp (Estonia), Zsolt Szokolai, European Commission.
ESPON EGTC: Marjan van Herwijnen (Project Expert), Laurent Frideres (HoU E&O), Ilona Raugze (Director), Piera Petruzzi (Outreach), Johannes Kiersch (Financial Expert).

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Contact: info@espon.eu

PROFECY – Processes, Features and Cycles of Inner Peripheries in Europe

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Abbreviations

CREA	Council for Agricultural Research and Economics
CSP	Case Study Protocol
D1	Delineation 1 Access to regional centres by car
D2	Delineation 2 Economic Potential Interstitial Areas
D3	Delineation 3 Areas of Poor Access to SGIs
D4	Delineation 4 Inner peripheries according to their demographic situation
EC	European Comission
ESPON	European Territorial Observatory Network
ESPON EGTC	ESPON European Grouping on Territorial Cooperation
EU	European Union
ILS	Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development
IPs	Inner Periphery(ies)
LAU	Local Administrative Units
LEADER	Links between the rural economy and development actions
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
PROFECY	Processes, Features and Cycles of Inner Peripheries in Europe
R&D	Research and Development
SGIs	Services of General Interests
ULODZ	University of Lodz
UVAL	University of Valencia

1 Introduction

The case study is a form of empirical inquiry that enables the in-depth examination of a particular phenomenon, issue or object in real life situations. In the PROFECY project case studies, as expected to capture in details the complexity of multidimensional nature of IPs phenomenon in the context of their evolution, components and scale within single, specific locations, should be considered as a nexus between research questions and predominantly quantitative empirical analysis with an exploring and expanding focus towards policy debates for Inner Peripheries.

In order to understand the territorial phenomenon called “inner peripherality”, after the process of conceptualisation of this phenomena, the PROFECY Team has operated on geo-statistical data at European scale. Case studies are designed as a complementary approach to that stage of the research project as they enable to further address and explore inner peripheries in Europe which manifest in a variety of contexts or situations.

This annex presents the methodological framework of the case study approach within the research program of the PROFECY project. It is designed to provide more contextualised insights into the project. In turn, the Project team will gain a deeper appreciation for those factors and drivers that are responsible in the process of inner peripheralisation in Europe as well to those that allow some territories to recover the path of sustainable development after having suffered the consequences of inner peripherality.

Case study methodological guidelines aim at supporting a common understanding of the role and goals of case studies in the overall PROFECY project and are to provide a framework for the empirical work to be implemented by all partners in an standardised manner. In this way, by developing detailed research guidelines to be followed by national teams in each case study area, the project ensures comparability and validity of latter cross-country analysis effects of which are presented in the Annex 18.

2 Objectives of the Case Studies in the PROFECY project

The aim of the case study approach is to support the European-wide quantitative data analysis carried out in the framework of the PROFECY project. Also, Case Studies aim at reflecting and exploring, with a more qualitative focus, in-depth and at micro-scale level, within its real-life context, the complexity and multidimensional character of the problem of inner peripherality in seven case studies across Europe. The case studies were selected to cover different approaches in both defining inner peripheries and coping with this socio-spatial problem. Case studies support integrative and comprehensive research in five specific thematic challenges corresponding research questions about:

1. definitions and components of inner peripheries
2. factors and drivers in the process of IPs genesis and evolution
3. perceptions and images of inner peripheries in media and by regional and local stakeholders
4. coping strategies for IP regions
5. making future scenarios of selected IPs based on current and explored evidence.

The selection of seven case studies and implementation of the research carried within the chosen localities was based on a common methodology that is explained in details in this document.

Due to various administrative structures across European Countries and the scale of administrative units, case studies were planned to be carried in different scales: NUTS-3 in Germany and LAU-1/LAU-2 in other countries. Case study work below NUTS3/LAU 1 helps to:

- explore and understand in an integrated and comprehensive way the complexity of micro-scale patterns and processes of inner peripherality,
- explore the diversity of coping strategies and understand the links between local actions and the wider institutional environment.

Case studies were also designed as a focal point for the participation of stakeholders and experts involved in the process of local and regional development strategies and planning in the PROFECY project. Discussion over the problem of inner peripheries with practitioners enhance validity of outcomes and recommendations across all case studies, and at the same time, ensures that the Handbook for local actors and decision makers meets their current and future needs.

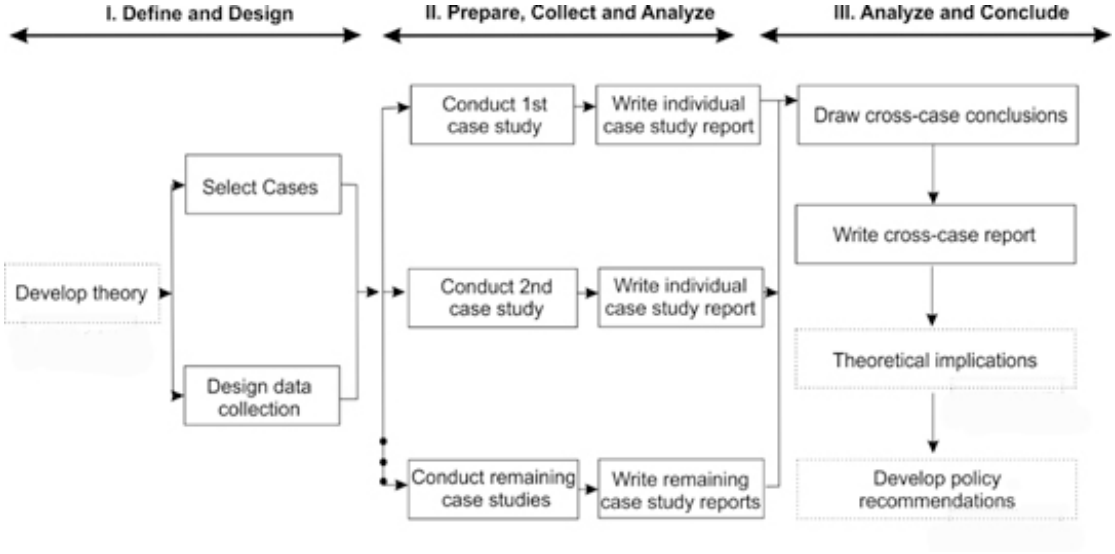
In the PROFECY project a holistic, multiple-case study approach to produce both, on the one hand, regional- or case-specific research results, and on the other hand, messages that bear relevance to general theories and higher, European level policy making have been applied. The case study framework in the PROFECY project includes a typical three-step process as shown in Figure 2.1 below. However, in the proceeding points of this document only two first phases will be developed in details as the phase III – focused on goals, methods and results of cross case analysis is a subject of Annex 18.

The Case Study approach in the PROFECY project, presented in this document can be divided in four phases, namely:

1. Case study selection,
2. Case study methodology and design, presenting sources, methods and tools of data collection as well as guidelines for their interpretation,
3. Structure of the individual case study report together with links to specific data, methods and tools used to collect it,
4. Models of methodological tools developed for the purpose of the Case Studies research.

It has to be stressed that case study approach complements and creates synergies with other results of the project, especially Identification of IPs in European level (Definition and delineation of IPs) and Development of strategies for IPs. In particular, Case Studies are a central activity in the research process. It is very much dependant on outputs from the research conducted within the project on definition and delineation of IPs as well as on their status and by presenting real stories, it provides relevant output for identification of processes and drivers of inner peripherialisation and also for developing relevant and effective coping strategies addressed to IPs in their multiple manifestations.

Figure 2.1: Case Study Framework in the PROFECY project[1]



Every “case” is specific, in location and socio-economic characteristics, regional context, historical background, and so on. In this respect, every case is unique. However, selected locations inform the PROFECY project’s conceptual thinking on characteristics and main components of inner peripheries, and the different processes leading towards them. Out of a comparative perspective, they are the basis for drawing analytical generalisations on critical factors and drivers in the process of genesis and evolution of IPs. Where purely quantitative data falls short, the case study offers the possibility to complement research with a more qualitative perspective. In the PROFECY project, selected case studies draw a real portrait of the problem of inner peripheries enabling to make improvements both in theoretical approach as well as practical responses by local communities, states and Europe. Case studies results,

along with other parts of the PROFECY project are expected to lead to better knowledge on inner peripherality and, at the same time, contribute to open new questions and reflect ideas for the further research.

3 Selection of the Case Studies

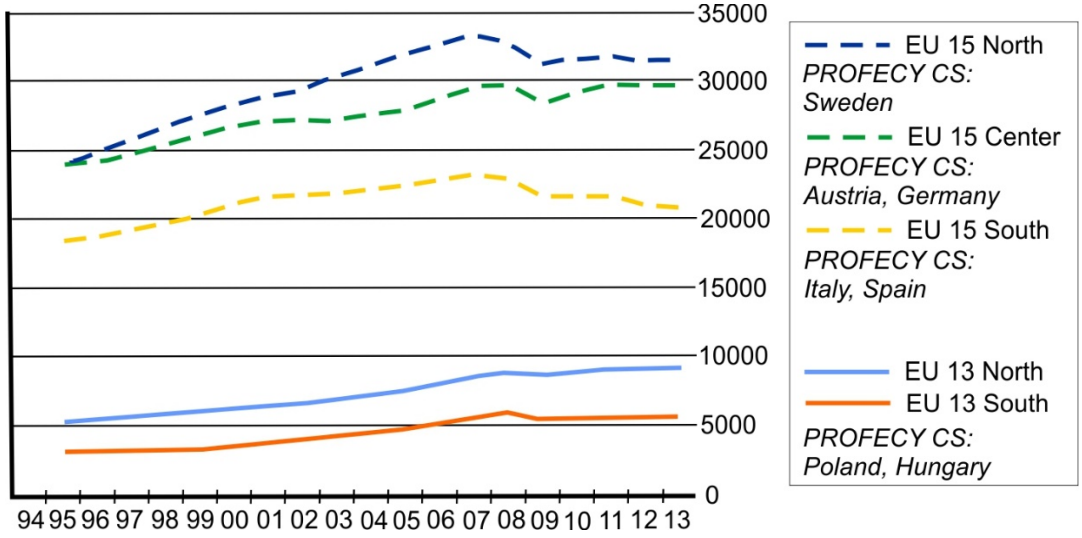
According to the PROFECY project proposal, seven regions out of all IPs delineated in the European space have been selected. Dealing with the holistic multiple case study approach, the project Consortium followed a 'replication' design to select cases properly. When selected cases predict similar results this is known as a literal replication, but when selected cases provide contrasting results, or when rival theories have subtle differences and one wants to increase the degree of certainty of results, this is categorised as a theoretical replication[1].

