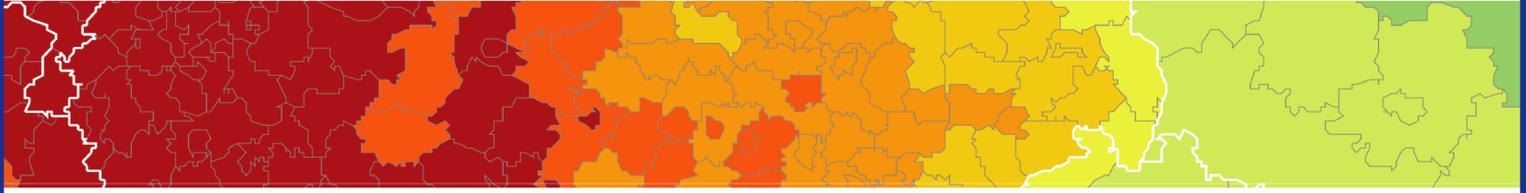


Inspire policy making by territorial evidence



ESPON

Transnational Outreach Support 2016-2019

**Delivery 1.3 – First annual plan based on the outreach
strategy and the results of the needs analysis**

Version 13/07/2017

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Abbreviations

EC	European Commission
ESPON	European Territorial Observatory Network
EU	European Union
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
EGTC	European Grouping on Territorial Cooperation
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
MC	ESPON Monitoring Committee
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
TNO	Transnational Outreach
MS	Member States
AB	Advisory Board
ECP	ESPON Contact Point
AWP	Annual Working Plan

Executive Summary

Among the objectives defined in the framework of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme is “Wider Outreach and Uptake of Territorial Evidence” (Specific Objective 4). The overall ESPON Outreach Strategy rests on two legs: outreach at European level, and outreach at transnational level; support to the latter being the subject of the current service contract. Transnational Outreach (TNO) activities will be developed by the ESPON European Grouping on Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), with support of the TNO consortium, comprised of teams of INOVA+ and ERRIN staff members, in close collaboration with other ESPON structures, in particular the ESPON Monitoring Committee, and the ESPON Contact Points (ECPs).

The overall purpose of the Transnational Outreach Strategy is to engage closely with existing and new key stakeholders, namely from government organisations (at national, regional, and local levels), academia and scientists, civil society, and the private sector, covering the territory of the 28 European Member States, and the four Partner Countries. To evenly organise the outreach activities throughout Europe, and to meet the demands of stakeholders, a needs assessment process was carried out between January and June 2017, to understand better the expectations and needs, and therefore to propose meaningful activities to stakeholders. The activities proposed for 2017 are based on the results of this process.

This document presents the activities (events and shorter documents) planned for TNO Annual Work Plan for 2017 (AWP 2017). The document is structured in two sections. Section 1 describes the process and methodology followed for the selection of activities. Section 2 presents the activities proposed for the current year, including the type of activity, location, date and description.

1 Introduction

1.1 Objectives of the TNO Annual Plan 2017

The Annual Work Plan 2017 (AWP) represents the launch of the ESPON 'Transnational Outreach Strategy' ('TNO Strategy'). The objective of the 2017 AWP is to kick-off the actions and activities, as outlined in the Strategy, ensuring continuity and complementarity with the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme (CP). As defined in the TNO Strategy, agreed upon with ESPON EGTC, and presented during the ESPON Monitoring Committee meeting on 21st March, the TNO activities (events, training sessions, documents, and posters) aim to achieve the following objectives:

- Translating the outcomes of ESPON research projects into accessible and usable support material for policy makers, at national, regional, and local levels;
- Expanding the current group of users, and stakeholders, of ESPON research evidence and policy-making support;
- Achieving a better involvement of established ESPON stakeholders, and ESPON ECPs, capitalising on their experience and knowledge, at national and regional level, in TNO activities;
- Increasing the visibility of the ESPON research results and evidence, and their usability in the policy processes;
- Increasing the use of digital documents and social media dissemination, privileging short, high-quality documents, mainly disseminated via on-line tools, with a special attention to social media dissemination.

With regard to the above, the need-assessment and the consultation process held between January and June 2017 has paid particular attention to the selection of topics. The activities proposed for 2017 AWP aim to respond to current policy processes, as well as to policy needs (policy topics requiring further research evidence and data), as identified by the needs-assessment. Therefore, **the overall aim, when designing the 2017 AWP, has been to support stakeholders in their current policy endeavours, and in current or near-future policy-making processes**, by providing them with relevant ESPON results.

