

ESPON 2013 Programme

ESPON Projects

Final Overview

December 2012





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The ESPON 2013 Programme

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Foreword

The ESPON 2013 Programme supports policy development in relation to the territorial cohesion and the aim of a harmonious and balanced development of the European territory.

ESPON offers evidence, knowledge and continuous observation of European territorial structures, trends, perspectives and policy impacts. These are relevant for policy makers at all levels interested in including a territorial dimension and a European perspective in their policy considerations.

The ESPON 2013 Programme has commissioned many projects in fulfilling this mission. The project themes are all selected by policy makers representing 31 countries: 27 EU Member States as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. In addition, the European Commission has been involved giving advice. The themes addressed by ESPON therefore represent the demand for evidence and knowledge to feed policy development.

This final version of the ESPON Project Overview includes all projects within the ESPON 2013 Programme. The programme implementation has reached the stage where all projects are contracted, of which many are ongoing, and some have delivered final results.

The Project Overview presents for each Programme Priority of the ESPON 2013 Programme, a brief portrait of the grant-funded projects with key facts of each project contracted:

- Priority 1: 25 Applied Research projects on a variety of cross-thematic and thematic issues that together provide a substantial amount of new evidence on European territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts.
- Priority 2: 23 Targeted Analysis projects using ESPON evidence in analyses meeting demand from national, regional and local stakeholders in understanding better the European perspective and position of their territories.
- Priority 3: 10 larger projects related to the Scientific Platform and Tools for territorial analyses which contribute to the access and use of the ESPON knowledge base and provide new tools and evidence for other Programmes on European Territorial Cooperation as well as regional and urban actors.
- Priority 4: 7 Transnational Networking Activities projects that in different ways implement capitalisation and awareness-raising of ESPON results at the transnational level as a complement to the pan-European capitalisation done within the programme as such.

Moreover, the implementation of the ESPON 2013 Programme is supported by 16 projects under Priority 3 and 4, where the ESPON Managing Authority is taking the lead. Each of these projects includes several actions that are contracted as service provisions. In order to give the reader the full picture of implementation activities these projects are listed in an annex to the Project Overview.

A great thank you is due to numerous policy makers, experts, scientists and stakeholders that have been and are working with great dedication on the different types of ESPON projects. Without them a successful implementation of the ESPON 2013 Programme would not be possible.

You are invited to visit www.espon.eu to learn more about ESPON, the programme and its projects and to access for free all results, data, indicators and maps.

Peter Mehlbye
Director of the ESPON Coordination Unit

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Applied Research

Future Orientations for Cities

FOCI

Thematic scope

Cities and urban development are a focal point of current territorial development policy. Against the background of the Lisbon Agenda's aim of growth and jobs, cities are seen as the main potential motors for the achievement of the set goals, which was also acknowledged in EU Cohesion policy documents for 2007 – 2013, including the Community Strategic Guidelines, as well as the Territorial Agenda and the "Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities", complementing the Territorial Agenda by focusing on the issue of sustainable cities.

This project thus analyses the current state, trends and development perspectives for the largest cities and urban agglomerations within the European territory. It identifies the driving forces of urban development which are the most relevant for understanding urban evolutions and offers scenarios for the development of Europe's cities leading to alternative policy options.

Main results address

- Insight in urban opportunities for improving competitiveness and cohesion and possibilities for cooperation of cities/urban agglomerations in polycentric zones/clusters.
- New complex indicators of cities' development opportunities, competitiveness, socio-economic and environmental situation.
- Typologies of the urban system of Europe according to the functional specialisation of the cities and their competitiveness, including the possibilities of enhancing the competitiveness through cooperation and the impact of cities in relation to different types of territories.
- Case studies of cooperation opportunities of cities/urban agglomerations to improve competitiveness and cohesion.
- Maps of the European urban system revealing functional strengths and weaknesses, territorial classification and variations of urban functionality.

Policy questions

- What are the development opportunities of the largest cities in the European urban system, addressing functional urban areas, i.e. the urban core and the corresponding hinterland, analysing the link between the functions of cities and their competitiveness and socio-economic situation?
- Which possibilities of increasing development through territorial cooperation, establishing polycentric urban clusters at different scales and in different parts of the European territory can support a better territorial balance and cohesion?

More Information

Project budget: 998 888.00 €

Final report: 14 March 2011

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Project partners

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- National Technical University of Athens – EL
- Institute of Geography of Lausanne University – CH
- ENPC School – FR
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European Development Opportunities in Rural Areas

EDORA

Thematic scope

The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy in the framework of the Agenda 2000 boosted the significance of rural development in this sector policy. Rural development, in line with the Lisbon/Gothenburg Strategy, is conceived to support job creation and economic growth in rural areas in a sustainable way.

Against this backdrop, this project provides evidence on the development opportunities of diverse types of European rural areas and reveals options for improving their competitiveness. It identifies opportunities for increasing regional strengths through territorial cooperation and analyses the potential impact of climate change on the development opportunities of rural areas.

Main results address

- New evidence on the diversity of development opportunities of European rural regions.
- Insight into different alternatives of medium-term development paths and the impact of these development paths on the competitiveness of rural areas and the national and European cohesion.
- Development and further improvement of typologies of rural regions showing similar types of rural situations within the European territory.
- Indicators offering additional information on the different types of European rural areas and new complex indicators on development opportunities, socio-economic situation and competitiveness of these areas.
- European maps of different rural areas, their demographic situation, accessibility to services, their development opportunities (particularly outside agriculture and forestry).

Policy questions

- How to improve the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry?
- How to improve the environment and the countryside?
- How to improve the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity?

More Information

Project budget: 699 816.00 €
Final report: 26 August 2011

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- University of Valencia – ES
- Research Committee – University of Patras – EL
- The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority – IE
- University of Gloucestershire – UK
- University of Ljubljana – SI
- Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Institute of Rural Studies – DE
- Federal Institute for Less-Favoured and Mountainous Areas – AT
- Dortmund University of Technology – DE
- S. Leszczycki Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences – PL
- Institute of Economics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences – HU
- Higher Institute of Agronomy – PT
- Scottish Agricultural College – UK
- IOM International Organization for Migration/Central European Forum for Migration and Population Research – PL

Demographic and Migratory Flows affecting European Regions and Cities

DEMIFER

Thematic scope

The European Commission points out that regarding Europe's demographic future, the expected shrinking population in working age will lead to stagnation and, subsequently, reduction of total employment. It is therefore acknowledged that there is a need for immigration from outside the EU to meet the requirements of the European labour market.

This project aims at providing findings and evidence on the regional effects of migration on Europe's demographic future.

Main results address

- Evidence in relation to the direction of demographic and migratory flows and their potential impact on the competitiveness of European regions and cities and the economic, social and territorial cohesion in Europe.
- Policy relevant scenarios on the degree of demographic change that European regions might face both related to natural population development and migratory flows.
- Typologies of European regions of the degree/strength of migratory flows, benefiting/loosing regions.
- European maps on the current demographic and migratory developments and trends.
- Regional indicators offering information on demographic and migratory trends, and new complex indicators on regions' socio-economic situation and changes in competitiveness due to migratory flows.
- A limited number of case studies based on migration data at regional level.

Policy questions

- How will the demographic development, i.e. natural development of population as well as migration, affect different types of regions and cities?
- How and to which degree will future effects of climate change influence migration flows?
- What is the need for increasing the labour force in order to avoid negative impact on the economic performance and on the social cohesion of these regions and cities?
- Which skills are needed in different types of regions and cities in order to meet the demands of the economic base and to make better use of development opportunities?
- To what extent could such skills be provided by internal migration in Europe? What should be the profile of skills of migration to Europe to maximise the contribution of regions and cities to European competitiveness?
- Which factors could have a positive effect on natural population development in Europe?

More Information

Project budget: 781 600.00 €
Final report: 30 September 2010

Lead partner

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- University of Leeds – UK
- Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency – NL
- NORDREGIO – Nordic Centre for Spatial Development – SE
- National Research Council (CNR) – IT

Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies in Europe

ESPON CLIMATE

Thematic scope

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been pivotal in raising awareness on the costs of human inaction and interference with the climate system and identified the urgency for studies disaggregated to the regional and even local scale as well as a strong need for scenarios at regional and local scales to enable appropriate impact assessments.

Against this backdrop, this project analyses how and to which degree climate change will impact on the competitiveness and cohesion of European regions and Europe as a whole.

Main results address

- Evidence on the vulnerability of European regions to climate change and respective policy implications.
- Insight into new development opportunities for regions in the wake of climate change.
- Results of in-depth regional analyses of climate change vulnerability through case studies.
- Identification of regional typologies of climate change exposure, sensitivity, impact and vulnerability.
- Development of indicators on the impact of climate change on different sectors of regional economies and infrastructures, new complex indicators of regions' degree of vulnerability to climate change and their change in competitiveness due to climate change.
- European maps on the degree of vulnerability of different types of European regions to climate change and their adaptation and mitigation capacities.

Policy questions

- How and to which degree will climate change impact on the competitiveness and cohesion of European regions and Europe as a whole?
- In which way can policy contribute to mitigate climate change, and to adapt to and manage those results of climate change that cannot be avoided, while making sure that synergies of mitigation and adaptation policies are being exploited?

More Information

Project budget: 999 418.60 €
Final Report: 21 May 2011

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- Newcastle University – UK
- Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research – DE
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- VÁTI Hungarian Nonprofit Limited Liability Company for Regional Development and Town Planning – HU
- National Institute for Research and Development in Construction, Urban Planning and Sustainable Spatial Development – RO
- Agency for the Support of Regional Development Kosice, n.o. – SK
- Autonomous University of Barcelona – ES
- The Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency – NL
- Swiss Federal Institute WSL – CH

Regions at Risk of Energy Poverty

ReRisk

Thematic scope

Europe enters a new energy landscape: energy prices have been rising and the dependency on fossil fuels is increasing. Thus, energy supply and demand will in the future have to turn more towards renewable energy sources and focus more on efficient use of energy. EU Ministers responsible for territorial development have given priority to this issue by expressing their intention in the Territorial Agenda (2007) to explore and develop opportunities of new forms of renewable energy supply.

Considering this, this project focuses on opportunities to support competitive and clean energy supplies for regions in Europe and to generate and strengthen sustainable energy sources. It delivers future-oriented territorial evidence on the impact of rising energy prices on the competitiveness of European regions as well as on cohesion in Europe in a long-term perspective.

Main results address

- Evidence on the vulnerability of European regions and their economy to rising energy prices.
- Insight on the regional impact of increasing energy prices on transport, private households, and industry.
- Identification of development opportunities for regions in Europe to save energy and to generate renewable energies.
- New indicators, revealing the regions' socio-economic situation and the impact of increasing energy prices on their competitiveness, focusing on their price-elasticity.
- Typologies of European regions reflecting the impact of increasing energy prices on the demand side as well as on the supply side.
- European maps revealing the degree of vulnerability of different types of European regions to increasing energy prices, energy consumption patterns on regional levels for transport, private households and industry.

Policy questions

- How can competitive and clean energy be secured for Europe?
- Which sources of sustainable energy generation can be activated and/or further strengthened within Europe?
- How and to which degree will an increase in energy prices impact on the competitiveness and cohesion of European regions and Europe as a whole?

More Information

Project budget: 699 250.00 €
Final report: 5 November 2010

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Project partners

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Territorial Impact Package for Transport and Agricultural Policies

TIPTAP

Thematic scope

The Territorial Agenda of the EU highlights the increasing territorial influence of Community policies and states that this should be taken into consideration by policy makers. The Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion states that coordination between sectoral and territorial policies is important to maximise synergies and to avoid possible conflicts.

This project builds on the earlier achievements of the ESPON 2006 Programme. The methodology, indicators and the prototype "TEQUILA" model is further developed and made operational to deliver a tool for the ex-ante assessment of territorial impacts of policies. The tool is tested on transport and agricultural policy and delivers evidence on the territorial impact of these policies. The results are of direct use for creating better policy coordination.

Main results address

- Evidence on the territorial impact of transport and agricultural EU policies.
- A further development towards a tool for territorial impact assessment, including a model and a road map for implementation.
- Indicators offering key information on impacts of policies on the economic-social-environmental-cultural situation of regions and cities, on impacts related to the Lisbon strategy and to climate change, and on territorial phenomena and aims related to European policy orientations.
- European maps related to the testing and use of the developed TIA (Territorial Impact Assessment) tool related to transport and agricultural EU policies.

Policy questions

- What are the impacts of EU policy on the general socio-economic environmental situation (such as population, GDP, labour force, employment and CO2 emission)?
- What are the impacts related to European strategies as the Lisbon Strategy (impacts on the competitiveness, growth and job creation) and Climate Change (impacts on CO2 emissions and hazard risk)?
- What are the impacts in relation to territorial cohesion phenomena (such as balance, polycentrism, accessibility, opportunities for development and territorial cooperation, etc.)?
- How to take into account spill-over effects, either on/from neighbouring territories or on/from different policies?

More Information

Project budget: 347 000.00 €
Final report: 11 February 2010

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Project partners

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Attractiveness of European Regions and Cities for Residents and Visitors

ATTREG

Thematic scope

Economic analysis often focuses exclusively on the sites of production. This project focuses on the sites of consumption. Instead of looking at large manufacturing plants producing for export or at multinational headquarters, this project is looking at the impact of shops and restaurants, hotels and hospitals, doctors and post offices. Attractive, competitive and dynamic regions and cities have been a major issue for the development of respective policies.

Against this backdrop, this project strives to achieve a better understanding of the contribution of European regions' and cities' attractiveness to economic performance. In addition, it identifies the key ingredients of attractiveness in different types of territories, from vibrating city centres to tranquil rural settlements, taking into account issues such as access to services, well-being and quality of life.

Main results address

- Evidence on the attractiveness of European regions and cities for residents and visitors.
- Development of policy relevant scenarios on the attractiveness of European regions and cities.
- Innovative case studies, covering different types of regions and cities displaying different levels of attractiveness, offering more focused and detailed information.
- Development of new indicators on attractiveness and competitiveness offering tools giving additional information on the different types of attractiveness and competitiveness of Europe and its regions.
- Recommendation on further tools and instruments that can be developed for policy makers for assessing the attractiveness of European regions and cities.

Policy questions

- How does the attractiveness of European regions and cities for residents and visitors contribute to economic performance?
- What are the key ingredients of attractiveness in different types of territories taking into account issues such as access to services, well-being and quality of life?
- How can policy makers improve the attractiveness of their city or region and reconcile the interests of visitors with those of their residents?

More Information

Project budget: 840 067.69 €
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- Centre for Regional and Tourism Research – DK
- S. Leszczycki Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization – Polish Academy of Sciences – PL
- University of Ljubljana – SI
- University of the West of England, Bristol – UK

European Land Use Patterns

EU-LUPA

Thematic scope

Land use has changed drastically during the last fifty years sometimes with important negative effects such as urban sprawl, soil sealing, loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, soil degradation, floods or desertification.

Based on the hypothesis that socio-economic activities are reflected in land use, the project understands land use as how the land is used and how it is related to socio-economic activities. The aim is to supply regionalised information, integrating the physical dimension (land cover) with socio-economic (land use) and environmental dimensions, in order to understand land use dynamics, land use changes and current land use patterns in the European territory.

Main results address

- New European evidence on relations between specific land use patterns and performance of European regions, between urban areas and open space at a certain distance, between urban sprawl and specific features (e.g. mountains) and between land use efficiency and aspects such as population, transport, employment and GDP.
- Methods of measuring and monitoring land use processes and functional relations (data and indicators development and visualization techniques).
- Identification of existing European spatial data and information related to the aspects of land use (urban, non-urban, rural, natural, etc.), land use patterns, land use change (dynamics and trends) and policy-relevant typologies.
- Maps visualizing land use processes in Europe in different administrative levels.

Policy questions

- What does the current European land use look like, where are certain patterns dominant and in what particular types of regions or countries and what are the changes?
- To what extent are existing land use patterns throughout Europe in line with the general spatial development principles as formulated in most territorial policy documents (e.g. ESDP)? How will this picture look like if no extra policy action is taken and new territorial dynamics come into play?
- What are the relations between land use patterns and drivers of development such as geographical, demographic and cultural influences, climate change, transport, employment, GDP and other economic structures? How and to what extent are land use patterns efficient in relation to these aspects? What are the relations between urban areas and open space?
- Are there typical land use developments and patterns in particular types of regions such as border regions? How can these developments, e.g. through cooperation initiatives, be coordinated and create a development potential?

More Information

Project budget: 788 668.00 €
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Project partners

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- Nordregio, Nordic Center for Spatial Development – SE
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European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life

TERCO

Thematic scope

Territorial cooperation is seen as one of the most important factors contributing to innovation which is key to the achievement of sustainable growth and jobs. European territorial cooperation facilitates the exchange between people and regions on experience and best practice in regional policy, irrespective of existing borders. The Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion of the European Commission put great emphasis on the importance of territorial cooperation.

This project aims at providing evidence on potential drivers for cooperation, determinants and governance structures that could spark further interest of regions, cities and countries in entering into cooperation arrangements. This can also serve as support in defining future EU Structural Funds contribution to territorial cooperation areas.