There were four phases within the procedure conducted in order to select case studies in the PROFECY project. They are briefly presented in the Table 3.1. In particular these were:

1) Selection of countries within European space; based on literature review and expert knowledge.

   The PROFECY Partners agreed to select regions in seven countries: Spain and Italy (representing EU-15 countries from the South), Germany and Austria (representing EU-15 countries from the Center of Europe), Sweden (representing EU-15 countries from the North), Poland and Hungary (representing EU-13 countries) (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1: Convergence and divergence in GDP per capita across the EU (1995–2013) as the background for the first phase of case study selection in the project



2) Selection of 4 case study candidates in all selected countries; based on preliminary IP delineations conducted by February 2017.

   For each country, all data focused on four delineations of IPs in Europe have been collected and four case study candidates in the scale of LAU-1/LAU-2 units (except the scale of NUTS-3 in Germany) have been presented and briefly described by factors and drivers of inner peripherality as well as coping strategies undertaken by regional and local authorities as well as society (see Table 3.2).

3) Selection of 7 case study regions to be the subject of the PROFECY project research; based on literature and coping strategies review as well as expert knowledge.

It has to be stressed that on top of the case studies' selection process, the PROFECY Team has added expert knowledge on the territorial dynamics whcich has provided interpretation to data or maps emerging from the harmonised procedure proposed. In the selection of the 7 examples of IPs in Europe for further analysis, partners had in mind that the main purpose of Case Studies in the PROFECY project is to provide qualitative evidence on the sort of processes, features and drivers that are keeping a particular area from achieving relative good performance in terms of SGI provision, employment, population increase, etc. Partners were also aware that this situation is not only the consequence of a particular geographic location and accessibility, but also the result of issues of connectedness, governance, networks and social capital, among other.

4) Verification of case studies' selection; based on final IPs delineations conducted within the PROFECY project and the expert knowledge of project partners.

   Verified results of IPs delineation for all case study candidates and selected case study regions presented in Table 3.3 and the Map 3.1 show that four regions out of final seven are not IPs, however as presented in case study reports, they represent relevant characteristic of inner peripherality.

   The main reason behind the lack of correspondence between some of the selected case study areas and the territories identified in one or more of the 4 types of IP was the scale of IPs identification process. Areas that correspond mainly to IP typology 2 and/or 4 are not necessarily visible in the maps presented to date. This is because the scale used to identify and delineate these two types is NUTS3, and the phenomenon of inner peripherality is often manifested in smaller areas, which for this reason are "hidden" behind the average values of the higher territorial unit. It should be borne in mind that the average size of NUTS3 in some European countries exceeds 5,000 km2, while the phenomenon of inner peripherality, although it may also extend over a broad territorial continuum, very often does so over tens or few hundred km2.

Table 3.1: Phases of case studies' selection process

Phases	Criteria	Output	Remarks
I. Countries selection	• Location in European Space • Literature review • Expert knowledge	7 countries choosen: Spain, Italy - representing EU-15 countries from the South Germany, Austria - representing EU-15 countries from the Center of Europe Sweden – representing EU-15 countries from the North Poland, Hungary – representing EU-13 countries	
II. Case study candidates selection	• Results of four IPs **preliminary delineations**	28 areas identified: Spain (4); Italy (4); Germany (5); Austria (4); Sweden (3); Poland (4); Hungary (4).	The process of selecting case studies representing IPs in Europe has been designed to be conducted on the LAU-1/LAU-2 level. Designated areas represents at least one out of four preliminary delineation results
III. Case study selection	• Coping strategies • Literature review • Expert knowledge	7 areas identified: Montsia (Spain); Area Grecanica-Calabria (Italy); Landkreis Siegen-Wittgenstein (Germany); Wolfsberg (Austria); Vimmerby (Sweden); Powiat Wieruszowski (Poland); Tamási járás (Hungary)	7 areas identified represent different coping strategies undertaken by regional/local authorities and the society as well as wide range of factors and drivers of inner peripherality.
IV. Case study selection verification	• Results of four IPs **final delineations** • Literature review • Expert knowledge	7 areas verified: Montsia (Spain); Area Grecanica-Calabria (Italy); Landkreis Siegen-Wittgenstein (Germany); Wolfsberg (Austria); Vimmerby (Sweden); Powiat Wieruszowski (Poland); Tamási járás (Hungary)	7 areas verified according to average accessibility and depletion data used in the four types of delineation. Three of them are within IP regions and four are not but represents relevant characteristic of inner periphery.

Table 3.2: Candidates and selected case studies (Phase 3)

Rank	Country	Information of Case Study Candidate	D1	D2	D3	D4	Brief description (location, main features of inner peripherality, coping strategies and reasons for selecting the case)	NUTS3
1	Poland	Name: Powiat Wieruszowski Admin. Unit: LAU-1 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3, NUTS-2	n	y	y	y	Located in the south western part of the lodzkie voivodeship, borders with opolskie and wielkopolskie voivodeships. Total area of 577 sq. km and population of 42,000 people. The province represents inner peripherality according to three delineations. The accessibility of the province has improved recently thanks to an express way S8 Bialystok-Duszniki Zdroj. Regional and local authorities do respond to problems of the province through integrated approach to regional development and promotion plans.	PL116
2	Poland	Name: Powiat Chojnicki Admin. Unit: LAU-1 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3, NUTS-2	y	y	y	n	Located in the south-western part of the pomoskie voivodeship in Poland, borders with the kujawsko-pomorskie voivodeship. Total area of 1,364 sq. km and population of 92,000 people. On one hand it is the area of great natural values (forests, lakes, postglacial landscape), on the second hand it is characterised by relatively low level of socioeconomic development. It represents the problem of inner peripherality especially according to criteria concerning accessibility and the development of SGI. Regional and local authorities are aware of the problem and recognize it in documents of strategic planning, trying to indicate possible coping strategies. Among over 130 local associations, more than 25 are focused on local development and social integration. Also, one of important coping strategies is subregional cooperation of Chojnice and neighbouring Człuchów.	PL637
3	Poland	Name: Powiat Jedrzejowski Admin. Unit: LAU-1 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3, NUTS-2	y	y	y	y	Located in the western part of the swietokrzyskie voivodeship in Poland, borders with the malopolskie voivodeship. Total area of 1257 sq. km. Out of approximately 87,000 inhabitants of the province, almost 70% live in rural areas. The province represents inner peripherality according to all four delineations. It is a problematic area concerning socio- economic and spatial development (characterized by decreasing natural growth, out- migration and in effect ageing population, economic decline and challenges in access to services and technical infrastructure). Coping strategies are mainly state-centred. Regional and local authorities are currently working on the Local Development Plan as the previous (2003-2014) is outdated. There is also little activity concentrated on local development and social integration.	PL332
4	Poland	Name: Powiat Kluczborski Admin. Unit: LAU-1 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3, NUTS-2	y	y	y	y	Located in the northern part of the opolskie voivodeship in Poland, borders with lodzkie and wielkopolskie voivodeships. Total area of 852 sq. km and population of 70,000people. The province represents inner peripherality according to all four delineations. The area struggles with inner disparities between municipalities and the negative image among its own inhabitants as well as among people in the neighbouring areas. Local and regional authorities are aware of the problem, indicating it in documents of strategic planning.	PL524

Rank	Country	Information of Case Study Candidate	D1	D2	D3	D4	Brief description (location, main features of inner peripherality, coping strategies and reasons for selecting the case)	NUTS3
1	Germany	Name: Landkreis Siegen-Wittgenstein Admin. Unit: NUTS-3 Internal subdivisions:NUTS-3 A part of: NUTS-3	y	n	n	n	The district is located in the south-eastern part of the state North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany and borders with the states Hesse and Rhineland-Palatinate. It has a total area of 1,131 sq. km and a population of 280,800 people. The district covers a mountainous region south-east of the Sauerland hills. 70% of the district are covered by forest and the population density is relatively low (243 people per sq. km) in comparison to the state average (524 people per sq. km). Nevertheless, the region is characterized by a high level of socioeconomic development (being home to manufacturing and production industries, as well as two larger breweries) with a relatively low unemployment rate (5,8%) in comparison with the whole state North Rhine-Westphalia (8,3%). The district represents the problem of inner peripherality especially according to criteria concerning D1 and challenging access conditions regarding retail, banks, school and doctors. Siegen- Wittgenstein and several other districts in the Sauerland region are aware about these challenges and are taking measures, e.g. by creating a regional umbrella organization ("Südwestfalen") consisting of local administrative units and local authorities. With their regional concept they have won a competition in 2007 called REGIONALE, which is a structural funding programme for regional development by the state of North-Rhine Westphalia. The region Südwestfalen just wrote a new regional strategy for all relevant stakeholders called "Vision Südwestfalen 2030" with the main topics digitization, health care, mobility and new working conditions. [As a case study we would probably choose a smaller sub-unit within this total area]	DEA5A
2	Germany	Landkreis Holzminden Admin. Unit: NUTS-3 Internal subdivisions:NUTS-3 A part of: NUTS-3	n	n	y	y	The district is located in the South of the German state of Lower Saxony bordering to North-Rhine Westphalia. It comprises a rather small administrative area of 692.65 sq. km and a total population of 71,659 people (103 per sq. km). Holzminden performes as an IP in the delineations D3 with especially low relational access to banks and schools and as D4 having lost population since 1970 with then almost 90,000 inhabitants. Different regional initiatives are related to tourism such as "Weserbergland-Touristik" and the rather problematic project "Erlebniswelt Renaissance" funded by regional, national and EU-levels. The district has been a founding member of the Metropolitan region Hannover- Braunschweig-Göttingen-Wolfsburg, at the same time discussion about the administrative union with the adjacent district of Northeim are ongoing.	DE926