The number, and level, of activities proposed takes into consideration the time and resource constraints for 2017. Whereas Q1 has been dedicated to the preparation of the overall outreach strategy, and to the implementation of the needs analysis, activities during Q2 were focused on translating the results of the needs analysis into a first draft of the AWP (05/05/2017). Taking this into account, activities in 2017 will be concentrated in Q4, Q3 being dedicated to all relevant preparatory actions. As agreed upon with ESPON EGTC, and with ESPON ECPs, it is proposed to organise **3 events (one conference, one workshop and one seminar), supported each by a shorter document (transnational observation or transnational brief)**. Training activities are meant to be focused on ESPON tools. Therefore, since the update of some ESPON tools and the development of new ones is planned for next years, **TNO team and ESPON EGTC have agreed on postponing training activities for 2018 and 2019**. Lastly, it is worth noting that 2017 will be the first year of implementation of the TNO project, and, therefore, it will be a **test-bed for activities**. Formats and proceedings will be adjusted in future years, according to the feedback received in 2017.

1.2 Annual Plan: methodological approach

The proposed activities for 2017 build on a two-step process: a) results of needs-assessment process (between January and May 2017); and b) consultation process on the first draft of TNO AWP 2017 (between May and June 2017).

A) Needs assessment

To be able to define key messages, and thematic priorities, and thus to organise meaningful activities responding to the needs of ESPON stakeholders, the TNO team conducted a needs assessment between January and May 2017 (please refer to the document *Implementation of the needs analysis* for further information). The needs assessment was based on a three-step approach:

- Step 1: Desk research
- Step 2: On-line questionnaires
- Step 3: Telephone interviews

Respondents were asked about on-going and up-coming policy process in their territories, as well as about their needs for policy support; i.e. they were asked in which policy areas further support was needed. They were also asked about their preferred type of support for ESPON activities. The results from this three-step process were complemented with input provided by ESPON EGTC, and by ECPs, during the ECP extraordinary meeting held in March.

All the input gathered through this three-step process was classified into policy topics according to transnational grouping¹. The classification of all the answers, and inputs, into topics allowed the TNO team to identify the policy priorities, and the policy requirements, where ESPON support is needed. The classification into topics also allowed to identify and select relevant ESPON research results. Once this process was completed, a pre-selection of activities and topics for 2017 was done considering the following factors: policy processes and policy needs, available or upcoming ESPON results, complexity of topics regarding time and resource-constraints (please refer to the document D.1.2 *Implementation of the needs analysis*).

The needs assessment, for instance, ascertains the relevance of migration. Deliveries of 2 new ESPON research activities relating to migration are anticipated only in 2018, therefore, outreach activities in this context will not be carried out in 2017.

B) Consultation process on TNO AWP 2017

Based on phase A described above, the TNO team produced a first TNO Annual Work Plan for 2017 explaining the methodological approach and suggesting activities for both 2017 and 2018. The document was submitted to ESPON EGTC on 5th May. The first draft of the TNO 2017 AWP included two alternative options per transnational grouping. The version of TNO 2017 AWP dated 05/05/2017 was subject to a thorough consultation process during May and June 2017. The document was discussed at the MC and ECP meeting in Malta in May 2017. The PST (Project Support Team) and the ECPs (ESPON Contact Points) sent further input during June 2017.

The activities to be organised in 2017, and described in this document, are built on these two phases. The aim of this process has been to duly involve and consider all relevant ESPON stakeholders. In this context, it is worth noting that the Transnational Outreach (TNO) activities are

¹ As agreed upon in the TNO Strategy, to ensure a balanced and effective European-wide geographical coverage of the TNO activities, four geographical groupings were defined regarding the allocation of the specific activities. The division of ESPON geographical transnational groupings builds on the previous "ESPON 2013 On The Road" project.

developed by the ESPON EGTC, with support of the TNO consortium ('TNO team'), which was selected through a call for tenders in the second half of 2016. Therefore, TNO support is a newly established service: establishing procedures, particularly establishing an adequate consultation process with all ESPON stakeholders, has taken considerable time. Given this fact, some activities originally proposed in the document 05/05/2017, although considered relevant and interesting, will have to be postponed to 2018 due to time- and resource constrains.

