



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
*Regional Policy*

# Demand for European territorial evidence from the perspective of the European Commission

Open Days Workshop  
The ESPON 2013 Programme: First results

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## Content

1. Territorial cohesion and the future of Cohesion policy
2. Research challenges in the area of territorial development
3. The role of ESPON



## Territorial cohesion – Milestones

1. European Spatial Development Perspective: Potsdam, May 1999
2. Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter: May 2007
3. Lisbon treaty: “Economic, social and **territorial** cohesion”
4. Green Paper: October 2008



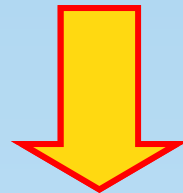
## Territorial cohesion – Green Paper

1. Themes for structuring the reflection on territorial cohesion, e.g.:
  - Concentration of activities
  - Connecting distant territories
  - Territorial cooperation
  - Territories with specific geographical features
  
2. Public consultations on territorial cohesion:
  - 391 written contributions from all Member States and all European Institutions
  - Summary of the consultations published in the 6th Progress Report (June 2009)



## Territorial cohesion – Implications

1. Increased focus on place-based local development strategies
2. Further development of multi-level governance systems
3. Territorial impact and coherence of policies
4. Better knowledge about the territories and the territorial impact of our policies



**Key role for ESPON**



# Research

## 1. Complex and multi-dimensional field:

- Account for the specificities of the variety of EU territories
- Taking into account the spatial system in which territories are included

**Research needed to deepen our understanding of its fundamental mechanisms**

## 2. Role of the public sector:

- Provide coordination schemes between many actors
- Provide a number of public goods critical for local development

**Research needed to support to policy design**



# ESPON

## 1. Main objectives:

- Feed the territorial agenda and its action plan with more insights and analysis
- Help regions and Member States to gain a better understanding of the policy implications of this research

## 2. 2013 programme – Calls for proposals

- 17 themes for applied research
- 9 targeted analysis
- Scientific platform



## ESPON

### 3. Particularly interesting for the EC, e.g.:

- Secondary growth poles
- Territorial cooperation
- Services of general interest
- Scientific platform (ESPON database)



## Conclusion

- ESPON has an important role to play in feeding the policy making process with sound and robust analysis
- Quality of the work (underlined in the Green Paper consultation)
- Thank you for that and keep going...
- ... and thank you for your attention