Context and objective

The ESPON seminar “New Narratives for Territorial Development” is organised in cooperation with the Austrian 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.

Europe’s economic prospects are more positive than they have been for quite some time, with most key indicators offering renewed grounds for confidence. However, the recovery remains fragile, vulnerable to external geopolitical pressures, and its sustainability is far from assured. In addition, the legacy of the financial crisis, concerns over excessive territorial disparities and an uneven geographical spread of the benefits of economic integration have become more pronounced, which have spilled over into discontent and political instability.

With the publication of the draft EU Budget 2021-2027, the narrative underpinning the role and impact of Cohesion Policy is changing. Regional imbalances have become more fluid and complex, and traditional Cohesion Policy goals of simply providing compensatory transfers to less developed and peripheral regions needs to be redefined. This highlights the continued need for an enhanced territorial dimension to the future Cohesion Policy to effectively address the key challenges and harness opportunities. However, to date, there continues to be only limited visibility of a territorial dimension in the emerging narratives concerning future policy and investment priorities.

The objective of this seminar is to provide a mix of high profile key note speeches, panel discussions, interactive policy labs and workshops to discuss and debate new narratives for territorial development in the context of the renewal of the Territorial Agenda 2020 and how best to mobilise and place-based policies to impact mid-term and long-term Cohesion Policy goals. Keynote speakers will examine the historical context of EU territorial development as well as the current state of play and possible future scenarios for the possible evolution of the European territory.

Furthermore, the seminar will provide insights to the latest 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 is aimed at 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 these processes.
Programme

Tuesday // 4 December

18:00  Welcome Reception at Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism

Wednesday // 5 December

08:30  Registration and Coffee

09:30  Welcome and Opening
   - Ulrike Rauch-Keschmann, Director General, Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism (AT)
   - Ilona Raugze, Director of ESPON EGTC

10:00  Looking Back to Look Forward: Towards New Narratives for Territorial Development
In this keynote plenary session, two of the leading thinkers on European territorial development will provide a historical perspective on the emergence of European territorialism as means to rethink the current debates and the need for better, rather than more, place-sensitive territorial development policies to address the growing geographies of political discontent.

Moderator: Jon Worth

Keynote Speeches
   - “The Poverty of Territorialism” Andreas Faludi, Professor Emeritus of Spatial Policy Systems in Europe, Delft University of Technology
   - “The Geography of EU Discontent and the Revenge of Places that Don’t Matter” Prof Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, Professor of Economic Geography, London School of Economics

Debate with the audience

12:15  ESPON Family picture

12:30  Lunch

Reflections and debate on the keynote speeches focusing on the current state of the European territory and key governance challenges for a future Territorial Agenda post-2020.

Moderator: Jon Worth

On territorial fragmentation:
   - Erik Gløersen, Spatial Foresight, ESPON BRIDGES project
   - Thomas Dax, BABF, ESPON PROFECY project
   - [TBC], ESPON ETRF Project

On future governance:
   - Ilona Raugze, Director of ESPON EGTC
   - Helmut Heiss, Rosinak & Partners, TIPS Project
   - Vincent Nadin, ESPON COMPASS Project

15:00  Coffee Break
15:30 World Café: Rethinking European Futures Workshops

Interactive futures workshops animated by the European Territorial Reference Framework (ETRF) Project team

**Moderators:** Kai Boehme, Spatial Foresight & Andreu Ulled, Mcrit

17:30 Panel: Emerging Narratives for a New Territorial Agenda Post-2020

Rapporteurs from each World Café Futures Workshop will report back to the plenary followed by a brief panel discussion and wrap-up of the day’s proceedings.

