

## // ESPON Seminar

# Territorial Cohesion Post 2020: Integrated Territorial Development for Better Policies

30 - 31 May 2018 // Sofia, Bulgaria

InterContinental Sofia // 4, Narodno Sabranie Sq.

### Context and objective

The ESPON seminar “Territorial Cohesion post 2020: Integrated Territorial Development for Better Policies” is organised in cooperation with the Bulgarian 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 objective of the seminar is to discuss ESPON territorial evidence and provide new insights for policy-making addressing the key topics surrounding current policy debates. The main theme of the seminar is territorial cohesion in post 2020 planning period. Amidst the ongoing debate on the future of EU policies, regions and cities argue for a stronger territorial dimension in order to achieve better impacts on the development of different places around Europe. The seminar programme is designed to gather insights and seek answers on how different policies and planning tools can improve a direction towards more integrated and inclusive territorial development. ESPON publications “The Territorial Dimension of Future Policies” and “Governance, Planning and Financial Tools in Support of Polycentric Development” that synthesize the most recent ESPON research results as well as the first outputs of the European Territorial Reference Framework activity will feed the debate.

Furthermore, the seminar will provide insights to the newest ESPON evidence on many of the topics related to the territorial cohesion debate regarding migration, labour market, public services, climate change, spatial planning, governance and others.

The seminar programme consists of a mix of high profile key note speeches, panel discussions, interactive policy labs and workshops. An audience interaction tool will be used to crowd-source the questions from the audience and actively engage the participants in steering the discussions in order to ensure that they are tailor-made to fit the stakeholder demand for developing and implementing new policies. Participants will be encouraged to vote on the most relevant questions and topics, which will generate real-time insights on key issues through live polling of the audience.

The seminar targets policy makers, stakeholders, practitioners, scientists and experts, who are interested in understanding the development challenges and potential of their territory in a wider context and implementing policies “on the ground” and how ESPON evidence can support European policy processes on territorial issues.

## Programme

### Wednesday // 30 May

08:30 **Registration and coffee**

09:30 **Welcome and opening**

**Moderator:** tbc

- Denitsa Nikolova, Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works
- Ilona Raugze, ESPON EGTC

10:00

#### **Towards a stronger territorial dimension of future policies**

The plenary session is designed to discuss opportunities for strengthening the territorial dimension of future policies on the basis of the first results from the ESPON research activity *Towards a European Territorial Reference Framework* and ESPON publication on the territorial dimension of future policies. It will serve as an inspiration for further discussions during the seminar.

#### **Keynote**

Place-based approach, Fabrizio Barca

#### **Presentations (tbc):**

- Towards a European Territorial Reference Framework (ETRF), Jacek Szlachta, Chairman of the ETRF Strategic Advisory Forum
- Territorial dimension of future policies: ESPON insights and policy advice, Ilona Raugze, ESPON EGTC

#### **Expert panel (tbc):**

- Petr Osvald, Chair of the COTER, European Committee of the Regions
- DG REGIO
- Representative from Member state holding the upcoming EU Presidency

12:30

*Family picture*

13:00

*Lunch*

14:00

#### **Parallel policy labs: discussion on Post 2020 Investment priorities**

7th Cohesion Report has pointed out that future cohesion investments should be focused on social inclusion, employment, skills, innovation, climate change, energy transition. These topics will be explored in dedicated policy labs, discussing the latest results from the latest ESPON projects and policy briefs.

**Policy Lab 1: Governance, planning and financial tools in support of polycentric development** (discussion based on the same-titled ESPON Policy brief)

**Moderator:** Maria Buhigas, Urban-Facts

#### **Panel delegates from (tbc):**

- Vincent Nadine, Delft University of Technology, ESPON COMPASS project
- DG REGIO
- ESPON SPIMA, RESSI, ACTAREA stakeholder organisations (national, regional, local governments)

**Policy lab 2: Social inclusion and employment**

**Moderator:** Eugen Antalovsky, Urban Innovation Vienna

**Panel delegates from:**

- Andreea Pop, ICON-INSTITUT, ESPON YUTRENDS project
- Manuela Samek Lodovici, Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale, ESPON New Employment Dynamics project
- Andrew Copus, the James Hutton Institute, ESPON PROFECY project
- DG EMPL (tbc)
- Regional, local practitioners (tbc)

**Policy lab 3: Sustainable regions: circular economy, energy transition and green infrastructure**

**Moderator:** Marjan van Herwijnen, ESPON EGTC

**Panel delegates:**

- Carlos Tapia Garcia, Tecnalía, ESPON CIRCTER project
- Gemma Garcia Blanco, Tecnalía, ESPON GRETA project
- Christof Schremmer (tbc), ÖIR, ESPON Low-carbon Economy project
- Blanka Bartol, MC Slovenia, PST member of GRETA;
- XX (tbc) – Urban Partnership on Circular Economy, PST member CIRCTER;
- XX (tbc) – Pazardzhik Province, LOCATE case study;
- XX (tbc) – DG ENVI.

