

**ESPON 2013 Programme/ Newsletter No 18, 23 February 2011**

Welcome to the ESPON Newsletter. It offers information on the latest developments of the ESPON Programme.



**Message from the ESPON Coordination Unit**

**First ESPON 2013 Scientific Report:  
“Scientific Dialogue on Cities, Rural Areas and Rising Energy Prices”  
and substantial interest for current ESPON Call**



One of ESPON's objectives since the start in 2002 has been to support the establishment of a European wide research community in the field of European territorial science. The aim being to increase the academic interest and competences in research on European territorial structures, trends, perspectives and impacts of EU sector policy.

ESPON has promoted this scientific component through conferences and workshops, cooperation with European organisations in the fields of regional science, geography and spatial planning, as well as with a dedicated series of reports mainly targeting the scientific community.

During the former ESPON 2006 Programme, two reports on scientific progress were published. Now the recently published, first ESPON 2013 Scientific Report continues and further develops this tradition. Scientific dialogue on the research findings is crucial through academic papers and presentations at academic conferences. This new as well as the planned additional ESPON Scientific Reports should substantially contribute to the scientific dialogue at European level among researchers and experts aiming at contributing to a scientific base for future policy development related to territorial development and cohesion.

The interest for taking part in ESPON projects is high. At the recent ESPON Info day in Brussels related to the current open calls, several hundred participants registered and were informed. This is a promising indication for ESPON which will hopefully result in many applications and teams of expertise competing in this round of calls.

We hope you will enjoy reading the First ESPON 2013 Scientific Report Please and its collection of 20 maps. And please alert potential ESPON applicants and other interested parties on the actual Call for Proposals and Expressions of Interest that will all close with the deadline of 21 March 2011. This would support the building of the pan-European comparative evidence on territorial dynamics that ESPON stands for.

Peter Mehlbye  
Director ESPON Coordination Unit

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## 1. ESPON Calls

### Open Call for Proposals and Expressions of Interest (24 January – 21 March 2011)



The 8<sup>th</sup> ESPON Call for Proposals and Expressions of Interest is open.

The available budget amounts to up to 5.493.000, 00 Euro covering the following:

- 1) Applied Research Projects (Priority 1)
  - European Regions: Potential Contribution to the EU 2020 Strategy
  - Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe
  - Territorial Potentials for a Greener Economy
  - Territorial Governance – Best Practices for New Perspectives
- 2) Expression of Interests by stakeholders for Targeted Analyses (Priority 2)
- 3) Scientific Platform (Priority 3): EU Territorial Monitoring and Reporting System

The deadline for submitting proposals is 21 March 2011.

#### Potential beneficiaries

Public and private body can apply for the Call for Proposals on Applied Research Projects and the Call for Proposals within the ESPON Scientific Platform.

Only public authorities are considered as stakeholders in the Call for Expressions of Interest.

#### How to Apply

The documentation related to the call, including the procedure for applying, the eligibility rules, the evaluation criteria and the submission material, is available at the [ESPON Website](#).

### ESPON Info Day on New Calls and Partner Café on 10 February 2011

The new Call was presented during the Info Day which took place in Brussels on 10 February 2011. More than 230 participants from 170 different Institutions and 24 countries attended the event, among them policy makers, scientists, experts, representatives of universities, research institutes and companies around Europe.



The purpose of the event was to inform and assist potential beneficiaries in preparing proposals for the Call.

The event focused on the content specifications and the procedures for applying. The European Commission and the Hungarian EU Presidency presented the policy demand behind the need for further ESPON results.

The ESPON Coordination Unit provided participants with a brief on the achievements and prospects on the Programme.

Participants learnt about opportunities for taking part in ESPON project activities and themes and objectives of the Call.

The session on “How to Apply” focused on the legal framework, the eligibility criteria, the modalities for applying.

The programme ended with a Partner Café creating a forum for dialogue between potential project partners. The Partner Café gave participants the chance to network, to find partners for their projects and get feedback.

The presentations given during the day are available [online](#).

