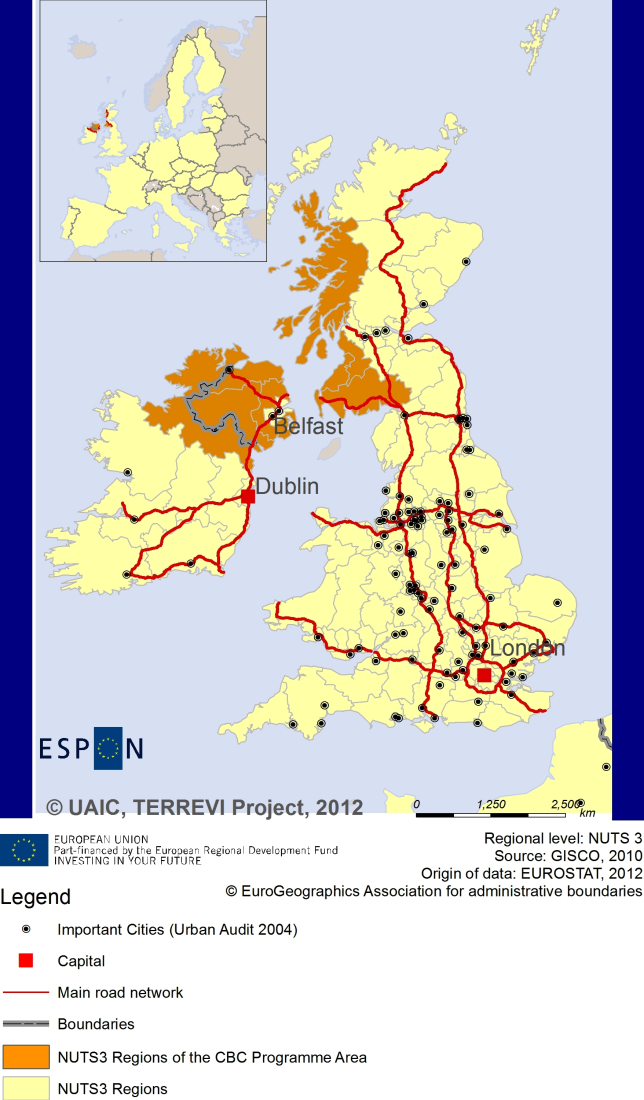
Northern Ireland – Border Region of Ireland – Western Scotland

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ESPON Project TERREVI

November 2012

# Introduction

ESPON supports policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory. It provides comparable information, evidence, analysis, and scenarios on territorial dynamics, which reveal territorial capitals and development potentials of regions and larger territories. Considering the programme area in its European context adds an important new perspective that can help shaping the programming and the places of implementing projects.

The ESPON TERREVI project focuses on producing evidence for Structural Funds programmes with the aim to support the development of the programmes to be carried out in the 2014-2020 period.

One milestone of this work consists in presenting selected ESPON research pieces in easy-to-understand factsheets for all territorial cooperation programme areas. The aim is to provide the reader with preliminary insight on types of territorial evidence ESPON holds at hand with regard to the possible investment priorities of future programmes. The factsheets certainly only give a first glimpse rather than fully present the work of the large number of ESPON projects that are currently underway. Likewise, each programme area includes diverse development potentials and challenges, which needs targeted information search. However, hopefully this factsheet will contain information, benchmarking the programme area in its larger, territorial context, that is of interest and help to better understand the programme area and to navigate within the richness of ESPON material available.

In addition to the programme factsheets there will be a number of specific programme case studies illustrating how ESPON material can be used to support the development of future programmes e.g. by giving a comparative European dimension to the envisaged SWOTs. These case studies will be carried out in early 2013.

This factsheet is structured in three main parts. The first part presents a selection of indicators that help comparing the situation of the programme area in question with the European average, the average for all programme areas as well as the situation in the countries involved. The second part briefly presents the territorial factors of interest for the programme area. The final part offers guidance on the further use of ESPON results and tools.

# Europe 2020

Europe, with its member states and their regions, is more exposed to global shocks and international competition than at any time before. As the world becomes more interdependent this trend will continue and shape policy thinking across sectors, borders and geographical scales. At the same time, Europe is characterised by a large territorial diversity meaning that global developments can imply rather different development possibilities and challenges for different European regions and cities.

The differences are partly defined by major geographical structures such as urban systems, access and connectivity, the geographical specificity or population density. At the same time, the differences are also spelled out in the larger development trends that affect an area, and the way and degree to which it is affected.

The data, indicators and territorial evidence provided by ESPON provides insight on both the main structures and larger territorial trends. The fine art is to identify what can actually be influenced by policy-making and, in particular, by place-based policy and territorial cooperation related to your programme area.

