

ESPON



EUROPEAN UNION

Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

MRS. ESPON



European and Macro-regional Territorial Monitoring Tool



Leaflet

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About the tool

The ESPON European and Macro-Regional Territorial Monitoring is a tool for continuously observing the development trends and patterns taking place in Europe and its four macro-regions. The tool supports European, macro-regional, national and regional policy makers and other macro-regional stakeholders with territorial information, data, maps, graphs, analytical features and short comments. By reading and interpreting the quantitative statistical information in the light of policy objectives and aims, the contents of this tool help policy makers to monitor development trends and policy performance, to identify development opportunities and territorial challenges, as well as to better understand the diversity and position of regions and cities in the heterogeneous European context.

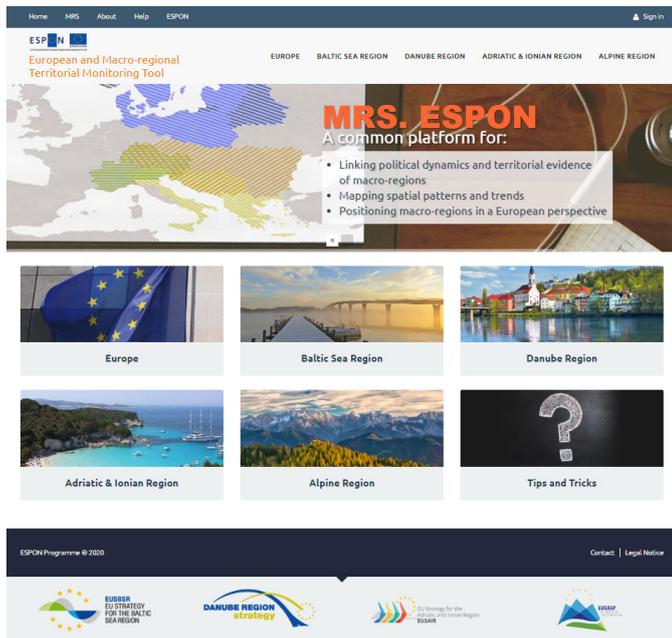


Figure 1: Homepage of the MRS ESPON interface

Source: <http://mrs.espon.eu/emtm-tool/index.html>

- Provides information for continuously monitoring the development trends and patterns taking place in Europe, its macro-regions, regions and cities.
- Gives support to European, macro-regional, national and regional policy makers and other stakeholders with territorial information, data, maps, graphs, analytical features and short reports.
- By reading and interpreting the quantitative statistical information in the light of policy objectives and aims, the results of this activity shall help policy makers to monitor development trends and policy performance, identify development opportunities and territorial challenges, as well as better understand the diversity and position of regions and cities in the heterogeneous European context.
- Offers a selection of relevant indicators for the ESPON space to give context in the framework of current European policy themes. These are available in a number of territorial divisions depending on each indicator (from NUTS0 to NUTS3, LAU and FUA)
- Offers a selection of indicators to evaluate the trends of the four Macro-Regional strategies
- Provides insight on the progress of implementation of the Macro-Regional strategies in terms of activities and projects.
- Provides functionalities for the user to explore the data of the tool including time comparisons and transformation of data into different functional territories.
- Guarantees an updated database by linking through web services to main data providers (ESPONDB, Eurostat)

European module

The European module provides information on the progress of certain indicators linked to the general policy themes that will guide the EU Cohesion policy in the 2021-2027 period. These “policy objectives” are according to the [Common Provision Regulation](#):

- a smarter Europe through innovation, (delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment and skills) and,
- a greener, carbon free Europe,
- a more connected Europe (with strategic transport and digital networks),
- a more social Europe
- a Europe closer to citizens (with the support of locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development).

Information is structured in these five blocks containing a policy relevant description, benchmarking of the European regions and Macro-Regions and a selection of relevant indicators.

