

European regional competitiveness and resilience in times of strategic autonomy

November 6, 2025

Frank van Oort



Europe is polycentric

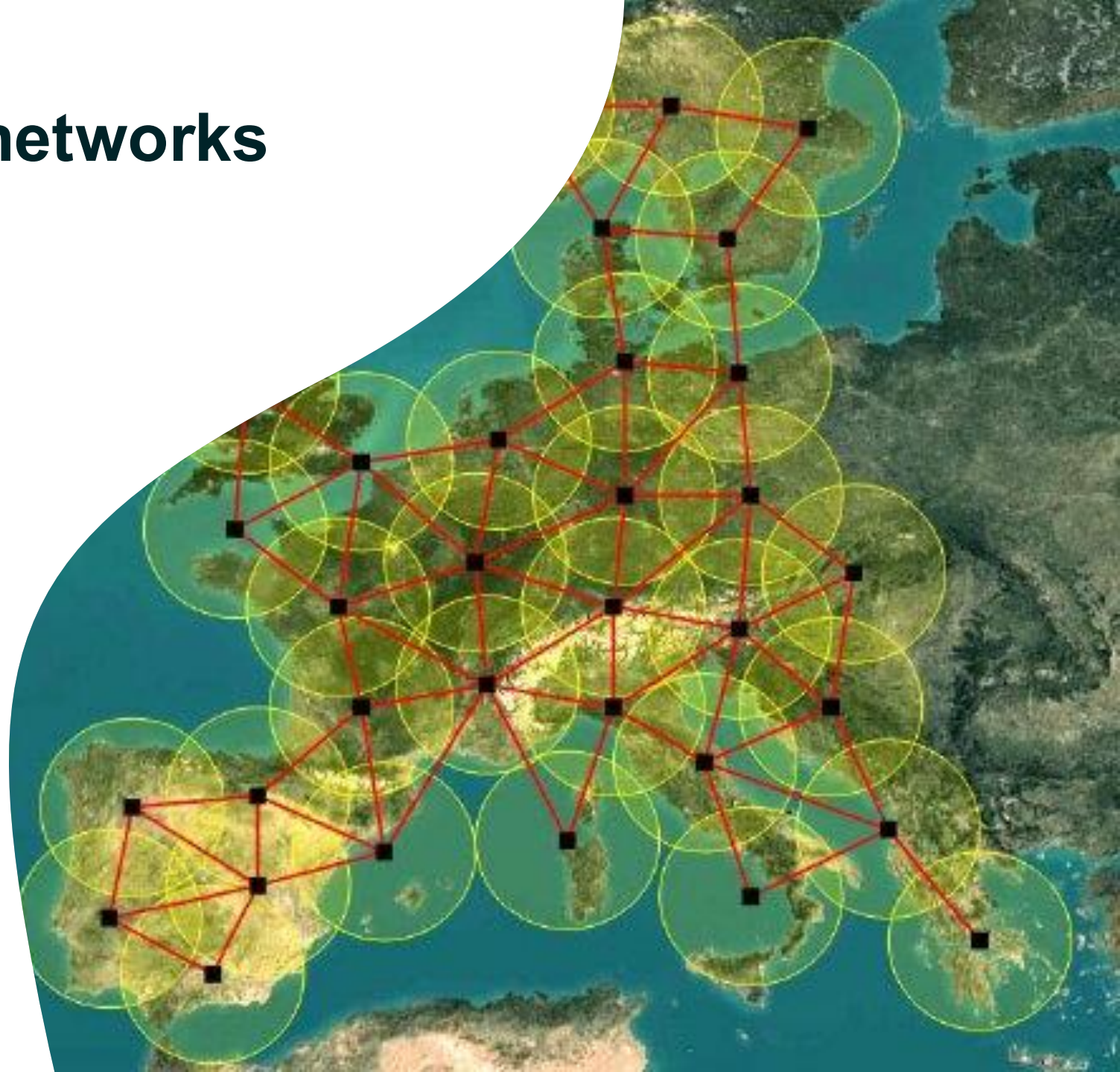
- In spatial organization
 - morphological
 - functional
- In industry specialisations
- In societal goals
 - competitiveness
 - sustainability
 - cohesion

Polycentricity and fragmentation come at a cost, but may be a blessing.



Polycentricity needs networks

- Of trade
 - sectors
 - products & services
- Of investments
 - foreign,
 - domestic, regional
- Of industries (cross-overs)
- Of connecting infrastructures
- Of governance



Challenges ahead

- Economic structure
- Competition
- Specialisations
- Transitions
- Labour/housing/land markets
- Accessibility
- Quality of life
- Climate change
- Governance



The Draghi report

1. European competitiveness
2. Public & private investments
3. Innovation
4. Strategic autonomy
5. Crucial commodities and materials
6. Green deal (circularity)

Scale > scope?

Industrial policy > regional policy?

What would more autonomy mean for industrial and regional development in Europe?

The future —
— of European
competitiveness



An autonomy scenario

- Input-output model 260 EU regions
- Intermediate and final demand
- 60 sectors, 60 industries
- Exports, imports, factor inputs
- Trade diversion
- Technological change
- “25% less dependence on non-European deliveries of goods and services”
- -4% GDP loss
- Heterogeneity



