

## **SPECIFICATION**

### **ESPON Targeted Analysis Based on User Demand 2013/2/23**

### **North Sea - Spreading Transnational Results**

### **(North Sea STAR)**

**(2012-2014)**

#### ***(o) Targeted analyses within the ESPON 2013 Programme***

The ESPON 2006 Programme provided integrated analysis and long-term spatial scenarios which enriched the European policy debate and knowledge base. Tying in with the achievements of the previous programme period, the ESPON 2013 Programme continues conducting applied research on European territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion. At the same time, a new type of projects is carried out in the form of targeted analyses based on specific demands expressed by stakeholders and making use of existing ESPON results.

The priorities describing the work-programme of the ESPON 2013 Programme are structured in four strands:

**1. Applied research on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion: Evidence on European territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts**

The applied research projects will create information and evidence on territorial challenges and opportunities for success in the development of regions. Cross-thematic applied research will be a major activity integrating existing thematic analysis and adding future analysis of new themes. Territorial impact studies of EU policies will be another focus under this priority.

**2. Targeted analysis based on user demand: European perspective on development of different types of territories**

This priority responds to a clear demand of practitioners for user and demand driven actions within the ESPON 2013 Programme. By convening an analytical process where ESPON findings are integrated with more detailed information and practical know-how, new understanding of future development opportunities and challenges may arise, which could be transformed into projects and actions

**3. Scientific platform and tools: Territorial indicators and data, analytical tools and scientific support**

The scientific platform and analytical tools built up within the ESPON 2006 Programme will be maintained and further expanded. New actions shall be undertaken to develop current achievements and make use of existing indicators, data and tools.

#### **4. Capitalisation, ownership and participation: Capacity building, dialogue and networking**

Under this priority, actions are foreseen that will make the evidence and knowledge already developed operational through raising awareness and involving stakeholders in the results and practical application of them.

Targeted Analyses under Priority 2 enable stakeholders to obtain customised and up-to-date information on their particular territorial context and opportunities for development which can be used for their policy decisions. Given the targeted focus of these projects on specific territorial entities, Targeted Analyses will contribute to the use of ESPON results in practise and to the involvement of policy makers, practitioners and scientists in a joint synergetic process.

##### ***(i) General objectives of targeted analyses under Priority 2***

The general objectives of targeted analyses within the ESPON 2013 Programme are the following:

- Provision of evidence and knowledge based on ESPON results on the strengths and weaknesses of individual regions and/or larger territories seen from a European perspective, or a global context, giving European regions the option to compare themselves to other regions and hereby finding competitive advantages for development and cooperation.
- Improvement of the usefulness of ESPON results by testing new, experimental and innovative options such as (1) analysis of themes of interest for groups of regions, partly based on case studies, (2) methodological frameworks for translating territorial development goals and policy aims into concrete actions and (3) technical, methodological and analytical support to territorial planning processes and spatial programming and visions.
- Provision of analytical support and evidence based on ESPON results on thematic priorities in cooperation with other Structural Funds Programmes.

The aim is to carry through Targeted Analyses in partnership with policy makers and/or practitioners showing an interest in gaining awareness of European evidence, information, experience and/or knowledge on common challenges related to their territorial and/or urban development.

The individual targeted analysis shall support better informed policy decisions by:

- Integrating ESPON findings with more detailed information and practical know-how, either from a territorial part of Europe or from a sector authority.
- Contributing to a sound knowledge of territorial development perspectives/trends through new understanding of future development potentials and challenges for the respective territorial and/or urban development.

This project shall contribute to these objectives during its implementation by ensuring a close cooperation and partnership with the stakeholders who expressed their need for this targeted analysis.

## ***(ii) Types of Action under Priority 2***

Projects under Priority 2 can have different foci and accordingly vary in their content. In order to have a clear distinction between the various possible project orientations, each project needs to be clearly allocated to one of the following types of action:

### 1) Integrated studies and thematic analysis

This type of action is foreseen to follow a “traditional” analytical approach using existing results of ESPON applied research and other studies. The analysis can integrate several themes relevant for certain types of territories, regions and/or cities or they can be less comprehensive in the approach by focusing on one or a few themes.

The main objectives are:

1. To provide added value for territorial development of specific types of territories<sup>1</sup> by offering new comparative insight and understanding on territorial potentials and challenges from a European perspective;
2. To ensure that other (similar) types of territories/regions can benefit from the output of the analysis.

### 2) Knowledge support to experimental and innovative actions

This type of action clearly allows for the implementation of projects that differ from the mainstream of the ESPON 2013 Programme by being more experimental and/or innovative in character. It is in a way a laboratory for developing ways of meeting main territorial challenges that Europe is confronted with.

The objectives are:

- a) To support experimental and innovative actions carried through in partnership with stakeholders with European knowledge on territorial structures, trends, perspectives and policy impact;
- b) To provide methodological support to experiments and innovative efforts.

### 3) Joint actions related to other Structural Funds Programmes

The joint actions related to other Structural Funds Programmes take a geographical starting point in the area covered by these programmes, be it transnational, cross-border, interregional, regional or urban territories. The content of these actions can be integrated and thematic analyses or they can be experimental and innovative of nature (as described above). A main prerequisite is that they are justified by supporting Structural Funds Programme implementation.

