

Who's afraid of the Eurodelta?

Planning a 45million (unknown) megalopolis

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Eurodelta: what's in the name?

- Europe's largest river delta of Rhine/Waal, Meuse & Scheldt + Thames/NS-channel
- Functional (polycentric/transnational) Urban Area with 45M pop., 10% of EU GDP on 3% of EU area
- Global Gateway of (NW) Europe (linked with China over land)
- Surrounded by monocentric metropolises of London, Paris, Frankfurt & Hamburg
- Multicultural/multi-language





- Pioneer partner cities
- Pioneer partners metropolitan regions
- Potential partner cities
- Potential partners metropolitan regions
- Deltametropolis Association
- METREX Network
- Waterways
- Trainlines
- Main roads

Aspirations

01
Develop a joint cross border vision for economic spatial development

Potential questions:

What is happening across the borders, within the Eurodelta, concerning economic spatial development?

02
Unleash the potential of the 40 million inhabitants

Potential questions:

What are the main opportunities, bottlenecks and missing links in economy, labour, public mobility, housing etc. for the Eurodelta, in the short and long term?

How to manage (affordable) housing for the knowledge and manual workers, needed for the Eurodelta's next economy, on a regional scale?

Due to economic and population growth, cities are experiencing a scale jump, from city to the region. How to further develop and interconnect these emerging city regions?

03
Support a high quality living and robust Eurodelta

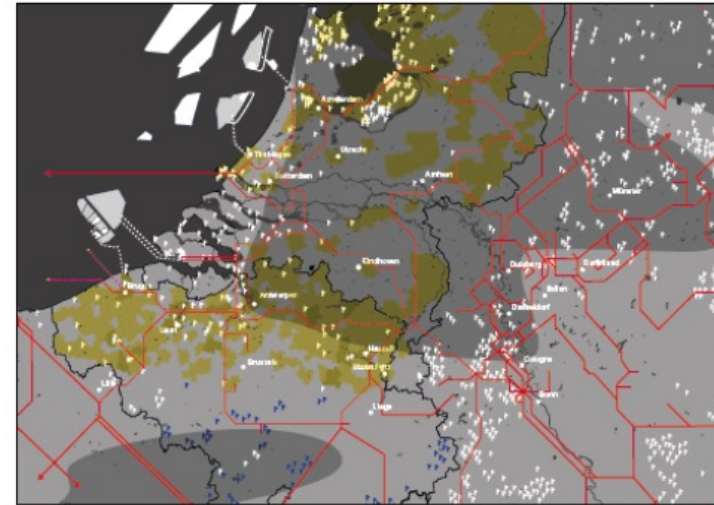
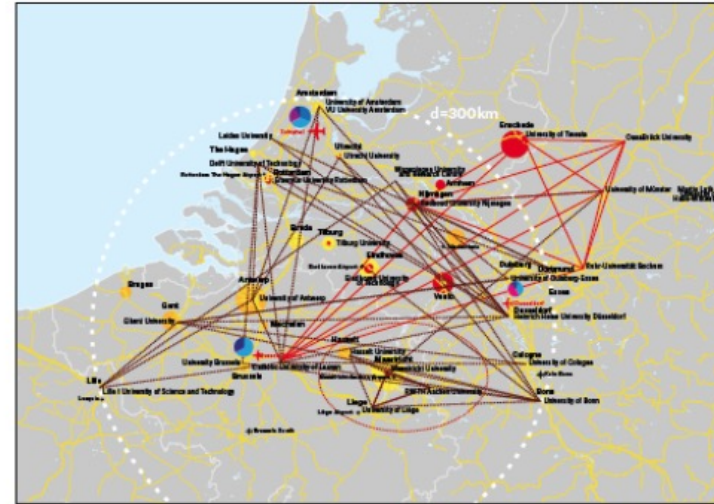
Potential questions:

How can integrated projects support future-proof solutions for adaptation and mitigation, as well as at the local as the Eurodelta scale?

How to create a fast and robust network for movement of people, freight and data in the Eurodelta?