### ESPON Partner Café – Overview and LinkedIn Group

Research institutes that are looking for partners to prepare a proposal are remembered to have a look at the overview of potential partners. The fields of expertise that are indicated in the overview provide you with a good impression of which institutes might be interested in the same research theme as you and might wish to join you in a Transnational Project Group. The updated list can be found at the ESPON Website. [More](#)

The ESPON Partner Café has its own LinkedIn group where potential partners can launch discussions and find partners to carry out ESPON projects. Visit the ESPON [Partner Café LinkedIn Group here](#).

### FAQ related to ESPON calls

You may access the [FAQ page here](#). For questions concerning the content of the Call, please send an e-mail to [content@espon.eu](mailto:content@espon.eu), for questions related to administrative issues and application procedures please send an e-mail to [procedures@espon.eu](mailto:procedures@espon.eu).

### Call for Expression of Interest for the Knowledge Support System (23 November 2010 – 21 January 2011) attracted 100 expressions of interest from 21 EU countries

ESPON closed its 7th Call on 21 January with 100 expressions of interest. Of the applicants, 20% came from Romania, 15% Italy, 14% from Spain, 7% from Czech Republic, 6% France, 4% from Hungary, Poland, Slovenia. The applicants are from 21 European countries.

Evaluation of the applications will run during February - March and the results will be tabled for the ESPON Monitoring Committee late March 2011.

### Future funding opportunities, be ready to apply for the last Call for Proposals

**Call for Proposals:** August 2011 – October 2011; Info Day and Partner Café in Brussels on 13 September 2011.

## 2. ESPON Results and Reports

### First ESPON 2013 Scientific Report - Scientific Dialogue on Cities, Rural Areas and Rising Energy Prices



ESPON has recently published its First Scientific Report which aims at substantially contributing to the scientific dialogue among researchers and experts around Europe in order to build a scientific base for future policy development.

The Report “Scientific Dialogue on Cities, Rural Areas and Rising Energy Prices” presents the methodologies used within ESPON projects to explore comparative advantages and develop concepts, indicators, typologies and European maps on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion through a dialogue among researchers, practitioners and policy makers.

This Report includes three scientific papers arising from ESPON research carried out between 2008 and 2010 under the auspices of the ReRisk, FOCI and EDORA applied research projects. Together, the three scientific papers collectively reinforce the importance of metropolitan agglomeration, the significance of connectivity and the shared vulnerability to climate change.

They reinforce the territorial diversity of the EU and the variety of potentials for economic growth that exist in different regions of Europe. Each of the three paper presents new insights into processes of change that require further examination, but each also rigorously explores how data might be analysed.

You can download the full report and its collection of 20 maps for free at the [ESPON Website](#).

### Map of the Month “Wind Power and Photovoltaic Potential in the EU Regions”

Europe is entering a new energy landscape with rising energy prices, creating opportunities for the development of renewable energy resources, creating employment and new sources of income. This far-reaching transition process of the energy sector creates a need for informed policy and investment actions,

as policy decisions taken today will be an important element in future competitiveness of regions, cities and different parts of the European territory, in which the prospects differ significantly.

This month ESPON produced 2 maps which demonstrate that the potential for exploiting renewable energy varies for different territories and regions in Europe.



The map on the wind power identifies those regions in Europe, which have the highest potential for producing electricity from on-shore wind power.

These regions are located in Sweden, Finland, Ireland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as the north of Norway and Scotland.

Most of these areas are however very distant from major urban markets where the demand for electricity is concentrated.



The map of solar energy potential shows the regional potential for electricity production from solar panels.

The difference is that the regions with greatest potential are now in the south and east of Europe. The core area of Europe is scoring low, while the main potential lies on the periphery.

The maps have been developed by the ESPON Applied Research Project Re-Risk (Regions at Risk of Energy Poverty).

Read more and download the maps at the [ESPON Website](#).

### DEMIFER Final Report

ESPON published the final report of the Applied Research DEMIFER - Demographic and Migratory Flows affecting European Regions and Cities.

