// ESPON Seminar

State of the European Territory

Digital Innovation Paving the Way for Territorial Cohesion

Epicenter
Mikonkatu 9
Helsinki, Finland

27-28.11.2019
// Context and objectives

The ESPON seminar “State of the European Territory: Digital Innovation Paving the Way for Territorial Cohesion” is organised in cooperation with the Finish Presidency of the EU Council in the framework of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme, which aims to support policy development for promoting territorial cohesion and harmonious development of the European territory.

The aim of the seminar is to provide new insights and discuss ESPON territorial evidence in policy-making by addressing the key topics surrounding the current policy debates and facilitate and support the discussions related to the new Territorial and Urban Agendas as well as post-2020 programming.

The first day will be dedicated to two new ESPON publications: the Report “The State of the European Territory” and the Policy Brief “Digital Innovation in Urban Areas: Solutions for Sustainable and Fluently Working Cities” and networking around ongoing ESPON activities.

- The “State of the European Territory” Report is a milestone publication for ESPON Programme and provides a comprehensive overview of the territorial development trends related to smarter, greener, more connected and more social Europe and bringing Europe closer to its citizens. The report synthesizes key evidence and policy messages coming from the ESPON activities.

- The “Policy Brief Digital Innovation in Urban Environments: Solutions for Sustainable and Fluently Working Cities” stems from the core theme of the Finnish Presidency. It will investigate how human centric innovation will increase quality of life and green development, while also accelerating economic growth.

The second day will build links between Urban Agenda Partnerships and ESPON evidence, focussing on four partnerships: digital transition, energy transition, circular economy and housing. In addition, it will give the participants an overview of future activities of ESPON Programme.

Through different presentations and interactive workshops participants will get an update of the latest ESPON evidence related to the research on digital transformation, circular and collaborative economy, small and medium sized enterprises, green infrastructure and ecosystem services, specific types of territories, urban-rural linkages, energy transition, migration, ageing and housing. In addition, the participants will get an insight to the main messages of the latest ESPON publications and events, tools and maps.

The seminar is aimed at policy makers, stakeholders, practitioners, scientists and experts who are interested in understanding the development challenges and potential of their territory in the context of post-2020 policy framework and programming, Territorial and Urban Agenda, with specific focus on horizontal themes such as governance and digital transformation and how ESPON evidence can support these processes.

// Programme in a nutshell

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3 easy steps to join the interactive debate

1. Open browser
2. Go to slidio.com
3. Enter event code ESPON

- Ask questions and upvote the ones you like
- Stay anonymous or attach your name to the question
- Share your thoughts and opinions by voting in live polls
// Wednesday, 27 November

8:15  Registration

9:00  Welcome and Opening
The Finnish Presidency and the ESPON Programme will welcome the participants and introduce the aims of the seminar and the programme.

// Marja-Riitta Pihlman, Director General, The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (FI)
// Ilona Raugze, Director, ESPON EGTC

9:30  Setting the Scene
Keynote speakers present the main messages of the ESPON Report “State of the European Territory” and the Policy Brief “Digital innovation in Urban Areas”.

// Terry Martin, Journalist, DW
// Samuel Stolton, Journalist, Euractiv

10:30  Coffee break

11:00  Plenary Debate
The panel debate will follow the opening session, discussing the key policy themes of the report horizontally through the perspective of digital transformation, quality of governance, investments, administrative capacity and general considerations and recommendations on supporting place-based approaches and the territorial dimension in the framework of the future Cohesion policy and the renewal of the Territorial Agenda.

// Markku Markkula, First Vice President, CoR
// Lambert van Nistelrooy, former MEP
// Juhana Rautiainen, Senior Specialist, The Ministry of the Environment (FI)
// Eva Malanikova/Marek Teplansky, EC (invited, tbc)

12:15  Family picture

12:30  Lunch

13:30  Workshops A-D: State of the European Territory
The parallel workshops will address the various chapters of the ESPON’s State of the European Territory Report: Smarter Europe, Greener Europe, More connected Europe and More Social Europe. Cross-cutting issues such as quality of governance, investments, administrative capacity will be discussed horizontally in each of the sessions.
Workshop A: Smarter Europe
This session will investigate how the growth of the knowledge economy and the emergence of new technologies shape labour market patterns and influence innovation creation and diffusion, digitalisation and entrepreneurship. The discussions among researchers and policy-makers will be sparked by a “Smarter Europe” chapter of the State of the European Territory Report (based on the ESPON SME and EMPLOY projects) and focused around the key observations and policy advice to support post-2020 programming and the renewal of the Territorial Agenda of the EU.
Moderator: tbc
// Rodica Burlacu, Civitta (RO), ESPON SoET
// Martyna Dreźniak, OIR (AT), ESPON SME
// Manuela Samek, IRS, (IT) ESPON EMPLOY Project (tbc)
// tbc
// tbc