3	Germany	Name: former Landkreis Osterode am Harz now part of Landkreis Göttingen Admin. Unit: LAU-2 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3	y	n	n	n	Osterode am Harz has been an independent district of 636.02 sq. km within the State of Lower-Saxony until merging with the district of Göttingen in Nov. 2016. The district can be categorized as IP under delineation 1 but also exhibits problematic access to retail, banks and schools and a continuous loss of population since more than three decades. On the one hand the former district has a number of UNESCO world heritage sites and well performing local industry companies, on the other hand tourism industry is suffering from a loss of competitiveness in the Western Harz region, and population declined from a peak of 95,000 inhabitants in 1975 to 73,885 (116 per sq. km) in 2015. The district used to receive particular state funding as a border region, but funding ceased significantly after the German reunion. Several initiatives have been in place concerning regional cultural heritage as well as economic initiatives for tackling issues of human capital attraction. Osterode am Harz is also LEADER-Region since 2015 in the funding period 2014-2022.	DE919
4	Germany	Name: Landkreis Calw Admin. Unit: NUTS-3 Internal subdivisions: NUTS-3 A part of: NUTS-3	y	n	y	y	The district is located in the middle-western part of the economically quite booming state of Baden-Württemberg in Germany. It has a total area of 797 sq. km and a population of 155,359 people. Large parts of the district consist of Black Forrest low mountain ranges. Although it is part of the growing and economic well performing metropolitan region of Stuttgart Calw can be considered an Inner periphery according to D1, D3 (stations) and D4. After negative outcomes of a nation-wide comparison study regarding future development options the district commissioned a structural analysis and developed a program and key goals for the regional development until 2030. Besides building up a network to different stakeholders on the European administrative level Calw is taking part in the LEADER-region “Nordschwarzwald” .	DE12A
5	Germany	Name: Landkreis Elbe-Elster Admin. Unit: NUTS-3 Internal subdivisions: NUTS-3 A part of: NUTS-3	y	y	n	y	The district is located in the south-western part of the state Brandenburg in Germany and borders with the states Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt. It has a total area of 1,889 sq. km and a population of 104,673 people. The mostly rural area has a very low population density (56 people per sq. km) in comparison with the state (83) and especially with Germany (230). One of the biggest problems is the emigration of young people. In the period from 1999-2013 42,6% of the young people (18-<30) emigrated from the district. It also has a relatively high unemployment rate (12.5%) in comparison with the state (9.9%). The region/district represents inner peripherality according to D1, D2 and D4. The district Elbe-Elster is a LEADER region since 2000. The region has developed a regional development concept 2014-2020 together with 118 partners and main stakeholders with the main topics intercommunal and trans-regional cooperation. It was also selected for other regional funding programmes (like „Land(auf)Schwung“) which foster regional partnerships between the economy, local administrative units and the science to develop the region.	DE407

Rank	Country	Information of Case Study Candidate	D1	D2	D3	D4	Brief description (location, main features of inner peripherality, coping strategies and reasons for selecting the case)	NUTS-3
1	Hungary	Name: Tamási járás Admin. Unit: LAU-1 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A Part of: NUTS-3 (Tolna)/ NUTS-2 (Dél-Dunántúl)	n	n	y	n	Located in the western part of Tolna county in Hungary, borders with inner peripheral areas of Fejér and Somogy counties. Total area of 1020 sq. km. Total population of 38,000 people, severe shrinkage (13%) in the past 15 years. Centre is Tamási, small-sized rural town with 8000 inhabitants (and more severe population loss in the past decade, than in the district itself). From the aspect of inner peripherality, Tamási district is only included among areas vulnerable to SGI access, but it is one of the most disadvantaged districts in Hungary in this sense. Access to regional centres from the district is also poor. Tamási district is among the beneficiaries of the complex development programme for the most disadvantaged districts. This Programme run in the 2007-2013 programming period and was considered as innovative for the model of planning and cross-financing from a number of EU operational programmes. Moreover, the villages of the district extended with some neighbouring municipalities were part of another innovative development program targeting mainly so called human capacity building and the promotion of social inclusion through community development. In terms of coping strategies, the main goal of the Centre, Tamási is to build its development strategy mainly on endogenous resources, like geothermal energy as a main potential for food and tourism industries as well as health- care services. Despite efforts Tamási district and the surrounding four districts - all along the border-lines between the three relevant neighbouring counties - are parts of a larger IP region constituted by 4-5 LAU-1 units. Previous research experiences in the region also contributed to putting the district as first-place candidate.	HU233

2	Hungary	Name: Kunhegyesi járás Admin. Unit: LAU-1 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3 (Jász- Nagykun-Szolnok)/ NUTS-2 (Észak-Alföld)	y	n	y	y	Located in the northern part of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county in Hungary, borders with Heves county, separated by the river Tisza. Total area of 464,5 sq. km. Total population of 20,000 people, severe shrinkage (10%) in the past 15 years. Centre is Kunhegyes, small- sized rural town, with insufficient urban functions and with less than 8000 inhabitants. Significant inequalities within the district: both the small town Abádszalók, vivid tourist centre of Tisza lake and Tiszabő, one of the most disadvantaged municipalities in Hungary are parts of the district. From the aspect of inner peripheriality it shows vulnerability to access to regional centres, to access to different services and from the viewpoint of socio- economic development in general. Kunhegyes district is among the beneficiaries of the complex development programme for the most disadvantaged districts. In strategic documents, Kunhegyes district is recognized as inner periphery. Absorptive capaticies are low in the area (except for the two towns, Kunhegyes and Abádszalók), but smaller settlements are engaged with schooling and community development programmes for social inclusion and they also participate in public work programmes.	HU322
3	Hungary	Name: Tabi járás Admin. Unit: LAU-1 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3 (Somogy)/ NUTS-2 (Dél-Dunántúl)	y	y	y	n	Located in the eastern part of Somogy county in Hungary, borders with Tolna county. Total area of 427.2 sq. km. Total population of 12,000 people, severe shrinkage (more than 15%) in the past 15 years. Centre is Tab, small-sized rural town, with insufficient urban functions and with less than 4,500 inhabitants. Settlement structure is very segmented: besides the central town no other municipalities reach 1000 inhabitants, most of the settlements are very small villages (with less than 500 people). From the aspect of inner peripheriality it shows vulnerability to access to regional centres, to low economic potential and to access to different services. Tab district is among the beneficiaries of the development programme for disadvantaged districts, but is not among the most disadvantaged ones. Small villages of the district are weak in absorbing development resources, coping strategies mainly focus on the development of SGI, while local NGOs launch several community development, social economy and schooling programmes.	HU232
4	Hungary	Name: Pápai járás Admin. Unit: LAU-1 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3 (Veszprém)/ NUTS-2 (Közép- Dunántúl)	y	y	y	n	Located in the meeting zone of Little Hungarian Plain and Bakony mountains. It stands in the northern part of Central Transdanubia Region and Veszprém county. Total area is 1,022 sq. km and population is 58,935. Altogether 49 settlements can be found here, but among them there is only 1 town, that is the seat of this district. The district represents inner peripherality due to three delineations. The unfavourable accessibility is partly coming from the geographical position: the district is cut off from the centre of the county by a mountainous area. It is one of beneficiary districts in Hungary. Regional and local development plans weakly indicate possible coping strategies, because strategic planning especially focused on strengthening service sector of the seat town of this district.	HU213

Rank	Country	Information of Case Study Candidate	D1	D2	D3	D4	Brief description (location, main features of inner peripherality, coping strategies and reasons for selecting the case)	NUTS3
1	Austria	Name: Wolfsberg Admin. Unit: part of NUTS-3 Internal subdivisions: LAU-1; LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-2	n	n	y	y	Located in the south-east Alps in the province of Carinthia, the region borders to the province of Styria in the North and East, and to Slovenia in the South. The total area is 974 sq. km and it has a population of 53,400 inhabitants (2016). As the region is not lying along the main transit routes through Austria, it is less well known than others. It has some history on industrial processing of large scale industry, including heavy industry and mining which has undergone significant adaptation in recent decades. Also the administrative structure was adapted through amalgamation of municipalities from former 32 to nowadays just nine municipalities. Being an area of "neglect" in the past, the regional actors have undergone a process of strategy building and focus on a more participative approach oriented at sustainable development goals, searching to overcome locational weaknesses. Municipalities: Bad St. Leonhard im Lavanttal (code: 20901), Frantschach-St. Gertraud (code: 20905), Lavamünd (code: 20909), Preitenegg (Code: 20911), Reichenfles (code:20912), St. Andrä (code: 20913), St. Georgen im Lavanttal (code: 20914), St. Paul im Lavanttal (code: 20918), and Wolfsberg (code: 20923); all within NUTS-3 AT213; equals pol. Bezirk (209).	AT213
2	Austria	Name: Liezen (Eastern part - region Hieflau) Admin. Unit: LAU-1 (equivalent) Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3	y	n	y	y	Located in the Eastern Alps this region is placed in the middle of Austria. As the NUTS-3 region is covering a wide range of different regional sub-parts, we suggest to concentrate on a small section, the Eastern part of the NUTS-3 area, disposing most clearly of Inner Peripheries characteristics, i.e. the "region Hieflau" (similar LAU 1). This area comprises four municipalities (LAU-2). Total area of municipalities is 630 sq. km and population of 6,000 inhabitants. The region represents an IP according to three delineations. There are many natural assets (nationalpark "Gesäuse" and nature park "Steirische Eisenwurzen"). It represents the problem of IP according to the criteria accessibility, development of SGI and sociodemographic development. Regional authorities are aware of the manifold challenges which is recognized in documents of strategic planning (e.g. Local Development Strategy, LDS of LEADER). Municipalities: Wildalpen (code LAU-2: 61251), Landl (code: 61258), Altenmarkt (code:61205), St. Gallen (code: 61264).	AT222

3	Austria	Name: Östliche Obersteiermark (part: district Mürzzuschlag) Admin. Unit: LAU-1 (equivalent) Internal subdivisions: LAU-1; LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-2/ NUTS-3	y	n	y	y	Located in the Eastern Alps with borders to the province of lower Austria. Total area of 849 sq. km and population of 39,960 inhabitants (2012). The region was a separate district until 2013, but is now combined with the neighbouring district of Bruck into one administrative unit. It is an area with a long history of iron and steel industry going through a period of re-orientation and transformation for several decades. It represents problems of IPs particularly according to sociodemographic development and accessibility of SGIs. Despite its successful industry development and renewal, there exists no common brand for the region, and ageing and outmigration (particularly of young well educated women) and its impact on working population is a challenge. However regional development actors are well aware of the fact and carried out a "Leitbild" process for the region. Municipalities: Kindberg (code: 52141), Krieglach (code: 62115), Langenwang (code: 62116), Mürzzuschalg (code: 62143), Neuberg an der Mürz (code: 62144), Spital am Semmering (code: 62131), Stanz im Mürztal (code: 62132), Sankt Barbara im Mürztal (code: 62145).	AT 223
4	Austria	Name: Osttirol Admin. Unit: NUTS-3 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-2	n	n	y	y	Located in the south-east Alps with borders to the province of Salzburg, Carinthia and to Italy. Total area of 2,019 sq. km and population of 49,000 inhabitants. It is a classical "peripheral" area with low accessibility to the main agglomerations in Austria, but with comparably good accessibility to the regional centre of Lienz. Attractive touristic regions (mountain hiking, skiing), however, it represents problems of IPs particularly according to development of accessibility and sociodemographic development. Regional authorities are well aware of the situation and there are lots of activities ongoing (LDS, ...) to work against this downward cycle. Cooperation and integrated governance is perceived as key issue with regard to regional development, therefore this region might be able to show useful strategies for integrated development strategies.	AT333

