

# **ESPON Evidence for Regional Policy-Making Contributing to the Europe 2020 Strategy**

**Report from the Open ESPON Seminar  
9-10 June 2010  
Alcalá de Henares, Spain**

The ESPON 2013 Programme.

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# Preface

The ESPON Open Seminar on 9-10 June 2010 in Alcalá de Henares, Spain, focused on the contribution of European territories, regions and cities to the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Plenary debates and 14 workshops addressed in an interactive way the policy questions underlying the ESPON projects, the answers from the researchers and the replies of the stakeholders on the usefulness and applicability of the results for policy making, as well as findings related to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy aiming at smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

More than 200 key policy makers, scientists and experts came together to exchange ideas on new ESPON findings, to network and to discuss how new facts and evidence provided by ESPON Projects can give added value to the dialogue on territorial potentials related to the Europe 2020 Strategy. The participants came from European Institutions, national governments, research institutions and universities.

The co-operation with the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union supported the success of our event and the hospitality of the University of Alcalá de Henares facilitated making the Seminar an arena for a lively dialogue between the policy makers such as the ESPON Monitoring Committee, the stakeholders participating in Targeted Analyses, the Project Group partners, the network of ESPON Contact Points (ECPs) and all other stakeholders present.

This Open ESPON Seminar was strongly related to the new findings from the first round of almost finished ESPON Projects, namely how they can nourish the discussion on the territorial dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy bringing in facts and evidence with a European perspective. European policy makers expressed their expectations by addressing key questions about the ambition of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Questions addressed during the seminar were: Is a better balanced and polycentric European territory the political objective? How can we make use of the territorial diversity within the Europe 2020 Strategy? Which types of regions have what opportunities to contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth? Should particular places and cities play a special functional role in integrating Europe in the World?

The present report provides a summary of the debates during the various sessions at the Alcalá Seminar. The introduction shortly reflects the discussions and conclusions from the debates in the plenary sessions and explains the purpose and structure of the Interactive Workshops. The remaining sections reflect the debates in the fourteen Interactive Workshop sessions. The ESPON results presented in these sessions can be used by policy makers on local, regional and national level to reach the aims of the Europe 2020 strategy.

As a Seminar Report, it does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the ESPON Monitoring Committee but rather summarises the reflections from the seminar. In this way it also provides a basis for the discussion on the future contributions of the ESPON 2013 knowledge base to future policy development, at all levels of government, and in particular in bringing European wide information to the regional/local level.

I would like to thank all participants for their active contributions during the seminar. A special thank to the Spanish EU Presidency is indispensable for their hospitality and excellent cooperation in organising the seminar in Alcalá de Henares.

Peter Mehlbye  
Director of the ESPON Coordination Unit

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# Introduction

The contribution of European territories, regions and cities to the Europe 2020 Strategy was the focus of the Open Seminar “ESPON Evidence for Regional Policy-Making” on 9 - 10 June 2010 in Alcalá de Henares - Madrid.

In cooperation with the Spanish EU Presidency, ESPON brought more than 200 key policy makers, scientists and experts together for dialogue on territorial potentials related to the Europe 2020 Strategy based on new facts and evidence provided by ESPON Projects.

European policy makers expressed their expectations by addressing key questions about the ambition of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Among these questions were:

- Is a better balanced and polycentric European territory the political objective?
- How can we make use of the territorial diversity within the Europe 2020 Strategy?
- Which types of regions have what opportunities to contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth?
- Should particular places and cities play a special functional role in integrating Europe in the World?

At the roundtable Margarita Ortega Delgado, Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain, Philippe Monfort, the European Commission DG Regio, Philippe Doucet, representing the Belgium upcoming EU Presidency, Andrea Forti, Committee of the Regions and Joost van Iersel, European Economic and Social Committee, contributed to the understanding of territorial dimensions of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The roundtable was facilitated by Luis M. Jiménez Herrero, Executive Director of the Spanish Observatory for Sustainable Development (OSE). Several key messages came out from this session, among them were the following:

- The Europe 2020 Strategy should be the framework for growth for all EU Regions.
- Regions of Europe should be more involved in the strategy elaboration.
- European Macro-Regions should be part of the strategy implementation.
- The 2020 Strategy should take into account not only the GDP but also use new indicators, measuring the quality of life and the sustainability of the growth.

This stimulating dialogue provided the policy framework for the following seminar discussions.

A plenary debate based on presentations, zooming-in on territories at different scales, by Géza Salamin, Hungary, Mikael Stamma, Øresund Region and Alfonso Sanz, Basque region, aimed at showing how evidence based information is being used in policy-making creating development at different geographical scales, for larger territories, across borders, for regions and for cities.

As overall outcome of the seminar, good progress was made on the understanding the territorial dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the potential contributions from European Regions and Cities, which are crucial for the success of the strategy. The seminar agrees that the Europe 2020 Strategy has a territorial dimension although it remains somewhat implicit. Nevertheless, the seminar voices a strong conviction that territory matters if policy-makers wish to make the Strategy a success. The inclusion of a territorial approach into the elaboration and implementation of the Strategy could add up to the creation of more policy coherence and the formulation of tailor-made actions for regions and cities.

In order to do so the seminar recognises a need for a deeper understanding of the:

1. Decision-making mechanisms and the role authorities at different levels should play in order to put in place better governance structures.

2. Practical implications of the Europe 2020 Strategy in the diverse European territories, in particular cities, regions and macro-regions.
3. Interrelations of the smart, sustainable and inclusive dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy as good development goes beyond creating economic progress only.

The ESPON 2013 Programme can play a significant role in order to support the political processes for elaborating and implementing the Europe 2020 Strategy:

1. ESPON results already identify potentials that drive Europe's development and indicate where these potential are situated.
2. ESPON applied research explores interrelations between different developments (e.g. demography, climate change and energy) and policy initiatives (e.g. territorial impact assessment).
3. ESPON targeted analyses clearly support the formulation of tailor-made political action by looking from a European and integrated to the possible development at city, regional and macro-regional level.
4. ESPON projects look at existing governance practices for complex decision-making and hence add up to the empowerment of cities and regions.
5. ESPON is continuously building up an impressive scientific platform including data, (time-series of) indicators, territorial breakdowns and methodologies.

The challenge for ESPON is to build further on its existing capacities in a new political framework and to make further efforts to put its know-how into practice.

Comparable, regionalised evidence covering the entire Europe offers information relevant for regions and cities. This can be used for benchmarking themselves in the larger territorial context, to find strong and weaker potentials and opportunities for added value through territorial cooperation with other regions and cities.

ESPON results can nourish this policy development process by bringing in facts and evidence with a European perspective. And stimulating practical use of the ESPON knowledge could be a main contribution in support of competitiveness and cohesion of territories.