This chapter provides a selection of ESPON data related to Europe 2020 objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, giving also hints as regards the main thematic objectives envisaged in the draft regulations for the next period of EU Cohesion Policy. The Europe 2020 Strategy aims to enhance smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This strategy has clear territorial dimensions. However, achieving these goals is challenging in the crisis-driven times. Furthermore, the economic disparities are growing as economic trends and the crisis have various impacts on different parts of Europe.

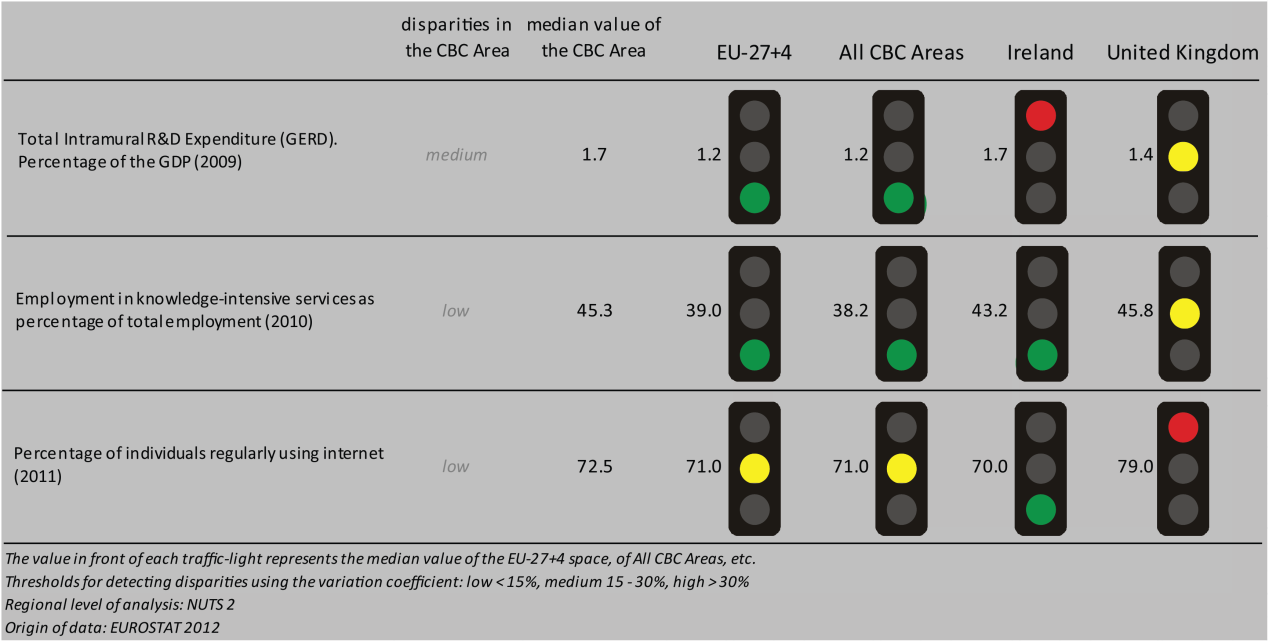
In the following the traffic light for each indicator represents how your programme territory compares to wider European and national medians where green = your programme area performs better for that indicator, yellow = similar, and red = worse.

In creating the traffic lights the median was used as central value indicator for all statistical variables due to its advantages (easy to interpret, it splits the statistical distribution in half) but especially due to the constraints linked to the impossibility of computing means for several indicators (Climate Change, Wind Energy Potential etc.). Therefore, a special attention should be given in reading the median values when the number of NUTS 2 regions is below 7. Using percentiles implies also a high dependence of the final results on the type of statistical distribution. This fact should be considered when establishing the relative position of a CBC Programme Area to a specific country.

EU 27+4 in Traffic Lights and box-plots means the EU Member States as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – the ESPON space.

### Smart growth

Smart growth refers to developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation. In the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy it means improving the EU's performance in education, research/innovation and digital society.



According to all indicators reported above, the Northern Ireland – Border Region of Ireland – Western Scotland CBC area performs in a better or at least similar way compared to the EU27+4 space and all CBC ones. Considering the objective of R&D expenditure as percentage of the GDP - one of the five headline targets in the Europe 2020 Strategy - the CBC area is in a better position than the EU27+4 space and all CBC. Moreover, the CBC area is characterised by a medium level of internal disparity and similarly performs to the United Kingdom but a worse one than Ireland.

Concerning the ratio of employment in knowledge-intensive services to the total employment in 2010, the CBC area has higher values than the EU27+4 space, all CBCs and Ireland; but similar values to the United Kingdom. The distribution inside the CBC results in a low level of internal disparity.

