



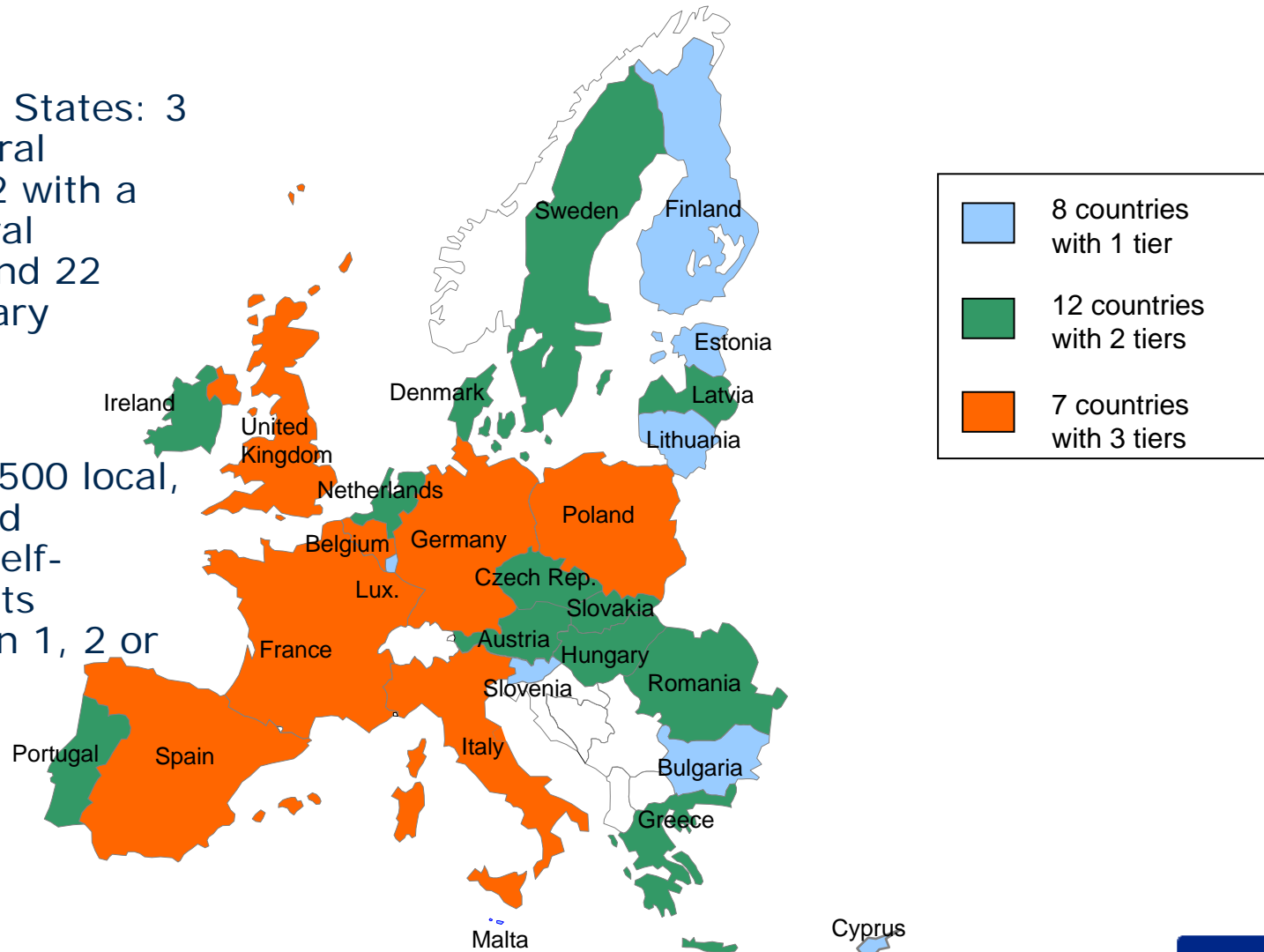
The quest for the "perfect territorial organisation": comparison across Europe

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A great variety of territorial organisation in Europe