Main results address

- New evidence on (common) characteristics and critical mass for transnational and cross-border cooperation areas.
- Insight on the different types of European cooperation areas based on new indicators, revealing these areas' development opportunities, their socio-economic situation as well as their competitiveness.
- Typologies of transnational and cross-border cooperation areas classified by territorial evidence revealing characteristics, strengths, weaknesses, potentials and challenges.
- European maps showing a typology of different (possible) cooperation areas, the intensity and degree, as well as the territorial potentials and challenges for each possible cooperation area.

Policy questions

- Are existing territorial cooperation areas still adequate to meet current challenges of territorial development, and if not, why is that so? What could be more meaningful new cooperation areas throughout Europe on transnational, interregional as well as cross-border (internal and external) level? Is it possible to facilitate more European strategies such as the Baltic Sea Strategy by means of territorial cooperation?
- What would be the right scale for territorial cooperation? Which themes are appropriately dealt with in territorial cooperation and on which scale? What are favourable framework conditions and good governance models (at different scales) for territorial cooperation to be realised and to succeed?
- What are existing governance experiences (both, positive and negative) in territorial cooperation in Europe and what can be learnt from them? Can cases of best practices be translated to and applied in other (potential) cooperation areas?
- Should cooperation programmes include infrastructure investments? What kind of infrastructure is needed where to enable fruitful cooperation arrangements? Is a different approach required in this respect regarding old and new EU Member States?

More Information

Project budget: 849 710.00 €
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Project partners

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- University of Joensuu / Karelian Institute – FI
- University of Thessaly, DPRD – EL
- Autonomous University of Madrid – ES

Transport Accessibility at Regional / Local Scale and Patterns in Europe

TRACC

Thematic scope

Dynamic territorial development depends on an optimal combination of access to services and resources. Good accessibility and connectivity is one of the most crucial factors in deciding on a location for economic activities. Transport infrastructure developments and transport networks connecting Europe and its particular regions play an important role in formulating the European policies as the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion.

This project strives for a comprehensive and integrated research approach, taking into account social, cultural, environmental, and economic aspects. Its aim is to deliver innovative results which can support the policy development in the field of transport and accessibility improvement, territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion.

Main results address

- Evidence on potential accessibility and various infrastructure networks at various scales covering road, rail, waterways and air transport modes.
- Insight on European patterns of accessibility, based on a typology including all four transport modes and multimodal accessibility.
- Facts on regional impacts of new infrastructural networks.
- New information on transport accessibility at regional/local scale for different types of regions showing accessibility within the region, different types of accessibility patterns and the added value of including multimodal transport in the methodology to calculate accessibility.
- European maps revealing (1) the accessibility patterns of the various transport modes and types (transport of people and freight) on various scales, (2) the multimodal potential accessibility typology, and (3) the present and future role of transport on inland waterways.

Policy questions

- What does regional accessibility/connectivity look like at the regional level? How many jobs/people can be reached in 45 minutes travel time (by road or by train), how many city centres can be reached by flying out in the morning and returning in the evening?
- What are the differences between accessibility at three different levels (regional, European and global) considering the four modes (road, rail, air and water)? How can key infrastructural bottlenecks be identified at regional level?
- What is the link between accessibility (at the different levels and for different modes) of European regions and their economic development? How has this link changed over time? Does the strength of this link differ across the EU?
- What could be the territorial impact of rising energy prices on future developments of water, air, railway and road transport? What could be the impact of various transport scenarios on climate change, access patterns and economic development?

More Information

Project budget: 699 790.50 €
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Secondary Growth Poles and Territorial Development in Europe; Performance, Policies and Prospects

SGPTD

Thematic scope

Urban areas outside the largest cities have a relatively important weight in the urban and economic structure of the European territory and represent an important part of the European population. Therefore it is of great importance to better integrate them in the global economy and facilitate them better to contribute to even more economic growth and job creation. Secondary growth poles should be engines for regional development and might offer citizens a living environment at a lower cost. There is a risk that economic and fiscal problems and the competition for scarce public and private sector resources may limit their growth. If their development is arrested by recession, the threats to a balanced territorial system across Europe will increase.

The main objective of the SGPTD project is to analyse the performance, policies and prospects of secondary cities in the light of Cohesion Policy aiming at improved regional competitiveness and sustainable and balanced growth of the European territory.

Main results address

- Evidence on European secondary cities, their functional roles and the potential policy intervention affecting their performance.
- Review of policy towards secondary cities at EU level and in individual Member States.
- New conceptual framework for understanding secondary city development through a synthetic review of the literature on polycentricity and local and regional economic development.
- Innovative typology of European secondary cities related to performance and policy support.
- Case studies identifying tangible experiences on the dynamics of these places, the relationships and processes initiating and sustaining their development.

Policy questions

- What economic advantages can secondary growth poles' development deliver, in particular compared to capital cities? Can secondary growth pole development contribute to the European policy objectives such as formulated in the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategy?
- To what extent is a territorial strategy in favour of supporting secondary growth poles feasible and favourable for sustainable and balanced territorial development and cohesion? What are the possible positive and negative effects of secondary growth poles in territorial development at the various levels of scale?
- What (policy relevant) typologies of secondary growth poles can be distinguished at European, national and regional level? How can (territorial) policy at different policymaking levels contribute in exploiting territorial potentials?
- What countries and regions have explicit (territorial) strategies that support secondary growth pole development and hence aim at creating more territorial balance? What are these strategies and best practices?

More Information

Project budget: 745 000.00 €
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European Perspective on Specific Types of Territories

GEOSPECS

Thematic scope

The EU Treaty and the Cohesion Policy debate includes a focus on regions with specific territorial features. They are characterised not only by development challenges, but also by a series of specific assets. Such assets have been identified in numerous localities and regions; knowledge about them has also, to some extent, been compiled at the European level in studies and policy perspectives on territories with geographic specificities such as those mentioned above.

However, in spite of the frequent concomitant references to multiple categories of geographic specificities in policy documents, there have been no attempts to construct a transversal discourse on why they are often not fully exploited, and why many areas with geographic specificities are still “lagging”.

The main objective of the GEOSPECS project is to provide a coherent transversal framework to characterise the past trends, state and potential future developments of geographical specificities for territorial policy and regional development.

Main results address

- New evidence on the strengths, weaknesses and development opportunities of specific types of territories and regions (border areas, highly or sparsely populated areas, inner periphery, mountain areas, islands, coastal zones, outermost regions).
- Insight on possibilities for connecting specific territories more efficient in order to gain critical mass and economic progress through territorial cooperation and support European territorial balance.
- Options for policy intervention in support of specific types of territories in Europe.
- New typologies of specific types of regions in Europe related to the thematic scope.
- Maps and data, particularly for monitoring purposes, on Europe’s specific types of territories and regions.

Policy questions

- What are the development opportunities of the specific types of regions mentioned above, especially of their small and medium-sized cities as secondary growth poles, in overcoming differences in density?
- What are the needs of the specific types of regions for connecting their territories with others to overcome the constraints of physical distances?
- What role may territorial cooperation and partnership play for these specific types of regions supporting a better territorial balance and cohesion? Which public intervention should be undertaken by whom? What role can Cohesion Policy play?
- What role may these specific types of regions play in the context of organising the European territory? Is there a need for specific territorially shaped policies? If so, on which administrative level should such policies be developed?

More Information

Project budget: 899 950.00 €
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- Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development – DE
- National University of Ireland Cork – IE
- Environmental Agency Austria – AT
- E-Cubed Consultants Ltd – MT

Priority 1: Applied Research

Knowledge, Innovation, Territory

KIT

Thematic scope

New scientific and technological powers outside the European territory are attracting considerable and increasing amounts of R&D investments. Knowledge has in recent years become a key driver for growth of economic systems, and the access to knowledge is generally considered as a key condition for innovative activities in our modern economy.

The project takes this policy context as a starting point to explore the territorial dimension of the innovation and knowledge economy. It takes into account the current state, patterns and potentials of regions with respect to the knowledge and innovation economy and identifies new development opportunities through innovation for Europe and its territories.

Main results address

- Evidence about territorial potentials that can be exploited in different territories to further support the development of the innovation and knowledge economy.
- Identification of spatial patterns of innovation and knowledge creation as well as patterns of innovation and knowledge spill-overs.
- Conceptual definition of the knowledge economy to identify the territorial dimension and spatial trends of innovation and knowledge as well as territorially relevant elements of the innovation and knowledge economy.
- Measurement of the performance of the innovation and knowledge economy and detection of territorial potentials to increase this performance.
- Building of a spatial development strategy for the innovation and knowledge economy by identifying winning strategies for innovation and knowledge development.
- Typology on “territorial patterns of innovation in Europe” highlighting the relevance of endogenous regional innovation and knowledge creation and regional innovation and knowledge acquisition from outside the region.

Policy questions

- What is the current state and pattern of the European territory and its regions with respect to the knowledge and innovation economy and how does this relate to the overall global picture of the knowledge and innovation economy?
- What territorial potentials can be exploited in different territories in order to further support the development of the innovation and knowledge economy within the framework of sustainable and balanced territorial development and cohesion?
- What variations between regions exist in the innovation and knowledge economy and what types of ‘innovation and knowledge economy policy’ relevant for territories can be distinguished?
- What could be done to improve the capacity of regions in terms of innovation and knowledge economy? Is this the same for all regions or can different measures be distinguished for the various types of regions? What specific territorial assets and territorial development strategies can create added value for the knowledge and innovation economy?

More Information

Project budget: 750 000.00 €
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Territorial Impact of Globalisation for Europe and its Regions

TIGER

Thematic scope

Globalisation is accelerating with European competitiveness becoming more and more interwoven and dependent on the rest of the world. Understanding Europe in the world is a prerequisite for policy making and for promoting Europe in this international competition.

This project looks at globalisation from a territorial perspective and analyses its territorial aspects and its dynamics at different geographical scales. It also addresses the importance of territorial cooperation and flows linking EU territory.

The main aim of the project is to look into the territorial dimension of the globalisation process and analyse its significance for an enlarged Europe.

Main results address

- Evidence on the main territorial structures in Europe and their dynamics in the global perspective.
- Insight on the territorial aspects of the globalisation process with most relevance for Europe and its regions.
- Overview of position and profile of Europe in the global urban structure.
- Identification of the main types of flows between Europe, its regions and the rest of the world.
- Provision of an operational concept of globalisation, encapsulating the European context.
- Case studies analysing in-depth the territorial potentials of Europe, its regions and cities in relation to the globalisation process and to Europe's competitiveness at world level.

Policy questions

- What is the nature and magnitude of the exchanges of EU regions with the rest of the world for various types of flows (trade of goods, services, capital, labour and tasks, transfers of technology and knowledge, culture)?
- What structural strong and weak points do the various types of European territories have in relation to other parts of the world?
- How can the competitiveness of EU territories be promoted and exploited at different scales (global, European, transnational, national, regional/local)?
- How does the structure of EU territories affect the competitiveness of EU regions, Member States and of the European Union as a whole?
- Can specific strategic and structural infrastructure projects at European level be identified that would support European competitiveness and territorial cohesion?

More Information

Project budget: 999 801.00 €
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- Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography – BG

European Seas and Territorial Development, Opportunities and Risks

ESaTDOR

Thematic scope

Europe's seas have become important in terms of policy making on both European and national level. The exploitation of sea and coastal areas for economic purposes is becoming increasingly important but there are also growing concerns on environmental issues. Attempts have been made to replace the existing fragmented approaches to sea management with a more collaborative integrative approach on the European level.

In this vein the Blue Book on an Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) has been presented by the European Commission, which recognises the different geographical, socio-economic, cultural and political conditions of each of Europe's maritime areas. Particular emphasis is laid on maritime transport, which has been a catalyst of economic development and prosperity throughout Europe's history and today European seaports function as gateway regions within the global economy.

This project is situated within the broader maritime and territorial policy contexts. It is the first time that ESPON explicitly looks to the seas as part of European space and not simply as an adjunct to the land or as a barrier to territorial development. The project seeks to understand land and sea interactions as an integrated whole and hence explores territorial development opportunities and risks for Europe's maritime regions.

Main results address

- New knowledge on the different patterns of use of the European seas as well as existing and potential environmental threats.
- Insight into different coastal areas and the current territorial state of their development as well as their territorial potentials and challenges.
- Territorial evidence on European coastal areas and their development opportunities, socio-economic situation as well as level of competitiveness.

Policy questions

- How can the different functions of the sea and the different human/economic activities both at sea and in coastal regions be coordinated in order to ensure sustainable use and added value of both in the light of overall European policy goals as formulated e.g. by the Lisbon Strategy, and in view of upcoming climate change effects?
- How can maritime inter-linkages as well as linkages between inland waterways and between the sea and inland waterways, both for the transport of people and of freight, be fostered and improved in an integrated way?
- How can cooperation between regional sea areas, inland harbours and between different actors be improved to achieve efficient governance structures for the implementation of an Integrated Maritime Policy? How can maritime and land-based activities come stronger together in a mutually supportive (and synergetic) development?

More Information

Project budget: 799 716.00 €
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- University of Thessaly – EL
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Services of General Interest

SeGI

Thematic scope

Services of general interest are an important part of living conditions in territories. Traditionally they comprehend electronic communications, postal services, electricity, gas, water and transport. Recent approaches tend to be more comprehensive and also look at labour market services, education, health care, child care, social care, culture or (social) housing. Socio-economic policies much focus on ensuring the provision of services of general interest to all citizens and enterprises in the European Union. Citizens and businesses rightly expect to have access to affordable high-quality services of general interest throughout the European Union.

Territorial cohesion and development policies integrate these general policy ambitions and have developed a territorial approach towards services of general interest. The territorial evidence to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of territorial policy measures regarding services of general interest remains nevertheless to be improved. This project is expected to provide the territorial evidence filling this gap.

Main results address

- Evidence on the spatial distribution of services of general interest and territorial development perspectives in different European regions, urban agglomerations and larger territories.
- New territorial information on the level of services at different geographical levels.
- Typologies of territories helping to classify areas based on relevant characteristics on services of general interest and their respective development perspectives.
- Case studies providing more detailed information on national situations.

Policy questions

- How should the defined (groupings of) services of general interest be addressed by territorial development and cohesion policies?
- What is the territorial distribution of the services of general interest throughout the European territory and how can this be measured?
- How and to what extent do the various levels of services of general interest contribute to the global competitiveness, economic development and job growth of cities, urban agglomerations and other territories?

More Information

Project budget: 988 942.50 €
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- Navarra de Suelo y Vivienda S.A. – ES
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Assessment of Regional and Territorial Sensitivity

ARTS

Thematic scope

An effective exploitation of Europe's territorial capital requires deeper insights into the various territorial effects of EU sector legislation and policy as well as on how they structurally reinforce each other. Policymakers increasingly acknowledge the need to consider ex ante possible territorial effects of new EU sector legislation and policy as they might have both directly and indirectly often unintended impacts on territorial organisation and development at European, (trans)national and regional level.

Policy practice shows that these impacts are sometimes felt at regional/local level instead of having a global impact for the entire European territory. A particular consideration in this respect is the fact that regions and different types of territories are not equally affected by new EU policy and legislation. The regional sensitivity differs due to geographical, socio-economic, environmental and cultural characteristics. In order to support policymakers, assessment methods and tools are in demand.

Main results address

- Evidence on the territorial sensitivity to specific types of European policy measures and the territorial impact of different policy alternatives.
- In-depth case studies for three European directives including a logical (territorial) analysis of the directive and the definition of territorial/regional sensitivity and an overview of the territorial impacts per policy alternative.
- Insight into the territorial/regional sensitivity of 10-15 European directives, including an overview of the available data and indicators.
- Guidance and an operational method/tool for policy advisors/practitioners (at different policy levels) for scanning territorial impacts, summarising territorial/regional sensitivity to the type of European directive in question.

Policy questions

- What is the territorial impact of (a selected number of) European directives at the different relevant geographical scales?
- Which (types of) directives have a higher territorial impact and why?
- Which European regions and types of territories are in particular affected (by the selected legislations) and how?
- What additional territorial information is needed to enable policymakers in the field of territorial cohesion and development to create awareness on territorial impact in EU policymaking processes?
- What other policies might show impacts on regions and different types of territories and what are these (aggregated) impacts?
- Do different territorial impacts of European directives and policies reinforce each other or are they in conflict?

More Information

Project budget: 247 787.50 €
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Spatial Indicators for a “Europe 2020 Strategy” Territorial Analysis

SIESTA

Thematic scope

In the Europe 2020 Strategy three key drivers for growth were identified and to be implemented through concrete actions at EU and national levels:

- Smart growth – fostering knowledge, innovation, education and digital society
- Sustainable growth – making our production more resource efficient while boosting our competitiveness, and
- Inclusive growth – raising participation in the labour market, the acquisition of skills and the fight against poverty.

