

# Grenzüberschreitende Wirtschaftsräume

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Meeting

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# Blue Banana/Rhineland Frontier

- ▶ Strong economic region in Europe across multiple countries (Tsiotas and Polyzos, 2025; Faludi, 2015)
  - ▶ E.g. low unemployment, high competitiveness, or developed infrastructure (Rhine-Alpine Corridor)
- ▶ Backbone of European economic development → long-term structures impact present day performance (Hospers, 2003)

Appendix: Blue Banana

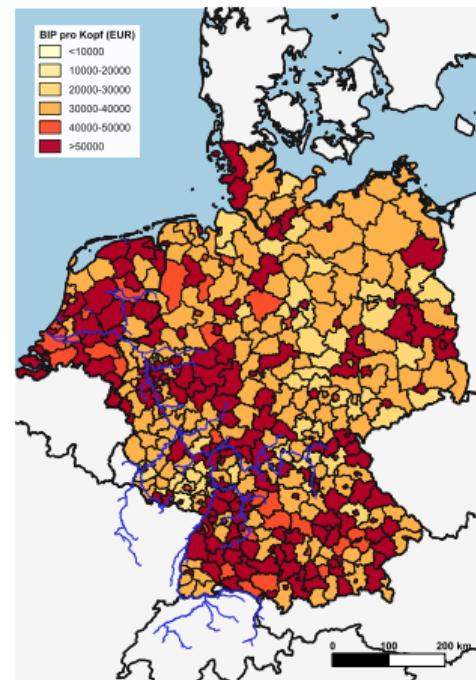
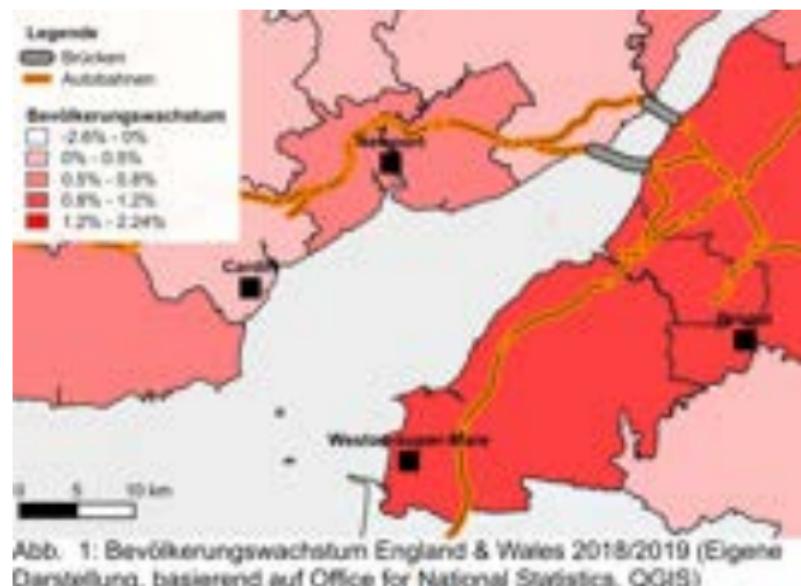


Abb. X Einzugsgebiet des Rheins und Beschäftigungsquote (Quelle: eigene Darstellung, basierend auf Daten von Eurostat, erzeugt mit QGIS)

## Severn Crossings - Wales & England

- ▶ Two bridges for Wales and England, both with tolls (roughly 19% of cost from Cardiff to Bristol) until 2018 (Carradice, n.d.; Shuttleworth, 2018)
- ▶ Increase in rental prices in Newport and Monmouthshire by 5.8% or more than +13.1% if within a 10km radius of the bridge (Protopsalti and Skouralis, 2024)
- ▶ Theory: Highly integrated economic area with existing infrastructure



Appendix: Wales - England

# Railway Links Ireland

- ▶ One-sided (Northern Ireland) closure of all rail connections between 1955 and 1960
- ▶ Ever since these closures occurred, missing links