# Interactive Workshops

During the ESPON Open Seminar in Alcalá de Henares, Spain five tracks with parallel workshop sessions were held, comprising 14 workshops in total. Eleven of these workshops addressed the results of the ESPON Applied Research, Priority 1 (P1) Projects and Targeted Analyses, Priority 2 (P2) in relation to the policy questions underlying them. The remaining three workshops addressed aspects related to the ESPON Database Project from the Scientific Platform, Priority 3 (P3).

The purpose of the interactive workshops for P1 and P2 projects was three-fold:

1. Demonstrate added value and practical use of European wide ESPON knowledge in policy making, particularly at regional level.
2. Discuss best practices in disseminating and communicating ESPON project results to policy makers ranging from local/regional level to European level.
3. Nourish the necessary discussion and understanding of the territorial dimension of the new Europe 2020 Strategy.

In order to structure the workshop discussions of the P1 and P2 projects various key-players addressed in an interactive way the policy questions underlying the project, the answers of the project and the reply of the stakeholder on the usefulness and applicability of this result for policy making. Each workshop started with an explanation of the policy questions underlying the project by the Lead Stakeholder of the project (for P2) or by an ESPON Monitoring Committee (MC) member (for P1). After that the Lead Partner (LP) of the project presented the answers to these questions using the project results. The stakeholder then reacted on these answers by explaining how this can be used in practice. Finally, the chair of the session gave the opportunity to the audience to give their view on the applicability of the project results in policy making in different geographical contexts.

The aim of the interactive workshops for the P3 project, the ESPON Database Project was to show on the one hand the progress of the ESPON Database Project and how the Database project can support other ESPON projects, and on the other hand how the ESPON projects should support you and ESPON with their data and maps deliveries. These workshops followed a more traditional structure of one or more presentations and questions/discussions afterwards.

The relevant workshop sections in this report describe the key policy questions that are relevant for the project and summarize the discussions that took place in the workshops. All presentations made during the event are available on the ESPON Website at [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu) under the section "Events/Open Seminars".

## P1 - DEMIFER

### The influence of demography and migratory flows on the development of regions

Reporter: Mats Johansson (ECP SE)

Lead Partner: Mark ter Veer (PBL, NL), Johanna Roto (Nordregio, SE)

Stakeholder: Didier Michal (MC FR)

Chair: Sandra Di Biaggio (ESPON CU)



Didier Michal, Mark ter Veer, Johanna Roto, Mats Johansson, Sandra Di Biaggio

### Key policy questions

The key policy questions addressed by the project in this workshop were:

1. How will the demographic development, i.e. natural development of population as well as migration, affect different types of regions and cities?
2. What is the need for increasing the labour force in order to avoid negative impact on the economic performance and on the social cohesion of these regions and cities?
3. Which skills are needed in different types of regions and cities in order to meet the demands of the economic base and to make better use of development opportunities?

### Added value of ESPON knowledge

- The precarious demographic situation within most parts of the ESPON space
- Estimations of population losses up to 2050.
- The impact of migratory movements and then especially the extra-European migration for the future population development, including labour force development.
- Migration will accentuate the regional disparities within the ESPON space but the extra-European immigration will hamper the population losses and most regions that experience a population increase do this as a consequence of extra-European immigration.
- In 90 percent of the ESPON regions the labour force will diminish up to 2050 without extra-European immigration. The impact of the development of labour productivity as a hampering factor with regard to the labour shortage was, however, only mentioned with regard to the policy recommendations.
- Population decrease in most regions is a consequence of negative natural population change. The connection between migration and natural population change was, however, not discussed.
- Without changing migration flows within the ESPON space the regional disparities will worsen up to 2050 and it will be the northern and eastern peripheral areas that will predominantly be the losers. This is, however, a well-known fact that was highlighted already in ESPON 1.1.4 "Demographic trends".
- A new typology based on the figures of four central demographic variables in 2005 and consisting of seven types was presented. These were gathered around three processes – "retaining favourable trends", dealing with population decline" and "challenging disparities".
- Four policy scenarios for the period 2005-2050 were constructed along two dimensions – "economy-environment" and "distribution-fairness" – and the outcomes of these were presented. The scenarios are named "Growing Social Europe", "Expanding Market Europe", "Limited Social Europe" and "Challenged Market Europe" and the outcomes concerning population and labour force development differ a lot. Most favourable with regard to the demographic development are the two first ones and the least favourable scenario is the "Challenged Market Europe".
- Among the policy recommendations with regard to labour market and economic development it can be mentioned that it is important to prolong the active years in the labour force. Policies to reduce gender equalities and integrate the immigrants on the

labour market were also highlighted as means to find a way out of future labour shortage problems. Even investments in new technology, human capital and increased labour productivity can hamper the labour market problems.

- Last but not least it must be kept in mind that policy means with regard to demographic development are difficult to implement and cannot be done in isolation from e.g. the economic, demographic and global development. Differing regions respond also in different ways on the same policy stimulus.

### **Dissemination of ESPON results to policy makers**

- A final seminar in cooperation with DG Regio where policy makers, politicians and national/regional representatives are invited.
- A leaflet that present the main findings of the project and policy implications and where the target group primarily is policy makers.
- Papers and presentations at different seminars and conferences such as EPC2010 in Vienna, and VASAB in Vilnius where the target group is policy makers and planners.
- Popular scientific articles with practitioners and policy makers as the target groups.
- Publications in scientific journals.

### **Contributions to the Europe 2020 Strategy**

- The discussion highlights the territorial differentiation of demographic trends in Europe that should be taken into account when formulating tailor-made policy actions aiming at smart and inclusive growth.

## **P1 - EDORA**

### **Different kinds of rural areas and their opportunities for development**

Reporter: Cliff Hague (ECP UK)

Lead Partner: Andrew Copus (UHI Millennium Institute, UK)

Stakeholder: Mathilde Konstantopoulou (MC GR)

Chair: Marjan van Herwijnen (ESPON CU)



Marjan van Herwijnen, Mathilde Konstantopoulou, Cliff Hague, Andrew Copus

### **Key policy questions**

The key policy questions addressed by the project in this workshop were:

1. What are the patterns of differentiation, between different kinds of rural areas and how can we learn from them?
2. What is the nature of the different opportunities for development which each of them faces?
3. In what way do these opportunities depend upon, and may be strengthened by, the interaction between rural and urban areas?

