

## Introduction

The Mediterranean Railway Corridor (MRC):

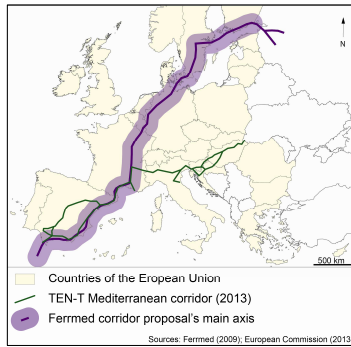
- is one of the TEN-T projects
- set in the particular political and economic context of the Mediterranean regions in Spain.

Questions:

1. How **multiple visions** are gathered around the MRC project?
2. Does the MRC lead to a new **"corridor territory"**?



Describe current process of territorialisation.

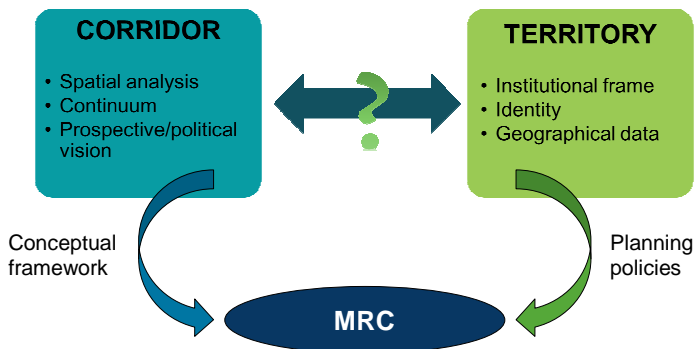


MRC: plural project at EU scale

## Method

- Literature review on corridor/territory link
- Identification of the actors involved in the MRC project
- Interviews (43) and media analysis
- Confrontation with MRC concrete realisations

## From corridor to territory: a missing link



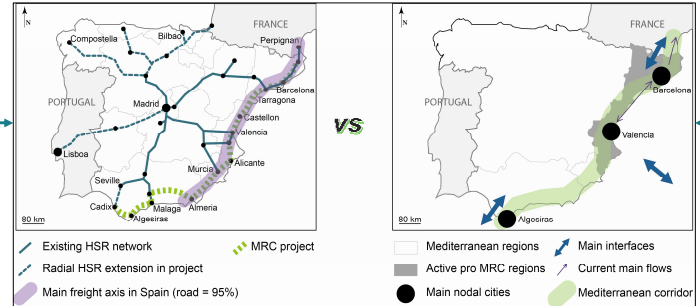
MRC case study:

- political and **prospective vision** of the notion of corridor from the EU point of view
- used by **different scales** (national, regional, local) and **actors** for their own interest
- made of **discontinuous elements** (local projects) drawing a large **trans-national project**

European corridors seem to be fuzzy concepts.

**Paradox:** they draw trans-national axis but it is difficult for institutions to consider a cross-border territory.

## Actors, territory and the MRC



### Planning policies vs euro-regional visions?

Consensus about MRC, but different visions of its reality.

3 criteria:

- objectives of the actors?
- extension of the MRC?
- domination of freight or passengers in the project?

European Commission	• European integration + interoperability
Spanish government	• Improve connections to Europe + HSR network
Mediterranean regions	• Euro-regional integration + North-South axis
Academics	• Economic weight + Mediterranean common identity
Lobbies	• Industrial cluster + opening to Europe
Entrepreneur Associations	• Competitiveness + European market
Port authorities	• Gateways for Europe + intermodal connection
Cities	• Reach metropolitan status + urban renewal

Actors and the MRC: plural visions

## Conclusions

1. Actors' diverging points of view concentrate on the **MRC as consensual project**. Qualitative jump from **regional to European scale**.
2. This consensus leads to a particular **territorialisation process** (new cooperation). A Mediterranean **"corridor territory"** emerges. ➡ Awareness of a collective concern beyond individual / local interests.

## Main references

1. Boira, J. (2010). L'Eix Mediterrani: entre les dinàmiques locals i la perspectiva megaregional. *Documents d'Anàlisi Geogràfica*, 1, 91 – 109.
2. Debie, J. & Comtois, C. (2010). Une relecture du concept de corridors de transport : illustration comparée Europe / Amérique du Nord. *Les Cahiers scientifiques du transport*, 58, 127 – 144.
3. Hall, P. V. & Hesse, M. (2013). *Cities, Regions and Flows*. London: Routledge.