



ESPON 2013 Programme/**Press Release No 07/2010**

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New Opportunities in ESPON Projects

Researchers and experts in the public and private sector from 31 European countries are invited to become involved in 3 new projects under the ESPON 2013 Programme - 2 Targeted Analyses and a the ESPON Database Phase II.

The new Calls for Proposals on ESPON Projects were presented during a morning event in Brussels on 8 September 2010. More than 100 participants attended the event, including policy makers, scientists, representatives of universities, research institutes and companies around Europe.

Peter Mehlbye, Director of the ESPON Coordination Unit, said "We are delighted to have so many potential beneficiaries interested in new ESPON projects. Hopefully this Info Day will serve its purpose of having many proposals for the 3 projects in these Calls. Also the Partner Café should facilitate participants in finding potential partners".

Representatives from the European Commission DG Regio and the Belgian ESPON Monitoring Committee Member presented current European policy development and the related demands towards the ESPON 2013 Programme.

Eric Von Breska, Head of unit in the Directorate General for Regional Policy at the European Commission, emphasized the importance of ESPON for the Commission. "ESPON deliveries of comparable data and knowledge trends, structures and impact of the EU policies are important for European policy making. The cooperation with ESPON is expected to be stronger in the future" he said. "One example of use of ESPON results will be the upcoming Fifth Report on Economic and Social Cohesion which will provide orientations on the future development of EU cohesion policy. This report will make use of ESPON results on demography and migration as well as Territorial Impact Assessment of EU Transport Policy", he added.

Martijn De Bruijn, policy advisor for the Flemish government, addressed the role that Belgium sees for ESPON. "ESPON European data can be used as a scientific basis for a new Territorial Agenda for the European Union and for national/regional benchmarking. ESPON regional specific data from Targeted Analyses are particularly useful for regional policy development", he said.

Participants learnt about the 3 project themes and the opportunities for taking part in ESPON project activities. A special session on "How to Apply" focused on the legal framework, the eligibility criteria and the modalities for applying.

Researchers and experts now have until 19 October 2010 to submit proposals.

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More information:

Info Day: http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Events/

Call for Proposals for Targeted Analyses:

http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Calls/Menu_Calls/Menu_OpenCalls/Call24August2010.html?currentPage=2

Call for Proposals for ESPON Database – Phase II:

http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Calls/Menu_Calls/Menu_OpenCalls/Call24August2010.html?currentPage=3

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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