

SPECIFICATION

ESPON Scientific Platform/Tools Project 2013/3/9 (2012-2014)

Territorial Monitoring in a European Macro Region – A test for the Baltic Sea Region

(o) Territorial challenges relevant for ESPON 2013 projects

The development of the European territory is facing several ongoing mega trends and impacts of policies:

- The integration of the EU in global economic competition is accelerating, offering more options for regions and larger territories in deciding on their development path as development is no longer a zero sum game for Europe.
- Interaction is growing between the EU territory and the surrounding neighbour countries as well as the other parts of the world, becoming apparent by e.g. migration pressure on more developed countries, which are themselves confronted with population decline and by access to and investment in new markets.
- Market forces and the evolution of society in general are supporting a geographical concentration of activities. The current economic downturn is having asymmetrical impacts on regions and cities, often mostly related to their national context and more local economic base.
- The ongoing demographic change with an ageing European population and migration is affecting the regions differently and boosts the competition for skilled labour.
- The occurrence of hazards is increasing due to climate change while different parts of Europe experience different types of hazards.
- Increasing energy prices and the emergence of a new energy paradigm have significant territorial impacts, some regions being more affected than others, some of which have particular potential for production of renewable energy sources.
- The enlargement of the EU to 27 Member States, and soon with additional countries, presents an unprecedented challenge for the competitiveness and internal cohesion of the Union.

ESPON results have revealed that territorial capital and opportunities for development are inherent in the regional diversity that is a characteristic of Europe. Consequently, different types of territories are endowed with diverse combinations of resources, putting them into different positions for contributing to the achievement of the Europe 2020

Strategy as well as to EU Cohesion Policy. Territorial diversity, particularly in the economic base, implies the need for tailor-made regional strategies building on endogenous potentials and synergies through cooperation in order for regions, cities and larger territories to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The ESPON 2006 Programme provided integrated analysis and long term spatial scenarios which enriched the European policy debate and knowledge base. The results and observations produced by ESPON on territorial structures, trends, perspectives and assessment of EU policy impacts had not been fully evident before and supported a better understanding of the European dimension of territorial dynamics. Therefore, interest is growing among policy makers and practitioners for the information, knowledge and understanding ESPON can offer.

The ESPON 2013 Programme shall bring this knowledge base one step further by carrying out applied research and targeted analyses, indicator development and data collection, capitalisation events presenting results, etc. All these actions will be related to an improved understanding of territorial structures, development trends, perspectives and policy impacts.

The European-wide evidence provided by the ESPON 2007-2013 Programme will potentially benefit stakeholders all over Europe at all levels. Policy makers dealing with territorial development require sound evidence and comparable regionalised information as well as medium and long-term development perspectives in order to draw up sustainable and efficient integrated policy responses for their territories.

All in all, the European process moves towards a more integrated approach to policy making which makes the territorial dimension important for policy makers. The aim of territorial cohesion included in the Treaty supports this approach by taking the territory as an explicit element in the framework for policy making. Due to its provision of evidence based on analyses of territorial units the ESPON 2013 Programme is of strategic importance for the European policy development and cooperation.

By further extending and deepening the existing knowledge and indicators, the ESPON 2013 Programme will play a strategic role in supporting the policy process of the current period 2007-2013 and contributing to the development of Cohesion Policy beyond 2013.

(i) General objectives of projects under Priority 3

The general objectives of applied research projects within the ESPON 2013 Programme are the following:

- Contribute to the consolidation of the scientific platform of the ESPON 2013 Programme and to the territorial knowledge base needed for informed policy formulation and application
- Ensure data, territorial indicators and tools that are usable for policy makers and practitioners at all administrative levels
- Respond to needs for public access to the ESPON data and tools

- Ensure availability of comparable and robust regional (and urban) data at as detailed geographical scale as possible as well as statistical quality control and data validation
- Ensure that European standards for spatial referencing and storage of data are respected (such as applying the ETRS1989 standard and the Inspire Directive).
- Support a concrete application and use of data for policy, strategy and planning processes, including tools and techniques for forecasting and modelling
- Continuously provide an updated basis for monitoring and assessing territorial development trends in relation to territorial policy objectives at European level based on relevant territorial indicators/indices.

This project shall contribute to these general objectives during its implementation, and in doing so make best use of existing ESPON results, new results in other ESPON projects as well as other research results and relevant studies.

(ii) Relation of this project to the ESPON 2013 Programme

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

- a) **Applied research on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion: Evidence on European territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts**
The applied research projects will opt for information and evidence on territorial potentials and challenges focusing on opportunities for success for 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.
- b) **Targeted analysis based on user demand: European perspective to 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 potentials and challenges may arise, which could be transformed into projects and actions.
- c) **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 the indicators, data and tools.
- d) **Capitalisation, ownership and participation: Capacity building, dialogue and networking**
Under this priority, actions are foreseen that will be aiming at making the evidence and knowledge developed operational through measures raising awareness and involving stakeholders in the results and their practical use.