Workshop B: Greener Europe
This session will focus on ecological connectivity and the development of ecosystem services. The discussions among researchers and policy-makers will be introduced by a “Greener Europe” chapter of the State of the European Territory Report (based on the ESPON GRETA and Alps 2050 projects) and focused around the key observations and policy advice to support post-2020 programming and the renewal of the Territorial Agenda of the EU.
Moderator: David Evers, ECP (NL)
// Claudiu Forgaci, TU Delft (NL), ESPON SoET
// Gemma García Blanco, Tecnalia (ES), ESPON GRETA
// Tobias Chilla, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (DE), ESPON Alps2050
// Mathilde Konstantopoulou, ESPON MC (EL)
// Martina Oblak-Pehnec, ESPON MC (HR)

Workshop C: More Connected Europe
This session will look how insularity, peripherality, remoteness, accessibility, vulnerability, attractiveness and lack of critical mass impact competitiveness, quality of life and sustainable growth. The discussions among researchers and policy-makers will be introduced by a “More connected Europe” chapter of the State of the European Territory Report (based on the ESPON BRIDGES and URRUC projects) and focused around the key observations and policy advice to support post-2020 programming and the renewal of the Territorial Agenda of the EU.
Moderator: Volker Schmidt-Steiwert, ESPON ECP (DE)
// Reinhold Stadler, Civitta (RO), ESPON SoET
// Hugo Poelman, European Commission
// Erik Gjersøen, Spatial Foresight (LU), ESPON BRIDGES
// Giancarlo Cotella, University of Torino (IT), ESPON URRUC
// Jan Edøy, ESPON MC (NO)

Workshop D: More Social Europe
This session will address vulnerable groups such as migrants and unemployed young people, who often face specific challenges, such as social exclusion and poor access to jobs, housing, social services, education and health care. The discussions among researchers and policy-makers will be fuelled by a “More Social Europe” chapter of the State of the European Territory Report (based on the ESPON MIGRARE and YUTRENDS projects) and focused around the key observations and policy advice to support post-2020 programming and the renewal of the Territorial Agenda of the EU.
Moderator: Aneta Zachová, Euractiv
// Calin Rus, Civitta (RO), ESPON SoET
// Iva Plasilova, VVA (IT) ESPON MIGRARE
// Andreea Pop, ICON-INSTITUT (DE), ESPON YUTRENDS
// Arni Naran, ESPON MC (UK) and PST Member YUTRENDS
// Sabine Stoelb, PST Member Quality of Life (invited, TBC)
// Angeliki Bouziani, MA European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (EL) (invited, TBC)

15:00 Coffee break
15:30 **Networking on New and Ongoing ESPON Activities**
This session will enable stakeholders and policy makers to learn about and discuss new and ongoing ESPON activities.

**Facilitator:** Volker Schmidt-Steiwert, ESPON ECP (DE)

**ESPON open data and tools for functional areas and sustainable development goals**
// Hy Dao, University of Geneva (CH), ESPON Database
// Roger Milego Agras, Autonomous University of Barcelona (ES), ESPON FUORE
// Paresa Markianidou, Technopolis, ESPON SDG

**Ex-ante territorial impact assessments**
**Facilitator:** Gretar Thor Eythorsson, ESPON ECP (IS)
// Bernd Schuh, ÖIR (AT), ESPON TIA

**Monitoring and visions for macro-regions**
// Efrain Larrea, MCRIT (ES), ESPON EMMS
// Luciane Aguiar Borges, Nordregio (SE), ESPON BT2050

**Land use, brownfield regeneration, natural disasters**
// David Evers, PBL (NL), ESPON SUPER
// Xavier Le Den, Ramboll, ESPON ENSURE
// Carolina Cantergiani, Tecnalia (ES), ESPON Natural Disasters

**Population ageing and shrinking**
**Facilitator:** Jutta Bissinger, ESPON ECP (LU)
// Petri Kahila, ESPON ESCAPE
// Erik van Ossenbruggen/Thijs Fikken, Ecorys, ESPON ACPA

**New methodologies: quality of life and tourism carrying capacity**
// Giorgia Galvini, Isinnova, ESPON QoL
// Roland Gaugitsch, ÖIR (AT), ESPON TOURISM