Two main developments form the point of departure for the project:

1. The ageing of the population in Europe in the next decades. A major consequence of the ageing of the population is that the working age population will decline which may have a downward effect on economic growth and competitiveness in many European regions.
2. The challenges European regions will have to face from environmental changes, particularly climate change and limitations in the availability of energy.

Even though ageing and environmental change are global developments, the consequences may be different for different regions and may affect migration flows across regions in different ways. The key objective of DEMIFER therefore was to assess the effects of demographic trends and migration flows on European regions and cities and to examine the implications for economic and social cohesion, taking into account the possible effects of climate change.

DEMIFER was carried out in the period 2008-2010 by a team of researchers from the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (Lead Partner), the University of Vienna/Faculty for Geosciences, Geography and Astronomy, the International Organization for Migration/Central European Forum for Migration and Population Research, the University of Leeds/School of Geography, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, Nordregio/the Nordic Centre for Spatial Development and the National Research Council/Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies.

The Final Report, its annexes and 12 case studies are now online at the [ESPON Website](#).

### TIGER Inception Report

The Applied Research TIGER - Territorial Impact of globalization on European Regions – has delivered its Inception Report which gives indications about data, methods and deliveries of the project.

TIGER, produced by the Free University of Brussels as Lead Partner and University of Reading, CNRS, Sapienza University of Rome, Jönköping International Business School, Institute of Geography BAS as Project Partners, shall deliver its Interim Report by 28 February 2011. [More](#)

### **ESPON ReRisk - Regions at Risk of Energy Poverty, the Final Report is now online**

Energy seems to keep the EU agenda busy this year. Hungary is planning to concentrate on the EU energy policy while it takes on the EU's rotating presidency and energy was the core theme at the new presidency's first EU summit on 4 February 2011. Hence the ReRisk Report seemed to be just in time to feed the current political discussions.

Political pressure to fight energy poverty is mounting, but policy initiatives in this field are hampered by the lack of basic data on the energy consumption in European regions. The ReRisk Report, produced by INNOBASQUE as Lead Partner and Nordregio together with National Technical University of Athens as Project Partners, tries to fill this gap by presenting findings on the implications of energy poverty for economic competitiveness and social cohesion in the regions of the European Union.

The Project clearly presents a unique approach by having an accent on the topic of energy use more than on energy production. It is the economic and transport structure, as well as the social situation and the climate conditions, which makes certain regions in Europe more vulnerable to energy poverty than others. The Report also shows that increasing prices for fossil fuels open up opportunities for the development of renewable energy resources and the creation of new sources of income and employment.

Read the Final Report, look at its maps and all background documents at the [ESPON Website](#).

### **ESPON PURR is making progress: its Inception Report is online.**

The aim of PURR - Potential of Rural Regions – 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 Inception Report presents a more detailed overview of the analytical approach to be applied by the project. The TPG intends to make optimal use of the outputs of the EDORA project and this includes the EDORA conceptual framework. The challenge for PURR will be to apply this conceptual framework to specific contexts and to make any adaptations that are necessary.

PURR is produced by the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research as Lead Partner and London South Bank University and Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences as Project Partners. [More reading at the ESPON Website](#).

### **FOCI - Future Orientation for Cities, the Draft Final Report is online**

The FOCI project analyses the current state, trends and development perspectives for the largest cities and urban agglomerations within the European territory. Its Draft Final Report sets out the emerging project findings.

The report provides a general overview of the state and perspectives of city development based on a review of scientific literature. In addition the report presents some new empirical findings that add up to the current discussion on city development.

The empirical findings include territorial evidence on economic and social development of cities in Europe, on spatial appearances of European cities (extension, form, city-hinterland relations) and on co-operation. The report finally includes elaborated scenarios helping cities to assess and address their upcoming challenges.

ESPON FOCI is produced by Free University of Brussels – IGEAT and 6 Partners (Autonomous University of Barcelona, EUROREG, National Technical University of Athens, Institute of Geography of Lausanne University, ENPC School, Géographie-cités UMR 8504).

Read the Draft Final Report as well as all background documents at the [ESPON Website](#).

### **EU-LUPA - European Land Use Patterns produced its Inception Report**

The objective of the project is to develop a consistent methodology for analysing comparable information about European regions and cities, based on data from different sources and at different levels.

