

What are the benefits of a full territorial integration?

Many obstacles are still at work which reduces the mobility of actors across national borders inside the EU territory. Legal barriers are still active in many fields of activity that limits the opportunity for an individual or a firm to establish in foreign regions or cities. For example, it is well known that cross-border labour markets introduce constraints concerning pensions, social security, taxes etc. Mental barriers may also be considered as long as many actors can prefer to stay in their own country, all things being equal to the opportunities and accessibility.

The FIT offers an interesting parameter to switch on or off the border effect. By switching on the border effect, the application returns potential values considering that national borders are impassable. By switching off the border effect, the application returns values considering that national borders represent no obstacle to mobility.

The border effect parameter is useful to compare a worst-case scenario (impassable borders) with an optimal scenario (fully integrated European territory). In the example presented in Figures 6 and 7, it can be seen that the total amount of GDP reachable within one hour by road for Luxembourg and the French, Belgium and German regions around it changes when the border effect is turned on. Such information can be particularly useful for policymakers in border regions when assessing the likely impact of increased cross-border cooperation across national boundaries.

FIT is available at: <http://fit.espon.eu>

Figure 6 GDP reachable with open borders

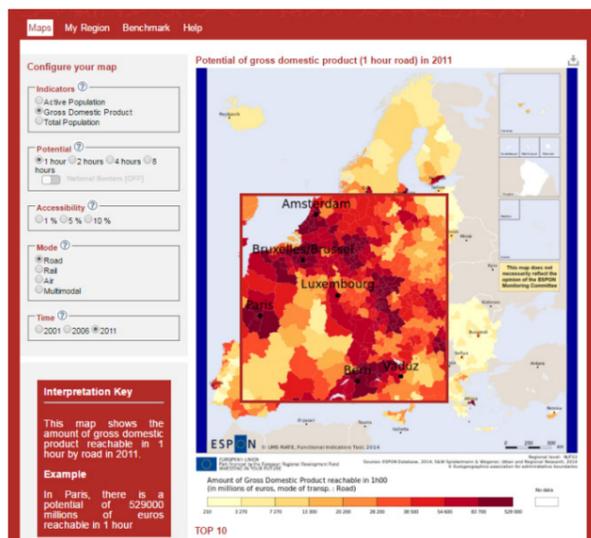
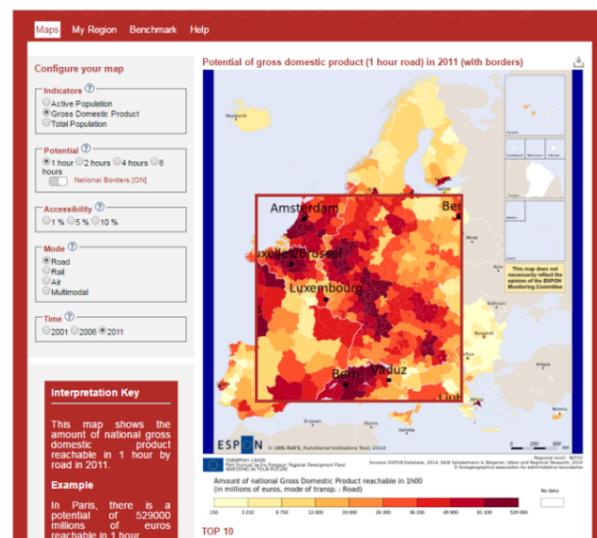


Figure 7 GDP reachable with closed borders



Functional Indicators Tool

Display innovative indicators related to Cohesion Policy

The Functional Indicator Tool (FIT) is a practical and user-friendly application for producing and displaying innovative pan-European indicators related to the effects of transportation networks on accessibility and the territorial development.

FIT allows policymakers and practitioners at all scales, as well as the general public, to examine for all regions what population can be reached within a certain travel time. In addition, the number of employed people (active population) that can be reached within a certain travel time can also be generated. Finally, it is possible to examine how much Gross Domestic Product (GDP) can be reached within a certain travel time of any region. These calculations can be made using different modes of transport, road, rail, air and multimodal.