# Further Ideas

Idea	Annotation	Effort	Example
Power grid/energy	Good historical example of European integration	high	<a href="#">Example Maps</a>
Demographic diffusion	Distribution of demographic variables such as religion or languages	medium	<a href="#">Religious Groups</a>
Migration	Migration flows between countries/NUTS	high	<a href="#">Umzüge Schweiz</a>
Population change	Change in population in NUTS/LAU level	low	<a href="#">Rhineland</a>

# References I

**Carradice, Phil**, "BBC - Wales History: The First Severn Bridge."

**Faludi, Andreas**, "The "Blue Banana" Revisited," *European Journal of Spatial Development*, 2015, 56.

**Hospers, Gert-Jan**, "Beyond the Blue Banana?: Structural change in Europe's geo-economy," *Intereconomics*, 2003, 38 (2), 76–85.

**Protopsalti, Danai and Alexandros Skouralis**, "Can toll prices changes affect the housing market? The case of the Severn crossing toll removal," *Journal of European Real Estate Research*, May 2024, 17(1), 87–101.

**Shuttleworth, Peter**, "Severn bridges: Final day of at least 800 years of tolls," December 2018.

**Tsiotas, Dimitrios and Serafeim Polyzos**, "Spatial Patterns of Development in the European Union," *Theoretical and Empirical Researches in Urban Management*, 2025, 20 (2), 5–31.

# Blue Banana Region/Rhineland



# Further Data

Variable	Source	Level
Employment	Eurostat	NUTS3
Population (growth & density)	Eurostat/OECD	NUTS3/LAU
Degree of urbanisation	OECD	LAU
Air transport (passenger, freight, and mail)	Eurostat	Airports

- ▶ OECD Local Data Portal
- ▶ Eurostat - Regional Accounts

# Employment

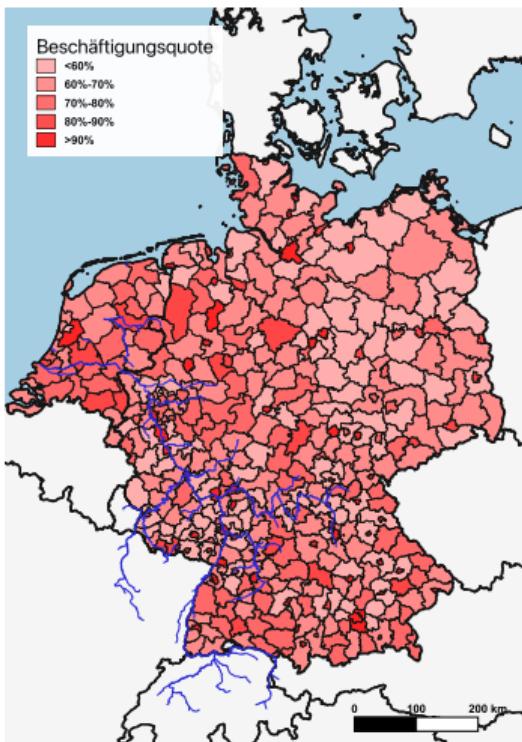


Abb. X Einzugsgebiet des Rheins und Beschäftigungsquote (Quelle: eigene Darstellung, basierend auf Daten von Eurostat, erzeugt mit QGIS)