Input-output analysis: multipliers

Regional expenditure flows

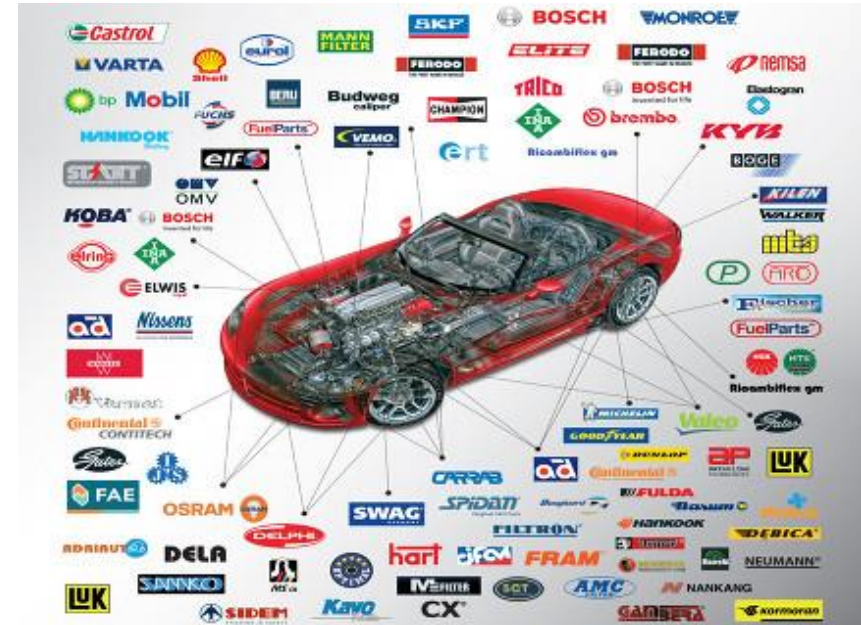
Sales of (\$m)	Purchases of (\$m)				Total output
	Industry X	Industry Y	Industry Z	Final consumers	
Industry X	-	-	70	30	100
Industry Y	20	-	80	100	200
Industry Z	20	80	-	200	300
Regional factor inputs	40	110	140	-	290
Regional imports	20	10	10	30	70
Total inputs	100	200	300	360	960

Input-output analysis: multipliers

Regional expenditure flows

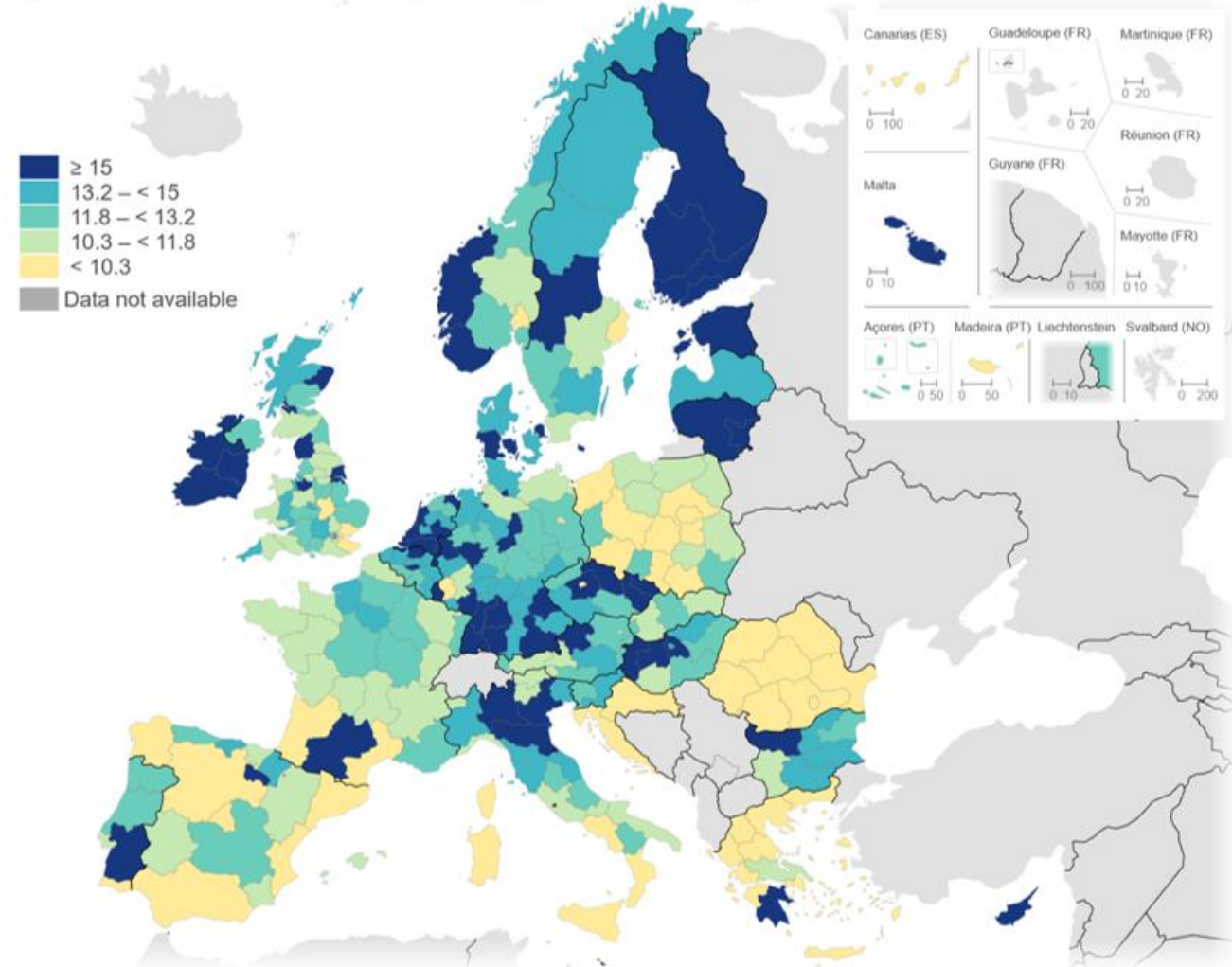
Sales of (\$m)	Purchases of (\$m)				Total output
	Industry X	Industry Y	Industry Z	Final consumers	
Industry X	-	-	70	30	100
Industry Y	20	-	80	100	200
Industry Z	20	80	-	200	300
Regional factor inputs	40	110	140	-	290
Regional imports	20	10	10	30	70
Total inputs	100	200	300	360	960