The screenshot displays the user interface of the European module. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, MRS, About, Help, and ESPON, along with a Sign in button. Below this is a secondary menu with 'EUROPE' selected, and other regional options: BALTIC SEA REGION, DANUBE REGION, ADRIATIC & IONIAN REGION, and ALPINE REGION. The main content area features a large banner for 'Europe' with the text: 'Regional Policy targets all regions and cities in the European Union in order to support job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development, and improve citizens' quality of life.' Below the banner are six content blocks, each with a representative image and a title: 'MRS in a smarter Europe' (laboratory glassware), 'MRS in a greener Europe' (a plant in a lightbulb), 'MRS in a more connected Europe' (a highway interchange), 'MRS in a more social Europe' (a group of people), 'MRS in a Europe closer to citizens' (a busy street scene), and 'Europe background' (the European Union flag). The footer contains the ESPON Programme © 2020 copyright notice, contact and legal notice links, and logos for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), Danube Region Strategy, EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), and EUSALP.

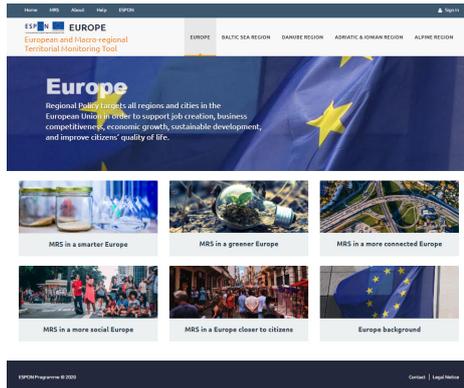
Figure 2: European module interface

Source: http://mrs.espon.eu/emtm-tool/ESPON_SPACE/index.html

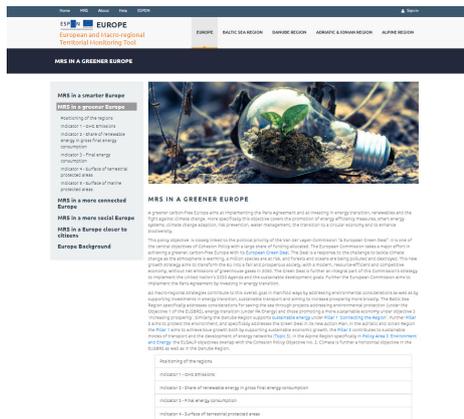
USE CASE 1

A policy maker of a regional government in Europe wants to know about the “Greener Europe” theme and in concrete about the development trends in protected areas to estimate the developments within one macro-region Europe compared to another.

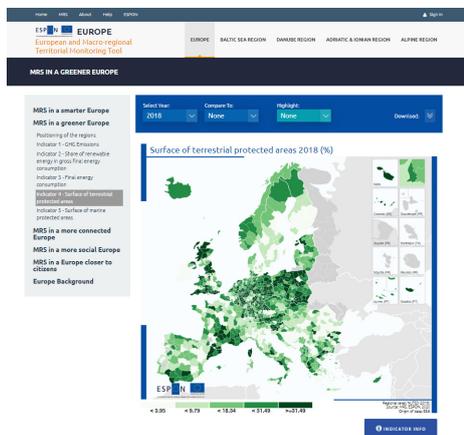
1. Select the European module [\(link\)](#)



2. Select the Greener Europe theme [\(link\)](#)



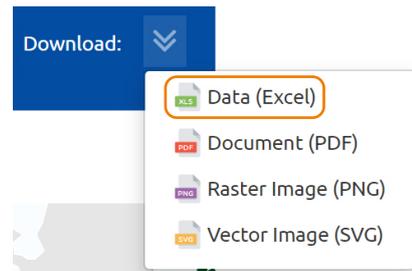
3. Select indicator 4 [\(link\)](#)



4. Select 2012 as starting year and 2018 as end year. The map shows now the evolution of protected area surfaces at NUTS3 level for all Europe. The text provides a policy relevant analysis of the indicator.



