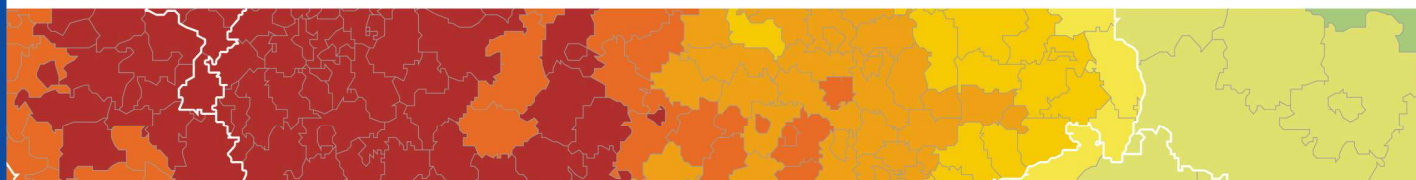


ESPON 2013 Programme/ Newsletter No 22, 12 October 2011

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



Message from the ESPON Coordination Unit

Evidence-base for the future EU Cohesion Policy



Last week the European Commission adopted a draft legislative package framing EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020. The proposals will now be discussed by the Council and the European Parliament, with a view of adoption by the end of 2012.

The current policy dialogue has already revealed an interest at European level in a stronger evidence-based and result-oriented policy implementation. The dialogue also puts emphasis on an integrated, place-based approach and a territorial dimension in policy development.

ESPON has since 2002 step by step been building up pan-European comparable information on territorial dynamics affecting regions and cities. Innovative territorial indicators, new evidence, targeted analyses, prospective scenarios and operational tools supporting territorial impact assessment are among the ESPON output that have stimulated policy development at all levels. Indeed, the results have provided for a new, European dimension in the benchmarking and strategy building taking place in the regions and cities of Europe.

The ESPON knowledge base has gradually improved over the years and has now reached a higher level of maturity where ambitions of stronger evidence behind future policies can easily include a European territorial dimension, which is a must in the interdependent and connecting world of today.

In order to continuously improve the knowledge base, ESPON is currently actively asking for proposals on 15 new projects. They cover applied research, analyses to be delivered upon stakeholder demand, new tools as well as public relation in the transnational context. On 20 October 2011, hopefully many interesting proposals will be in-house for the process of evaluation and selection.

In total 50-60 projects are in motion and will deliver results over the coming years. The ESPON knowledge base will consequently increase dramatically and provide an important and directly available base for supporting the ambition of evidence-based and result-oriented policy development with a territorial dimension after 2014.

Peter Mehlbye, Director ESPON Coordination Unit

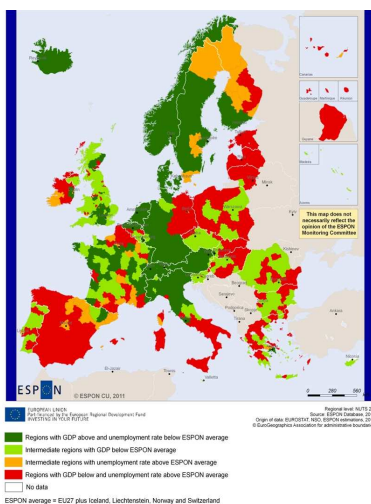


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Map of the Month “European Regions 2010: Economic Welfare and Unemployment”

The global financial crisis from 2008 onwards resulted in a significant economic downturn as well as new and intensified social challenges in many European countries and regions. This impact hit European regions asymmetrically leaving some countries and regions with substantial challenges in their economic recovery, but not all.



This month ESPON presents a map of European regions in 2010 in relation to a main challenge: jobs creation and economic growth. The map shows the socio-economic situation of European regions by benchmarking each region at the European level. The map combines GDP per capita and unemployment rates using the latest available data, including some estimation made by ESPON.

