



## ESPON 2013 Programme

# Info Day on New Calls and Partner Café

18 May 2010  
09h00 – 17h00  
Brussels – Belgium

## CV of Speakers

### Thiemo W. Eser

Thiemo W. Eser is responsible for European Affairs at the Ministry for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Department for Spatial Planning now for six years. He studied economics, as well as regional, urban and environmental economics and holds a doctorate in economics of the University of Trier, Germany. He was first junior than senior lecturer at the faculty of economic and social sciences of the same university. He co-founded and covered the co-director's post of a semi public research institute for eight years. He published and led various projects financed by the EU, national, regional and local level in Western and Central European countries about European integration, regional policy and evaluation, federalism and governance, spatial and sustainable development before he joined the Ministry.

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### Lewis Dijkstra

Dr Lewis Dijkstra is the Deputy Head of the Analysis Unit of the Directorate-General for Regional Policy, European Commission. He is responsible for the main analytical reports such as the Cohesion Report and Progress Report as well as the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion. He has a strong interest in the regional analysis of competitiveness, well-being and the quality of the environment. He liaises with the OECD, Joint Research Centre, the European Environmental Agency and Eurostat to develop better and new indicators and analyses of these domains. As part of regional analysis, he has been working on improvements of the definition of different types of areas such as metro-regions and rural remote regions (see the Green Paper and Regional Focus 1 and 3). He holds a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning and a BA in Political Science.

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### **Rocío Wojski**

Rocío Wojski is currently Head of Division of Territorial Policy at the Directorate General for Sustainable Rural Development in the Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs in Spain. She has been working as Head of Service of the National Center for Irrigation Technology (DG for Water) at the same Ministry for three years and she also was an Assistant at the Spanish Permanent Representation in the EU in Brussels. She is an Agricultural Engineer (speciality Rural Engineer) with 10 years of experience, and holds a Master in Environmental Engineering and Water Management. She has also been working for 4 years at private and public companies as a project engineer, mainly in the fields of hydraulics, irrigation and water management. Nowadays, her work is focused on territorial development. She is the Spanish delegate in the ESPON Monitoring Committee and in the NTCCP (Network of Territorial Cohesion Contact Points).

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### **Peter Mehlbye**

Peter Mehlbye is Director of the Coordination Unit for the ESPON Programme since 2002. ESPON is a European observation network on territorial development and cohesion carrying through applied research providing new evidence and knowledge on territorial structures, trends, perspectives and impacts of EU policies within the European territory.

The mission of the ESPON Programme is to support policy development related to European territorial development and cohesion. New evidence and comparable information on all regions and cities of Europe will normally cover 27 EU Member States as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Before that Peter worked for more than 10 years in a Danish Ministry as Head of Unit for national spatial development and planning, regional policy and international cooperation. He was for most of this period in the ministry attached to the cabinet of the Minister.

He then worked as an Expert to the European Commission, DG Regional Policy, where he was involved in the conceptual development of EU regional policy.

By education Peter holds a master degree in Economics and a master degree in Architecture, specialised in regional development and spatial planning.

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### **Michaela Gensheimer**

Michaela Gensheimer works as Cluster Coordinator/Project Expert at the ESPON Coordination Unit. She is responsible for developing and coordinating applied research projects and targeted analyses in the field of European territorial development and cohesion.

Before joining the ESPON CU, Michaela worked as Research Assistant at the Universities of Luxembourg and Trier focusing on European regional development, urban policy and territorial cooperation. She collaborated in various projects in these fields; among others she managed the EUKN (European Urban Knowledge Network) Focal Point as well as the ESPON Contact Point, both for Luxembourg. Prior to that, she worked at the Senator for Economy and Ports of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen where she was responsible for the evaluation, management and implementation of European Structural Funds Programmes (Objective 2 and URBAN 2).

She started her professional career at a project development company in Saarbrücken, predominantly being involved in cross-border and transnational cooperation projects. Michaela studied applied geography, urban and regional economics and architectural history at the Universities of Trier and Edinburgh.

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### **René van der Lecq**

René van der Lecq is spatial planner and is currently working as Project Expert at the ESPON Coordination Unit. He is responsible for the development and implementation of applied research projects and targeted analyses and is also involved in capitalisation activities as the organisation of workshops and seminars.

Before joining the ESPON CU in 2008, René used to work for more than eight years as Deputy of the Director at the Spatial Planning Division of the Flemish Ministry for Housing, Town and Country Planning and Immovable Heritage. Here he was responsible for the preparation and implementation of strategic regional spatial planning policy and European and cross-border planning initiatives.

René has written several publications combining his experience in regional, cross-border and European spatial development.

