



# Launch of the ESPON 2013 Programme

Calls for Proposals on  
Applied Research Projects and  
the ESPON 2013 Database



EUROPEAN UNION  
Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund  
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## Priority 1: Applied Research on Territorial, Development, Competitiveness and Cohesion

### 3 types of action

- Cross-thematic and thematic analysis (defining territorial potentials and challenges), incl. studies of territorial trends and prospective studies
- Territorial impact studies of EU policies
- Knowledge Support System

### Objectives

- Continued building of new evidence about European regions
- Address major territorial challenges & consequences for regions
- Provide comparable regionalised information & policy options for enhancing positive effects of trends, reacting upon negative ones
- Support assessment of territorial impacts of policies
- Support identification of potential synergies and/or conflicts between different policies and development opportunities

## Priority 1: Applied Research on Territorial, Development, Competitiveness and Cohesion

### Outputs expected

- Inception report – 12 weeks after project approval
- Interim report(s) – 6 months later
- Draft final report – 12 months later
- Final report – 4 months later

### Deliveries expected

- Presentations at ESPON seminars
- Delivery of data and maps – in consultation with ESPON 2013 Database project
- Delivery of models developed
- Dissemination of project results

## First Call for Proposals for Applied Research Projects under Priority 1

- Cities and urban agglomerations: their functionality and development opportunities for European competitiveness and cohesion
- Development opportunities in different types of rural areas
- Demographic and migratory flows affecting European regions and cities
- Climate change and territorial effects on regions and local economies
- Effects of rising energy prices on regional competitiveness
- Territorial impact assessment of policies

**-> Coordination with Project on ESPON 2013 Database essential for all**

## Cities and Urban Agglomerations

### Main research issues

- Functional specialisation of largest European cities
- Relation between cities' functions – competitiveness - socio-economic and environmental situation
- Identification of development opportunities

### Urban coverage

- All Urban Audit cities
- Selection of medium sized and smaller cities to ensure good representation of all national urban systems
- Case studies shall be included to further explore opportunities of cooperation between cities/urban agglomerations

Budget: **max. 1 Mio. €**

## Cities and Urban Agglomerations

### Key research questions (selection):

- What is present state of cities'/urban agglomerations' development, their functional strengths & weaknesses based on most appropriate economic, social, cultural & environmental indicators that can be collected European wide?
- What does relationship between cities & their hinterland look like & how do they influence one another? Which cities/types of cities are pulling their region/country/Europe forward? Which ones are holding back development?
- Where do particular development opportunities for cooperation exist between cities in polycentric structures & what do they look like in the different parts of Europe? Which complementarities are to be developed to reinforce competitiveness & cohesion with which territorial entities?

## Development Opportunities in different Types of Rural Areas

### Main research issues

- Integrated rural development
- Examining current situation & development trends in different types of rural areas, incl. small and medium sized towns there
- Development opportunities outside agriculture and forestry
- Demographic development in different types of rural areas
- Cultural aspects (e.g. importance of rural heritage in improving competitiveness)
- Accessibility to services of general interest
- Take account of climate change in assessment of development opportunities

Budget: **max. 700.000 €**

## Development Opportunities in different Types of Rural Areas

### Key research questions (selection):

- What is present state of European rural areas' development, their strengths & weaknesses based on most appropriate economic, social & environmental indicators that can be collected European wide?
- Which endogenous development opportunities of which rural areas could be better exploited for achieving improved competitiveness? Which effect would this have on European cohesion?
- Where are the different types of rural areas that are most prominent & what are the drivers of a favourable development in these areas?

## Demographic and Migratory Flows

### Main research issues

- Demographic and migratory flows
  - Within ESPON countries
  - Between ESPON countries
  - Between ESPON countries and the world
- Development of estimations/proxies that can nourish analysis & can be used for forecasts/scenarios of demographic development & migratory flows
- Development of simple scenarios important here, e.g. on influence of different economic developments within ESPON territory on degree and direction of migratory flows
- Limited no. of national case studies, based on migration data at regional level, where available

Budget: **max. 800.000 €**

## Demographic and Migratory Flows

### Key research questions (selection):

- What are current demographic and migratory flows like? How distinct are they? Are there flows that are more pronounced than others, and if so, why?
- What are relations between migratory flows to ESPON countries & other major territorial challenges like accelerating globalisation & particularly climate change?
- How and to which degree does the development of different individual factors (economic, social, environmental) impact on demographic and migratory flows?

## Climate Change and Territorial Effects

### Main research issue

- Impacts of climate change on European regions and on regional and local economies
- Recent IPCC reports as starting point
- Coordination and exchange with “Energy” project essential
- Case studies shall be included on development opportunities and threats of the types of regions that are most vulnerable to climate change

Budget: **max. 1 Mio. €**

## Climate Change and Territorial Effects

### Key research questions (selection):

- What is the degree of vulnerability of different types of European regions to climate change? How will variations in different individual climate change parameters impact on these regions in economic, social and environmental terms?
- Are there potentially new types of regions emerging, revealing the same characteristics regarding both, their adaptation and their mitigation capacities?
- Are there potential new development opportunities for European regions in the wake of climate change through adaptation (e.g. new variety of grape plants) and/or mitigation (e.g. new renewable energy sources)?

## Effects of Rising Energy Prices on Regional Competitiveness

### Main research issue

- Impacts of the new European energy policy and price increases on regional competitiveness in Europe
- Focus on NUTS 2 level, as data shortage will put limits to research here
- Coordination and exchange with “Climate Change” project essential
- Budget: **max. 700.000 €**

## Effects of Rising Energy Prices on Regional Competitiveness

### Key research questions (selection):

- What is the current situation in energy consumption on regional level in transport, private households, industry & what is the elasticity like in these three sectors?
- What is the level of impact that increases of energy prices could have on different types of regions (e.g. regarding climate, accessibility, population density)?
- What kind of consequences will different paths of territorial development most probably have on energy consumption? Into which direction should territorial development be guided in order to create favourable preconditions for energy efficiency and sustainable use of energy?

## Territorial Impact Assessment of Policies

### Main research issues

- Development of a tool for the ex-ante assessment of sector policies' territorial impacts
- Take into account spill-over effects on/from neighbouring countries and/or on/from different policies
- Address EU CAP and Transport Policy as examples
- Case studies possible to test operational use of the model developed
- Exploratory project -> Project duration: 2008 - 2009

Budget: **max. 350.000 €**

## Territorial Impact Assessment of Policies

### Key research questions (selection):

- How is a certain policy likely to impact the economic, social and environmental situation in different types of territories and cities?
- Will the policy have a positive effect on the competitiveness of regions and cities as well as on European economic, social and territorial cohesion? Where in Europe are the most positive impacts to be expected?
- How would a policy's impacts affect the balance of the European territory and between regions? To which degree will it support more polycentric structures at different scales?