



Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

Call for Competition

Dissemination of ESPON results among the scientific community

ESPON EGTC

24 June 2021

Implementation Framework: The Single Operation within the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme implemented by the ESPON EGTC. The ESPON 2020 Monitoring Committee approved the Single Operation on 20 November 2015. The Single Operation is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund via the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme.

1 General

1.1 Contracting authority

ESPON EGTC

4, Rue Erasme

L-1468 Luxembourg

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

1.2 Purpose

The ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme aims at promoting and fostering a European territorial dimension in development and cooperation by providing evidence, knowledge transfer and policy learning to public authorities and other policy actors at all levels. The main activity of ESPON lies in its research, that covers different aspects of territorial development across Europe. In doing so, it collects valuable data at national, regional and local levels as well as at functional levels.

The objective of this call for competition is to contract a maximum of **20 (twenty) early career researchers** (PhD and/or Postdoc students) to promote the uptake of ESPON territorial evidence within the scientific community.

1.3 Expiry date of the call for competition

Applications to the call for competition will be accepted until **31 August 2021**.

After the expiry date, all applications received will be evaluated and ranked. Selected researchers who scored as the top five ranked applications will be contacted to initiate a negotiated procedure.

ESPON EGTC will then announce closure of this call on the ESPON website.

Description of service requested

The ESPON Cooperation programme is keen to increase the attention of the scientific community to the issue of territorial evidence in policymaking. The ESPON EGTC hereby introduces a new scheme with an aim to contract early career European researchers to ensure a wider outreach of ESPON's evidence.

This activity shall contribute to developing the use of ESPON territorial evidence in their scientific work, manifested in papers presented at scientific conferences and/or published in scientific journals or books.

Papers and presentations developed throughout this activity shall be drafted in English and in one of the other official language of the EU. They shall aim at impactful scientific events and publications not only at European level but also within the different Member or Partner States of the ESPON Cooperation Programme.

1.5 Budget

The total estimated budget for this call is EUR 120,000 (excl. VAT), with a maximum amount of 6,000 EUR (excl. VAT) per contract and an estimated number of 20 researchers contracted. Selected applicants shall be remunerated as follows:

- Up to 4,000 UR for drafting and submitting a full research paper within 6 months after the award date. Payment shall be approved after review of the paper by ESPON EGTC and after any eventual comments and amendments requested by the reviewers are incorporated by the researcher.
- Up to 1,000 EUR for presenting the paper in a scientific conference.
- Up to 1,000 EUR for submitting the paper for publication to a scientific peer reviewed journal. Payment shall be approved after receiving proof of its submission.

2 Submission of applications

2.1 Conditions for applying

Applicants must make proof of being enrolled as a student in a PhD or Postdoctoral research programme offered by a university or any other higher education institution located in the countries of the ESPON Programme. For details, please consult the ESPON Programme website, www.espon.eu

2.2 Language and submission

All applications must be submitted in English language by e-mail to: tenders@espon.eu.

The subject line of the application must contain the reference *ESPON – Early Career Researchers*.

2.3 Documents to be provided

Interested parties should provide the following documents (in English):

- **Duly filled Annex 1: European Single Procurement Document (ESPD)**
Fill in the following sections **only**: Part I, Part II, Part III, Part VI;
- **CV** taking into account the selection criteria detailed at point 3.3. The ESPON EGTC strongly recommends submitting CVs in the EU CV format (Europass).
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- A **proposal** (2 pages, in total max. 800 words) which contains: i) an abstract of a scientific article, ii) information on the links to the thematic areas of research done by the ESPON 2020 Programme and iii) the targeted scientific event and/or journal (or other publishing format).

2.4 Processing of personal data

When processing your expression of interest, such data shall be processed pursuant Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation).

For more information, please consult the legal notice in the ESPON's website: <https://www.espon.eu/legal-notice>

3 Evaluation and award of contracts

3.1 General description of the procedure

Participation in this call is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the Treaties.

The contracting authority shall evaluate applications based on the exclusion, selection and award criteria described below and will contact the selected applicants to initiate a negotiated procedure.

Participation in this call for competition entails no obligation on the part of the contracting authority concerning the conclusion of contracts. Also, expenditure incurred in preparing and submitting applications is non-refundable.

3.2 Exclusion criteria

The economic operators shall be excluded from participation in this Call if:

- (a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of *res judicata*;
- (c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct;
- (d) they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- (e) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity.
- (f) they are subject to an administrative penalty for being guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in a procurement procedure or failing to supply information, or being declared to be in serious breach of their obligation under a contract covered by the budget.

Please be informed that the **ESPD** is a self-declaration by economic operators providing preliminary evidence replacing the certificates issued by public authorities or third parties. It is a formal statement by the economic operator that it is not in one of the situations in which economic operators shall or may be excluded; that it meets the relevant selection criteria and that, where applicable, it fulfils the objective rules and criteria that have been set out for the purpose of limiting the number of otherwise qualified candidates to be invited to participate. Its objective is to reduce the administrative burden arising from the requirement to produce a substantial number of certificates or other documents related to exclusion and selection criteria.

Selected economic operators to award the contract must provide original supporting documents. Economic operators, who do not fulfil the above-listed exclusion criteria or do not submit all the required documents, shall be excluded from participation.

Candidates shall also be excluded from the contract award process if they:

- a) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the ESPON EGTC or fail to supply this information.
- b) they have a conflict of interest in connection with the contract; a conflict of interest could arise in particular as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties or any other relevant connection or shared interest.

Candidates shall be excluded from a possible contract if they:

- a) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the ESPON EGTC or fail to supply this information.
- b) they have a conflict of interest in connection with the contract; a conflict of interest could arise in particular as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties or any other relevant connection or shared interest.

3.3 Selection criteria

In order to be eligible, applicants must be enrolled as a student in a PhD or Postdoctoral research programme offered by a university or any other higher education institution located in the countries of the ESPON Programme (EU 27 Member States, United Kingdom, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland).

In case of contracting, the applicant will need to present to the ESPON EGTC necessary proof (i.e. copies of certificates and diploma) to support information presented in the CV.

3.4 Award criteria

No	Qualitative award criteria	Weighting (maximum points)
1	<p>Quality and appropriateness of the proposed abstracts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • topicality: is the abstract addressing issues that are relevant for current and future territorial policies? • originality: is the prospective research paper going to bring new insights into the academic and policy debates? • Is the methodology proposed convincing? 	30

2	<p>ESPON relevance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how is ESPON research going to be used in the proposed paper? 	40
3	<p>Outreach prospects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is the proposal aiming at an already launched or announced event and/or journal / publisher’s call for papers? • b) is the research paper aiming at impactful scientific events / journals or books? 	30
	Total number of points	100

In order to guarantee a reasonable threshold of quality, offers that do not reach a minimum score of 50 points at the end of the technical evaluation will not be considered acceptable and will therefore be rejected.

3.5 Ex-post transparency

The result of this public procurement procedure (name of the service provider and subject of the tasks executed) shall be published on the ESPON EGTC website.

4 Attachments:

Annex 1: Application form: European Single Procurement Document

Annex 2: Draft contract