

The role of Local and Regional Authorities in the implementation of Europe 2020 - Analysis of 2016 National Reform Programmes

Findings of the study

August 2016

Overview of the study

- ▶ Executive summary
- ▶ 1. Introduction
- ▶ 2. Methodology
- ▶ 3. Summary report on main findings
 - Total scores of LRA involvement in the NRP per country
 - Involvement of LRAs in the NRP
 - Obstacles to Investment
 - Partnership and Multi-Level Governance (MLG)
 - Territorial dimension
 - Comparative analysis
- ▶ 4. Conclusions
- ▶ 5. References
- ▶ Annex 1: Country Fiche template
- ▶ Annex 2: Assessment in detail
- ▶ Annex 3: Total scores of LRA involvement

- ▶ Country Fiches of each NRP in an extra file

The scale of LRA involvement in the EU 28

Dimension

► *Involvement of LRAs in the NRP*

- Preparation
- Implementation
- Europe 2020
- Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway

► *Obstacles to Investments*

- Territorial perspective
- Role of LRAs
- Related policies

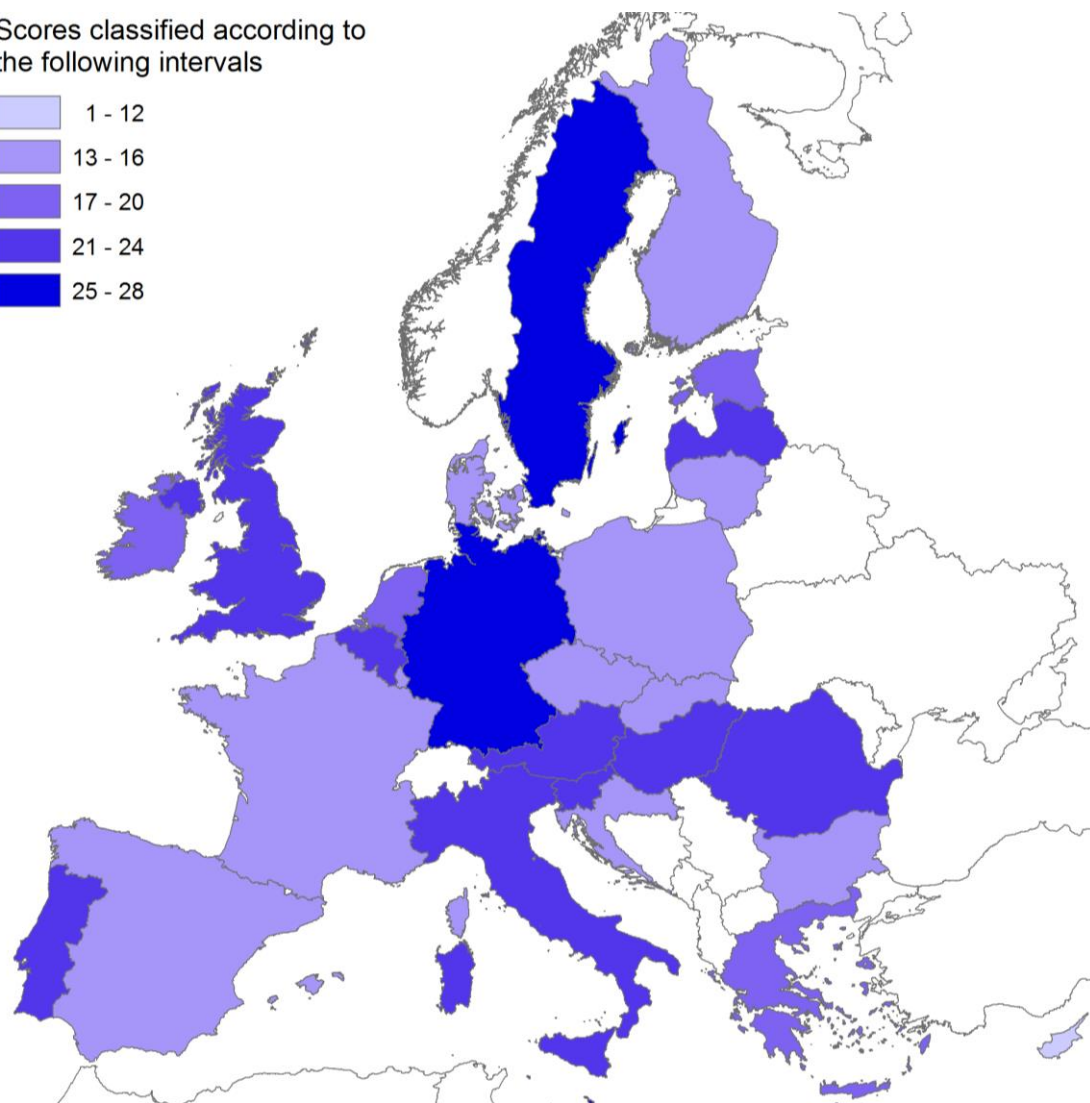
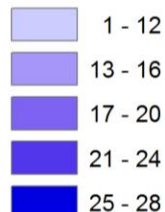
► *Partnership and MLG*

- Coordination among the tiers of administration
- Cooperation models
- Wider partnership (multi-actorship)
- Institutional capacity-building