- 27 Member States: 3 with a federal structure, 2 with a quasi-federal structure and 22 with a unitary structure
- Around 92 500 local, regional and federated self-governments organised in 1, 2 or 3 tiers



Sub-national governments in the European Union in 2007

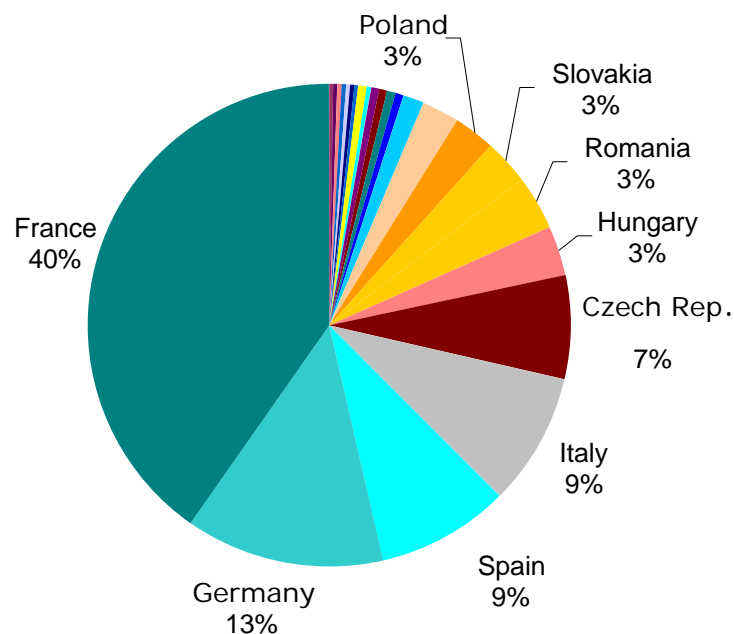
	1 st tier	2 nd tier	3 rd tier
TOTAL EU 27	91 252	1 150	104

	1 st tier	2 nd tier	3 rd tier
Federal States			
Austria	2 357	9	
Belgium	589	10	6
Germany	12 312	323	16
Unitary States			
Bulgaria	264		
Cyprus ¹	524		
Czech Republic	6 249	14	
Denmark	98	5	
Estonia	227		
Finland	416		
France ²	36 683	100	26
Greece	1 034	50	
Hungary	3 175	19	
Ireland	114	8	
Italy	8 101	103	20

