

ESPON BSR-TeMo

Territorial Monitoring for the Baltic Sea Region

Scientific Platform and Tools Project 2013/3/9

Final Report | Version 14/3/2013

Part C | Scientific Report

Volume C10 | Stakeholder involvement



This report presents the final results of a “Scientific Platform and Tools” Project conducted within the framework of the ESPON 2013 Programme, partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

The partnership behind the ESPON Programme consists of the EU Commission and the Member States of the EU27, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Each partner is represented in the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

This report does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members of the Monitoring Committee.

Information on the ESPON Programme and projects can be found on www.espon.eu

The web site provides the possibility to download and examine the most recent documents produced by finalised and ongoing ESPON projects.

This basic report exists only in an electronic version.

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1. Stakeholder involvement

The TPG has maintained a continuous dialogue with the ESPON BSR-TeMo's stakeholders, primarily through the meetings with the Steering Committee (consisting of representatives from VASAB, CBSS, ESPON CU and DG Regio) where project advances have been discussed. Obviously the stakeholders' formal comments on the project deliveries (Inception, Interim Report and Draft Final Report) have also been appreciated and taken into consideration during the project process.

1.1. Stakeholder work shop

A work shop was held in the early stages of the development of the monitoring system in order to identify the monitoring needs of policy makers and stakeholders in the BSR. The aim was to analyse the need for specific domains and indicators within the monitoring system when stakeholders want to monitor policy progress and territorial development.

Before the work shop, the TPG had developed concepts for relevant policy domains, potential specific indicators, visualisation of indicators and trends, and the desired testing to be carried out. These concepts were presented to and discussed with the work shop stakeholders.

The monitoring needs in this sense are not only a question of indicator selection, but also of how to present and analyze the indicators. The workshop was thus discussing questions like how to present the indicators, how to benchmark them, how to standardize them and how to compare them, which and how to use thresholds or target values, and how to deal with time series data.

With regard to the testing of the monitoring system that was to be carried out as part of the TeMo project, the work shop provided valuable input from the stakeholders as to which type of testing they would consider interesting and relevant. This input included a request to include the Russian/Belarussian areas in the cases to show that the monitoring system makes it possible to monitor the whole BSR; that thematic tests were of particular interest; and that a cross-cutting issue, such as territorial cohesion would be valuable test of the usefulness of the monitoring system.

Furthermore the work shop provided an opportunity to discuss future dissemination options as well as address specific open questions such as the need for translation of material into Russian.

1.2. Dialogue on Russian data availability

An important component of the TeMo monitoring system is its ability to include indicators and data from Russia and Belarus in addition to the EU countries and Norway. Therefore particular attention has been given to the Russian and Belarussian data availability throughout the duration of the project.

One major issue are methodological differences and thus, members of the TPG met with Russian experts, including researchers from the Leontief Centre in St. Petersburg, experts from Petrostat, and ministerial representatives to discuss this matter in depth and to point to possible solutions. Following this meeting, the TPG partner responsible for Russian and Belarussian data collection also kept in email contact with Petrostat.

Furthermore the TPG has established good contacts to both ROSSTAT and BELSTAT to ease the data collection.

Towards the end of the project, an opportunity arose to present the TeMo monitoring system to participants at the Statistics conference, held by the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) and Petrostat, in a session called "International comparison of statistical indicators in Russia and EU: successes, challenges and solutions". In addition to dissemination of the TeMo experiences on this issue, it also provided an excellent opportunity to discuss with experts from RAS and Petrostat on alternative data sources (e.g. UniSIS database - Unified Interdepartmental Statistical Information System) and options for the future coherence between Russian and EU indicators.

1.3. Steering Committee meetings

1st Steering Committee Meeting, 20 March 2012, Rostock, Germany.

Participation: Lead partner.

2nd Steering Committee Meeting, 20 June 2012, Potsdam, Germany.

Participation: Lead partner.

3rd Steering Committee Meeting, 24 October 2012, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.

Participation: Lead partner.

4th Steering Committee Meeting, 22 January 2013, Oslo, Norway.

Participation: Lead partner, Partner 2, 4 and 5.

5th Steering Committee Meeting, 24 September 2014, Helsinki, Finland.

Participation: Lead partner, Partner 3 and 5.

1.4. Other stakeholder meetings

Workshop with the Steering Committee

Discussion on domains, indicators, visualisation, testing/case studies and dissemination activities. 21 June 2012, Potsdam, Germany.

Participation: Lead partner, partner 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Meeting with the Russian Statistical Experts

Determining methodology and sources for Russian and Belarusian data.

17 January 2013, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.

Participation: Partner 5.

Brainstorming workshop with VASAB members and the ESPON CU

Discussion on future institutionalization of the monitoring system.

29 April 2013, Stockholm, Sweden.

Participation: Partner 1 and 4.

Meeting with Russian Statistical Experts

Presentation of the TeMo indicators and the availability of Russian data for these. Discussion on alternative sources and future coherence between Russian and European indicators.

29 January 2014, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.

Participation: Lead partner.

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The ESPON 2013 Programme is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. It shall support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory.

ISBN 978-2-919777-59-4