2 Activities to be organised in 2017

2.1 Activities to be organised in 2017: introduction and rationale

The results of the needs assessment showed that certain topics and challenges are shared across almost all ESPON countries, i.e. certain topics are repeatedly mentioned across countries in all transnational groupings, proving their importance in ongoing policy processes:

- National and Regional Spatial Planning
- Cross-border territorial cooperation, including macro-regional strategies
- Governance, particularly the involvement of sub-national stakeholders
- Rural-urban linkages, rural depopulation and shrinking population, including urban sprawl
- Transport and accessibility, including challenges posed by insularity
- Migration, including migration flows and particularly integration
- Circular economy and green infrastructure

The above-mentioned topics have been considered as relevant by ESPON stakeholders. Consequently, the TNO team will seek to tackle them through activities in both 2017, and mainly 2018. As already explained, a first selection of activities was presented in the draft 2017 AWP (05/05/2017). Some ECPs expressed their interest in the topic and activity proposed, but preferred to postpone the activity for 2018 due to time- and resource constraints, or to be better aligned with the policy processes going-on. As a result, for 2017, as agreed upon with the ECPs and with ESPON EGTC in June, TNO activities will focus on **three topics with three activities**, as reflected below:

Multi-level governance, particularly decentralisation (local self-governance, delegation of responsibility at lower levels)	Lithuania - TGII
Rural-urban linkages, rural depopulation and shrinking population, particularly the question of inner and outer peripheries	Norway - TGII
Transport and accessibility	Italy - TGIV

Transnational grouping IV – Transport and accessibility

Transport infrastructure and accessibility constitutes a major priority for TG IV, particularly for Italy. In the needs analysis, Italian stakeholders highlighted three relevant policy processes on this topic: 1) National Operational Programme on Infrastructures and Networks 2020; 2) Strategy for Transport Infrastructures and Logistics (December 2016); 3) National guidelines for port cities spatial planning and land sea systemic integration (2017). In this framework, the question of ports, city ports and maritime transport, and their integration with other forms of transport —TENs networks and connection with air and road hubs and logistics platforms—, constitutes a high priority for Italy. The Italian ECP confirmed that the importance of transport and accessibility in the Italian Strategy for Development. Therefore, as discussed and agreed upon with the Italian ECP, a conference on the question transport infrastructure and accessibility will take place in Rome in October 2017.

Lastly, and in addition to this, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece and Malta also pointed out to transport and accessibility as a capital field for their territorial development strategies. Regarding policy

processes, it is also worth noting the Romanian Project for Government (2017-2020), which includes as a priority the “efficient interconnection of transport and development of infrastructure”.

Transnational grouping II – Multi-level governance and self-governance– Baltic countries

As reflected by the needs-assessment, Baltic countries seem to be dealing, in a way or the other, with the question of sub-national administration and multi-level governance. In Estonia, a local and regional administrative reform is currently being implemented. Indeed, in July 2016, the Administrative Reform Act was passed, establishing that all local government units must have a territorial organisation of at least 5,000 residents. The Act aims to increase the capabilities of local government units, the municipalities, and ensure a more consistent regional development. It is also worth noting that in 2009 Latvia has completed the administrative-territorial reform through the process of amalgamation of local administrative units and abolishing the regional self-governments.

In addition to this, the Lithuanian ECP confirmed the interest and suitability of the topic for the country, being an integral part of their “Comprehensive Plan for the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania 2030-2050”, which is under preparation under the direction of the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment, and should be adopted in 2020. Moreover, two other relevant policy documents are under way: “Law on Municipal Infrastructure Development” is currently being developed and will be finished in 2018, on the one side; “Regional Policy Guidelines”, which the Ministry of Home Affairs is developing (to be finished in autumn 2017). The Regional Policy Guidelines seek to form a new relationship between the administration of the functional relations between Lithuanian municipalities and their resident areas.

In this context, as discussed and agreed upon with the Lithuanian ECP, a seminar will be organised in November 2017 in Vilnius on the topic of “Multi-level governance and administration of territorial development - Improving service provision through involvement of municipalities and stakeholders at the local level”.

Transnational grouping II – Outer and inner peripheries in Northern Europe – Nordic countries

The third event to be organised in 2017 will be a workshop on peripheral regions. Peripheral regions —both inner and outer peripheries— represent a major topic of concern for Nordic countries. The issue was raised by stakeholders from Finland and Norway in the needs assessment. Moreover, the Swedish ECP confirmed its interest during the consultation process in June 2017. Regarding policy process, the implementation of a new rural policy in Sweden is on its way: “For Swedish rural areas”². The document recognises the failure in exploiting the business potential of rural areas and the greater discrepancies in access to public services in the different parts of the country, and includes 75 proposals for a more cohesive Sweden.