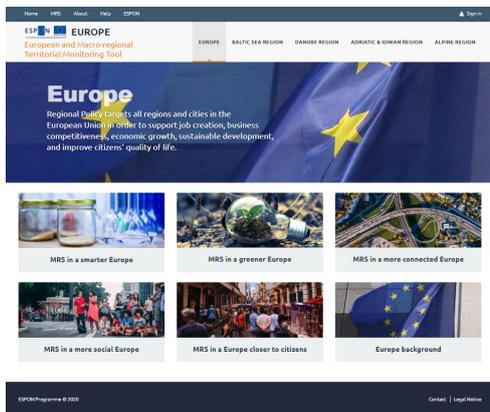
5. By clicking on “download” – “Excel” one can get a table of the data used to create the map so that the user can prepare customised graphics and maps using a GIS



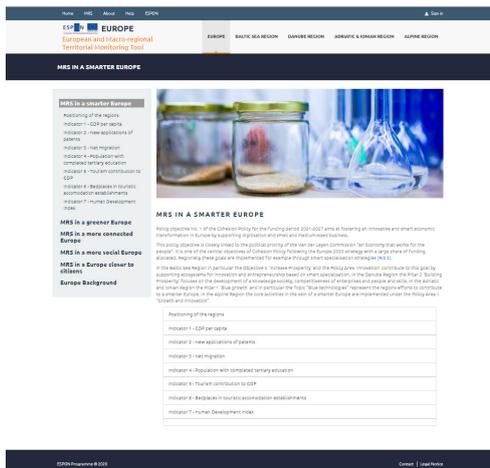
USE CASE 2

A national policy maker needs to check how the regions within a country position in terms of economic development and check how they are doing in relation to other countries and the European average.

1. Select the European module [\(link\)](#)



2. Select the Smarter Europe theme [\(link\)](#)



3. Select Positioning of the regions [\(link\)](#)



The graphic displays on the x-axis the variation in GDP per capita for the period 2005–2015, while the y-axis shows the GDP per capita in 2015. By clicking on the labels of the series one can turn on and off them in the graphic. The square marks show the averages for EU28 and the four macro-regions.

Macro-Regional modules

The four macro-regional modules offer information organised according to the governance structure of each macro-regional strategy. This is offered to the user as a single entry point through the landing page displaying all the elements that configure this structure, in terms of Pillars, Priority Areas and Action Groups.

The objectives and developments in each pillar and priority area are shortly summarised.

Further some indications about activities in the macro-regions are given. The pages also include a selection of indicators that reflect on the territorial trends and structures over time of the PA/AG/Topic-theme and, in that, complement the general trends presented in the European module. Also they provide information on the implementation of actions and activities linked to each PA/AG.

The screenshot displays the user interface for the EUSBSR module. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, MRS, About, Help, and ESPON, along with a Sign in button. Below this, the EUSBSR logo and the text 'European and Macro-regional Territorial Monitoring Tool' are visible. The main header area is titled 'Baltic Sea Region' and features a large image of a bridge over water. Below the header, there is a descriptive paragraph about the EUSBSR strategy. The interface is organized into three main objective sections: 'Objective 1 - Save the sea', 'Objective 2 - Connect the region', and 'Objective 3 - Increase prosperity'. Each objective section contains a list of associated Priority Areas (PA). For example, Objective 1 includes PA Nutri, PA Hazards, PA Bioeconomy, PA Ship, and PA Safe. Below these sections are two more sections: 'Horizontal actions' and 'EUSBSR Background'. The footer contains the ESPON Programme © 2020, contact information, and logos for EUSBSR, Danube Region Strategy, EUSAR, and EUSALP.

