



## **ESPON 2013 Programme/ Newsletter No 12/01 March 2010**

Welcome to the electronic ESPON Newsletter. It offers information on the latest developments of the ESPON Programme.

### **Message from the ESPON Coordination Unit:**

#### **What's on the Menu for 2010?**



The ESPON Monitoring Committee on 16-17 February 2010 took important decisions on starting 24 new ESPON projects. These include 9 Applied Research projects, 1 scientific project on Territorial Indicators/Indices and the first 2 Transnational Networking Activities where the ESPON Contact Point network will be the active partners.

Equally important is progress on the use of ESPON results in Targeted Analyses, carried through together with national, regional and local stakeholders. Here 2 new projects found the experts to conduct the Targeted Analyses. And 10 new project ideas from stakeholders were selected which will swiftly, in cooperation with the stakeholders behind the ideas, be turned into project specification, ready for the next call for proposals.

The project decisions taken by the Monitoring Committee means that the ESPON 2013 Programme is now very well underway. A lot more will nevertheless happen in 2010 and 2011 as 4 more calls for proposals and expression of interest will become open. It is envisaged that around 20 additional projects will become part of the ESPON 2013 Programme.

Important news is that the flow of ESPON calls has been speeded up. In 2010 the first calls will be launched on 3 May 2010. The second round of calls is envisaged for 24 August 2010. In 2011, the last 2 rounds of calls are envisaged. The first calls opening on 3 May 2010 will include the re-launch of two Applied Research Projects for which no proposal were submitted in the call of September 2009, a number of the new Targeted Analysis selected during the last Monitoring Committee meeting as well as more Transnational Networking Activities by the ESPON Contact Point network.

In terms of communication and capitalisation of results, 2010 includes a substantial number of actions. Info Days targeting potential beneficiaries of the programme as well as a number of activities and events will support an increased awareness of European territorial dynamics.

The first final results of many projects of Applied Research and Targeted Analyses will become available during 2010. These new evidence will be the basis for the first ESPON Synthesis Report to be published in October 2010. More ESPON publications on Territorial Observations will also be published during 2010

Concerning events, the Open Seminar "ESPON evidence for regional policy-making" during the Spanish EU Presidency will take place on 9-10 June 2010 in Alcala de Henares. This Seminar aims at focusing on the ESPON Knowledge base as potential for territorial analyses and policymaking, particular at regional level. In addition, a Conference on Targeted Analyses is previewed in autumn 2010 as well as several ESPON Workshops, participation in the Open Days in October 2010, etc.

Altogether a very interesting, challenging and busy year for ESPON. Please consult the new ESPON 2013 website regularly for more updated information.

Peter Mehlbye  
Director ESPON Coordination Unit

## **ESPON Calls for Proposals 2010**

The first Call for Proposals for 2010 will be open on 3 May 2010. Call for proposals for two Applied Research Projects (European seas in territorial development and Indicators and perspectives for services of general interest in territorial cohesion and development), several Targeted Analyses as well as Transnational Networking Activities by the ESPON Contact Point network will be launched. An Info Day and Partner Cafe` will take place on 18 May 2010 to present the new funding opportunities and the conditions for applying. More details will soon be available at the ESPON Website.

### **Partner Café: Your Tool Finding Partners**

The overview of potential partners is a useful tool in support of constructing transnational project groups. It now contains 137 potential partners from 23 countries. [More](#)

### **New ESPON Website**

ESPON has already announced the launch of its new website. New navigation and layout make it more user-friendly and easier to find information on projects, publications, events, calls, indicators and scientific tools, all related to territorial development and dynamics in Europe. The new website - available at [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu) - features one-click navigation that provides easy access to 7 main themes reflecting user needs: Programme, Projects, How to Apply, Events, Scientific Tools, Publications and Press.

New features of the website include FAQ, Abbreviations and more Links. A number of additional features are under development such as video clips and the use of pictures that will make the ESPON Website even more informative and appealing.

### **ESPON Survey on Themes for Future Applied Research Projects**

The ESPON Monitoring Committee has started the discussion on themes for the last 6-8 Applied Research projects feasible within the ESPON 2013 Programme. In order to screen the current knowledge demand among policy makers, a second on-line survey will be carried through. .