A place based approach is fundamental to effective implementation of the Strategy. This requires evidence and indicators on the territorial dimension of the EU 2020 Strategy

Main results address

- New territorial evidence that in a solid, simple and easily understandable way communicates the opportunities, challenges and possible contribution of European territories to the policy objectives defined in the EU 2020 Strategy.
- An Atlas that allows users to identify which types of regions have what opportunities with regard to exploiting their territorial potentials in support of smart, sustainable and inclusive territories in Europe, as well as which types of regions can be perceived as key drivers for European development and growth at various scales.
- An electronic version of the Atlas introducing dynamic and interactive elements in the maps that could help the reader/user to better understand the key message of each map.

Policy questions

- What is the territorial dimension of the EU 2020 Strategy?
- Which types of regions have what opportunities to reach the targets set and contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth? What specific levers for development regions have in order to support the three pillars related to the EU 2020 Strategy? And how can these opportunities and potentials can be more efficiently exploited?
- Considering the EU target of investing 3% of GDP in R&D, what is the current position and recent trends of the European regions/cities in relation to this target?
- What are the opportunities and challenges of European regions/cities to support the target looking at indicators such as educational level, R&D from private sector, innovation, among others?

More Information

Project budget: 400 000.00 €
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Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe

ET2050

Thematic scope

Policymakers in the field of territorial development and cohesion are often in need of a future oriented and integrated vision on the development of the European territory.

This project builds on a territorial vision-building process that involves relevant stakeholders at European, national and regional level and follows a participatory process. The visionary process has a strategic character that allows giving direction to the policy debate on territorial development. The project is expected to support and deliver input to the territorial vision-building process by updating, extending and refining the scenario work already done by ESPON.

Main results address

- A baseline scenario, three prospective scenarios and a proactive territorial vision, all for the year 2050 covering the entire European space built on evidence and policy choices of stakeholders.
- Sensible midterm targets (2030) in order to steer territorial development into the direction of the desired long-term vision for 2050.
- A participatory process creating a common understanding and consensus on long-term territorial structures and policy priorities for Europe, including communication support.

Policy questions

- What are the new elements, including changing trends and driving forces, policies and available knowledge that have not been addressed in the ESPON 2006 Scenario Project?
- What are possible creative though feasible future territorial images for Europe?
- What policy measures at European, national and regional/city level could help realizing these images?

More Information

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Regional Potential for a Greener Economy

GREECO

Thematic scope

The Europe 2020 Strategy indicates that moving towards a greener economy allows for addressing environmental challenges, social inequalities as well as to create economic growth and jobs. Within the green economy approach, growth is especially expected in areas such as renewable energy, agriculture, water and waste management, transport, tourism and forestry. The green economy requires frameworks for investment and the formulation of coherent policy packages and therefore integrated actions are needed at the EU level as well as on national, regional and local level. As for other economic activities, the potential for green economic actions also depends on their geographical context.

The GREECO project pursues to identify the territorially relevant aspects of a green economy. In doing so it highlights the opportunities for a green economy transition of European regions through the implementation of strategic territorial development and cohesion policy actions.

Main results address

- New evidence and identification of territorial aspects of a greener economy, and territorial potentials of various types of regions that allow them to take efficient policy actions towards a greener economic base.
- An assessment of the impact of selected sectors on the socio-economic performance of European cities and regions.
- A diagnosis on the conditions that drive, enable or constraint the development and consolidation of the green economies in the sectors of relevance for each territory.
- Complementation of existing data and indicators with new indicators based on a thorough discussion on the proper measurements of green economic activities and potentials.
- Outline of potential spatial development strategies and further steps in order to further develop the understanding of the territorial dimension of green economic activities and their potentials.

Policy questions

- What potential do different European regions and cities have for contributing to a greener economy?
- What role might territorial policies play in order to support the development of a greener economy?
- Which other key policy areas including territorially relevant elements are decisive for the development of a green economy and how can these different policy areas be better territorially integrated and create synergies?

More Information

Project budget: 749 780.02 €
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Territorial Approaches to New Governance

TANGO

Thematic scope

Territorial governance is defined in this project as the process of territorial organisation of the multiplicity of relations that characterise interactions among actors and different, but not necessary conflicting interests, that should allow for an effective organisation and implementation of territorial development policies, programmes and projects at different levels, including those effectuated under the Structural Funds.

The project looks at territorial governance practices in order to understand what factors shape territorial governance that leads to successful policy outcomes. It aims at developing practical advice for territorial governance based on evidence from current practices.

Main results address

- Evidence on recent trends in organising and managing territorial development (for instance decentralisation, fusion of municipalities, etc.).
- Insight in current good practices for territorial governance in Europe and their reason of success in achieving territorial development objectives.
- Examples of good territorial governance from a multi-level, a multi-sector and a multi-actor approach promoting territorial development and/or implementing Cohesion Policy and their main factors of success.
- Insight on barriers for territorial governance and ways overcoming of these barriers.
- The possible supporting role of spatial planning instruments and other instruments in good territorial governance.
- A typology of current territorial governance practices in Europe.
- A handbook with best practices for territorial governance building on between 8 and 12 in-depth case studies undertaken.

Policy questions

- How is multi-level and cross-sector territorial governance organised throughout Europe and what are good mechanisms to ensure coordination between different public sectoral policies and cooperation between different levels of public government (including neighbouring areas)?
- What role can instruments of national and regional spatial planning systems play in creating better territorial governance? And what other effective models exist to obtain this aim? What happens if such instruments and models are not present?
- What are the main lessons for future Cohesion Policy, i.e. how can Cohesion Policy encourage stronger and more efficient forms of territorial governance at the different scales?

More Information

Project budget: 749 849.00 €
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Integrated Territorial Analysis of the Neighbourhoods

ITAN

Thematic scope

The consideration of the territory beyond the EU borders seems to be obvious due to the increasingly global economy which the EU is encountering and challenges that affect territories across borders as for example climate change. Cities and regions of the ESPON territory and their neighbouring regions are important players in this respect, which calls for territorial evidence supporting cooperation activities, including the set-up of networks creates opportunities to promote economic and social integration through dialogue on common interests and strategic options.

This project provides necessary territorial evidence highlighting topics of interest for cooperation activities with neighbouring regions and their cities that can be picked-up in the territorial agenda of ESPON countries.

Main results address

- Territorial evidence on the territorial state, structures and trends in cities and regions neighbouring the ESPON space as well as of the ESPON space in its wider territorial context.
- Insights on trends and perspectives, translating the project results into policy options for European policy makers on national, regional and local level.
- Indicators offering information on territorial potentials for advantageous cooperation options with EU neighbouring states.
- Typologies of different patterns of neighbour regions, based on regional data on territorial dynamics and flows.
- European maps revealing, territorial key structures, dynamics and trends within the neighbour regions of the ESPON territory as well as flows between these regions and the ESPON territory.
- Data input for the ESPON 2013 Database on information on territories neighbouring the European Union.

Policy questions

What territorial dynamics and respective changes over time can be identified between cities and regions of the ESPON territory and their neighbourhood?

- How can the structures and dynamics of the ESPON neighbourhood and territorial flows between the ESPON territory and its neighbourhood be described?
- Which territorial characteristics of the ESPON territory have an impact on the territorial development of and cohesion with the neighbouring regions and their cities?
- How are territorial flows likely to change and what impact on the territorial development might become apparent?
- How and where can existing territorial structures, dynamics and flows be improved by closer cooperation taking into account economic, social and environmental aspects, the enlargement of the EU, Cohesion Policy and relevant related territorial cooperation areas?

More Information

Project budget: 750 000.00 €
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Small and Medium Sized Towns in their Functional Territorial Context

TOWN

Thematic scope

Balanced and polycentric development of the European territory is a key challenge of territorial development and cohesion policy. ESPON has already paid considerable attention to the geographical spread of urban and economic activity throughout the European territory with a focus on metropolitan regions and cities. This evidence needs to be complemented with further research and additional evidence on the functional roles of small and medium-sized towns.

This project brings to the fore relevant policy considerations and recommendations, that can strengthen the contribution of small and medium-sized towns in their various territorial contexts to balanced development and territorial cohesion of the European regions. The key for their development are related to the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the challenges arising from issues of concentration, connectivity and collaboration.

Main results address

- New evidence based on analysis of the factual development and territorial potentials of small and medium sized towns in their respective functional area contexts, at both European and regional level.
- Insight via a literary review of existing research and studies on small and medium sized towns with a particular focus on their functional area contexts.
- A methodological framework for studying small and medium-sized towns in their functional area contexts, which is compatible with the new classification of the degree of urbanisation and the related city definition developed by the European Commission and the OECD.
- A handbook on good practices including findings of 10 in-depth case studies of small and medium sized towns in various territorial contexts.

Policy questions

- What kind of roles and functions do small and medium sized towns perform in the European territorial structure, e.g. as providers of employment, growth and services of general interest, that contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth?
- What are the potentials and barriers for development of small and medium sized towns in different territorial contexts, and how can policy at different levels unleash the potentials and diminish the barriers in ways that strengthen their functional character?
- What type of governance and cooperation arrangements exist at various levels aiming to support the development of small and medium-sized towns and their territorial context, and how can policy further support these types of arrangements in order to strengthen their contribution to a more balanced territorial development of the European regions?

More Information

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- University 'Rovira i Virgili' – ES
- Charles University in Prague – CZ
- University of Tours – FR

Priority 1: Applied Research

Territorial Dimension of Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe

TIPSE

Thematic scope

Combating poverty and social exclusion ranks among the main objectives of the European Union and its Member States. At the Lisbon European Council (March 2000) heads of state and government pledged themselves to making a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty by the year 2010.

In order to avoid further economic and social decline in Europe, social exclusion and poverty have been given particular attention in the Europe 2020 Strategy that outlines the way forward to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. For social exclusion, not only a clear definition seems to be lacking, but also there doesn't seem to be a systematic application of the concept in research. Another aspect is the integration of migrants from outside the EU which have recently been the main source of population growth in EU regions.

This project serves the need to better understand the territorial patterns of poverty and social exclusion in European regions as well as its development over time.

Main results address

- A robust but flexible small area estimation methodology.
- Territorial poverty maps for all countries where sufficient data is available.
- Identification of areas on which policy should focus to reduce poverty and social exclusion and where opportunities exist to support smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- Proposal of methodologies and indicators to monitor poverty and social exclusion in a territorial manner on an annual basis.
- Typologies of countries participating in the ESPON Programme based on their poverty or exclusion profile.
- Case studies looking into more territorial detail.

Policy questions

- Which territories are confronted with high degrees of poverty or social exclusion?
- What policy recommendations follow from a territorial analysis of poverty and social exclusion?
- How can poverty and social exclusion be monitored at territorial level?

More Information

Project budget: 749 825.00 €
Final Report: May 2014

Lead partner

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Project partners

- University of the Highlands and Islands – UK
- University of Newcastle upon Tyne – UK
- Research Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences – HU
- ILS - Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development GmbH – DE
- National Centre for Social Research – EL

Economic Crisis: Resilience of Regions

ECR2

Thematic scope

The global financial crisis from 2008 onwards realised a significant economic downturn as well as new and intensified social challenges in many European countries and regions. The problems in the diverse national financial and real estate markets affected specific economic sectors and consumer behaviour and resulted in declining employment and economic growth rates.

The European Commission recognises in its Europe 2020 Strategy that the crisis has wiped out the steady gains in economic and social progress over the last decade (1995-2008) and that it has exposed some structural weaknesses of the socio-economic structure, i.e. globally compared low growth rates, low participation to the labour market and demographic ageing. Europe should in this scenario make use of its numerous strengths.

The objective of this project is to expose territorial evidence that supports policymakers at different administrative levels in making the economic structure(s) in Europe and its countries, regions and cities more resilient to economic crises and a sudden economic downturn. The project is asked to draw lessons from the current and earlier economic crises.

Main results address

- Evidence on the impact of the crisis on regions of Europe and on the capacities of some regions to be more resilient than others.
- Insight in success factors and barriers for recovery strategies including potentials for contributions through place-based approaches.
- Typology of different economic structures throughout Europe.
- Case studies providing deeper insight on the interventions of policymakers at different levels in recovering efforts.
- European maps showing regional impacts of the economic crises, hard hit regions as well as regions with faster recovery.

Policy questions

- What is the territorial impact of the last economic crisis? What economic activities/sectors were particularly impacted by the crisis and where are these located in Europe? How could this be mapped?
- What quantitative and qualitative factors allow regions to move faster out of economic downturn? What element in economic structures and policy responses made a difference for territories in order to be able to recover from the crisis? What (types of) regions and territories turn out to be more resilient and successfully adaptive to the latest economic downturn and why?
- What can regional policymakers do to complement macro-economic measures stimulating at the latest economic recovery? How can policymakers enhance the resilience of the regional economies for future economic downturn? It is part of better resilience to be found in integrated and place-based policy action?

More Information

Project budget: 754 469.00 €
Final Report: April 2014

Lead partner

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Project partners

- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki – EL
- Research and Technology Transfer Centre Leipzig – DE
- University of Gdansk – PL
- University of Tartu – EE
- University of Manchester – UK
- Experian plc – UK

Targeted Analyses

The Case for Agglomeration Economies in Europe

CAEE

Thematic scope

European cities are centres of finance and commerce; centres of culture, knowledge and creativity; centres of communication, power and influence as well as visitor and tourist centres. The concentration of people and business activity has many benefits that make locating in the city worthwhile. Agglomeration is a dynamic process, cities are not static areas. Indeed, urban size and variation are precisely what makes change possible.

This project is an economically focused study looking at the process of agglomeration within city regions across Europe, i.e. areas which are typically NUTS2 regions and which contain a primary central city. The analysis contributes to creating a better understanding of and to suggesting optimum scales for urban form and agglomeration, taking into account both the economic costs and benefits of large urban agglomerations.

Main results address

- Evidence on the process of agglomeration in the context of European city regions, outlining whether there is a policy role for influencing agglomeration economies.
- Insight into agglomeration economies in European city regions, outlining the role of the partner city regions in relation to future business and investment.
- New knowledge on European city region (MEGAs) economies, to improve the economic understanding of decision-makers in the partner city regions, including a European perspective on potential development opportunities.
- Identification of a range of relevant policy options to ensure that agglomeration growth spills over to benefit both the cities themselves as well as their wider regions.

Main stakeholder interests

- Clarifying how agglomeration effects can be measured by using available data and the application of a common measurement methodology.
- Deriving measures of city-regional autonomy to compare governance arrangements in the case study areas, and determining how city-regional policy choices can affect the nature and pattern of agglomeration economies.
- Understanding the sources of agglomeration within the four study areas, and assessing the possible role of policy in influencing agglomeration economies.
- Comparatively analysing agglomeration, including both potential economies and diseconomies, in the case study areas.
- Proposing strategic policy options to encourage agglomeration growth to spill over to the wider regional economy.
- Assessing how governance arrangements in the target areas have enabled or constrained city-regional development in the past and are likely to do so in the future.

More Information

Project budget: 200 000.00 €
Final report: 30 June 2010

Lead partner

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Project partners

- National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, National University of Ireland, Maynooth – IE
- Technical University of Catalonia – ES
- Advanced National School of Humanities and Social Sciences – FR

Stakeholders

- Manchester Enterprises Ltd – UK
- Barcelona Provincial Council, Territorial Observatory of the Studies Department – ES
- Dublin Regional Authority, Regional Planning Guidelines – IE
- Greater Lyon, Department for International Relations – FR

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

The Development of the Islands - European Islands and Cohesion Policy

EUROISLANDS

Thematic scope

In recent years great consideration has been given to geographical particularities within the EU which seem to be linked to the persistence of regional and intraregional inequalities. The territorial dimension has been included in recent cohesion reports. Based on the common acknowledgment of the particular problems that islands face but also on their development opportunities, a specific Action concerning the European Islands has been included in the First Action Program for the implementation of the Territorial Agenda. The EUROISLANDS targeted analysis is in line with the requirements and objectives of the AP1.

The aim of the project is to deliver an appropriate reference work and a set of policy recommendations and strategic guidance to foster the sustainable development of the European islands within the framework of the Single Market.

Main results address

- New in-depth knowledge of islands' situation and the level of their divergence from the European average.
- Evidence on existing policy measures for the islands as well as their adequacy and possibilities for alternative measures.
- Insight into the islands' development potentials from a European perspective and into the policy options to be adopted to face islands' weaknesses and to better exploit strengths and opportunities.
- An integrated system for monitoring islands' evolution.

Main stakeholder interests

- Analysing the territorial structures and dynamics of islands, particularly their development constraints and potentials, and the transferability of the results to a general European context.
- Assessing the intensity of the constraints based on an islands typology.
- Analysing the conditions for promoting and exploiting territorial potentials from a European, transnational, national and regional/local perspective.
- Conclusions supporting policymakers at different levels in adapting islands' realities and to enable islands to play a more active role in the EU both economically and socially.