The objectives are:

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<sup>1</sup> Types of territories codified for the territorial dimension, include urban, rural-mountains, rural-islands, rural-area (sparsely and very sparsely populated), rural-other, former external border, area dependant on fisheries, outermost regions, transnational cooperation areas, cross-border cooperation areas and interregional cooperation areas (as listed in the ESPON 2013 Programme, p. 9).

- a) To provide information and analyses on the European position of these areas, their comparability with other similar areas, and their potentials and challenges, useful for Structural Funds Programmes (regional, cross-border, transnational, interregional and urban);
- b) To provide methodological support for strategic processes, including visions and scenarios for spatial development and planning.

Independent of the type of action, each project should have a European perspective (i.e. supporting the understanding of the wider European context), a clear transferable character and a concrete implementation part, focusing on specific territories.

The analytical approach can provide integrated, cross-thematic analyses, study individual themes or sectors, or focus on a specific type of territories. At any rate, ESPON findings shall be integrated and supplemented with more detailed information and practical know-how, either from a territorial part of Europe or from a sector authority. Analysis can include/be based on case studies. The geographical coverage will normally have a more limited territorial coverage than the entire European territory.

This Targeted Analysis on the “North Sea – Spreading Transnational Results” belongs to the type of action 3 mentioned above. It includes elements of integrated thematic analysis and experimental and innovative actions as outlined under action 1 and 2 above.

### ***(iii) Scope and rationale of the specific Targeted Analysis***

This analysis aims to assess North Sea Region project results against ESPON research findings and policy recommendations with a view to developing the most effective regional energy responses possible in future operations. The North Sea Region (NSR) faces the same energy challenges as the rest of Europe and transnational cooperation is being used to share knowledge and develop regional responses with the ultimate aim of developing regional energy self-sufficiency.

The analysis shall look at the role that territorial cooperation can play in such developments and at how new models for clustered project implementation might influence this process and promote effective multi-level governance. The combination of practitioner experience and the localisation of potentials and challenges based on existing ESPON results will provide an invaluable input for decisions on future actions and programme strategies in the NSR and will also be transferable to many other programmes and themes.

### ***Main characteristics of the territory to be addressed***

North Sea regions range from capital cities to remote rural areas but also share important common features such as generally robust regional economies, high innovation levels, strong public governance and similar physical conditions. There are few acute challenges to be faced and the focus is rather on adaptation to longer-term challenges. The transnational NSR programme allows exchanges of relevant knowledge at regional level and the feeding of experience and recommendations to the national and European levels.

Geographically, the North Sea Region is connected by the large sea basin of the North Sea. The North Sea Region Programme comprises the regions aligned to the North Sea in

the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Sweden as well as the entire territory of Denmark and Norway as a non-member state. The region contains a well-developed urban system, including centres of national and regional importance, ranging from Member State capitals to regional administrative centres and centres of global economic importance. However, in overall terms the North Sea Region is characterised by the importance of small and medium-sized towns in the urban system, with a particular reliance on towns of less than 20,000 inhabitants. The North Sea Region covers an area of some 664,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which represents approximately 13% of the EU27 land area and, in 2003, contained a population of some 60 million persons - around 12% of the total EU27 population.

A defining feature of the Programme area is the importance of the coastline. The North Sea Region has some 35.696 km of coastline, with the vast majority of the eligible regions being connected through this common feature. The maritime and coastal resource has shaped the development of the region and the offshore maritime area and the onshore coastal hinterland are an important consideration in the development of the Programme strategy.

Furthermore, many demographic trends are shared among the member regions. They include the ageing of populations; low fertility rates; migration to metropolitan areas; migration from some rural areas (especially of young people); and rapidly rising international in-migration. These trends result in pressing problems in terms of changing demands for travel, access to particular services, hard and soft infrastructure requirements and consequent demands on land use. More analysis of the Region can be found in the NSR Operational Programme, which should serve as one of the basic sources for the analysis.

Many of the region's longer-term challenges relate to energy issues. The territory is quite diverse both in terms of energy potentials and performance to date. There are generally strong potentials for wind power though with considerable local variation. Offshore potentials are of course very significant but it is less certain to what extent the energy generated here will contribute to the energy performance of the regions in the area. Some regions have strong biomass potentials while hydropower is very developed in Norway. Clearly, less attention has been paid to photovoltaic energy due to weather conditions but on a local level solar generation also plays an important role in the energy mix. North Sea regions also lead in the development of a number of more experimental renewable energy forms such as ocean power and blue energy but these of course play a very minor role so far. Various typologies are available of regional renewable potentials but part of this analysis will seek to update this information and arrive at comparable data for all North Sea regions at NUTS 3 or another sub-regional level if NUTS 3 data are not available.

Energy use and energy efficiency also vary considerably based on a wide range of factors with older building stock and transport standing out as challenging issues. Climate change represents a threat to many NSR regions and emission reductions through sustainable energy generation and energy efficiency are a high priority. Equally, North Sea oil and gas fields are starting to run dry and the region faces increased insecurity of energy supply unless renewables can be developed cost-efficiently to a sufficient level. Many North Sea regions will also be impacted by falling oil and gas incomes.