In terms of percentage of individuals regularly using internet in 2011, the CBC has the same values as the EU27+4 space and all CBCs, but it performs slightly better than Ireland and worse than the United Kingdom, with a low level of internal disparity.

According to the classification of the KIT project, MAP 1 identifies a varied territorial pattern of innovation:

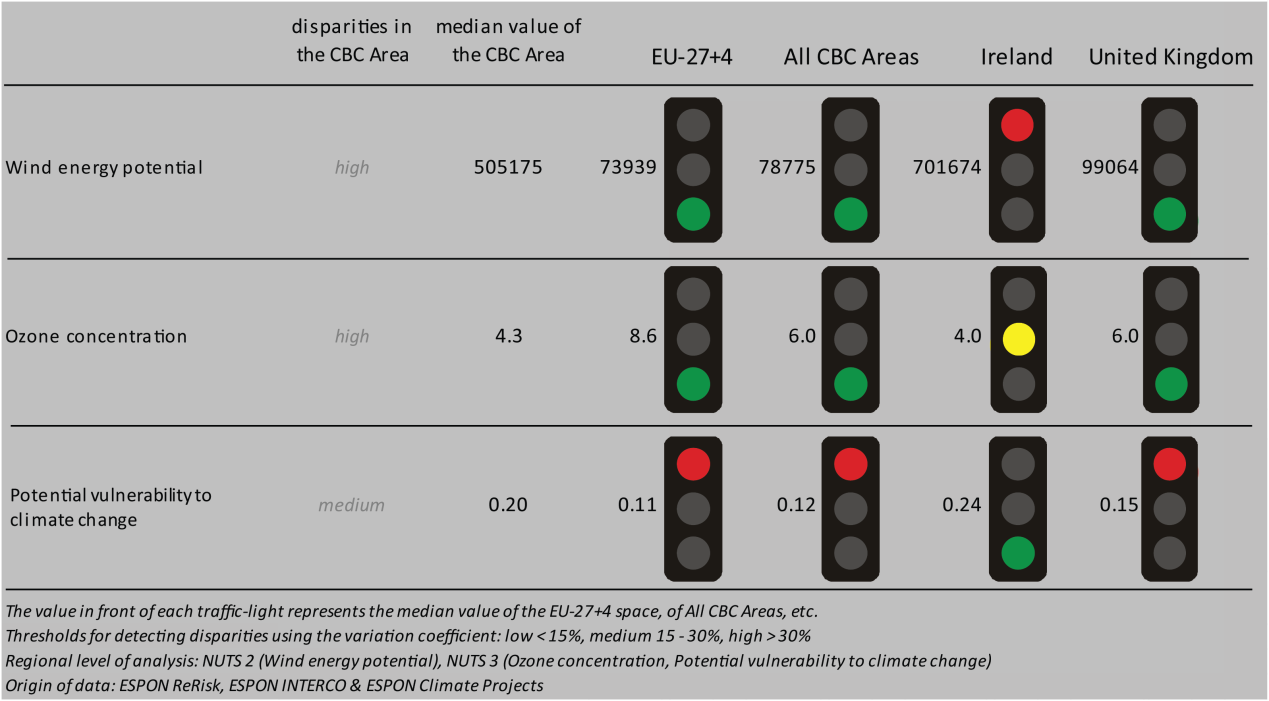
* ‘Smart and creative diversification area’ in Northern Ireland and Western Scotland. It is defined by a low degree of local diversified applied knowledge, internal innovation capacity, high degree of local competences, creativity and entrepreneurship, external knowledge embedded in technical and organizational capabilities;
* ‘Smart technological application area’, in the rest of the CBC, i.e. the Border Region of Ireland, Dumfries and Galloway, Ayrshire. It is defined by a high product innovation level, with a limited degree of local applied science and R&D endowment, and a high creativity which allows translating external basic science and applied science knowledge into innovation.

**MAP 1 – Territorial Patterns of Innovation (ESPON KIT project) for the CBC Northern Ireland – Border Region of Ireland – Western Scotland**



### Sustainable growth

Sustainable growth refers to promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy. Within the Europe 2020 Strategy it means e.g. building a more competitive low-carbon economy that makes efficient, sustainable use of resources, protecting the environment, reducing emissions and preventing biodiversity loss, capitalising on Europe's leadership in developing new green technologies and production methods, and introducing efficient smart electricity grids. In the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy it means focus on competitiveness, resource efficiency, climate change and biodiversity.