### **Added value of ESPON knowledge**

- Major social, economic and environmental changes in rural areas pose challenges for territorial cohesion.
- We need to move beyond the 'stylised fallacies' that have underpinned rural policy making. 'Rural' does not always mean 'agrarian'; nor is there always migration from rural areas, nor are such areas always vulnerable to globalization or dependency. Indeed, 'rural to global' connections are increasingly important.
- There are big differences between different parts of Europe: rural areas in the east and

south do tend to be still agrarian in character; however in the north and west, a 'consumption countryside' is common; a New Rural Economy characterizes much of western central Europe, while there is often manufacturing industry in rural parts of eastern central Europe.

- Different types of policy measures are needed in different types of areas: always consider the 'hard' (e.g. infrastructure) and 'soft' (e.g. governance) situations and look for new forms of co-operation: urban-rural, rural-rural and rural-global. Each region has a unique combination of resources and opportunities. The idea of 'territorial capital' requires an asset-based approach to rural development. The territorial development approach is better than a sector-based approach.

#### **Dissemination of ESPON results to policy makers**

- The EDORA cube is seen to be an innovative and understandable way to communicate some important findings.
- EDORA results could be used in evaluations of rural development programmes.

#### **Contributions to the Europe 2020 Strategy**

- There is no 'one size fits all' solution to rural development.
- Action at regional and local level, connecting endogenous assets to global opportunities, is critical if we are to achieve a smart, inclusive and sustainable recovery.
- You need to build territorial profiles to identify comparative advantage.

## **P1 - ESPON Climate**

### **Climate Change and territorial effects on regions and local economies**

Reporter: Olaf Foss (ECP NO)

Lead Partner: Stefan Greiving (TU Dortmund, DE)

MC policy maker: Phaedon Enotiades (MC CY)

Project Expert: Sandra Di Biaggio (ESPON CU)



Stefan Greiving, Olaf Foss, Sandra Di Biaggio, Phaedon Enotiades

#### **Key research questions**

Due to the fact that this project started later and is currently in the process of writing the draft final report the project did not address their key policy questions in this workshop but the following key research questions:

1. What is the degree of vulnerability of different types of European regions to climate change?
2. Are there potentially new types of (climate change) regions emerging?

#### **Added value of ESPON knowledge**

The project started later and is in the process of writing the draft final report. Draft vulnerability analysis is expected to be ready by September 2010.

- Vulnerability is a function of exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity, all complex issues were varying approaches/methodologies complicates comparability, underlining the general problem of knowledge-based policies and governance in this important "sector". The project will ease the manoeuvring in this landscape of knowledge in a politically relevant way.
- The project will contribute an overall pattern of territorial vulnerability, identifying deviant regions/types of regions, drawing attention to/focusing particularly the aspects of climate change that seem most relevant to the particular regions/types.

- To a certain degree the project recognizes the relevance and importance of local/regional knowledge (case-studies), but in general more local perspectives and knowledge is required to serve regions' governance and planning purposes. More detailed and nuanced/precise knowledge would help tailoring local/regional policies of mitigation and adaptation
- It is still to be learned how the project addresses the complex interplay of climate related problems, climate policy aims and concrete measures at different scales (for instance; at what level exist the means to address the different problems/aims, what knowledge is required and how do policies/measures at different scales interplay).
- A tentative typology of regions according to similarity of climate change patterns is developed along with region-type specifications (maps) of climate change exposure (aggregated change in climate change stimuli), partly related to other process of regional change. A further elaboration (and integration) of these approaches may lead to a fruitful and nuanced picture of types/new types of "climate change regions" and a better point of departure for policy making at all regional levels.

#### **Dissemination of ESPON results to policy makers**

- The draft final report is still in progress. It is a challenge to convey the project's basic idea/concept and to "translate" and communicate the project results in order to make them relevant for policy making at the different territorial levels and for specific regions/region types.
- The challenge is enhanced by the great complexity of the subject matter and the vast and partly contradictory and cross-disciplinary landscape of (often non-certain) knowledge characterizing this knowledge field.
- As for the final report, particular attention should be paid to the summary section, which should be a very efficient tool for "sourcing" policy relevant knowledge directly, as well as for targeted search/use of the main body of the report/project.

#### **Contributions to the Europe 2020 Strategy**

- The project relates directly to the Europe 2020 priorities, where climate change and regional/sector vulnerability (and particularly the sensitivity aspect) is extremely important.

## **P1 - FOCI**

### **The future of cities: levers for creating smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**

Reporter: Estelle Evrard (ECP LU)

Lead Partner: Moritz Lennert (IGEAT, BE)

Stakeholder: Philippe Monfort (European Commission)

Chair: René van der Lecq (ESPON CU)



Philippe Monfort, René van der Lecq, Moritz Lennert

### **Key policy questions**

The key policy questions addressed by the project in this workshop were:

1. What are development opportunities of the largest cities in the European urban system?
2. What are possibilities there for increasing development opportunities of cities through 1) territorial co-operation and 2) establishing polycentric urban clusters at different scales and in different parts of the European territory?

### **Added value of ESPON knowledge**

- When designing policies for cities, the context in which they evolve has to be taken into account:
  - Path dependency has a strong influence on cities (even if there is a lack of knowledge on path creation)
  - Cities are deeply embedded in national systems
- Some factors can partly explain the growth differential between cities and can be identified as factors for competitiveness
  - Jacobsian urbanization economies:  
A comparison over time between growth rates of larger cities and EU or national average shows that metropolisation is more present in Eastern Europe.
  - Command control function  
Comparing the location of foreign subsidies shows the importance of large cities as gateway for foreign direct investments
  - Network connectivity  
Comparing the involvement of cities in research networks shows a specialization for medium cities while large cities are more diversified.
  - Connectivity  
Air and rail timetables can be used as an indicator of connectivity of cities. As a result, connectivity seems to be good in western and south peripheries while it seems to be low in Eastern Europe.  
Connectivity increases through combination of modes.  
Air transport appears to be important for many European cities but environmental impacts have to be taken into consideration.
- Looking at different scales
  - City-hinterland relations  
Disparities in GDP between the metropolis and its regional hinterland generally increase (especially in Eastern Europe).
  - Intra-urban dynamics in terms of population change shows a return to city centres in the blue banana, urban sprawl in peripheral cities and decline of cities in Eastern Europe
- However is it possible to establish a link between competitiveness and social conclusion?
  - Correlation between GDP/head in PPS and social indicators (share of higher diploma, infant mortality rate...) is only significant when comparing Eastern and Western Europe.

### **Dissemination of ESPON results to policy makers**

The discussion did not directly reflect this aspect

### **Contributions to the Europe 2020 Strategy**

- The FOCI project identifies important potentials for the development of European cities. The results demonstrate some clear interrelations between the economic, social and environmental challenges cities are facing today.