René holds a Master degree in spatial planning obtained at the University of Nijmegen, Netherlands.

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### **Marjan Van Herwijnen**

Marjan van Herwijnen is Project Expert at the ESPON Coordination Unit. She is responsible for the development and implementation of applied research projects and projects in the scientific platform with a main focus on statistics, data and maps.

Before joining the ESPON CU, Marjan worked as senior researcher at the Institute for Environmental Studies of the VU University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. In 1999 she received a PhD in economics at the VU University of Amsterdam on spatial decision support for environmental management. Her main topics of research are the evaluation of environmental problems with the help of multicriteria methods and spatial evaluation methods, spatial planning and design and the development of (spatial) decision support systems. She coordinated the EU-project SustainabilityA-Test which developed a handbook to support policy makers in selecting the best tool(s) to apply in a specific sustainability assessment.

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### **Sandra Di Biaggio**

Sandra Di Biaggio works as Project Expert - Analysis at the ESPON Coordination Unit. She is responsible for the development and implementation of applied research projects, targeted analyses, scientific platform as well as transnational networking activities from the ECP network. She is also involved in capitalisation activities such as publications and organisation of workshops and seminars.

Before joining the ESPON CU in 2004, Sandra used to work for more than 6 years as researcher in the New University of Lisbon, where she was involved mainly in INTERREG projects and policy supporting studies for national and regional authorities such as the Ministry of Economy and the Greater Lisbon Metropolitan Area. Sandra is geographer and studied geography, urban, regional planning and territorial management at the Universities of Lisbon and Seville.

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### **Sara Ferrara**

Sara Ferrara works at the ESPON Coordination Unit as Cluster Coordinator “Programme, Finance and Budget”/Project Expert for Targeted Analyses. She started working here in 2003 as Project Expert.

Before joining the ESPON CU, Sara was responsible for evaluation procedures and monitoring of projects at the Joint Technical Secretariat of the IIIB Medocc and IIIC South Programmes. Prior to that, she was for several years coordinating the monitoring of the Phare Partnership Programme after having being the main expert within the Technical Assistance Unit.

Sara also worked as an international consultant for a British consultancy where she delivered technical assistance services to various EC DGs.

For several years she has been contributing to the review “Europa e Mezzogiorno” targeting local actors of the public sector. Sara started her professional carrier as research assistant in Sardinia at the CRENOS Centre for North-South Economic Research (University of Cagliari, Department of Regional Economics) mainly dealing with economic convergence across regions in the European Union.

Sara holds a degree in Political Sciences and two Masters in EU studies.

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### **József Szarka**

József Szarka is working as Financial Expert at the ESPON Coordination Unit since 2005. He is responsible for project management and project monitoring including a wide range of programme and financial management tasks, such as organization of selection procedures, evaluation of proposals and expression of interests, contracting, liaison with transnational project groups, assessment and recommendations for progress reports with regard to eligibility and certification procedures, supervision and guidance of project partners.

Before joining the ESPON CU, József was holding a position of an executive expert at the Centre for Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The focus of his work was international project management, in particular financial management, accounting, reporting and auditing of various ESPON, INTERREG, FP5 and FP6 projects.

He started his professional carrier in 2002 at the Transdanubian Research Institute being responsible for international relations. József holds two university degrees in economics and law from University of Pécs.

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### **Mélanie Donjon**

Mélanie Donjon started working in 2009 as Financial Expert at the ESPON Coordination Unit. She is currently in charge of the Second Level Audit coordination and follow-up of audit related deliveries including system audit, audit of operations, the secretarial function related to the Group of Auditors. She is also responsible for the implementation of MA quality checks on the spot and assistance in quality checks of First Level Control. She provides support to the Audit Authority of the ESPON 2013 Programme and is also contributing to legal support and advice.

Before joining the ESPON CU, Mélanie was holding a position of a senior consultant at the Cabinet Ernst & Young Luxembourg in the Advisory department for the Industry and Public sector. The focus of her work was international and national project monitoring, in particular in relation to financial management, including due diligence engagements, accounting and reporting related missions, performance assessment, analytical audits, risk mapping and financial auditing of structural funds.

Mélanie holds a Master degree in Management from the EDHEC Business School in France.

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### **Ann-Gritt Neuse**

Ann-Gritt Neuse started working in 2008 as Junior Expert at the ESPON Coordination Unit where she predominantly supports the Clusters “Programme, Finance and Budget” and “Project Development and Coordination”. She already joined the ESPON CU under the ESPON 2006 Programme as a trainee during her studies on Economic and Social Geography at the University of Osnabrück. Ann-Gritt holds a Master degree in Geography and wrote her thesis on cluster strategies of European metropolitan areas.

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