# Air Transport



# Population Density

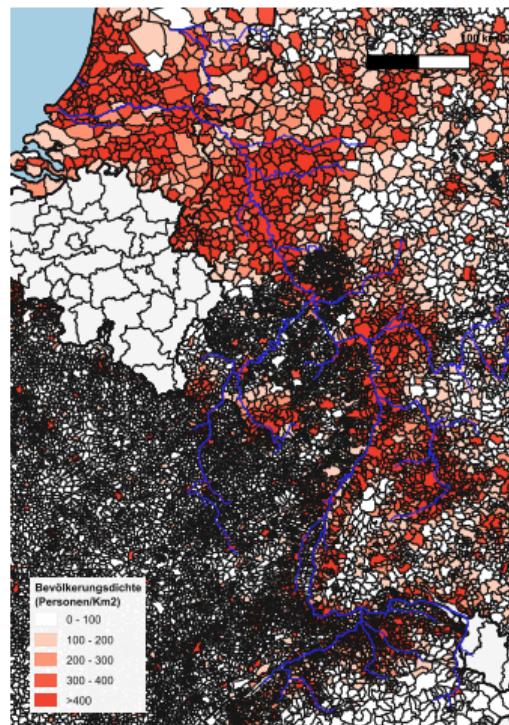
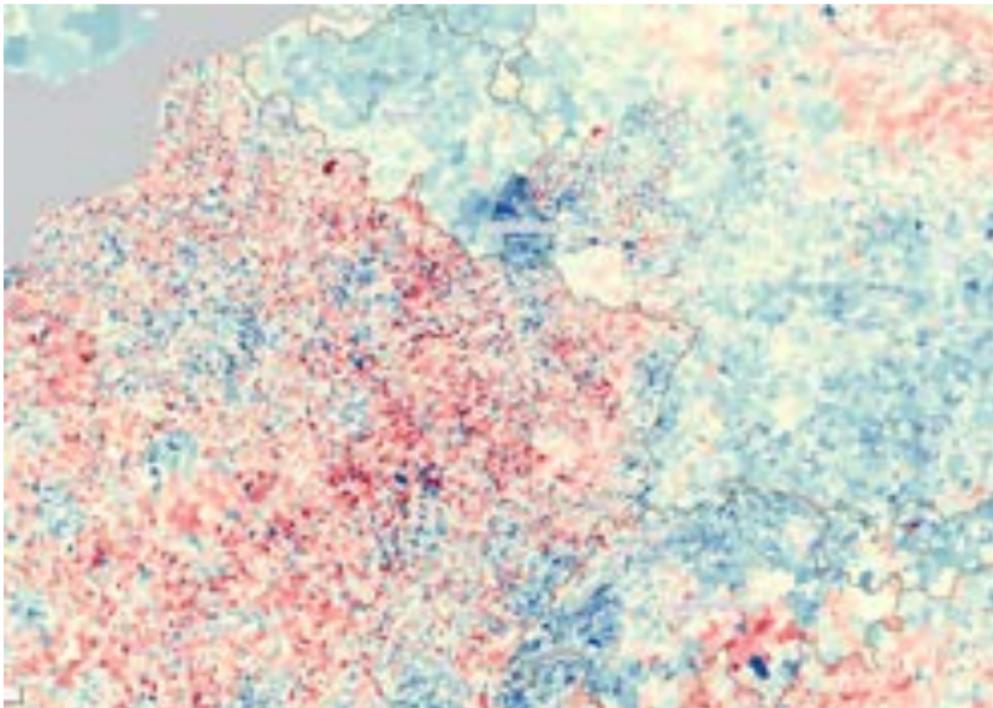


Abb. X Einzugsgebiet des Rheins und Bevölkerungsdichte (Quelle: eigene Darstellung, basierend auf Daten von Eurostat, erzeugt mit QGIS)

