



Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

# **Preliminary Market Consultation**

## **(in preparation for the procurement of “ESPON portal - interactive mapping and dashboards”)**

**ESPON EGTC**

16 December 2020

Implementation Framework: The Single Operation within the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme implemented by the ESPON EGTC. The ESPON 2020 Monitoring Committee approved the Single Operation on 20 November 2015. The Single Operation is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund via the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme. Table of contents

This document details both the technical and administrative terms and conditions including its annexes and constitutes the dossier of this preliminary market consultation. Its original is kept in the contracting authority's records and is the only version that is deemed authentic.

## 1 Introduction

ESPON (European Territorial Observatory Network) is one of 4 EU funded interregional cooperation programmes along with Interreg Europe, INTERACT and URBACT. The ESPON 2020 Programme<sup>1</sup> aims at providing evidence, knowledge transfer and policy learning to public authorities and other policy actors at all levels. The ESPON Managing Authority has commissioned a Single Beneficiary, the ESPON European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), to undertake the implementation of the Programme.

The ESPON EGTC is preparing the procurement of “ESPON portal - interactive mapping and dashboards”. Currently, the ESPON website hosts 10 online tools<sup>2</sup> which are part of the “ESPON toolbox”. The ESPON EGTC intends to develop a new single online portal which shall provide a single access point to all the ESPON online tools and shall integrate all the existing ESPON tools to the extent possible. The new portal shall be built around a new and innovative mapping interface which is supported by interactive dashboards which showcase ESPON’s knowledge base.

## 2 Purpose of the Preliminary Market Consultation

Looking ahead at the ESPON post-2020 programme, the intention of the EGTC is to offer a radically new approach to ESPON tools architecture. The new ESPON portal, containing interactive mapping and dashboards, shall address the challenge that ESPON online tools become outdated and lack integration.

The purpose of this Preliminary Market Consultation is to acquire information regarding the potential solutions to this overall architecture which shall be built around a single technological platform, providing a single access point. The idea is to avoid having separate self-contained online tools where each of them function according to their own logic and access terms.

The feedback received in the frame of this consultation will be used to support the ESPON EGTC in the “ESPON portal - interactive mapping and dashboards” procurement preparation, including in taking decision on the procurement procedure to be used. The implementation timetable for this procurement has not yet been decided, however, it is expected that the procurement will be launched in the second quarter of 2021.

## 3 Preliminary Market Consultation Scope

Economic operators and/or natural persons are invited to provide inputs on “ESPON portal - interactive mapping and dashboards” via an online questionnaire<sup>3</sup> which will be open until 31 January 2021.

Provided that there will be a sufficient interest from the market participants, the ESPON EGTC may organize an online webinar during mid-February 2021 to further explore the potential solutions, by engaging in a more direct discussions with the market participants. In case the webinar is organized, the ESPON EGTC will announce it in the ESPON website in due course.

The preliminary market consultation will be closed by 28 February 2021, unless otherwise communicated. In case this date will be changed, the new timetable will be published on the ESPON website.

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<sup>1</sup> See: <https://amenagement-territoire.public.lu/fr/espon2020.html>

<sup>2</sup> BSR-TeMo, CityBench, DataNavigator, Database Portal, ETMS, FIT, HyperAtlas, Online MapFinder, RIMAP and TIA web application (<https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps> ). Please note that the list may change due to the fact that the EGTC is integrating additional tools developed during the ESPON 2020 programme.

<sup>3</sup> Please access the questionnaire here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ESPONPmctools2020>

After the finalisation of the Market Consultation, a Report with the general conclusions of this consultation will be published in the ESPON website [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu).

**Please note that:**

- **The feedback received in the frame of this Market Consultation shall be used in the preparation of the “ESPON portal - interactive mapping and dashboards” procurement following the principles of equal treatment, transparency, and non-discrimination, taking diligent care for avoidance of distorting competition. The ESPON EGTC will ensure that the obligations expressed in the replies will not unduly bias its procurement and the resulting Terms of Reference will ensure as wide a competition as possible,**
- **Responding to this Market Consultation is entirely voluntary and without prejudice to the right of participation in the future procurement,**
- **The ESPON EGTC reserves at its sole discretion the right to decide whether and when it will launch the actual procurement for the “ESPON portal - interactive mapping and dashboards”,**
- **The descriptive part of the present Market Consultation is intended solely for the purpose of providing context information,**
- **Neither the present Market Consultation nor the answers to it are in any way binding on the ESPON EGTC in its preparation of the procurement documentation.**

