

ESPON Conference Week on Ageing

Monday 30 November – Friday 4 December 2020

DAY 1 / Monday 30 November 2020

Opening session

ESPON and the ACPA project

Dr. Wiktor Szydarowski, ESPON EGTC Director

Dear Vice-President Šuica, dear partners and stakeholders of the ESPON ACPA project,

Thank you very much for making this ESPON Conference Week on Ageing happen today, very glad to see that the joint effort of the project consortium, the ESPON EGTC and all people interested in the issue of ageing has come to fruition. And, I fully subscribe to the idea of a “Silver Deal”. We really need to turn the risk of ageing into an opportunity and launch a “Silver Deal”, just like the “Green Deal”.

ESPON is about European territorial evidence. We are an EU-funded programme that provides data, indicators, methodologies and policy recommendations. We help policy makers and stakeholders benchmark their region or city in Europe, identify new challenges and potentials and shape successful development policies for the future.

Since 2002 ESPON:

- Connects governments, researchers, and practitioners.
- Draws policy recommendations on how to cope with challenges and potentials for the European territories.
- Shows how cities, regions and countries perform.
- And, offers advice how to perform even better.

Through free data, knowledge and visuals for every interested stakeholder, ESPON supports policy makers on EU, national, regional or local level in seeing the development of their areas from a functional point of view, over the administrative borders.

Whatever the field you are working in, demography, migration, SMEs, youth unemployment, infrastructures, environmental issues, or the use of structural funds, ESPON provides the European territorial evidence produced by experts to support your decisions.

With ESPON you can also find new ideas: How other cities, regions, countries found solutions that your area is still struggling with? What European territories will look like in 20-30 years? Is Europe able to address the challenges cities, mountain areas, islands or metropolitan areas are facing in the era of globalization?

Plus, through ESPON you can access a vast pool of experts around Europe if you need further analyses, data or exchanges.

ESPON ACPA is one of the examples how we work with stakeholders in applying the territorial approach. Upon request of eight cities we have delivered a targeted analysis on Ageing Population and best practices how to respond to this challenge with place-based, needs-sensitive and well-timed policies.

We do know that many cities have developed age-friendly action plans based on the WHO's conceptual framework – with lots of exciting initiatives as a result. Yet, the evidence of these initiatives is relatively scattered. Therefore, ESPON fills the void by arranging an integrated overview of the challenges and good practices in the policies on ageing.

Welcome to the conference!