Policymakers, practitioners, researchers and other interested parties in territorial development and cohesion will be asked to spend 10 minutes on filling in an on-line questionnaire. The questionnaire will be open from 15 March 2010 to 26 April 2010.

The answers will support the ESPON Monitoring Committee in identifying and selecting themes of particular interest and list policy relevant questions for the applied research. The first 3-4 new themes for applied research shall be selected in June 2010 and will be included in a call for applied research projects in early 2011.

### **Coming Events**

#### **Spring Workshop "ESPON Database 2013" in Luxembourg**

ESPON is organising, in cooperation with the Lead Partner University of Paris 7 Denis Diderot, a workshop aimed at showing the latest developments of the ESPON 2013 Database and discussing some challenges related to it. The database is a central element in the ESPON's scientific platform and a tool providing input for analysis based on territorial

indicators. It is equally important as a tool for a continuous territorial monitoring. The workshop will take place mid April in Luxembourg. More information will be published at the ESPON Website soon.

### **ESPON Info Day on New Calls and Partner Cafe` on 18 May 2010 in Brussels**

In order to support the launch of the next Calls for Proposals, the ESPON 2013 Programme is organising an Info Day on 18 May 2010 in Brussels. A Partner Café is included in the event. The registration will be open soon at the ESPON Website.

### **ESPON Financial Manager Seminar on 19 May in Brussels**

A Financial Manager Seminar will take place on 19 May 2010 in Brussels. The event aims at informing financial managers of Lead and Project Partners of approved Projects under the calls launched in September 2009 about e.g. eligibility rules, contracting, reporting and monitoring procedures, as well as publicity requirements, administrative, legal and practical matters concerning project coordination and management. The seminar will as well be open to first level financial controller willing to acquire additional and more specific information about ESPON 2013 procedure and minimum requirements for the certification of expenditure.

### **ESPON Workshop at Regional Studies Association (RSA), Annual International Conference 2010**

ESPON is organising a Workshop during the RSA Annual International Conference on 24 – 26 May 2010, in Pécs, Hungary. The theme of the RSA conference is “Regional Responses to Global Shifts: Actors, Institutions and Organisations”.

Under the theme “Spatial Planning in Cities and Regions”, the following ESPON sessions related to regional competitiveness and cohesion will take place.

1. Territorial Competitiveness and Cohesion: Development Paths of Cities and Urban Agglomerations – session coordinated by Moritz Lennert, Free University of Brussels, Belgium Lead Partner of ESPON FOCI Project.
2. Territorial Competitiveness and Cohesion: Development Opportunities in Different Types of Rural Areas– session coordinated by Andrew Copus, UHI Millennium Institute, UK, Lead Partner of ESPON EDORA Project.
3. Territorial Competitiveness and Cohesion: The Effects of Rising Energy Prices– session coordinated by Oihana Blanco Mendizabal, Innobasque, Spain, Lead Partner of ESPON ReRISK Project.

To register visit the RSA Website, link:

<http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/events/2010/may-pecs-registration.asp>

### **ESPON Evidence for Regional Policy-Making, Open Seminar on 9-10 June 2010 in Spain**

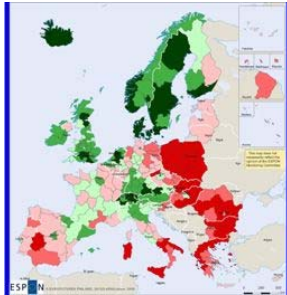
In cooperation with the Spanish Presidency, the ESPON 2013 Programme organises an Open Seminar on 9-10 June 2010 in Alcalá (Spain). The aim of this Seminar is to explore the use of the first final ESPON project outputs for regional policymaking.

Roundtable discussions on the latest developments in political priority setting related to future Territorial Cohesion Policy, practical examples from policy processes including ESPON evidence, key messages from ESPON projects for regional policy and territorial cohesion and

introduction of new ESPON Projects and the partners/stakeholders behind should attract a wide group of interested policy makers, scientists and other stakeholders from European to local level.

