



# *Shedding Light on Multi-Level Governance Reforms in the Context of the COVID-19 Crisis and Recovery*

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# Why countries are regionalising....

## DRIVERS

- Reduce territorial disparities
- Manage political, social, administrative concerns
- Design and implement place-based regional development policies
- Achieve economies of scale for public service provision and infrastructure investment
- Enhance competitiveness and regional growth
- Correct excessive concentration in a capital city

## GAINS

- Overcome purely local interests and instead take a broader, regional view
- Prevent excessive fragmentation (policies, plans, investments and projects)
- Foster cross-jurisdiction cooperation
- Promote urban/rural linkages
- More resources to implement regional development policy

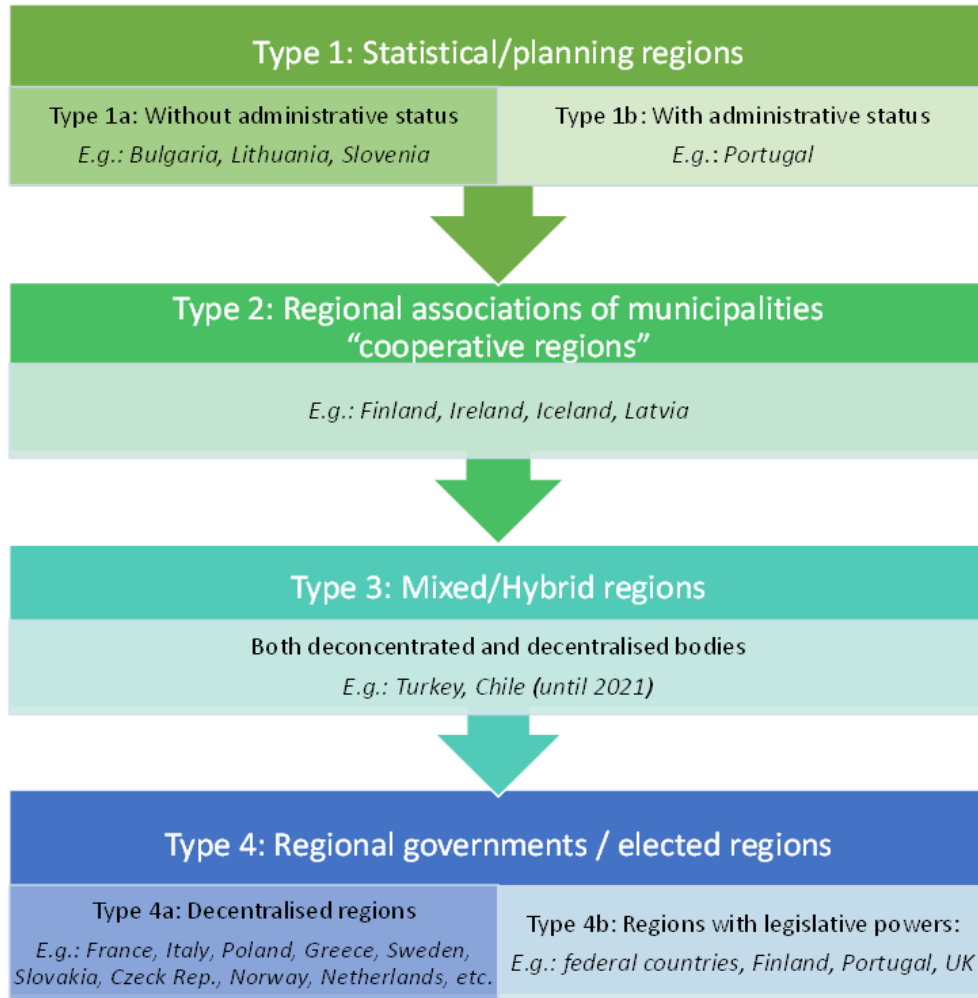
## BOOSTERS

- 2008 global financial crisis and fiscal consolidation measures
- Globalisation and other megatrends
- COVID-19 crisis
- EU Integration (for European countries)



# How countries are regionalising...

## Forms



## Policy levers

- “Power incentives”
  - Tax autonomy
  - Regulatory power
  - Increased responsibilities
- Public investment funds
  - National funds
  - EU Structural and Investment Funds
  - Others
- Inter-municipal Cooperation (voluntary/mandatory)
- Metropolitan governance arrangements
- Deals, agreements, contracts



# Country challenges and recommendations

## Bulgaria

### Challenges

1. A top-down and limited place-based approach to regional development
2. Lack of regional-level governance
3. Dysfunctions in the municipal decentralization model

### Recommendations

1. Strengthen districts as a *state* regional level AND planning regions as *regional development bodies*
2. Two proposed options for transforming the planning regions
2. Enhancing municipal governance and improving how decentralization functions

## Morocco

### Challenges

1. Assimilating (new) regional competences
2. Reinforcing national/regional coherence of territorial development strategies
3. Building effective dialogue and engagement among regionalization reform stakeholders

### Recommendations

1. Use State-Region contracts (*Contrats État-Region*) to build regional government capacity
2. Implement contract for effective place-based policies using the “Checklist for State-Region Contracts for Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Territorial Development” and adjust contract as necessary

## Wales, UK

### Challenges

1. Integrated regional development planning and investment
2. Horizontal and vertical coordination and cooperation
3. National/Subnational partnerships for implementation

### Recommendations

1. Adopt a single, integrated national regional development policy
2. Reinforce coordination at the centre of government
3. Support policy implementation (RDA, pilots/experiments, deals and agreements, etc.)



*Thank you very much*

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