Input-output analysis: multipliers



**“25% less
non-EU
dependence”**

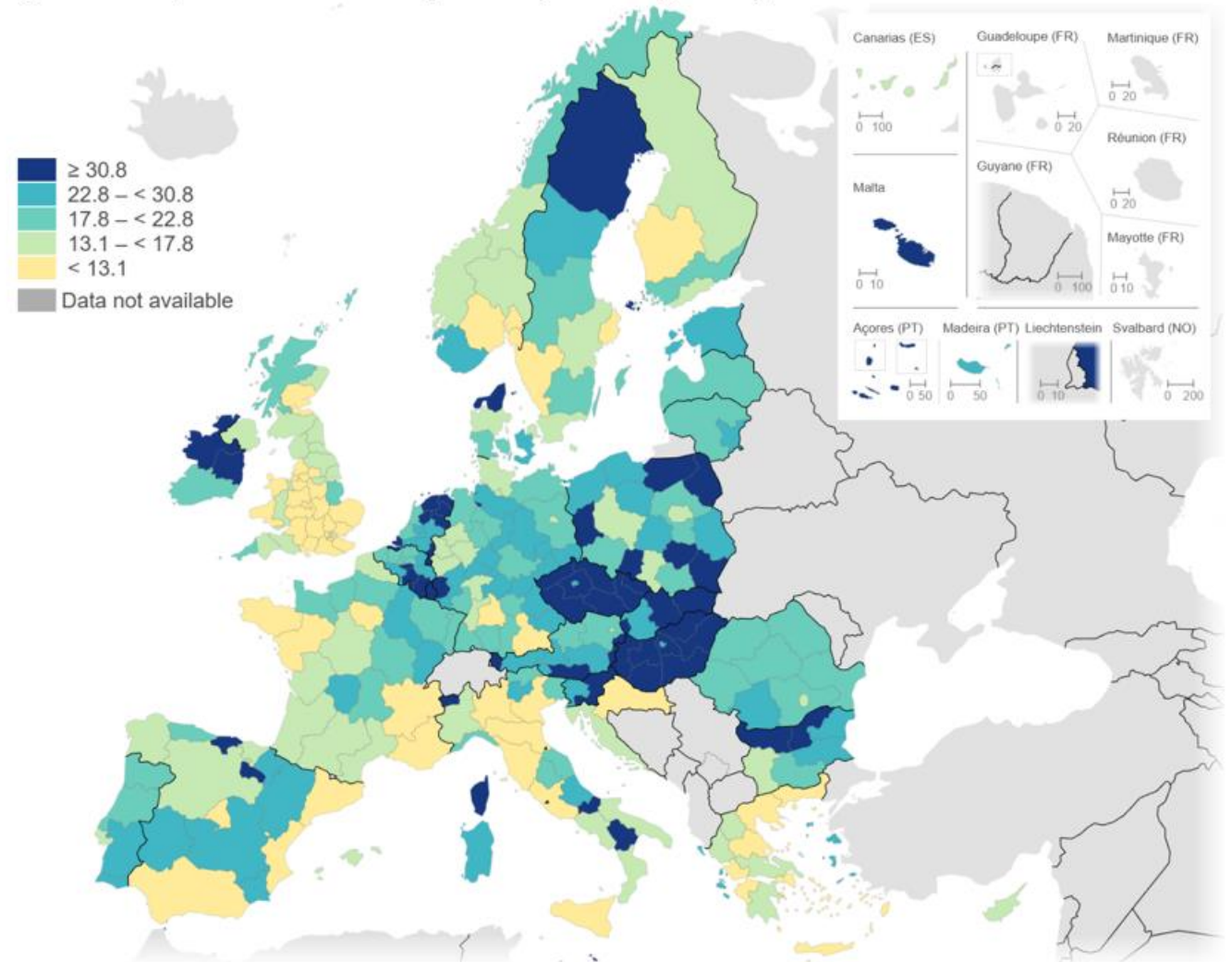
Figure 1. Global value chains exposure – percentage of regional GDP



Source: own calculations. Data classified by quintiles.

**“25% less
non-EU
dependence”**

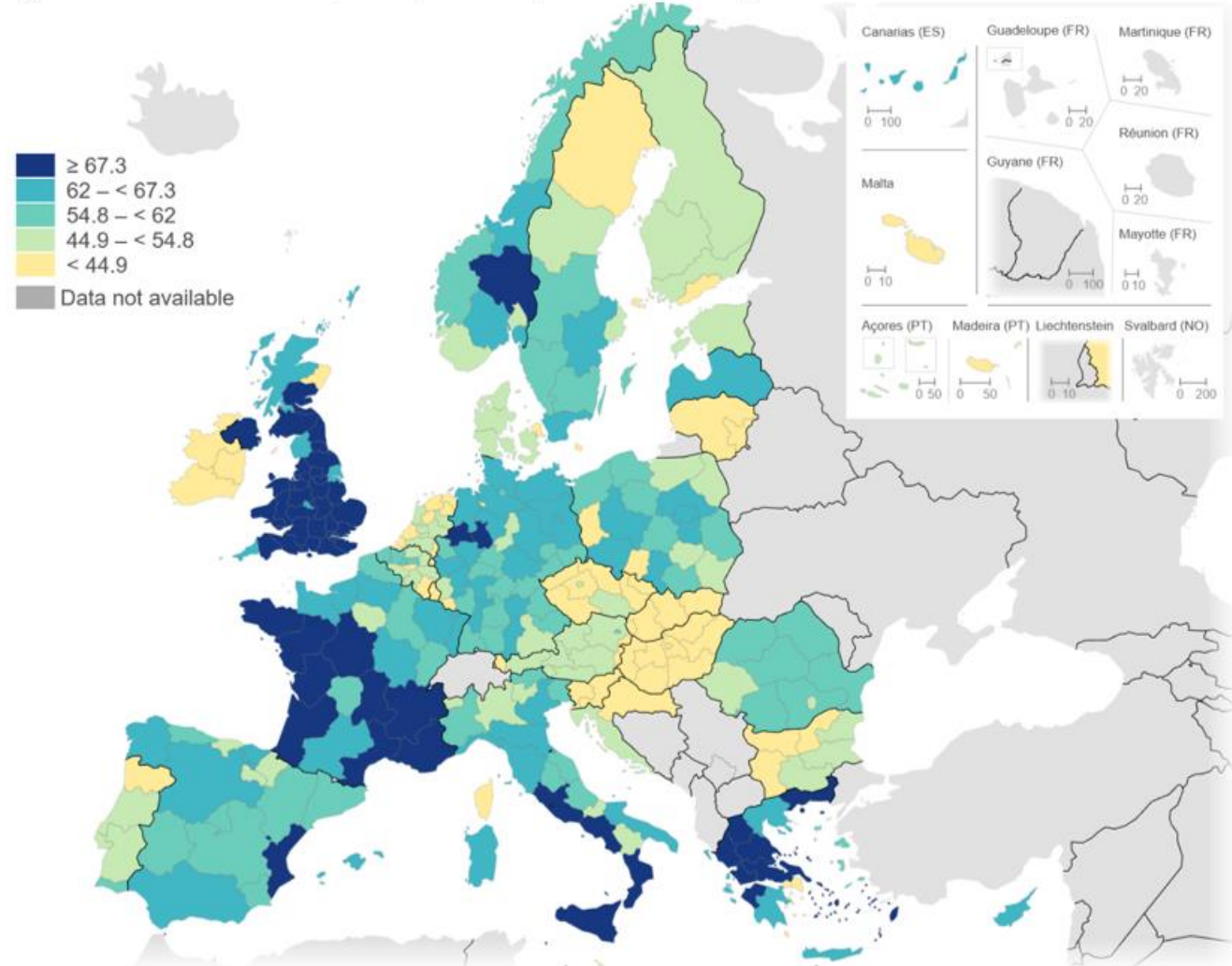
Figure 2. European value chain exposure – percentage of regional GDP



