



## ESPON 2013 Programme/Press Release No 04/2010

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### What should be the Territorial Dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy?

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

In cooperation with the Spanish EU Presidency, ESPON brought more than 200 key policy makers, scientists and experts together for dialogue on territorial potentials related to the Europe 2020 Strategy based on new facts and evidence provided by ESPON Projects.

European policy makers expressed their expectations by addressing key questions about the ambition of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Among these questions were:

- Is a better balanced and polycentric European territory the political objective?
- How can we make use of the territorial diversity within the Europe 2020 Strategy?
- Which types of regions have what opportunities to contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth?
- Should particular places and cities play a special functional role in integrating Europe in the World?

At the roundtable Margarita Ortega Delgado, Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain, Philippe Monfort, the European Commission DG Regio, Philippe Doucet, representing the Belgium upcoming EU Presidency, Andrea Forti, Committee of the Regions and Joost van Iersel, European Economic and Social Committee, contributed to the understanding of territorial dimensions of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Several key messages came out from this session, among them were the following:

- The Europe 2020 Strategy should be the framework for growth for all EU Regions;
- European Macro-Regions should be part of the strategy implementation.
- The 2020 Strategy should take into account not only the GDP but also use new indicators, measuring the quality of life and the sustainability of the growth;

This stimulating dialogue provided the policy framework for the following seminar discussions.

Over 200 participants from European Institutions, national governments, research institutions and universities attended the seminar. 14 workshops addressed in an interactive way the policy questions underlying the ESPON projects, the answers from the researchers and the replies of the stakeholders on the usefulness and applicability of the results for policy making, as well as findings related to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy aiming at smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

*“Understanding the territorial dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the potential contributions from European Regions and Cities is crucial for the success of the strategy. ESPON results can nourish this discussion bringing in facts and evidence with a European perspective. And stimulating practical use of the ESPON knowledge is our main contribution in support of competitiveness and cohesion of territories”, Peter Mehlbye, Director of the ESPON Coordination Unit, said. “Conclusions of the Seminar are now in preparation and will be published in a special report which will be soon available at the ESPON Website” he added.*

All presentations made during the event will be available on the ESPON Website at [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu) under the section “Events/Open Seminars”.

#### **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](http://www.espon.eu)

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