1	Spain	Name: Montsià Admin. Unit: LAU-1 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3, NUTS-2	n	n	n	y	The Montsià area is located in southernmost part of Catalunya (NUTS-2), in the border with Valencia NUTS-2 region, and covers an area of 735 sq. km. According to several parameters (weaknesses of the local labour market due to lack of business networks and the failure of some previously driving activities, border effect due to the territorial configuration of the surrounding areas, etc.), Montsià county responds to a type 4 Inner periphery. The total population is 68,000 inhabitants, with a density of population of 92 inhab. per sq. km (well below the average of Catalunya Region, 234 inhab. per sq. km). The GDP is the area is 43% lower than the average in Catalunya, and it is the second top county in terms of unemployment (30% for 2011). In 2014, the service sector represented 66% of the produced added value, industry 19%, agriculture 8% and building sector, the remaining 6%. The dependence on traditional industries is limiting the access to the labour market. In addition, the proximity to the so called "valencian territorial fracture" results in a worse access to services than in other areas of the region (the NUTS2 border acts as a limit for most SGI provision). There is a bottom-up development program in the form of a public-private partnership. There is, therefore, awareness of the condition of lagginess and peripherality, although the geographic accessibility is reasonably good. Their partnership "Montsià Actiu" has started already several programs to address some of these issues associated to peripherality and marginalisation.	ES514
2	Spain	Name: Marina Alta Admin. Unit: LAU-1 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3, NUTS-2	n	y	n	n	The Marina Alta LAU 1 area is located in the North-East of Alicante (NUTS-3), included in Delineation 2. It has an extension of 760 sq. km and comprises 33 LAU-2 units. The population of approximately 190,000 inhabitants, is mostly settled in the coastal part of the county, concentrated in the two main urban centres. Most villages are located in the inner areas, are less densely populated and show lower levels of accessibility to SGI and to agglomerations. The valleys and mountains cover most of the territory and explain a model of small, depleting areas, partially overcome by the influence of the increasing number of foreign Europeans having a residence in the area. In general, there is a gap between local population and foreign residents, in terms of needs and interests. Cooperation happens, but not to the extent it could do. There are administrative and physical barriers almost to all 4 cardinal directions: to the north (change of NUTS-3 means different policies and programs in particular for small municipalities), east (sea), west (mountains) and south (mountains). There is a problem of accessibility to services (except for the coastal urban centres), and the labour market is very segmented due to the prevalence of seasonal tourism, the lack of R&D investment, and the matureness of the economic basis. The area has a partnership (basically public, gathering local governments) with a very active technical area promoting bottom-up development programmes with a supra-municipality view. Public-private partnerships are not strong in the area, although part of the area was considered under LEADER programmes.	ES521

3	Spain	Name: Valle de Ayora-Cofrentes Admin. Unit: LAU-1 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3, NUTS-2	y	n	y	n	The area is located in the western part of the Valencia NUTS-3 Region and comprises an area of 1,141 sq. km (including 7 LAU-2 units). It is located in the border with a different NUTS-2 region. Historically, it has been the border between nations, Castille or Aragon, depending on the period, and have for centuries suffered from political instability and conflicts. This area is considered both Type 1 and Type 3 Inner Periphery due to the strong accessibility problems associated to the border location and the distance to the regional centres. The North-South layout of the valley prevents rapid connections with the main urban agglomerations. It has a population of approximately 10,250 inhabitants, and most municipalities are small in size (with approximately 5,000 inhabitants in the capital town of Ayora, and the remaining villages having a population of 1,000 inhabitants or less). The area has two distinctive features that makes it appropriate for a case study. On the one hand, the location back in 1983 of a nuclear power station and an associated strategy of some towns in the area to attract more nuclear-related activity (in conflict with other villages and local actors). On the other hand, an increasing inflow of retired British citizens that become residents in the area even considering the much harder weather conditions (continentalised Mediterranean) and the eminent lack of services. The most dominant activity is agriculture and livestock farming, characterized by non-irrigated cropping (cereal, vineyards, olive and almond trees) and small irrigated areas. The industrial sector is only relevant due to the presence of the Nuclear Power Plant in Cofrentes, and the small agro-industrial cluster around honey production and export.	ES523
4.	Spain.	Name: Arnedo-Cervera de Río Alhama Admin. Unit: Two LAU-1 units Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3, NUTS-2	y	n	y	n	The area covers two LAU1 units (Arnedo, and Cervera de Río Alhama) located in the south-east part of La Rioja (NUTS-3). Large areas of this territory appear in delineation 1 and 3. The area covers 880 sq. km a population around 23,000 inhabitants, with a density ranging from 15 inhab. per sq. km in Cervera to 31 in Arnedo, where 81% of the population is located). Agricultural and livestock activities are important, and it was previously one of the most dynamic economic areas in the region. In the past 40 years, it has experienced and economic decline in industrial activity (in the shoes and food processing industry) resulting in one of the areas most intensely affected by depopulation and rural exodus in the region (during the last 50 years has lost two thirds of the population). Although the area is covered by delineations 1 and 3, accessibility to SGI is only relative compared to the domain of the mountains in the same region. However, problems are linked to the decline of the main settlements of the area that have not been able to retain an adequate offer of SGI and other services. The constrains of a small local labour market, very specialised towards agro-industrial activity, and the easy way out due to the recent highway developments has, in this case, promoted the abandonment of the area by young and qualified people rather than helped to retain them. In fact, in most cases, young population migrates only to more attractive neighbouring areas in the Region, not too far away from their place of origin.	ES230

Rank	Country	Information of Case Study Candidate	D1	D2	D3	D4	Brief description (location, main features of inner peripherality, coping strategies and reasons for selecting the case)	NUTS3
1	Sweden	Name: Vimmerby Admin. Unit: LAU-2 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3, NUTS-2	Y	n	y	n	Vimmerby is a rural municipality in northern Kalmar county in the South of Sweden, of the total area 1,140 sq. km with approximately 15,636 inhabitants, of which 8,098 people live in central Vimmerby. The economy is based on traditional agriculture, forestry and manufacturing industries, local tourism and the healthcare services sector. The municipality suffered economically during the 2008 financial crisis, which led to industrial decline and outward migration; however, the economy has since recovered, thanks largely to the ability of local industries in the agriculture and forestry sectors to diversify into new business areas, and consistently high levels of tourism to the area due to the successful branding of Vimmerby's natural and cultural assets. In the Swedish context, the economy is currently stable, but the municipality faces serval challenges common to inner peripheries that need to be overcome if economic growth and stability is to be sustained over the long term	SE213
2	Sweden	Name: Bengtsfors - Dals-Ed Admin. Unit: LAU-2 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3, NUTS-2	n	n	Y	n	The adjacent municipalities of Bengtsfors and Dals-Ed are located in the 'corner' of Västra Götaland region at the Norwegian border. The total area of both municipalities is 1,714 sq. km and the population is 14,700. The municipalities represent inner peripherality according to the delineation 3 (almost all D3 variables). Bengtsfors and Dals-Ed are lagging behind other municipalities in Västra Götaland according to several socio-economic and demographic indicators and are among the most vulnerable in the region. The economy and regional development have been severely affected by the industrial decline and closure of several important industries. Moreover, these small municipalities are affected by long distances to the major markets and overall low attractivity. The regional and local actors have developed various coping strategies, such as the Strategy for growth and development in Västra Götaland 2014-2020; Strategy for business development in Bengtsfors municipality (2015), Strategy for business development in Dals Ed municipality 2015-2020.	SE232
3	Sweden	Name: Uppvidinge Admin. Unit: LAU-2 Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3, NUTS-2	n	n	y	n	The municipality is located in Kronoberg county in the eastern part of Sweden. Its total area is 1,226 sq. km and it has a population of 9,500 people of which over 17% are of immigrant background. It represents inner peripherality according to the delineation 3. The municipality is involved in a project that aims at improving access and availability of social services. Further purpose is to enhance attractiveness of the municipality for the current and potential residents. The municipality encourages cooperation between public, private and third sector actors. At the regional level the challenges are addressed in the regional development strategy Green Kronoberg 2025.	SE212

1	Italy	Name: Area Grecanica-Calabria Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3	y	n	y	n	This area includes 11 municipalities and a population of 18,546 inhabitants. Territorial surface is 435 sq. km. Between 2001 and 2011 the rate of de-population was -15.3%. Now population density is 42,7 inhabitants per sq. km. The share of population above 65 years is relatively high (25.7%). According to the classification this area is IP for low access to jobs and doctors. But this is the result at NUTS-3 level, when we consider the socio-economic conditions at LAU-2 the characteristics of this area are much worse: the conditions for the provision of educational services and local transports are very scarce. This area is characterised by the presence of some very typical agricultural products (bergamot, wine) and by the recent development of naturalistic tourism. It has developed several strategies to improve its conditions: it has been beneficiary of Cohesion policies and rural development policies. There is a very active and dynamic Local Action Group financed by the LEADER programme. This area takes also part of the national Strategy for Inner Areas. In conclusion, despite the low level of economic development, this area presents very good examples of strategies for local development and with very good innovative approaches. This area does not represent any administrative unit at national/regional level. It is composed by a group of municipalities (LAU-2) identifying similar socio-economic conditions.	
2	Italy	Name: Monti Dauni-Puglia Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3	n	n	n	y	This area includes 29 municipalities and a population of 60.691 inhabitants. Territorial surface is 1,947 sq. km. Between 2001 and 2011 the rate of de-population was -9.2%. Now population density is 31,2 inhabitants per sq. km. The share of population above 65 years is relatively high (24.6%). According to the classification this area is IP for its demographic situation (D4). This area is characterised by the presence of some niche-products in agriculture, summer tourism, and some manufacture firms. It has developed several strategies to improve its conditions: it has been beneficiary of rural development policies and cooperation programmes (INTERREG). There is a very active and dynamic Local Action Group financed by the LEADER programme. This area takes also part of the national Strategy for Inner Areas. In conclusion, this area presents good governance and interesting strategies for local development.	