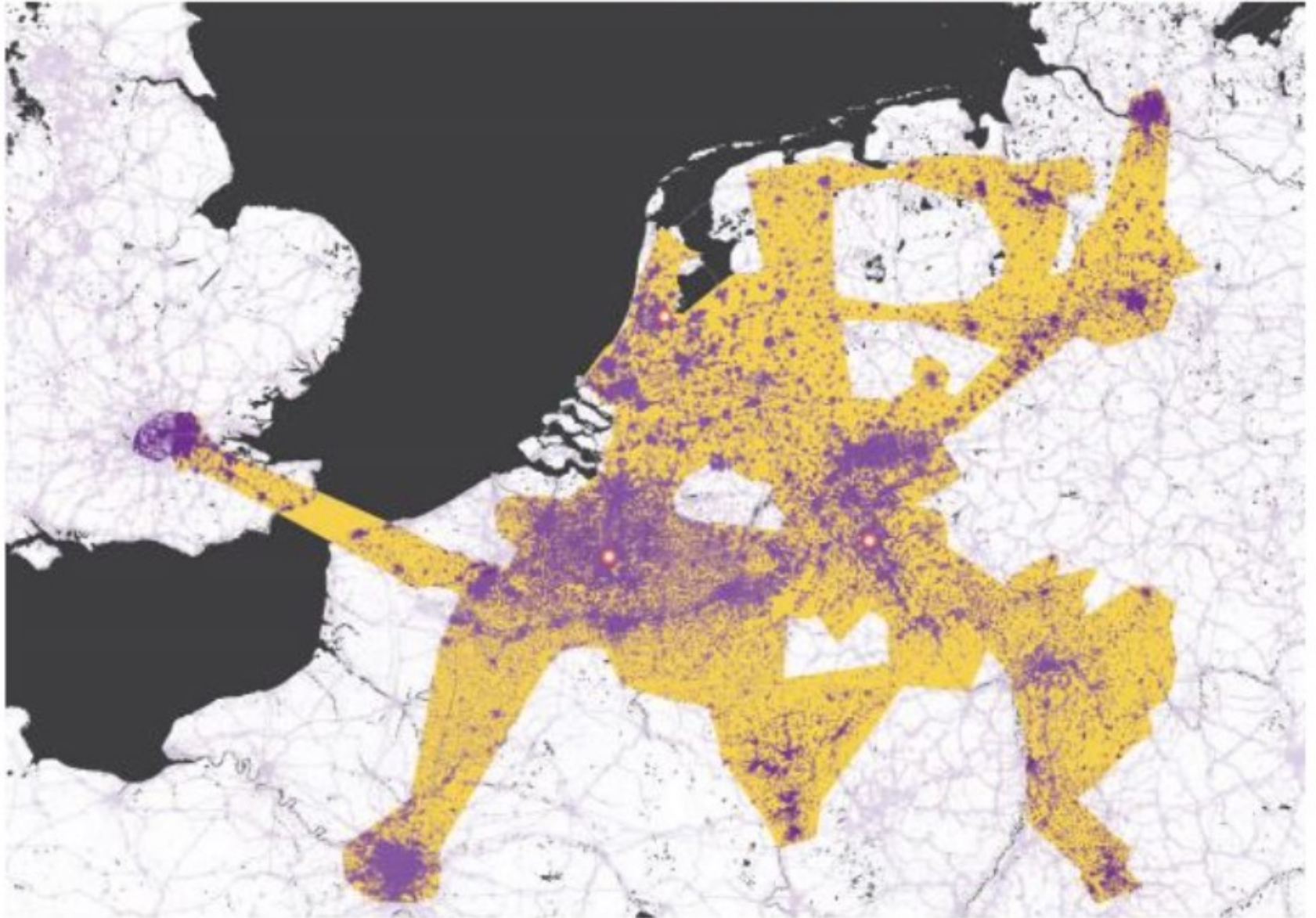
How to revitalise the current shopping or tourism dominated city centres to healthy living centres for all?

Source: Association Deltametropool



Go Europe, Go Rail!

The Eurodelta-metropolis, the potential reach of Amsterdam, Brussels and Cologne combined



A shared history and culture

1 In the three cultures of the HolloCore, realism and surrealism have always been very close - from Durer's realism to Vermeer's hyperrealism to Bosch's visionary surrealism.

2 The liberalization of the European air travel market has made regional airports into favorable harbors for the expanding network of charter and budget flights. Almost every provincial city of the HolloCore is now connected to exotic budget-destinations along the southern rim of Europe.