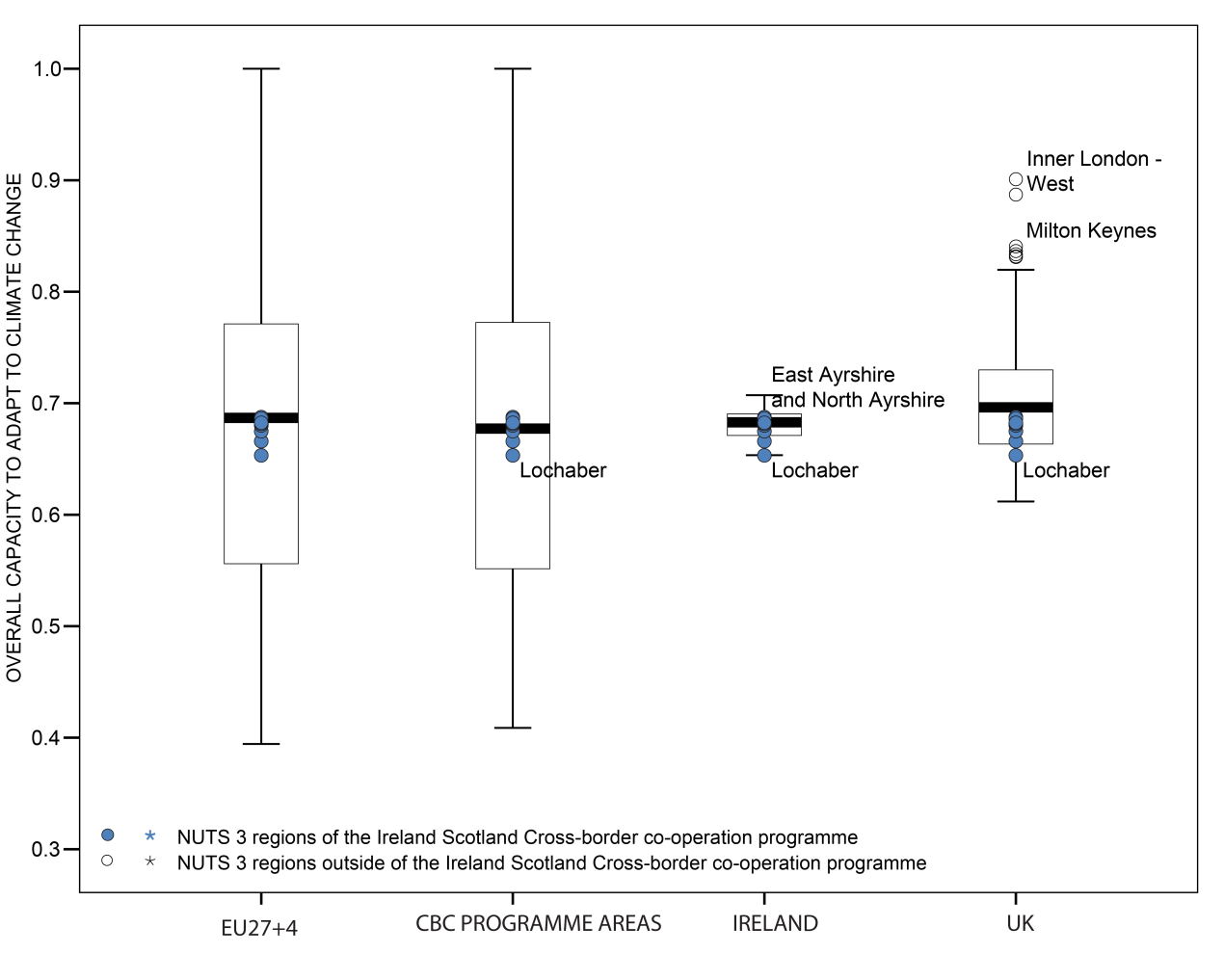
The use of wind energy potential could be one of the cornerstones in building a competitive low-carbon economy in the EU. The wind energy potential of the Northern Ireland – Border Region of Ireland – Western Scotland programme area is characterised by a median value that is particularly high compared to the EU-27+4 and all CBC programme areas in Europe. It has to be noted that the national wind energy potential of Ireland is also extremely high in the international context, while the UK has only a slightly higher potential in using this sustainable resource than the EU-27+4 or other CBC areas. The level of ozone concentration is lower than that of the EU-27+4, and (to a lesser extent) than the level of all CBC areas and the United Kingdom; and it is at around the same level as the national level of Ireland. The programme area is potentially more vulnerable to climate change than the EU-27+4 and all CBC areas as well as the United Kingdom, but it is potentially less vulnerable when compared to Ireland.

