

Smart shrinkage, adaptation policy and degrowth - a conceptual approach

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Agenda

- My own research interest as a take off.
- But also an overview of various perspectives on shrinkage.
- Give you some guidance into the field of shrinkning geographies.

Background

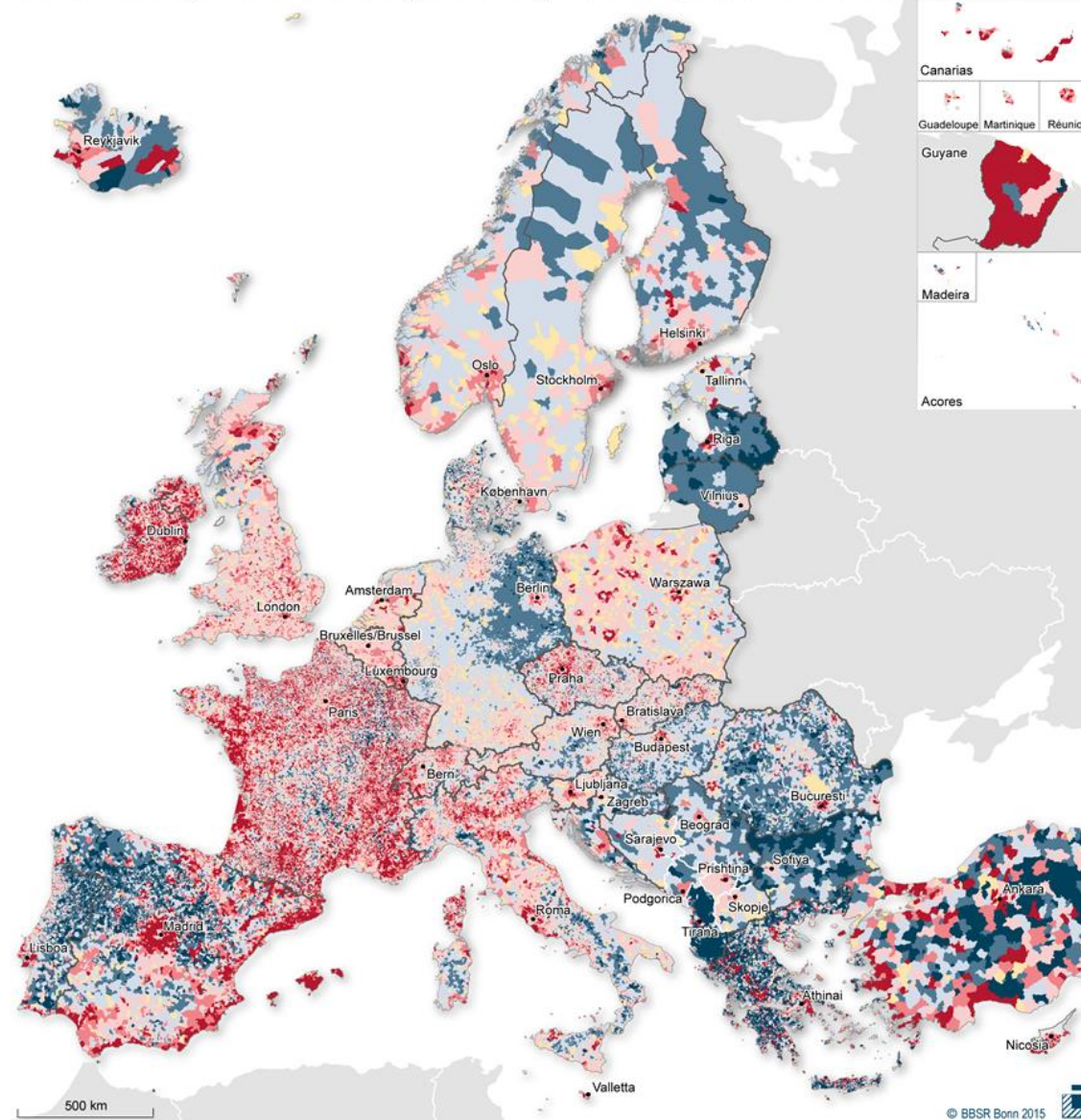
- An interest in local development policy – in rural areas.
- I observed that population growth was a goal many did not manage to reach.
- I started look in to the international scholarly literature on ”shrinking cities”