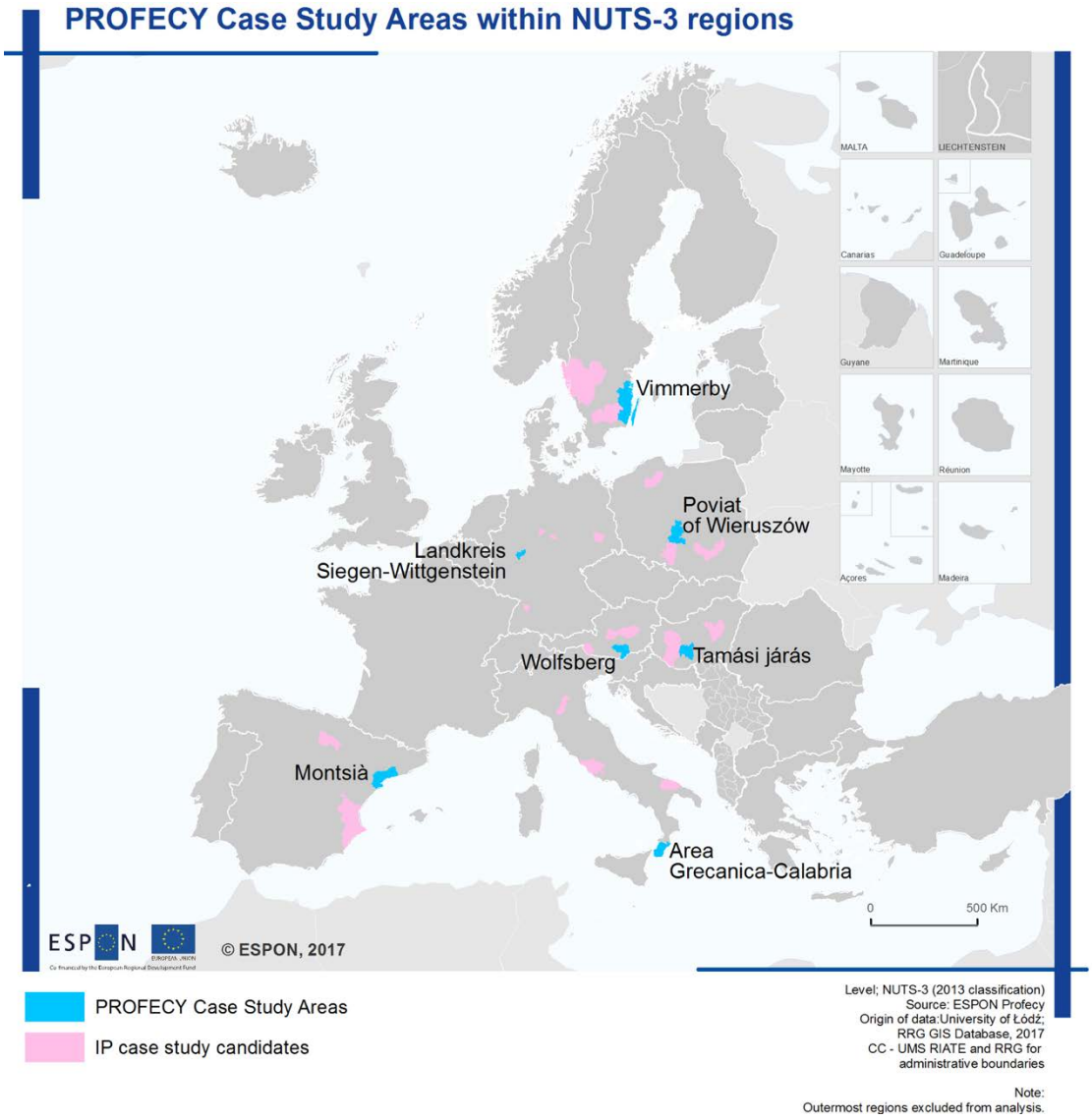
3	Italy	Name: Monti Reatini-Lazio Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3	y	n	y	n	This area includes 29 municipalities and a population of 26,664 inhabitants. Territorial surface is 1,520 sq. km. Between 2001 and 2011 the rate of de-population was -5.6%. Now population density is 17.5 inhabitants per sq. km. The share of population above 65 years is relatively high (28.3%). According to the classification this area is IP for low access to jobs, retail, banks, schools, pharmacies and hospitals. This area is characterised by the presence of some niche-products in agriculture, summer and winter tourism, and forestry resources. Local actors developed several strategies to improve their conditions: projects financed by rural development policies and Cohesion policies. There is a Local Action Group financed by the LEADER programme. This area takes also part of the national Strategy for Inner Areas. In conclusion, this area presents several examples of strategies for local development but not with great innovative approaches.	
4	Italy	Name: Appennino Emiliano-Emilia Romagna Internal subdivisions: LAU-2 A part of: NUTS-3	y	n	y	n	This area includes 10 municipalities and a population of 33,914 inhabitants. Territorial surface is 797 sq. km. Between 2001 and 2011 the population remained stable since the growth rate was 0.5 %. This is still a rural area, with a population density of 42.6 inhabitants per sq. km. The share of population above 65 years is relatively high (27.3%). According to the classification this area is IP for low access to cinema and stations. The conditions for the provision of local transports are very scarce. This area is characterised by the presence of the parmisan as the key agricultural product, which represents a vital resource for the local population, though in the last decade there have been several crises in the local industry. Other important activities are in the tourism and industrial manufacture sector. This area has developed several strategies to improve its conditions: it has been beneficiary of Cohesion policies and rural development policies, with good experiences in the field of transnational and interritorial cooperation. In this area there is a very active and dynamic Local Action Group financed by the LEADER programme over years. This area takes also part of the national Strategy for Inner Areas. Social and economic actors at local level are used to cooperate around EU and national funded projects.	

Table 3.3: General characteristics of selected case study regions after verification (Phase 4)

Country	PROFECY case study areas	Administrative level / structure	Area [sq km]	NUTS-3 containing CS area	Final delineation results (NUTS-3)			
					D1 reg. centre	D2 interstitial	D3 SGI access	D4 depleting
Sweden	Vimmerby	Group of LAU2	2406	SE213				
Germany	Siegen-Wittgenstein	NUTS-3	1131	DEA5A				
Austria	Wolfsberg	part of NUTS_3	974	AT213				
Poland	Poviat of Wieruszów	LAU-1	576	PL116				
Hungary	Tamási járás	LAU-1	1020	HU233				
Spain	Montsià	LAU-1	736	ES514				
Italy	Area Grecanica-Calabria	Group of LAU2	435	ITF65				

Remarks: - IP region; - no IP region according to average accessibility and depletion data used in the four types of delineation, but representing relevant characteristic of inner periphery.

Map 3.1: Case study candidates and selected case study regions



4 Case study implementation

4.1 The general framework

The framework for individual analysis of each of the seven Case Study regions consisted of five main activities, each of them based upon one or more methodological instruments:

1) Gap Analysis. Analysis of the gap between case study areas and average situation in the regional, national and European scale [positioning of case studies according to socio-economic components of regional development, i.e.: demographic, economic (labour market, functions), access to SGI, spatial and functional connections, etc.]. Main methods in this activity: quantitative, data-based analysis, GIS-based analysis.

2) Internal Diversity Analysis. Quantitative and qualitative analysis of the internal diversity of case study areas with the special attention to socio-economic and spatial disparities (disproportions) in the local scale. Main methods in this activity: document compilation and analysis, data-based analysis, GIS-based analysis, interviews with stakeholders, Focus Group (optional).

3) Strategic Position Analysis. Qualitative analysis of current and previous formal documents on development strategies of case study areas (i.e.: regional development strategies and programmes – do they point these locations as problematic? what solutions for these locations they present?) [Notes: common time framework should cover programming periods of 2007-2013 and 2014-2020; as there are differences among administrative and institutional structure of European countries, PROFECY Partners compiled national, regional and local policy documents according to common viewpoints]. Main methods in this activity: policy related document compilation and analysis, interviews with stakeholders, Focus Group (optional).

4) Policy Analysis. Analysis of the impact of existing policy actions (at least at EU level but as far as possible also other national, regional and local) including Cohesion policies and Rural Development policies, and the type of multi-level governance arrangements that influence the use and the effectiveness of policies adopted. Main methods in this activity: policy related document compilation and analysis, interviews with stakeholders, Focus Group (optional).

5) Prospective Analysis. A prospective analysis based on the assessment of future scenarios by experts and stakeholders carried out in each study area. The main research questions for future scenarios of Case Studies conducted in the PROFECY project were:

- What are the externally and internally driven influences on the problem of inner peripherialisation of a specific localities?
- What are the key drivers for the future development – chances or threats in the context of further peripherialisation processes in areas under investigation?
- What future scenario can be drawn for each case studies according to the estimated positive or negative impact and likeliness of possible uptrend, downtrend or sideways of key drivers in chosen localities suffering from inner peripherialisation?

The methodology is based on scenario questionnaire. Its purpose is to create a context that facilitates reflection and a strategic look towards the future on the part of those who can make decisions in and on the territory. As the “scenario methodology” is rather a comprehensive term encompassing a canon of approaches with different degrees of complexity than a single approach, main goals and particular steps within this activity undertaken in the PROFECY Project will be further elaborated.

Many different scenario techniques have been developed due to the growing spread of scenario use in different application contexts among which there are e.g. business enterprises, city and land-use planning, and research and advisory services with their correspondingly different assumptions and standards[1,2].

In the PROFECY Project, scenarios can be defined as descriptions of a possible future paths of development of chosen case study areas. They are not intended to represent a full description of the future, but rather to highlight central elements of a possible future and to draw attention to the key factors that will drive future developments. According to this definition, in the PROFECY Project, future scenarios should be considered as “explorative” and/or “descriptive” type as opposed to “normative” scenarios in literature. The main question asked when building explorative scenarios is “What would happen if” and the present is taken as their starting point.

Although there are many different kinds of scenario analysis techniques, the scenario process unfolds in a broadly similar manner across these varied approaches. The first phase of the scenario process deals with the identification of the scenario field by establishing the precise questions to be addressed and the scope of the study. In the case of the PROFECY project the question is whether chosen locations develop in such a way to diminish the problem of inner peripherialization or whether this problem grows in the future. In the second phase, researchers identify the key factors that have a strong influence over how the future unfolds. In the PROFECY project, twelve factors have been identified under five dimensions (demographic, social, economic, accessibility, governance) as examples of internal and external forces influencing the future development of case study areas. The third phase then examines what range of outcomes these key factors could produce. In the PROFECY project experts were asked to evaluate the strength of influence of particular factors on the future development of the area as well as the likeliness of its trend in the future: decreasing, increasing or stable. This phase is followed by a fourth phase that involves condensing the list of central factors or bundling key factor values together in order to generate a meaningful future scenario for the case study. In the PROFECY project members of research teams summarized results of the scenario questionnaire filled by experts and interpreted them according to the results of semi-structured interviews conducted in parallel to the scenario method with the same group of experts and stakeholders.

