



## ESPON 2013 Programme/Press Release No 04/2011

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### European Evidence related to Territorial Cohesion New Challenging ESPON Projects for over 7 million Euro

**Today ESPON (the European Observation Network on Territorial Development and Cohesion) opens new Calls for Proposals to further enlarge the Evidence Base on the development of the European territory. Research institutions, universities, scientists, experts, academic teams from 31 countries are invited to apply.**

The new Calls are expected to generate four applied research projects, five targeted analyses, six projects within the ESPON scientific platform and proposals for transnational networking activities until the end of 2014. ESPON calls for researchers and experts to apply and get involved in production of ESPON evidence that can support an evidence-based and result-oriented implementation of EU Cohesion Policy.

Commenting on the ESPON's new Calls for Proposals, Peter Mehlbye, Director of the ESPON Coordination Unit, said: *"ESPON encourages more researchers, experts and academics to contribute to building European knowledge on topics that are at the top of the EU agenda. Topics include territorial research and analyses related to the Economic Crises, the Small and Medium sized Towns in their functional context, the patterns of Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe, and many more". "The selected researchers and experts will discuss their project progress and findings with policy makers. This close dialogue is the special way that ESPON make results relevant for policy development"*, he added.

The themes of the Applied Research are:

1. European Neighbour Regions (budget 750.000,00 €)
2. Small and Medium sized Towns in their Functional Territorial Context (budget 650.000,00 €)
3. The territorial dimension of Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe (budget 750.000,00 €)
4. Economic Crises: Resilience of Regions (budget 759.153,00 €)

The themes of the Targeted Analyses are:

1. Growth Poles in South-East of Europe (budget 360.000,00 €)

2. Key Indicators for Territorial Cohesion and Spatial Planning (budget 360.000,00 €)
3. Liveable Landscapes for Sustainable Territorial Development (budget 379.796,09 €)
4. Landscape Policy for the 3 Countries Park (budget 360.000,00 €)
5. North Sea - Spreading Transnational Results (budget 340.000,00 €)

The themes of the projects related to the Scientific Platform and Tools are:

1. EU Territorial Monitoring and Reporting (budget 598.000,00 €)
2. ESPON Atlas on European Territorial Structures and Dynamics (budget 150.000,00 €)
3. Detecting Territorial Potential and Challenges (budget 350.000,00 €)
4. Territorial Evidence Packs for Structural Funds Programmes (budget 500.000,00 €)
5. ESPON Online Mapping Tool (budget 150.000,00 €)
6. Territorial Monitoring in a European Macro Region – A test for the Baltic Sea Region (budget 360.000,00 €)

The call for transnational networking activities by the ESPON Contact Point network shall provide targeted transnational capitalisation, awareness rising and dissemination of ESPON results.

**The application deadline is 20 October 2011.**

ESPON invites potential beneficiaries to participate at the **Info Day on 13 September 2011** in Brussels, where the Calls will be further presented and the European Commission and the Polish EU Presidency will present the latest policy demand for further ESPON results.

All documentation related to the calls, including the procedure for applying is available at the ESPON Website, [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu).

#### **Interested in ESPON?**

The ESPON 2013 Programme is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

It shall support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory. ESPON shall support Cohesion Policy development with European wide, comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on framework conditions for the development of regions, cities and larger territories. In doing so, it shall facilitate the mobilisation of territorial capital and development opportunities, contributing to improving European competitiveness, to the widening and deepening of European territorial cooperation and to a sustainable and balanced development.

The Managing Authority responsible for the ESPON 2013 Programme is the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, Department of Spatial Planning and Development of Luxembourg. More information: [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)

#### **Press Contact**

[pierina.petruzzi@espon.eu](mailto:pierina.petruzzi@espon.eu)

+352 54 55 80 707

#### **ESPON Coordination Unit**

CRP HT - P.O. Box 144 - LU-4221 Esch-sur-Alzette  
Phone: +352 54 55 80 -700 Fax: +352 54 55 80 -701 [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)