As discussed with the relevant ECPs (Sweden, Norway and Iceland), and with Nordregio, the workshop will take place in the framework of the Nordregio Forum 2017³. With the title ‘Nordregio Forum 2017: Nordic Cities– Connecting the Urban and the Rural’, the conference will tackle several policy questions related to the topic ‘Inner and outer peripheries’: “How do we create stronger linkages between the urban and the rural parts of our regions? How can smaller cities take the lead within sustainable development? What makes them attractive? How can cities benefit from Nordic collaboration and export promotion?”.

² http://www.sou.gov.se/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/SOU-2017_1_tryck.pdf

³ <http://www.nordregio.se/>

2.2 Overview of activities proposed for 2017

As already pointed out in the introduction, training activities —training and e-learning— are meant to be focused on ESPON tools. Therefore, taking into account that the update of ESPON tools and the development of new ones is still subject to discussions, and that those activities will be mainly concentrated in 2018 and 2019, TNO team and ESPON EGTC have agreed on postponing training activities for future work plans. Following this, **TNO team will organise 3 events in 2017 (1 conference, 1 workshop and 1 seminar), supported each by a shorter document (transnational observation or transnational brief).**

Group	Topic	Interested countries	Policy process/ policy needs	Type of activity	Place
Transnational Grouping II – Northern Europe					
Northern II (option I)	Multi-level government and administrative reform	LV/LT/EE (Baltic area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law on Municipality Infrastructure Development (Lithuania), • Comprehensive Plan for the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania 2030-2050 (to be adopted in 2020); • Regional Policy Guidelines (Lithuania, 2017), • Joint Services Centres of Local Municipalities (Latvia, 2017) • Local and Regional Administrative Reform (Estonia) 	Seminar + TB	Vilnius, Lithuania
Northern II (option II)	Peripheral areas integration	NO/FI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy need on promoting peripheral areas development (Finland) and spatial planning that combines all regions (Norway) 	Workshop + TO	Oslo, Norway
Transnational Grouping IV – Southern					
Southern IV (option II)	Transport	IT/EL/RO/BG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several policy processes ongoing in Italy: 1) National Operational Programme on Infrastructures and Networks 2020; 2) Strategy for Transport Infrastructures and Logistics (December 2016); 3) National guidelines for port cities spatial planning and land sea systemic integration (2017) • Romanian Project for Government (2017-2020), priority “efficient interconnection of transport and development of infrastructure” The topic of transport related to blue growth was stressed by Greek stakeholders 	Conference + TO	Rome, Italy

Table 1: Overview of TNO activities for 2017

Legend: C: Conference, W: Workshop, S: Seminar, TO: Transnational Observation, TB: Transnational Brief

 TGI Central Europe	 TGII Northern Europe	 TGIII Western Europe	 TGIV Southern Europe
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3 Description of activities

The content, format and the potential speakers outlined herein are subject to further development.

3.1 Activity 1: Transnational grouping II– Northern Europe – Multi-level governance

TRANSNATIONAL GROUPING II: NORTHERN EUROPE	
Multi-level governance and administration of territorial development - Improving service provision through involvement of municipalities and stakeholders at the local level	
Type of event:	Seminar
Capacity:	40-50
Date:	14 November 2017 (exact day tbc)
Location:	Vilnius, Lithuania
Targeted audience:	National and regional spatial planning policy-makers and practitioners, implementing authorities, regional and local policy-makers, university academics, from the Baltic countries. Special attention will be given to the involvement in the event of municipalities and local governments (as main sub-national self-governing authorities in the three countries).
Policy process / policy needs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law on Municipality Infrastructure Development (Lithuania) • Comprehensive Plan for the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania 2030-2050 (to be adopted in 2020) • Regional Policy Guidelines (Lithuania, 2017) • Joint Services Centres of Local Municipalities (Latvia, 2017) • Local and Regional Administrative Reform (Estonia) 	
Targeted ESPON tools and projects	
<p>ESPON research results - ESPON 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMPASS: Comparative Analysis of Territorial Governance and Spatial Systems in Europe (draft final delivery, January 2018) • Inner Peripheries: national territories facing challenges of access to basic services of general interest (draft final delivery, August 2017) • TCA: Thinking and Planning in Areas of Territorial Cooperation (draft final delivery, August 2017) <p>ESPON research results - ESPON 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DeTeC – Detecting Territorial Potentials and Challenges - methods for detecting territorial potential • SeGI – Indicators and Perspectives for Services of General Interest in Territorial Cohesion and Development • TANGO Towards Better Territorial Governance in Europe 	
Description of the event	

Aim and rationale

There is growing interest in the importance of territorial governance to achieve territorial cohesion. This is reflected in the Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 which calls for a place-based, territorially sensitive and integrated approach to policies, to improve the performance of actions on all levels and create synergies between different types of policy interventions. Similarly, the legislative proposals set up for the EU cohesion policy period 2014-20 envisage a Common Strategic Framework (CSF) that has to be implemented through the principles of “partnership and multi-level governance”.