Source: own calculations. Data classified by quintiles.

**“25% less
non-EU
dependence”**

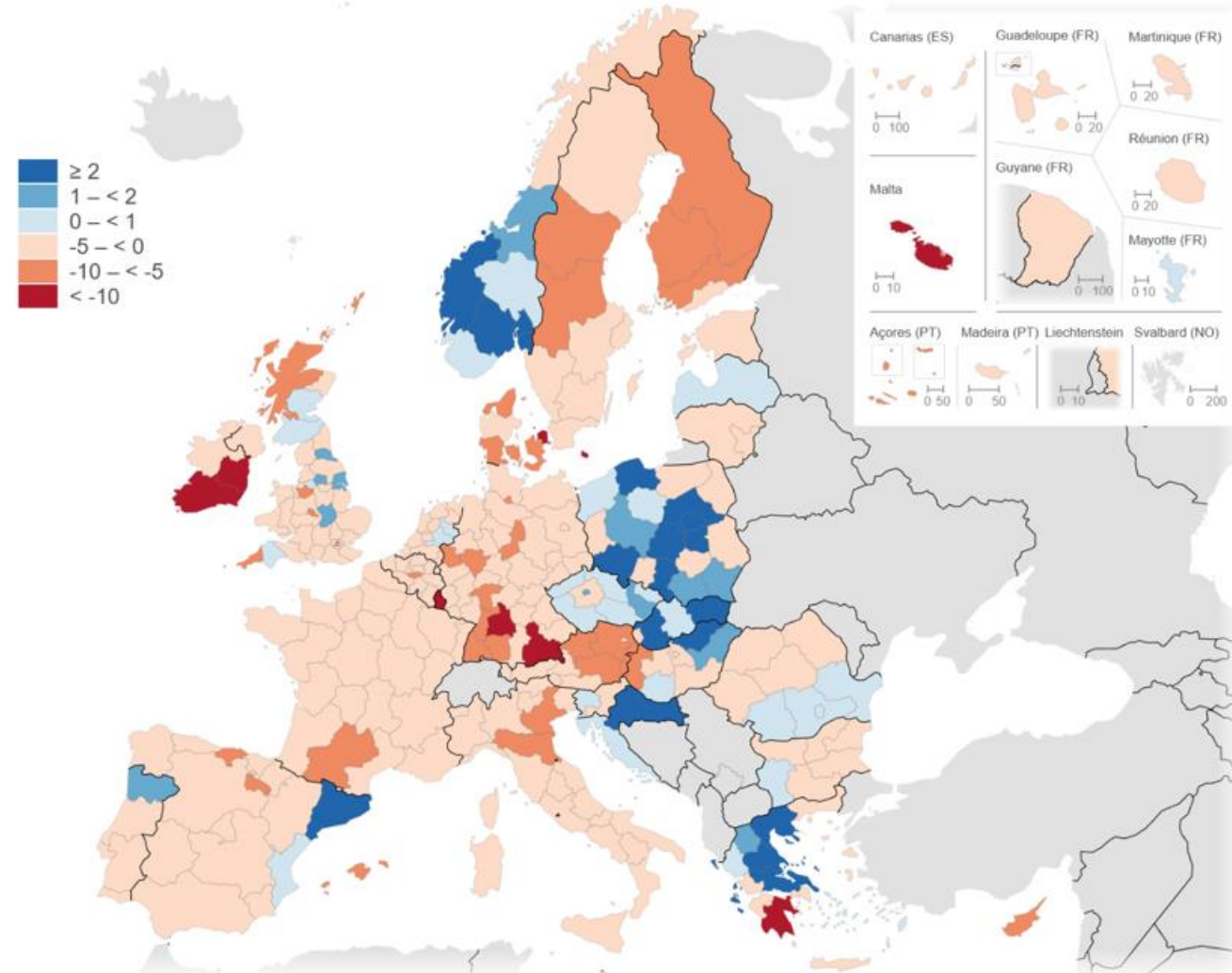
Figure 3. National value chain exposure – percentage of regional GDP



Source: own calculations. Data classified by quintiles.