Background

	Pop 2010	% decline since peak
Buffalo, New York	270,240	53.4%
Cleveland, Ohio	396,815	56.6%
Detroit, Michigan	713,777	61.4%
Gary, Indiana	80,294	55%
Niagara Falls, New York	50,194	51%
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	305,704	54.8%
St. Louis, Missouri	319,294	62.7%
Youngstown, Ohio	66,982	60.6

Background

Durchschnittliche jährliche Bevölkerungsentwicklung in den europäischen lokalen Gebietseinheiten



Durchschnittliche jährliche Bevölkerungsentwicklung von 2001-2011* in % in den Gemeinden (LAU2)**



* Bevölkerungsdaten: Zensus 2001, 2011; BG: 2004, 2011; FR: 1999, 2009; IT: IE, NL, PL, SI, RO: 2002, 2011; BA: 2007, 2014; ME: 2003, 2011; MK: 2007, 2013; Registerzählungen: DK: 2007, 2013; KS: 2011, 2013
 ** Lokale Gebietseinheiten: LAU2: BG, LT, ME, MK, TR; LAU1; Äquivalente Gebietseinheiten: LAU2 Äquivalente: AL, FO, GL; LAU1 Äquivalente: BA, KS, RS

Datenbasis: Laufende Raumbearbeitung Europa, Datengrundlagen: Nationale Statistische Ämter Geometrische Grundlage: GIK GeoMarketing, außer UK Data Service für das Vereinigte Königreich und IGN GEOLIA für die französischen Übersee-Departements. Bearbeitung: R. Binot, L. Bradler, N. Kömmer-Bilgen, T. Pawinski, V. Schmidt-Seiwert

Background

Wachsende und schrumpfende Städte und Gemeinden in Deutschland

Relative, am bundesweiten Trend gemessene Wachstum/Schrumpfung:

- stark wachsend
- wachsend
- stabil
- schrumpfend
- stark schrumpfend

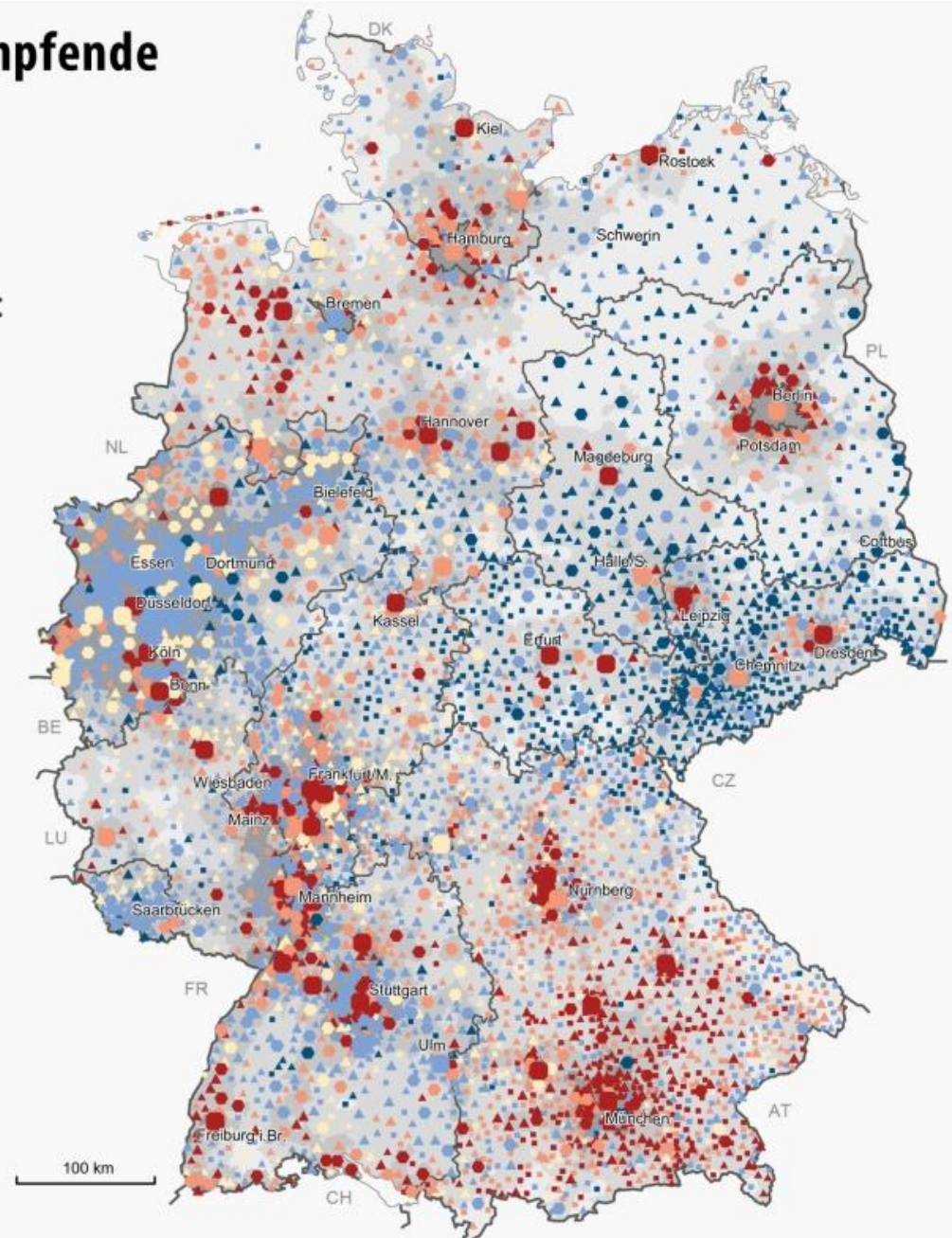
Stadt- und Gemeindetyp

- Großstädte
- Mittelstädte
- größere Kleinstädte
- kleine Kleinstädte
- Landgemeinden

