

ESPON BSR-TeMo

Territorial Monitoring for the Baltic Sea Region

Scientific Platform and Tools Project 2013/3/9

Draft Final Report | Version 30/06/2013

Part C | Scientific Report

Volume C7 | Handbook



This report presents the draft 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.

© ESPON & Nordregio and Polish Academy of Sciences, 2013.

Printing, reproduction or quotation is authorised provided the source is acknowledged and a copy is forwarded to the ESPON Coordination Unit in Luxembourg.

List of authors

Polish Academy of Sciences
Piotr Rosik

Table of Contents

7.1. General information	1
7.2. The Handbook structure	1

7.1. General information

The Handbook will constitute a short (**ten to twenty pages**) summary publication targeted to politicians and policy makers presenting the territorial monitoring system for the BSR.

The Handbook is meant to guide the users of the monitoring system both on how to use the territorial monitoring system and how to interpret the results.

The handbook will be published in the form of a **pdf-document** that enables easy distribution of the Handbook to interested users via both email and relevant web pages.

It will be produced in **English** and also translated into **Russian**.

It will supplement the other two documents, the User Manual to the Presentation Tool and the Technical Specification, by being an introduction to the territorial monitoring system as a whole and by outlining why the territorial monitoring system should be used in policymaking.

The development of the Handbook is scheduled to run until the end of the TeMo project period and the finished version of the Handbook will be delivered with the Final Report.

7.2. The Handbook structure

The different parts of the BSR TeMo monitoring system that will be introduced in an easy, non-technical language are:

- domains and indicators
- indicator analyses
- target values
- trends
- spatial patterns
- maps and descriptive texts
- application and demonstration examples

The Handbook will consist of **six parts (chapters)** answering **six questions**: For whom?, Why?, Where?, What is the method?, What? and When?.

Each chapter will start with a short introduction and will consist of one to two pages. It will be a mix of easy-to-read **two-columned text** and colorful **visualisation elements (maps, charts, graphics)**.

Further works on the details of the Handbook's layout (page margins, type styles and fonts, spacing, indentation, headers) are in progress. However, a very preliminary draft of an image describing a suggestion for a layout has been proposed. The image includes some elements (two-columned text and an introduction) from the benchmarked Handbook of Territorial Diversity (ESPON TeDi) (fig. 1).

3. Where? ...

For what area was the monitoring system created?

Geographically, the monitoring system covers the entire Baltic Sea Region area including Denmark, Northern Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Norway, North-West Russia and Belarus. A strength of the BSR TeMo monitoring system is that it covers, in dynamic terms, not only the EU countries but also countries neighbouring the EU. It is based on the NUTS classification (with the lowest possible level of aggregation depending on the availability of data for the different indicators).

NUTS-3 and NUTS-2 levels are identified as the main geographical scales to work at in ESPON TeMo.

NUTS3 and NUTS2 levels in the Baltic Sea Region

Country	NUTS2	NUTS3
Belarus	Oblasts	7 Rayons (LW0254)
Denmark	Regioner	5 Landstede
Estonia	County	1 County of Harjumaa
Finland	Storallmen / Storomraden	5 Maakunnat / Länningar
Germany	Regierungsbezirke	8 Kreise / Kreise / Städte
Latvia	County	1 Regionis
Lithuania	County	1 Apskritys
Norway	Regions	7 Fylker
Poland	Województwa	16 Provinces
Russia	Oblasts	7 Rayons (LW0254)
Sweden	Länaraden	8 Län



There are huge differences in the number of regions between the BSR countries, both at NUTS-2 and NUTS-3 level. This basic drawback of the current NUTS classification cannot be amended by ESPON TeMo, since many datasets are provided based upon this classification. Therefore, the project will attempt to find additional data at LAU-2 or raster level

Generalization level: the standard ESPON shapefiles provided by the ESPON Database project are highly generalized. This generalization was introduced with the view to produce clear and easy-to-read maps. For GIS analyses, the project team seeks for alternative input layers of administrative boundaries with higher resolution.

Seamless layers: so far the standard ESPON shapefiles provided by the ESPON Database project do not include regional boundaries for Belarus and Russia. The task for ESPON TeMo was to generate seamless layers of administrative boundaries (NUTS3, NUTS2 and NUTS0) for the study area.

Fig. 1. Image of the expected layout of BSR TeMo Handbook

The BSR TeMo Handbook has to answer the following questions:

1. For whom? ... Who is the addressee and user of the BSR TeMo monitoring system?
2. Why? ... Why was the monitoring system created, and what is its purpose?
3. Where? ... For what area was the monitoring system created?
4. What is the method? ... What methodological approach is the most appropriate for research using the monitoring system?
5. What? ... What exactly is to be investigated within the framework of the monitoring system?
6. When? ... For what periods the monitoring system can (is recommended to) be created?

1. For whom? ... Who is the main addressee and user of the BSR TeMo monitoring system (and **who** is the main addressee of the Handbook itself)?

Reasons for asking the 'FOR WHOM?' question within the structure of the Handbook. The Handbook has the following target audience: practitioners, policy makers, and other parties interested in using the monitoring system. Because the Handbook will be translated into Russian, this will also improve the opportunities

for reaching a wider audience of users in the Baltic Sea Region, including also an audience in the countries neighbouring the European Union, i.e. Russia and Belarus. Therefore it is worth indicating at the beginning of the Handbook who is the potential addressee of the BSR TeMo system as a whole, because for many users the Handbook will constitute the first contact with the monitoring system.