“25% less
non-EU
dependence”

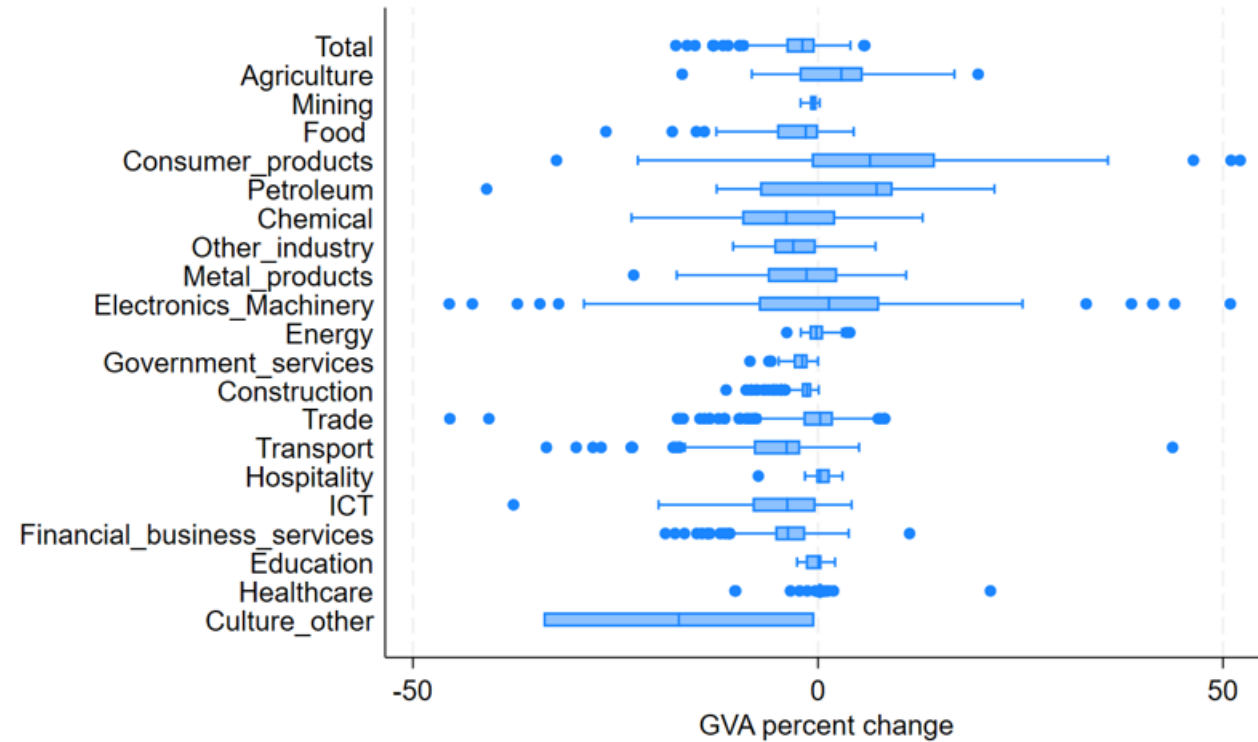
Figure 5. GVA percent change, per EU NUTS 2 region



Source: own calculations. Data classified by quintiles.