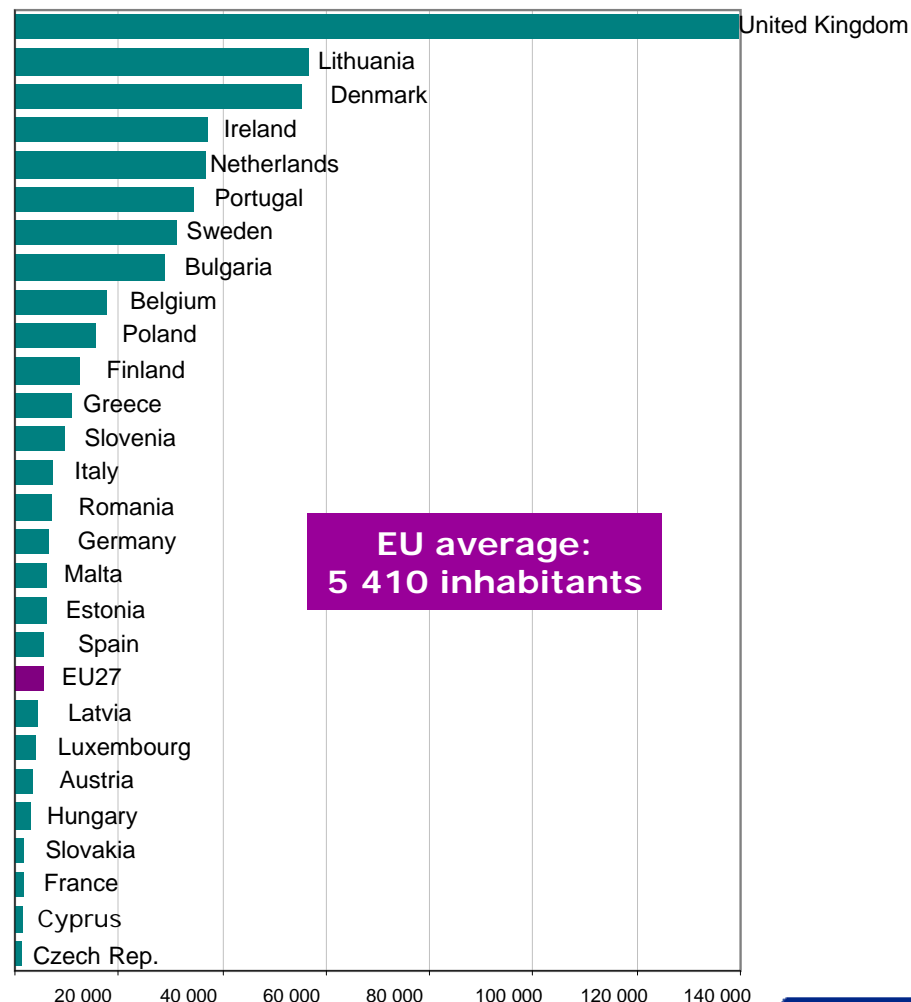
	1 st tier	2 nd tier	3 rd tier
Latvia	527	26	
Lithuania	60		
Luxembourg	116		
Malta	68		
Netherlands	443	12	
Poland	2 478	314	16
Portugal ³	308	2	
Romania	3 173	42	
Slovakia	2 891 ⁴	8	
Slovenia	210		
Spain	8 111	50	17
Sweden	290	20	
United Kingdom ³	434	35	3