Following Yin’s[3] (p. 101-114) discussion on various sources of evidence commonly used in case study research including: “documentation, archival records, interviews, direct

observations, participant observation, and artefacts", and their functions performed in different phases of the research – diagnostic, prognostic and prescriptive, in the PROFECY project, case studies include a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods to analyse different sources of evidence using a set of tools to investigate the complexity of the problem – its historical and contemporary drivers, consequences and possible changes in the future (Table 4.1).

It has been agreed that optionally, if relevant for the particular Case Study, teams might organise and conduct a Focus Group activity with experts and stakeholders, especially in two circumstances: 1) As, unlike interviews, the Focus Group technique allows to observe the interactions between local stakeholders. In that sense, Focus Group is recommended when a particular team finds results of conducted interviews divergent and opening the further discussion on several contadicting views of the situation, It is believed that it might help to identify alliances and conflicting relationships essential to propose solutions for this area; 2) At a later stage, when the collected results from the scenario method are available and the team can discuss the results and reflect upon them with key local stakeholders. This methodological approach for Case Studies include an Annex explaining the details of the Focus Group activity.

Table 4.1: Sources of evidence, methods and tools for data collection in the PROFECY project case study approach[4]

Sources of evidence	**Methods**	**Tools**	***Diagnosis***	***Prognosis***	***Quantitative***	***Qualitative***
Statistical records	Multi-thematic analysis	Case study protocol (CSP)	✓✓		✓✓	
Statistical records, Direct observation, Physical artefacts Literature, archives	Structural analysis Literature review Screening newspapers' archives		✓✓		✓	✓
Policies, plans – documentation	Review of documents of local strategies, plans etc.; Impact analysis of EU, national and regional programmes		✓	✓	✓	✓
Experts and stakeholders	Structured or semi-structured interviews	Interview guidelines	✓✓	✓		✓✓
Experts and stakeholders	Scenario building	Guidelines for scenarios	✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Experts and stakeholders	Focus Groups	Guidelines for Focus Groups	✓✓	✓		✓

Presented sources, methods and tools for their analysis were used in five activities listed above (p. 21-22). In each phase of case study implementation process, both the team leading case studies and other partners have strict tasks assigned and described in details in the following section.

4.2 The checklist

The checklist in Table 4.2 presents steps carried out before, during and at the end of the case study activity by all partners in the PROFECY project. Its main purpose is to ensure that all teams go through comparable processes.

Table 4.2: Steps carried in the case study research

Phase of Case Study	Task	Who?	Detailed information
Preparation	To translate selected methodological tools to national languages.	All partners	Guidelines for the Scenario Building, guidelines for interviews, guidelines for Focus Groups, etc.
	To determine the research team for CS: role and tasks of each researcher.	All partners	The team should ensure efficient and successful work. It is recommended that each team has a leader who will be responsible for assigning tasks in particular case study implementation, supervising the work and who will be in contact with ULODZ and will write a report. Tasks could be divided into: I. desk research: 1) query on historical background and statistical records, 2) query on policies and governance issues, 3) newspapers' textual analysis, 4) cartographic presentation of collected data; II. Field research: 1) photographic documentation, 2) at least 7 and up to 15 face-to-face interviews, 3) Scenario Building session, 4) Focus Group (optional)
	If possible, to find an ally in the case study area.	All partners	It should be a person with leadership capacity, yet politically "neutral" He/she should help to legitimize our investigation in the field.
	To identify and contact with stakeholders and experts for the fieldwork (Scenario Building, Interviews and Focus Group).	All partners	7-15 stakeholders and experts among whom there should be: Groups of local and regional stakeholders responsible for local and regional strategies and planning, as well as members of NGOs interested in these issues, scientists, journalists: - local and regional policy-makers (mayors, sectoral policy makers) (at least 1 local and 1 regional) - local and regional economic stakeholders as present and potential investors, domestic and/or transnational companies (among them, at least 1 innovative entrepreneur carrying out initiatives in the study area); - associations of private entrepreneurs in the area (e.g. small and medium size) (at least one, if any) - representatives of NGOs (e.g. regional branch of urban planners' association) - leaders of higher education units - experts with experience of local development planning in the study area; - strategic planners - Local or regional journalists.
	To program all tasks and activities of CS in terms of dates, place, materials needed, attendants, length, etc.	All partners	The leader of each team should plan the work of the whole team and each team member to ensure efficient and successful work.
Implemen-tation	To collect sources of evidence needed for case study research	All partners	Literature focused on genesis and evolution of the case study region, factors and barriers of its development, current situation;

	(literature, statistical data, examples of European, national, regional, local policies and programmes targeting the region and its problems since 2006, local and regional newspapers)		National, regional and local statistical datasets on demographic, economic (labour market, functions), spatial and functional features at the individually appropriate spatial level (NUTS 3, LAU1, LAU2); Local, regional and national policies and programmes functioning over the current and previous UE programming period (2007-2013, 2014-2020); Local, regional and national newspapers – a querry of articles about the case study areas, published over last 5 years. This document includes the standardized tables to collect data.
	To conduct 7-15 recorded interviews with selected experts, carry out Scenario Method	All partners	During the recorded interview, experts will be asked about their awareness of the situation of the region as IP, its main challenges, relative position to other regions, evaluation of coping strategies. As interviews are conducted in national languages of project partners, a common template for their transcript was developed to present only the summary of key findings with main quotes. This document includes the standardized scenario questionnaire and the standardized interview template as well as summarizing templates.
	If relevant, to conduct a Focus Group with key local stakeholders	All partners (optional)	Note: We leave this method flexible for partners and individual implementation of particular case studies. We anticipate the use of the Focus Group in two circumstances: 1) As, unlike interviews, the Focus Group technique allows to observe the interactions between local stakeholders, if particular team finds results of conducted interviews divergent and opening the further discussion on several contadicting views of the situation, it is recommended to organise a Focus Group session. Then, it might help to identify alliances and conflicting relationships which will be essential to propose solutions for this area; 2) At a later stage, when the collected results from the scenario method are available and the team can discuss the results and reflect upon them with key local stakeholders. The guidelines include an Annex explaining the methodological details of the FG.
	To prepare a photographical documentation of the case study area.	All partners	10-15 photographs illustrating problems of the case study area and (if exists) its internal, local diversity to be included in the Individual Case Study Reports.
	To fill protocols and tables prepared by ULODZ ordering information needed for the individual case study report.	All partners	Members of all teams responsible for certain tasks make a use of collected sources of evidence and tools prepared and presented by ULODZ and compile information necessary for the analysis.
	To prepare maps presenting selected issues for case study areas following homogenous templates (to be prepared by TCP according to ESPON map toolkits).	All partners	Partners prepare maps for selected localities presenting issues such as: - geographical location in regional and national scale; - location within administrative structures; - communication accessibility of the case study area; - accessibility to SGIs; - changes (1990,2000,2012) and main current functions of the area based on CLC data.

Closing	To prepare case study reports according to guidelines prepared by ULODZ.	All partners	Individual case studies' reports shall be structured along the table of contents presented in section 5 of Methodological Approach for Case Studies.
	To create a virtual library – files containing all materials collected during the Case Study process.	All partners	Table Ia Table Ib Table II Table III Table IV Table V Table VI Maps in editable files; Photos

5 Structure of the case study report

Findings of particular case studies carried under the PROFECY Project are presented in the form of Annexes to the Final Report as stories or narratives that capture the complexity and contradictions of the study, and the phenomenon in question[2]. Typically, case studies are extensively descriptive since the goal of the written report is to present a complex issue into one that can be understood in a meaningful way.

The following table presents the structure of the individual case study report. Each case study report of approximately 40 pages, was designed to consist of:

- title page, including list of authors
- contents
- tables, figures, maps, list of abbreviations
- five main parts of the report (Table 5.1)
- references
- annexes (case study protocols – tables I-VI, list of experts, photographs)

Table 5.1: The structure of the individual case study report

Part N.	Title (no of pages)	Contents (no of pages)	How to prepare it
1	**Executive summary (1p)**		Should be written last to focus on key points/findings presenting in brief the analysed case;
2	**Introduction of the case study background (6p)**	2.1. General information and location in European Space (3p) 2.2. IP delineation outcomes (1p) 2.3. Basic socio-economic characteristic (2p)	2.1. based on information collected in table Ia – part 1 of the CSP and reflected on maps of case study area presenting location in national/regional scale, internal administrative divisions; 2.2. based on information collected in table Ia – part 2 of CSP and results of IPs delineations carried during the PROFECY project life-time; 2.3. based on information collected in table Ib – parts 3-4 of CSP.
3	**Characteristics of the case study: Patterns and processes (25p)**	3.1. The evolution of IP case study region (5p) 3.2. The case study against the region, country and Europe (5p) 3.3. Internal structure and disparities inside case study region (5p) 3.4. The case study as a subject of local, regional and state coping strategies (5p) 3.5. Future scenarios 5p)	3.1. a focus on changes of socio-economic situation in the area (based on: information collected in the table Ib – parts 3-4 of CSP), as well as on historical background – processes and drivers leading to peripherality (based on: literature review and D3 Interim Delivery p. 54-57 – Descriptive models of type 1-3 inner peripheries); 3.2. quantitative analysis of the gap between case study area and average situation in the regional, national and European scale – positioning of case study (based on information collected in table Ib – parts 3-4 of CSP); as well as on the image of the case study region (based on: common knowledge and/or brief screening of nation-wide newspaper archives – results collected in table VI of CSP and analysis of answers for Q1 to Q8 in interview with experts); 3.3. basic socio-economic characteristics of internal disparities of

		case study region, based on information collected in table IV of CSP; 3.4. based on information collected in tables II-III of CSP as well as the content analysis of coping strategies documents (based on information collected in the table V of CSP) and analysis of answers for Q9 to Q14 in interview with experts; 3.5. result of scenario questionnaire compiled by ULODZ, analysed and deepened by each partner.
4	**Discussion (3p)**	A critical discussion on different insights on past, current and future problems of the case study area (experts, strategies, plans, policies; media); whether they are complimentary or rather divergent views? Are these strategies and plans responding to the problems of the area? What are local society's responses? A short commentary on the validity of the 3 models of IPs.
5	**Conclusions (2p)**	A summary with the use of graph 1 (visualisation of triggers / drivers / defining features of inner periphery on the example of particular case study area)