## P1 - ReRisk

### Implications of energy poverty for economic competitiveness and social cohesion

Reporter: Stella Kyvelou (ECP GR)

Lead Partner: Daniela Velte & Oihana Blanco (Innobasqe, ES)

Stakeholder: Katharina Erdmenger (MC DE)

Chair: Ann-Gritt Neuse (ESPON CU)



Katharina Erdmenger, Daniela Velte, Oihana Blanco, Stella Kyvelou, Ann-Gritt Neuse

### Key policy questions

The key policy questions addressed by the project in this workshop were:

1. How and to which degree will an increase in energy prices impact on the competitiveness and cohesion of European regions?
2. In which fields and to what degree can regional policy makers take influence on the development of renewable energy sources and fight energy poverty?
3. Which sources of sustainable energy generation can be activated and/or further strengthened within European regions?

### Added value of ESPON knowledge

- Analysis on economic and social vulnerability of regions has concluded to the fact that some regions are more vulnerable than others due to an unfavourable economic structure. Specifically it could be concluded that a high percentage of wealth creation (GVA) takes place in industries with higher than average energy costs and that a high percentage of industrial employment depends on these industries (the ranking of regions by Gross Added Value in industries with high energy spending has been presented by the LP). To prove this, the examples of the Italian regions of Emilia-Romagna, Lombardia, and Veneto have been used as well as the regions of Severovýchod and Moravskoslezsko in Czech Republic. Another vulnerability has to do with the dependence on motorized transport and this is the case of island regions and capitals that depend on air transport as well as of central regions and their “hinterland” with a high level of commuting, high levels of employment in the transport sector and high fuel costs for freight transport. To note here that social and economic vulnerability of regions as it will be accentuated by economic crisis has been remarked by the audience. In this remark the LP replied that it is too early to evaluate this kind of impacts and that this assessment has to be done in the coming years. It can be highlighted that the project has completed the indicators used to measure economic and social vulnerability as well as dependence on motorized transport with the climate characteristics related to heating and cooling demands and with the potential to develop Renewable Energy Systems (RES) in the regions.
- Another important remark presented by the LP and discussed during the workshop was the Project finding that there is a real inequality and inequity between East and Western Europe as far as energy household budgets are concerned. Low activity rates and other factors that make families slide into poverty are affecting a large number of Romanian, Polish and Hungarian regions.
- A third block of impact related remarks was that options for growth are very diverse and the conditions of growth very unstable: there are large groups of so far lagging regions that present options for growth by exploiting their potential for renewable. Others could become even less competitive and face growing social problems, some of the Pentagon regions, especially in Belgium, could benefit less from growth opportunities in the economic centres, thus dropping out of the circle of best-performing regions in Europe. Finally some wealthy regions in the European periphery, especially the North, with a heavy industrial base, may have to analyze how increasing energy bills will affect companies' competitiveness.

- Another significant result discussed was that, following the responses to a questionnaire sent to regional policy makers, regions play an important role with regard to the development of RES and can go beyond national standards, for example in environmental policy.
- Furthermore, the ReRisk project claims that regions can act on various levels to reduce their vulnerability and to improve their capacity in order to adapt to the challenge of rising energy prices. With the right policies in place, focusing on sustainable energy generation, rising energy prices can turn into an opportunity for growth.
- Finally, policy recommendations concerning the Project have been presented for all different scales: global, European, national, regional, local. Among the most significant recommendations are the following:
  - At local level, to encourage municipal leadership in public-private partnerships, to develop integrated spatial planning instruments, to strengthen regional and local networks, to establish urban planning principles for solar energy use, to implement Urban Metabolism procedures and incorporate solar and wind facilities in urban areas.
  - At regional scale to prepare for climate change impacts in the regional energy infrastructure and to evaluate the feasible potential of all renewable sources in the region (“map of hidden reserves”).

We should note here that from the audience there has been raised the importance of the neighbourhood scale as far as energy management and incorporation of RES is concerned, making probably reference to the movement of “eco-neighbourhoods” rapidly developing in Europe.

### **Dissemination of ESPON results to policy makers**

All three key policy questions have been answered by the Project, as it is obvious in the remarks and the discussion that has taken place.

Summing up, we can say that, as the survey to regional administrations has shown, energy policies are to a large extent determined by national policies and are embedded in a long-term planning framework. The analysis showed that different sets of policies are needed to cope with the challenge of rising energy prices on a regional level. It could be concluded from the survey that regions play an important role regarding the development of RES and that they can go beyond national standards, for example in environmental policy. Taking into account the limitations of regional competences in the energy field, regional policy makers could be involved in the following policy fields and implications at regional level:

- Promote awareness among regional stakeholders on the impact of rising energy prices and the need for economic diversification
- Organise adaptation and mitigation strategies for climate change impacts in the regional energy related “key-systems” and the regional energy infrastructure
- Organise the evaluation the feasible potential of all renewable sources in the region and the promotion of industrial symbiosis and/or industrial eco-parks in their regions.

### **Contributions to the Europe 2020 Strategy**

- This issue has not been explicitly discussed. From the policy recommendations that have been proposed for the European level we can distinguish the promotion of energy solidarity between regions and territories in Europe, the definition of a vision for regional energy models 2050, the improvement of the data on energy use and efficiency in Europe, the creation of a European market for energy efficiency and the possibility to fund and stabilize trans-regional research agencies.

All the above could be discussed in the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy flagship initiatives and especially the one concerning a "Resource efficient Europe" to help decouple economic growth from the use of resources, support the shift towards a low carbon economy, increase the use of renewable energy sources, modernise the transport sector and promote energy efficiency.

## P2 - CAEE

### Agglomeration economies and their influence on defining growth strategies

Reporter: Eleonora Zuolo (ECP FR)

Lead Partner: Alan Harding (Institute for Political and Economic Governance, University of Manchester, UK)

Stakeholder: John Holden (Commission for the New Economy, formerly Manchester Enterprises Ltd., UK)

Chair: René van der Lecq (ESPON CU)



Alan Harding, René van der Lecq, John Holden

### Key policy questions

The key policy questions addressed by the project in this workshop were:

1. Do businesses and industry sectors benefit from spill-over effects generated by proximity?
2. Is the existing labour market sufficiently dense enough to offer choice to both workers and employers?
3. Do agglomeration economies create further opportunities to build niche businesses, exploit knowledge transfer and foster innovation?

The main aim of this targeted analysis is to examine the relationship between agglomeration economies and city-regional/metropolitan governance by trying to understand which governance characteristics (e.g. which public policies) enable and shape agglomeration economies and with what effect. The three city-regions studied in a comparative way are Manchester, Barcelona, Dublin and Lyon, which are amongst the most economically productive agglomerations in Europe. The SH, in his introduction, pointed out that these case study areas experienced high economic growth during the last decade before the crisis.