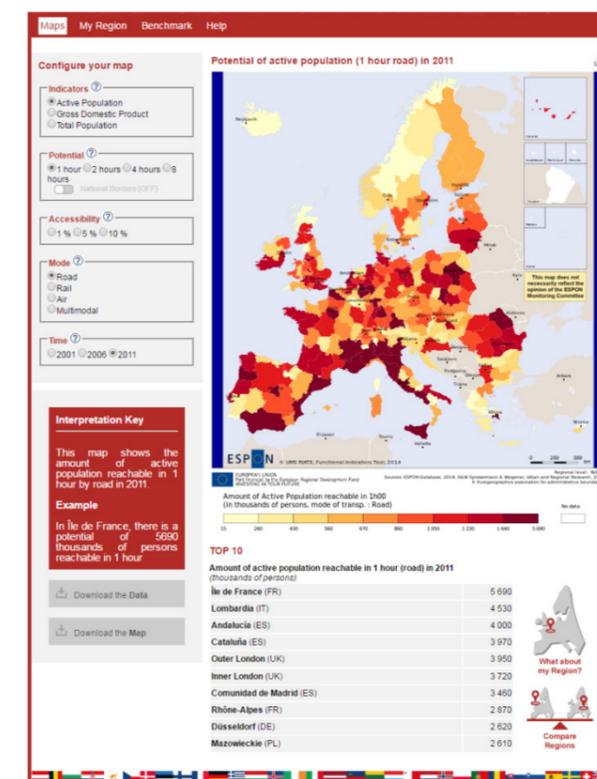
Users can also explore functional information for specific regions; compare and benchmark EU regions and analyse the impacts of borders on territorial development. Charts, maps and data can be easily produced and downloaded in various formats for further analysis and use in reports and presentations, as needed.

How to use FIT

The 'Maps' tab (Figure 1) displays maps of accessibility and potential indicators. These indicators show the same phenomenon in two distinct ways: time oriented (accessibility) or stock oriented (potential). Accessibility indicators measure the distance (in time) needed to reach an amount of stock (e.g. GDP, total population or active population). Potential indicators on the other hand measure the stocks (e.g. stocks of population, workers or production) that are located around a place at a certain distance (travel time).

Five boxes are available to configure the map using different parameters and to visualise the different indicators. An additional box, called 'Interpretation Key', gives information to assist the user in interpreting the displayed maps and summarises the data parameters used to produce the map. Furthermore a 'Top 10' table at the bottom of the interface shows the ten European regions with the highest values. Finally, there is also the possibility to download the map and the corresponding data for use in research or producing reports.

Figure 1 Home page FIT



ESPON 2020 – More Information

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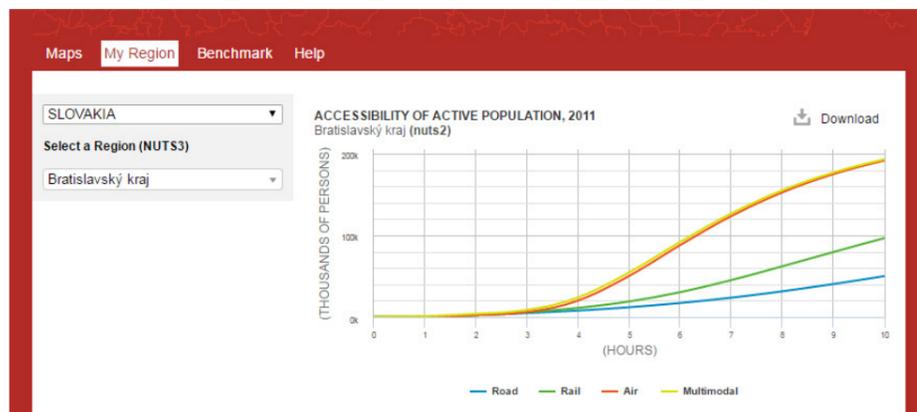
Layout: Marjan van Herwijnen

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The 'My Region' tab displays regional graphs of the potential and accessibility indicators to compare the different modes of transportation for a specific region. The first step is to select a region by selecting a country in the first list and then selecting the region itself in the

second list. The FIT will then generate all the indicators in all modes of transport for the selected region. This allows users to explore the accessibility of any region in respect of access to active population and GDP in 2011 at both NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 scale (see Figure 2).