15:30 *Coffee break*

16:00 **Panel: Cross-sectoral integration:**

Policy lab rapporteurs discuss with practitioners and finance providers about the need to embed social, economic and environmental aspects in planning and governance

**Rapporteurs**

- Gavin Daly, ESPON EGTC, Policy lab 1 rapporteur
- Laurent Frideres, ESPON EGTC, Policy lab 2 rapporteur
- Michaela Gensheimer, ESPON EGTC, Policy lab 3 rapporteur

**Moderator (tbc):**

- Åsa Karlsson Björmarker (tbc), chairman of the European Executive Board of the Local Governments for Sustainability, ICLEI.
- Mayor / Vice Mayor of one of the 6 cities, A new approach to ITI - the six cities strategy in FI
- Sebastian Hyzyk, senior economist at the European Investment Bank

17:30 *End of the programme for day 1*

19:00 *ESPON Seminar dinner (tbc)*

## Thursday // 31 May

08:30 *Late registration*

09:00 **Workshops (in parallel): Evidence-based policy making - exploring the practical side of the path towards integrated territorial development**

### **Workshop 1: Measuring effectiveness of integrated territorial strategies and investments**

Discussion based on the ESPON Policy brief on indicators for integrated territorial development

**Moderator:** Zintis Hermansons, ESPON EGTC

#### **Panel delegates:**

- Martin Ferry, European Policies Research Centre
- Pauline Plagnat, University of Geneva
- DG REGIO (tbc)
- ESPON MC member (tbc)

### **Workshop 2: Latest updates of the ESPON tools – a practical help to policy makers**

The workshop will explore the latest updates of the ESPON tools: such as the new ESPON Database portal and the upgraded ESPON TIA tool.

**Moderator:** Martin Gauk, ESPON EGTC

#### **Panel delegates:**

- Marjan van Herwijnen, ESPON EGTC
- Stefan Obkircher (tbc), ESPON ACTAREA project
- Hy Dao, University of Geneva, ESPON Database team
- Bernd Schuh, ÖIR, ESPON TIA tool
- Eleftherios Stavropoulos, DG REGIO

### **Workshop 3: Strategic programming, territorial monitoring and impact assessment – how can ESPON support stakeholders?**

The workshop brings together evidence and tools useful for monitoring development at cross-border, transnational and macro-regional scale.

**Moderator:** Sandra Di Biaggio, ESPON EGTC

#### **Panel delegates from:**

- Efrain Larrea, Mcrit, ESPON European and macro-regional territorial monitoring tool
- XX (tbc), ESPON Territorial Impact Assessment for cross-border cooperation
- Erich Dallhammer, ÖIR, ESPON Territorial Evidence Support for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes
- Oliver Mueller, Eurostat

#### **Stakeholders:**

- Odd Godal, European Commission
- Talis Linkaits, VASAB
- Iwaylo Stoyanov, Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
- Julia Wengert, Joint Secretariat of the INTERREG A programme Germany – the Netherlands

10:30 *Networking with coffee and tea*

11:00 **Presentations of the ongoing ESPON Targeted Analyses**

Cross-border and macro-regional integration, healthcare, protected areas and migration are among the challenges debated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Cohesion Report. New ESPON Targeted Analyses seek to provide a better understanding of the territorial dimension of these challenges.

**Moderator:** Eugen Antalovsky, Urban Innovation Vienna

- **ESPON Alps 2050**  
Tobias Chilla, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
- **ESPON migration and refugee flows**  
Stefano Bianchini, University of Bologna
- **ESPON protected areas**  
Maria Prezioso, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”
- **ESPON cross-border public services**  
Sabine Zillmer, Spatial Foresight GmbH
- **ESPON future digital health**  
Peter Varnai, Technopolis

12:00

**ESPON Moving Forward**

- Thimo Eser, ESPON MA
- Ilona Raugze, ESPON EGTC

12:30

**Themes of the Austrian and Romanian Presidencies**

**Moderator:** Representative from the Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

- Roland Arbter, ESPON MC member (AT)
- Radu Necsuliu (tbc), ESPON MC member (RO)

12:45

**Closure**

- Representative from the Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
- Ilona Raugze, ESPON EGTC

13:00

*Farewell lunch*