

// ESPON Seminar

Territorial Cohesion Post 2020: Integrated Territorial Development for Better Policies

30 - 31 May 2018 // Sofia, Bulgaria

InterContinental Sofia // 4, Narodno Sabranie Sq.

Context and objective

The ESPON seminar “Territorial Cohesion post 2020: Integrated Territorial Development for Better Policies” is organised in cooperation with the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council in the framework of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme, which aims to support policy development for promoting territorial cohesion and harmonious development of the European territory.

The objective of the seminar is to discuss ESPON territorial evidence and provide new insights for policy-making addressing the key topics surrounding current policy debates. The main theme of the seminar is territorial cohesion in post 2020 planning period. Amidst the ongoing debate on the future of EU policies, regions and cities argue for a stronger territorial dimension in order to achieve better impacts on the development of different places around Europe. The seminar programme is designed to gather insights and seek answers on how different policies and planning tools can improve a direction towards more integrated and inclusive territorial development. ESPON publications “The Territorial Dimension of Future Policies” and “Governance, Planning and Financial Tools in Support of Polycentric Development” that synthesize the most recent ESPON research results as well as the first outputs of the European Territorial Reference Framework activity will feed the debate.

Furthermore, the seminar will provide insights to the newest ESPON evidence on many of the topics related to the territorial cohesion debate regarding migration, labour market, public services, climate change, spatial planning, governance and others.

The seminar programme consists of a mix of high profile key note speeches, panel discussions, interactive policy labs and workshops. An audience interaction tool will be used to crowd-source the questions from the audience and actively engage the participants in steering the discussions in order to ensure that they are tailor-made to fit the stakeholder demand for developing and implementing new policies. Participants will be encouraged to vote on the most relevant questions and topics, which will generate real-time insights on key issues through live polling of the audience.

The seminar targets policy makers, stakeholders, practitioners, scientists and experts, who are interested in understanding the development challenges and potential of their territory in a wider context and implementing policies “on the ground” and how ESPON evidence can support European policy processes on territorial issues.

Programme

Tuesday // 29 May

19:00 Welcome Reception at the InterContinental Sofia hotel

Wednesday // 30 May

08:30 **Registration and coffee**

09:30

Welcome and opening

- Denitsa Nikolova, Deputy Minister, Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
- Ilona Raugze, Director of ESPON EGTC

10:00

Towards a stronger territorial dimension of future policies

The plenary session is designed to discuss opportunities for strengthening the territorial dimension of future policies on the basis of the first results from the ESPON research activity *Towards a European Territorial Reference Framework* and ESPON publication on the territorial dimension of future policies. It will serve as an inspiration for further discussions during the seminar.

Moderator: Karen Coleman, journalist and broadcaster, former BBC foreign correspondent

Keynote

Place-based approach, Fabrizio Barca, author of the Barca report and former state-minister, Italy

Debate with the audience

Presentations:

- Towards a European Territorial Reference Framework (ETRF), Jacek Szlachta, Chairman of the ETRF Strategic Advisory Forum and Andreu Ulied, Mcrit
- Territorial dimension of future policies: ESPON insights and policy advice, Ilona Raugze, ESPON EGTC

Debate with the audience

12:00

End of the plenary session

12:15

Family picture

12:30

Lunch

13:30

Parallel policy labs: discussion on Post 2020 Investment priorities

7th Cohesion Report has pointed out that future cohesion investments should be focused on social inclusion, employment, skills, innovation, climate change, energy transition. These topics will be explored in dedicated policy labs, discussing the latest results from the latest ESPON projects and policy briefs.

Policy Lab 1: Governance, planning and financial tools in support of polycentric development (discussion based on the same-titled ESPON policy brief)

Moderator: Maria Buhigas, Urban-Facts

- Presentation of the policy brief: Ilona Raugze, Director of ESPON EGTC

Panel delegates from:

- Zeljka Zgaga, DG REGIO

- Giancarlo Cotella, Polytechnic University of Turin, ESPON COMPASS and ReSSI projects
- Lukáš Makovský, Prague Institute of Planning and Development, ESPON SPIMA project

Policy lab 2: Social inclusion and employment

Moderator: Eugen Antalovsky, Urban Innovation Vienna

Panel delegates:

- Andreea Pop, ICON-INSTITUT, ESPON YUTRENDS project
- Manuela Samek Lodovici, Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale, ESPON New Employment Dynamics project
- Andrew Copus, the James Hutton Institute, ESPON PROFECY project
- Jim Dillon, chief executive and leader, Scarborough Borough Council, UK

Policy lab 3: Sustainable regions: circular economy, energy transition and green infrastructure

Moderator: Marjan van Herwijnen, ESPON EGTC

Panel delegates:

- Bernd Schuh, ÖIR, ESPON LOCATE project
- Gemma Garcia Blanco, Tecnalía, ESPON GRETA project
- Carlos Tapia Garcia, Tecnalía, ESPON CIRCTER project
- Georgi Simeonov, Regional Energy Agency of Pazardjik, ESPON LOCATE case study
- Blanka Bartol, MC Slovenia, PST member of GRETA
- Igor Kos, Institute WCYCLE Maribor, Urban Partnership on Circular Economy

15:00 *Coffee break*

15:30 **Panel: Cross-sectoral integration:**

Policy lab rapporteurs convey messages from the policy labs, giving inputs for the panel discussion on the need to embed social, economic and environmental aspects in planning and governance

Moderator: Karen Coleman, journalist and broadcaster, former BBC foreign correspondent

Rapporteurs:

- Gavin Daly, ESPON EGTC, Policy lab 1 rapporteur
- Laurent Frideres, ESPON EGTC, Policy lab 2 rapporteur
- Michaela Gensheimer, ESPON EGTC, Policy lab 3 rapporteur

Panel discussion:

- Petr Osvald, Chair of the COTER, European Committee of the Regions
- Åsa Karlsson Björmarker, member of the municipal council in Växjö (SE) and chair of the European Executive Board of the Local Governments for Sustainability, ICLEI
- Jose Valanta, Director of Business Development of the city of Vantaa, representative of the Six City Strategy (6Aika)
- Sebastian Hyzyk, senior economist at the European Investment Bank

17:30 *End of the programme for day 1*

Thursday // 31 May

08:30 **Late registration**

09:00 **Workshops (in parallel): Evidence-based policy making - exploring the practical side of the path towards integrated territorial development**

Workshop 1: Measuring effectiveness of integrated territorial strategies and investments

Discussion based on the ESPON Policy brief on indicators for integrated territorial development

Moderator: Zintis Hermansons, ESPON EGTC

- Presentation of the policy brief: Zintis Hermansons, ESPON EGTC

Panel delegates:

- Martin Ferry, European Policies Research Centre
- Pauline Plagnat, University of Geneva
- Sabine Stölb, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure of Luxembourg
- Radu Necsuliu, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration of Romania

Workshop 2: Latest updates of the ESPON tools – a practical help to policy makers

The workshop will explore the latest updates of the ESPON tools: such as the new ESPON Database portal and the upgraded ESPON TIA tool.

Moderator: Martin Gauk, ESPON EGTC

Panel delegates:

- Marjan van Herwijnen, ESPON EGTC
- Stefan Obkircher, ESPON ACTAREA project
- Hy Dao, University of Geneva, ESPON Database team
- Bernd Schuh, ÖIR, ESPON TIA tool
- Eleftherios Stavropoulos, DG REGIO

Workshop 3: Strategic programming, territorial monitoring and impact assessment – how can ESPON support stakeholders?

The workshop brings together evidence and tools useful for monitoring development at cross-border, transnational and macro-regional scale.

Moderator: Sandra Di Biaggio, ESPON EGTC

Panel delegates:

- Efrain Larrea, Mcrit, ESPON European and macro-regional territorial monitoring tool
- Roman Seidl, ÖIR, ESPON Territorial Impact Assessment for cross-border cooperation
- Erich Dallhammer, ÖIR, ESPON Territorial Evidence Support for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes
- Valeriya Angelova, Eurostat

Stakeholders:

- Odd Godal, European Commission
- Talis Linkaits, VASAB
- Ivaylo Stoyanov, Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
- Julia Wengert, Joint Secretariat of the INTERREG A programme Germany – the Netherlands

10:30 *Networking with coffee and tea*

11:00 **Presentations of the ongoing ESPON Targeted Analyses**

Cross-border and macro-regional integration, healthcare, protected areas and migration are among the challenges debated in the 7th Cohesion Report. New ESPON Targeted Analyses seek to provide a better understanding of the territorial dimension of these challenges.

Moderator: Eugen Antalovsky, Urban Innovation Vienna

- **ESPON Alps 2050**
Tobias Chilla, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
- **ESPON migration and refugee flows**
Stefano Bianchini, University of Bologna
- **ESPON LinkPas**
Maria Prezioso, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”
- **ESPON cross-border public services**
Sabine Zillmer, Spatial Foresight GmbH
- **ESPON future digital health**
Peter Varnai, Technopolis

12:00

ESPON Moving Forward

- Thiemo Eser, ESPON MA
- Ilona Raugze, ESPON EGTC

12:30

Themes of the Austrian and Romanian Presidencies

Moderator: Maria Duzova, Director of “Territorial Cooperation Management” Directorate, Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

- Roland Arbter, ESPON MC member (AT)
- Radu Necsuliu (tbc), ESPON MC member (RO)

12:45

Closure

- Maria Duzova, Director of “Territorial Cooperation Management” Directorate, Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
- Ilona Raugze, Director of ESPON EGTC

13:00

Farewell lunch