Priority 3 of the ESPON 2013 Programme includes, as an essential action, the development of a Territorial Monitoring and Reporting System at European level for the continuing assessment of territorial development dynamics in relation to territorial policy objectives. A project with this theme and scope is being launched in parallel to this project that focuses on a targeted, tailor-made territorial monitoring system serving a macro region, the Baltic Sea Region.

The actions on Territorial Monitoring are part of the trilogy of actions in which the two other actions on the ESPON 2013 Database development and on Territorial Indicators / Indices are in development. The ambition with the trilogy is to create mutual support whereas the territorial monitoring will make use of the ESPON 2013 Database development and subsequently integrate relevant territorial indicators and indices.

The project on a territorial monitoring system for a European macro region, with focus on the Baltic Sea region, link into these efforts, and takes the point of departure in the strategic policy efforts and the diversity of development potentials and challenges in the region. The ambition is to develop a monitoring system that can provide sustainable support to strengthen the future of the regional development in the macro regional context.

(iii) Thematic scope and context

European policy with the Lisbon Treaty includes the aim of territorial cohesion. There is therefore a need to innovate and develop monitoring systems for territorial development that can support policy makers at different levels in order to contribute to European competitiveness and cohesion.

The stronger political focus and improved understanding of structures, trends and scenarios influencing territorial development highlights the need to improve the monitoring also at macro regional level. The cooperation in European macro regions is advancing and the Commission is supporting the enforcement of strategies for such areas. The most advanced macro region in the EU is the Baltic Sea Region where an EU Strategy was the first to be adopted (by October 2009) and is the first to be implemented. Therefore, an interest is present to improve and benefit from a monitoring of territorial dynamics. However, the need for territorial monitoring is not only for the Baltic Sea Region, but also for other macro regions or transnational cooperation areas and the European Union as a whole.

The project shall support evidence informed territorial development and cohesion in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) by developing an indicator based monitoring system. The project comprehends a policy dimension and a methodological dimension.

The policy dimension is promoting territorial cohesion in the Baltic Sea Region. The methodological dimension is to develop an indicator based system for monitoring the territorial development in the Baltic Sea Region.

Considering the policy aim of territorial cohesion, the monitoring system should measure the progress in achieving this aim by considering economic, social, environmental aspects within the BSR by making use of and integrating indicators at different scales. This will contribute to increased knowledge and understanding of territorial cohesion

processes in the BSR and at the same time allow for a comparison and benchmarking with other European regions and macro-regions. It will also support the contribution of the BSR to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in Europe as mentioned in the EU2020 Strategy.

Geographically the entire Baltic Sea Region, including EU as well as the relevant parts of non EU-member States, shall be covered (for the concrete geographical delimitation see footnote 1 on page 7).

The national and involved regional authorities with responsibility for spatial and regional development policies will be closely involved in the project. The results of the project shall provide a monitoring system that at regular intervals can be used for discussion of progress made towards territorial cohesion in the BSR and dissemination to all relevant stakeholders in the macro region. Only by means of continuous monitoring it is possible to recognise territorial disparities, trends and to put them in relation to territorial policy objectives as well as to measure the achievement of policy objectives.

The observed territorial development patterns show increasing economic integration, with the internal relations of the Baltic Sea Region developing stronger internal ties than external relations. This pattern casts a promising light over political initiatives which aim at improving the economic convergence and territorial cohesion in the area.

Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy has boosted investments in the productive sectors, human capital and technical infrastructure. This, in turn, has created new opportunities for growth and employment in the Baltic Sea Region.

Moreover EU Structural Funds have strengthened the administrative capacity by promoting multi-level governance in regional development through coordinated actions of the European Union, the Member States, Non-Member States and local and regional authorities. These authorities aspire to strengthen the prosperity, stability and security of the whole Region.

The Baltic Sea Region can become a practical demonstration area for the territorial dimension of EU Cohesion Policy and cooperation with the neighbouring countries participating in the Baltic Sea on spatial and regional development. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is foreseen to promote a stronger transnational cooperation between various actors in dealing with important issues, which transcend the administrative borders. Among them are the issues of environment, prosperity, attractiveness and accessibility, as well as safety and security challenges. The Strategy takes notice of the development opportunities related to an inflow of EU Structural Funds to the countries and regions around the Baltic Sea, and calls for harmonisation of actions across the borders in order to minimise overlaps and contradictory activities.

The remains of the former political divide of Europe are still strongly reflected in territorial imbalances and disparities between the countries in this Macro Region. Territorial development and spatial planning co-operation can be an effective instrument contributing to reducing these disparities.

In economic, environmental and cultural terms, the BSR countries are highly heterogeneous, yet they share many common features. The territorial cohesion challenges of the Baltic Sea Region are threefold. First the east-west divide adheres to administrative

borders once dissected by the iron curtain and reflects differences between the eastern and western BSR territories in several socio-economic developments aspects. Second the north-south divide results from diversified climate conditions for human settlements in the BSR territories, implying that accessibility is an important issue. Thirdly, the urban-rural divide is seen as the major challenge for the BSR cohesion, particularly with regard to demographic and economic development prospects and labour market areas.

