



ESPON 2013 Programme/**Press Release No 02/2010**

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Territories Contribution to the Europe 2020 Strategy

The contribution of European territories, regions and cities to the Europe 2020 Strategy is the focus of the Open Seminar “ESPON Evidence for Regional Policy-Making” on 9 - 10 June 2010 in Madrid.

In cooperation with the Spanish EU Presidency, ESPON is bringing key policy makers and scientists/experts together for dialogue on territorial potentials related to the Europe 2020 Strategy based on new facts and evidence provided by ESPON Projects.

The European Commission recently launched the Europe 2020 Strategy to prepare EU economy for the next decade. Europe 2020 calls for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and requires ownership at top political level and mobilisation from all actors across Europe. The diversity present on the European territory however will give regions and cities different opportunities for their contribution.

With new facts and evidence on European territorial potentials and dynamics, the ESPON Programme wants to contribute by stimulating dialogue between key policy makers, scientists and experts. The focus will be on territorial development potentials that can contribute to the aims of the Europe 2020 Strategy and how the use of ESPON results can support its strategic objectives.

This focus will first be addressed in a roundtable dialogue including key European policy makers from the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee, in the morning of the first day. This session shall support the common understanding of the territorial dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the expectations from policy makers for contributions from the diversity of regions and cities to a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This session will set the mindset of the participants and provide a policy frame for the following seminar discussions on new ESPON findings and evidence to potential contributions of different territories, regions and cities.

Detailed thematic discussions will take place in parallel workshops addressing results and key messages of the ESPON Applied Research Projects and Targeted Analyses in relation to the policy questions underlying them. The discussions will relate to the Europe 2020 Strategy, look for possible contributions from different types of regions and cities,

and debate experiences in communicating and disseminating ESPON project results to regional stakeholders in a useful manner.

The morning of the second day is devoted to show examples on the use of ESPON evidence in policy-making in different geographical contexts. The session will start with an example at the EU level and stepwise zoom in to the local level. Hereafter, parallel workshops will continue, including workshops presenting the ESPON Database.

The seminar is open for all interested participants and will in particular welcome a mix of policy makers, regional/local stakeholders, scientists and experts from Europe and neighbouring countries. The registration is open until 12 May 2010 via the ESPON Website www.espon.eu.

For more information please consult:

http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Events/Menu_OpenSeminars/openseminar100609.html

Interested in ESPON?

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 of Spatial Planning and Development of Luxembourg. More information: www.espon.eu

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