## **ESPON Results and Reports**

### **Map of the Month “Economic Performance of European Regions”**



In the Spring European Council of 2000 the European Union decided the Lisbon Strategy. This strategy was aimed at making Europe the world’s leading knowledge-economy by 2010.

In the meanwhile, the global economic downturn has made responses to Europe’s major challenges – globalisation, climate change and an ageing population – even more urgent. The EU is currently discussing a new strategy for the period beyond 2010, the so called Europe 2020 Strategy, a successor to the Lisbon Strategy.

This new common agenda should help the EU to recover from the crisis and to move the EU into a more sustainable, greener and more innovative economy where knowledge will be the key input. In any case, the strategy for 2010 remains also important and the monitoring of related indicators is as essential as ever, also their territorial dimension.

The current ESPON Map of the Month offers focus on the regional diversity in Europe in the light of a combined indicator with a clear economic focus related to the Lisbon/Europe 2020 Strategy. [More reading](#)

### **Energy – related Vulnerability of European Regions**

By assuming that the impact of rising energy prices will affect regional competitiveness and cohesion, and that some regions may be more exposed than others, the Updated Interim Report of the ReRISK Project identifies these regions and measure their vulnerability.

The Report is accompanied by (1) the Clustering Analysis which presents the classification procedure of the EU Regions into groups of regions with similar characteristics. This classification has resulted in regional typologies that should assist policy makers to understand the picture of Europe in various aspects and form their policy agenda accordingly. (2) The Case studies and Scenarios exercise which documents the progress towards formulating policy recommendations through an enquiry to regional energy agencies. (3) The Discussion Paper: Impacts of Climate Change on Regional Energy Systems addressing the implications of climate change for regional energy planning.

Read the Updated Interim Report of the Project ReRisk, and access all background documents, at the [ESPON Website](#).

### **SURE: Success for Convergence Regions’ Economies**

This project focuses on the specific challenges of development of Convergence Regions within the EU. Despite the fact that these regions have been awarded with extensive funds, not all have taken advantage to the same extent. Some are still unable to improve their socio-economic performance and competitiveness.

The Interim Report portrays three analytical steps towards the final goal of the project to better understand and explain economic imbalances between different European regions,

providing insight into the processes and factors behind the diversity of economic development of Convergence Regions.

Read the Interim Report at the [ESPON Website](#).

### **CAEE - The Case for Agglomeration Economies in Europe**

Barcelona, Dublin, Lyon and Manchester were important drivers of economic growth during the decade that preceded the global recession, initial results from the ESPON Project CAEE - The Case for Agglomeration Economies in Europe - confirms.

Read the Interim Report as well as all background documents, at the [ESPON Website](#).

### **Seminar "The ESPON Knowledge Base as Potential for Territorial Analysis and Policymaking at Regional Level" in Malmö, Sweden**

The ESPON CU organised in close co-operation with the Swedish EU Presidency an Internal Seminar on 2-3 December 2009 in Malmö. The seminar welcomed about 150 participants from the ESPON network including experts, stakeholders, policymakers, practitioners as well as local representatives. The seminar stimulated a lively discussion and exchange of ideas on using ESPON evidence in the regional context.

The ESPON CU is currently finalising a Seminar Report providing on the basis of the seminar discussions giving some guidance for regional use of ESPON knowledge. The report will be soon available at the ESPON Website. [More on the Seminar](#)

### **Vacancy at the ESPON Coordination Unit in Luxembourg**

The ESPON Coordination Unit (CU) is currently looking for a Project Expert/Cluster Coordinator to join our international team as early as possible in 2010. The job advert is online at the ESPON website, [link](#). Deadline for submitting an application is **22 March 2010**.

### **Sign-up and communicate**

If you find the ESPON Newsletter interesting and useful, please tell others to sign-up by subscribing online at the ESPON Website, link:

[http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Press/Menu\\_Subscribe/contactform.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Press/Menu_Subscribe/contactform.html)

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### **More information**

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 for Spatial Planning and Development of Luxembourg. More information: [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)