Directive 11 seem to have no impact on fossil fuel consumption on the Irish side of the border (MAP 2), and also has no impact in the Northern NUTS3 border-regions of Scotland. However, it has a positive impact in the Southern NUTS3 regions of East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland, South Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway in Scotland. The combined adaptive capacity to climate change of the NUTS3 border-regions (BOX-PLOT 1) is generally close to the median of EU-27+4 and of all CBC areas. The region of Lochaber in Scotland seems to have the lowest level of adaptive capacity to climate change within the border-area.**MAP 2 - Territorial impact on fossil fuel consumption of Directive on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles (ESPON ARTS project) for the CBC Northern Ireland – Border Region of Ireland – Western Scotland**



**BOX-PLOT 1 – Combined adaptive capacity to climate change (ESPON CLIMATE project) for the CBC Northern Ireland – Border Region of Ireland – Western Scotland**

*“Adaptive capacity (adaptability)” to climate change indicates the ability or potential of a system to respond successfully to climate change and variability, and includes adjustments in behaviour, resources and technologies.*



### *How to read the box-plots?*

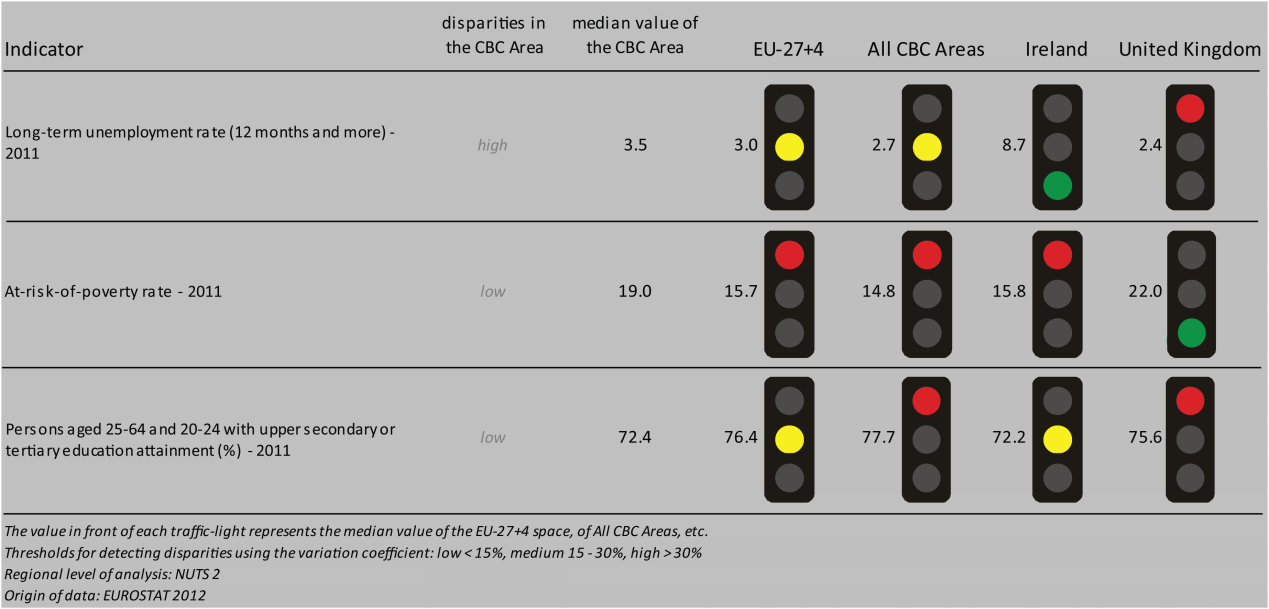
*The box-plot is a statistical and mathematical tool used to visualize numerical data sets and to compare its statistical distribution.*

*Because it is used in exploratory analysis of databases, this representation is sensitive to the quality of the central value selected to explain the symmetry, shape and distribution variability. In the case of a box-plot, the most used central value is the median, because it has the quality of sectioning the data string into two halves, so that 50% of the cases will be above the central value and the other half will be below it. Since the purpose of the representation is to highlight outliers’ behavior, it uses a box that encompasses half of the cases, i.e. values that are in the range defined by the percentile of 25% and 75%. If a region has a value in this box then it can be considered that it has, according to the variable in question, a situation close to the average behavior of all regions analyzed.*

*When a region consistently deviates from the average profile of the analyzed territorial context, this behavior will be noted in the chart only when certain thresholds of statistical tolerances are exceeded, this being pointed in the diagram with segments perpendicular to the middle box, segments called the "whiskers".*

### Inclusive growth

Inclusive growth refers to fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. Within the Europe 2020 Strategy it means raising Europe’s employment rate, helping people of all ages anticipate and manage change through investment in skills & training, modernising labour markets and welfare systems, and ensuring the benefits of growth reach all parts of the EU. In short the key factors are employment and avoiding risk of poverty and social exclusion.