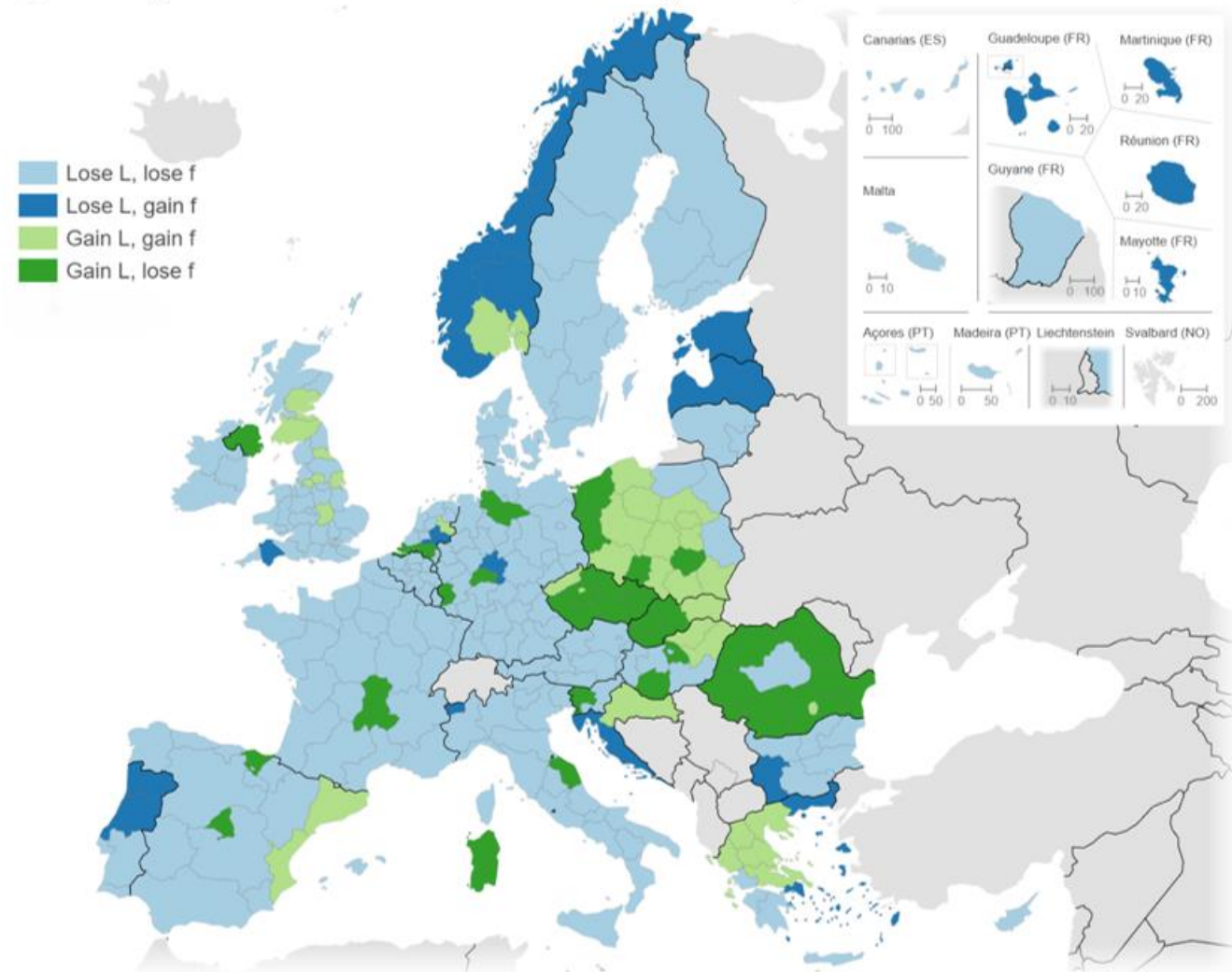
**“25% less
non-EU
dependence”**

Figure 6. Distribution of regional GVA change, per sector



**“25% less
non-EU
dependence”**

Figure 8. Regional classification based on GVA change decomposition



Source: own calculations.

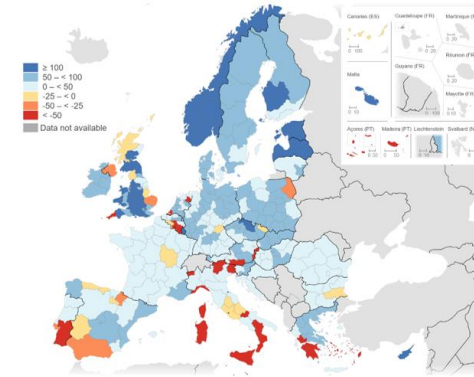
“25% less
non-EU
dependence”