During the workshops, the LP focused on 3 key questions that CAEE has tried to analyze:

1. Have agglomeration economies become more important across Europe?  
The answer is yes, and it can be demonstrated in three ways: by econometric analysis; by the GVA mapping exercise at European and national levels and by the analysis of case study sectoral employment change.
2. Should public policy focus on understanding, influencing and managing agglomeration economies more effectively?  
The answer is yes, if only to eliminate wasteful competition and limit unsustainable development, but needs to recognise 2 aspects: that agglomeration patterns are driven by countless individual firm/household decisions, not by grand policy designs and that key public sector 'steering devices' are indirect 'big ticket' issues: critical infrastructure, high level skills/education, corporate taxation, mega-developments. The national government role (or regional governments in strongly decentralized systems) is therefore crucial.
3. What 'good practice' was observed within the CAEE case study areas (Manchester, Barcelona, Dublin, Lyon)?  
There are some critical issues: realistic expectations, decision-making and delivery capacity, leadership and influence. But also, it has to be considered that metropolitan/city-regional governance arrangements vary widely in their scope, focus and autonomy. An 'ideal' model should have a supportive national context, strong technical capacity, strong horizontal networks with key, independent public and private institutions, the ability to recognize and deal with the environmental and social implications of realizing its strategic ambitions.

This project plans to disseminate ESPON results to policy makers through external presentations at professional/policy events, a working paper for Manchester Commission for the New Economy (+ launch event) and at least one post-project presentation in Barcelona.

The LP also made a few suggestions for the “targeted analysis” model: even if they can be effective in bringing academic analysis and institutional/policy concerns together, there should be improvements in order to “speak the same language”, a more sustained research-policy engagement, not just one-off meetings, comments on written products, and especially earlier engagement of researchers in defining key questions, not simply responding to pre-defined project briefs.

The discussion with the public concerned the extent to which ESPON data are used in this project and the difficulty to find local data (at NUTS 2/3 level) and to use them (the question was posed by a member of the TPG of the Metroborder P2 project).

### **Contributions to the Europe 2020 Strategy**

- The results of the CAEE project add up to the empowerment of the city-regions involved as it clearly indicates policy options at this level on the basis of an in-depth analysis of current governance practices.
- The CAEE project clearly indicates that economic development of city-regions is to be seen in a wider framework of political action including an inclusive (e.g. education) and sustainable dimension.

## **P2 - EUROISLANDS**

### **The development of the Islands – European Islands and Cohesion Policy**

Reporter: Elena Christofidou-Petraki (ECP Cyprus)

Lead Partner: Ioannis Spilanis (University of the Aegean, GR)

Stakeholder: Konstantinos Vlachos (Ministry of Economy & Finance, GR)

Chair: Sandra Di Biaggio (ESPON CU)



Ioannis Spilanis, Sandra Di Biaggio, Konstantinos Vlachos, Elena Christofidou-Petraki

### **Key policy questions**

The key policy questions addressed by the project in this workshop were:

1. What is the situation of Europe’s islands within the context of sustainable development (including observations in relation to the attractiveness of this type of territories)?
2. What examples of success can be identified and what inspiration can this bring to other territories?
3. What conditions for promoting territorial potentials from a European, transnational, national and regional/local perspective can be further explored?
4. What policies would be appropriate for increasing the attractiveness of islands and ensure that their development meets the tenets of sustainable development?

### **Added value of ESPON knowledge**

Common characteristics, context and challenges of islands:

- Islands have specific characteristics - small size, remoteness and isolation, particular, rich and vulnerable natural and cultural environment.
- Insularity has to be considered as a permanent, natural vulnerable feature that affects negatively, directly and indirectly, islands’ attractiveness and subsequently places obstacles to their performance in terms of sustainable development.
- Insularity creates unequal opportunities and conditions of development between these territories and the rest of the EU. Cost of living is the most dominant obstacle to development.

- Vulnerability is a characteristic of islands' economy (monoactivity/tourism – public intervention) and environment (low availability of resources – fragility, territorial discontinuity).
- Natural and cultural assets constitute a prominent potential.
- EU has to stress on attractiveness parameters in order to address the different characteristics, the different costs of insularity by a differentiated policy.

### Dissemination of ESPON results to policy makers

By comparison of the economic, social and environmental state of several European islands, successful elements in development strategies for this particular type of regions were detected:

- Quality vs quantity - Turning territorial diversity into strength:
  - Exploit the constantly changing global environment and make use of the characteristics of insularity as advantages than obstacles.
  - Limit pressure on restricted resources adopting a quality strategy
- Islands' potential to be developed:
  - Authentic, high quality and safe food production
  - Quality of life Small-scale societies and rhythms of life in a low human footprint environment
  - Use of cultural and natural heritage as a source of artistic, scientific and technological creation
- Islands' strategy (endogenous and sustainable) : Necessity to “invest” on soft factors as:
  - Human Capital,
  - Innovation for quality products and services,
  - Hazards management,
  - Quality of environment preservation and life preservation
  - Governance adaptation etc

### Contributions to the Europe 2020 Strategy

Propositions for European Policies related to:

- Enhancement of human capital (adapted system for upgrading skills for entrepreneurs, employees, administration and creating new knowledge in small remote areas);
- Enforcement of entrepreneurial initiatives (investment and operational cost & innovations);
- Management and valorization of natural and cultural resources for a qualitative and differentiate (based on the particular characteristic of every island) primary sector products & tourism services;
- Services of Public Interest (addressing investment and service cost & quality problems).

## P2 - MetroBorder

### Governance building in Cross-border Metropolitan Polycentric Regions

Reporter: Valerie Biot (ECP BE)

Lead Partner: Tobias Chilla (University of Luxemburg, LU)

Stakeholder: Sébastien Rieben (ARE - Swiss federal office for spatial development, CH)

Chair: René van der Lecq (ESPON CU)



Tobias Chilla, René van der Lecq, Sébastien Rieben

### Key policy questions

The key policy questions addressed by the project in this workshop were:

1. What are territorial potentials, challenges and development options for CBMR?
2. What can be the added value of better governing CBMR?