The NSR has been a leader in developing renewable technologies with a strong desire to build on this position of strength and play a leading role in greening industry. Many NS regions have set CO2 reduction, energy efficiency and increased renewable energy production targets over EU goals, hoping to speed up development and implementation. Regional energy self-sufficiency and freedom from fossil fuels are being pursued and many national policies also set ambitious targets. Furthermore, many renewable energy technologies favour regionalisation of energy production and create an added incentive for regional energy planning. Decentralised power production also offers economic opportunities especially for some of the more remote rural and coastal regions in NSR. The focus of this project is to try and understand better how regional cooperation can contribute to positive developments in this process.

### ***Thematic scope for the Targeted Analysis***

Despite clear European energy targets and extensive national plans, the regional level still faces many questions when considering the right policy mix for energy planning. The North Sea Region (NSR) represents an interesting test case, containing as it does regions from each of the four types of energy cluster identified by the ESPON ReRISK project and considerable variations in potential renewable energy resources. ReRISK produced 46 policy recommendations and assessed their varying usefulness for each of the four clusters. North Sea projects are already implementing many of these measures. On this basis it should be possible for the project to assess effectiveness in a variety of regions and fine-tune strategies to help the NSR move towards regional energy self-sufficiency. This should help regions to decide on policy and guide future projects towards areas where additional knowledge is still needed.

### ***The NSR Programme and Cluster Initiative***

The NSR programme is based on a governance framework that aims for good and coherent strategy design, mobilisation of relevant participants, selection of high quality projects, and rigorous monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure that objectives are met. This means that the regional and local level can develop innovative and realistic responses to national and EU policy impulses, which effectively answer many of the concerns currently being raised about the focus and strategic relevance of Cohesion Policy.

The NSR Programme is now seeking to strengthen and confirm the programme approach through the launch of a cluster initiative, which will group thematically related projects in order to develop a wider thematic knowledge base and increase the take-up of results from individual projects. Knowledge generation through regional cooperation should become a regular input to policy-making with proven methods and recommendations taken-up throughout the NSR and beyond.

As is stated in the ex-post evaluation of INTERREG III, ‘the aggregated outcome of “project clusters” (i.e. combination of several one-off operations) which addressed and tackled issues of transnational importance could lead to significant and lasting improvements in relation to a given situation’.

The clusters are the latest step in a long-term process of pushing the quality criteria and understanding of the potentials of transnational cooperation. Over time there has been a

move from networking and exchange of experience, towards the development of common practices, common policies, common pilots and generating common solutions to common problems. Accelerating access to new knowledge through participation in such clusters and dissemination of their results to the wider North Sea stakeholder community should give improved performance on key strategic indicators for the NSR.

The NSR programme has launched a call for cluster projects and will establish a number of clusters with dedicated funding for joint action to increase their collective impact. The Targeted Analysis project should therefore be able to compare a group of clustered projects with a control group of regular project partners as the basis for reaching conclusions about the effectiveness of the clustering approach. The relevance and effectiveness of each project's activities can be assessed against this background along with their ability to make an impact – and whether they are opting for the right or most relevant impact. The analysis should then consider whether this situation is improved when projects are organised in clusters and if so what the success factors are.

Furthermore, with regards to governance the project should answer *the key question of how the clustering approach can help to stimulate regional co-operation in order to provide input to policy making*. This question has particular relevance given current debates on Lisbon performance, delivering Europe 2020, and macro-regional strategies as a framework for strategic project development. The analysis should therefore provide an analysis of the current baseline situation in the NSR region using, for example, programme documents and complemented with ESPON results followed by an assessment of the clusters as an effective way of improving this baseline scenario.

#### *Energy as a focal point*

Energy will form the focus of the analysis, which should develop an up-to-date and reliable picture of the current status and trends in the North Sea energy picture also in a wider European context. Energy has immediate importance and will also be central to future EU Cohesion Policy programmes. In-depth analysis of the theme should provide insights that help focus all future actions funded in all ETC transnational programmes.

A baseline policy scenario should be assumed by the project based on the target that all North Sea countries should be fossil-free by 2050 (though current national and/or regional targets and commitments should be confirmed as part of the study). The question for the thematic analysis is to assess the best path to this goal from the existing situation and taking account of the realistic potentials. This should include a comparison with other European regions and the actions being taken there. Many analyses exist of this development but they should be contextualised to the North Sea Region and broken down to the NUTS 3 level.

The relevance of North Sea projects in this connection is that those participating in energy projects should in most cases have carried out parts of this analysis for their own regions though from a practitioner perspective. One question is whether this process of regional analysis, strategy building and action delivers the appropriate actions as defined above. Another is whether the process of clustering projects (and thereby hopefully bringing together the knowledge of large numbers of local, regional and national actors in the region) adds qualitatively to this work and arrives at results with a wider North Sea significance.

### *Outlook for the North Sea Region*

The Targeted Analysis would be developed as an extended sparring between ESPON researchers and the NSR regional level. Regions and the NSR programme would gain deeper understanding of how European and global trends will impact the NSR and how regional responses might be tailored to respond to these trends.