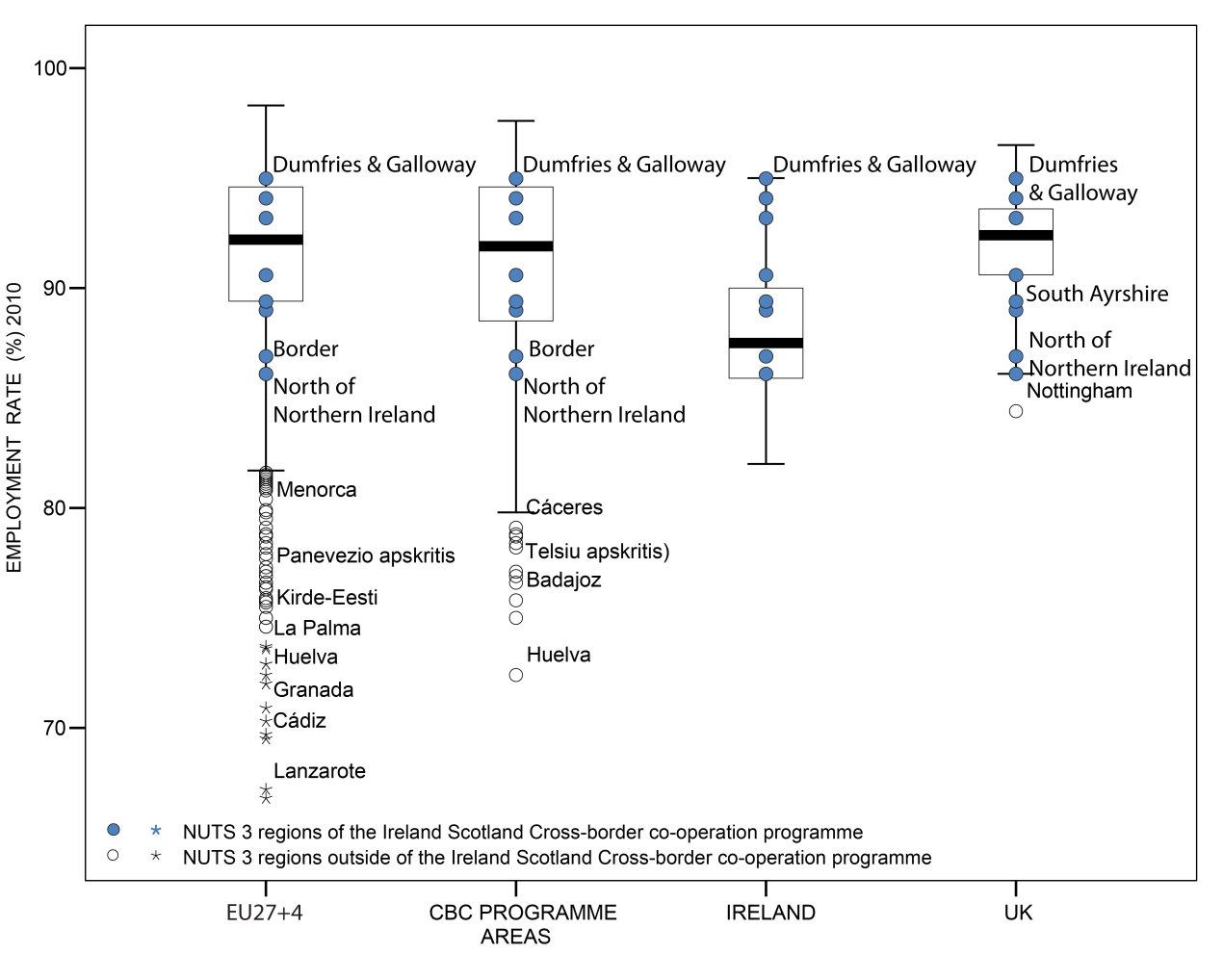


The long-term unemployment rate of the Northern Ireland – Border Region of Ireland – Western Scotland border-regions, as well as the employment rates represented in BOX-PLOT 2, are close to the median of the EU-27+4 and of all CBC areas. In general, the unemployment rate of the programme area is significantly lower than that of Ireland, but the border-region count for relatively more long-term unemployed people than the United Kingdom. According to BOX-PLOT 2 two Irish NUTS3 regions (Border and North of Northern Ireland) have particularly low employment rates, while the NUTS3 region Dumfries & Galloway in Scotland has a high rate in the international context. The rate of persons at risk of poverty is higher in the programme area than in the EU-27+4, all CBC areas as well as Ireland, but it is slightly lower than in the United Kingdom. The share of persons aged 25-64 and 20-24 with upper secondary or tertiary education attainment is at an average level compared to the EU27+4 and Ireland; it is slightly lower than in the UK and all CBC areas.