Table A1: Contribution to overall change following the shock

			-8.38%	-7.68%	-7.13%	-5.54%	-4.19%	-3.28%	-2.83%	-2.68%	-2.61%	-2.18%	-2.11%	-1.93%	-1.77%	-1.52%	-1.45%	-1.36%	-1.36%	-1.06%	-1.00%	-0.97%	-0.83%	-0.48%	-0.17%	0.06%	0.14%	0.14%	0.24%	1.01%	
			DE11	DE21	FR10	IE06	ITC4	IE05	LU00	DK01	DEA1	DE71	ITH5	DE00	ITH3	FRJ2	FRL0	DEA2	ITC1	NL33	DE14	FRK2	DEA3	NL32	EL30	NL21	ES52	NL22	PT11	ES51	
-14.08%	C28	Machinery and equipment	-2.56%	-0.41%	-0.27%	-0.12%	-1.31%	-0.84%	-0.01%	-0.06%	-0.45%	-0.15%	-1.12%	-0.01%	-0.71%	-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.19%	-0.29%	-0.05%	-0.48%	-0.45%	-0.16%	-0.03%	0.01%	-0.04%	-0.02%	-0.01%	-0.05%	0.02%	C28
-12.50%	C29	Motor vehicles	-3.67%	-2.71%	-0.19%	0.10%	-0.18%	0.27%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.05%	-0.34%	-0.14%	0.00%	-0.06%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.32%	-0.47%	0.00%	-0.14%	-0.14%	0.00%	-0.01%	0.00%	-0.03%	-0.04%	0.00%	-0.04%	0.01%	C29
-6.45%	J62_63	Consulting, ICT	-0.10%	-0.18%	-0.04%	-2.16%	-0.03%	-0.25%	-0.16%	-0.07%	-0.06%	-0.09%	-0.01%	-0.06%	-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.02%	-0.07%	-0.03%	-0.03%	-0.08%	-0.01%	-0.02%	-0.04%	0.01%	-0.07%	-0.03%	-0.06%	0.00%	-0.10%	J62_63
-5.62%	M69_70	Legal, accounting, management	-0.11%	-0.19%	-0.56%	-0.06%	-0.12%	-0.02%	-0.12%	-0.04%	-0.15%	-0.12%	-0.02%	-0.07%	-0.03%	-0.06%	-0.06%	-0.09%	-0.03%	-0.06%	-0.03%	-0.10%	-0.03%	-0.06%	0.01%	-0.04%	-0.01%	-0.06%	0.00%	0.01%	M69_70
-4.96%	C25	Fabricated metal	-0.18%	-0.05%	-0.01%	0.00%	-0.58%	0.02%	-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.15%	-0.04%	-0.25%	0.00%	-0.29%	-0.02%	-0.02%	-0.05%	-0.17%	-0.01%	-0.06%	0.01%	-0.04%	-0.01%	0.01%	-0.01%	-0.02%	-0.01%	-0.04%	-0.01%	C25
-4.61%	C10T12	Food, drinks, tobacco	0.01%	-0.47%	-0.07%	0.02%	-0.14%	-0.57%	0.00%	-0.08%	0.02%	0.05%	-0.11%	0.00%	-0.08%	-0.05%	-0.06%	-0.06%	-0.10%	-0.32%	0.00%	-0.06%	0.01%	-0.04%	0.02%	-0.03%	-0.03%	-0.13%	-0.02%	0.03%	C10T12
-4.43%	C20	Chemicals	-0.26%	-0.02%	-0.42%	-0.01%	-0.16%	-0.29%	0.01%	-0.02%	-0.28%	0.05%	-0.07%	-0.16%	-0.02%	-0.04%	-0.03%	0.09%	-0.08%	-0.12%	0.01%	-0.04%	-0.45%	-0.01%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	-0.15%	0.00%	0.20%	C20
-4.07%	C21	Pharmaceuticals	0.00%	-0.14%	-0.14%	-0.46%	-0.16%	-0.08%	0.00%	-0.37%	-0.05%	-0.52%	0.01%	-0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	-0.07%	-0.14%	0.05%	0.01%	-0.20%	0.00%	-0.01%	0.02%	0.05%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.12%	C21
-3.90%	H50	Water transport	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-1.08%	-0.03%	0.01%	0.00%	-0.74%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.57%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.21%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.03%	-0.66%	0.00%	-0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	H50
-3.87%	N77	Rental and leasing	-0.06%	-0.08%	-0.40%	-0.46%	-0.05%	-0.14%	-0.17%	-0.01%	-0.06%	-0.09%	-0.01%	-0.15%	-0.01%	-0.02%	-0.05%	-0.04%	-0.01%	-0.08%	-0.05%	-0.04%	-0.04%	-0.29%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.04%	0.00%	0.01%	N77
-3.40%	N80T82	Business support	-0.04%	-0.07%	-0.43%	-0.06%	-0.10%	-0.03%	-0.02%	-0.07%	-0.08%	-0.07%	-0.03%	-0.04%	-0.02%	-0.04%	-0.11%	-0.05%	-0.04%	-0.01%	-0.02%	-0.07%	-0.02%	-0.02%	0.00%	-0.01%	-0.02%	-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.03%	N80T82
-2.60%	C30	Other transport equipment	0.01%	-0.46%	-1.44%	0.04%	-0.04%	0.34%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	-0.31%	0.03%	-1.19%	-0.27%	0.00%	-0.03%	-0.10%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%	0.12%	0.01%	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%	-0.01%	C30
-2.50%	K64	Finance	0.00%	0.04%	-0.01%	-0.51%	-0.03%	-0.15%	-1.55%	-0.03%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	-0.02%	0.01%	-0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.06%	-0.01%	0.00%	-0.02%	0.12%	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.06%	K64
-2.30%	G48	Wholesale trade	0.02%	-0.34%	-2.01%	-0.31%	-0.05%	-0.22%	0.00%	-0.46%	-0.38%	-0.19%	-0.02%	0.06%	0.07%	0.02%	0.05%	0.00%	0.01%	-0.16%	0.09%	0.09%	0.04%	-0.02%	0.00%	0.06%	0.00%	0.11%	0.02%	0.20%	G48
-1.59%	K66	Auxiliary finance	-0.01%	-0.02%	-0.07%	-0.15%	-0.02%	-0.03%	-0.62%	-0.01%	-0.02%	-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.01%	-0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	K66	
-1.17%	M72	Scientific research	-0.03%	-0.04%	0.00%	0.17%	-0.04%	0.22%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	-0.01%	0.00%	-0.04%	0.00%	-0.06%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.02%	0.01%	-0.13%	0.00%	-0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	-0.03%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	M72
-1.16%	H49	Land transport	0.00%	0.00%	0.19%	0.03%	-0.05%	0.01%	0.00%	-0.06%	-0.01%	-0.02%	-0.02%	0.00%	-0.02%	-0.01%	-0.01%	0.00%	-0.02%	-0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.01%	0.01%	-0.01%	0.01%	-0.02%	0.00%	-0.03%	H49
0.49%	C19	Petroleum	0.00%	0.00%	0.52%	-0.01%	-0.08%	-0.20%	0.00%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.24%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.20%	0.00%	-0.15%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.01%	0.02%	-0.09%	-0.02%	0.00%	-0.01%	-0.03%	C19
1.62%	A01	Crops and animals	0.02%	0.03%	0.00%	-0.06%	0.05%	-0.50%	0.01%	0.00%	0.02%	0.01%	0.05%	-0.01%	0.04%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.07%	0.01%	0.00%	0.03%	0.00%	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	A01
6.20%	C26	Computers	-0.20%	-0.60%	-0.35%	0.01%	0.02%	-0.34%	0.02%	0.06%	0.08%	-0.04%	0.02%	0.06%	0.02%	0.08%	0.13%	0.08%	0.06%	0.25%	0.08%	0.14%	0.02%	0.26%	0.01%	0.24%	0.02%	0.52%	0.02%	0.06%	C26
6.69%	C13T15	Textiles	0.11%	0.07%	0.13%	0.01%	0.18%	0.02%	0.09%	0.02%	0.08%	0.03%	0.14%	0.00%	0.28%	0.02%	0.03%	0.05%	0.15%	0.04%	0.13%	0.15%	0.11%	0.03%	0.05%	0.08%	0.39%	0.02%	0.48%	0.44%	C13T15
			DE11	DE21	FR10	IE06	ITC4	IE05	LU00	DK01	DEA1	DE71	ITH5	DE00	ITH3	FRJ2	FRL0	DEA2	ITC1	NL33	DE14	FRK2	DEA3	NL32	EL30	NL21	ES52	NL22	PT11	ES51	

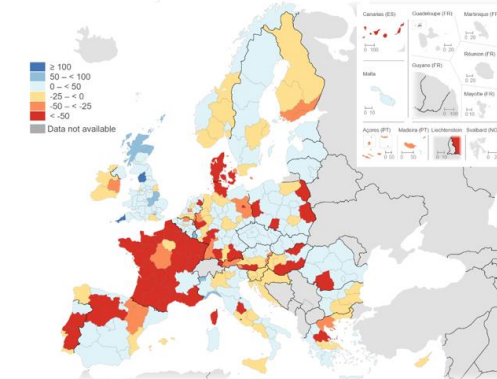
“25% less
non-EU
dependence”

Figure A1. GVA percent variation, per EU NUTS 2 region, in the C13-15 division (Food, beverage and tobacco products).



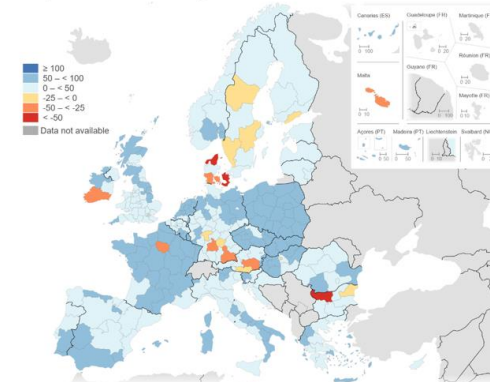
Source: own calculations.