Researchers would have a chance to focus on the territorial diversity within the NSR, localise results and gain feedback on the initial analysis and policy recommendations. North Sea programme authorities at every level from the Member States to the secretariat would gain insights into the fit between analytical material and regional development activities, which would provide a valuable input for evaluating the success of the current projects and preparing a new generation of projects building towards delivery of Europe 2020.

### ***Objectives of the Targeted Analysis***

The ultimate aim of the project should be to:

- (1) Provide recommendations on accelerating the take-up of renewable energy technologies and supporting relevant green economic activities in the region,
- (2) Consider the role of cooperation projects in this process, and
- (3) Ascertain the added value of a clustering approach.

This would help stakeholders to understand which actions should be prioritised, where and what type of cooperation is most appropriate and how to gain maximum value from the individual NSR projects.

The starting point for scoping this project is the inclusion of all actions that contribute to fulfilling the 20-20-20 goals provided that they are region-based and North Sea specific. In relation to this, the project has the following three-fold objectives:

#### *1) Energy self-sufficiency and ESPON projects*

The first objective is to build on and further develop project findings from major ESPON studies related to energy with specific relevance for the NSR. The ESPON 2006 project 2.1.4 ‘Territorial Trends of Energy Services and Networks and Territorial Impact of EU Energy Policy’ provides an interesting baseline study and mapping of the energy situation in Europe. The ReRISK project updates much of this information and while its focus is on energy pricing and regional competitiveness, the project has already developed a package of more general sustainable energy recommendations as a solution to regional vulnerability to energy price increases. ESPON Climate tackles energy efficiency and may also provide useful insights for the regional energy response as it will consider policy recommendations to mitigate climate change.

In terms of transnational project development and management, the on-going TransMEC project is looking in part at the capitalisation (wider take-up) of results and may provide interesting general insights. Finally SS-LR looks at regional scaling of spatial scenarios as a support for strategic planning processes. It is important to note that for the North Sea

programme the focus would be regional energy planning rather than visions but insights may be available here on the localisation of ESPON results to the North Sea Region. ESPON results should not necessarily be limited to those named above: If other projects can offer relevant inputs, the project partners are welcome to propose additional relevant projects to be included and used in the Targeted Analysis.

#### *Project clustering and governance processes*

The second objective relates to the above context and aims at assessing how cooperation affects policy in regions and whether the extended knowledge base available in a cluster also extends project influence on practices in individual regions. While speaking of ‘regional’ partnerships, projects actually involve a wide range of organisations with varying mandates and links to policy formulation. It should therefore be considered how clustering affects the access of different organisations to the decision-making process and how as a result, this affects the impact of their work. Key questions in this context would be:

- What is the baseline situation? Is region-based project development resulting in the development of the ‘right’ projects for each region?
- Each project explores a limited number of energy issues from the perspective of the regions involved, resulting in a number of partial solutions which may not achieve awareness or acceptance outside participating regions. What is the quality and relevance of the existing energy projects both in terms of their regional situation and the wider North Sea context?
- The formation of the cluster brings together these partial solutions and should represent a wider and more generally applicable range of solutions. Is this the case? Similarly, the extended partnership (created by combining a number of regular partnerships) should give much greater coverage geographically and increase horizontal and vertical coordination. Is this the case?
- This should provide a stronger package of proposals to the North Sea’s regions and will hopefully increase awareness and take-up of the results developed. Results should also gain wider acceptance because they have been developed from a wider experience base. Is this the case?
- The recommendations developed, promoted and adopted as a result of the cluster should lead to more effective action and faster change from the baseline to the policy objective. Is this the case?

At all stages in the analysis the reasons for any divergence from these assumptions must also be assessed and recommendations provided on improving actions towards achieving the policy goals. Clustering is a tool to more effectively deliver policy. This targeted analysis brings together an evaluation of what the ‘right policy’ is on regional level and considers whether clusters identify and deliver this ‘right’ policy or whether the clusters’ identification of actions and delivery of them need further improvement.

#### *Future Programming*

Finally, as the third objective, the project shall relate to the current debate on the future of Cohesion Policy and the questions about the relative merits of ‘top-down’ and ‘bottom-

up' approaches to programming and project development. There is a renewed interest in a deeper strategic planning approach and focusing of programme objectives with proposals for pre-defined programme outputs and implied limitations on eligible project activities. However, North Sea programme experience suggests that within a well-defined framework of objectives and quality criteria it may be that knowledge management, targeted communication and flexibility for project developers (rather than proscriptive requirements) are the true keys to achieving results with lasting impacts. This position is the basis of the clustering proposal and shall also therefore be assessed by the ESPON Targeted Analysis.

#### ***(iv) Implementation methodology and project governance***

Partnership in the project implementation is vital in order to achieve useful results. This applies to both the partnership between the ESPON Programme and stakeholders, as well as between the team of researchers (TPG) and the stakeholder representatives.

Stakeholder involvement is essential throughout the project's life-cycle and starts off with the definition and development of the specific theme for the targeted analysis.

During the implementation phase of the targeted analysis, stakeholders play an active role by:

- Delivering strategies, plans, spatial data, cases and measures and other available relevant information about their regions:
  - E.g. topographical and socio-economic data (GIS-information)
  - E.g. Data about ongoing and planned projects
  - E.g. Data about governance and financial agreements made
- Giving access to information relevant for the project
- Steering and guiding the work of the TPG
- Putting their experiences and opinions at disposal of the researchers, by means of interviews and regional workshops
- Commenting on the examples and the guidelines elaborated by the research team
- Communicating the implementation of the project results in their own working environment.

