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A good-practice example for wider use

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How to use BSR-TeMo

The Tool offers access to territorial monitoring indicators, providing evidence on the regional diversity, situation and progress on main territorial challenges of the Baltic Sea Region. The tool provides territorial evidence and analysis for policy through a set of pre-selected indicators and maps covering various topics integrated in an easy to navigate online tool. In addition, it also includes territorial observations for policy and specific test cases aimed at testing the practical capacity of the monitoring system in providing practical and ready to use outputs for policy making in the Baltic Sea Region.

The active involvement of policy makers has been valuable in the process of setting up the system, shaping the test cases and discussing their depth and scope. In addition, it ensured the usefulness of the tool for day to day decision making processes related to territorial development in the BSR. Basically, the monitoring system allows for an easy overview, comparison and benchmarking of the territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region (including Russia and Belorussia), in the European context and internally at regional scale. In doing so, it constitutes a tailor-made knowledge pool for evidence informed policy making at transnational or macro-regional level.

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This document illustrates how policy making at macro-regional or transnational level can benefit from territorial evidence provided by ESPON. The BSR-TeMo (Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring) project has developed a tailor made territorial monitoring system, based on indicators, to promote ‘territorial cohesion and support the contribution of the Baltic Sea Region to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as mentioned in the ‘Europe 2020 Strategy’. This document illustrates how policy making at macro-regional or transnational level can benefit from territorial evidence provided by ESPON. The BSR-TeMo (Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring) project has developed a tailor made territorial monitoring system, based on indicators, to promote ‘territorial cohesion and support the contribution of the Baltic Sea Region to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as mentioned in the ‘Europe 2020 Strategy’. This document illustrates how policy making at macro-regional or transnational level can benefit from territorial evidence provided by ESPON. The BSR-TeMo (Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring) project has developed a tailor made territorial monitoring system, based on indicators, to promote ‘territorial cohesion and support the contribution of the Baltic Sea Region to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as mentioned in the ‘Europe 2020 Strategy’. This document illustrates how policy making at macro-regional or transnational level can benefit from territorial evidence provided by ESPON. The BSR-TeMo (Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring) project has developed a tailor made territorial monitoring system, based on indicators, to promote ‘territorial cohesion and support the contribution of the Baltic Sea Region to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as mentioned in the ‘Europe 2020 Strategy’. This document illustrates how policy making at macro-regional or transnational level can benefit from territorial evidence provided by ESPON. The BSR-TeMo (Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring) project has developed a tailor made territorial monitoring system, based on indicators, to promote ‘territorial cohesion and support the contribution of the Baltic Sea Region to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as mentioned in the ‘Europe 2020 Strategy’. This document illustrates how policy making at macro-regional or transnational level can benefit from territorial evidence provided by ESPON. The BSR-TeMo (Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring) project has developed a tailor made territorial monitoring system, based on indicators, to promote ‘territorial cohesion and support the contribution of the Baltic Sea Region to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as mentioned in the ‘Europe 2020 Strategy’. This document illustrates how policy making at macro-regional or transnational level can benefit from territorial evidence provided by ESPON. The BSR-TeMo (Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring) project has developed a tailor made territorial monitoring system, based on indicators, to promote ‘territorial cohesion and support the contribution of the Baltic Sea Region to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as mentioned in the ‘Europe 2020 Strategy’. This document illustrates how policy making at macro-regional or transnational level can benefit from territorial evidence provided by ESPON. The BSR-TeMo (Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring) project has developed a tailor made territorial monitoring system, based on indicators, to promote ‘territorial cohesion and support the contribution of the Baltic Sea Region to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as mentioned in the ‘Europe 2020 Strategy'.

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How does the BSR-TeMo system work?

The tool is a policy driven interactive system granting access to a set of territorial indicators, for five domains: economic performance and competitiveness, access to services, markets and jobs, innovative territories, social inclusion and quality of life and environmental quality. Each domain is divided in sub-domains, for which a total of 29 indicators have been selected covering as much as possible the entire BSR at regional level. In addition, headline indicators, which are statistically significant to represent an entire domain, are presented as a subset of the main indicators.

