

INTEGRATED REGENERATION OF DEPRIVED AREAS

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Outline of the presentation

- 1) the challenge: poverty and deprived areas
- 2) what can be done with deprived areas – types of interventions
- 3) conditions for successful regeneration of deprived areas and the role of the national level

1) The challenge: poverty and deprived areas

- Severely materially **deprived population** in the EU-27: in 2005 11%, in 2009 down to 8%, in 2012 back to 11%
 - Effects of crisis: between 2008 and 2012 deprivation rates **increased** by 7-8 % in Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia and Italy
 - Close link between poverty and economic development of countries: **highest poverty rates** in Bulgaria (44%), Romania (30%), Latvia and Hungary (26%).
 - Different **spatial patterns** of poverty:
 - in Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary deprivation rates are much **lower in cities** than in rural areas,
 - Austria, Ireland, UK and Belgium deprivation rates are **higher in cities** than in the rest of the country.
- Source: 6th Cohesion report

EU2020: poverty reduction as headline target

- Europe 2020 strategy aims also for **inclusive growth** – increasing employment with reducing poverty and social exclusion
- One of the five headline targets: to **reduce by 20 million** the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion (to around 19.5% of the total population) relative to 2010
- However, between 2008 and 2012 the number of people in the EU at risk of poverty or social exclusion **increased by 6.5 million** to almost a quarter (24.8%) of the population
- Spatial concentration of poverty: no precise comparative data exist. With the shrinking financial means of the public sector (retreat from urban regeneration) we can assume that there is a **growing spatial concentration of poverty**.

Consequences in urban areas

- In poorer cities **dramatic situations** emerge
- Even in some well developed cities **pockets of poverty** develop
- Consequences: growing social exclusion, affecting also the **economic development** of the city
- Typical spatial locations of deprived areas:
 - **old inner city** neighbourhoods,
 - large **prefabricated** housing estates,
 - **peripheral** areas



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2) What can be done with deprived areas?

It is **not an easy task** to fight deprivation

Without understanding the reasons and processes of deprivation public interventions can easily **miss the target**

Examples on **contradictory** interventions

- **good quality housing demolished** (and the poor placed to elsewhere)
- improved building **not wanted by original residents** (as costs became too high)
- **rebuilding transitory areas** (diminishing very much needed cheap housing areas)





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Deprived areas: theoretical considerations

different types of socio-spatial segregation – when becomes segregation problematic?

the **main approaches** to tackle segregation: area-based and people-based

determination of the **content** of interventions:

- the link between the **physical level** and the **social consequences**;
- **hard vs. soft** interventions;
- **social mix** strategies

Forms and problems of segregation

“Spatial segregation is the **projection of the social structure on space**” (Hausserman-Siebel 2001)

- There are **different forms** of segregation: economic, social, cultural, religious, ethnic
- Segregation **might become problematic** if it is a result of **no choice** and leads towards neighbourhoods which have **no economic opportunities** and **weak institutions**: bad schools, no employment, dirty streets, lot of criminality, bad housing, bad connections to the rest of the city...
- Concentration is not a problem in itself, **there is no „tipping point”** which identifies harmful segregation.

Policies against socio-spatial segregation

People-based policies:

- Not linked to any specific spatial level
- Focus on improving situation of PEOPLE (low income, special needs)

Area-based policies:

- Focus on a specific geographical unit (e.g. neighbourhood)
- Aim to improve situation of people living in specific AREAS

People-based policies

Operate by **domain / sector**, does not affect directly the deprived areas but **might have positive effect** on them

- **land-use and housing** strategy across the whole functional urban area
- specific efforts to increase the lowest levels of **public services provision**
- **education and school policy** that promotes equal quality of education and social mix of students in all schools
- **social housing policy** that makes affordable housing available in all parts of the city
- **planning regulations** against the development of gated communities
- **mobility policy** that is guaranteeing equal opportunities of access by public transport from all parts of the city to the job market and major facilities

Area-based policies

Assumption: by focusing on PLACES with specific problems, the situation of many of the poor PEOPLE in these areas will improve.

- **‘Soft’ measures:** fostering skills, social capital and building capacity of people in specific areas (e.g. work integration and training programmes in specific areas, local festivals, etc.)
- **‘Hard’ measures:** physical restructuring or upgrading programmes in specific areas (e.g. demolition, new infrastructure, regeneration of housing, etc.)

Drift through urban space and time

Position of communities in fragmented urban space.

Which strategies?