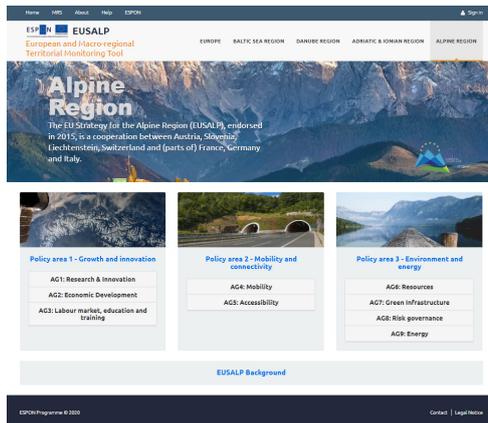
Figure 3: Macro-Regional module interface

Source: <http://mrs.espon.eu/emtm-tool/EUSBSR/index.html>

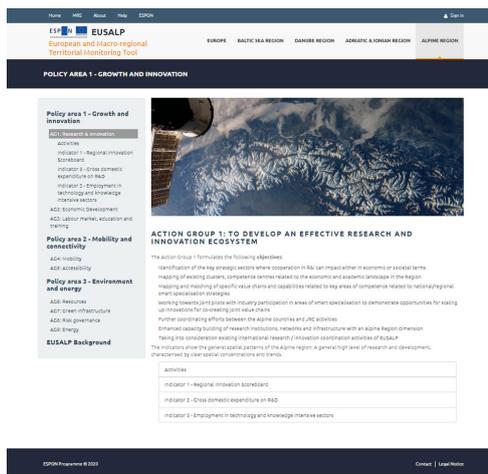
USE CASE 3

A member of the Action Group 1 of the EUSALP strategy aims to reflect on the progress in terms of innovation in the perimeter of the strategy. This module offers an indicator that allows to reflect on the different levels of innovation through the indicator of the Regional Innovation Scoreboard.

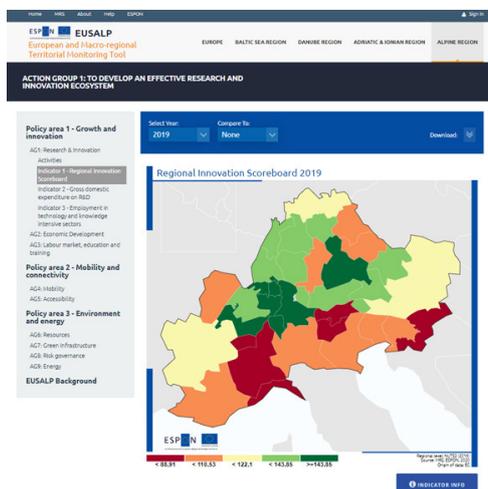
1. Select the EUSALP module [\(link\)](#)



2. Select the Action Group 1 [\(link\)](#)

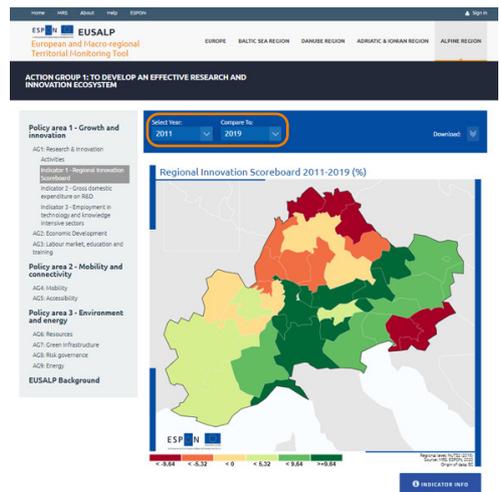


3. Select indicator 1 [\(link\)](#)

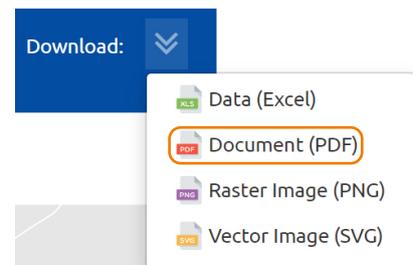


4. The map displays the status of the indicator Regional Innovation Scoreboard for the most recent year. The text below offers policy implications of the indicator in relation to the objectives of the Action Group 1.

5. The evolution of the indicator over time can be shown by selecting 2011 as starting year and 2019 as end year. The map shows now the evolution of the Regional Innovation Scoreboard, highlighting which areas show a positive progress and which show a negative trend.