More Information

Project budget: 250 000.00 €
Final report: 1 August 2011

Lead partner

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Project partners

- Centre for Regional and Tourism Research – DK
- University of Malta – MT

Stakeholders

- Ministry of Economy & Finance – EL
- Malta Environment and Planning Authority – MT
- National Rural Development Agency – SE
- Municipality of Gotland – SE
- Government of the Balearic Islands – ES
- Department of Town Planning and Housing – CY
- Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Department of Regional Development – DK
- Ministry of Economic Development – IT
- Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Department of EU and International Affairs – IT
- Saaremaa County Government, Department of Development and Planning – EE
- The Government of Åland, Department for Administrative Affairs – FI

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Cross-border Polycentric Metropolitan Regions

METROBORDER

Thematic scope

Metropolitan regions are seen as drivers for territorial development in the national context and as drivers for economic, social and cultural development on a European and global scale. Many border regions have specific potentials but also specific barriers for a cross-border polycentric metropolitan region. However, cross-border areas appear to be systematically underestimated in their development opportunities so that awareness about specific advantages needs to be improved.

This is why the project addresses cross-border metropolitan regions in Europe in relation to the policy aim of polycentric development. It identifies criteria, potentials and governance practices based on available ESPON evidence for polycentric cross-border metropolitan regions in Europe. It proposes options for development strategies towards a multilevel approach for two case study regions (Upper Rhine Region and the Greater Region).

Main results address

- Evidence on the particular territorial potentials, challenges and the main threats for the case study areas, both internally and externally.
- SWOT analysis of the case study areas as a support for strategy building aiming at creating polycentric metropolitan regions across borders.
- Identification of the joint added value of (further) progress as a polycentric cross-border metropolitan region.
- Insight into actions related to the EU and the national level where and to which degree potentials for cross-border metropolitan areas exist.
- Development of a common reference framework for the main functions of cross-border metropolitan regions and for governance structures as well as for the application of the framework in the case study regions.

Main stakeholder interests

- Identifying the main characteristics of cross-border metropolitan regions in Europe (e. g. functions supported in the national and in the cross-border contexts).
- Gaining analytical support for strategy building and options for internal and external strategy building in the case study regions.
- A generalisation and communication of results, lessons learned and of good practice (potentials and threats in relation to cross-border metropolitan development and policy responses).

More Information

Project budget: 250 000.00 €
Final report: 31 December 2010

Lead partner

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Project partners

- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, Network City and Landscape, Planning of Landscape and Urban Systems – CH
- Centre for Populations, Poverty and Public Policy Studies – LU
- Free University of Brussels– BE

Stakeholders

- Federal Office for Spatial Development – CH
- Ministry of the Interior and for Spatial Planning, Directorate for Spatial Planning – LU
- Interministerial delegation to the spatial planning and the competitiveness of the territories (DIACT) – FR
- Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs – DE
- Ministry of the Walloon Region, Directorate for Spatial Planning, Housing and Heritage – BE

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Success for Convergence Regions' Economies

SURE

Thematic scope

It is commonly accepted that convergence regions within the EU do not only suffer from far below average GDP per capita, but are also forced to grow faster than other regions and to ensure that this growth is consistent. In order to tackle this reality, many EU-funded projects aim at stimulating these regions' development and helping to strengthen the regional capacity in the fields of physical and human capital, innovation, knowledge-based society, adaptability to change, the environment and administrative effectiveness.

Against this backdrop, this project focuses on the specific challenges of development of convergence regions within the EU. Despite the fact that these regions have been awarded with extensive funds, not all have taken advantage to the same extent and therefore are still unable to improve their socio-economic performance and competitiveness.

Therefore this project seeks to understand why some convergence regions are unable to improve economic performance and competitiveness. It will do so by systematically comparing relevant factors for economic growth and by analysing successful cohesion projects over the last 15 years in convergence regions with both high and low growth rates.

Main results address

- Evidence on potentially relevant factors for the success of convergence regions' economic development.
- Identification of measures to improve regional economic prosperity.
- Insight into the evolution of the stakeholder convergence regions in one specific area and provision of bench learning examples for stakeholders and other EU convergence regions.
- Synthetic analysis of what a region can do to improve economic prosperity.

Main stakeholder interests

- Identifying factors and characteristics common for all convergence regions in the EU and those common for weak regions but different for catching up regions.
- Verifying these common and different factors and characteristics by statistical and econometric methods.
- Evaluating the cause-effect relation of the economic performance and competitiveness capacity of lagging European regions and of the impact of EU co-funded projects on the overall economic performance of the regions.

More Information

Project budget: 200 000.00 €
Final report: 3 January 2011

Lead partner

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Project partners

- University of Basel, Urban and Regional Studies, Institute of Geography, Department of Environmental Sciences – CH

Stakeholders

- Campania Region – IT
- Podlaskie Voivodship Marshal's Office – PL
- Fundacion Comunidad Valencian, Region Europea – ES
- Region of East Macedonia, Thrace – EL

Potential of Rural Regions

PURR

Thematic scope

ESPON has identified demographic and economic change in peripheral rural regions as an issue of European concern. The aim of the PURR project is to create and test new ways to explore the territorial potentials of some rural areas and small and medium-sized towns in peripheral parts of Europe around the North Sea, the Irish Sea and the Baltic Sea.

These places face problems such as ageing, migration, poor accessibility, restructuring of traditional industries and are further threatened by rising energy costs. However, they also possess some territorial assets related to their natural and cultural heritage and in the sense of identity that many have. The analysis will use ESPON results to benchmark the stakeholder regions in their European context and will develop and apply methodologies for identifying and realising territorial potentials in these places.

Main results address

- New European knowledge on methodologies for assessing territorial potential in rural regions.
- A benchmarking of each region and local authority behind the targeted analysis offering a European perspective to their development considerations.
- Policy options for each partner region based on the analysis of their territorial potential.
- Evidence on how research and applications of the idea of territorial potential in rural regions can be taken forward by the stakeholders following the end of the project.

Main stakeholder interests

- Benchmarking each stakeholder region in a European context, based on a cross-thematic review of relevant ESPON findings and on the regions' existing development and assets.
- Collecting more detailed information from stakeholder regions on territorial assets, governance and policy integration.
- Developing innovative methodologies to assess territorial potential, and testing these methodologies by applying them to each stakeholder region.
- Explaining how these methodologies might be developed and applied in other parts of Europe.
- Developing policy options for sustainable regional development for each stakeholder region.

More Information

Project budget: 209 605.00 €
Final report: 30 June 2012

Lead partner

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Project partners

- London South Bank University – UK
- Vidzeme University College – LV

Stakeholders

- Notodden Municipality – NO
- Amata Municipality – LV
- North Yorkshire County Council – UK
- Welsh Assembly Government – UK
- Dumfries and Galloway Council – UK

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Spatial Scenarios: New Tools for Local-Regional Territories

SS-LR

Thematic scope

The capacity to transfer methodologies of spatial scenarios to the local-regional scale is a subject of major relevance. Policy makers and the main stakeholders involved in strategic planning processes need territorial forecasting instruments to detect the main critical factors and trends in order to anticipate changes in the environment. There is a need to develop and apply regional forecasting methodologies and instruments at the appropriate territorial scale, responding to functional local-regional territories.

The purpose of this project is to transfer, adapt and apply the same spatial scenarios' methodology used within the ESPON Project 3.2 at functional territorial scale, equal or lower than NUTS3. The methodology and instruments are applied to the case of Barcelona Provincial Council (BPC). The outcome of the project enables policy makers to draw up regional, social and economic territorial policies and development strategies for their territories.

Main results address

- New European knowledge on and tools for applying ESPON scenarios at a functional scale equal or below NUTS 3.
- Development of spatial scenarios for Barcelona Provincial Council.
- Production of comparative analyses emphasising the European perspective and integration of them in permanent tools for analysis and strategic knowledge input.
- Definition and comparison of different territorial scales for development in the European context using existing ESPON results.

Main stakeholder interests

- Transferring the ESPON 2006 methodology of the "Spatial Scenarios" project to territorial scales in and below NUTS 3.
- Adapting various thematic scenarios to the local-regional scale (e.g. the global economic scenario, the role of emerging economies and the energy and oil price scenario).
- Adapting integrated scenarios (baseline, cohesive, competitive) to local-regional scale.
- Adapting indicators, maps and tools to local-regional scale.
- Developing tools for producing scenarios in a European context, synthesis and communication.
- Policy messages and recommendations, stressing the economic, productive and land-use scenarios.

More Information

Project budget: 178 000.00 €

Final report: 27 July 2010

Lead partner

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Project partners

- Autonomous University of Barcelona – ES

Stakeholders

- Barcelona Provincial Council – ES
- Province of Torino – IT
- Department of the Hérault – FR

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Transnational Support Method for European Cooperation

TranSMEC

Thematic scope

In the INTERREG tradition, projects are developed bottom-up, i.e. they are triggered by the expressions of interest of relevant stakeholders. The advantage of this is that projects respond to the territorial needs of each region in question. However, this bottom-up approach seems to jeopardise the overall coherence of the transnational cooperation programmes.

INTERREG programmes feel a strong need to have a systemised aggregated picture of individual project results against the backdrop of territorial evidence that is relevant for the respective cooperation area. This information should allow them to better capitalise and communicate the overall added value of project results and to steer project and programme development in a more strategic way.

Main results address

- Evidence on a new method providing guidance to transnational cooperation programmes on how ESPON results can be used for capitalisation and communication of INTERREG results and strategic project and programme development.
- Development of a set of tools (maps, guidance, clustering of projects, criteria, overlays) that are applied for the NWE context in order to better capitalise and communicate programme and project results and to better steer project and programme development. The tools should be transferable to other cooperation programmes.
- Set up of a territorial information base for the NWE area including its position in the European, national and regional context and an overview of relevant development trends.

Main stakeholder interests

- Developing a general method that provides guidance on how ESPON results can be used for capitalising and communicating results and developing projects.
- Identifying cross-linkages between the NWE SWOT analysis and the performance of the programme area.
- Identifying key issues for future transnational cooperation in the NWE area as they emerge from ESPON territorial evidence.

More Information

Project budget: 150 000.00 €
Final report: 14 October 2011

Lead partner

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Stakeholders

- Nord-Pas de Calais Regional Council, Department of EU Affairs (The lead stakeholder is the Managing Authority of the INTERREG IVB programme North-West Europe. The joint technical secretariat of the programme represents the lead stakeholder and the monitoring committee of the programme has an observer status in the project) – FR

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Territorial Diversity in Europe

ESPON TeDi

Thematic scope

The Territorial Agenda, as well as the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies point out that the diversity of territorial potentials of regions in contributing to sustainable development, economic growth and job creation in the EU must be identified and mobilised. Not only can metropolitan or major urban areas significantly contribute towards the overall policy goals of these documents. In fact, many regions outside these areas make major contributions towards the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies.

Against this backdrop, the overall objective of this project was to provide a better understanding of development processes in territories outside the Pentagon that are defined as insular, mountainous, sparsely populated or peripheral. The analysis aims at particularly highlighting how these territories may contribute to the achievement of overarching European objectives expressed in the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies.

Main results address

- Evidence on the categorisation of TeDi regions by degree and type of territorial constraint.
- Identification of European regions of which TeDi regions may act as a representative sample for further generalisation of the project's results and recommendations.
- Dynamic typology of TeDi regions regarding their performance in relation to the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies.
- Development of an index of thematic and global sensitivity for TeDi regions.
- Elaboration of individual case stories for each TeDi region and identification of key development leverages for each region.

Main stakeholder interests

- Identifying territorial specificities that the territories under investigation are subject to.
- Analysing the chain of causalities between these territorial specificities and the constraints and opportunities they lead to in terms of facilitating economic and social development.
- Identifying the comparative advantages and specific development opportunities of these regions.
- Investigating the temporal change linked to the impacts of current macro-trends on these territories, highlighting their degree of vulnerability to external factors.
- Identifying possibilities for future policy actions aiming at benefiting from the specific potentials of the concerned territories and counter-balancing trends that could hamper development.

More Information

Project budget: 209 800.00 €
Final report: 12 May 2010

Lead partner

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Project partners

- Panteion University - Regional Development Institute – EL
- CEFIDEC - Training and Innovation Center for Development in the Carpathians – RO
- University of Geneva, Geography Department – CH

Stakeholders

- Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development – NO
- Ministry of Employment and Economy – FI
- Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE – CH
- Department of Town Planning and Housing, Ministry of the Interior – CY
- National Rural Development Agency – SE
- Malta Environment & Planning Authority – MT
- Ministry for Development, Public Works and Housing – RO

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

ESPON and Territorial Impact Assessment

EATIA

Thematic scope

European sector policies and directives – often together with their translation and implementation into national and regional policies – can have a severe impact on the territorial development and spatial development policies of countries and regions in Europe. EU Member States and the European Commission therefore demonstrate interest in Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA). Both have been involved in research and experimental initiatives in order to better understand TIA.

This project tests the practical use of existing methods and tools for TIA. Through both analytical work and an interactive learning track the project is expected to define possibilities for implementing TIA at national and sub-national level in EU Member States. The policymaking contexts of Portugal, Slovenia and the United Kingdom function as test areas.

Main results address

- An overview of existing TIA methods developed by EU Member States, by the European Commission as well as within the ESPON 2006 and 2013 programmes.
- An evaluation of existing methods and tools for TIA.
- Insight into the technical potentials for the implementation of TIA methods.
- Recommendations for implementing TIA in practice applying a participatory approach.
- Interactive learning sessions intended to transmit project findings.
- Establishment of a national learning network in each of the stakeholder countries.

Main stakeholder interests

- Evaluating how the assessment of territorial impacts of European (sector) policies can be addressed within policymaking in EU Member States.
- Exploring the concrete needs at national and regional level in terms of TIA.
- Indicating the possibilities for implementing TIA within EU Member States and creating a knowledge transfer on TIA to the regional and local level in the contexts of Portugal, Slovenia and the United Kingdom.

More Information

Project budget: 349 281.00 €
Final report: 29 June 2012

Lead partner

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Project partners

- University of Oporto, Faculty of Engineering – PT
- University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty – SI
- Delft University of Technology – NL

Stakeholders

- Department for Communities and Local Government – UK
- Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development – PT
- Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy – SI

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Using Applied Research Results from ESPON as a Yardstick for Cross-Border Spatial Development Planning

ULYSSES

Thematic scope

The ULYSSES project investigates European border and cross-border areas through a multi-thematic approach considering future territorial challenges as expressed in findings in the ESPON 2006 and ESPON 2013 programmes.

Applied research results from ESPON are used as a yardstick for cross-border spatial development planning. Specific emphasis is laid on important territorial issues and challenges pin-pointed by strategic European policy orientations and by recent ESPON applied research.

Main results address

- Elaboration of (six) multi-thematic territorial analyses to be used as “reference baseline” for developing and/or updating new cross-border spatial development concepts.
- Elaboration of (seven) “data fact sheets” as operational input for the understanding of the European dimension of their development potentials and challenges.
- Elaboration of a “ULYSSES Practical Guide” on cross-border development.

Main stakeholder interests

- Raising the stakeholders’ awareness and know-how about crucial issues that strongly condition the quality of cross-border spatial development concepts.
- Contributing to motivate other cross-border areas not directly covered by one of the pilot analysis to launch spatial development elaboration processes for their respective cross-border areas.

More Information

Project budget: 349 682.23 €
Final report: 25 January 2013

Lead partner

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Project partners

- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Institute of Urban and Regional Planning – DE
- Democritus University of Thrace – EL
- University of Aveiro – PT
- Lappeenranta University of Technology – FI

Stakeholders

- Région Alsace – FR
- Regio Basiliensis – CH
- Regional Planning Board of the Middle Upper Rhine – DE
- Regional Planning Board of the Southern Upper Rhine – DE
- EUREGIO – DE
- Prefectural Authority of Drama-Kavala-Xanthi – EL
- Regional Council of North Karelia – FI
- Government of Navarra, Department of Housing and Spatial Planning – ES
- Regional Coordination and Development Commission of Alentejo – PT
- General Direction of Urbanism and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Building, Regional Government of Extremadura – ES
- The Öresund Committee – DK
- Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisa Euroregion – HU
- City of Szczecin – PL
- EuRegio Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land-Traunstein – DE
- Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia – IT
- Working Community of the Pyrenees – ES
- PI Nemunas Euroregion Marijampole Bureau – LT
- Ems Dollart Region – DE

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Identifying and Exchanging Best Practices in Developing Regional Integrated Strategies in Europe

RISE

Thematic scope

Regional approaches to strategic planning across Europe are changing and Regional Integrated Strategies (RIS) are emerging as a way for regions to focus on cohesion and integrated sustainable development. Although RIS are emerging all across the EU, there is no single model of RIS. Instead they consist of a combination of several core thematic and spatial topics, which vary depending on the regional contexts.

Nevertheless, the methodological challenges in developing and implementing a RIS remain similar and RIS can be used as a valuable tool for regeneration. Despite their growing importance, little collective or stored knowledge on RIS exists and the topic requires further investigation. The RISE project focuses on four different European regions: Randstad (NL), Zealand (DK), Västerbotten (SE) and the West Midlands (UK).

Main results address

- A report on the state of play of the regional integrated strategies of the four RISE regions.
- Evidence of the relationship between sectoral and territorial policies within a Regional Integrated Strategy.
- Analytical input to territorial visions, strategies and scenarios, in particular targeted to the regions involved.
- A RISE toolkit with policy recommendations, integration, monitoring and evaluation indicators, an overview of financial models applied within RIS and a model of stakeholder engagement.

