

Structure and Input

The peculiar distribution of responsibilities between the Belgian Federal State and its regions with regard to climate adaptation was the main starting point for this roundtable. After a presentation of ESPON research on natural hazards and SDG localization, we will start off with a short explanation of the three Belgian regions (Flanders, Brussels, and Wallonia), and how they intend to implement their adaptation programs/actions. In order to become as specific as possible, we will focus on three issues: drought, urban heat islands, and erosion.

Following this, representatives of neighbouring regions (The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Hauts-de-France) will reflect on these inputs, and provide their ideas on implementation and how to interact on the issues mentioned above. An overarching reflection will also be given by the BENELUX authority on this matter.

Agenda

13:30 - 14:30

Plenary Session

Opening by Zintis Hermansons (ESPON EGTC)

ESPON research on natural hazards and SDG localization

3 presentations of 15 min each:

1. Urban Heat Island Effect: presented by Etienne Aulotte Brussels
2. Droughts: presented by Griet Verstraeten of Flanders
3. Water/erosion: presented by Julien Hoyaux of Wallonia

14:30 - 15:15

Reflections by (neighbouring) regions (10 minutes each)

- Luxembourg (Bruno Alves)
- The Netherlands (Willem Jan Goossen)
- Région Hauts-de-France (Félix Vève)
- BENELUX (Peter Janssens)

15:15 - 15:30

Break

15:30 - 16:30

Roundtable about mutual learning effects/new cross-border agenda

Moderated by Prof. Garri Raagmaa (University of Tartu)

16:30

Conclusions

by Prof. Luuk Boelens