91 250 municipalities in the EU in 2007

80% of municipalities are located in only 5 countries

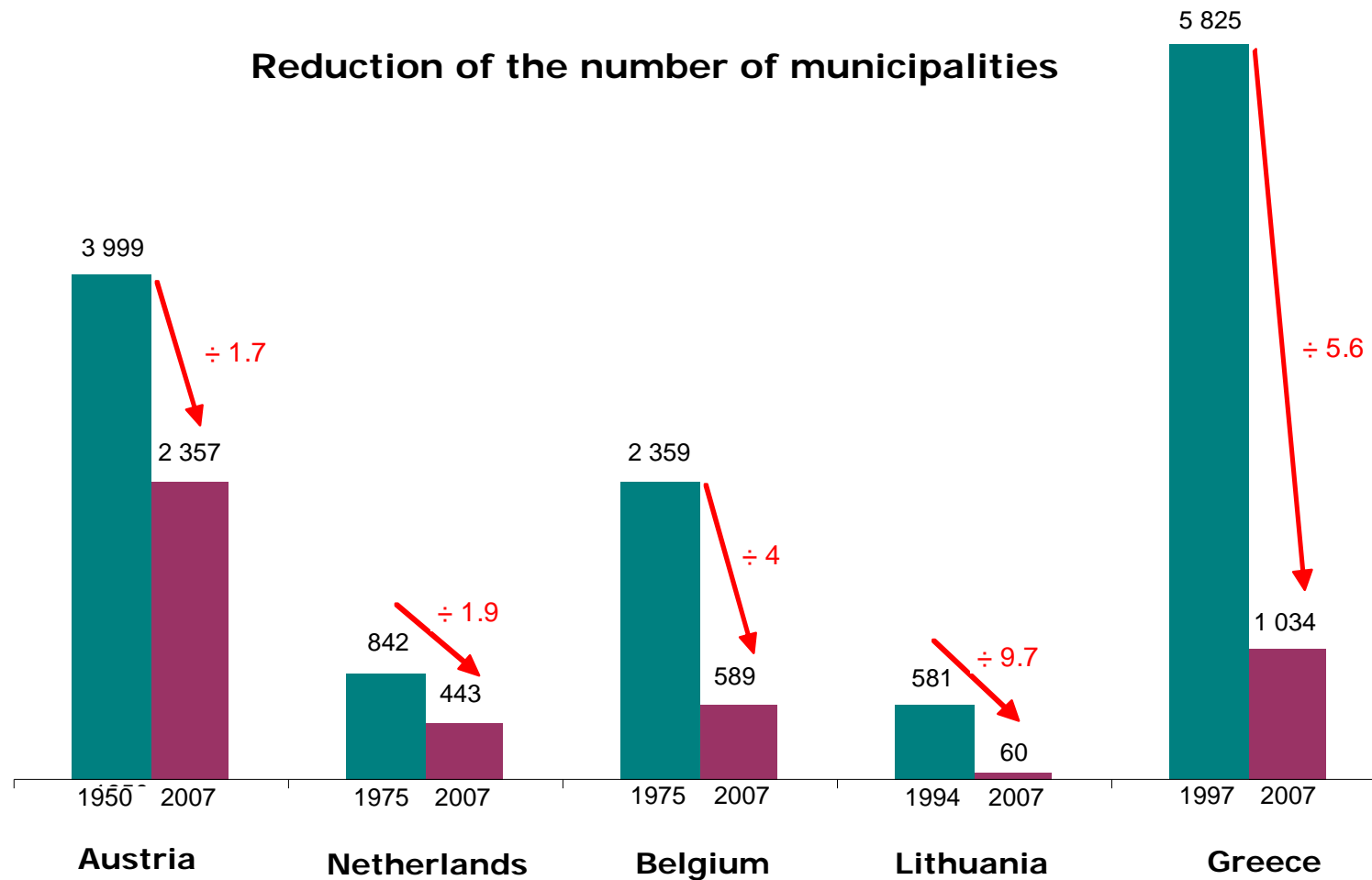


Average demographic size of municipalities



Municipal merger policies

Reduction of the number of municipalities

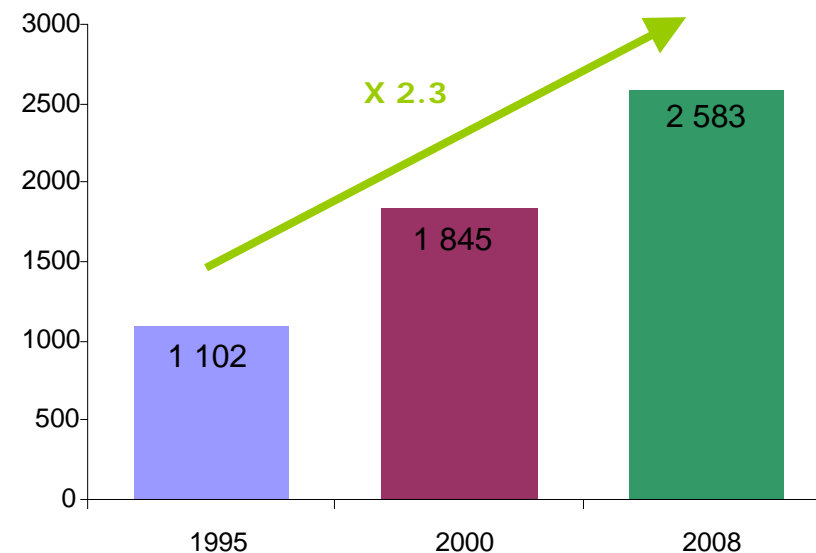


The development of inter-municipal cooperation as an alternative to mergers

Inter-municipal cooperation structures in Europe

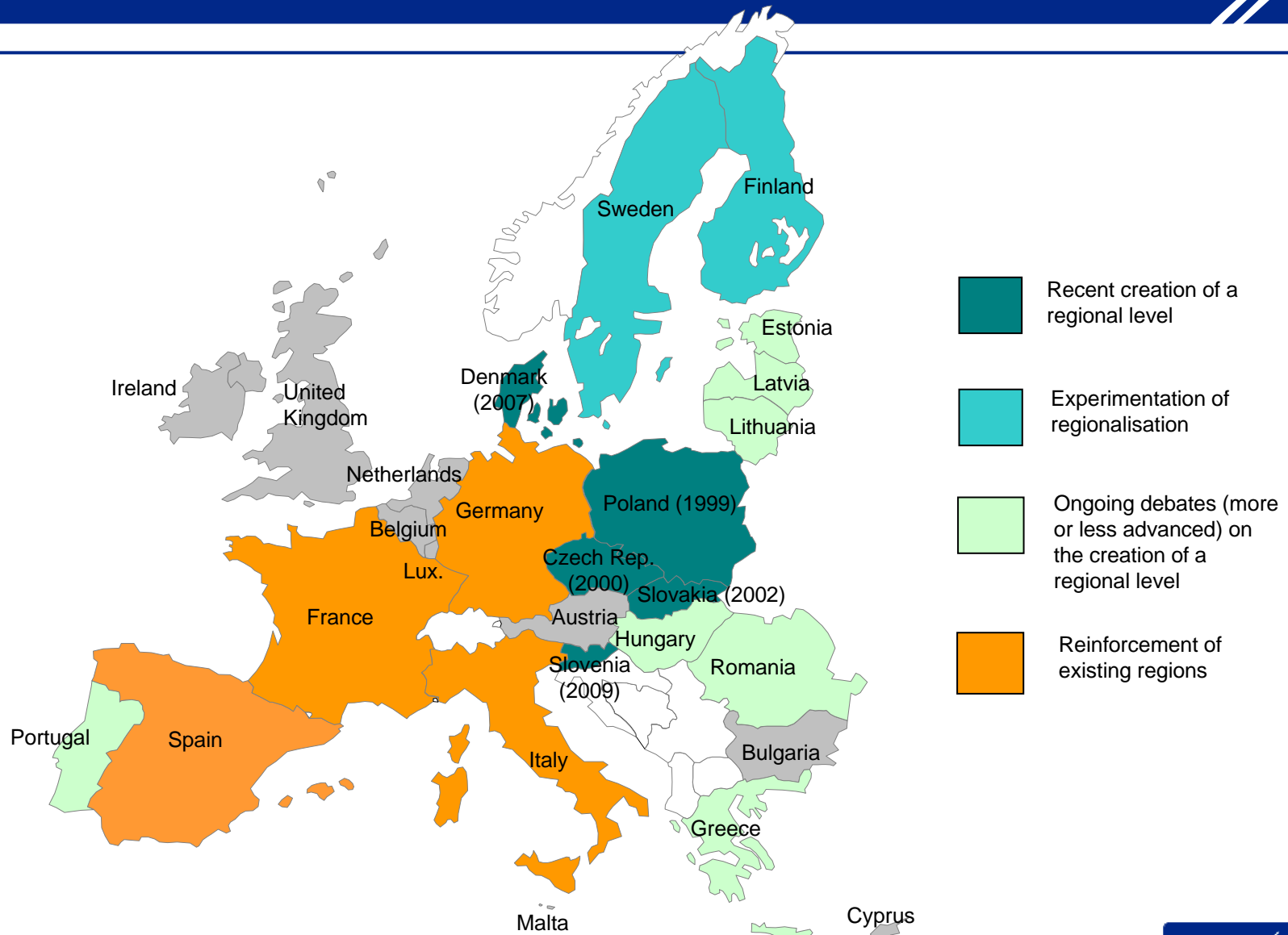
- More or less common depending on the country
- Mandatory/voluntary
- Single-purpose/multi-purpose
- Diversity of forms: delegation agreement, pooling of resources, creation of a legal entity, etc.
- Most integrated forms in Spain, Portugal, Italy and France

Number of inter-municipal structures with own fiscal resources in France



91% of French municipalities and 87% of the population of the country

The regionalisation process in Europe



Conclusion

- The quest for the “perfect territorial organisation” has to take two (often contradictory) requirements into account:
 - ❑ Economic efficiency
 - ❑ Democratic efficiency
- The optimal size of a local authority varies depending on the type of responsibility.
- There is no perfect territorial organisation that could be implemented in all countries.

For more information...

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