As identified in the needs analysis, Baltic countries have completed (Latvia) or are implementing administrative and governance reforms (Estonia). The topic is also integral part of the “Comprehensive Plan for the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania 2030-2050”, which is under preparation under the direction of the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment, and should be adopted in 2020. In addition to this, two other relevant policy documents are under way in Lithuania: “Law on Municipal Infrastructure Development” is currently being developed and will be finished in 2018.

Against the framework described above, and in view of the processes in the Baltic countries, ESPON TNO will organise a seminar in Lithuania addressing the following policy questions:

Multi-level governance and its links to administrative organisation and administrative reforms

- How is multi-level territorial governance organised in TG II? How is multi-level territorial governance organised in the three Baltic countries? How is it linked and how is it being affected by past and current administrative reforms?

Latvian example: implementation of the re-organisation of the local administrative system in 2009 and the adoption of the Law on Self-Government, its impact on multi-level governance.

Estonian example: challenges and difficulties in putting in place the Estonian administrative reform.

Lithuanian example: multi-level governance and municipalities in the new legislative framework (Comprehensive Plan and Law on Municipal Infrastructure)

- What are good mechanisms to ensure coordination between different public sectoral policies and cooperation between different levels of public government?

Multi-level governance and administrative organisation in the framework of the provision of services of general interest

- What is the role of multi-level governance for the territorial distribution of the services of general interest throughout the territory? How can the multilevel governance practice streamline public service provision in the contexts of new forms of cooperation areas, public-private partnerships, innovative financial mechanisms or digitalisation?

The workshop will refer to ESPON studies: TANGO, SeGI, TCA and COMPASS SO1 Comparative Analysis of Territorial Governance and Spatial Systems in Europe, which should be approaching a final draft for Jan 2018.

Format

One-day workshop

1. Keynote: setting the scene, based on discussion with ESPON ECPs and ESPON EGTC / or setting the scene, based on ESPON TANGO - Towards Better Territorial

Governance in Europe, potential speaker from Nordregio⁴
 From TANGO: “Trends and Typologies of Territorial Governance; Governance styles and typologies across Europe; Quality of Governance according to World Bank; National Trends in Territorial Governance”

2. Administrative reform the Baltic states. speakers from three Baltic states
3. ESPON results supporting ongoing policy processes:
 - 3.1. Preliminary results of COMPASS⁵.- Lithuanian Social Research Centre
 - 3.2. European Atlas of Services of General Interest – SeGI
4. World Café format to brainstorm key conclusions

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http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Publications/Menu_Guidance/Governance.html
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<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00343400701543363?journalCode=cres20>

Multi-level governance and administration reform: involvement of municipalities and stakeholders at local level for an effective provision of Services of General Interest

Type of document: Transnational brief

Language: English

Date: November 2017

Description

Brief description

The TNO team proposes to support the workshop described above by a shorter document, a transnational brief, addressing the following policy questions:

- How is multi-level territorial governance organised in Europe, and particularly in TG II and the Baltic countries?
- What are good mechanisms to ensure coordination between different public sectoral policies and cooperation between different levels of public government? The document will try to showcase relevant examples of good practices in engagement of local stakeholders in TG II countries.

The transnational brief will draw on the findings of ESPON 2013 projects TANGO (Territorial Approaches for New Governance) as well as SeGI (Services of General Interest). The document will pay particular attention to services of general interest, and the spatial distribution of SGIs answering to the questions as stated above:

- What is the role of multi-level governance for the territorial distribution of the services of

⁴ Nordregio as main contactor of TANGO

⁵ Potential speakers. Institutions involved in COMPASS from the area: Nordregio, SE; University of Tartu, EE; Lithuanian Social Research Centre, LT

general interest throughout the territory? How can the multilevel governance practice streamline public service provision in the contexts of new forms of cooperation areas, public-private partnerships, innovative financial mechanisms or digitalisation?

A first draft of the document will be produced as input for the event. The document will be updated after the event, in order to include the conclusions and policy recommendations formulated during the workshop, as well other information gathered during the event.

