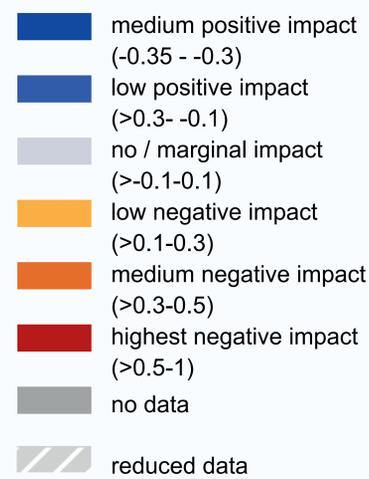
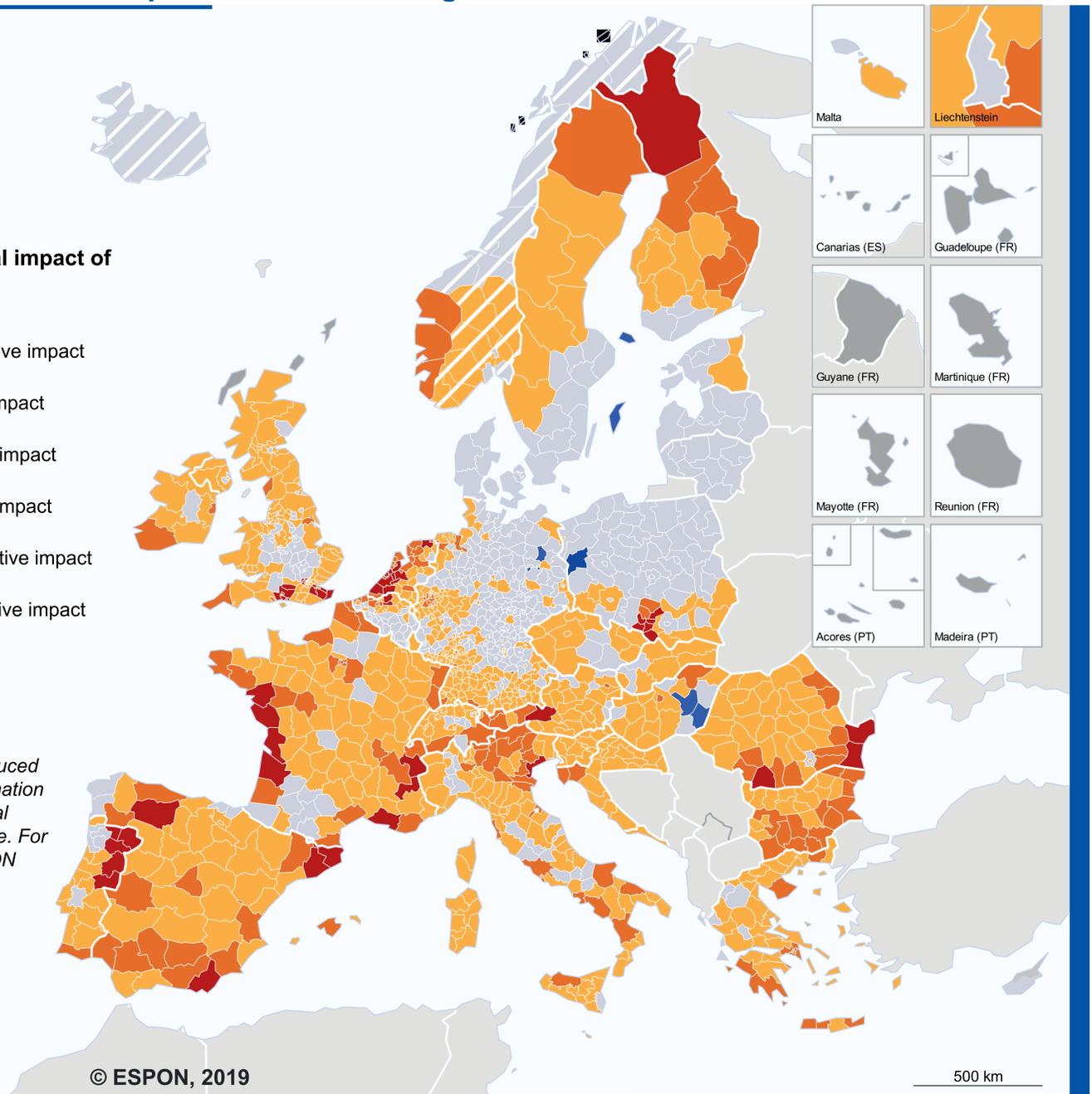


## Aggregated potential impact of climate change

### Aggregate potential impact of climate change



*Note: Regions with reduced data are missing information related to environmental sensitivity and exposure. For more details see ESPON Climate Update Annex.*



# Climate change impacts mostly regions along natural borders

The highest potential impact of climate change is concentrated along coasts, in mountain regions and along major rivers. Most affected territories are in northern and southern Europe in regions with high slopes (especially in mountainous regions), vulnerable to soil erosion (e.g. in river deltas or along coasts), and large protected areas (e.g. in northern Scandinavia).

The spatial distribution of flood risk across Europe did not change significantly between 2002 and 2012. The river basins of the Rhine and the Danube, as well as the Po and the river systems of England, have the highest risk of flooding in Europe. Areas with drought risks are concentrated along the Mediterranean, in the Carpathian Region, and in Ireland.

Overall, the regions in south and south-east Europe are the most exposed to natural hazards. Those vulnerable territories may need guidance in drafting climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience strategies through transfer of good practices from front-runner regions (northern and north-western Europe) and cities. In addition, front-runner regions could learn from local unplanned adaptations and bottom-up initiatives found in less developed regions.

Transfer of good practices should be supported by a shared database of successful adaptation, mitigation and resilience strategies and by comparative studies to identify differences (e.g. geographic specificities) and similarities (e.g. transferable measures) between territories.

Further reading: Territorial Dynamics in Europe (ESPON 2014).