► *Territorial dimension*

- Challenges and needs
- Impact/Coverage
- Specific policies

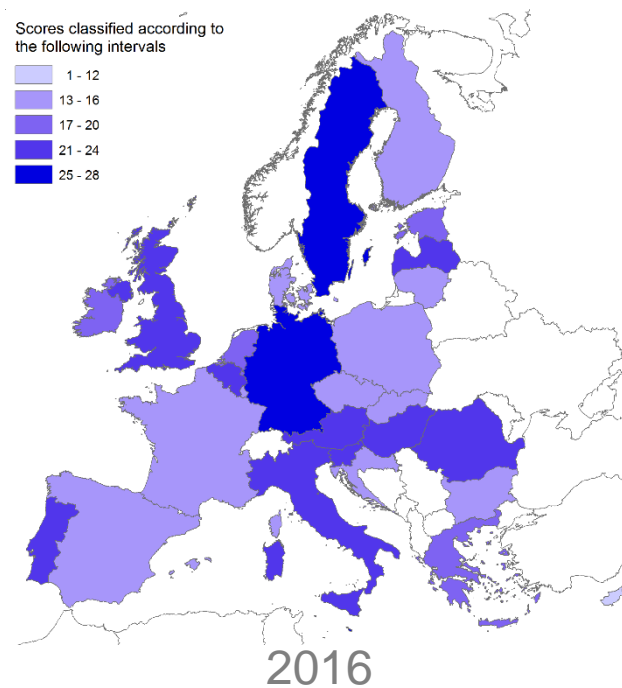
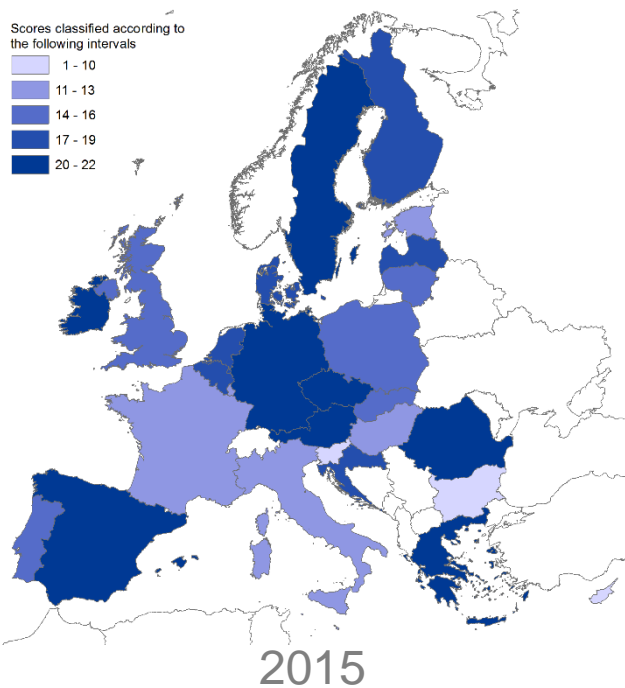
Scores classified according to the following intervals



Methodology

- ▶ In order to rank the quality of information provided in the NRP, a simple and straightforward scoring system was used.
- ▶ The scores range from 0 up to 2 points per dimension, in which 0 means that no reference to LRAs is included, 1 stands for an explicit but general reference to LRAs and a score of 2 shows a specific reference to LRAs.
- ▶ The Study evaluated the NRPs according to 14 dimensions, allowing for a maximum overall score of 28 points.

Comparative Analysis (2015 – 2016)



Change over the last year:

AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU
-		+		---		--	+	--	---	--		--	++
IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	UK
--	++	-			+++	-	-	+	-		+++	-	+

Observed patterns

- ▶ **Overall scorings** are on the average slightly lower than last year.
- ▶ Northern and central European countries with strong traditions of regional self-government show a strong **involvement of LRAs in the preparation and implementation** process, as well as some peripheral countries.
- ▶ High variability of scores can be observed within the **obstacles to investment and the territorial dimension**. These are the more specific evaluation criteria that are covered to widely differing extents in the individual NRPs.
- ▶ The dimensions **partnership and MLG** have low variations indicating a basic acknowledgement of the crucial role of LRA in the implementation of the NRPs and the Europe 2020 target.
- ▶ Countries with ongoing or recently implemented **administrative reforms** show a tendency for a more intense coverage of LRA involvement than comparable countries without such reform programmes.

Policy fields

- ▶ The prevalent recurrent topic of LRA involvement in the NRPs is **social inclusion**. The topic has a clear territorial dimension since it concerns primarily regions with high unemployment.
- ▶ Further policy areas mentioned frequently:
 - Education
 - Taxation, public finances
 - Labour/employment
 - Energy efficiency
 - Industrial policy, business development
 - RTDI
- ▶ Other topics recorded in last year's NRPs like health care tend to be overshadowed.

Conclusions

- ▶ The **overall scorings** are on the average slightly lower than last year. However, the overall picture remains **similar to 2015**. Highest scores can be found in Central and Northwest European EU-15 countries with a long tradition of regional self-governance.
- ▶ The prevalent recurrent topic of the NRPs is **social protection**. The aftermath of the **economic crisis** leaves its mark on the issues where LRA responsibilities are explicitly involved (public budgets or measures to ease unemployment).
- ▶ The newly introduced questions show specific references to the territorial perspective on **obstacles to investments** in about one third of the NRPs.
- ▶ The large **refugee flows** since summer 2015 leave their mark in the NRPs of some of the most affected countries (DE, SE, SI).

→ Although this year's results do not show a marked progress, one might take the cautious conclusion that the overall effort put into the development of the NRPs have been increasing in the mid-term and that the sustained efforts to anchor LRAs more firmly in the NRP are taking effect. However, significant variations between the years show that there seem to be also issues which are treated once and not recurrently in every reporting year.