Figure 2 Accessibility of 'My Region'



The 'Benchmark' tab displays regional graphs of the potential and accessibility indicators in order to compare different regions. First, a region to be analysed is selected, which results in the display of indicators for each mode of transport for the selected region. After

that, the user can select and add other regions to the graph so that a comparison can be made. Users can also toggle between active population, GDP and total population, and for different modes of transport (see Figure 3).

Figure 3 Benchmarking various regions



The 'Help' tab provides all the information needed to understand and use the FIT application, including the

concepts and methods underpinning the development of the tool.

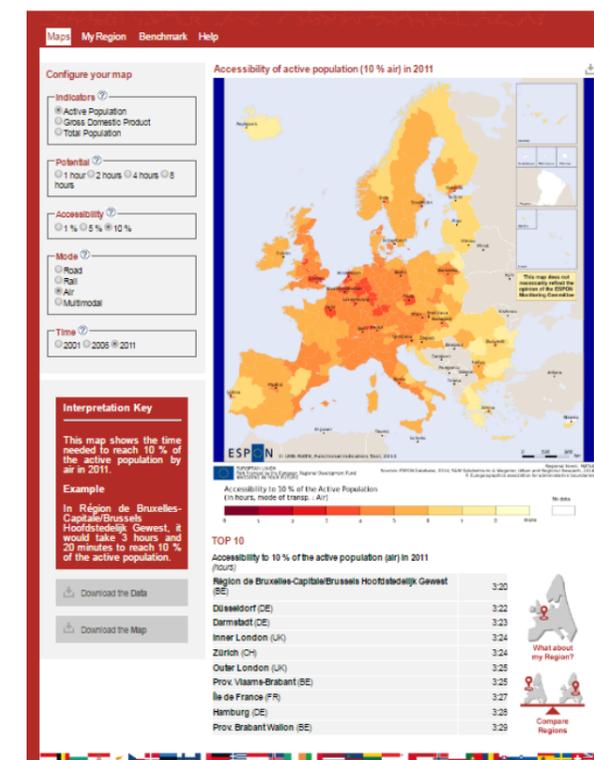
How FIT can support policymakers and policy implementation

FIT can be used to support a range of practical policy questions for public authorities, researchers and the private sector. For example, a large internet sales company is seeking a new location in Europe and is seeking the best location for which to locate. A user, in this instance, can make use of the FIT to investigate how much of the total EU GDP is within 4 hours drive in order to maximise sales and delivery time. Furthermore, a new employer can investigate the potential workforce within defined time distances of specific locations by different modes of transport. Policymakers, a regional planner for example, can use the FIT to assess the impact of enhanced cross-border cooperation on territorial development and to benchmark his or her region with other EU regions. Time-series data and maps for 2001, 2006 and 2011 can be viewed in order to evaluate trends over time. Below are some examples of how the FIT can be used in concrete practices.

What is the amount of GDP reachable within 4 hours by road around the Inner London - West region?

In the 'Maps' tab, by setting the parameters of the 'Accessibility' box, the user selects the share of an indicator to be reached e.g. 10% of active population. For example, in Figure 4 it can be seen that from the Athens region it would take 5 to 6 hours to reach 10% of the EU active population by air in 2011. On the other hand, the Brussels region has the greatest accessibility by air, as it would take 3hrs20 to reach 10% of the EU population in 2011 (indicated in the 'Top 10' list).

Figure 4 Accessibility of Inner London - West region



What is the amount of GDP reachable within 4 hours by road around the Inner London - West region?

In the 'My Region' tab, select Inner London - West Region in the United Kingdom. This will generate a chart illustrating the amount of GDP within certain travel times in 2011. For example, Figure 5 shows that within

a 4 hour travel time by road from the Inner London - West region, the amount of EU GDP reachable is € 979,860,000 in 2011.

Figure 5 Accessibility of GDP for Inner London - West