Main stakeholder interests

- Investigating the state of play of the RIS amongst the four RISE regions.
- Studying the compatibility between sectoral and territorial policies within a RIS.
- Identifying the core indicators needed to measure the degree of integration of a RIS.
- Studying how monitoring and evaluation indicators and methodologies can help developing RIS.
- Assessing how different financing instruments can be enhanced in preparing an integrated strategy.
- Identifying types of stakeholder engagement and how this can support the delivery of a strategy.

More Information

Project budget: 350 000.00 €
Final report: 13 July 2012

Lead partner

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Project partners

- Delft University of Technology - Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies – NL
- University of Copenhagen - Forest & Landscape, Denmark – DK
- University of Umeå - Centre for Regional Science – SE
- Nordregio, Nordic Center for Spatial Development – SE

Stakeholders

- Birmingham City Council – UK
- Regional Council of Västerbotten – SE
- Region Zealand – DK
- Randstad Region, Brussels office – NL

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Metropolisation and Polycentric Development in Central Europe: Evidence Based Strategic Options

POLYCE

Thematic scope

The European Commission considers the Danube Region as one of the most important areas in Europe and has set up a macro-regional strategy encouraging long term co-operation to tackle a wide range of policy challenges. The capital cities of Vienna, Prague, Budapest, Bratislava and Ljubljana wish to play an active role in this co-operation. These big cities are important drivers of development. The five cities therefore wish to strengthen their position as network of metropolises within the European and global territory.

These cities do not only want to be drivers of development for their direct hinterland but also, as a network act as drivers of development for the entire Danube Region as global integration zone. In order to detect opportunities for sustainable urban development at macro-regional and city-level this project carries out a territorial analysis at both levels.

Main results address

- New evidence in the form of basic information on Macro-regional polycentric structures in Europe, demographic and economic structures and development, as well as urban structure, quality of life and governance.
- New insights on the strengths and weaknesses in different aspects of metropolitan development, assets and deficits of metropolitan positioning as well as development opportunities.
- New knowledge on indicators for polycentric development on macro and meso level.
- Identifying new strategic and cooperative initiatives.

Main stakeholder interests

- Studying the characteristics of the polycentric system on regional and metropolitan level in order to identify competitive and cooperative aspects between the metropolises.
- Identifying distinct characteristics and profiles of the involved metropolises.
- Analysing the strengths and weaknesses of the metropolises and their development perspectives.
- Developing recommendations and strategies based on research findings.

More Information

Project budget: 349 957.26 €
Final report: 31 May 2012

Lead partner

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Project partners

- University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering – SI
- Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava – SK
- University of Szeged – HU
- Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Architecture – CZ
- University in Prague, Faculty of Science – CZ
- Centre for Populations, Poverty and Public Policy Studies – LU
- Polytechnic of Milan – IT

Stakeholders

- Department of Urban Development and Planning, City of Vienna – AT
- Department for Spatial Systems Coordination, City of Bratislava– SK
- Department of Spatial Planning, City of Ljubljana – SI
- City Development Authority, City of Prague – CZ
- Studio Metropolitana, Nonprofit Ltd – HU

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Territorial Performance Monitoring

TPM

Thematic scope

Territorial development at the regional level is becoming increasingly important for effectively addressing local and regional transformations as well as challenges at the European level. However, knowledge on the specific regional consequences of macro-challenges is limited and appropriate regional planning tools are rare.

This project focuses on European and global challenges with specific regional consequences: climate change, energy supply, demographic development and globalisation. The aim is to understand how territorial impacts of these macro challenges translate at the regional level and how to deal with these challenges in an effective way. In this context it is considered important to share experiences and to exchange best practices that could be used to improve the effectiveness of how territorial strategies are implemented.

Main results address

- A tool kit for monitoring territorial performance, integrating qualitative and quantitative methods that can be used for measuring the regional performance of urban polycentric regions in Europe and ideas on how it can be used to support policy making.
- A methodological frame for research on monitoring systems regarding specific types of regions.
- Indicators offering additional information on the territorial impact of macro-challenges on NUTS 2, 3 and at local scale.
- Insight on options for regional territorial strategies to deal with macro-challenges.
- Knowledge on regional challenges that might not yet be recognised at European level.

Main stakeholder interests

- Analysis of case study regions and how the four macro-challenges of climate change energy supply, demographic development and globalisation are tackled.
- Elaboration of a performance monitoring tool kit to assess the performance of regions and to identify factors that can explain why certain regions perform better than others.
- Analytical support for strategy building by looking at how experiences can be shared and used into developing more effective territorial policy actions.

More Information

Project budget: 348 987.50 €
Final report: 29 June 2012

Lead partner

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Project partners

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- Navarra de Suelo Residencial S.A. – ES
- National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, National University of Ireland – IE
- ILS Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development GmbH – DE
- Catholic University of Leuven - Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Planning - Unit Planning & Development – BE

Stakeholders

- Department for Town and Country Planning, Housing Policy and Heritage, Flemish Government, Belgium – BE
- Government of Catalonia, Ministry of Town and Country Planning and Public Works – ES
- Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia – DE
- Government of Navarra, Department of Housing and Spatial Planning – ES
- Dublin Regional Authority, Regional planning office – IE

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Best Development Conditions in European Metropolises: Paris, Berlin and Warsaw

BEST METROPOLISES

Thematic scope

Metropolitan regions are the primary growth poles for regions and countries and they are seen as key drivers of territorial development both in the national and European context. Metropolisation is a complex process, affecting cities on a social, economic and spatial level. Therefore it is important to understand the logic of metropolitan development in order to determine what potentials should be mobilised.

The project focuses on processes of urban development that many cities and regions in the EU currently experience. Emphasis is laid on comparing cities, thus enabling them to identify similarities and common challenges in relation to the project's three main themes: living conditions, mobility and governance in the metropolitan context. The analysis focuses on the metropolitan areas of Berlin, Paris and Warsaw attempting to gather information and knowledge that can be used in the planning, development and management practice of metropolitan cities and areas.

Main results address

- Evidence on the main determinants of development in the three cities and their main development challenges.
- Analysis of social, economic, and spatial development processes in order to compare development potentials in the three cities.
- Evaluation of ways of raising the efficiency of metropolitan and local governance.
- New comparative insight, helping to understand potentials and challenges of metropolisation seen from a European perspective.
- Developing a practical "toolbox" offering a set of solutions to be used to deal with problems related to metropolitan living conditions, mobility and governance.

Main stakeholder interests

- Analysing the consequences of metropolisation processes in Berlin, Paris and Warsaw in terms of living conditions, mobility and governance.
- Assessing the development potential in each of the cities.
- Studying how political, organisational, spatial, and socio-economic contexts influence development policies and their performance.
- Evaluating the efficiency of development policies in achieving goals of sustainable development.

More Information

Project budget: 349 300.00 €
Final report: 31 January 2013

Lead partner

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Project partners

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- Paris Region Planning and Development Agency – FR
- Nordregio, Nordic Centre for Spatial Development – SE

Stakeholders

- European Funds Department of the City of Warsaw – PL
- Berlin Senate Department for Urban Development – DE
- International Relations Department, General Secretariat of the City of Paris – FR

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Selective Migration and Unbalanced Sex Ratio in Rural Regions

SEMIGRA

Thematic scope

Many rural and economically weak regions in Europe are affected by demographic shrinkage and selective migration. Evidence suggests that especially young and highly educated women are among those leaving peripheral regions, resulting in an unbalanced population base. This is believed to have a negative effect on the liveability, attractiveness and the competitiveness of areas. The outmigration of young adults is regarded as both a cause and an indicator for economic and social fragility.

Against this background the SEMIGRA project identifies the main reasons and consequences of selective migration in rural regions. It also presents strategies for territorial development in order to deal with selective migration and to stabilize demographic and social development.

Main results address

- Consolidated evidence on the impact of gender-related courses of actions, methods, and procedures related to regional development.
- Insights in tacit knowledge and the potential of human capital in the case study regions in regard to the needs of young adults.
- Knowledge on potentials and fragilities of rural regions with unbalanced sex ratio structures in relation to European cohesion policies.
- Case studies of 5 regions offering in-depth analysis, including considerations on options and potential measures counteracting out-migration trends in rural regions.

Main stakeholder interests

- Estimating the impact of unbalanced sex ratio structures in the context of the EU cohesion policy.
- Enhancing strategy building on a regional and local level.
- Identifying similarities and differences between regions affected by selective migration.
- An in-depth analysis of five case study regions.
- Developing analytical support for strategy building and policy making.
- Disseminating, communicating and transferring research results.

More Information

Project budget: 335 586.00 €

Final report: 31 June 2012

Lead partner

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Project partners

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- University of Oulu, Kajaani University Consortium, AIKOPA, Adult and Continuing Education, Regional Research Group – FI
- Research Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences – HU
- University of Miskolc, Faculty of Economics – HU

Stakeholders

- Ministry for Regional Development and Transport, Federal State of Saxony-Anhalt – DE
- Észak-Alföld Regional Development Agency Non-profit Ltd.– HU
- NORDA Regional Development Agency of North Hungary Non-profit Ltd. Liability Company – HU
- Joint Authority of Kainuu Region – FI
- County Administrative Board, Västernorrland – SE

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Smart Institutions for Territorial Development

SMART-IST

Thematic scope

The link between long-term growth and high standard public institutions has been thoroughly analysed. Research indicates that a modern and efficient public administration is critical for the competitiveness of a territory. Therefore great relevance has been placed on the matter by the European Community and Member States in order to develop policy measures aimed at building capacities in the public sector.

The aim of the project is to address institutional factors explaining the efficiency of public institutions in designing and implementing successful territorial development strategies in the framework of EU Cohesion Policy. In this vein, the attempt is to identify successful methods and governance experiences that can function as examples for other regions in Europe. The project covers selected territories in France and Italy along with two additional case studies.

Main results address

- Identification of institutional preconditions, which are essential for effective territorial development strategies and policies.
- A common and transferable methodology based on indicators, allowing to measure, compare and promote improvements in implementing a territorial dimension in Structural Funds programmes.
- Empirical evidence on the link between public sector efficiency and regional economic growth.
- Performance indicators measuring institutional efficiency.
- Policy recommendations that help building capacities for an efficient implementation of Structural Funds.

Main stakeholder interests

- Identifying factors, which are essential for effective management of Structural Funds programmes.
- Evaluating to what extent institutions have met challenges set by Cohesion policy.
- Assessing the impact of cohesion policy in different areas and how institutional conditions can be improved.
- Analyzing national and government frameworks and their impact on administrative capacity.
- Identifying practices and tools that can be used to measure and enhance public administration efficiency.
- Assessing how good governance has affected regional economic performance.

More Information

Project budget: 345 803.00 €
Final report: 30 September 2012

Lead partner

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Project partners

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- Institute for Social Research – IT
- Lyon Normal Superior School – FR
- Autonomous University of Barcelona – ES

Stakeholders

- Department for Development and Economic Cohesion, Ministry of Economic Development – IT
- Inter-ministerial Delegation for the Development and Competitiveness of Territories – FR

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Airports as Drivers of Economic Success in Peripheral Regions

ADES

Thematic scope

Transport and accessibility are key factors in terms of economic prosperity and long-term attractiveness. Especially due to globalisation, the importance of accessibility has been highlighted and for some regions the role of airports has become increasingly important. Peripheral territories often suffer from weak accessibility which potentially may lead to unequal growth and hinder a polycentric development in Europe. In order to ensure a balanced development, it is therefore important to guarantee a certain level of accessibility to more remote areas.

The project aims at providing a better understanding of the opportunities and perspectives of regional airport investments in peripheral areas from a European and National perspective, as well as its contribution to regional economic development.

The main aim is to provide input to policy-makers on future options for infrastructure investments in peripheral regions across Europe.

Main results address

- A methodological frame for the analysis of territorial potentials of peripheral regions in Europe based on accessibility issues and economic specialisation.
- Methodology for measuring the effects of improving accessibility (in particular with regional airports) on regional economic performance and vice-versa.
- Leading practices and sample of regional development models for peripheral regions in Europe including considerations on the role of regional airports.
- Indicators offering additional information on the measurement of accessibility in peripheral regions, particular linked to air accessibility.

Main stakeholder interests

- To better know and understand the position of their regions within the larger context of the EU and their performance in relation to other similar regions in Europe.
- To understand future development priorities for peripheral regions in Europe and development models for regional airports.
- To support the choices on transport options and major long-term investments and development choices in the case study regions in order to ensure economic attractiveness and a more balanced polycentric development of these regions.
- Carrying out an inter-regional comparison.

More Information

Project budget: 300 000.00 €
Final report: 31 January 2013

Lead partner

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Project partners

- BAK Basel Economics AG – CH
- Knowledge and Innovation Intermediaries consulting Ltd. – EL
- Jyväskylä University School of Business and Economics – FI

Stakeholders

- Province of Savona – IT
- Region of Western Greece – EL
- City of Jyväskylä – FI

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Advanced Monitoring and Coordination of EU R&D Policies at Regional Level

AMCER

Thematic scope

Investments in R&D and developing an economy based on knowledge and information are central themes in the current European policy context. This is exemplified e.g. in the Europe 2020 strategy and in the Green Paper, where R&D is a key part of the wider policy objectives. EU policies have an increasing impact on R&D systems and territorial cohesion at both European and regional level.

For European regions it is important that EU funds for R&D are spent in a way that they can create regional economic growth and employment as well as long term sustainable development. In this vein a coordination of regional policies with wider national and European ones is important. However, on the regional level there is only a fragmented vision of the territorial impacts of EU regional policy in the R&D field.

Against this backdrop, the project deals with specific territorial and R&D systems in the nine regions involved in the project.

Main results address

- A synthesis identifying regional R&D systems and challenges as well as other territorial trends and challenges not specific to R&D.
- Delivery of regional data about the number of projects and stakeholders funded in R&D projects through EU funds, and insight on collaboration between stakeholders as well as on EU R&D budgets.
- A methodology for the development of regionalized data.
- Analysis of EU R&D policies' impact on both performance and territorial cohesion in the regions involved in the project.
- An inter-regional comparison of the results obtained for each of the regions involved at both horizontal level and in terms of specific R&D sectors.

Main stakeholder interests

- Synthesizing the main R&D and territorial challenges at regional level for each of the nine case study regions involved in the project.
- Listing EU R&D investments at regional level in the case study regions.
- Developing a methodology for developing regionalised data on the results of various EU programmes at regional level.
- Analysing the impact of EU R&D policies on both performance and territorial cohesion in the regions involved in the project.
- Carrying out an inter-regional comparison.

More Information

Project budget: 344 392.41 €
Final report: 10 December 2012

Lead partner

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Project partners

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- Magnetic Resonance Centre – IT
- TASO Development – ES
- University of Vaasa – FI
- Leibniz University Hannover – DE
- University of Sheffield – UK
- Deusto Foundation – ES
- Chambre of Commerce and Industry of Paris – FR
- University of Lugano – CH

Stakeholders

- Tuscany Region – IT
- Generalitat of Catalonia - Directorate of Innovation and Internationalization – ES
- Regional Ministry of Andalusia – ES
- Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region – FR
- Brittany Region – FR
- Regional Council of Ostrobothnia – FI
- Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony – DE
- Flemish Government - Department of Economy, Science and Innovation – BE
- East of England Development Agency – UK

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Growth Poles in South-East Europe

GROSEE

Thematic scope

The economies of South-Eastern Europe are lagging behind most of Europe. Recent studies have highlighted an emerging area situated in Central Europe with a high concentration of economic activities but which does not reach South-Eastern Europe.

This project studies the main growth poles in South-Eastern Europe - Athens, Sofia and Bucharest – and their relation to the European core development areas, their competitiveness and the role that the three capitals can have individually as well as together in the European polycentric network.

Main results address

- Analysis of the current situation in the three cities and positioning the cities in a South-Eastern European and European-wide context.
- Evidence on the accessibility and connectivity of the city regions within Europe.
- Insight in the drivers of competitiveness and an indication of future perspectives.
- An overview of good practices of territorial governance and urban development measures, including benefits from cooperation of large cities.
- Maps, indicators or other types of evidence showing the current relations between the cities.
- A selection of major infrastructure projects that can contribute to the improved economic development and better connections with the European urban network.
- Optional policy measures to enrich relations and jointly gain added value, particularly related to infrastructure and accessibility.

Main stakeholder interests

- A focused view of the most important growth poles in South-Eastern Europe and identification of policy measures that can improve their competitiveness and accessibility.
- What is the role of Bucharest, Sofia and Athens in the European polycentric network? How is the accessibility of these cities and how can it be improved? What is the efficiency of European transport corridors?
- What are the main drivers for competitiveness in the three capitals? Do metropolitan areas play an important role as drivers for competitiveness in the region?
- What are the key policies and measures that can be taken to support an emergence of a competitive area concentrated on the Bucharest - Sofia - Athens triangle?
- A deeper understanding of the relation of the case study areas with the European urban network.

