

Transmec was for NWE programme members a bit like the song of Paul Simon called “50 ways to leave your lover” but then the other way around. It was more “15 ways to fall in love with ESPON maps and data”.

Transmec provide 15 operational applications of using ESPON data and maps to analyse, steer and improve the outcome and implementation of the NWE transnational cooperation Programme.

Just for those not too familiar with the INTERREG world: NWE is an almost 400 m€ subsidy programme for projects that want to collaborate on innovation, environment and inclusion. The geography covered is UK, Ireland, BeNeLux, big parts of Germany and France.

I said: 15 ways to put our outcomes against the territorial data of ESPON.

For instance an analysis is mentioned of which types of partners on which topic in which area.

Also overlaying ESPON maps with NWE actions and investments thematically, zooming in or out, comparing in time, putting the outcomes of NWE in the bigger EU context etc

The examples you can see in the report are by now a bit obsolete, since they come from the 1999 – 2006 Programme period mostly and the Transmec project was already completely finalised in 2011, when real results from the 2007 – 2013 period were just starting to get visible.

But certainly it inspired many people in the Programme to ‘do more’ with ESPON.

As a result our Programme area was one of the in-depth pilots of the Factsheet exercise of the TerriEvi project you will hear about in the next session.

But just to give you two concrete examples how this hunger for more Territorial substantiated decision making has influenced the thinking.

On risks from Climate change both the 1999-2006 and the 2007–2013 Programmes have invested big parts of the money in projects doing adaptation measures. And overlying the NWE investments on ESPON maps you can see it happened in the right places, where risks are high.

If you look at the current maps of the ESPON project Climate, one can see that the risks in NWE are still high. However if you overlay that with the capacity of all layers of society to react, the resulting vulnerability is not very high in NWE anymore and only a few coastal areas still colour red. Highest vulnerability is now shown in the South of Europe. On the basis of big investments in the past and the fact that the vulnerability has decreased the MS from NWE decided to put more effort in mitigation and less in adaptation.

Another example is the use of the data from the ESPON project KIT: process innovation in Blue Collar regions could have a negative impact on jobs. In NWE we have two or three of such Blue Collar regions and it could be imagined that MS would say: we don’t want this kind of innovation there. MS decided not to make this a strict condition in the project selection. However during the project development and implementation it is decided to carefully check the impact on jobs for each project.

Well you see, NWE collectively learned how to “love ESPON” in a pragmatic way!