### 3. How to built better governance structures for CBMR and what are the challenges?

#### **Added value of ESPON knowledge**

To answer the key policy questions, the TPG was using former ESPON projects to identify other CBMR, with same problematic than the territories from the stakeholders. From this, and using other ESPON reports results (ea FOCl), they could observe 11 CBMR (local/regional), and identify very different patterns (European CBMRs: a multifaceted picture, question 1):

- Polyentricity vs. Assymetry
- Dynamics vs. Stagnation
- Integration vs. Polarisation

From this and with constant dialogue with stakeholders (ea through Delphi survey), they could identify the importance of (question 2):

- Overcoming 'multi-level-mismatch' (one of the major barrier)
- Using the actual political energy
- Reflecting on the diversity of instruments

#### **Dissemination of ESPON results to policy makers**

Stakeholders wanted answer to help policies on three main axes (cf S Rieben):

- To consolidate the cooperation (through better governance)
- To enhance competitiveness of the territory
- To reinforce territorial cohesion

They were also in the context of elaborating action programme for the territorial agenda

The first answers to the questions from the stakeholders are connected to question 3 on governance: bringing together the right actors, address the relevant themes, and working on the relevant territory. From this, a (very pragmatic) strategy for the two main case studies (Upper Rhin and Great Region) is now in building process, and this is considered as a major step towards a concrete and relevant cooperation.

The stakeholders are going to use this and other concepts developed in the project to integrate them in their (new) spatial development strategy. The project could also provide the stakeholders with information from ESPON, relevant to their territory, and also in a comparative perspective. The TPG could experiment that the political expectancies, as well as sensitivity, are very high.

#### **Contributions to the Europe 2020 Strategy**

- The project indicates specific development potential for the cross-border regions involved and indicates by doing so an important role for cross-border regions and the authorities it coincide to formulate policy action that adds up to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

## P2 - SS-LR

### Methodologies of spatial scenarios at the local-regional scale

Reporter: David Evers (ECP NL)

Lead Partner: Roberto Camagni (Polytechnics of Milan, IT)

Stakeholder: Maria Herrero (Barcelona Provincial Council, ES)

Chair: Sara Ferrara (ESPON CU)



Roberto Camagni, Sara Ferrara, David Evers, Maria Herrero, Josep Canals

### Key policy questions

The key policy questions addressed by the project in this workshop were:

1. How can one develop and/or adapt and apply regional forecasting instruments at a local-regional scale?
2. How can policy makers at local and regional levels successfully draw up regional, social and economic territorial policies and development strategies for their territories?
3. How can one develop territorial forecasting instruments meant for and targeting a local-regional scale which can also take the wider European perspective into account?

### Added value of ESPON knowledge

- This project developed new policy scenarios specifically for a post-crisis situation, thus improving the relevance of ESPON knowledge for stakeholders confronted with pressing economic issues and inviting these stakeholders to reflect on future developmental pathways.
- The project elaborated the scenarios at a more detailed level of scale (Nuts3 rather than Nuts2) in order to improve the applicability and communication of results.
- The added value of ESPON was demonstrated in the raised awareness of the wider transnational context among the stakeholders, even if the results pointed to a great degree of heterogeneity in the region studied.

### Dissemination of ESPON results to policy makers

- The lead partner indicated that the stakeholders were very engaged in the process, supplying data, qualitative information, feedback and suggestions during the research period.
- This interaction between researchers and stakeholders improved the quality of the study, as feedback regarding the local situation could be used to fine-tune the econometric model to produce more realistic results.
- The research also produced / worked with some interesting spatial concepts such as 'identity platform' (linked to landscape quality, cultural architecture, and sense of belonging of entire community), knowledge platforms, competence poles, which were presented on ESPON maps.
- There was more attention for the research at the regional level than at the national level.
- The stakeholder stressed the importance of employing clear language when communicating results and avoiding jargon.

### Contributions to the Europe 2020 Strategy

- The model runs on the policy scenarios provided insights into the effects of policy measures designed to achieve balanced sustainable growth, and thus EU2020.
- Green technology (e.g. renewable energy) had particularly positive effects on demand and promoted an environmentally friendly growth pathway.
- The study also provided insight on the effect of the knowledge economy on territories, especially as regards second and third level cities and the extent of spill-over effects.
- The study also revealed potential for synergy through integrated development (e.g. infrastructure) and argued for promoting innovation-based industries.

## P2 - SURE

### Economic performance of convergence regions

Reporter: Antti Roose (ECP EE)

Lead Partner: Tina Haisch (University of Basel, CH)

Stakeholder: Carmela Cotrone (Campania Region, IT)

Chair: Sara Ferrara (ESPON CU)



Tina Haisch, Sara Ferrara, Carmela Cotrone, Antti Roose

### Key policy questions

The key policy questions addressed by the project in this workshop were:

1. How convergence regions can accelerate their growth rates and catch-up with the EU's mean welfare and sustain average growth rates?
2. Which potential factors can explain different economic performances of convergence regions?
3. Which factors can explain the difference success of Cohesion Policies in convergence regions?

### Added value of ESPON knowledge

- Carmela Cotrone pointed out the need for directing discussions on convergence issues and development trajectories to political level and targeting decision-makers in convergence regions. Inter-regional comparisons may open up and enhance the regional strategies, also linking regional strategies with EU strategies is crucial.
- Tina Haisch (University of Basel) reported about SURE methods and results on convergence regions, briefing about comparative study in 4 stakeholder regions. The study employed two sub-types of convergence regions: weak regions, characterised by low level of human capital, limited accessibility, poor infrastructure, and consistent structural problems (Podlasie, Campania and East Macedonia-Thrace), and catching up regions, where growth pattern and positive trajectory enables to reach the EU or national average (Valencia).
- The study distinguished economic drivers such as knowledge and innovation potentials, accessibility, connectivity, and economic enablers such as business taxation, and labour regulations.
- The study revealed that weak and catching up convergence regions differ in regard to success factors. EU fund allocation, connectivity, innovation, accessibility and good governance are success factors in weak regions while the success in catching up regions is based primarily on quality of life, followed by accessibility and social factors. Regional innovation strategy and high investment in R&D and decentralisation of EU funding are critically important. In weak regions, the efficient allocation of funds is a catalyst for other factors. Based on exemplar case regions, the impediments in the weak regions are as follows: weak regional autonomy, passive private business involvement and funding, poor innovation, and unsustainable structures for EU funding.

### Dissemination of ESPON results to policy makers

- Concerning the communication of the SURE results and conclusions, Carmela Cotrone admitted that the core issue of defining new regional agenda - in many cases regional administration is not very open to new ideas and decision-making is not evidence-based. One solution to bridge a gap is harmonising the themes of public administration and applied regional studies as well to initiate a joint agenda. The SURE project provides the specific and case-tested understanding and knowledge of convergence regions.

### Discussion

- Prof. Roberta Cappello from Politecnico di Milan debated division of convergence regions based just on GDP data. Also, the settlement structure as a determining factor was not

considered in the survey. In response, Tina Haisch argued that econometric analysis was the basis for the division of regions, and in these particular case studies the settlement structure and major cities do not pose the importance in transition.