DUTCH NOW FIND MARRIAGE ROUTINE
AMSTERDAM - As many as 83 marriages here are now between the same sex, according to gay men and lesbians advertise and host lavish parties for his some of those who got married and paying court in Washington Post - 34/9/2003

Projected population change 2000 - 2015 in %

+15%
+10%
+5%
0%
-5%
-10%

-5% Essen

+7% Wesel

3 BELGIUM'S FAR RIGHT RESURGENT
ANTWERP - The Vlaams Blok party has emerged stronger than ever from a determined attempt to shut it down. It could have been curtains for the Vlaams Blok this week - the far-right party whose slogan "Our People First" is chillingly reminiscent of something that Joseph Goebbels might have come up with. But instead the Blok is stronger than ever, forecast to do well in a forthcoming general election and able to adopt the moral high ground. The Guardian - 26/2/2003

Artists and Works: Johannes Vermeer, Jan Steen, Hieronymus Bosch, Albrecht Durer, Pieter Brueghel.

Geography: SWEDEN, MARK, LITHUANIA, POLAND.

Text: inhabitants. Two thirds of its population lives in cities smaller than 200,000 inhabitants - in places no one has ever heard of. The HolloCore has had one of the highest concentrations of cities and towns in Europe since the Middle Ages. Despite explosive population growth during the industrial revolutions, the HolloCore is not dominated by a single center. Instead, it has swelled into a cloud of atomized sub-centers and peripheries. Every center claims its own identity, history, and centrality, while numerous peripheries offer space for new cultures and identities to unfold. In the HolloCore, all that is urban is losing ground. Over the last decades overall population growth has dropped to -0.2%. Within this static condition, mercurial movements of the population ensure that metropolitan density recedes: established cities lose residents while thinly populated areas gain. In the name of identity, city centers are stripped down to their historic pedestrian shopping streets, and appear more village-like than ever - frozen in a time that never was. Meanwhile, the periphery fills up with a mix of business, commerce-, leisure-, industry-, logistic-, villa-, office-, or brainparks, generic urban matter embedded in massive inversions of green. In the HolloCore, the city has become the void left in the wake of its own expansion. The HolloCore stretches across three countries with three legal systems and their cumulative loopholes, all combining to form the most progressive legislative ecology in the world. The HolloCore is a loophole culture: within its ambiguous borders, prostitution is legal and taxed, marijuana as official medicine, euthanasia legal >

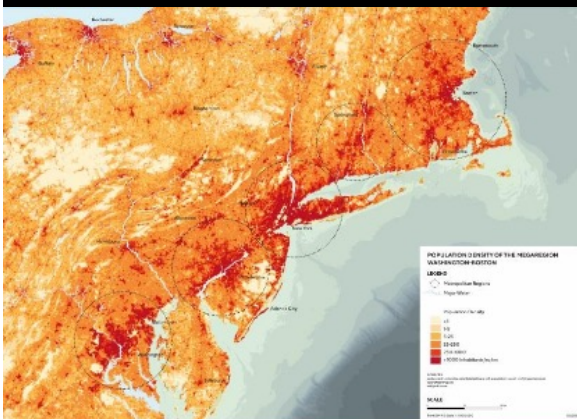
Source: OMA
 HolloCore Ruhrgebiet

Eurodelta: why unknown?

- Unknown compared to e.g. Pearl River Delta, Greater Tokyo & Boston-Washington Corridor
- Strong identity of individual cities such as Amsterdam (NL), Brussels (BE), Aachen (DE) & Lille (FR)
- Fragmented governance structure (federal/national, regional/subregional, municipal)
- EU only recognizes Northwest-Europe as transnational (INTERREG) area