6 Models of methodological tools

6.1 Case study protocol (CSP)

Table 6.1: Introductory data (Table Ia. in the case study protocol)

1	**Identification of case study area**	
1.1	Administrative regions involved (eg. for Germany: Länder & Regierungsbezirke)	
1.2	Name and ID of the NUTS-3 areas that are (partly) covered by IP area	
1.3	Size of IP in km² (and national average IP size)	
1.4	Classification of concerned NUTS-3 area according to urban-rural typology as developed by DG AGRI and DG REGIO	
1.5	Names of the regional centres within the IP	
2	**Delineation outcomes**	
2.1	IP according to Delineation 1 (Travel time to Regional Centres) y/n	
2.2	IP according to Delineation 2 (Economic potential interstitial areas) y/n	
2.3	IP according to Delineation 3 (Areas of poor access to SGI) y/n	
2.4	IP according to Delineation 4 (Depleting area index) y/n and % of area coverage; brief qualitative description of the situation	
2.5	Type of IP according to PROFECY delineation-typology	

Table 6.2: Exploratory data (Table Ib. in the case study protocol)

No.	Issues	Case Study	Region	State
3				
3.1	Population density per km² (2013)			
3.2	Total population (2013)			
3.3	Population development (1999-2013)			
3.4	Population development age 18-30, (1999-2013)			
3.5	Old age dependency ration (2013)			
3.6	Gender Imbalance (2013)			
3.7	Ethnic composition (2013)			
4				
4.1	Growth measured as GDP per capita in PPS (2013)			
4.2	Unemployment rate (2013)			
4.3	Youth unemployment rate (2013)			
4.4	Main economic basis: Share of employees per sector (2013) (agriculture, industry, services) if possible in more detail and with time series			
4.5	Development of the economic situation in the past (dominant industries, major breaks etc.; please describe in a few sentences)			
4.6	Share of tertiary educated people (according to ISCED, 2013)			
4.7	Forms / Amounts of received financial transfers			
4.8	Virtual Accessibility (Next-generation network (NGN) coverage in %, 2013)			
4.9	Virtual SGI provision (local government initiatives / support of virtual services) (please describe in a few sentences)			

Table 6.3: Policies and programmes (Table II in the case study protocol)

Types of policy / programme	**Duration of participation (period of implementation)**	**Objectives related to the study area**	**Type of project implemented in the study area**	**Financial expenditures in the study area**
5. Regional/Cohesion policy				
5.1. Specific policy measure financed by the Operational Programme (ERDF, ESF)				
5.2. Transnational/interterritorial cooperation				
5.3. Other initiatives				
6. Rural Development programmes (EARDF)				
6.1. Specific policy measure financed by the RDP				
6.2. Leader initiative				
6.3. Other initiatives				
7. National/regional/local schemes (own funds)				

Table 6.4: Governance structures (Table III in the case study protocol)

Governance structures	**Role of local actors in the process of**			
Types of policy / programme	**Strategy design**	**Composition of the partnership involved in the project**	**Project implementation**	**Project financing and control**
8. Regional/Cohesion policy				
8.1. Specific policy measure financed by the Operational Programme (ERDF, ESF)				
8.2. Transnational/interterritorial cooperation				
8.3. Other initiatives				
9. Rural Development programmes (EARDF)				
9.1. Specific policy measure financed by the RDP				
9.2. Leader initiative				
9.3. Other initiatives				
10. National/regional/local schemes (own funds)				

6.2 Structural analysis

Table 6.5: Socio-economic characteristic of administrative units of case study area (internal structure) (Table IV in the case study protocol)

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3…
Population density per km² (2013)			
Total population (2013)			
Population development (1999-2013)			
Population development age 18-30, (1999-2013)			
Old age dependency ration (2013)			
Gender Imbalance (2013)			
Ethnic composition (2013)			
Growth measured as GDP per capita in PPS (2013)			
Unemployment rate (2013)			
Youth unemployment rate (2013)			
Main economic basis: Share of employees per sector (2013) (agriculture, industry, services) if possible in more detail and with time series			
Share of tertiary educated people (according to ISCED, 2013)			
Others …			

Table 6.6: Content analysis of coping strategies documents (Table V in the case study protocol)

Document 1	
Title	
Information and status of the document	
Type of the document (plan/strategy/…)	
Governance level/levels (local/regional/…)	
Synthesis/general foundings of the document – in context of peripherality of case study region or its part	

Guidelines for filling Table V in the Case Study Protocol:

Consider at least two relevant initiatives from table II and III, which:

- had or are having major impact in the study area (as perceived by local actors);
- among those carried out in the last 10 years;
- possible one of them should be carried out (or is carrying out) in the most recent years

Table 6.7: Content analysis of newspaper archives – image / stigmatization (Table VI in the case study protocol)

		Number of articles
Size of the article	Short (less than 1 page)	
	Medium(1-2 pages)	
	Long (more than 2 pages)	
Author of the article	Journalist	
	Publicist/expert	
	Local authority	
Author's attitude	Positive	
	Neutral	
	Negative	
Context	Positive	
	Neutral	
	Negative	

Guidelines for filling Table VI in the Case Study Protocol:

Negative or positive image of the case study area according to brief screening of nation-wide newspaper archives for example via LexisNexis)

Newspapers query with keywords: name of the case study region AND 'periphery', 'decline', 'crisis', 'problems', 'underdevelopment', lagging' for last 5 years.

6.3 Interviews with experts

6.3.1 General remarks

Aim of the interview:

- to learn about experts' perceptions and interpretations of problems in the case study area;
- to formulate alternative scenarios for their future.

How many interviews, with whom:

7-15 recorded semi-structured interviews, carried with experts, among whom there should be local and regional stakeholders responsible for local and regional strategies and planning, as well as members of NGOs interested in these issues:

- local and regional policy-makers (mayors, sectoral policy makers) (at least 1 local and 1 regional);
- local and regional economic stakeholders as present and potential investors, domestic and/or transnational companies (among them, at least 1 innovative entrepreneur carrying out initiatives in the study area);
- associations of private entrepreneurs in the area (e.g. small and medium size) (at least one, if any);
- representatives of NGOs (e.g. regional branch of urban planners' association);
- experts with experience of local development planning in the study area;
- local/regional journalists;
- leaders of higher education units, scientists
- strategic planners

Experts should be listed in the Annex 8 to each Individual Case Study Report considering their privacy – not mentioning names and their explicit position but rather describing them in the broader way.

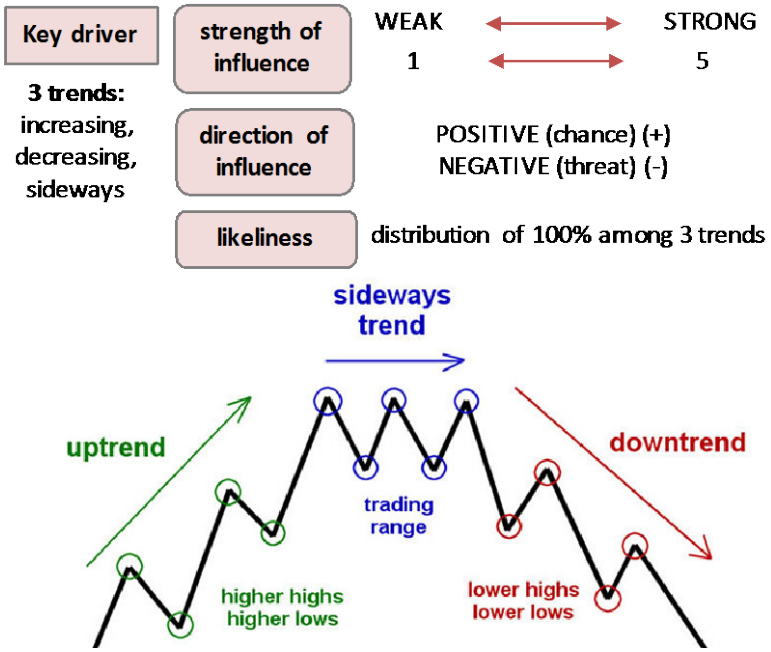
Language of the interview, transcriptions:

As interviews are to be conducted in national languages of project partners, a common template for their transcript was developed to present only the summary of key findings with main quotes (Table VII).

Important issues:

Scenario questionnaire should be introduced to experts first. It consists of four elements: (1) dimensions of inner peripherialisation process, (2) key factors in each dimension, (3) likeliness of particular trend for each key factor within the time range given (next 5 years) and (4) its strength of influence for the future development of the area. Experts should be asked to fill a questionnaire specifying on the scale -5 (strong negative impact) to 5 (strong positive impact) and 0 for no impact for a set of factors and drivers of peripherialisation process and the likeliness (distribution of 100% among particular trends) of their occurence in the chosen IP region with the indicated power on a possible uptrend, sideways and downtrend (Figure 6.1)

Figure 6.1: The structure of the scenario questionnaire specifying elements to be evaluated by experts



Opinions of all experts in each case study region should be collected and presented to reflect the most important factors and their role in the peripherialisation process, as well as the likeliness of three scenarios. The experts should be encouraged to share their thoughts while filling the scenario questionnaire, in order to enhance the data from the table with qualitative insights.

Table VIII summarizing opinions of all experts should be prepared by all partners and delivered, in an editable format (preferably Excel file) to a leading partner. A compiled report on future scenarios for all selected cases will be prepared by the leading partner (ULODZ).

Note: While preparing a compiled report ULODZ might need to consult it with particular partners and their local knowledge and experience. Additional questions might be asked to enable correct explanation of specific results in particular cases.