Stakeholders hosting a case study will be in close contact with the researchers who undertake the study and will integrate the project task in their day to day activities, in order to achieve acceptance and impact.

#### ***Project management & working structures***

A governance structure has been established aiming at bringing stakeholders together and increasing the applicability of the knowledge generated. A mutual learning process should be ensured by means of involvement of all stakeholders in driving the research and ensuring that participant demands are heard and fulfilled when feasible.

The following project management structures are established to ensure a coherent and intensive work process among all stakeholders of the North Sea STAR project:

1. Lead Stakeholder: The project is lead by the Interreg North Sea Region Programme.
2. TPG Transnational Project Group which will undertake the research
3. Lead partner, research organisation leading the TPG.
4. Steering Committee<sup>2</sup>; Lead stakeholder and ESPON CU will constitute the Steering Committee, which will guide the project and take the main decisions. At least one representative of the TPG will be invited to the Steering Committee meetings as observers. Additional stakeholders may be invited to attend where their input is regarded as essential. The Steering Committee shall meet at the start of the project, 24 times during the project implementation for guiding and commenting interim project deliveries and when the final report is presented. The number of meetings, tentative dates and locations are agreed upon at the project's kick-off meeting.

The role of the Steering Committee is:

- To discuss and give feedback to project reports and provide guidance to the TPG for the next steps of project implementation.
  - To discuss and agree upon dissemination activities, particularly after the finalisation of the analytical work by the TPG.
5. Stakeholder Workshops will be held during the project development in specific moments corresponding with key milestones. The participants in the workshops will be the Steering Committee, additional stakeholder representatives as relevant, and representatives from all TPG partners, with the aim of validating and receiving feedback from the stakeholder's side to the project outputs and proposals provided by the TPG.

*Project-level interaction: Meetings, seminars & workshops*

A number of meetings and workshops will be organised during the project development. As far as possible these events should be coordinated in time and locations to minimize costs and increase effectiveness. In principle the project should meet at the following moments:

1. Start of the project:
  - a) A Kick-off meeting will be organized to launch the project, with the participation of the project Lead partner, the Lead Stakeholder and the ESPON CU.
  - b) First Steering Committee meeting at the very beginning of the project, coinciding with the kick-off meeting.
    - To deepen the TPG's knowledge on the specific stakeholder's needs and expectations with regard to the project theme
    - Clarify methodological approach

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<sup>2</sup> The Steering Committee here is not the Steering Committee of the North Sea Region INTERREG IVB Programme but the Steering Committee of the Targeted Analysis.

- Identify the relevant sources of information and data needs to undertake the assessment in each of the participant regions
2. After the delivery of the Inception report:
    - a) Second Steering Committee meeting, after the submission of the inception report, summarizing project outcomes and advances, establishing a working plan and deciding with the TPG the most suitable follow-up actions for the targeted research
    - b) First Stakeholder Workshop right after the Second Steering Committee meeting.
  3. After the delivery of the Interim report:
    - a) Third Steering Committee meeting, after the submission of the interim report, summarizing outputs of the second workshop, clarifying project management issues, revision of the working plan, validation of project outcomes and advances, and decision with the TPG on the most suitable follow-up actions for the targeted research:
      - Problems and constraints found and potential solutions
      - Agree on the follow-up actions and improvements towards the draft final report
    - b) Second Stakeholder Workshop right after the Third Steering Committee meeting to exchange experiences and open a discussion on the following issues:
      - Forward request of additional information and data needs to the stakeholder
      - Content for the draft final report
  4. After the delivery of the Draft final report:
    - a) Fourth Steering Committee meeting, after the submission of the Draft final report, summarizing outputs of the second workshop, clarifying project management issues, revision of working plan, validation of project outcomes and advances, and decision with the TPG on the most suitable follow-up actions for the targeted research
    - b) Third Stakeholder workshop right after the Fourth Steering Committee meeting, to discuss and draw conclusions for the final report
    - c) Closing North Sea Star event. The Steering Committee and the whole TPG will take part in the final event. In addition the event shall also be open for a wide range of interested agents. This event will have the following aims:
      - Dissemination of project results
      - Presentation of policy messages and recommendations at EU level

While much of the work can be carried out through desk-based analysis, it is essential that the experts provide ample opportunity for dialogue with North Sea Region stakeholders including programme authorities, project and cluster managers, the programme's evaluation group, and relevant expert groups. As a guide it would seem wise to budget for 20 2-day meetings/events.

The NSR will provide existing data from the projects and information on the policy framework in which they are implemented, details of existing analyses of the programme area and, within reason, assist in collecting new data. Some sources already exist and will be made available. These include an energy study delivered as part of the update of the Spatial Agenda for the North Sea Region and a number of national/regional studies. Naturally, full information on North Sea projects and their results will be available. It must be said however that the provision of region-specific and up-to-date data is an on-going problem and it is hoped that this analysis will go a long way towards resolving this problem. A great deal of data is also available in European studies and it is expected that the analysis should collate the most relevant of these and apply them specifically to the North Sea Region.