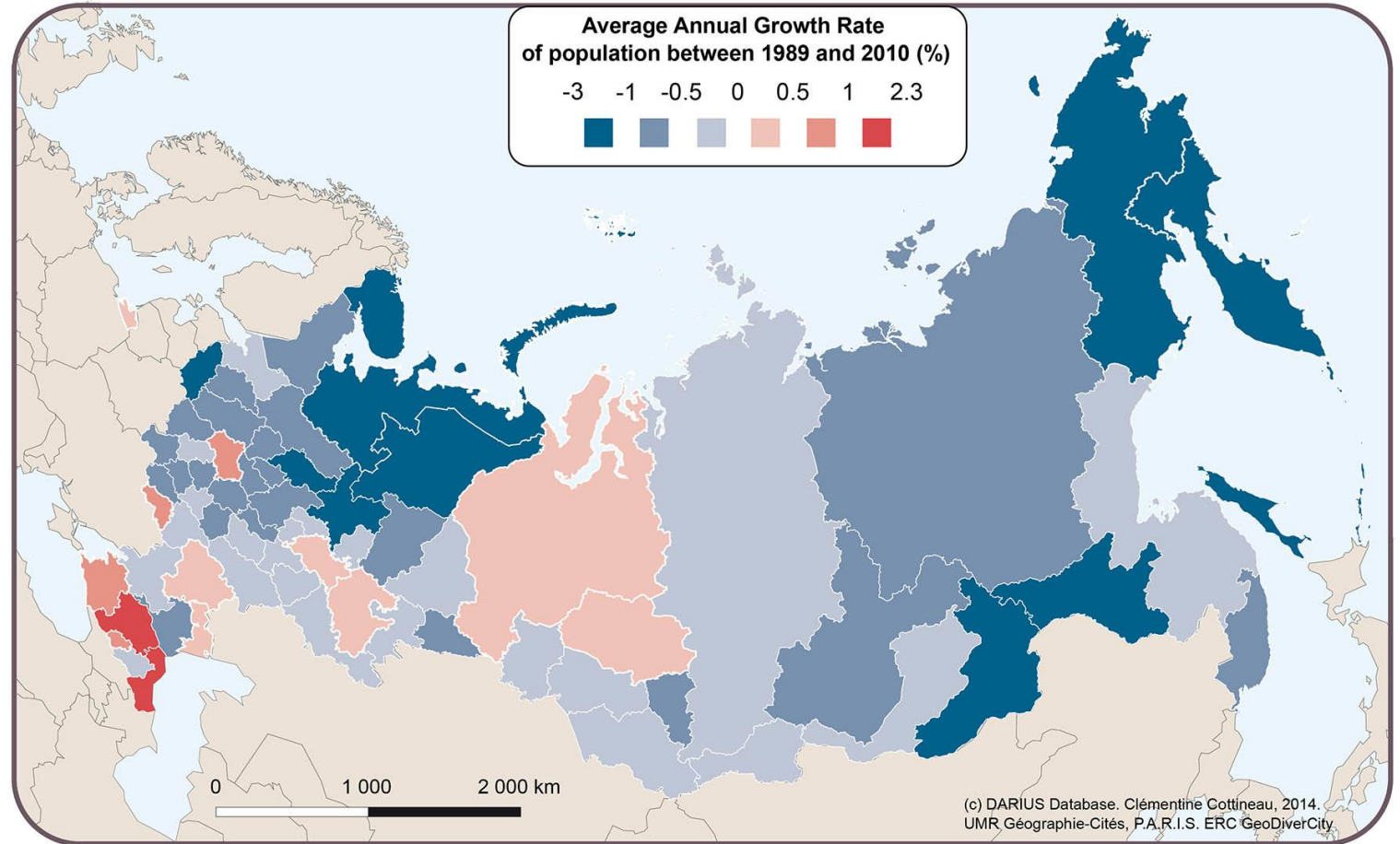
Lage

- sehr zentral
- zentral
- peripher
- sehr peripher

Datenbasis: Laufende Raumbewachung der BBSR
Geometrische Grundlage: BKG Kreise, 31.12.2013
Bearbeitung: A. Milbert; Quelle: BBSR, Bonn 2015



Background

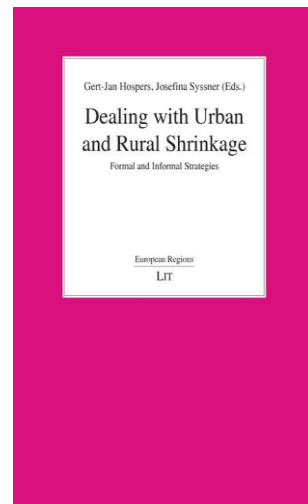
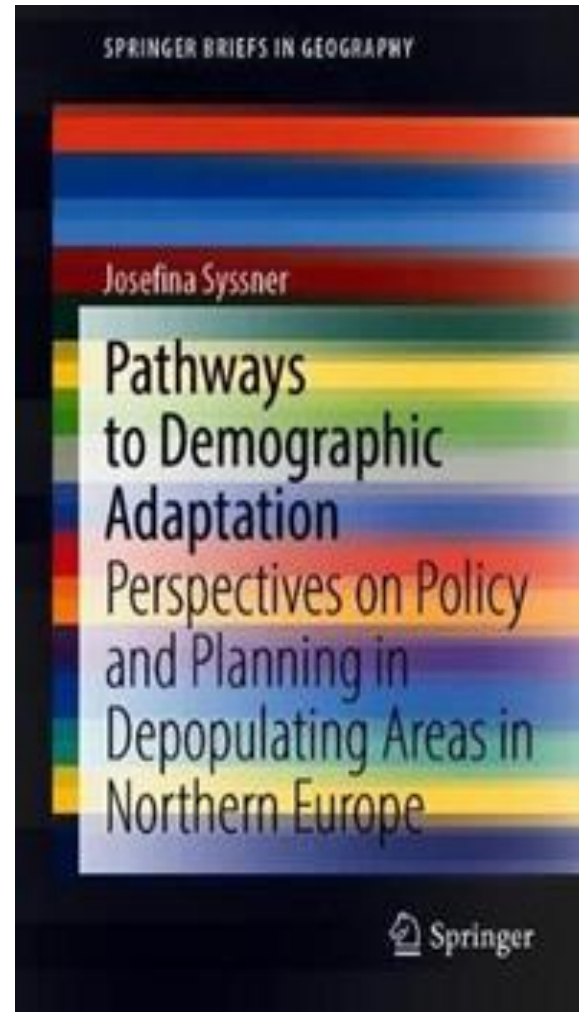
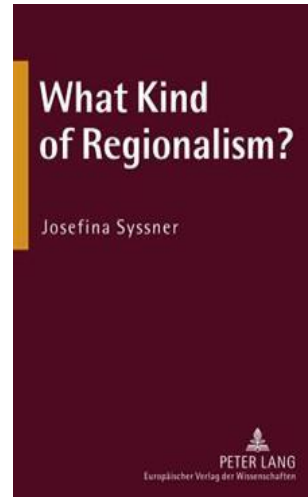