This set of indicators should be able to measure the progress in achieving territorial cohesion in the BSR. In addition, the BSR-TeMo tool presents four test cases in areas of particular policy interest agreed upon by the stakeholders involved:

• Territorial cohesion (cross-thematic scope);
• Migration (thematic scope);
• Cross-border areas (geographical scope) and
• Benchmarking (where the BSR is benchmarked against the Alpine Space and the North Sea transnational regions).

This produced usable output from the monitoring system that can be utilised in day-to-day policy development and assessment. Selected examples of territorial evidence and observations for policy provided by the Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring System are presented below.

A tool to support policy development and implementation

Migration trends in the Baltic Sea Region

Demographic change is an increasingly important territorial development feature in Europe (see also ESPON Evidence Brief 6). In this context net migration is considered as a proxy for the overall attractiveness of a region in terms of labour markets, education, job opportunities, quality of life, welfare state, etc. Positive net migration rates might counteract negative natural demographic trends such as declining birth rates or aging population.

Displaying the net migration in the BSR for the years 2005-2010, the map shows the difference between immigrants and emigrants in a region (see figure 2). Outmigration dominates in many German regions, especially regions of the eastern part of the country and the eastern and southern shore of the Baltic Sea. The highest outmigration rates can be found in East Germany, Lithuania and Murmanskaya oblast. On the other hand, southern regions of Sweden, Norway and Finland, as well as Denmark, Berlin and St Petersburg are considered as migrant attractive territories. Immigration is observed around certain cities in Poland as well. Rural migration is affected harder by the financial crisis than other types of regions.

This information is supported by a range of other maps provided by the ‘Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring System’. These maps allow further exploration of details and nuances of the migration trends. The tool allows also downloading data sets and having a more detailed look. In the case of net migration, this allows e.g. for following further nuances (see figure 3). The trend of increasing territorial polarisation which is already visible in figure 3 becomes here even more evident when looking at the net migration figures in the Baltic Sea Region for various types of regions.

This shows e.g. that (predominantly) urban regions are taking a clear lead, whereas (predominantly) rural regions are at the bottom of the scale. When addressing the issue of net migration from the point of view of a more pronounced urban hierarchy, a very similar order emerges, where capital city metropolitan areas exceed all other types of regions, and only ten urban regions (out of 238 regions in total) stand for 47% of all migration surplus in the Baltic Sea Region. This implies also that other types of regions, such as border regions, sparsely populated ones, as well as inland areas have negative, or in the case of inland areas at least in relative terms lower levels of migration. This trend of population concentration also reflects many other strata of socioeconomic development in the BSR.

Accessibility to cities indicates the urban-rural divide in the Baltic Sea Region

Migration patterns are explained by a wide range of aspects and complex interrelations between these. The dominance of the urban areas, however, suggests that it might be worthwhile to take a more detailed look at the urban system in the Baltic Sea Region.

Data on functional urban areas in the Baltic Sea Region shows that despite common features, the region is also characterised by a high heterogeneity. In general, the Baltic Sea Region shows two important territorial divides. On the hand there is the east-west and south-north divide and on the other hand there is the urban-rural divide. These have already been pointed out by the VASAB Long Term Perspective for the territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region.

When it comes the access to labour markets and services of general interest, including schools, health care etc., the travel time to the nearest urban centre can be of importance. Small towns and rural areas often do not have the possibility to offer the same range of services as do larger cities. Accordingly, the more cities that are within reach of a certain location, the highest is the availability of different services and the freedom of choice.

Figure 4 shows that in a European perspective, the access to the nearest urban centre varies considerably across Europe. The map highlights the agglomeration areas in Europe. Accessibility is higher in the urban areas, such as in the Ruhr area in Germany, in the United Kingdom, Paris, the Benelux countries and in Northern Italy. Capital cities also hold a high accessibility position, as for example Stockholm, Madrid, Budapest or Athens, while city regions as Oslo-