More Information

Project budget: 360 000.00 €
Final report: 15 September 2013

Lead partner

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Project partners

- National Technical University of Athens – EL
- Union of Architects of Bulgaria – BG
- Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi – RO

Stakeholders

- Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism – RO
- Ministry for Development, Competitiveness and Shipping – EL
- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works – BG

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Key Indicators for Territorial Cohesion and Spatial Planning

KITCASP

Thematic scope

The objectives of reducing regional disparities, improving competitiveness and promoting sustainable development are common to most of Europe and at the EU level there is interest in developing a wider range of indicators to inform Cohesion Policy.

The aims of this project are therefore to support evidence-based and integrated policy-making for territorial development; to identify and disseminate good practice in the use of data, indicators and indices and to explore the potential for identifying a set of key indicators in addressing territorial development objectives. The project examines the existing and potential use of territorial data, indicators and indices in preparing, monitoring and revising national strategies for territorial development in the stakeholder countries. The analyses identify commonalities and differences in the data used to date and any gaps or limitations in the data available.

Main results address

- An assessment of key territorial development challenges and territorial policy objectives in each national context.
- A documentary analysis of the key territorial policy objectives at the national level and an overview of their application across sectoral policy areas.
- A review of current use of spatial data and indicators at national level including assessment of current ESPON influence.
- The identification of a core set of indicators for territorial cohesion, economic competitiveness and sustainable development in line with national understandings and policy objectives.

Main stakeholder interests

- What are good practices in the use of data to inform territorial policy development?
- How can the stakeholders make better use of ESPON data in developing their spatial policies?
- What data is needed for developing reliable key indicators? What are the key indicators for measuring territorial cohesion, competitiveness and sustainable development?
- How can indicators for different countries be compared? How can the key indicators most effectively inform spatial policy?
- To what extent are these indicators GIS-based and would this enhance their comparability and relevance?
- How can the key indicators be regularly updated and how is this to be managed?

More Information

Project budget: 359 921.00 €
Final report: 31 October 2013

Lead partner

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Project partners

- London Southbank University, Department of Urban, Environmental and Leisure Studies, Faculty of Arts and Human – UK
- Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences – LV
- Technical University of Catalonia – ES
- University of Akureyi Research Centre – IS

Stakeholders

- Directorate for the Built Environment, Scottish Government – UK
- Spatial Policy Unit, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government – IE
- State Regional Development Agency, Analyses and Research Coordination Division & International Projects and Communication Division – LV
- Icelandic National Planning Agency – IS
- Department of the Environment, Regional Planning, Agriculture and Fishing, Basque Government – ES

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Landscape Policy for the 3 Countries Park

LP3LP

Thematic scope

The 3 Countries Park (3LP), situated in the Euregion Meuse-Rhine, is a cross-border European landscape with high importance within its polycentric metropolitan context. In this project, ESPON studies and results are used to place this region in a European context, to identify the potential effects of EU policies and to take stock of the unique territorial potentials of this region.

This evidence is used to formulate and establish a shared vision on the future of landscape in cross-border collaboration resulting in a cross-border landscape plan. The landscape plan serves as a framework for regional (cross-border) policy aiming to preserve and develop the core landscape qualities in the 3LP region in a sustainable manner. The interface between the landscape plan and EU policy provides insight on how European environmental policies and legislation can be used to develop a cohesive European landscape that in turn can contribute to overall European objectives of smart, inclusive and sustainable growth.

Main results address

- New evidence and insights regarding the identity of the 3LP within the European context, revealing territorial capital and potentials and identifying cross-border regions in Europe with similar landscape potential.
- Design study and elaboration of a cross-border landscape framework, which can be used for water management, nature development, recreational access and landscape development.
- Elaboration of recommendations for coordinating territorial development of various functions related to core qualities of the landscape.
- Analysis and options within relevant European policies and instruments to support landscapes across borders.
- A shared cross-border landscape policy supported by all stakeholders, other partners in 3LP and relevant target groups.

Main stakeholder interests

- Determining the European identity of the 3LP with regard to its polycentric metropolitan situation. How can the landscape identity contribute to a smart, inclusive and sustainable development?
- Drawing up a landscape plan for the 3LP. How can a shared landscape policy be developed? Which recommendations can be made for the development and coordination of spatial functions in order to preserve and develop the core qualities of the landscape in 3LP?
- Understanding the interface between the landscape policy of 3LP and European policy. What is the role of European funds and regulations in preserving and enhancing the core qualities in the 3LP?

More Information

Project budget: 360 000.00 €
Final report: 31 December 2013

Lead partner

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Project partners

- Wageningen University, Landscape Architecture Group – NL
- Free University of Brussels - BE

Stakeholders

- Province of Limburg, Department of Spatial Development – NL
- The Operational General Direction for land - use planning, housing, heritage and energy of the Wallonia public service – BE
- The Flemish Region, The Department for Spatial Planning and Cultural Heritage – BE
- City region of Aachen, The Department of Building and Environment – DE
- City of Aachen, The Department of Planning and Environment – DE

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

Liveable Landscapes: a Key Value for Sustainable Territorial Development

LIVELAND

Thematic scope

European and regional policies on territorial development all address the importance of harmonious development, cohesion, sustainability and the protection of cultural and natural heritage. During recent years most European countries have signed the European Landscape Convention (ELC), focusing on landscape planning and on an integration of landscape and spatial planning.

This project aims to explore good practices of landscape planning and regional territorial strategies and to benchmark the content and procedures. The aim is also to identify successful measures in combining landscape management and socio-economic development and to give concrete recommendations. The project seeks to identify how ESPON evidence could be used for integrating landscape and spatial planning and to provide new impetus for future research.

Main results address

- Guidelines for elaborating and implementing landscape plans in their socio-economic context.
- Insight into how landscape planning relates to economic development and land use pressure.
- Overview of 'good practices' of landscape planning and how they relate to regional territorial planning and development.
- Options for incorporating landscape into territorial and cohesion policies.
- Recommendations for the integration of the landscape into territorial planning and development.
- Identification of knowledge gaps that could be covered by future ESPON research projects.

Main stakeholder interests

- Defining criteria for the integration of landscape and regional spatial strategies.
- Identifying measures which have proven success in combining landscape protection and socio-economic development.
- Analysing available ESPON data and results that could be used to reinforce the integration of landscape and spatial planning.
- Developing a definition of landscape as an asset for regional economic development.
- Identifying a balance between landscape protection and social and economic development.
- Assessing how to consider landscape planning in the framework of territorial cohesion policies.

More Information

Project budget: 378 676.14 €
Final report: 31 October 2013

Lead partner

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Project partners

- Alterra – NL
- HHP Hage+Hoppenstedt Partner – DE
- Navarra de Suelo y Vivienda, S.A – ES
- Nordregio - Nordic Center for Spatial Development – SE
- The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Country Office Ljubljana – SI

Stakeholders

- Government of the Basque Country, Regional Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning, Agriculture and Fisheries – ES
- Municipality of Offenburg, Department of Planning, Building and Environment – DE
- Municipality of Midden-Delfland – NL
- Government of Navarra. Housing and Spatial Planning Department – ES
- Thy National Park, Independent foundation under the Ministry of Environment – DK
- City of Ljubljana – SI

Priority 2: Targeted Analyses

North Sea - Spreading Transnational Results

NORTH SEA STAR

Thematic scope

The North Sea Region (NSR) faces the same energy challenges as the rest of Europe and transnational cooperation is being used to share knowledge and develop regional responses with the ultimate aim of developing regional energy self-sufficiency.

This project aims to assess North Sea Region project results with a view to developing the most effective regional energy responses possible in future operations. The analysis focuses on the role that territorial cooperation can play in such developments and at how new models for clustered project implementation might influence this process and promote effective multi-level governance.

The combination of practitioner experience and the localisation of potentials and challenges based on existing ESPON results will provide input for decisions on future actions and programme strategies in the NSR, and should also be transferable to many other programmes and themes. Furthermore, with regards to governance the project should answer the key question of how the clustering approach can help to stimulate regional co-operation in order to provide input to policy making on how to accelerate the take-up of renewable energy technologies and supporting relevant green economic activities in the region.

Main results address

- Baseline study and mapping of current energy situation in NSR drawing on ESPON results.
- Regional energy planning and policy recommendations.
- Assessment of tools and methods used by clusters to generate awareness of results, the value of results, take-up in other regions and at national and European level.
- Provide deeper understanding of the NSR, the most likely future energy scenarios and the potential role of projects and clusters.

Main stakeholder interests

- The process brings together players who do not often all meet around the same table and should provide inspiration on wider collaborative approaches to project development and management in future programming.
- The project will provide support for decision-making on strategic issues. This includes the national and regional representatives who will be responsible for setting the terms of any future programme, the European authorities responsible for defining the programme framework, as well as the regional and local actors.
- The recommendations are expected to indicate the most effective ways of delivering policy and as such offer a bridge between policy-makers and practitioners. The results of the analysis will serve as guidance for regional energy policy development and delivery in the North Sea Region.

More Information

Project budget: 339 923.70 €
Final report: 28 February 2014

Lead partner

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Project partners

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- Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional research – NO
- Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research – DE
- University of Oldenburg – DE
- University Of Málaga, European Topic Centre On Spatial Information and Analysis – ES

Stakeholders

- The North Sea Region Programme Secretariat – DK

Scientific Platform and Tools

Priority 3: Scientific Platform and Tools

ESPON Database 2013 Phase I

Thematic scope

At the European level several initiatives have been carried out to promote data comparability and data quality, e.g. the GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) initiative launched in 1998, the INSPIRE Directive which aims at making available relevant, harmonised and quality geographic information for the purpose of formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Community policy-making.

For ESPON, the database is considered a central element in the programme's scientific platform and a tool providing input for analysis based on territorial indicators. It is equally important as a tool for a continuous territorial monitoring.

Against this backdrop, it is crucial to maintain, update, further develop and expand the ESPON database, resulting from the ESPON 2006 Programme.

Main results address

- An updated version of the ESPON 2006 database.
- Updated versions of the ESPON mapping tool facility, covering the entire EU plus Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein.
- A continuously updated and validated ESPON 2013 Database (internal use) including datasets from ESPON projects developed under Priority 1 and 2, as well as relevant regional data in the field of European territorial development and cohesion.
- The ESPON 2013 Database (public use) shall also include derivative data from ESPON Priority 1 and 2, as well as relevant public regional data in the field of European territorial development and cohesion. This database will also include selected datasets covering the entire world, which are relevant for ESPON.
- Enhance cooperation with other international and European institutions with relevant data for ESPON and integration in European Initiatives related to geographic information and regional analysis.
- A map collection from ESPON projects under Priority 1 and 2.

Scientific support to policy development

- Integrating data from different spatial scales (from global to local levels). The project has many policy objectives, especially in the field of territorial cohesion or in management of functional urban regions. Considering that the EU is not a closed system, many of its internal dynamics need to be related to global trends at world or neighbourhood scale.
- Combinations of heterogeneous sources – different types and sources of data have to be integrated, despite the fact that they are produced by different organisations using different spatial delimitations or statistical definitions.
- Reconstitution of medium and long-term time series – MAUP and missing values - to be able to estimate missing values both in a prospective and retrospective way.
- Exploring new thematic fields – zooms, surveys and case studies to make ESPON highly innovative to explore new topics and suggest how to collect relevant data in a systematic way in the future.

More Information

Project budget: 1 300 000.00 €
Final report: 31 March 2011

Lead partner

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Project partners

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- Free University of Brussels – BE
- "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University – RO
- French National Centre for Scientific Research – FR
- University of Luxembourg – LU

Priority 3: Scientific Platform and Tools

ESPON Typology Compilation

Thematic scope

Taking into consideration the policy development in relation to EU Cohesion Policy (the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion), the Treaty of Lisbon and the description of the new European aim of territorial cohesion, this project is expected to present a compilation of regional typologies for territories receiving particular attention by policy makers.

The selected typologies reflect the types of territories mentioned in the Lisbon Treaty: urban / metropolitan regions; rural regions; sparsely populated regions; regions in industrial transition; cross-border regions; mountainous regions; islands and coastal regions.

Main results address

- Delivery of the ESPON Typology Compilation, including the documentation of particular elements, e.g.:
 - Name of the typology theme
 - Designation of the typology
 - Geographical level
 - Description of the methodology
 - Identification, sources and availability of indicators used
 - Approach to grouping of indicators
 - Homogeneity assessment
 - Authors
 - Recommendations for use
 - Requirements for updating
 - Map and GIS layer
 - Excel file with regional codes
- The ESPON Typology Compilation shall nourish the results of all ongoing and future ESPON applied research projects, as part of their conclusions exploring eventual policy messages might be focused on the types of territories defined in the Typology Compilation.

Scientific support to policy development

The following tasks are being undertaken for the development and delivery of the ESPON typology compilation for each of the eight mentioned types of territories:

- Survey on existing regional typologies.
- Identification of relevant regional typologies.
- Proposal of 8 regional typologies for requested types of regions.
- Testing the proposed typologies.
- Implementation of the regional typologies and dissemination support.
- Delivery of the ESPON Typology Compilation.

More Information

Project budget: 70 955.00 €
Final report: 15 January 2010

Lead partner

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Project partners

- Leibniz-Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (IRS) – DE
- Eurofutures Finland – FI

Priority 3: Scientific Platform and Tools

Update of the ESPON HyperAtlas

ESPON HyperAtlas

Thematic scope

The ESPON HyperAtlas was initially elaborated in the ESPON 2006 programme and it has proved to be a useful tool for studying European territorial development. This is why the tool is being further developed in this project and new functionalities are incorporated.

Any representation, directly linked to a specific objective, is the result of a combination of different choices relative to the territories and geographical scales as well as the statistical indicators. In order to evaluate a situation of a given territorial unit it is necessary to take into account its relative situation and location. The ESPON HyperAtlas uses a methodology, Multiscalar Territorial Analysis, which allows deriving several indicators on the basis of the ratio of two initial geographical indices according to different spatial contexts. It also allows the analysis and visualisation of a spatial phenomenon taking into account its multiple possible representations.

Main results address

- An updated and improved version of the ESPON HyperAtlas, including new functionalities.
- Updated datasets for the current and improved version of the HyperAtlas.
- An interactive user's manual including a detailed explanation on the use and usefulness of the different functionalities of the tools, both foreseen as paper version and a version integrated in the HyperAtlas.
- A survey of future improvements and concrete proposals for further development of the ESPON HyperAtlas.

Scientific support to policy development

The following tasks are envisaged to be implemented in the update of the ESPON HyperAtlas:

- Web version of the HyperAtlas.
- Integration of a time dimension next to the already available spatial and thematic dimension.
- New study areas and new elementary zoning.
- An update including the contexts of deviation based on 'distance-time by road' to NUTS2006 regions.
- Introducing two new 'visualisation windows' to visualise results in the fields of more advanced spatial economic analysis methods.
- A data integration tool for the HyperAtlas.
- New and updated .HYP-files.
- An adjusted user-friendly interface.
- Survey on future improvements.

More Information

Project budget: 74 973.00 €
Final report: 28 February 2011

Lead partner

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Priority 3: Scientific Platform and Tools

Indicators of Territorial Cohesion

INTERCO

Thematic scope

The Lisbon Treaty adds “Territorial Cohesion” as an official policy aim of the EU in addition to the earlier aims of economic and social cohesion. In order to understand structures, trends and scenarios related to territorial cohesion there is a need to improve the evidence base and develop indicators related to territorial cohesion.

The main objective of this project is to develop a set of indicators and indices that could be used to support policy makers in measuring and monitoring territorial cohesion related to European territorial development. In the first phase, design, the involvement of the stakeholders is central and the project is embedded in the wider ESPON and policy context. The indicators are developed in the second phase while the third phase focuses on the calculation of the indicators. The fourth and final phase is devoted to the communication of indicators for territorial cohesion.

Main results address

- Study of relevant policy documents regarding concepts and indicators.
- Participation processes to collect ideas for indicators from policy makers and the ESPON Community.
- A detailed evaluation matrix for the indicators.
- Evaluation of the potential of existing and new indicators in terms of quality and relevance.
- List of data sources and data providers providing required input data.
- GIS-based indicator toolset including d-base, GIS and statistical tools and mapping functions.
- A set of territorial indicators and indices, presented in maps, statistics and tables.
- A set of indicators and indices, including metadata, for the overall ESPON database.
- Communication plan for the interaction with other ESPON projects and for the interaction with policy makers and stakeholders.

Scientific support to policy development

- Describing territorial cohesion based on existing policy documents in order to define the objectives and indices which can be used to measure territorial cohesion.
- Clarifying the interrelations between the main territorial challenges, the policy orientations and the issues to be measured.
- Involvement of the relevant stakeholders in the creation and evaluation of indicators and in setting the targets.
- Identification of the issues that should be measured at different spatial and temporal scales by different types of indicators.
- Communication of indicators and indices in a clear manner in order to make them easily understandable.
- A mixture of indicators will be taken into account, such as classical socio-economic indicators, indicators on thematic/territorial issues and new composite “territorial cohesion” indicators reflecting the main territorial challenges.