THE TOP 29 MEGAREGIONS IN THE WORLD

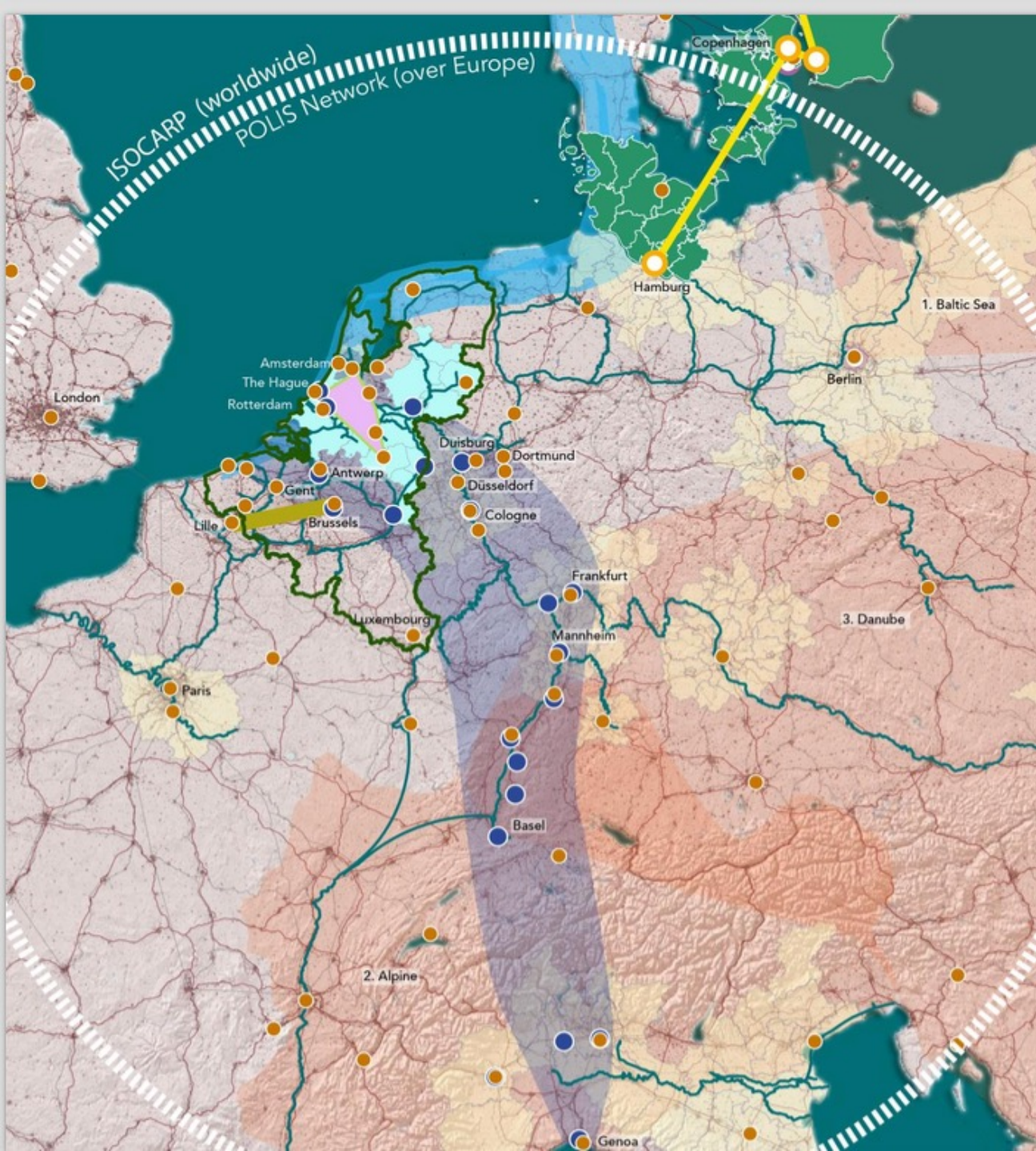
BASED ON ECONOMIC OUTPUT, GDP (PPP)



Boston - Washington

Shanghai - Nimbo - Nanjing

Sure Eurodelta



-  Eurocities
-  METREX Regions
-  STRING Network
-  EU macroregion strategy
 1. Baltic Sea
 2. Alpine
 3. Danube
-  North Sea Region 2030
-  Brussels-Capital Region and Lille Metropole
-  BENELUX Union
-  Rhine Alpine Corridor
-  Holland Metropole
-  Mobility NL-NRW
-  POLIS Network
-  ISOCARP
-  Waterways
-  Trainlines
-  Main roads

Eurodelta: Why it Matters

- Look at the recent floodings in the Eurodelta!
- Fast trains CAN substitute all air-transport within the Eurodelta!
- Competition between cities, ports, universities - all aiming at the same market/audience should no longer happen at the expense of environment & health
- One FUR with many different/conflictual planning systems
- European contribution to 'megalopolis' level playing field
- European territorial integration/cohesion needs functional transnational/crossborder collaboration/green economies of scale
- Overcoming Brexit

Eurodelta: what happened so far?