**New business and industry patterns**
**Facilitator:** Wolfgang Pichler, ESPON ECP (SE)
// Roberta Capello, Politecnico di Milano (IT), ESPON T4
// Lucas Porsch/Lison Rabuel, VVA (BE), ESPON SHARING (tbc)
// Valeria Fedeli, Politecnico di Milano (IT), ESPON MISTA
// Sandra Spule, Spatial Foresight (LU), ESPON BusDEV

17:00 **End of the programme for Day 1**

19:00 **Dinner**
// Thursday, 28 November

8:15  Registration

09:00  Workshops E-H: Linking ESPON and the Urban Partnerships

The purpose of the sessions is to link ESPON research to the Partnerships of the Urban Agenda to give further support to their implementation. The four parallel sessions aim to strengthen the synergies between ESPON evidence and the actions from different partnerships and inspire subsequent steps, which can support the uptake, use and impact of the actions.

**Workshop E: Digital transition**

This session will focus on new private and public sector business models fuelled by digital technologies and rooted in the principles of user centric open innovation, co-creation and open data. The insights will be gathered from the ESPON T4 project and Policy Brief “Digital Innovation in Urban Areas” linking them to Digital Transition Partnership Action 13 “Co-creating a business model approach for cities”.

**Moderator:** tbc

// Mika Rantakokko, University of Oulu (invited, tbc)
// Roberta Capello, Politecnich University of Milan (IT), ESPON T4
// Martin Gauk, ESPON EGTC (invited, tbc)
// tbc

**Workshop F: Energy transition**

The energy transition requires a long-term structural change in our approach to energy systems, creating a more integrated and smarter energy system that is better able to manage and balance dynamic patterns of supply and demand at an EU, national and local level. This workshop will link ESPON LOCATE and FUTURES projects and Action 3 of the Energy Transition Partnership “Guidance on energy master planning in cities”.

**Moderator:** Gavin Daly, ESPON EGTC

// Kai Böhme, Spatial Foresight, ESPON FUTURES
// Bernd Schuh, ÖIR (AT), ESPON LOCATE (tbc)
// tbc
// tbc

**Workshop G: Circular Economy**

This session will promote the transition to a circular economy and towards new business models. The insights will be gathered from ESPON CIRCTER and SHARING projects and linkages will be built with the Action 5 of the Circular Economy Partnership “Developing Collaborative Economy Knowledge Packs for Cities”.

**Moderator:** Nicolas Rossignol, ESPON EGTC

// Jan-Harko Post, Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy, Municipality of The Hague
// Carlos Tapia, Tecnalia (ES), ESPON CIRCTER
// Lucas Porsch or Lison Rabuel, VVA Brussels (BE), ESPON SHARING
// Janja Kreitmayer, Ministry for the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia

// Intervention by Caroline Garcia, journalist (La Gazette des Communes, FR)

**Workshop H: Housing**

This session will focus on measuring affordable housing and land-use challenges related to increasing the housing stock. Discussions will be fed by ESPON BIG DATA AND HOUSING and SUPER projects and linking them to Action 7 of the Housing Partnership “Monitoring system for affordable housing in the European Union” and Action 9 “Recommendations on the improvement of EU urban housing market data”.

**Moderator:** Dominique Ostyn, Director of communications, Press Club Brussels (to be invited)

// Elena Szolgyayová, Urban Agenda Partnership on Housing, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development (SK)
// Renaud Le Goix, UMS RIATE (FR), ESPON BIG DATA AND HOUSING
// David Evers, PBL (NL), ESPON SUPER
// tbc

10:30  Coffee break
11:00 **Main Messages from the Workshops**
This session will deliver short reports from workshops by the representatives of Urban Partnerships.

// tbc
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11:30 **ESPON Moving Forward**
This session will deliver an overview on the progress of activities and on the plans for 2019 / 2020.

// Thiem Eser, Head of Division, ESPON MA
// Ilona Raugze, Director, ESPON EGTC

12:00 **Themes of the Croatian and German Presidencies**
This session will introduce the key thematic priorities of the forthcoming Croatian and German Presidencies in respect of territorial cohesion, urban matters and the TA 2020+.

// Sandra Momčilović, ESPON MC (HR)
// Volker Schmidt-Steiwert, ESPON ECP (DE)

12:30 **Closure**
// Juhana Rautiainen, Senior Specialist, Ministry of the Environment (FI)
// Ilona Raugze, Director, ESPON EGTC

13:00 **Farewell lunch**