The socio-economic situation in Europe is rather diverse with large regional disparities in GDP per capita and unemployment rate across Europe. Northern and Central regions in Europe are in 2010 generally in a better position than Eastern and Southern parts.

The most favourable situations, both in terms of a GDP per capita and unemployment rate are mainly found in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland. In addition, some regions scattered in Finland, France, Northern Italy, Sweden and the UK stand out in a positive way in relation to the

European average.

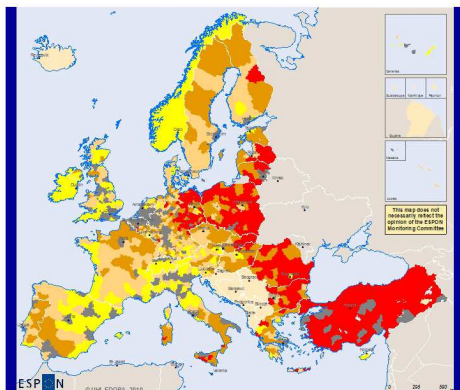
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and several regions in Spain (except Catalonia, Basque country and Madrid) are in the less favourable position seen in the European context, both in social and economic terms. The large majority of the regions in these countries have unemployment rates above and GDP per capita below European average. In addition, Ireland, Eastern part of Germany, Southern Italy and some regions in Poland, Romania and Greece also face particular challenges in 2010 with a need to find ways increasing the socio-economic attractiveness and competitiveness of these regions.

Read more and download the map and data at the [ESPON Website](#)

ESPON Open Calls for Proposals

Calls for Proposals for Applied Research Projects, Targeted Analyses, Scientific Platform/Tools Projects and Transnational Networking Activities are open till 20 October. The available budget amounts to 7.417.176,09 €. [More](#)

Rural cohesion policy should operate at two geographic levels, EDORA Final Report suggests



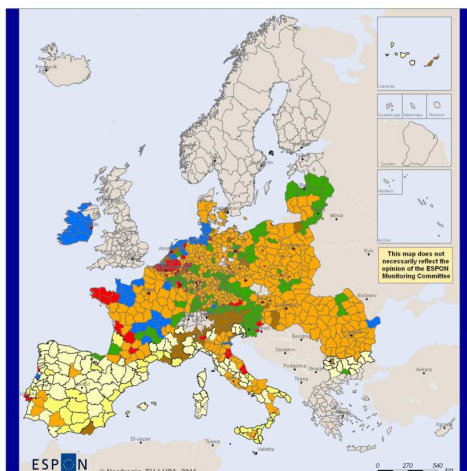
ESPON released the final report of the applied research project EDORA - European Development Opportunities in Rural Areas. EDORA has studied the changes which are taking place in rural areas of Europe, and their increasing diversity, in order to develop a clear and consistent rationale for policy to enhance territorial cohesion.

The conclusions drawn from the conceptual and empirical findings of EDORA suggest that “rural cohesion policy” should operate at two geographic levels (macro-level, reflecting persistent systematic variation, and micro-level, addressing aspatial variations in territorial assets which constrain localities’ responses to exogenous drivers of change).

The report shows the importance of local context, resources or assets, in determining the capacity to respond positively to ubiquitous meta-narratives of change, which is the principal determinant of differentiation between regions.

In the final sections of the Report this concept is mobilised in a policy context in the form of neoendogenous “asset-based development”. The potential benefit of incorporating these ideas more fully within both EU Cohesion policy and Member State policy architecture, is one of the key practical implications of the theoretical findings of the EDORA project. [More reading](#)

How to face challenges and use potentials of land use patterns and dynamics? The Interim Report of the Project EU-LUPA / European Land Use Patterns is now online



The Interim report of the Applied Research Project EU-LUPA describes the main results achieved so far:

- Overview of the policy context and identification of key policy objectives and headline targets
- Preliminary regional typologies
- Land Use Functions applied for The Netherlands
- Case study preliminary selection and development strategy

The project team will provide:

(1) Awareness-raising: messages on how the land use typology and economic, social and environmental performance relate (e.g. “fast urbanizing areas face social and environmental problems”).