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<http://www-sre.wu.ac.at/ersa/ersaconfs/ersa04/PDF/153.pdf>

3.2 Activity 2: Transnational grouping II – Northern Europe – Peripheral regions

TRANSNATIONAL GROUPING II: NORTHERN EUROPE	
Outer and inner peripheries in Northern Europe	
Type of event:	Workshop (in the framework of Nordregio Forum 2017)
Capacity:	20-25
Date:	30 November 2017
Location:	Oslo, Norway
Targeted audience	National and regional spatial planning policy-makers and practitioners, regional economic planning experts, regional analysts, implementing authorities, regional and local policy-makers, university academics, Local Action Groups (LAGs) and Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs)
Policy process / policy needs	
<p>Policy needs expressed by various countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting peripheral area's development as part of regional and national growth strategies (Finland) • Spatial strategy, which combines, respects and recognizes the roles of all regions and types of areas, with a view to achieving the national and international targets (Norway) • Regarding policy process, implementation of a new rural policy in Sweden: "For Swedish rural areas" (document approved in January 2017) 	
Targeted ESPON tools and projects	
<p>ESPON research results - ESPON 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMPASS: Comparative Analysis of Territorial Governance and Spatial Systems in Europe (draft final delivery, January 2018) • Inner Peripheries: national territories facing challenges of access to basic services of general interest (draft final delivery, August 2017) • ESPON Study: Shaping new policies in specific types of territories in Europe: islands, mountains, sparsely populated and coastal regions <p>ESPON research results – ESPON 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESPON SO1: SeGI – Services of General Interest • ESPON SO2: ULYSSES – Cross-border Spatial Development Planning • ESPON SO2: PURR – Potential of Rural Regions • Policy brief: Polycentric Territorial Structures and Territorial Cooperation • SO1: PROFECY - Inner Peripheries: national territories facing challenges of access to basic services of general interest (Draft final 08/2017, Final 12/2017) • ESPON 2013: EDORA - European Development Opportunities in Rural Areas • ESPON 2013 TiPSE on inclusive cities • ESPON 2013: SGPTD Secondary Growth Poles • ESPON 2013: TOWN Small- and medium-sized towns 	

Description

Aim and rationale

This workshop will examine issues of both outer and inner periphery in Northern Europe and involve a range of ESPON studies. Inner Peripheries are complex territorial realities, with causative elements of a geographical nature, but also driven by socioeconomic processes. Hence, inner peripheries constitute a hybrid concept, which is fundamentally spatial, but is also manifest through aspects of socioeconomic performance. The workshop would shed light on differences between inner and outer peripheries and the identification of relevant policies as identified by ESPON project —'Inner Peripheries: national territories facing challenges of access to basic services of general interest' and ESPON Study 'Shaping new policies in specific types of territories in Europe: islands, mountains, sparsely populated and coastal regions'. The design of the workshop will also take into account the OECD study on Northern Sparsely Populated Areas which argues for more support for low density economies, refocused collaboration and the identification and exploitation of endogenous assets.

The workshop will take place in the framework of 'Nordregio Forum 2017: Nordic Cities—Connecting the Urban and the Rural'. Nordregio Forum is the annual meeting place for professionals and policymakers working with urban planning and regional development in the Nordic countries. This year, the forum explores the following questions: "How do we create stronger linkages between the urban and the rural parts of our regions? How can smaller cities take the lead within sustainable development? What makes them attractive? How can cities benefit from Nordic collaboration and export promotion?" Nordregio Forum 2017 includes sessions such as:

- Attractive cities: Green restructuring and competitiveness in the Nordic city regions. Cities as a framework for good life for all, focusing on small and medium sized cities in the Nordic region or
- Sustainable brownfield regeneration in Nordic and Baltic cities – Transforming contaminated land into urban districts and living areas

Format

The event will take place in the framework of 'Nordregio Forum 2017: Nordic Cities— Connecting the Urban and the Rural' but as a separate workshop in the afternoon of the second day (30th November).

Case Studies: Norway, Sweden and Finland

Input from ESPON Studies: PROTECT, SeGI, PURR —e.g. presentation of Notodden (Telemark Country, Norway) case study or Cesis District Council (Latvia) case study— and EDORA, and mainly PROFECY (Inner Peripheries: national territories facing challenges of access to basic services of general interest). Potential speaker Mr. John Moodie, a Senior Research Fellow at Nordregion, working on the project PROFECY.

Small table discussions to brainstorm key conclusions and recommendations.