18:00 End of the Programme for Day 1

19:30 Conference Dinner at The Ankersaal

Thursday // 6 December

08:30 Late registration

09:00 Parallel Policy Labs

**Policy Lab 1: TA+2020: A Framework for Renewed Cross-Border Territorial Cooperation?**

**Moderator:** Peter Hansen, Director of Joint Secretariat & Infocenter for Region Sonderjylland-Schleswig

**Panel delegates:**
- Nathalie Vershelde, Deputy Head of Unit INTERREG, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders at DG Regio, European Commission
- Jean Peyrony, Director of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière
- Julia Wengert, Coordinator Monitoring and Evaluation at Joint Secretariat at INTERREG Deutschland-Nederland
- Nicolas Rossignol, Project Expert, ESPON EGTC

**Policy Lab 2: Fostering New Narratives for European Migration and Refugee Flows**

**Moderator:** Jon Worth

**Panel Delegates:**
- [TBC], Impacts of Refugee Flows to Territorial Development, ESPON MIGRATE Project
- [TBC], Territorial and Urban Potentials Connected to Migration and Refugee Flows, ESPON TRANSMIR Project
- [TBC], Youth Unemployment: Territorial trends and Regional Resilience, ESPON YUTRENDS Project

**Policy Lab 3: Towards a Greener Territorial Agenda Post-2020**

**Moderator:** Frederick-Christoph Richters, Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Development, Luxembourg

**Panel Delegates:**
- Gemma-Garcia Blanco [TBC], Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services, ESPON GRETA Project
- Carlos Tapia, Circular Economy and Territorial Consequences, ESPON CIRCTER Project
- Maria Prezioso, Linking Networks of Protected Areas, ESPON LinkPAs Project
Policy Lab 4: An Enhanced Macro-Regional Approach to Future Cohesion Policy

Moderator: Rudolf Schicker, Coordinator, Danube Strategy Point

Panel Delegates:
- Csaba Hende, DG Regio, European Commission
- Efrain Larrea, Mcrit, European and Macro-Regional Territorial Monitoring Tool
- Katharina Erdmenger, ESPON MC (DE), Territorial Monitoring: The German project on Joint Monitoring for Cross-Border Regions: A Good Practice also for Macro-Regions?
- Tobias Chilla, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Common Spatial Perspectives for the Alpine Area - Towards a Common Vision, ESPON ALPS 2050 Project
- Bernd Schuh, OIR, Territorial Evidence Support for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, ESPON TEVI Project
- [TBC], Territorial Scenarios for the Baltic Sea Region, ESPON BT 2050 Project

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Presentation of Selected New ESPON Research

This session will provide a synopsis of some new and forthcoming ESPON research projects that will seek to provide a better evidence-informed understanding of the territorial dimension of future Cohesion Policy in respect of key policy challenges and opportunities.

Moderator: Jon Worth

- Elissavet Lykogianni, Material Cultural Heritage as a Strategic Territorial Development Resource, ESPON HERITAGE Project
- [TBC], Maritime Spatial Planning and Land-Sea Interactions, ESPON MSP-LSI Project
- Helka Kalliomaki, Potentials of Big Data for Integrated Territorial Policy Development in European Growth Corridors, ESPON BIG DATA & EGC Project
- Jason Begley, Improving Urban-Rural connectivity in Non-Metropolitan Regions, ESPON URRUC Project
- Laurent Frideres, ESPON EGTC, Round-up of forthcoming ESPON research

12:00 ESPON Moving Forward

Overview of ESPON’s work plan for 2019 and developing the future of ESPON beyond 2020.

- Thiemo Eser, ESPON Managing Authority
- Ilona Raugze, Director of ESPON EGTC

12:30 Themes of the Romanian and Finnish Presidencies

Key thematic priorities of the forthcoming Romanian and Finnish Presidencies in respect of territorial cohesion and the territorial agenda.

- Radu Necsuliu [TBC], ESPON MC Member (RO)
- [TBC], ESPON MC Member (FI)

12:45 Closure

- Roland Arbter, ESPON MC Member & Senior Policy Adviser, Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism (AT)
- Ilona Raugze, Director of ESPON EGTC

13:00 Farewell lunch