### 3.1 Main Procurement Needs

The subject of the procurement is to develop an ESPON online portal which is built on the following principles:

- Overall, it should be a platform which serves multiple purposes, most prominently, going beyond the standard expectation of showcasing data. The platform should provide means to access the wide range of variety of ESPON knowledge which comes in a form of data, maps, projects reports, handbooks, case studies, tutorials, atlases, policy briefs, scientific and methodological materials. The user should be provided with an opportunity to experience the wealth of knowledge ESPON possesses.
- At the heart of such platform should be a mapping interface which allows not only to visualize data on a map but can pull together and visualize different evidence ESPON has produced. There should also be a balance between the orientation towards people more experienced with the various types of GIS software, or other alternative mapping software, and for those who are beginners in spatial analysis methods and tools.
- The update of the content should be built on automation as much as possible, also utilizing web services. The ESPON 2020 Database shall be an integral part of the new portal to ensure access and use of ESPON data.
- There should be a strong connection with different social media platforms, and ESPON tools should be accessible from different kind of digital devices.

The new solution should provide an incentive and technological means which increase the uptake of any generated results. Thus, a cutting-edge visualization tool should be introduced which allow the results of analysis to be seamlessly inserted in publications, presentations, policy documents, etc.

The market participants are asked to consult the Annex 1 which explains the background information on how the current ESPON toolbox has been developed and why there is a need for a new single ESPON portal.

## 3.2 Expected Feedback from the Participants in the Market Consultation

On the basis of the guiding principles provided above, the participants are invited to respond to questions included in the questionnaire (Annex 2).

The questionnaire is an opportunity for market parties to provide their feedback on the scope of the new ESPON portal and to be involved in and co-create the future development of innovative mapping and dashboards. Via the questionnaire, the EGTC will welcome proposals on the general architecture, functioning of the portal in terms of interfaces, functionalities and types of software to be used.

In case the webinar will be organized, the EGTC will deliver a presentation on the “ESPON portal - interactive mapping and dashboards”, and market participants are expected to ask clarifying questions and engage in a more direct discussion with the EGTC.

During the Market Consultation, the interested parties can ask questions to the ESPON EGTC. Questions should be sent to the e-mail address: [tenders@espon.eu](mailto:tenders@espon.eu), before the end of the Market Consultation.

## 4 Confidentiality of the Feedback Received from the Participants

The ESPON EGTC shall not disclose information provided by economic operators and/or natural persons in the frame of this Market Consultation which they have designated as confidential, including, but not limited to, technical or trade secrets and the confidential aspects of the feedback received.

Please indicate clearly in all your communications which information or data that you provide, if any, should be kept confidential by the ESPON EGTC.

To ensure that competition is not distorted, the ESPON EGTC shall simultaneously communicate any information exchanged, including answers to questions, in the context of this Market Consultation to all participants and in anonymised manner.

## 5 Data Protection

Any personal data that may be included in the replies to the present market consultation will be processed in accordance with the National (Luxembourg) Law of 11 August 1982 concerning the protection of privacy and the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC.

**Personal data controller:** ESPON EGTC: [personaldata@espon.eu](mailto:personaldata@espon.eu)

**Data Protection Officer:** Ministry of Energy and Spatial Planning, Mrs Renée Hostert: [renee.hostert@mat.etat.lu](mailto:renee.hostert@mat.etat.lu)

### Rights/questions/complaints

You are entitled to access, to rectify, to limit, to delete, to transfer data or object to the processing of your personal data. If you wish to exercise any of these rights regarding the storage/use of your data, please contact us on [personaldata@espon.eu](mailto:personaldata@espon.eu).

If you want to know how your personal data is used, or you feel that we have used your personal data in a way that violates the current legislation, please contact [personaldata@espon.eu](mailto:personaldata@espon.eu).

If you have complaints regarding ESPON EGTC processing of your personal data, you are always entitled to contact the relevant inspection authority, the Luxembourgish Data Protection Authority: <https://cnpd.public.lu/fr.html> .

## 6 Submission of Responses

Submissions of a response to the questionnaire implies acceptance of the conditions of this market consultation.

The responses to this market consultation should be sent in English language. The questionnaire must be answered directly on the following link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ESPONPmctools2020>

Questionnaires' answers sent by email to the ESPON EGTC shall not be considered and shall be rejected.

The deadline for submission of response is **31 January 2021**.