Preliminary speakers all to be confirmed

- Speaker from Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014-2020
- CPMR – Baltic Sea Commission
- OECD - OECD Policy Analyst Chris McDonald
- ELARD - European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD) / FARNET

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Shorter document – Transnational observation- “Northern Europe: Outer and inner peripheries in Northern Europe”

Type of document: Trans-national observation

Language: English

Date: November 2017

Brief description

The topic of rural-urban relationships was tackled in a former ‘ESPON on the road’ report: Urban-Rural Relationships Including Migratory Movements. This document will be updated into a transnational observation focusing more specifically on the concept of outer and inner peripheries. Maps and data will be updated (if possible), e.g.: maps on rural-urban typologies, population developments, employment and GDP; new maps on accessibility (from ESPON policy brief *Shaping new policies in specific types of territories in Europe: islands, mountains, sparsely populated and coastal regions*). The document will include the latest data developed by ESPON project ‘Inner Peripheries’ and other relevant ESPON studies, and will tackle the following policy questions:

- How can remote, rural areas survive? How can SGI be provided at reasonable costs to remote areas? How can rural-urban business linkages be improved? What is the base of rural-remote economies in the future? How will companies located in such areas adapt to future changes? How can analytical territorial concepts, like these ones, being useful in policymaking?

3.3 Activity 3: Transnational grouping IV – Southern Europe – Transport and accessibility

TRANSNATIONAL GROUPING IV: SOUTHERN EUROPE	
Accessibility and transport as key drivers of development – How to strike a sustainable development	
Type of event:	Conference
Capacity:	80/100
Date:	3 rd October 2017
Location:	Rome
Targeted audience:	National and regional spatial planning policy makers and practitioners, implementing authorities, regional and local policy makers, university academics; particularly Ministries and agencies for transport and infrastructure
Language	English and Italian with simultaneous interpretation (<i>tbc</i>)
Policy process / policy needs	
<p>Policy processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italy: 1) National Operational Programme on Infrastructures and Networks 2020; 2) Strategy for Transport Infrastructures and Logistics (December 2016); 3) National guidelines for port cities spatial planning and land sea systemic integration (2017) • Romanian Project for Government (2017-2020), priority “efficient interconnection of transport and development of infrastructure” <p>Policy needs (as expressed by the Italian ECP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of sustainable strategic integrated transport related to specific types of territories (islands, mountain, inner and marginalised peripheries, EU border regions, etc.) • Importance of unified/unique transport scenario in Italy and in the Southern of Europe for increasing the Territorial Cohesion and synergy with the competitiveness • Crucial role of port cities and port large areas both in the framework of the new Med-Italian Strategy and in the macro-regional strategy (Adriatic and Ionian) towards the Blue Growth • Accessibility and transport as part of touristic attractiveness and regional economic development • Focus on the Mezzogiorno region 	
Targeted ESPON tools and projects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESPON 2013 TRACC - TRansport ACCessibility at regional/local scale and patterns in Europe • ESPON 2013 - MA-led projects 3.4 –Tools: Update of maps: Travel time matrices on road, rail, air, and multimodal for 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2014 • ESPON 2013 ET2050 -Territorial scenarios and vision for Europe. • ESPON 2006 - Territorial impact of EU transport and TEN policies. Latest updates on scenarios on potential accessibility by road, air, rail, and multimodal • ESPON 2013 - MA-led projects 3.4 –Tools: Update of maps: Travel time matrices on road, 	

rail, air and multimodal for 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2014

- ESPON 2013 ESaTDOR - Territorial Dynamics in Europe Regions Integrating Land and Sea
- ESPON Observation n.8: Regions Integrating Land and Sea 2013;
- ESPON policy brief 'Shaping new policies in specific types of territories in Europe: islands, mountains, sparsely populated and coastal regions'

Description of the event

Aim and rationale

Transport policy, access and mobility are staple aspects of spatial planning. Transport planning is also a function of wider EU policies which are being discussed now such as future Cohesion Policy. Accessibility questions also revolve around transport type and options, land-use and individual need.

Good accessibility and connectivity is one of the most crucial factors in deciding on a location for economic activities. This leads to the fact that fast, relatively cheap, reliable but also sustainable freight and passenger transport, has become one of the essential prerequisites for the competitiveness of regions and regional economic development.

EU policy is now moving towards (1) higher efficiency of the transport system, (2) low-emission alternative energy for transport, and (3) low- and zero emission vehicles. In addition, horizontal enablers such the Energy Union strategy, research and innovation, industrial and investment policy, the Digital Single Market. Strategies and the skills agenda will support this transformation.

The TRACC project will be used to outline and update their innovative results which can support the policy development in the field of transport and accessibility improvement, territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion. The conference will open up a discussion and provide recommendations on how policy makers can exploit links amongst accessibility needs, local, macro-regional and pan-European strategies.