Moreover, the project aims 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, identifying main challenges in different types of territories, regions and cities and defining the policy recommendations to cope with the challenges.

The Inception report provides a description of the conceptual framework and project methodological approach, first results in relation with data availability, identification of potential case studies, project results and main targeted groups.

EU-LUPA, produced by Labein-Tecnalia - Technology Centre as Lead Partner and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Alterra, Nordregio, S. Leszczycki Institute of Geography as Project Partners, shall deliver its Interim Report by 3 June 2011. [More reading](#).

### **ESPON Transnational Networking Activities - First Conference of NORBA**

NORBA - Nordic Baltic Dialogues on Transnational Perspectives in Spatial Planning - is one of the Transnational Networking Activities, conducted under Priority 4 of the ESPON 2013 Programme. It aims to facilitate transnational dialogues on spatial planning between policy makers and practitioners, scientists and young academics and students in the Nordic-Baltic countries. Partners of NORBA are the ESPON Contact Pints (ECPs) in Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Norway and Sweden.

NORBA organised its first conference “Transnational perspectives on spatial planning. Experiences from the Nordic-Baltic countries” in Stockholm on 3-4 February 2011. The conference aimed at discussing the findings of transnational ESPON projects that bear particular relevance for Nordic-Baltic countries and the changing nature and role of planning in the Nordic-Baltic countries. For details visit <http://www.rha.is/norba/page/conferences>

## **3. Upcoming key events of the year**

ESPON is pleased to announce its upcoming events. Do not miss the chance to update your knowledge, discuss ESPON findings and data with experts and policy makers and enlarge your network. Check our website regularly for updates and registration.

- 31 March and 1<sup>st</sup> April, ESPON Financial Managers Seminar in Geneva
- 11 May, High level Conference on Targeted Analyses in Brussels
- 24 May, Workshop on Land Use in Luxembourg
- 21-22 June, Open Seminar in Budapest in cooperation with the Hungarian EU Presidency
- 13 September, Info Day on New Call and Partner Café in Brussels
- 10-13 October, ESPON at the Open Days in Brussels
- October, Workshop on Territorial Indicators in Brussels
- 29-30 November, Internal Seminar in Krakow in cooperation with the Polish EU Presidency

## ESPON Financial Managers Seminar – 31 March and 1<sup>st</sup> April in Geneva

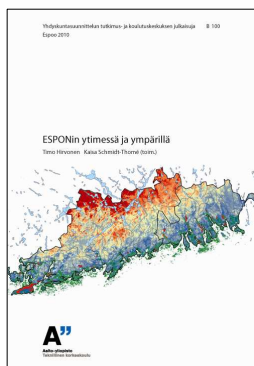
The ESPON Coordination Unit in cooperation with the Monitoring Committee Member from Switzerland, the Federal office for Spatial Development (ARE) is organizing the fifth Financial Managers Seminar under the ESPON 2013 Programme.

Target groups of the event are the Financial Managers of the Lead and Project Partners of the approved [ESPON 2013 Projects](#), the centralized and decentralized First Level Controllers concerned for the approved projects.

Deadline for registration is 18th March 2011. For more information contact István Horváth at the ESPON Coordination Unit ([istvan.horvath@espon.eu](mailto:istvan.horvath@espon.eu)).

## 4. Use of ESPON – an example at national level

### ESPON projects in the Finnish context



The Karelian Institute at the University of Eastern Finland, in cooperation with the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (YTK) at Aalto University, recently released the publication “ESPONin ytimessä ja ympärillä” (In and around the core of ESPON) which analyses ESPON results in relation to research touching on similar topics in Finland.

The publication (in Finnish language) includes 10 articles on the expectations that experts have from the ESPON 2013 Programme. The topics of the articles include, among others, the role of territorial diversity in development policies, the territorial effects of climate change, the methodology of territorial impact assessment and the relationship of research and policy-making.

This publication, sixth in the series, is part of the ESPON activities in Finland hosted by the Finnish ECP and financed by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy and the Ministry of the Environment.