(2) Indication of potential and challenges in relation land use patterns: What should European, national, regional and local authorities do in order to face challenges and use potentials of land use patterns and dynamics?

(3) Formulation of policy recommendations anchored in the EU Cohesion Policy and the Territorial Agenda policy objectives.

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 Draft Final Report by 1 June 2012. [More reading](#).

ESPON starts 4 new Applied Research projects

ESPON is financing 4 new applied research projects over the coming two to three years. The projects cover a variety of themes: from the EU 2020 Strategy to Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe to Territorial Potentials for a Greener Economy and Territorial Governance.

The awarded applied research projects are the following:

- 1) European Regions: Potential Contribution to the EU 2020 Strategy
- 2) Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe
- 3) Regional Potential for a Greener Economy
- 4) Territorial Governance – Best Practices for New Perspectives

Researchers and experts have started working on the awarded projects and the project implementation will imply very close dialogue with policy makers along the way.

Commenting on ESPON's new projects, Peter Mehlbye, Director of the ESPON Coordination Unit, said: *"The new projects will generate important additional evidence in support of a territorial dimension in policy making. The themes are closely related to the current European policy strategy on top of the EU Agenda. A challenging proactive step into long-term visions and scenarios for the European territory will be taken. This process will involve stakeholders in numerous dialogue loops in order to achieve a shared ownership of the visions and scenarios"*. Read the press release at the [ESPON Website](#)

How to use ESPON



The European Parliament has published a study on the Visions and Options for Cohesion Policy after 2013 which is also based on ESPON data and finding, such as the [First ESPON 2013 Synthesis Report](#) and the [Targeted analyses TEDI - Territorial Diversity in Europe](#). One of the policy recommendations to inform the position of the European Parliament is **"The potential contribution of ESPON to policy design and delivery needs to be better exploited"**.

This study provides a critical analysis of EU Cohesion Policy reform perspectives for the post-2013 period. On the basis of a literature review and budgetary modelling, the study offers an assessment of the policy's strengths and weaknesses, the main reform ideas and counter-positions, including the implications of different reform proposals. Recommendations are derived to inform the position of the European Parliament in the upcoming negotiations on

the legislative package of regulations.

A final chapter brings together the conclusions of the study and provides policy recommendations to inform the position of the European Parliament. As for the **territorial dimension** of cooperation, it should be strengthened by:

- focusing on priorities and projects of real transnational and cross border relevance on the basis of sound territorial analysis to achieve impact;
- simplifying administrative requirements;
- ensuring greater coherence with mainstream, external cross-border cooperation and macro-regional strategies;
- requiring a supportive political/policy framework to be established by the participating Member States to demonstrate that the EU programme is part of a wider strategy of cross-border or transnational cooperation;

- and enabling or encouraging willing Member States to use resources to implement different types of place-tailored interventions.

More generally, the territorial dimension in all its facets would profit from a greater strategic steer from the EU. The potential contribution of ESPON to policy design and delivery needs to be better exploited.

The study will be presented on 5 October 2011 during a meeting of the [EP Regional Development Committee](#). The full version is available in EN, DE, FR and the Executive Summary in all 22 official languages. [More](#)

The position of the European Parliament on ESPON contribution is on the same note as the position of European Commission. In fact, at the [ESPON High Level Conference on Targeted Analyses](#) last May, Johannes Hahn, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, commenting on the ESPON's benefits to the EU, said: "...We need to offer the tailor-made ESPON knowledge to the EU regions preparing their operational programmes." (Watch the [video interview](#) !)

ESPON Workshop "Assessing Indicators for Territorial Cohesion"

Brussels, 20 October 2011 at the European Commission - DG Regio

Regional indicators for territorial cohesion, smart, inclusive and sustainable growth are increasingly in demand as they contribute to the formulation of a policy agenda and help raising awareness of the variety of approaches of this subject across Europe.