My observation

- Little focus on shrinkage in public debate.
- Planners and planning research dominate.
- Focus on urban areas.
- Few studies from the Nordic countries.

My contribution

- Research results available to a broader audience.
- A **policy** perspective.
- Focus on **rural** areas.
- Focus on the **Nordic** countries.



Why a policy perspective?

- Ideas in action – network of decisions (and non-decisions) intended to make or prevent change.
- The policy content – analytical and normative frameworks. Ideas.
- The policy processes – how, why, by whom policies are developed. From agendasetting to evaluation. Action.
- Highlights controversies, conflicts, rejects the idea of non-political, smart solutions.

Why studying the rural?

- Depopulation, shrinkage, population loss, decline etc – manifests differently in rural vs urban settings.
- Main town flourishes whereas the villages fade away?
- Sparsity as a planning condition.

Why the nordic countries?

- Geographical conditions – sparsity of different kinds. Many examples of rural shrinkage.
- Political conditions – responsibility shared between local, regional and state levels. The welfare state and ”the contract” with the citizens is of importance. A strong public sector.
- Economic conditions – a relatively strong public economy.

Why do places shrink? And what are the consequences?

- Two fields of research within the field of shrinking geographies

Why do places shrink?

- Structural change – globalization and deindustrialisation.
- Rationalization – in private and public sectors.
- Higher demands on education on labour market.
- Birth deficits because of previous (and current) selective outward migration.

Why do places shrink?

- Change of preferences - urban advantages dominate?
- Gender equality – the change from one- to two earner families requires a broader labour market.
- Social norms and expectations.

Consequences of depopulation

- Physical infrastructure tends to be oversized.
- Lower labour-related tax revenues.
- Per-capita expenditures for social services rise.
- Competence and quality in welfare services
- Politics, legitimacy, democracy.

Policy responses on shrinkage

- A field research within the field of shrinking geographies

Shrinkage and local policy

- Growth has been the primary goal in local policy and planning.
- Shrinkage has been widely disregarded.
- Local governments do take action to handle depopulation – but actions are ad hoc rather than strategic.

Shrinkage and local policy

- The result is not growth but missmanaged shrinkage.
- This is a main critique within the field of shrinking geographies.
- This is why I request an explicit *local adaptation policy*.

GROWTH POLICY



MEASURES

Stimulating entrepreneurship, investments,
business climate, communications.



AIMING AT

creating supply as well as demand at local
markets, creating growth and a more diversified
local labour market



RESULTING IN

better preconditions for welfare services in all
parts of the municipality.

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ADAPTATION POLICY



MEASURES

Inter-municipal collaboration, concentration, budget cuts, cooperation with civil society, increase taxes.



AIMING AT

adapting the municipal service and organisation to current and coming conditions



RESULTING IN

an economy in balance, high welfare services quality despite shrinking resources. Transparency and inter-municipal learning.