Main point of the event:

- ESPON rationale on accessibility and infrastructures
- ESPON thematic projects on accessibility and infrastructures
- Italian national strategy in the framework of the EU and Southern policy context
- Case studies
- Key questions on policy needs
- discussion

Format

This conference will be developed with reference to the selected ESPON projects as well as case studies from Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria and Romania (to be confirmed)

Preliminary speakers to be confirmed

Italian stakeholders: experts/responsible people participating in the development of the Italian 'Infrastructures and Logistics Strategy' and the 'Ports Guidelines'

- TRT person (Italian partner) for TRACC Project
- CREA person (Italian partner) for Prophecy project

Potential preliminary speakers:

- Mr Graziano Delrio, Italian Minister of Infrastructures (tbc)
- Dr Vincenzo Donato, Head of Cohesion Policy Dept., Presidency of Italian Council of Ministers (tbc)

Round table:

Chair: Prof. Maria Prezioso, ECP Italia and High Level Council of Public Works (under the Ministry of Infrastructure)

Panellists:

- Mr. Alexandru Rusu, Iasi University (RO) suggested by Romanian ECP
- Carolina de Carvalho Cantergiani, ESPON CP Spain
- Other speakers from the Southern area

ESPON projects and case studies by Italian ECP with ECPs members from South countries

Political Discussion with governmental responsible members from South countries

References

http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_ESPON2013Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/tracc.html

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/studies_en

file:///C:/Users/director/Downloads/transport_en.pdf

https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/themes/strategies/news/doc/2016-07-20-decarbonisation/com%282016%29501_en.pdf

Shorter document – Transnational observation – “Southern Europe: Accessibility and connectivity in Southern Europe, including special annex on maritime accessibility”

Type of document:	Transnational observation
Language:	English
Date:	October 2017

Brief description

As supporting document of the event described above, a transnational observation would be produced compiling relevant data and maps from ESPON reports TRACC (Transport Accessibility at regional/local scale and patterns in Europe), ESATDOR (European Seas and Territorial Development, Opportunities and Risks), ET20150 (Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe) as well as the recently published *Shaping new policies in specific types of territories in Europe: islands, mountains, sparsely populated and coastal regions*. Given the importance of the topic, the document could include a targeted annex or section compiling relevant ESPON data on maritime accessibility in the Mediterranean sea basin.

3.4 Posters

TNO team will produce 6-8 posters in 2017. The major events (conferences, workshops and seminars) and the training sessions will be supported with two types of posters:

- **Thematic posters.** TNO team will commission the production of thematic posters (four posters, one per event). These posters (A1 format) will be aligned with the events (conferences, workshops and seminars, and training sessions). They will use ESPON research results, and maps, coherent with, and linked to, the topic of each event.
- **Follow-up posters.** Based on former successful experiences of the TNO team, a poster will be produced after each event (four posters, one per event). The follow-up posters in A1 format will summarise the results of, and the lessons learnt during, the event, illustrating the learning journey.

3.5 Timeline

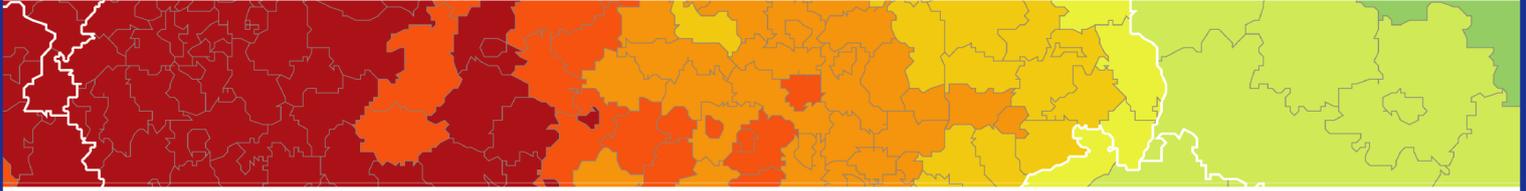
	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
TGI		C1+TO+P		
TGII			S1+TB+P	
TGII			W1+TO+P	

Table 2: Indicative timeline of events and shorter documents for 2017

Legend: C: Conference, W: Workshop, S: Seminar, T: Training session, E-L: E-learning course

Legend: TB: Transnational Brief, TO: Transnational Observation, P: Poster.

TGI Central Europe
 TGII Northern Europe
 TGIII Western Europe
 TGIV Southern Europe



ESPON 2020 – More information

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