The North Sea Region programme secretariat (JTS) will be available at all times to the experts for guidance and advice and will assist with the practical aspects of establishing contacts into the North Sea Region. The projects themselves will assist with mobilising support in their regions and countries. It is strongly recommended that all main actions in the analysis are coordinated with other on-going related actions in the programme and the programme area so as to ensure that the best results can be achieved and duplication is avoided. The aim is to mobilise an extensive network of NSR stakeholders from all levels around development of the analysis and also help manage these inputs. Relevant NSR staff members and an ESPON Project Expert will be appointed to manage all tasks concerned with the Targeted Analysis, including lively and successful communication. The NSR Managing Authority (MA) is the formal stakeholder in this Targeted Analysis but acts on behalf of the participating countries. On behalf of the MA, the programme secretariat will carry out all necessary activities related to implementation and direct contacts to the ESPON CU. The JTS should be the first point of contact for the selected TPG.

In addition, implementation of the cluster initiative is supported by national contact points at either regional or national level in the 7 countries in the programme, and a working group with further national level representatives. These groups will also assist with some activities directly related to the clusters themselves. The partners that make up the projects in the clusters represent a range of local, regional and perhaps national actors from the public and academic sectors, and to a lesser extent NGOs and the private sector. It is expected that their stakeholder networks can also be actively integrated into cluster work. The JTS will initiate and support at all stages the researchers' contact with these projects in order to help ensure smooth and effective communication.

The secretariat will also support the dissemination of the results to its stakeholders and ensure the operational take-up of findings at both project and programme level. Actions will be coordinated with ESPON activities at the wider-European level. The primary focus for the North Sea Region programme will be to get results implemented within the programme area. The potential and need for a wider transfer of the results of this analysis is recognized and the secretariat will assist in this process as part of their general European activities. For example, the programme enjoys close cooperation with the North Sea Commission (CPMR), various regional energy agencies and other EU programmes such as Intelligent Energy Europe. It is hoped that many of these organisations will be involved in the stakeholder dialogue and the secretariat would be

actively involved in managing this process. The aim would be to collect a broad range of stakeholder perspectives and simultaneously raise awareness amongst energy practitioners of the potential usefulness of ESPON findings in energy planning.

### ***(v) Envisaged results of the targeted analysis***

The envisaged results of the Targeted Analysis are the following:

1. Baseline study and mapping of current energy situation in NSR drawing on ESPON results
2. Baseline policy recommendations drawing on ESPON results
3. Sparring process between projects and researchers and resultant modification of research and regional approaches
4. Based on this, regional energy planning recommendations
5. Assessment of tools and methods used by clusters to generate awareness of results, consensus on the value of results, take-up in other regions and at national and European level.
6. The Targeted Analysis should provide deeper understanding of the NSR, the most likely future energy scenarios and the potential role of projects and clusters.

The analysis addresses the effectiveness of regional energy policies and the relevance of transnational clustering as a tool for delivering regional development in this respect. The results of the first element will be used immediately for future regional planning. Cluster conclusions should have general applicability throughout NSR and will be strongly promoted as a realistic tool to help regional, national and European stakeholders deliver the 20-20-20 goals. Deliverables should contribute to the quality of cluster results and assess clustering as a tool for delivering greater impact from transnational cooperation. Assessment of the clustering process will be part of a wider assessment of how cooperation projects deliver maximum impact and will play an important part in future strategic approaches.

The process brings together players who do not often all meet around the same table (researchers, experts, NSR projects, ESPON and NSR stakeholders) and may provide inspiration on wider collaborative approaches to project development and management in future. The fact that the North Sea Region includes examples of each of the ReRISK energy cluster types argues strongly for the transferability of results into and out of NSR.

The envisaged results shall be structured around four main targets:

*Result target 1: Baseline Study and mapping of current energy situation in the North Sea Region drawing on ESPON results and others*

Firstly, this target should result in an overview of the current energy situation in the North Sea Region, both in terms of current levels of renewable energy generation in different regions, energy use in the regions, existing technologies for improving the situation and current initiatives at European and national level to promote this process. This analysis should draw on ESPON results but should also involve a range of other

sources to give a comprehensive and up-to-date picture of the context in which the programme and projects operate. The analysis should also compare the North Sea Region to other parts of Europe and in particular to strongly performing regions, which may offer good practices to North Sea regions.

As an additional result, this target should provide comparisons between the programme response (as stated in programme documents and particularly the Operational Programme) to the energy overview. The aim of this comparison is to assess whether recent developments in the economy and energy policy and any new information will materially change the current programme's strategy. This part of the analysis should also move away from a general analysis of energy policy and specifically focus on the current situation in the North Sea area and the regional dimension of solving current challenges. The aim will be to provide background analysis targeted at the programme's main stakeholders (our national and regional authorities).

Stakeholder mapping in this connection should assess which main energy funding programmes are active in the area, the sorts of actions they are funding, and the main stakeholders involved. It should also address the question of energy policy mandates and specifically identify the areas where regions have a role to play in the North Sea's seven countries.