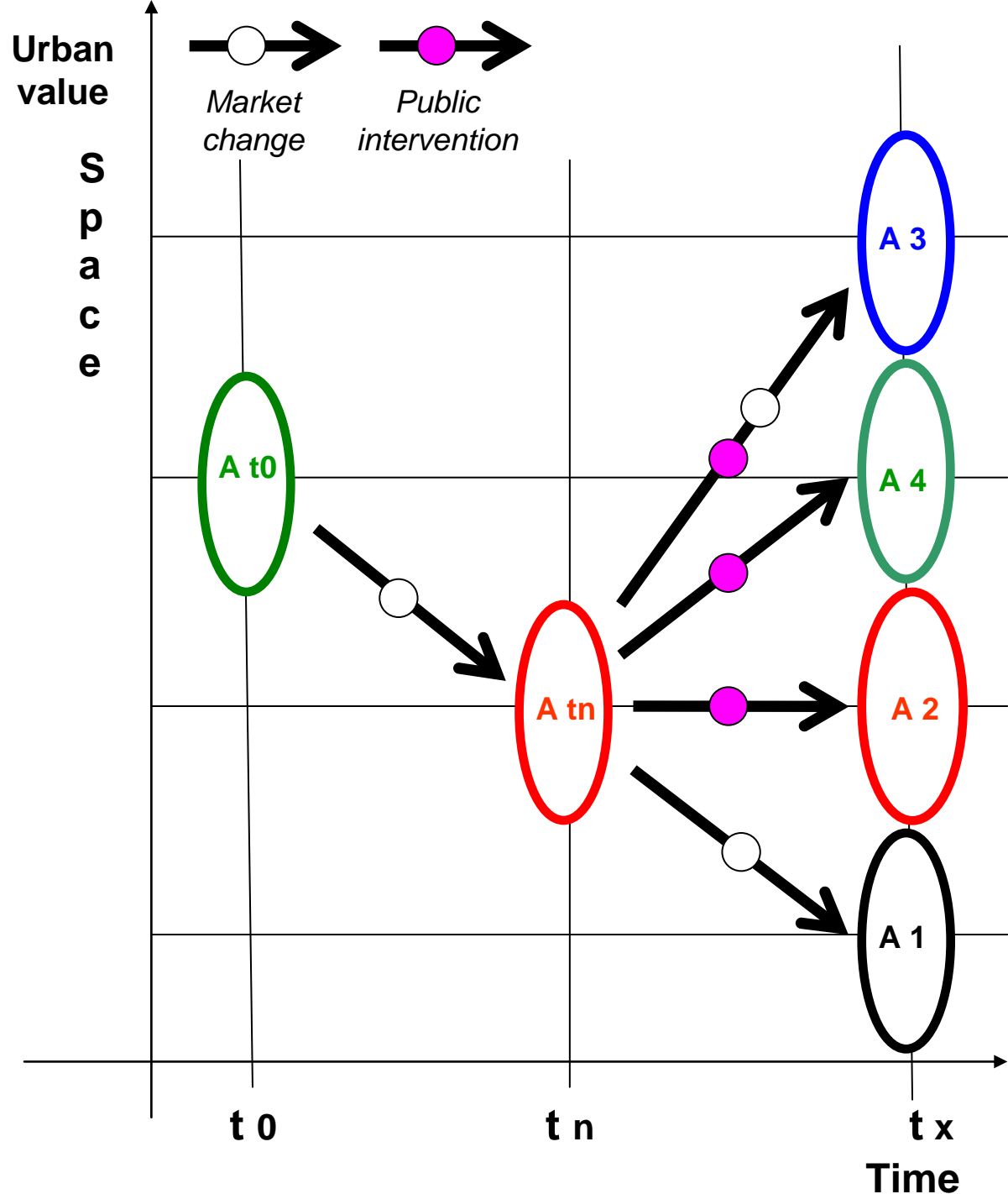
A1 decline

A2 steady state

A3 gentrification

A4 coherence
best practice

Source: Claude Jacquier



Social Mix strategies

Social mix strategies aim at **changing the social composition** of areas with high levels of socio-spatial segregation

Two types: introduce better-off residents in deprived areas (forced gentrification) or swap disadvantaged people into well-off areas (statutory quotas, etc.)

Social mix is a mainstream policy but **very controversial**; evidence on effects not conclusive



3) Integrated regeneration of deprived areas – the conditions for success

In order to achieve the lasting regeneration of deprived areas, all aspects of **policy integration** have to be used:

- Horizontal integration **between policy areas** (housing, social policy, employment, education, mobility...)
- Territorial integration: interventions should **never be limited to deprived neighbourhoods**, but should be part of policies for the whole urban area.
- Vertical integration: **local policies** should **never be separated from the higher** (regional, national) levels of policies.

Appropriate level of money has to be invested: EU, national, regional and local resources have to be used in coordination, based on the strategic approach

There is always a need to use and coordinate **horizontal** and **area-based** interventions

Partnership with **relevant stakeholders** (housing companies, private actors) has to be built up

Local residents have always to be involved into the design of the strategy and its implementation

The process of regeneration

Detailed analysis must be carried out in transparent and participative way, based on evidence

- › understand the **types and problems** of given areas – for example are they dead-end or transitory areas?
- › understand the **dynamism of the processes** – in which direction are they heading (analyse the **reasons behind the dynamic mobility processes** of population groups)

Design the **interventions in the form of cyclical process**: analysis, understanding, deciding on actions, implementation and evaluation

Some lessons learnt

- › **Demolition is not a solution in itself:** if the reasons why a particular area became a dead end space haven't fundamentally changed, than structural forces will create another dead-end space someplace else
- › **Social mix** is an essential piece of a fair and efficient metropolitan area, **but alone**, without a variety of social supports and institutional structural changes, **it will not make a difference.**
- › **Participation** is always a key element: it is impossible to achieve lasting results without working together with the inhabitants

The importance for good national framework

A new mindset has to be built in the city, resulting in **long-term policy-making**, independently of electoral cycles

This is only possible if an appropriate **national framework** exists

Successful regeneration of deprived areas is a difficult and complex process which needs **optimal cooperation** between the national-regional-local levels and the residents. In this process **national level policies (initiating and supporting local strategies)** are of crucial importance.

There are **big differences between EU countries**: some have national regeneration policies, others not.

Thanks for your attention!

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