- Rosella Rusca from the ministry of economic development, Italy, questioned over-simplified comparisons between countries and regions as the national framework for regional policy differs by member states. She proposed the path-dependent and trend-based approach to explore the development and success factors in convergency regions.
- The both debates, spill-over effect of cities as regional centres and fine-tuning and contribution of national regional policies to EU policy would require further studies on convergence region.

## P2 - TeDi

### The use of comparative advantages in regional strategy building

Reporter: Saviour Formosa (ECP MT)

Lead Partner: Erik Gloersen (Nordregio, SE)

Stakeholder: Odd Godal (Ministry of Local Government & Regional Development, NO)

Chair: René van der Lecq (ESPON CU)



Erik Gloersen, René van der Lecq, Odd Godal

### Key policy questions

The key policy questions addressed by the project in this workshop were:

1. How to ensure a sustainable development based on regional comparative advantages?
2. How to improve the foundation of development by supporting innovation, entrepreneurship, a creative business environment, small scale economics (small is beautiful), the conservation and management of natural resources, etc.?
3. How to develop actions that enable the targeted regions to achieve a continuous long-term improvement of quality of life, inter alia by tapping existing ecological and social innovation potential of the economy?

### Introduction

- The stakeholder raised the issues as seen from a political setting focusing on the territorial agenda and the territorial dimensions to the strategy as seen from a diversity point of view.
- The idea behind the project was based on identifying specific areas such as sparsely populated areas and islands, amongst others, and comparing those same areas with the rest of the European territories. The stakeholders came exclusively from the regions under study

### The project

- i) The lead partner gave an overview of the work carried out with a focus on how policies focusing on territories with geographic specificities could contribute to improve the overall economic performance and resilience of the European economy. In addition, the project strove to create perspectives of more balanced and harmonious territorial development. The questions tackled sought to understand the concept whether a move away from a regional policy whose purpose is to create cohesion, in order to facilitate integration within a single European market is necessary in relation to highly specific areas spanning wide territorial diversity. The project targeted a policy-making process that also aims to exploit regional potentials better, and to promote more balanced, harmonious and sustainable territories.
- ii) The project targeted the issue of how “geographic specificities” become useful categories for policy making, the process to understand the same categories and the knowledge

- needed to actuate the same process.
- iii) The project also investigated how the specificities could help to build more robust economies that would be more resilient in facing economic crises such as the ongoing one. The discussion also focused on how best to position territorial cohesion policy focusing on “territorial diversity” in economic theory debates.
  - iv) The final area analysed sought to investigate the need for public interventions in areas with geographic specificities and how they could be seen as an alternative to a focus on metropolitan regions and growth centres.
  - v) The main outcomes identified that the most striking features of the areas under study refers to the diversity of the diversities across the spectrum of activities within the areas. This also had an impact on non-conformity to any specific trends since no common traits exist.
  - vi) The main focus emanating from this study refers to the key obstacles faced by the areas pivots around the exploitation of resources with other obstacles such as demographic decline, lack of appropriate competitiveness and insufficiently developed infrastructure, leading to the need for a re-conceptualisation of the strategies that cover such diverse areas. This can be done through the identification of structures that take proper advantage of the available resources, whilst acknowledging the existence of conflicting interests at the different territorial scales.
  - vii) The issue of multiplicity of development models that need to be recognised at the ‘diversity level’ challenges the monolithically character of the Lisbon agenda.
  - viii) The project’s outputs also identified as necessary the duality in local development strategies that seek to assert the uniqueness of the area as well as aspire to maintain mainstream development objectives.
  - ix) Another issue concentrated on institutional capacity targeted at formulating strategy where the case-study regions developed various solutions to design a development strategy that moves away from the limits imposed by relative insularity on the capacity to see opportunities and think outside of the box.
  - x) Recurring issues in the areas under study showed that income was low, gender balance was a main issue with less females employed, a focus on youth as a basis for development, branding and self-perception, the role of knowledge-intensive activities, minimal requirements in terms of services and the diversity of lifestyle as a European value.
  - xi) Such studies lead to a more in-depth understanding of the importance of promoting alternative lifestyles as an instrument of territorial cohesion.
  - xii) The inputs to EU policy debate focus on the problems of focusing the level of performance with structural obstacles to growth, where geographic specificities does not necessarily mean that an area is lagging.
  - xiii) The project also debated the issue of how the diverse areas would deal with resources that they cannot leave unexploited, particularly in terms of what social form such intervention should take as well as what public participation is required for such a purpose.

### **Final remarks**

The final comments from the stakeholder identified the need to take the findings through diverse measures:

- at EU level through cross-border cooperation and regulatory programmes;
- at national level for regional and national policy bridging the nation to the area levels;
- at regional level through the use and implementation of the findings for regional plans.

### **Contributions to the Europe 2020 Strategy**

- The TEDI project identifies development potential for specific types of regions in Europe though the geographical specificities indicate that the power of these regions should not only be measured on the basis of GDP.

## P3 - ESPON Database (1/3)

### How to get ESPON data?

Reporter: Blanka Bartol (ECP SI)

Lead Partner: Claude Grasland (UMS RIATE, FR)

Speakers: Jérôme Gensel (LIG, FR), Claude Grasland (UMS RIATE, FR)

Chair: Marjan van Herwijnen (ESPON CU)



Claude Grasland, Jérôme Gensel, Anton Telechev

### Key topics

The Key topics addressed by the project in this workshop were:

- Presentation of data collected so far (CD-ROM)
- Interface for query of NUT2-NUTS3 Data (ESPON Website)

The Lead partner presented the structure of the DVD and the web application which will enable the internet access to the ESPON database. Through the web application one can access to different data that was transmitted to the ESPON database from the ESPON projects. The presentation was followed by the Questions – Answers session.

### Added value of ESPON knowledge

Participants were interested in:

- (Q) when the web application would be available at the internet site (A: July 2010).
- Questions were also raised regarding why it is necessary in the web application to choose all data for example for population as demonstrated in the presentation. The reason (A) was that different projects used different data on population, so one had to pick all the data on population offered by the web application and then decided which to choose. But as explained later (A) that could also be gathered in the easier way by using “key words”, provided by the thematic window which is especially important for non-scientific users.
- Question (Q) was raised regarding the update of ESPON database from 2006. (A) The inclusion of new data in ESPON database represents no problem, but in case EUROSTAT data is used, it is desired/required to provide original data from the EUROSTAT.
- A question (Q) was also raised regarding the use of NUTS 2006 and calculations of the data for the new NUTS 2008. (A) Some efforts have been done for the estimations with the “grid kit”, but ESPON programme itself has to decide whether to stay at NUTS 2006 or move to NUTS 2008.