To further explore the role of policies the ESPON project DEMIFER has developed four scenarios to show how various policy bundles can lead to different trajectories of developments in population and labour force. On the one hand, all scenarios predict an increase in the labour force until 2050 (although to a different extent) on the Irish side of the border. On the other hand, the changes foreseen for the Scottish border are mostly negative according to all scenarios, except for the ‘Growing Social Europe’ scenario that predict minor positive changes in the labour force in the regions of East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland, South Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway.

**MAP 3 – Change in Labour Force 2005-2050 (ESPON DEMIFER project) for the CBC Northern Ireland – Border Region of Ireland – Western Scotland**



**BOX-PLOT 2 – Employment rate 2010 within the CBC Northern Ireland – Border Region of Ireland – Western Scotland**

*(see “How to read the box-plots?” on page 8)*

# Territorial factors of interest for the programme area

Territorial cooperation programmes can make a difference for the future development of cross-border and transnational territories in Europe. Some of the factors can be analysed by European wide data sets and using some studies having specific maps, figures and tables concerning the areas of the cooperation region.

In a European perspective the programme area is mainly characterised by rural regions and intermediate regions. Most of the rural regions are furthermore considered as remote. The area comprises mainly smaller centres and no larger urban centres. Some parts of the programme area benefit from a close proximity to Belfast.

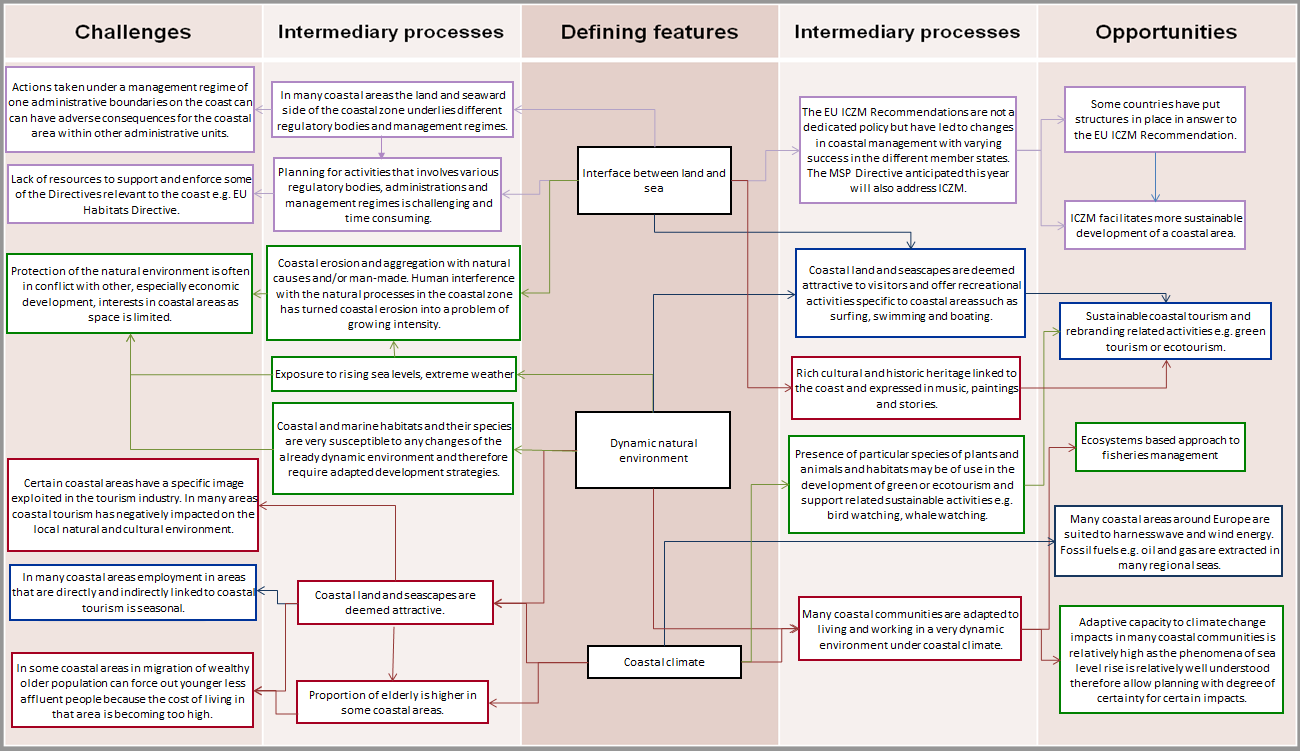
The rural structure implies both development challenges and potentials i.e. in relation to the access to services and infrastructure. Overall, the area has a multimodal accessibility below the European average.