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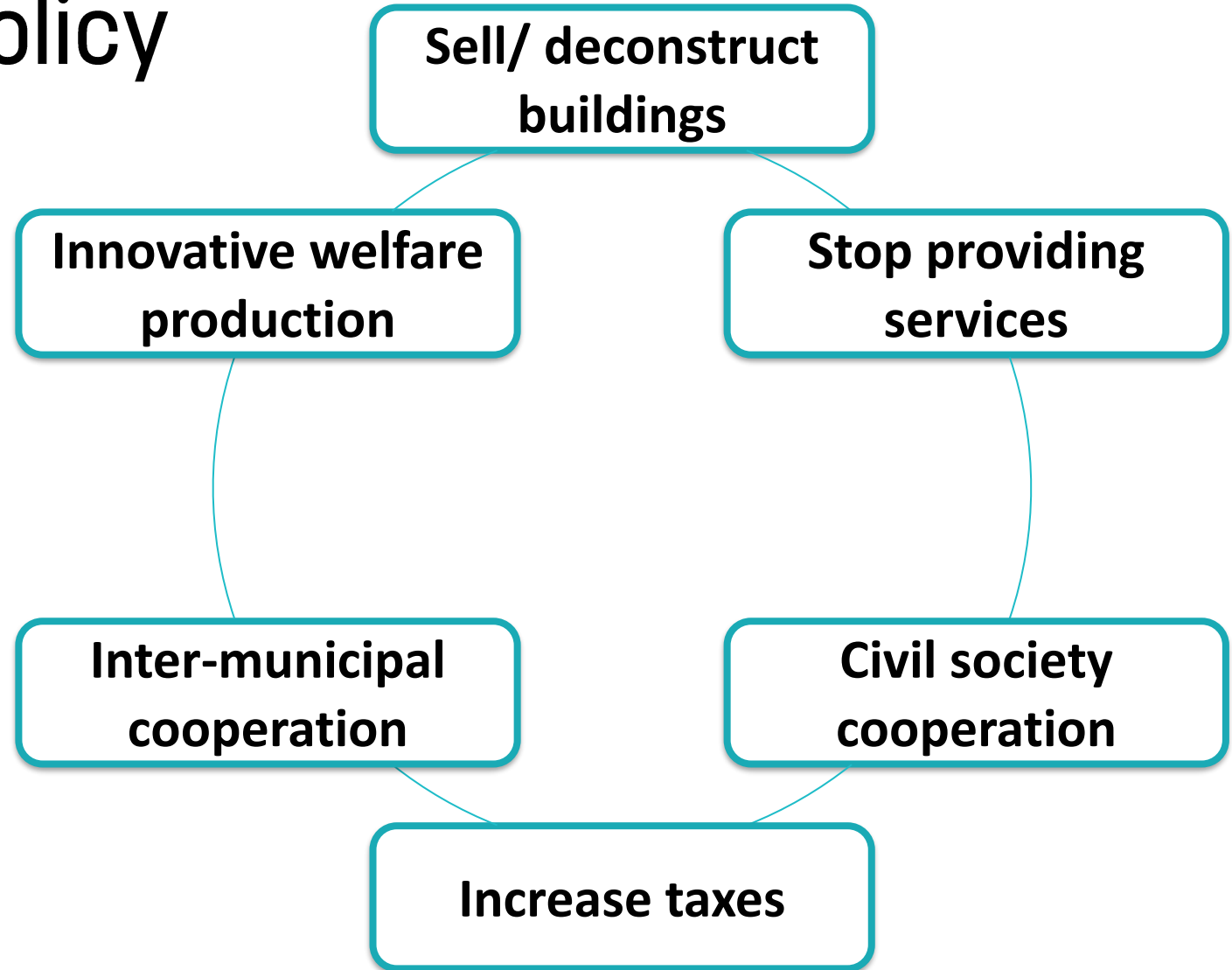
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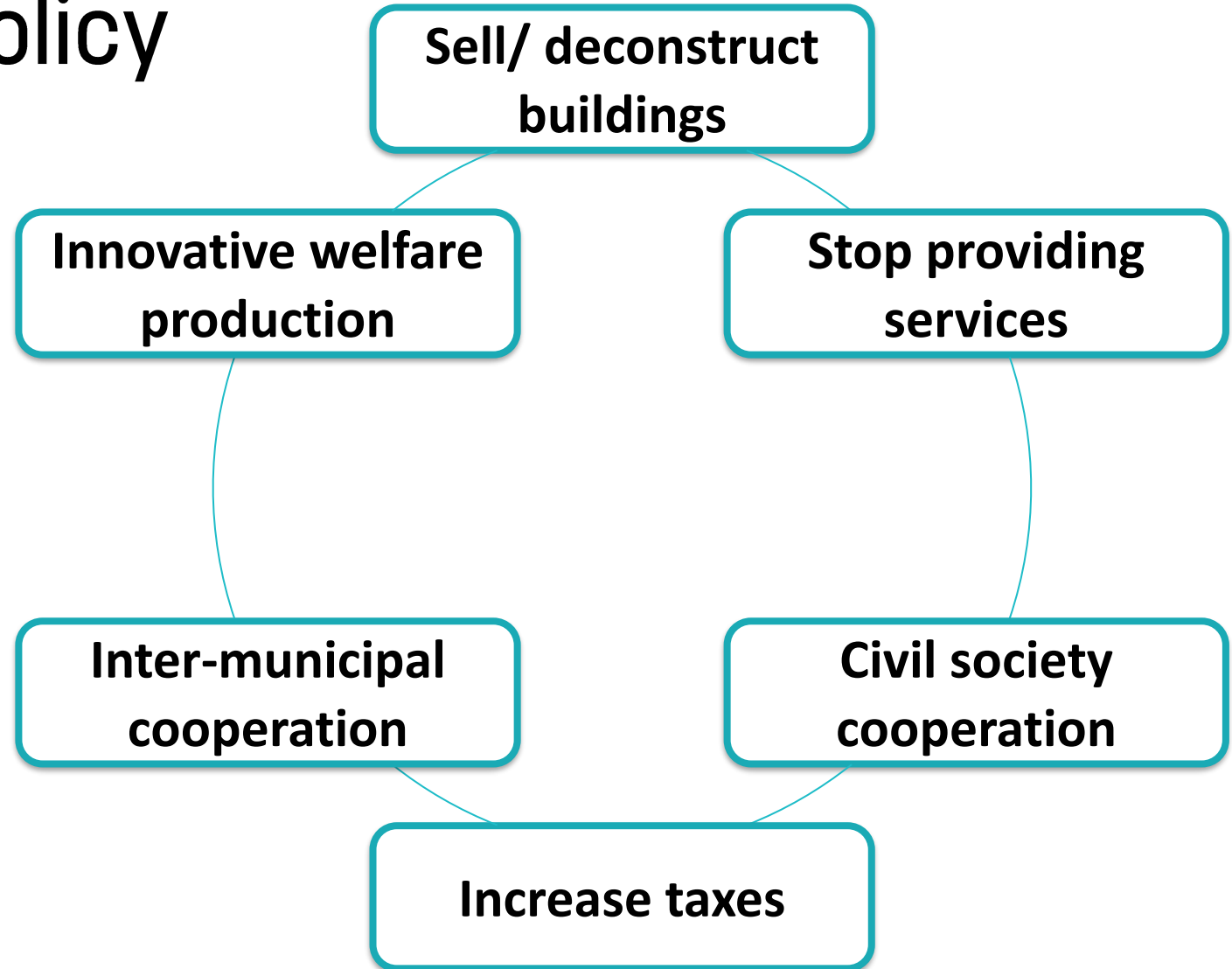
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Local adaptation policy in practice