Online edition: <http://lib.tkk.fi/Reports/2010/isbn9789526035154.pdf>

## 5. ESPON in Your Country

### ESPON welcomes the new Contact Point from Portugal

The ESPON Monitoring Committee recently welcomed the Contact Point from Portugal, which has been selected and nominated by the ESPON Member from Portugal.

The “Observatório do Ordenamento do Território e do Urbanismo” and Mr. Josué Caldeira, as contact person, is now part of the ESPON Contact Point Network and together with all the ECPs will contribute to the capitalisation of ESPON results in the transnational context.

### ESPON Infoday's in Romania “New ESPON financing opportunities for territorial research projects”



In the context of the launch of the new ESPON Call, the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism in collaboration with the Romanian ESPON Contact Point (University Alexandru Ioan Cuza from Iași) organised three events. The events took place in [Bucharest](#), 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, [Timișoara](#) 15<sup>th</sup> of February and [Iași](#), 17<sup>th</sup> of February.

The aim of the events was to prepare the participation of the Romanian institutions to the new ESPON Call for proposals and expressions of interest.

More than 180 people attended the events: representatives of the research institutions, universities, public authorities, practitioners and young academics.

Present at the Bucharest Infoday on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2011, Mr. Eugen Curteanu, State Secretary in the Ministry of Regional Development, emphasised the important role of the public authorities played in the use of ESPON results and invited public authorities to look at the correlation between the results and local realities thus helping the ministry in the improvement of the national strategies.

With the help of the Municipality of Timișoara, the Infoday on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February was transmitted online on the website [www.primariatm.ro](http://www.primariatm.ro) giving potential beneficiaries that could not participate at the event to watch the meeting on the Internet.

The Iași Infoday on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February was opened by the Professor dr. Ovidiu Gabriel Iancu, Dean of the Faculty of Geography within the University Al. I. Cuza from Iași, who encouraged the participation of the Romanian institutions at the ESPON call and emphasised on the important role played by the Romanian ECP in support of the participation of the Romanian institutions to ESPON project proposals.

The agenda of the events focused on: information on the new call, procedures on the formulation and submitting of the project proposals, sources for the identification of the partners, first level control and reimbursement of the expenditures, Romanian institutions participating in ESPON projects: [ESPON Climate](#), [ESPON TeDI](#), [INTERSTRAT](#), [ESPON Database](#).

The results of the national events, presentations, photos and other documents can be found on the website [HERE](#).

### **Workshop “ESPON Research and UK Development Strategies”, 14 February at the London South Bank University**

A joint event hosted by London South Bank University, CLG, ESPON UK Contact Point and RTPi Networks.

The workshop included presentations on the EDORA and FOCI projects and shaped a report on UK implications of emerging ESPON research. <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/item/4315&ap=1>

## **6. News from INTERREG IVC and URBACT**

### **Four vacancies at the INTERREG IVC Joint Technical Secretariat**

The INTERREG IVC programme, based in Lille, France, is seeking to recruit three full-time positions:

- Finance Officer
- Communication Officer
- Programme Assistant

Closing date for applications: 4th March 2011. More at the [INTERREG IVC website](#).

**URBACT** has released the publication "URBACT Cities facing the Crisis – Impact and Responses". Within the URBACT community, over 2009 and 2010, all cities have been, in one way or another, hit by the economic and financial crisis that has engulfed Europe. As a reaction, URBACT decided to ask its partner cities about the impact of the crisis and the responses cities developed to face the situation.

The publication provides a summary of the 2 major packages of the study: the results of the survey which was addressed to all URBACT cities at the end of 2009 and a series of in-depth case studies completed in 2010, highlighting the responses developed by some URBACT cities. Download the publication at the [URBACT website](#).



### **Sign-up and communicate**

If you find the ESPON Newsletter interesting and useful, please tell others to sign-up by subscribing online at the ESPON Website, link: [http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Press/Menu\\_Subscribe/contactform.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Press/Menu_Subscribe/contactform.html)

### **More information**

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, Department for Spatial Planning and Development of Luxembourg. More information: [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)

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