In a European perspective, the use of internet and access to the Information Society in the programme area is moderate on Ireland and high in Scotland.

Most parts of the programme area are characterised as coastal regions in a European perspective. Other geographical specificities within the programme area are islands, mountainous areas and some sparsely populated areas. These characteristics and the remote location imply particular development challenges and opportunities. ESPON GEOSPECS has developed nexus models for coastal regions (see figure), mountainous regions and sparsely populated areas. These models link defining features via intermediary process to development challenges and opportunities. This model can be of interest also for further developing the discussion about the challenges and opportunities in the programme area.

Furthermore, GEOSPECS has carried out a case study on the Irish Sea highlighting some development opportunities and limitations in relation to the historic legacy of the area, which can be of interest.

ESPON GEOSPECS PROJECT – FINAL REPORT, PAGE 103:  
Nexus model for coastal areas



**MAP 4 – Urban-rural typology of NUTS3 regions including remoteness (DG Regio) for the CBC Northern Ireland – Border Region of Ireland – Western Scotland**



*(Accessible=close to a city)*

**MAP 5 – Multimodal accessibilty (ESPON Accessibility Update) for the CBC Northern Ireland – Border Region of Ireland – Western Scotland**

*“Potential Accessibility Multimodal” scores accessibility of NUTS 3 regions by road, rail and air relative to the European average in an Accessibility Index.*



# Recommended ESPON reading

ESPON provides an essential underpinning for translating into practice the calls for integrated and place-based approaches to economic development, when analysing a programme area or deciding about future programme priorities. ESPON has published a wide range of exciting reports providing valuable territorial evidence for future territorial cooperation initiatives.

The table below shows examples of relevant projects for the Cooperation Region. However, you have to study other ESPON reports as well in order to capitalise fully on the European information available for the cross-border programming.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ESPON study** | **Topic** | **Content** |
| EDORA | Rural areas | It provides evidence on the development opportunities of diverse types of European rural areas and reveals competitiveness options (see maps in Appendix 1). |
| CLIMATE | Climate change | It analyses how and to which degree climate change will impact on the competitiveness and cohesion of European regions and Europe as a whole (see from map 1 to 23). |
| TIPTAP | Territorial impact assessment | It provides a tool for the ex-ante assessment of territorial impacts of policies to deliver evidence on the territorial impact of policies (see from map 2.3.1 to 2.3.9). |
| CAEE | Agglomerati-on economies | It aims at a better understanding of the economic costs and benefits of large urban agglomerations (see figure 1). |
| TRANSMEC | European cooperation | It develops a method providing guidance on how ESPON results can add value to support territorial cooperation programmes (see map 27 and from map 36 to 39). |
| SEMIGRA | Rural migration | It identifies the main reasons and consequences of selective migration in rural regions in order to develop strategies for territorial development (see map 1, 4 and 5). |
| KIT | Innovation | It describes patterns and potentials of regions in terms of knowledge and innovation economy and explores development opportunities (see from map 3.1.1 to 4.4.1). |
| SGPTD | Growth poles | It provides evidence about performance and roles of European secondary cities (see from figure 2 to 2.12). |
| PURR | Rural regions | It tests new ways to explore the territorial potentials of some rural areas and small and medium-sized towns in peripheral parts of Europe. Two case studies concern Dumfries and Galloway, in Scotland (see map A.8 and A.9). |
| GEOSPECS | Specific types of territories | The project provides evidence on the strength, weaknesses and development opportunities of specific types of territories and regions (see annex A). |

Furthermore, some of overall ESPON products of particular interest for territorial cooperation are:

* **ESPON Synthesis report** “new evidence on smart, sustainable and inclusive territories” provides an easy to read overview on ESPON results available.
* **ESPON Territorial Observations** is a publication series, which on a few pages presents policy relevant findings deriving from latest ESPON research.
* **ESPON 2013 Database** provides regional information provided by [ESPON projects](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/) and [EUROSTAT](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home).
* **ESPON Hyperaltas** allows comparing and analysing a region’s relative position at European, national and local scale for a wide range of criteria.
* **ESPON MapFinder** provides access to the most relevant ESPON maps resulting from ESPON projects and reports.
* **ESPON Typologies** provides nine regional typologies for additional analysis of regional data to be considered in the European context.

All ESPON reports and tools are freely available at  
**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.