

# Regional Development and Policy – Challenges, Choices and Recipients

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Newcastle University, UK

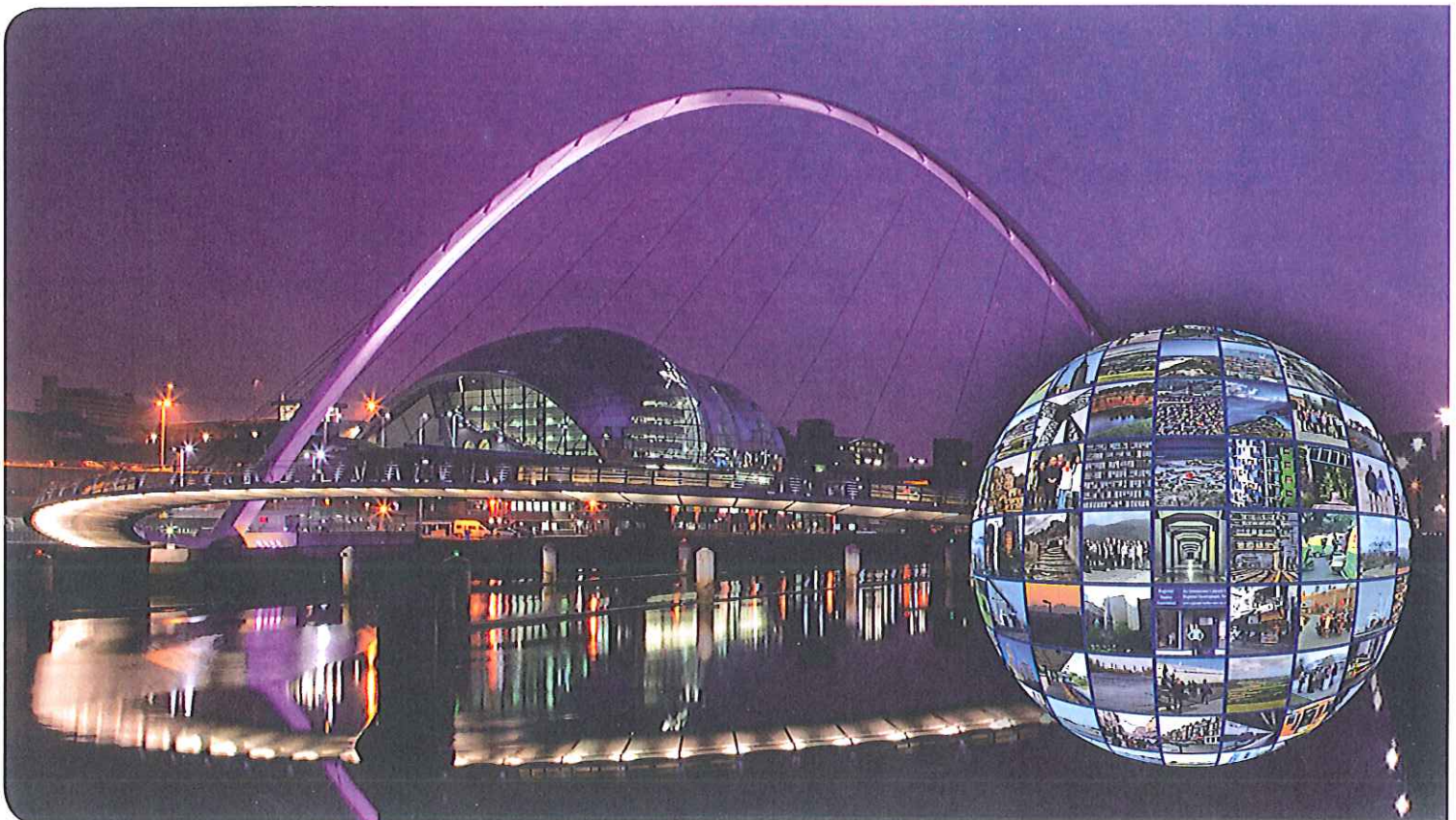
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The multi-national territory of the European Union might be described as a 'melting pot' consisting of a range of nation-states characterised by differing traditions, cultures and identities. Given this extensive and increasing diversity as well as the ongoing relevance of borders within the European Union, the concept of 'territorial cohesion' as a general policy objective turns out to be very difficult to realise. It is widely acknowledged within the European Union that (territorial) borders have negative consequences for the areas directly adjoining them, but also that territorial cooperation has the potential to reduce the disadvantages experienced by both border areas and trans-border regions. Therefore learning from the early days of the European Union - the biggest 'Economic Integration for Peace Project' so far - provides a mean to understand how peaceful politics may pave the way for economic progress. However although the success of the 'European Union Project' is certainly based on economic achievements, it should not be forgotten that life is not only about economy and that differences between countries and societies are also rooted in cultural manifestation and identity, which become reality through social behaviour/practices. Hence the emerging question in the European Union planning context is how to overcome the 'inside/outside' dichotomy caused by borders, which, even if a territorial border is abolished, remains persistent - to some extent - in the mind of inhabitants. This complex reality underlines the need to develop or rediscover forms of trust and/or social capital. Therefore the debates concerning a 'Europe without Borders' and the accrual of a 'joint European structure' maintaining a rich cultural diversity must take into consideration not only the geography or issues such as foreign policy, but also topics like history and how to deal with mental barriers. Overcoming these mental boundaries is a long and difficult process, which must come to terms with recognising and properly understanding the 'others' and the other identity. Building on the hypothesis that spatial planning and consequently the success of territorial cooperation is strongly (but often unconsciously) influenced by identities, collective and cognitive (mental) pictures of a specific area, adapted from 'collective memories' of social groups like societies, which are only coherent in a relative sense, the paper argues the European agenda of the future needs to consider social concerns more seriously. The role planning might play in supporting the reduction of (cultural) constraints through the management and development of relations between people and places in a multi-national environment is examined from this perspective.

**Robert Hassink, University Of Kiel, GERMANY**

Whether the old and the new in regional economies are related to each other and if so, how they are related, is something that has been studied in economic geography from at least three angles. First, taking old industrial areas as a starting point of research some researchers have looked at deindustrialisation in relation to reindustrialisation and the restructuring of traditional manufacturing industries. Secondly, others have taken the location of newly emerging industries as a starting point in concepts such as the windows of locational opportunity and new industrial spaces. They often point at the deliberate choice of companies in new industries to locate outside of existing old industrial areas, in order to be able to create new production factors and not to be hindered by legacies found in old industrial areas, such as trade unions and specialised transport and training infrastructure. Thirdly, and most recently, evolutionary economic geography has strongly taken up this issue with concepts such as path dependence, path creation, related variety and regional branching. It also debates the tension between specialisation and diversification for regional economic development. This paper aims at going beyond an overview of concepts by working out general impact factors on the relations between the old and the new in regional economies. Why is it that they are related to each other in some regional economies and not in others? This paper will be illustrated with own empirical research results on textile, shipbuilding and computer game industry regions in South Korea and Germany.