Thus this target should deliver the following results:

- Baseline Study Energy situation in the North Sea Region
- Mapping of energy picture
- Analysis of programme response to energy picture
- Stakeholder mapping

*Result target 2: Action plan for North Sea energy policy*

This target takes as its starting point the background analysis and the policy recommendations on energy already developed in ESPON. The aim is to re-assess and possibly extend/shorten the list of recommendations so that they are North Sea specific and take account of developments to date within the region. Recommendations should focus on issues that can be addressed on the regional/local level in each country though they should of course take account of the main expected developments at other levels – particularly where these will be a decisive factor for the success or failure of regional and local initiatives. It is important also that this analysis takes as its starting point a view of the North Sea as an integrated region and looks at the co-dependencies and possible synergies between regions. The aim should be to focus on very concrete measures and in this connection it will be necessary to identify the benefits of each action, its cost and the likely payback time for any investment (if applicable). This last item forms a separate deliverable.

It is also essential that all recommendations take account of the constraints facing the North Sea's regions. This applies particularly to the issue of financing new investments but also includes regulation, liberalisation of energy markets, nationally financed energy infrastructure requirements and more. Where barriers exist, an analysis should be made of

their impact and recommendations provided on potential regional action to resolve them (where possible). Here again it would be particularly relevant to look at successful practices in other parts of Europe.

The aim would be to provide a comprehensive picture of the energy actions that can be taken at the regional level both immediately, in the medium-term (up to 2020) and the long-term (2050) to provide the greatest benefit at lowest cost in terms of achieving international, EU and national energy targets.

Thus, this target should deliver the following results:

- Energy policy recommendations
- Business plans for energy actions
- Analysis of barriers and potentials

### *Result target 3: Project stress-testing*

The results from targets 1 and 2 provide respectively an updated and reliable picture of the current situation and a vision of how this could most successfully be improved. The main result of target 3 should be an assessment of the current performance of the programme and its projects against the baselines. The number of projects involved is open to discussion: Those working purely with energy are approximately 8 but a wider group (particularly those working with transport) is heavily involved in energy-related issues. The final core group of projects to study will therefore depend to a large extent on the outcomes of target 2 and its identification of the actions of greatest potential benefit.

The aim of this part of the analysis would be to assess and comment on how far the projects have developed good practices in terms of addressing the theme in the North Sea area (as described above). One of the main aims of the cooperation within the programme is to ensure that effective measures are jointly developed using the knowledge of a variety of partners and that these changes then lead to real improvements in the practice of policy implementation within the participating regions. This part of the analysis should evaluate this hypothesis and assess the fit of project actions with the recommendations developed under Target 2, explain and analyse any differences, provide recommendations for change and, where relevant, cite experiences from other parts of Europe that might suggest solutions for any problems identified. The focus of this target is the practitioner perspective and it is essential that practitioners are given extensive opportunities to explain the rationale of their projects and feedback on any perceived weaknesses. This part of the analysis should also highlight successful practices.

This deliverable should also consider the effects of the individual projects on the wider North Sea Region. It should also consider the applicability of project results outside the partnership organisations and consider the extent to which a transfer of results is taking place and the factors influencing the success of this process. This should be understood as an assessment of the core governance principles of the programme, which require that while knowledge may be generated regionally, it should transfer to the wider programme area to have a territorial impact. In this context it would be valuable to consider related projects funded under other programmes (Interreg but very importantly others as well) to

establish whether there are lessons to be learned and whether synergies could be better exploited in future.

The cluster projects (which group the partners and knowledge of three or more regular projects) should be the subject of particular scrutiny in this context. The clusters have been established as a more effective tool for delivering change in policy and practice in that they aim to bring together the partial solutions developed in individual projects and provide a consolidated set of recommendations. It is hoped also that this consolidation of partnerships and recommendations will lead to more effective communication and hence the wider acceptance and adoption of North Sea-wide solutions. This aspect of the analysis is crucial and is intimately linked to the other deliverables as it assesses in reality the best mechanisms available through cooperation for delivering the required changes identified under Target 1.

This analysis should lead to a set of recommendations for how best territorial cooperation projects can deliver positive change. It is likely that an energy cluster will have been approved by the time the analysis starts while a small number of energy projects will remain outside the clustering process and as such provide a baseline for comparison. Should it happen that an energy-specific cluster is not approved, relevant cluster results will still be available through, for example, the energy-related activities of the transport cluster which has already been approved.

Thus, this target should deliver the following results:

- Analysis of existing North Sea energy projects
- Analysis of cluster project activities
- Governance recommendations for increasing project impact

#### *Result target 4: Conclusions and general recommendations*

It is important that this analysis should be regarded as an on-going work which will have to evolve in line with the changing context over the project period. As such, the deliverables defined may need to be updated over the project period and in particular with regard to developments around any new North Sea Region programme. The final report will therefore provide an updated picture at the time of publication and will bring together the results of the other targets to provide concrete recommendations for every level in the North Sea Region though with a particular focus on the programme itself, regions and project developers. In addition to the text part of the report, it shall contain maps and data which provide a robust basis for future policy decisions and project development.