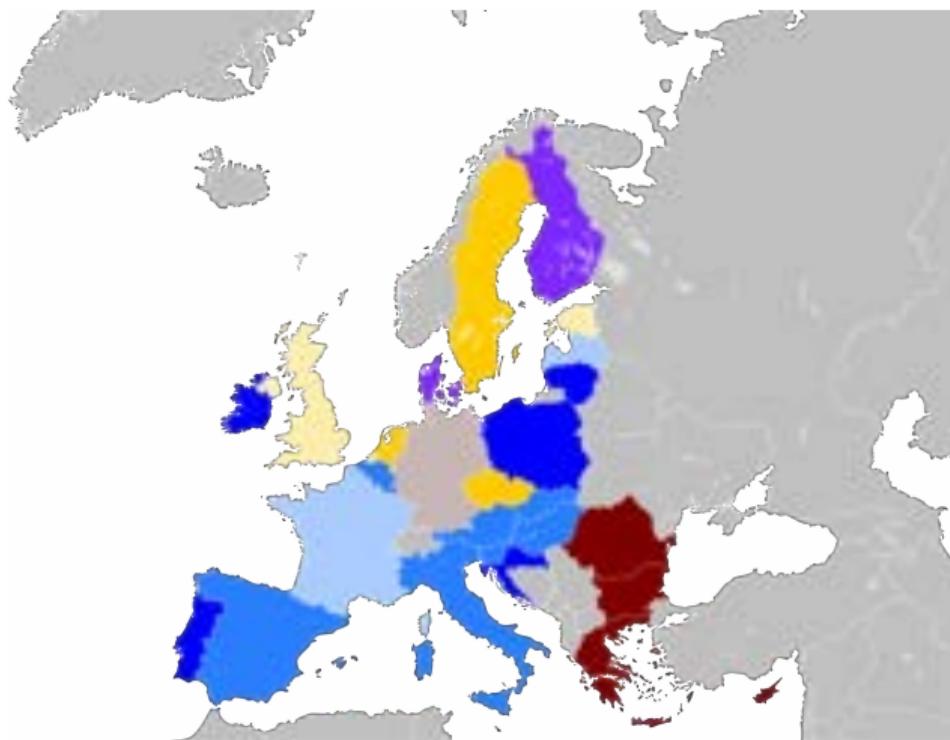
# Population Growth



# Population Change in the Last 5 Years



# Largest Religious Groups



# Severn Crossing Wales - England GDP

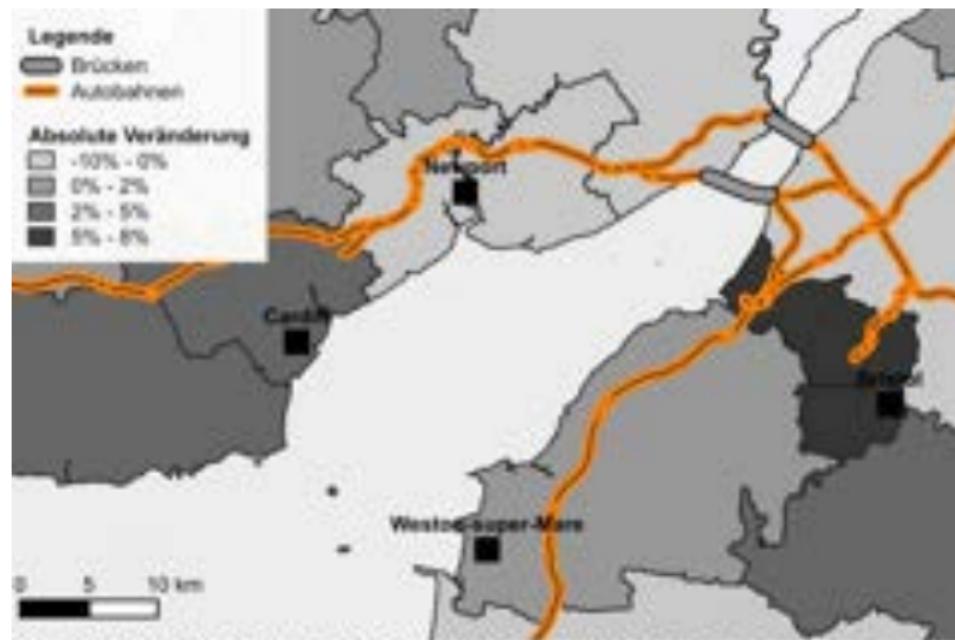
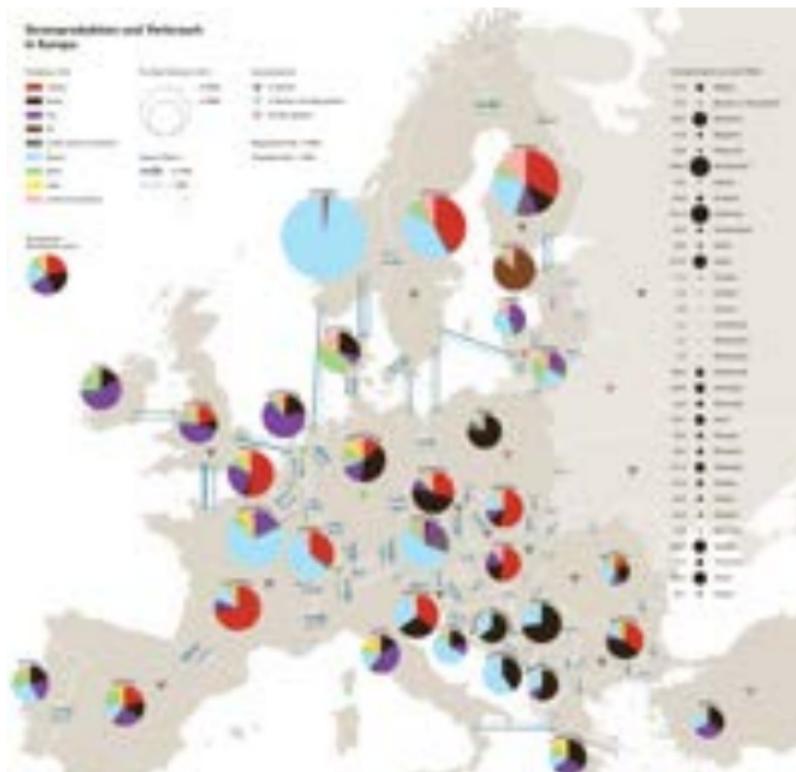