6.3.2 Tools and tables

Scenario questionnaire:

Dimensions	Factor	Trend	Influence on peripheralization	Likeliness (next 5 years)
Demographic	Number of residents	Uptrend		
		Sideways		
		Downtrend		
	Ageing	Uptrend		
		Sideways		
		Downtrend		
Social	Number of NGO's	Uptrend		
		Sideways		
		Downtrend		
	Share of well- educated people	Uptrend		
		Sideways		
		Downtrend		
Economic	Number of jobs	Uptrend		
		Sideways		
		Downtrend		
	Individual income	Uptrend		
		Sideways		
		Downtrend		
Accessibility	Access to SGIs	Uptrend		
		Sideways		
		Downtrend		
	Transport system network	Uptrend		
		Sideways		
		Downtrend		
Governance	Cooperation of local authorities within the region	Uptrend		
		Sideways		
		Downtrend		
	National level subsidies	Uptrend		
		Sideways		
		Downtrend		
	Access to information on policy supply at national/regional level	Uptrend		
		Sideways		
		Downtrend		
	Access to policy networks/relations	Uptrend		
		Sideways		
		Downtrend		

Table 6.8: Scenarios' synthesis (Table VIII in the Case Study Protocol)

Dimensions	Factor	Trend	**Expert 1**		**Expert 2 …**	
			Position/occupation of the Expert		Position/occupation of the Expert	
			Influence on peripheralization	Likeliness (next 5 years)	Influence on peripheralization	Likeliness (next 5 years)
Demographic	Population potential	U				
		S				
		D				
	Ageing	U				
		S				
		D				
Social	Number of NGO's	U				
		S				
		D				
	Share of well-educated people	U				
		S				
		D				
Economic	Number of jobs	U				
		S				
		D				
	Individual income	U				
		S				
		D				
Accessibility	Access to SGIs	U				
		S				
		D				
	Development of the transport system	U				
		S				
		D				
Governance	Cooperation of local authorities within the region	U				
		S				
		D				
	National level subsidies	U				
		S				
		D				
	Access to information on policy supply at national/regional level	U				
		S				
		D				
	Access to policy networks/relations	U				
		S				
		D				

Model of the semi-structured interview

Interview data	
Interview number	
Date of the interview	
Country	
Region	
Interviewer	
Data of data analysis	
Contacted by	O snowball O other

Personal data	
Name:	
Position	
Sector (cross)	O Public O Private O NGO
Town/village (or area)	
e-mail (for the results)	
Telephone	
Website	

Do you want to participate and to contribute to the project as a focus group? (Y/N)	

PART I: Main problems of the region and people affected

1. What are in Your opinion the most crucial problems in Your region? (please provide 3 answers)
2. What are the reasons of these problems (specify for each problem)?
3. Who is mainly affected by problems in this region?

PART II: Awareness of the position of the region:

4. Do you think your region as lagging in the perspective of socio-economic development in relation to the surrounding areas? O Yes O No Why?
5. Do you recognize your region as having poor access to services of the general interest?

   O Yes O No Why?

6. What services of the general interest do you consider to be most limited in your area? Why?

Health	O Primary health care	O Hospitals	O Pharmacies	O Specialists
Education	O Primary schools	O Secondary Schools	O Higher education	
Transport	O Train stations	O Train connections with other centres	O Roads of good quality	
Commercial	O Banks	O FoodShops	O Supermarkets	
Culture	O Cinemas	O Libraries	O Cultural centers	
Other				

7. What is the most prosperous region in the nearest surrounding of the region in which you live?

8. Why this region is more successful than your region?

PART III: View on underlying processes and trends and the role of policies::

9. What factors and conditions may lead to a reduction/decrease of indicated problems of your region in the future.
10. Have the recent strategies/development plans/local actions focused on the reduction of the gap between your region and more developed regions/areas in Your country?
11. Which role do different funding sources and funding channels (especially concerning EFRE/ESF) play?
12. Which are the policies/programmes with the most positive impacts on the reduction of disparities between your area and the other areas, according to your opinion, and why?
13. And the policies/programmes with the less positive (or even negative) impacts?
14. Which are the main factors determining failures/scarce impacts of policies/programmes implemented in the study area?

Table 6.9: Interviews' synthesis (Table VII in the Case Study Protocol)

	Expert 1	Expert 2	Expert 3…
Position/occupation of the Expert			
1 – problem 1			
1 – problem 2			
1 – problem 3			
2 – problem 1 specification			
2 – problem 2 specification			
2 – problem 3 specification			
3 – who is affected			
4 – y/n			
5 – why			
6 – list of SGI			
7 – name of the region			
8 – why			
9 – list of factors/conditions			
10 – if yes, list of strategies/plans …			
11 – role			
12 – main positive policies/programmes and why			
13 – main negative policies/programmes			
14 – factors of failure/scarce impact			

Guidelines for the Focus Group (optional)

Introduction to the workshop

The focus group consists of 2 parts:

*Part 1: Plenary discussion with all participants (around a key question on inner peripheriality).

Do you consider that the … region is affected by the problems that characterize inner peripherality? If yes, which are those problems? What causes them? Why do they continue? If no, which are the strong aspects of the area? Are they in danger? Do they need some specific intervention?

Notes: Participants should be given 5-8 minutes to discuss the subject in couples (and include the main ideas in 2-4 post-its), and afterwards to change the couples and repeat again the dynamic. At the end each couple should be asked to share with all their main ideas which are then grouped together in a big paper.

*Part 2: Thematic discussion in two sub-groups (according to the guidelines listed below and over questions included in the presentation) where participants should also able to write their most relevant ideas:

Group 1: Access of SGI and Connectivity:

Question A1. Do you consider that in the … area there are problems of provision and access to services (SeGI)? (education, health care, supermarkets, administrative procedures, internet broadband and mobile network)?

Question A2. Please describe what these problems related to SGI consist in, where and why do they occur?

Question A3. What can be done at the local and county level to improve these problems? Who should lead in each case?

Question A4. Do you think that society at county level is well articulated (formal and informal collaboration networks, cooperative trends, etc.)? What are the reasons that explain the situation?

Question A5. Do you think that the society at county level is well connected with the rest of the world regarding infrastructures, business and economic networks, social networks, political and financial power, telecommunications and capacity of influence on the processes that affect the area? Starting with connections with neighbouring areas, the metropolitan and the big centres of power in Europe and the world?

Group 2: Productive model:

Question B1. How would you describe the productive model of the … area according to the following aspects?

- Main divers of the economy at county level. Reasons.
- Imbalances between active population qualification and the professional profiles demanded by companies
- Activities showing a decline. Reasons
- Degree of dynamism of the business fabric at county level
- Existence and operation of business and commercial networks in the … area
- Sustainability in the middle and long term of the … area's productive model
- Risks and opportunities that can be glimpsed

Question B2. Which are, in your opinion, the main strengths and weaknesses of the current productive model at higher administrative level?

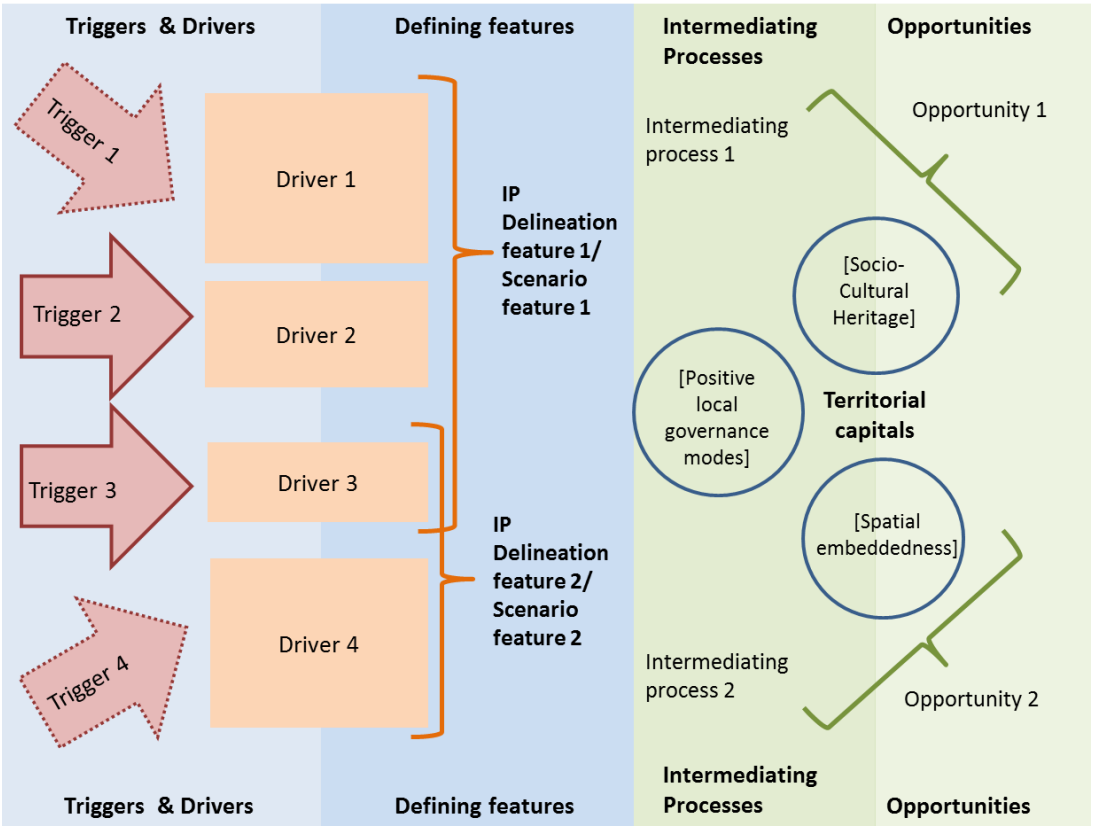
Question B3. What is being done to improve the productive model in the … area?

Question B4. What else should be done?

6.4 Drawing conclusions

To summarize case study findings and provide accessible and timely information for the cross –case study comparison task, all PROFECY Partners follow graph I to visualise the story of the area as the example of Inner Periphery – starting from triggers and drivers, through main features defining IPs (both objectively and subjectively), to possibilities of future change.

Figure 6.2: Visualisation of triggers / drivers / defining features



Definitions & explanations

- Triggers: Supra-regional (national, European, global) developments that cannot be determined at regional / local scale. They are divided into development of:
  - Sudden discontinuity 
  - Slow & continuous decline/stagnation with simultaneous ascent of the surrounding 
- Drivers: Local / regional effects caused by the triggers against the background of the regional development path
- Defining features: Dominant local processes in relation to IP-Status (see delineation outcomes and/or of outcomes from ULODZ Case study Scenario compilation)
- Intermediating processes: Processes that can be influenced on / directly target the local / regional scale
- Territorial capitals: Local potentials in the field of governance actors / spatial embededdedness / cultural heritage etc.
- Opportunities: Positive development options that seem realistic on the basis of the aforementioned aspects

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ESPON 2020 – More information

ESPON EGTC
4 rue Erasme, L-1468 Luxembourg - Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Phone: +352 20 600 280
Email: **info@espon.eu**
www.espon.eu, **Twitter**, **LinkedIn**, **YouTube**

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