It was also explained that an on-line questionnaire would be available for the users in order to comment the usefulness of the application and problems encountered.

## P3 - ESPON Database (2/3)

### How to use ESPON data?

Reporter: Maria Prezioso (ECP IT)

Lead Partner: Claude Grasland (UMS RIATE, FR)

Speakers: Maher Ben Rebah (UMS RIATE, FR), Marianne Guerois (Géographie-cités, FR), Didier Peeters (ULB, BE), Alexandru Rusu (TIGRIS, RO), Nuno Madeira (UL, LU), Minas Angelidis (NTUA, GR)

Chair: Sandra Di Biaggio (ESPON CU)



Claude Grasland

## Key topics

The Key topics addressed by the project in this workshop were the following Technical Reports:

- Rebuilding time series: the example of cohesion reports (Ben Rebah)
- Making UMZ more operational for urban studies (Guerois)
- Delimitation of FUA (Peeters)
- Mapping local data (Rusu)
- Analyzing thematic (Madeira)
- Mapping world and neighbourhood (Dao & Angelidis)

## Added value of ESPON knowledge

A) Geoffrey Caruso and Nuno Madeira: description of the smart growth database and the treasure of ESPON DB (background and literature review): visualisation tools as means to support the thematic structuring ESP 2013 DB

Description of text mining methods used to explore the dominant themes and their relationships included in main ESPON documents (ESPON Thesaurus).

The methods are: 1) Data Collection 2) Processing 3) Word Distribution 4) Significance power 5) Word Co-occurrence 6) Distance-based map

In particular about point 4) it is important to rank words (themes) (Blanchard 2007, Eck & Walteman 2007); point 5) it is important to couple words (both in the sentences and paragraphs)

B) Claude Grasland: database produces esteem. Beginning by available data it has been saw gaps and unemployment; DB has been mapped at NUT2 using 2007 data; than data have been crossed to estimate values in 2010. Regions are estimated and classified using class breaks and changing their value respect to national and European media standard deviation

C) Maher Ben Rebah: Time series and data estimation. The presentation focused on difficulty in treatment and reconstruction of time series in relation to recent ESPON data production and the different level and shape of NUTS. It has been developed a time series analysis on Statistical Annexes attached to Cohesion Reports 2, 3 and 4 on the basis of data collection following thematic organization of indicators and different kind of cluster analysis applied on.

For example it has been carried out a single hierarchical analysis of GDP in the 3 cohesion reports (2, 3, and 4): the result of this exercise shows a substantial stability of GDP levels for the identified regional areas despite the visible changes showed in the different Cohesion Report original maps.

D) Didier Peeters: Integration by local data. Analysis and assessment of SIRE database (Eurostat local data imagination; Data Source: CENSUS) devoted to LAU2 statistical units (municipalities) in order to match SIRE with Eurogeographic Database as well as with the old NUTS5 level.

The method centres on the integration of identification codes of single areas by means of confrontation system.

E) Anne Bretagnolle & Marianne Guerois: From zones to cities: making UMZ more operational for urban studies. The aim is to integrate the existing urban databases.

The statistical units are the LUZ from Urban Audit and the UMZ from European Environmental Agency. The issues concerns urban metadata/Geometrics/ Statistics

With this integration for instance it is possible to make more operational the UMZ in classifying them as with powerful core, with single core, with different cores.

The mapped results of this classification are treated by experts and processes automatically.

F) Alexandru Rusu & Minas Angelidis: Looking Urban database: Issue: necessity to integrate local statistical scale: in particular to match LAU1 and LAU2. Challenge: to build demographic spatial indicators harmonized at LAU2 scale for the whole European territory. Exercise on West Balkans and Turkey. Evaluation of Data availability and quality at NUTS 3 level.

**Main questions or remarks:** statistical data of new countries is not clear and there are a several 'no data' in the DB (i.e. airports); where is possible to see documents in the programme; How is done the quality check of data

Answers: the list of used documents and methods will soon be available; several documents are from internet sites; it will be possible to have conceptual maps. At the moment it is an exploratory

tool to check the present situation. As soon possible the tool will be available for all

### **Dissemination of ESPON results to policy makers**

- Results about A): Map of thematic proximity of words obtained to apply the software VOS viewer (Eck and Waltman, 2007)
- Results about B): estimate and classification of EU regions
- Results about C): GDP exercise with regard Cohesion Reports 2, 3, 4
- Results about D): the exercise produces a table of results where morphological urban areas are confronting to FUA (by using of commuting data, the FUA verify was applied at the Italy-France boundary). There is a problem with the Romania FUA
- Results about E): Final outcome is: giving informed choices for ESPON thematic projects.
- Results about F): demographic spatial indicators harmonized at LAU2 scale for the whole European territory. Exercise on West Balkans and Turkey. Sound of comparability of existing data concerning the candidate countries useful to elaborate the next cohesion and proximity policies.

### **Contributions to the Europe 2020 Strategy**

The project is functional in order to sustain the critical study and revision of a competitive economy in cohesion strategy for sustainable development (new Lisbon Strategy with competitive innovation) and Territorial Agenda for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth it is necessary:

- Production of specific datasets or specific expertise on different types of geograph. objects;
- Collection of basic data at regional level, harmonisation of time series, enlargement of regional data toward global or local levels, combination of social and environmental data
- The production of harmonized datasets covering all the ESPON space (31 countries) at NUTS 2 or NUTS 3 level
- Form attendance it has been underlined problems to apply some methods and to obtain robust results for the islands (Greek) and in general for urban areas.
- About text analysis questions concerns the software used and generally speaking doubts are expressed regarding the data quality.

## **P3 - ESPON Database (3/3)**

### **How to check, transform and combine data?**

Reporter: Heikki Eskelinen (ECP FI)

Lead Partner: Claude Grasland (UMS RIATE, FR)

Speakers: Roger Milego (UAB, ES), Paul Harris (NCG, IE),  
Jérôme Gensel and Anton Telechev (LIG, FR)

Chair: Marjan van Herwijnen (ESPON CU)



Anton Telechev, Marjan van Herwijnen, Jérôme Gensel, Roger Milego, Paul Harris

### **Key topics**

The Key topics addressed by the project in this workshop were:

- Presentation of OLAP Cube (Milego)
- The identification of exceptional values (Harris)
- Interface for metadata (Gensel and Telechev)

### **Added value of ESPON knowledge**

More attention should be paid to data problems at ESPON Seminars which are open to policy-makers and other stakeholders.

### **Dissemination of ESPON results to policy makers**

Important to keep in mind that an outlier is not necessarily an error but it may illustrate interesting aspects of European diversity.

<http://www.espon.eu/>