Local adaptation policy in practice

*Can this be done in a more
democratic, sustainable,
well-informed way?*



Benefits of local adaptation policy

- Quality of governance. *Better decision making.*
- Transparency. *Do it in dialogue with citizens.*
- Sustainability. *Long term planning. Resilience.*
- Learning. *Shrinking localities can learn from each other.*
- Resources. *Can be co-produced and increased.*

Related policy fields

Shrinkage and sustainability

- Degrowth, sustainability, resilience, local food systems, local energy production, self reliance, down shifting...

... could these discourses have an impetus on policy development in shrinking rural areas?

Shrinkage and security

- External threats gives new meaning to ideas about for example local food systems, local energy production, self reliance, resilience, the close community ideal...

... could these ideas have an impetus on policy development in shrinking rural areas?

Shrinkage and regional & state policy

- Regional organisations:
knowledge sharing, coordination, support, collaboration.
- State agencies:
Two fields of research within the field of shrinking geographies
knowledge development for policies, planning and leadership for a shrinking context.
- Universities:
provide research and education focused on depopulation and smart shrinkage.

By conclusion

- Try to orientate yourself within the field of shrinking geographies.
 - ✓ *Drivers – consequences – policy responses.*
 - ✓ *Rural – urban;*
 - ✓ *Planning – policy;*
 - ✓ *Innovation – critical;*
 - ✓ *Case studies – comparative studies;*
- Your contribution is most needed!

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