More Information

Project budget: 396 400.00 €
Final report: 29 February 2012

Lead partner

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Project partners

- National Technical University of Athens – EL
- Nordregio, Nordic Center for Spatial Development – SE

Priority 3: Scientific Platform and Tools

ESPON Database 2013 Phase II

M4D

Thematic scope

The process of building a European research community in territorial development and planning, in which the ESPON Programme is fully engaged, calls for the development of comparable and reliable European datasets that can support (applied) research projects and policy decisions at a European level.

The ESPON Database Project (Phase II) is a central element in the triad of the ESPON actions under the Scientific Platform, i.e. Data, Indicators and Monitoring. The further development acknowledges European data standards and ensures comparability of the ESPON Database with other geo-referenced European datasets.

Main results address

- Regular delivery of an updated version of the ESPON 2013 Database made available at the ESPON website. Regular delivery of an updated inventory of available data (statistical and geographical) for the ESPON Programme.
- Continued guidance and recommendations to ongoing ESPON projects in relation to data and metadata issues, building up indicators, data quality control, outlier detection and integration of data into the ESPON database.
- Implementation of regular updating procedures in relation to maintenance and continuous updating of the ESPON Map Kit tool for Priority 1 and 2 projects.
- SWOT analysis of the various possibilities to improve the visibility and accessibility of the ESPON Database and as a second step the implementation of one of these options.
- Proposal on how to ensure the updating and maintenance of the ESPON 2013 Database in the future (beyond 2014).

Scientific support to policy development

- Data storage comprising various spatial scales, thematic fields and time series; ensuring a continuous updated database; data quality control; integration of data and metadata delivered by all ESPON projects, including local data and data from other sources.
- Data diffusion by a user-friendly interface and various types of queries via the ESPON website.
- Reconstruction of time series of the most important indicators and data and estimation of missing values.
- Integration of data for various geographical objects, such as grids, NUTS, cities, functional areas at different scales and networks.
- Conversion tool to convert data from grid to NUTS data and vice-versa.

More Information

Project budget: 1 375 000.00 €
Final report: 31 December 2014

Lead partner

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Project partners

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- University Joseph Fourier Grenoble 1 – FR
- Autonomous University of Barcelona – ES
- "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University – RO
- French National Centre for Scientific Research – FR

Priority 3: Scientific Platform and Tools

EU Territorial Monitoring System

ETMS

Thematic scope

The stronger political focus on a territorial dimension in policy highlights the need to create a European Territorial Monitoring System (ETMS) that on a regular basis can provide and promote territorial information and evidence to main target groups on key trends in European regions, specific type of territories, metropolitan regions, cities and towns in relation to the policy aims and priorities of European policy orientations and objectives.

This ESPON project is aimed at providing a practical and operational European Territorial Monitoring System (ETMS), which builds mainly on existing statistical information, data and tools developed (database, mapping tools) within the ESPON Programme, and which can be the base for a continued monitoring of European territorial trends.

Main results address

- Practical European Territorial Monitoring System (ETMS), meeting the needs of policymakers for factual, statistical information on territorial trends, dynamics, patterns and structural changes (imbalances and disparities) in European regions, specific territories and cities. It shall allow comparing and benchmarking cities, regions, and territories in Europe.
- Simple and user friendly application providing access and ensuring an easy communication allowing to select the “monitoring indicators”, to visualise and to communicate to policy makers territorial development trends in Europe, its regions and cities. The application should allow comparing and benchmarking European regions and cities.
- A “European Territorial Monitoring Report” on the territorial structures and main developments (time series) in European regions, specific territories and cities.
- A policy relevant booklet on “Territorial Key Facts and Figures” based on the “European Territorial Monitoring System” taking into account the current European policy priorities.

Scientific support to policy development

- Support European, national and regional policy makers with continuous and updated information to define territorial strategies and implement ‘place-based’ policies taking into account the current territorial trends for the regions and cities in Europe.
- Identification of a set of territorial indicators that is manageable (max. 30-50 indicators) with a high communicative value and covering different geographical levels to support a place based approach in Territorial Cohesion Policy.

More Information

Project budget: 597 956.25 €
Final report: 30 September 2014

Lead partner

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Project partners

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- University of Geneva, Department of Geography and Environment – CH
- Nordregio, Nordic Center for Spatial Development – SE
- GISAT s.r.o. – CZ

Priority 3: Scientific Platform and Tools

ESPON Atlas on European Territorial Structures and Dynamics

ESPON Atlas

Thematic scope

Together with the indicators and datasets included in the ESPON Database, this project supports the mission of the ESPON 2013 Programme supporting policy development by compiling an “ESPON Atlas on European Territorial Structures and Dynamics” by the end of the ESPON 2013 Programme.

The ESPON Atlas is envisaged to present a synoptic and comprehensive overview of key findings from all ESPON 2013 Priority 1 and Priority 2 projects, which serve as main providers of new facts, evidence and knowledge about European territorial structures, trends and perspectives and policy impacts. The Atlas does not depart from a particular policy point, but aims at covering the multitude of ESPON themes in a comprehensive manner.

Main results address

- An ESPON Atlas on European territorial structures and dynamics, covering in a comprehensive way all themes addressed in the ESPON projects taking account of the main policy priorities in relation to European territorial development.
- A digital version of the ESPON Atlas making it possible to access the Atlas in a user-friendly and interactive way, allowing to access, search, navigate and visualise the various elements of the Atlas.
- The digital version will make it possible to download all datasets included in the Atlas, stimulate interest and support the use of the ESPON Atlas by many target groups, including by students and in teaching.

Scientific support to policy development

- A basic and comprehensive approach making the Atlas useful and appealing for deeper studying, in principle of all themes and aspects of European territorial development that may be interesting in a place-based approach.
- Based on the maps selected and produced, the project is expected to analyse and make an interpretation of each map by providing a short text with the main key messages and relevant policy observations at different geographical levels and for different types of regions.
- The interpretation of maps should be made in a highly communicative and understandable way and presented in a simple style for policy makers; however the Atlas shall still be giving solid, accurate and reliable explanations on the phenomena studied and displayed in order also to be able to serve teaching purposes.

More Information

Project budget: 149 992.00 €

Final report: 31 August 2014

Lead partner

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Project partners

- Spiekermann & Wegener Urban and Regional Research – DE
- VÁTI Hungarian Nonprofit Limited Liability Company for Regional Development and Town Planning – HU

Priority 3: Scientific Platform and Tools

Detecting Territorial Potentials and Challenges

DeTeC

Thematic scope

Regions in Europe are no longer isolated entities but are linked to a larger territorial context that opens up possibilities for utilising new and underused territorial potential for the development of regions and cities. Understanding the position of one's region or city in the larger territorial context and searching for potentials and comparative advantages is a necessity in the accelerating globalisation and competition.

Awareness and openness for including a European dimension in strategy building and policy making is therefore of major importance in developing new regional policy approaches. This project is expected to meet the demand for analytical methods and approaches and to support local and regional practitioners and policy makers looking for ways to detect territorial potential involving a European perspective and to turn challenges into potential.

Main results address

- Guidance/handbook for practitioners containing analytical approaches and methods for detecting territorial potential.
- Development of a conceptual framework consisting of analytical approaches and methods as well as examples of good practices for detecting territorial potential involving a European perspective.
- Case studies in form of regional laboratories involving practitioners.

Scientific support to policy development

- The project shall provide practical guidance on how to utilise ESPON knowledge to detect territorial potential and turning challenges into potential deriving from their larger territorial context. It shall include concrete cases of good practices in utilising territorial potential, based on benchmarking, comparison with similar regions/cities.
- The target group for the project is practitioners and policy makers, first and foremost at regional and municipal level, which will be provided with an overview and guidance in their day-to-day work. The general guidance on analytical approaches and methods will also be relevant for practitioners and policy makers involved in development considerations in cross-border, national and transnational settings.

More Information

Project budget: 349 546.00 €

Final report: 31 March 2014

Lead partner

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Project partners

- Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning – AT
- S. Leszczycki Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences – PL

Priority 3: Scientific Platform and Tools

Territorial Evidence Packs for Structural Funds Programmes

TerrEvi

Thematic scope

The ESPON knowledge base is now developed to a level capable of delivering important support to other Structural Funds Programmes which can help programme bodies in their strategic programming and implementation. Important new facts and evidence at European level from ESPON projects can be broken down to regions and, if relevant, aggregated to larger territorial contexts which in turn can be used as knowledge base for identification of place-specific characteristics as well as territorial features such as interrelationships and interdependencies within or between places.

The strategic character of programmes may be improved by benchmarking and identification of key challenges and potentials in a European context which in turn can support the setting of public investment priorities accompanied by tangible targets. This project aims to prepare and provide the envisaged transfer of territorial knowledge to programmes under all three Objectives (Convergence, Competitiveness and European Territorial Cooperation) covering one-region programmes as well as multi-region programmes.

Main results address

- Methodological conceptual framework for delivery of relevant territorial benchmarking and analytical components in ESPON Territorial Evidence Packs relevant for Structural Funds Programmes.
- 10 Territorial Evidence Packs for the selected case-study programme areas including territorial benchmarking, analysis, maps, territorial indicators and datasets.
- 66 ESPON Factsheets benchmarking 53 Cross-border areas and 13 Transnational Co-operation Areas currently active, largely being produced using the same set of key indicators.

Scientific support to policy development

- A comprehensive and integrated operational approach to describing the territorial state and trends of programme areas in the European context, including relevant indicators.
- A territorial approach for selecting policy priorities, sub-priorities, flag-ship initiatives, etc. stemming from the EU level and the programmes. This approach should allow for an evidence-based characterisation and appreciation of the programme area in question.
- An operational set of indicators related to the territorial dimension of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth that is relevant for different Structural Funds programme development (and implementation, monitoring, evaluation and adjustment), reflecting the Territorial Agenda policy principles and useful in relation to the programme priorities.
- Geographical approaches commonly used in ESPON such as typologies and multi-scalar analysis from the global to the regional/local level.

More Information

Project budget: 480 600.00 €
Final report: 31 December 2013

Lead partner

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Project partners

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General Partnership – IT
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Priority 3: Scientific Platform and Tools

ESPON Online Mapping Tool

RIMAP

Thematic scope

This project aims at providing access to and enabling using the ESPON knowledge base in an easy and highly digestible manner. This is done by making it possible to produce, visualise, analyse and download maps and diagrams of data and indicators coming from the ESPON 2013 Database.

By developing a “Rich Internet Mapping Tool” (using Rich Internet Applications) to visualise and analyse ESPON data and indicators in maps and diagrams the gap is filled between disseminating data in tables (by the ESPON Database) and disseminating data in fixed maps (by the ESPON Online MapFinder and ESPON project reports). The tool development covers data storage, data visualization and analysis, user interface, user support and web application

Main results address

- Review of the most relevant existing web mapping tools indicating those elements that are useful or are to be avoided within the ESPON Online Mapping tool to be built.
- Presentation of a proposal on the various elements to be considered in the ESPON Online Mapping tool.
- Delivery of the Online Mapping Tool as a web application integrated in the ESPON website.
- Provision of user guidelines for the tool.
- Provision of the source code of the final version of the Online Mapping tool.

Scientific support to policy development

- The ESPON Online Mapping Tool will be a highly interactive mapping tool available via the Internet where users can select, combine and overlay indicators from the ESPON database, choose the geography, make a map, diagram or even animations based on indicator time series.
- The tool will be at the disposal of policy makers and practitioners at all administrative levels, but also to the general public, including researchers and university students. With that the tool contributes to the use of ESPON data and information and the consolidation of a European research field on territorial development and cohesion.

More Information

Project budget: 120 500.00 €
Final report: 31 December 2013

Lead partner

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Priority 3: Scientific Platform and Tools

Territorial Monitoring for the Baltic Sea Region

BSR-TeMo

Thematic scope

The stronger focus in European policy on territorial cohesion and the improved understanding of structures, trends and scenarios influencing territorial development highlights the need for monitoring systems that can support policy makers at different levels in order to contribute to European competitiveness and cohesion.

This project aims at support evidence informed territorial development and cohesion in the macro-region Baltic Sea Region (BSR) by developing an indicator based monitoring system. It comprehends a policy dimension related to the promotion of territorial cohesion in the Baltic Sea Region, and contributes to increased knowledge and understanding of the territorial cohesion processes in the BSR while at the same time allowing for a comparison and benchmarking with other European regions and macro-regions. It will also support the contribution of the BSR to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in Europe as mentioned in the EU 2020 Strategy.

Main results address

- A System for Monitoring territorial development in the BSR based on the Treaty of Lisbon and backed by relevant European and BSR policy documents.
- Tests of the analytical capacity of the system including 3-5 examples of comprehensive case analyses that can show the ability of the monitoring system to provide facts and evidence on the BSR in support of territorial cohesion and provide evidence based support to policy implementation.
- Concept for the visualisation of monitoring output in adequate maps, diagrams and graphs showing the BSR and the BSR regions/cities, also in their European context.
- A simple and easy readable manual with guidance for the use, maintenance and update of the BSR Monitoring System, as well as advice on an application of similar monitoring systems in other Macro Regions of Europe.

Scientific support to policy development

- Illustrate and support the understanding of territorial structures and trends at different scales for different types of regions across the BSR. Providing evidence on the regional diversity, the situation and progress on main territorial challenges of the BSR: east-west divide, north-south divide, urban-rural divide.
- The use of European-level data for comparison and benchmarking purposes as well as regional/local data to focus on specific challenges most important for the BSR region.
- Provide an indicator based monitoring system, complemented with some qualitative information, which allows a continuous monitoring and benchmarking of the territorial development of the BSR at European level, in relation to other macro regions and internally at regional and local scales.

More Information

Project budget: 340 000.00 €
Final report: 28 February 2014

Lead partner

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Project partners

- University of Gdańsk – PL
- Aalto University Foundation – FI
- RRG Spatial Planning and Geoinformation – DE
- S. Leszczycki Institute of Geography and Spatial Organisation, Polish Academy of Sciences – PL
- BGI Consulting Ltd. – LT
- Geomedia LLC – EE

Priority 3: Scientific Platform and Tools

CityBench for benchmarking European Urban Zones

CITYBENCH ESPON

Thematic scope

Cities of all sizes can play a crucial role as creative, efficient and environmentally sound engines of smart, sustainable and inclusive territorial development. But there are threats and barriers to this in the form of demographic challenges, economic challenges, social disparities and urban sprawl. The European Commission is progressing urban policy at the European level, and in 2014-2020, the urban agenda is likely to be more prominent than in previous Structural Fund programmes. This process will require further evidence about the urban reality, a task where several initiatives are taken, and where the joining of forces and cooperation can provide added value.

Against this background, the CityBench webtool project aims at helping policymakers, practitioners and public and private investors to put economic, social and environmental sustainability of cities at the core of decisions. This webtool allows them to benchmark their cities against other similar cities, around issues such as demographic challenges, economic challenges, social disparities, urban sprawl and greenhouse gas emissions. The benchmarking webtool creates opportunities for the forming of innovative learning networks among cities and provide a first indication of the suitability of financial engineering instruments in place-based policymaking.

Main results address

- The conceptualisation of the webtool, including dialogue with public investors and data providers and the selection/development of feasible urban indicators.
- The design, testing and establishment of a ready-to-use practical webtool to benchmark and monitor European cities.
- Instructional and explanatory text integrated into the webtool so that end-users understand both the function of the webtool but also its main strengths and weaknesses.
- A "CityBench Demonstration Report" to illustrate what the resultant webtool can do and deliver.

Scientific support to policy development

- CityBench will make the ESPON knowledge base more available and useful in practice to practitioners, policymakers and public and private investors concerned with managing investment in cities by highlighting both the risks and opportunities, the potential aspects for investment and allow benchmarking of cities as well as comparisons using typologies.
- The webtool will be particularly useful for policymakers and practitioners concerned with attracting and managing the development in cities, public investors, including the European Investment Bank and its traditional lending operations in sustainable urban projects, as well as private investors seeking to get a quick overview of European urban regions.

More Information

Project budget: 198 874.00 €
Final report: 28 February 2014

Lead partner

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Project partners

- University Jaume I – ES

Transnational Networking Activities

Priority 4: Transnational Networking Activities

ESPON in Integrated Territorial Strategies

ESPON INTERSTRAT

Aim

The aim of the project is to encourage and facilitate the use of ESPON findings in the creation and monitoring of integrated territorial development strategies (ITDS) and to support transnational learning about the actual and potential contribution of ESPON to integrated policy-making. Its focus is active learning, using ESPON analysis and related data in the development of integrated territorial development strategies at all levels of decision-making. The project aims to maximise transnational cooperation that recognises the importance of working within the diversity of institutional practice and regional potentials that characterises European territories. The capitalisation activities are carried out by the ESPON Contact Point network (ECP).

Main activities

- Transnational sharing of practice in engaging of ITDS practitioners in the ESPON programme through national engagement strategies that reflect the capacities of each ECP and their national context.
- Innovative and cost-effective use of a web-platform, linked to the ESPON Programme website, in engaging stakeholders and supporting transnational learning.
- The targeted design of dissemination material based on transnational learning around the capitalisation of ESPON in integrated territorial development strategies.
- Interactive events held in each partner nation, exploring ITDS in the ESPON context, which will aim to deliver, in the appropriate national language, learning material developed through transnational co-operation within the project.
- Transnational networking to share of experiences on the role of ECPs as a link between ESPON and the national and regional users of ESPON.