Abb. 2: BIP Wachstum 2018/2019 absolute Veränderung (Eigene Darstellung, basierend auf Office for National Statistics, QGIS)

# Electricity Production and Consumption



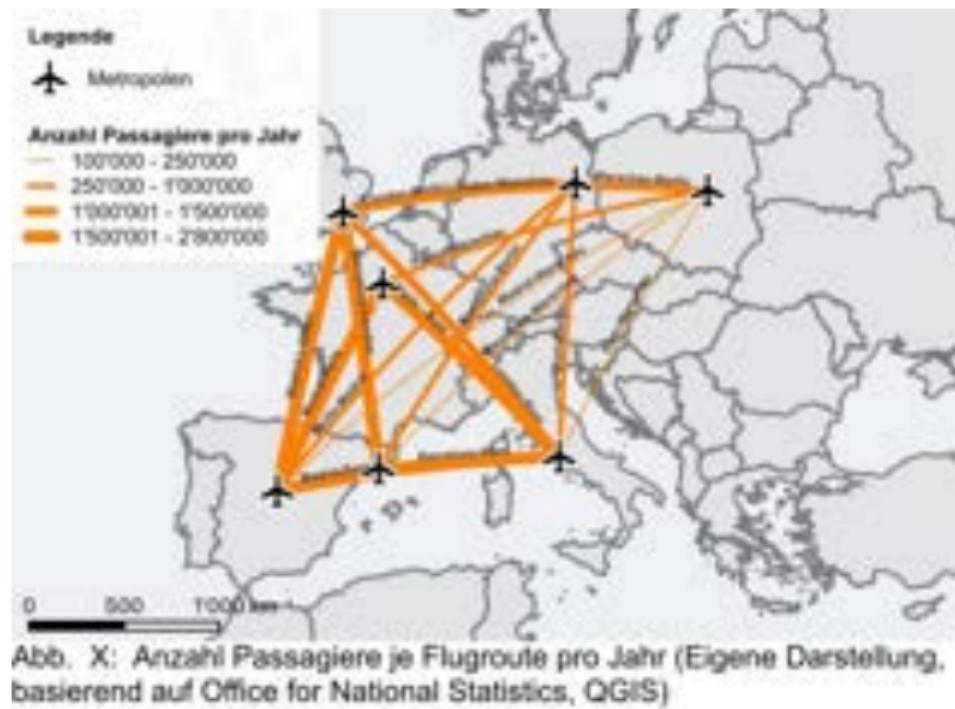
# Proposal for an Electricity Network 1931