#### ***(vi) Stakeholders envisaged use of the Targeted Analyses***

In line with the objectives expressed in the ESPON Operational Programme, North Sea STAR aims at providing support for decision-making on strategic issues. This includes the national and regional representatives who will be responsible for setting the terms of any future programme, the European authorities responsible for defining the framework of that programme, and not least the regional and local actors developing projects and looking for guidance on how best to deliver the transition to fossil-free energy supply.

Current intense debates around energy supply will allow the research team to monitor the actual process of how and why regions respond to the relevant Europe 2020 goals and the role of territorial cooperation as a promoter of good practice within this.

The recommendations of this study cover not just the most appropriate thematic coverage but also the most effective ways of delivering policy and as such offer a bridge over the often wide gulf between policy-makers and practitioners. It is hoped that the results of the analysis will serve as a text book for regional energy policy development and delivery in the North Sea Region.

Programme communications are web-based and this will be the main platform for sharing regular information about the analysis and results. The programme regularly hosts its own events and is invited to speak at events organised by others. Such occasions will be used to promote the analysis and feed users towards web content. The programme has regular contact with regional, national and European institutions and other cooperation programmes. These stakeholders are very interested in ways of enhancing the strategic profile of projects and can be expected to take a strong interest in the analysis. The analysis should also attract a wide audience in terms of delivering recommendations on energy policy: there is wide interest in the North Sea and beyond in addition to the desire of sectoral programmes working with energy to better understand the potential role of territorial cooperation in this field.

In terms of the target groups for this communication, there already exists an active network of local, regional and national stakeholders working with energy issues in a cooperation context that could be one main focus area. Although not the main target group, contacts to energy experts would also ideally be extended through the analysis, making these experts more aware of cooperation potentials for delivering energy policy. Effective actions and mechanisms to deliver sector-expert recommendations are sought after although this may be a two-way learning process with the regional practitioner's perspectives having much to offer in terms of policy adjustment. Finally, expectations for the audience in the European institutions should be specified. To this end, the analysis should help to raise awareness of how the territorial cooperation tool can most effectively be used to deliver European policy and identify any changes that could be reflected in future legislative frameworks. The focus of this analysis is not on administrative issues but these might be included where they have a direct and demonstrable effect on energy policy delivery and where realistic opportunities for improvement are available.

### ***(vii) Outputs and timetable***

The project is expected to start in February 2012 and shall deliver the following four reports throughout the lifetime of the project.

#### **December 2012 Inception Report:**

This report focuses on the elaboration of the analytical framework and the research approach of the project. It will reflect a review of the main documents and data sources provided by stakeholders and a first analysis of existing ESPON results that are relevant for this project. The report will particularly provide a proposal on the baseline study and the mapping of the current energy situation in

NSR drawing on ESPON results. Furthermore the report will describe the North Sea Region's characteristics and particularities. It will reflect a review of the main documents and data sources provided by stakeholders and a first analysis of existing ESPON results that are relevant for this project.

#### **April 2013: Interim Report**

This report focuses on the presentation of intermediate project results. The results will be based on the baseline study and the mapping of the current energy situation in NSR drawing on ESPON results. The report will include a first identification of findings and also provide an insight on how the project is expected to formulate policy recommendations based on the baseline study as well as on regional energy planning.

#### **October 2013: Draft Final Report**

This report presents the final results of the project and focuses on relevant conclusions on future energy scenarios, the potential role of projects and clusters as well as options for policy development related to regional energy planning.

#### **December 2013: Final Report**

This report is in principle a revision of the Draft Final Report taking into consideration final comments and suggestions from the stakeholders and end users, the ESPON Monitoring Committee, the European Commission and the ESPON Coordination Unit. Simultaneously, the datasets, maps and figures used and produced within the framework of the project should be delivered.

#### ***(viii) Budget for the targeted analysis***

The maximum budget foreseen for this project amounts to € 340.000. Proposals exceeding this amount will not be considered.

The amount will include all costs for the TPG for completing the project including all travel expenses and the attendance at ESPON Seminars (taking place twice a year in June and December – June 2013 included) and Steering Group meetings as well as the events mentioned above.

Travel costs in relation to dissemination events, such as the closing event, organised by the stakeholders and meetings for which participation of a representative of the TPG would be requested from the stakeholders will be covered by the latter.

ESPON projects are generally conducted in a partnership of several bodies from at least three EU Member and Partner States (from three different countries taking part in the ESPON 2013 Programme).

***(ix) Existing access points***

**ESPON 2006 programme**

2.1.4 ‘Territorial Trends of Energy Services and Networks and Territorial Impact of EU Energy Policy’

**ESPON 2013 programme**

- ReRISK – Regions at Risk of Energy Poverty
- ESTADOR – European Seas and Territorial Development, Opportunities and Risks.
- TERCO – European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life
- ESPON Climate – Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies in Europe
- TranSMEC – Transnational Support Method for European Cooperation
- SS-LR – Spatial Scenarios: Support Method for Local-Regional Territories
- GREECO – Regional Potential for a Greener Economy

ESPON results should not necessarily be limited to those named above: If other projects can offer relevant inputs, it should also be considered including them.

All are available at [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)

**Documents provided by stakeholders:**

- North Sea Region Operational Programme
- Energy study as part of the update of the Spatial Agenda for the North Sea Region
- Related national/regional studies
- Full information on North Sea projects and their results