- CRONWE/BENELUX+/ESDP/5^e Nota RO (post WOI – 2000)
- Eurodelta reports NL/BE (post 2000)
- EU INTERREG NWE collaboration & projects
- METREX SURE initiative
- ESPON Study on Eurodelta Mobility trends
- VDM initiatives
- MoU METREX/VDM/ISOCARP
- CORP2020 & 2021 discussions
- ISOCARP CoP Eurodelta initiative

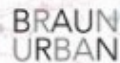
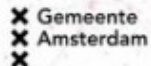
- Faludi's 'Poverty of Territorialism'



Call for Participation
— to all universities,
master's students, researchers
and young professionals to
contribute in the development
of a sustainable spatial-
economic vision for
the Eurodelta

Next Generation Podium for Eurodelta

A knowledge platform for the territory of Eurodelta



17 - 21 May 2021 | online symposium
registration in March 2021

INCLUSIVENESS AND COHESION | MOBILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE
CIRCULAR ECONOMY | CLIMATE AND ENERGY | WATER MANAGEMENT

can for details





vereniging
delta
metropool



Eurodelta: so, who's afraid?

- Some (Eurodelta-based) planners are passionate about transregional collaborative planning but most planners (prefer to) work at more conventional planning scales (national, regional, local) – *'the next big thing is many small things'*
- Some academics (researchers/educators) work on or (re-)‘discover’ the macro-regional scale, but most are more thematic- and place-based
- Some politicians (at all levels) see the opportunities of Eurodelta collaboration but most are entirely consumed by ‘internal politics’ – even at EU/BU level!
- EU-countries outside the Eurodelta reject boosting EU’s global powerhouse at the expense of more peripheral regions (as do EU-countries within the Eurodelta region to reduce density and negative externalities)

Let's go mega – on a bike

- Big picture
- Small steps



Eurodelta: what's next?

- 58th World Planning Congress BRU 2022
- WUF11 2022
- Eurodelta Knowledge Platform (VDM)
- Eurodelta Governance Platform (SURE METREX/BU)
- Eurodelta Practitioners Platform (ISOCARP)
- Joint initiatives towards other stakeholders (business community, civil society, media,...)

Step by step development

sure network
eurodelta

INFORMAL NETWORK

- platform for exchange
- interactive website
- working groups



2021



JOINT CONFERENCES
MISSION STATEMENT
WEBSITE LAUNCH

TRANSNATIONAL ALLIANCE

- with cooperation agreement
- with managing and steering committee
- with independent secretary



2023



KICK-OFF PROCESS

- with EU grant for the development of the vision / strategy
- an alliance-building process

COMMON PUBLIC BODY

- i.e. Association, NGO, EGTC
- with the goal to develop a joint vision in the Eurodelta



2025



JOINT VISION / STRATEGY

- results of the workshops
- target concept for sustainable spatial-economic strategy for the Eurodelta

FROM STRATEGY TO PROGRAMME

- i.e. EGTC, Public-Private Partnerships
- For the implementation of the sustainable spatial-economic strategy
- development and implementation of the sustainable spatial-economic strategy of the Eurodelta



2030

PROGRAMME CONFERENCE

- on the sustainable spatial-economic strategy of the Eurodelta
- operationalisation of the strategy, programme, regional key projects

MEGAREGION EURODELTA

- Advocate megaregion as incubator and catalyst for innovative, sustainable, spatial, economic solutions



2050

CLIMATE NEUTRAL MACROREGION

- A borderless, balanced, integrated, inclusive and sustainable megaregion

Community of Practice

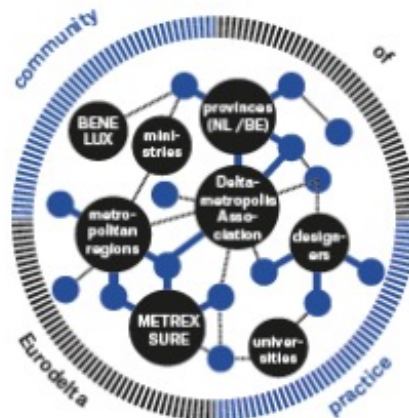
1990-2019

Raising Eurodelta awareness



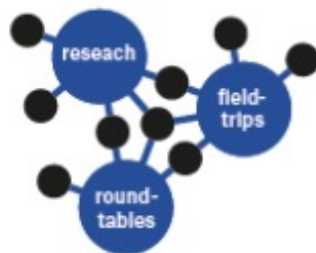
2019-2020

Establishing Eurodelta CoPR



2020-2021

Eurodelta Seminars & Congress



2021+

Eurodelta Cooperation & Projects