Figure A2. GVA percent variation, per EU NUTS 2 region, in the C21 division (Manufacture of pharmaceuticals).



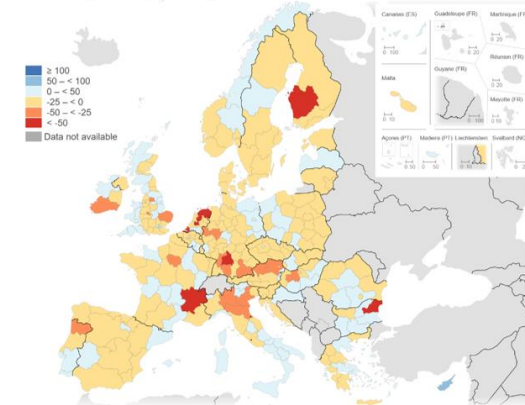
Source: own calculations.

Figure A3. GVA percent variation, per EU NUTS 2 region, in the C26 division (Manufacture of computers and electronics).



Source: own calculations.

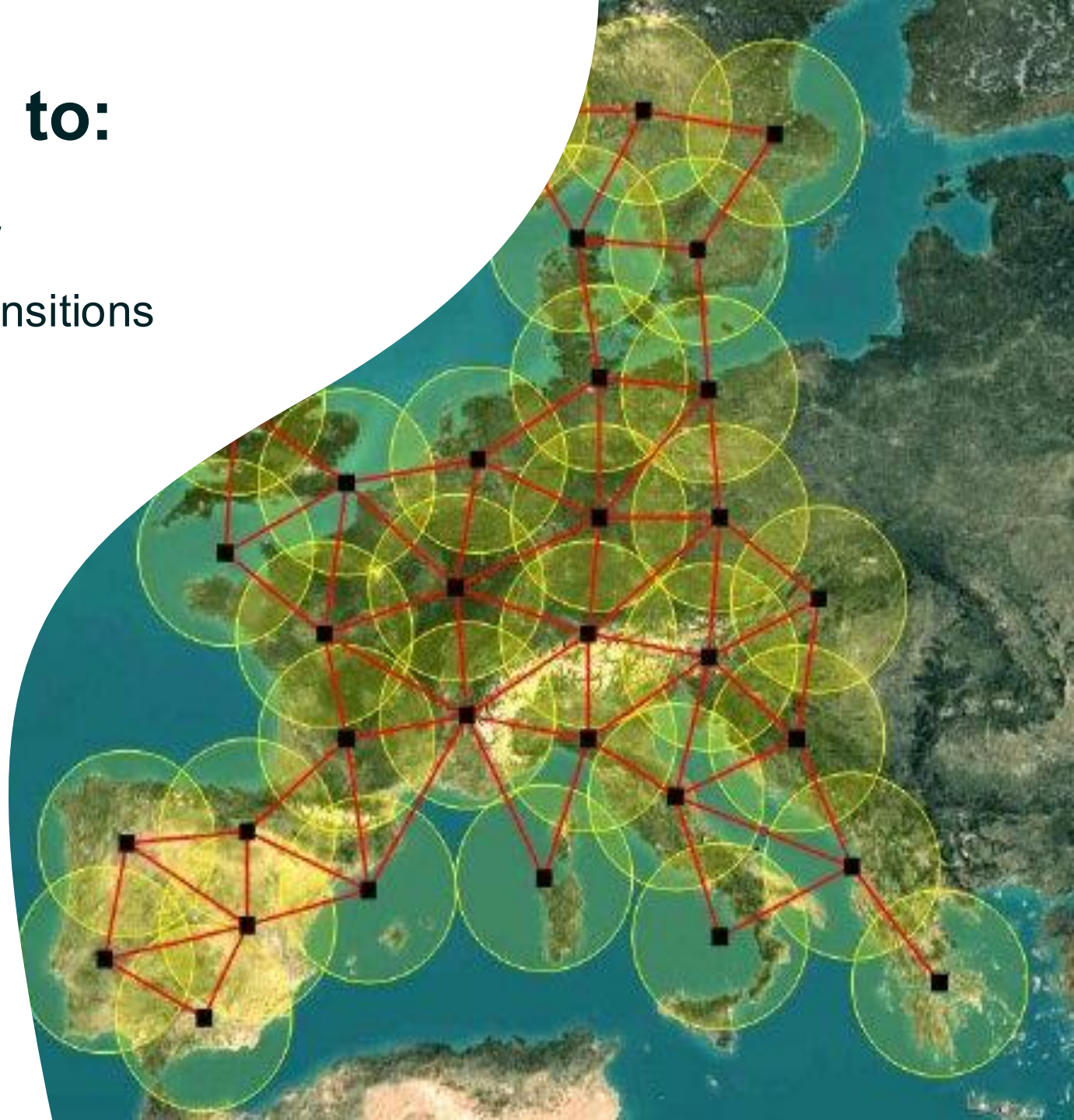
Figure A4. GVA percent variation, per EU NUTS 2 region, in the C28 division (Manufacture of machinery and equipment).



Source: own calculations.

We need to pay attention to:

- Specializations of regions, old and new
- Diversification strategies of regions, transitions
- Complementarities & **integration**
- Investments and quality of production
- Infrastructures and inventories
- Network mechanisms
- Wages and productivity
- Labour/housing/land markets
- Technological change opportunities
- Price adjustments
- **Inequalities & quality of life**



Broad prosperity

- competitiveness
- sustainability
- cohesion

Trade-offs and synergies between these dimensions are the core of economics: what people value. European regions and cities prosper on more dimensions, and this needs to be valued.



**Erasmus
University
Rotterdam**

Erasmus