Main results in terms of capitalisation

- Encouraging and facilitating the use of ESPON findings in relation to Integrated Territorial Development Strategies (ITDS) and supporting transnational learning about the actual and potential contribution of ESPON to integrated policy-making.
- Facilitating transnational exchange of experience, concepts and data about the development, implementation and monitoring of integrated territorial strategies.
- Developing and applying a transnational approach to active knowledge-transfer between ESPON scientists and policy makers and practitioners from the participating countries within ESPON.
- Stimulating interest from practitioners and stakeholders for targeted analytical deliveries under Priority 2.
- To explore the usefulness of ESPON findings in the development of ITDS.
- To support transnational interest in the preparation of ITDS, that can contribute to competitiveness and cohesion through development of Europe's regions.

More Information

Project budget: 881 973.00 €

Final report: 31 May 2012

Lead partner

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Project partners

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- Free University of Brussels – BE
- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works – BG
- Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences – EL
- National University of Ireland, Maynooth, National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis – IE
- University of Rome "Tor Vergata" – IT
- "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University – RO
- Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning – SI

Priority 4: Transnational Networking Activities

Nordic-Baltic Dialogues on Transnational Perspectives in Spatial Planning

NORBA

Aim

The aim of the project is to facilitate transnational dialogues on spatial planning between policy makers and practitioners, scientists and young academics and students in the Nordic-Baltic countries.

Cooperation with Nordic and Baltic organisations dealing with spatial planning issues and territorial cohesion, Vision and Strategies in the Baltic Sea Region (VASAB) and the Nordic Section of the Regional Science Association, is seen as a means of contributing to the formation of a Nordic-Baltic community on transnational planning issues.

Main activities

The project has implemented a number of events capitalising on ESPON evidence:

- Project Website, <http://www.rha.is/norba>
- Conference in Stockholm, February 2011. Title: "Transnational perspectives on spatial planning. Experiences from the Nordic-Baltic countries".
- Conference and Student session in Roskilde, May 2011. Title: "Zooming in on European spatial perspectives in the Baltic Sea Region".
- Scientific seminar in Oslo, March 2012. Title: "Nordic and Baltic regions in a European development and policy context".
- Final Conference in Jurmala, August 2012. Title: "Territorial cohesion in Europe and BSR".

Main results in terms of capitalisation

- Dissemination, capitalisation and awareness rising of ESPON results and their implications for the Nordic-Baltic region.
- Transnational dialogues on spatial planning between policy makers and practitioners, scientists and young academics and students in the Nordic-Baltic countries.
- Mutual learning process between the Nordic-Baltic region and ESPON.
- Contribution to the ability of national and regional policy-makers as well as researchers to position their own regions, macro-regions, national territories in a European context.
- Contribution to the discussion and debate around the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.
- Trans-generational dialogue by engaging with young researchers and students that are active in the spatial and territorial development policy field.

More Information

Project budget: 319 053.00 €
Final report: 31 December 2012

Lead partner

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Project partners

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- Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research – NO
- Royal Institute of Technology – SE
- University of Tartu – EE
- State Regional Development Agency – LV

Priority 4: Transnational Networking Activities

Breakdown and Capitalisation of ESPON Results on Different Scales

SCALES

Aim

Disseminating ESPON results is associated with several challenges regarding scales. In particular stakeholders from the sub-national level often question the relevance and usefulness of ESPON for their purposes.

The aim of this project is to develop strategies that deal with the challenges of scales within the capitalisation of ESPON results. The starting point for the development of scale-sensible dissemination is the following strategies:

- Zooming in – This strategy is the most obvious, but in many cases this is only possible by linking ESPON results to domestic data.
- European Comparison – Comparing the local, regional or national position with a larger space: e.g. using European averages and trends or multinational constellations.
- Bi/multi-lateral comparison – Comparisons on (multi-) local, regional, national level: e.g. identifying groups of areas with similar challenges or profiles can be of high interest to political decision makers. These comparisons can both feed the debate on Territorial Cohesion but also help establish groups of stakeholders for ESPON Targeted Analyses.

Main activities

- Seminar: cities, regional development and planning, Luxembourg (Nov 2011).
- Seminar: urban-rural relations, Hungary (Oct 2011).
- Seminar: economy, innovation and accessibility, Switzerland (May 2012).
- Seminar: risk management, climate change and culture, Austria (June 2012).
- Final seminar: SCALES-ESPON results in transnational and national focus, Germany (Oct 2012).

Main results in terms of capitalisation

- A manual will be developed, bringing together the results of the seminars. The manual will provide advice on how to handle the problem of scales and how to use ESPON results on different levels. By structuring the manual in two parts, the manual will target two complementary user groups:
 - The manual will provide guidelines to facilitate the presentation of ESPON results at different scales depending on the involved countries. It will handle the variety of ESPON results from the more local scale to the more European and global scale.
 - The manual will also provide thematic guidelines dedicated to specific European challenges and focusing on the themes of the seminars. Challenges related to scales are comparable when talking about urban functions, transport and economy.

More Information

Project budget: 337 790.00 €
Final report: 30 April 2013

Lead partner

- Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development – DE
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Project partners

- University of Luxemburg – LU
- Federal Office for Spatial Development – CH
- Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning – AT
- VÁTI Hungarian Non-profit Limited Liability Company for Regional Development and Town Planning – HU

Priority 4: Transnational Networking Activities

Capitalisation and Dissemination of ESPON Concepts

CADEC

Aim

The aim of the project is to capitalize on and disseminate ESPON results and activities using concepts included in ESPON Priority 1 projects as a gateway to ESPON reports. The project follows a three-pronged implementation strategy:

- The construction of an information network between project partners, and at national level between project partners and members of the national target groups.
- A systemic dissemination process based on a mix of top-down inputs and bottom-up initiatives as well as an interactive process of the network, which will contribute to identifying needs for future ESPON projects.
- A diversity approach, which implies assuring a certain level of comparison between the target groups identified in different countries and adjusting the choice of the target groups to national contexts. Combining national and transnational workshops is also envisaged in order to prevent the exclusion of non-English speakers, and also to encourage an exchange of experiences.

Main activities

- Distribution of a questionnaire to members of the target groups in each country.
- National workshops organised by the project partners with the questionnaire as a background frame.
- Two transnational workshops where the project partners and experts will present the results of their activities and work to the other project partners, selected members of the target groups and external experts. Involving members from the Target Groups shall provide an opportunity to present the synthesis of different national workshops and to discuss further needs and suggestions for ESPON.

Main results in terms of capitalisation

- Based on the results of the planned questionnaire distributed to the Target Groups in each country, it will be possible to identify their needs for capitalisation and dissemination.
- The capitalisation will include the following:
 - Selecting ESPON Priority 1 projects which will be summarized in national languages and made available to members of the target groups.
 - A synthesis of national and transnational workshop outputs, which will be included in a transnational report. The report will identify common needs, ideas and suggestions for ESPON in relation to the concepts chosen in the framework of ESPON projects.

More Information

Project budget: 525 081.56 €
Final report: 31 December 2013

Lead partner

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Project partners

- Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency – NL
- Spanish Observatory for Sustainability – ES
- Free University of Brussels – BE
- “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University – RO
- Institute for Urban Design and Spatial Planning – SK
- State Regional Development Agency – LV
- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works – BG
- University of Rome “Tor Vergata” / Department DET – IT

Priority 4: Transnational Networking Activities

Establishment of a transnational ESPON training programme to stimulate interest to ESPON 2013 knowledge

ESPONTrain

Aim

The aim of ESPONTrain is to make ESPON2013 knowledge operational in a coordinated and transnational way for practical use at regional and local level, and translating ESPON Europe-wide information and findings to the regional/local level. This includes:

- Stimulating transnational training facilitated by an e-learning procedure and by networking promoted by ESPON Contact Points.
- Identifying efficient target groups within the national environments, both in terms of policymaking and education, spreading the ESPON philosophy, ideas, findings and results.
- Disseminating knowledge produced by the ESPON2013 Programme, transforming it into comprehensible educational and training material while maintaining its scientific soundness.

Main activities

- Defining target groups, identification of trainers and trainees.
- Collecting, analysing and identifying the educational material based on t ESPON results.
- Identifying the course structure and choice of educational scenarios.
- Building the e-learning platform and selecting online opportunities and multimedia to be used.
- Carry through two educational cycles, one for professionals and one for post-graduate students.

Main results in terms of capitalisation

- The ESPONTrain Project shall be able to ensure commitment and engagement of the stakeholders involved and provide them with ESPON knowledge and to make them “multipliers” of the ESPON findings.

More Information

Project budget: 436 875.00 €

Final report: 30 April 2013

Lead partner

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Project partners

- University of Rome “Tor Vergata” / Department DET– IT
- Institute for Spatial Development,– CZ
- “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University – RO
- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works – BG
- Ministry of the Environment & Spatial Planning – SI
- University of Tartu – EE
- Research Institute of Territorial Planning of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University – LT
- Town Planning and Housing Department – CY
- Malta Environment and Planning Authority – MT

Priority 4: Transnational Networking Activities

ESPON Evidence in a North European Context

ENECON

Aim

The project ENECON addresses challenges and opportunities facing territorial development and spatial planning policies and practices, particular to the vast territory of the northern part of Europe.

By actively facilitating the use and capitalisation of ESPON-evidence the overall aim is to contribute to make clear the significance of the European perspective on territorial development and cohesion, and especially the crucial need for a transnational cooperation approach to territorial analysis, policies and planning, in a macro-regional context.

The project addresses the North European macro-regional perspective by primarily focusing on the Nordic and Baltic area, consisting of the eight countries Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden, and particularly the spatial development and planning issues emanating from their common northern location and external northern neighbouring relations.

Main activities

- Nordic-Baltic macro-regional conference to be held at the end of the project implementation period (January-March 2014).
- "ESPON meets the Arctic" conference in cooperation with *Northern Research Forum* (August 2013).
- Small-scale workshops series addressing selected thematic issues (2012-2013).
- Teaching & training activities, including development of teaching material targeted at universities and academic community (September 2012- June 2013).
- Publications series based on each main event/activity and a final publication compiling and editing results.
- Project's website to facilitate the dissemination of information.

Main results in terms of capitalisation

- Top-down transfer of European concepts and perspectives and ESPON-evidence and insights (i.e. "downloading").
- Bottom-up transfer of national and regional concepts and perspectives, and evidence/insights, including ideas and interests (i.e. "uploading").
- Horizontal transmission of concepts and perspectives and evidence/insights among nations/regions in the Nordic-Baltic Macro-Region (i.e. cross-loading).

More Information

Project budget: 297 210.00 €
Final report: 31 March 2014

Lead partner

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Project partners

- University of Eastern Finland - Karelian Institute – FI
- University of Akureyri – IS
- Royal Institute of Technology – SE
- University of Tartu – EE
- State Regional Development Agency – LV
- Research Institute of Territorial Planning of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University – LT
- Danish Centre for Spatial Planning – DK

Priority 4: Transnational Networking Activities

Use ESPON

USESPON

Aim

This project encourages and supports the use of work and findings from ESPON 2013. The aim is to create awareness and sense of ownership amongst key stakeholders in respect of use of methods and tools developed within the current programme. The strategy is to draw on and share work done in four previous and ongoing transnational Priority 4 projects. A key part of the transnational work is to pool the resources developed in these four projects directly represented in USESPON. This includes the following project objectives:

- Building and further developing e-learning platforms and training materials (ESPONTrain);
- Providing learning support through interactive workshops (INTERSTRAT);
- Exploring the opportunities offered by the inter-relation of spatial scales when using ESPON methods (SCALES);
- Capitalising key territorial concepts (CaDEC).

Main activities

- USESPON is about capitalisation of European perspective on territorial development and cohesion. This is done through giving stakeholders key methods to interpret ESPON results in their context, but also taking this further by showing how the stakeholders can use these methods.
- Capacity-building among the USESPON partners, through cross-fertilisation from four previous and ongoing transnational projects working to prepare the support materials and plan and deliver the interactive workshops.
- Create sense of ownership among key stakeholders in respect of use of methods and tools developed within ESPON 2013.

Main results in terms of capitalisation

- Identification of key potential stakeholders in the EU Member States and Partner States of the ESPON 2013 Programme represented by partners in the TPG, but also transnational bodies concerned with geographical specificities.
- Design and delivery of support materials for each of the method chosen. These will be short, user-friendly, step by step guides on how to use the method.
- Design and delivery of a project website that will include the library of ITPS publications built up by INTERSTRAT, but also access to support materials.
- Preparation of the Virtual Learning Environment pack on ESPON methods, including design and delivery of four interactive workshops be held in Germany, Luxembourg, Greece, and Poland.
- Design and delivery of a final transnational conference in the UK to present a synthesis of the work, and promote ESPON more widely.

More Information

Project budget: 498 860.00 €
Final report: 31 March 2014

Lead partner

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Project partners

- University Paris Diderot Paris 7 (UMS RIATE) – FR
- Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development – DE
- Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences – EL
- Centre for European Regional and Local Studies, University of Warsaw – PL
- University of Luxembourg – LU

Annex

Overview of Managing Authority led Projects and Actions under Priority 3 and 4

The ESPON 2013 Operational Programme defines some actions financed under Priority 3 and 4 as MA-led-projects. These actions are: "Territorial Indicators, Indexes and Tools", "Updates of Indicators and Maps", "Media and Publications" as well as "European Seminars and Workshops". Lead Partner of the MA-led projects is the ESPON Managing Authority in Luxembourg.

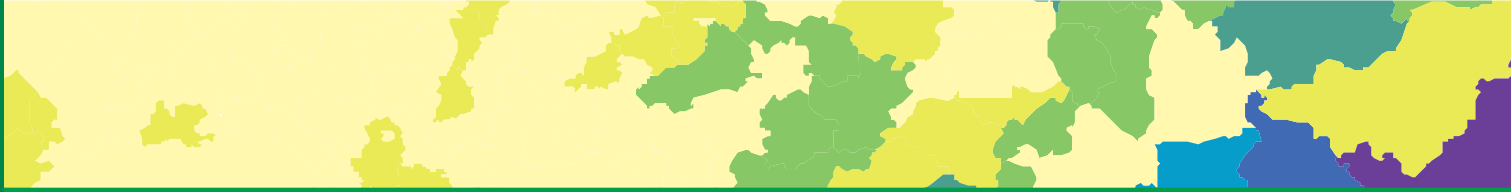
MA led projects and actions under Priority 3

Projects	Actions
Indexes and Tools 2008	Typology Compilation (see p.68)
Indexes and Tools 2009	HyperAtlas (see p.69)
	Data Navigator
	Cartographic Language
Indexes and Tools 2010	Online MapFinder
Indexes and Tools 2011-2014	HyperAtlas Update 2
	TIA Web Application
	Online Training Platform
Update of Indicators & Maps 2008	Demography
	Accessibility
Update of Indicators & Maps 2009	Economic Lisbon Indicators
	Telecommunication and IT Roll-out
	Creative Workforce
Update of Indicators & Maps 2011-2014	Aggregated Natural Hazards

MA led projects and actions under Priority 4

Projects	Actions
Media & Publications 2008	Publications
	Corporate ID & Layout
	Printing
Media & Publications 2011-2014	Publications – External Expertise
	Corporate ID & Layout
	Printing
Capitalisation Strategy & Media Bureau 2009	ESPON Capitalisation strategy and Action plan
	Support in implementing Capitalisation actions/ Media bureau

Website 2008	Website development and maintenance
	Intranet development and maintenance
	E-mail service development and maintenance
Website 2011	Website maintenance
	Intranet maintenance
	E-mail service maintenance
European Seminars & Workshops 2008	Workshop: Territorial Indicators and Indices
	Open Seminar, Slovenia
European Seminars & Workshops 2009	Workshop: Monitoring Territorial Dynamics
	Workshop: Innovative Visualisation and Cartographic Language
	Open Seminar, Czech Republic
European Seminars & Workshops 2010	Workshop: Approaching New Functional Areas
	Workshop: ESPON Database 2013
	ESPON Workshop at RSA Conference
European Seminars & Workshops 2011-2014	Open Seminar, Spain
	Workshop: Rural Regions
	High Level Conference
	Workshop: Land Use
	Open Seminar, Hungary
	Workshop: Indicators for Territorial Cohesion
	Workshop: Territorial Impact Assessment
Open Seminar, Denmark	
Innovation and Knowledge Workshop	
Joint Seminar ESPON - INTERACT	



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.

ESPON shall support Cohesion Policy development with European-wide comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on framework conditions for the development of regions, cities and larger territories. In doing so, it shall facilitate the mobilisation of territorial capital and development opportunities, contributing to improving European competitiveness, to the widening and deepening of European territorial cooperation and to a sustainable and balanced development.

The Managing Authority responsible for the ESPON 2013 Programme is the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures of Luxembourg.

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