ESPON invites policy makers, regional practitioners and scientists from Europe and neighbouring countries to attend the workshop "Assessing Indicators for Territorial Cohesion" where participants will debate which concrete indicators can be used to better understand and illustrate different facets of territorial cohesion.

The workshop is organised in cooperation with the ESPON project [INTERCO](#). More details and draft programme can be found at the [ESPON Website](#).

NB: The registration closes on 14 October 2011 at 15h00, [online form available at the ESPON Website](#). A maximum of 50 participants can be hosted; therefore seats are available on a first come first served basis.

ESPON Financial Managers Seminar on 16 - 17 November 2011 in Oslo, Norway

ESPON invited Lead and Project Partners, representatives of Central Approbation Bodies, centralized First Level Controllers and designated First Level Controllers, to the **6th Financial Managers Seminar** which is organised by the Coordination Unit in cooperation with the ESPON Monitoring Committee Member from Norway, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.

The purpose of the event is to inform and assist Financial Managers and Controllers on management and administration of approved ESPON projects. The ESPON Coordination Unit will present eligibility rules, contracting, reporting and monitoring procedures, as well as administrative, legal and practical matters. Participants will have the opportunity to network, to share experience with peers and get feedback.

More information on the Financial Managers Seminars organised under the ESPON 2013 Programme is available at the [ESPON Website](#).

ESPON Annual Report 2010 online

2010 was a year in which a large number of new projects started adding up to the already running projects. During this year the ESPON 2013 Programme had 15 Applied Research projects under implementation together with 8 Targeted Analyses, 3 major projects under the Scientific Platform plus a number of smaller projects on tools and update of data and maps as well as 2 Transnational Networking Activities. With the latter an important new type of action started.

Besides the implementation of new projects the first final results of 3 Applied Research and 4 Targeted Analyses projects became available during 2010. This accelerated the capitalisation under the Programme. In terms of communication and capitalisation of results a substantial number of actions towards potential beneficiaries of the programme was implemented as for example the publication of the first ESPON Synthesis Report or the Territorial Observation no. 3. Additional activities and events created increased awareness of European territorial dynamics and subsequent interest of stakeholders in using ESPON results in practice.

The Annual Report 2010 was approved by the Monitoring Committee on 23-24 June 2011. The European Commission has examined the report and consider that it is in conformity with the requirements of article 67 of Council Regulation (EC) 1083/2006, as it reports adequately about the programme performance and the specific factors affecting its development. More reading: ESPON [Annual Report 2010](#)

Coming ESPON Events

- **20 October 2011 – Brussels**, ESPON Workshop "Assessing Indicators for Territorial Cohesion"
- **14 and 15 November 2011 – Luxembourg**, Group of Auditors (GoA) Annual Meeting
- **16 and 17 November 2011 – Oslo**, Financial Managers Seminar
- **29 and 30 November 2011 – Kraków**, ESPON Internal Seminar

ESPON at Events

- **13 October – Brussels**, ESPON Workshop at the Open Days 2011 "Regional and Local Economies in a Changing Global Context. Performance Monitoring and Territorial Indicators". More details at the [website](#).
- **6 December – Brussels**, ESPON presentation of operational tools for Territorial Impact Assessment for the Committee of the Regions. More details will follow.

ESPON in Your Country

ECPs activities in Hungary and Luxembourg

The Priority 4 Project SCALES - Breakdown and capitalisation of ESPON results on different scales – is organising two events: (1) Seminar "Polycentric development at every level: urban-rural relationship" on the topic "Urban-Rural Relations" on 27 October 2011 in Budapest/Hungary; (2) Seminar "Polycentric territorial development: what does it mean?" on the topic "Cities, Regional Development and Planning" on 11 November 2011 in Luxembourg. [More details](#)

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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

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