# Estlink 1 and 2



# Annual Flights between major European Cities



# Missing Railway Links BeNeLux



Abb. 2: Bestehende und fehlende Verbindungen im Raum BeNeLux  
(Darstellung, basierend auf Office for National Statistics, QGIS)

# Missing Railway Czechia

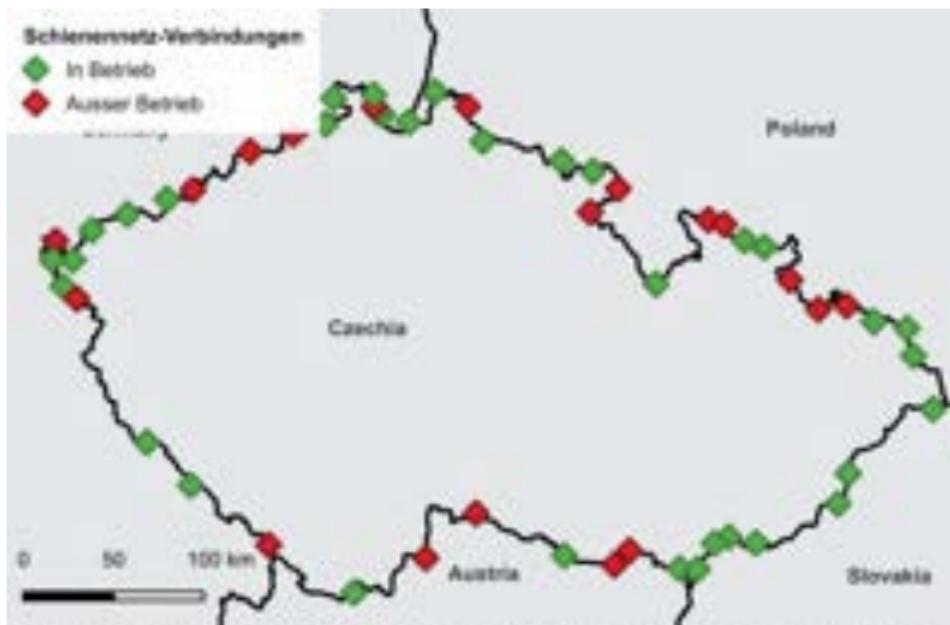
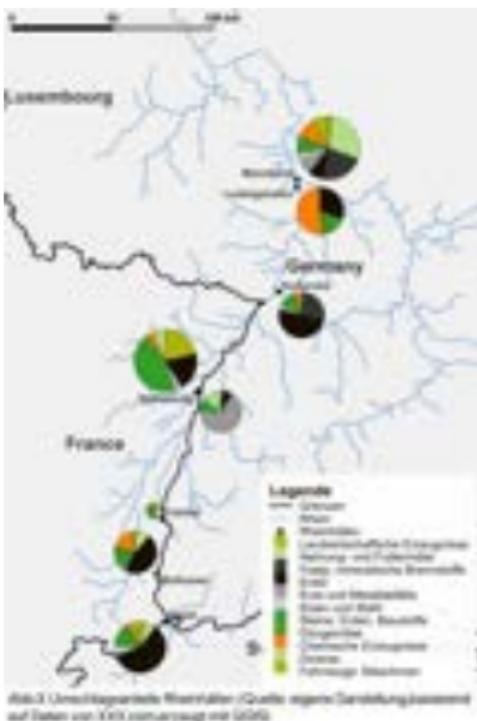


Abb. X: Bestehende und fehlende Verbindungen Tschechien (Eigene Darstellung, basierend auf Datenbeispiel QGIS)

# Rhine Ports



# TEN-T Transport Corridors



Abb. 2: TEN-T of the European Transport Corridors (Eigene Darstellung, basierend auf Daten XY, QGIS)