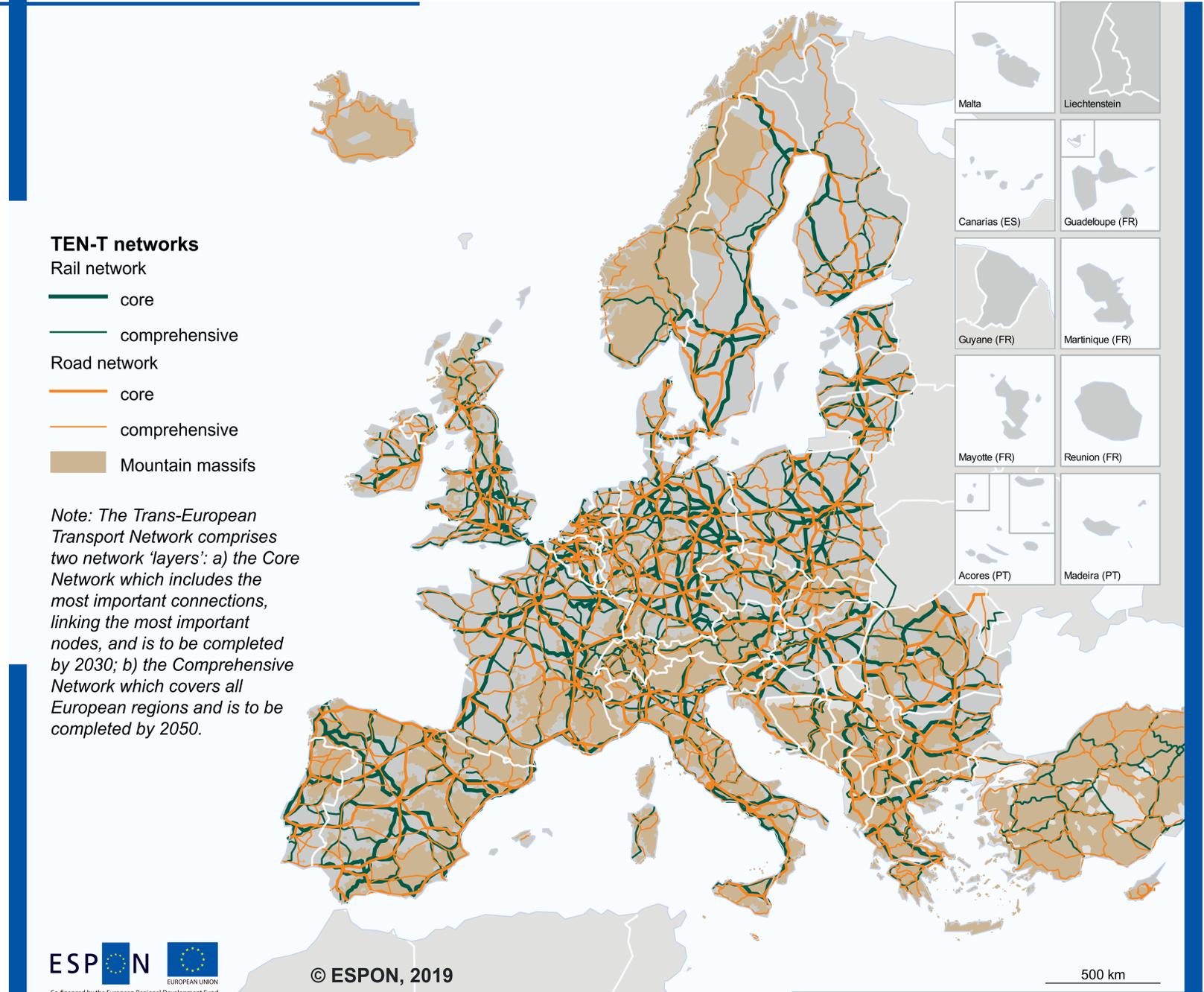


Coverage of Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) in mountain areas



Mountain areas are under-served by main TEN-T axes

Territories with geographic specificities (TGS) - islands, mountains, coastal areas and sparsely populated places are still facing challenges in terms of accessibility.

Sparsely populated areas in mountain or island regions have particular accessibility issues. Providing cost efficient transport infrastructure and services for these territories is increasingly difficult due to relief, topographic conditions and low population densities.

Mountain regions with good accessibility can be found more often within the Alpine Mountain range. Their accessibility is mostly ensured by a well developed network of road and rail TEN-T corridors. Fewer TEN-T corridors cross peripheral mountain ranges like those in Romania, Bulgaria, and to some extent, Spain and the Nordic states. Moreover, corridors crossing the Carpathians and the Balkans are not fully developed, thus making these territories less accessible.

By 2030, considering the planned transport infrastructure is developed, the accessibility potential of mountain regions by road or rail will barely reach 80% of the European average, while sparsely populated places and islands will remain below 20%.

In many cases mountain areas are bypassed by the TEN-T core networks or are served by secondary transport networks. The European and national levels should grant more importance to funding the development of regional transport links and find new routes for crossing mountain massifs. Funding should also aim to ensure the access to SGIs in sparsely populated areas.

Further reading: BRIDGES - Territories with Geographical Specificities (ESPON 2019).