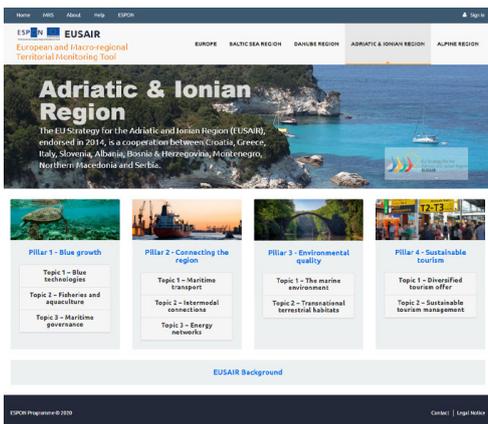
6. Clicking on “download” – “pdf” the user can get a pdf of the map displayed on screen to include it on a report.



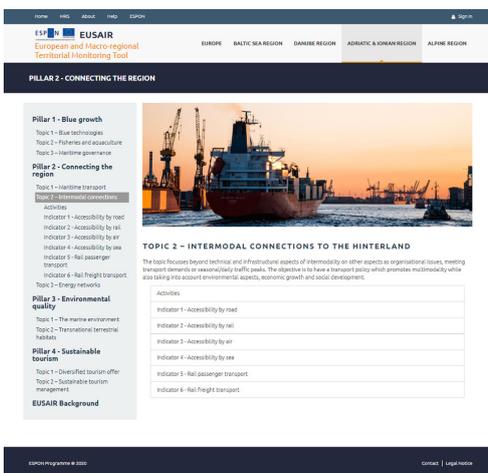
USE CASE 4

A national coordinator of the EUSAIR strategy aims to get an overview of the status of transport connectivity in the region. The module offers a number of different indicators under the topic 2 of the EUSAIR module.

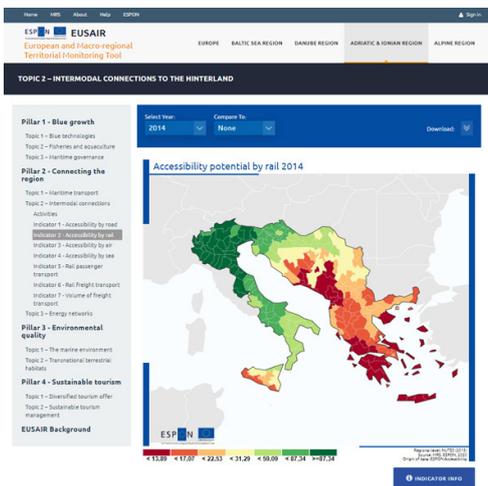
1. Select the EUSAIR module ([link](#))



2. Select the Pillar 2 – Topic 2 Intermodal connections ([link](#))

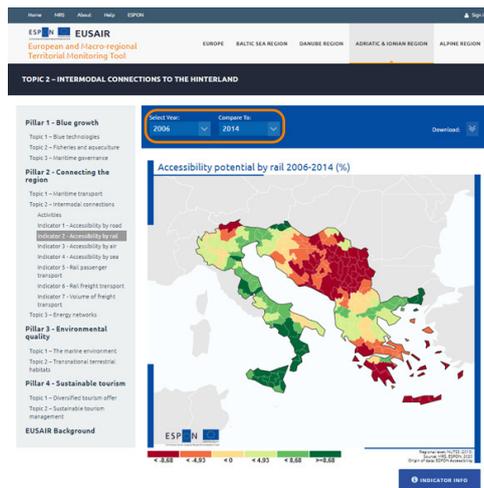


3. Select indicator 2 ([link](#))



4. The map displays the status of the indicator Accessibility by road mode. The text below offers policy implications of the indicator in relation to the objectives of the Pillar 2 – Connecting the region.

5. The evolution of the indicator over time can be shown by selecting 2006 as starting year and 2014 as end year. The map shows now the evolution of the road accessibility, highlighting which areas show a positive progress and which show a negative trend.



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