As a consequence, **the first part** of the Handbook should include information about the target audience of the pdf file, which corresponds to the persons potentially interested in the BSR TeMo system. The potential addressees and users of the **BSR TeMo monitoring system** include:

- **policy makers**, decision makers responsible for cohesion policy – the system will offer opportunities for dynamic analysis of indicators for the entire BSR area; for policy makers of different levels, ranging from local authorities, i.e. municipalities, cities and regions, through national agencies, to EU-level officials, e.g. of the European Commission and individual DGs;
- **international organisations** (e.g. the VASAB-cooperation and the HELCOM organization), and local cross-border associations (Euroregions);
- **the ESPON community** (including stakeholders, researchers and planners);
- **institutions** implementing, managing and evaluating actions taken within the framework of the EU's cohesion policy;
- **researchers** dealing with territorial cohesion, including experts working with GISs, data bases and preoccupied e.g. with the question of the EU "neighbourhood", etc.;
- **novices**, including students, for whom the BSR TeMo system will provide opportunities for getting acquainted with the cohesion indicators in this part of Europe.

2. Why? ... Why was the BSR TeMo monitoring system created and what is its purpose? (and **why** was the Handbook created)?

Reasons for asking the 'WHY?' question in the structure of the Handbook.

The Handbook should outline the objectives of the BSR TeMo system, because it can be considered an introduction to the monitoring system. The purpose of the **Handbook** is to guide the users and to present the monitoring system in an easily understood manner, enabling the users to extract relevant information for their individual needs. The individual information needs will be identified on the basis of convergence between the objectives of the project and system user needs.

The **second part** of the Handbook will describe briefly the main goal and assumptions of the BSR TeMo system. **The BSR TeMo system** was created to develop a fully operational indicator based system for quantitative and qualitative monitoring of territorial development in the BSR and to ensure that the monitoring modules (domains and indicators) are relevant to the potential users. BSR TeMo is designed to select such indicators as address the general policy objectives and reflect the territorial challenges of the BSR. It provides an image

of the BSR region and territorial cohesion, both in the short and long term. It is also a peculiar benchmark allowing for the future creation of analogous monitoring systems in other (macro) regions of the EU. The system is also an instrument for supporting so-called place based policy, as it can directly support the territorial approach to cohesion policy by supplying information on the endogenous potential of towns and regions. This allows the specification of priorities in the area of potential intervention within the framework of cohesion policy. The BSR TeMo system may provide the basis for appropriate thematic concentration of support. The monitoring will also provide auxiliary material facilitating the appropriate selection of indicators, e.g. under operational programmes – both sectoral and regional. Thanks to territorial continuity within the BSR, the TeMo monitoring system may also be useful in setting objectives, and then evaluating neighbourhood programmes between countries of the European Union, as well as relationships with external partners (Russia, Belarus).

3. Where? ... For what area was the monitoring system created?

Reasons for asking the ‘WHERE?’ question in the structure of the Handbook. The Handbook should specify the territorial coverage of the research, i.e. the BSR TeMo area, with an appropriate cartographic visualisation (showing also the division into territorial units). Considering the objectives of the monitoring system, the Handbook will specify: its transferability to similar monitoring systems in other Macro Regions of Europe, mainly those including non-EU countries as an integral part (e.g. Mediterranean countries).

The **third part** of the Handbook will define the area where the monitoring system functions. **Geographically**, the monitoring system covers the entire BSR area including Denmark, Northern Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Norway, North-West Russia and Belarus. A strength of the BSR TeMo monitoring system is that it covers, in dynamic terms, not only the EU countries but also countries neighbouring the EU. It is based on the NUTS classification (with the lowest possible level of aggregation depending on the availability of data for the different indicators).

4. What method? ... What methodological approach is the most appropriate for research using the monitoring system?

Reasons for asking the ‘WHAT METHOD?’ question within the structure of the Handbook. After describing the objectives of research and visualising the research area, the Handbook should present the research methodology, including an appropriate chart/model showing the logic of the research in the context of cohesion policy.

The **fourth part** of the Handbook will outline the **methodological approach** applied in the BSR TeMo system. The monitoring system aims to select appropriate and policy-oriented indicators (taking into consideration such important strategic documents as VASAB LTP, the EU BSR Strategy, the EU 2020 Strategy, the EU Cohesion Policy and the Territorial Agenda 2020), which also reflect the three main territorial cohesion challenges of the BSR, which are the east-west divide, the north-south divide, and the urban-rural divide.

5. What? ... What exactly is to be studied within the framework of the monitoring system? How is the system organised? What investigative areas have been chosen?

Reasons for asking the 'WHAT?' question in the structure of the Handbook. The question is interrelated with the 'when?' and 'where?' questions that follow. The Handbook should contain a table with domains and indicators, distinguishing the headline indicators and presenting their interpretation. The Handbook should briefly introduce the test cases including: overall benchmarking ability, thematic scope: migration, geographic scope: cross-border areas and cross-cutting issues: Territorial cohesion.

In **the fifth part**, the Handbook will include a **description of** the Presentation Tool. Furthermore, the Handbook will outline how the indicators can be interpreted, and it will also summarise the case study testing of the monitoring system carried out during the TeMo project.

6. When? ... For what period the monitoring system can (is recommended to) be created?

Reasons for asking the 'WHEN?' question in the structure of the Handbook. The Handbook should stress the dynamic approach applied within the framework of BSR TeMo, which enables users to carry out comparative analyses in situations of crisis, both for EU countries and neighbouring countries, also in terms of the east-west divide, the north-south divide, and the urban-rural divide. With time, the possibility of carrying out dynamic analyses of phenomena relevant to territorial cohesion will become more and more useful, assuming that the system will be updated in the future.

The **sixth part** of the Handbook will provide a table with domains, indicators, and data available according to time series. The Handbook will include a **description of what data** is available for each indicator (**geographic scope** and **time series**).

Finally, the Handbook will state how the user can access the Presentation Tool.

www.espon.eu

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