Ministers responsible for spatial planning and territorial development in the Baltic Sea Region at the VASAB Ministerial Conference in Vilnius 2009 adapted the VASAB Long Term Perspective (LTP) for the territorial development for the period until 2030. VASAB LTP is a transnational strategic planning document on territorial integration. The document highlights the present territorial development trends and challenges and presents a long term perspective with focus on urban networking and urban-rural relations, accessibility, maritime spatial planning and management of the Baltic Sea. Ministers declared their common interest in developing the Region into a model case of concrete co-operation in spatially related cross-border and transnational development and planning tasks towards territorial cohesion. Furthermore they asked for monitoring and periodical reporting of the territorial development of the Region.

(iv) General Objectives

The aim of this project is to develop an operational Territorial Monitoring System at macro regional scale taking the Baltic Sea Region as the test case.

The progress towards achieving territorial cohesion in the Baltic Sea Region should be monitored and analysed on a regular basis by using well-tailored indicators, which should measure the state and perspectives for territorial cohesion in the BSR.

The methodological challenge is to develop an indicator based system for quantitative and qualitative monitoring of the territorial development in the Baltic Sea Region. A set of indicators should be able to measure the progress in achieving territorial cohesion in the BSR taking into also into account the three main territorial challenges mentioned above.

Taking into consideration the main policy objectives related to Territorial Cohesion in the BSR, in particular the VASAB LTP as well as the EU BSR Strategy, EU 2020 Strategy, EU Cohesion Policy and the Territorial Agenda 2020, the main objectives of the monitoring system to be developed are to:

- Illustrate and support the understanding of territorial structures and trends at different scales for different types of regions across the BSR.
 - Provide evidence on the regional diversity, the situation and progress on main territorial challenges of the Baltic Sea Region: east-west divide (mainly on socio-economic developments aspects); north-south divide (in particular on climate conditions for human settlements, accessibility and economic specialization); urban-rural divide (particularly with regard to demographic and economic development, services of general interest and functional regions/areas related to labour market dynamics).

- Using
 - European-level data for comparison and benchmarking purposes.
 - Regional/local data to focus on specific challenges most important for the BSR region.
- Provide an indicator based monitoring system, complemented with some qualitative information, which allows a continuous monitoring and benchmarking of the territorial development of the BSR at European level, in relation to other macro regions and internally at regional and local scales.

It should furthermore be able to make contributions to analyses and programme development covering the entire BSR as well as to policy development for parts of the BSR and to national and regional territorial development policies.

A useful territorial monitoring system for a macro region like the Baltic Sea Region would also be of interest for a larger audience both at European level but also for other macro regions or transnational programme areas within the European Union. Furthermore, a territorial monitoring system for the BSR will support VASAB as an observatory of trends and processes related to territorial cohesion in the BSR and shall provide evidence for the appropriateness of initiatives and actions which have been undertaken or point to the need of policy initiatives and changes.

(v) Analytical framework and deliveries expected

The results envisaged is an operational and policy oriented system for monitoring the territorial structures and development trends of the Baltic Sea Region, taking into consideration the European and Baltic territorial cohesion aims and objectives. The experimental and innovative character of this project is the development of a tool for monitoring the territorial and regional development in a macro region, which also includes territories along external borders of the EU participating in the transnational cooperation.

Geography and Scale

The entire Baltic Sea Region shall be covered¹.

Regarding scale, the monitoring system must be able to go beyond the NUTS administrative divisions. There is a need for more flexible approach to address the BSR territory and to consider a possible and logic combination of administrative units.

The regional level shall become the backbone of the territorial monitoring tool (NUTS 3/NUTS 2; LAU2/NUTS3 when defined or an equivalent administrative level for other

¹ The Baltic Sea Region is one of Europe's macro regions with long experience of cooperation in transnational spatial planning through Visions and Strategies around the Baltic Sea (VASAB). The study area of this project comprehends the countries participating in the VASAB cooperation are the EU member states Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and the neighbouring countries Norway, Russia and Belarus. In Germany the Baltic Sea Region covers the Länder of Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein and Niedersachsen (only NUTS II area of Lüneburg). In Russia the Baltic Sea Region covers Leningrad Oblast, Republic of Karelia, the Oblasts of Kaliningrad, Murmansk, Novgorod and Pskov. The BSR has a population of around 105 million. The area covered coincides with the ETC Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007 - 2013

countries²). However, the scale of monitoring shall be able to lower and enlarge the geographical framework when relevant and appropriate. In particular when looking into the specific territorial challenges of the BSR, territorial specificities such as urban and metropolitan regions, rural regions, sparsely populated areas, as well as cities, agglomerations and functional areas shall be included as geographical identities in the framework of this project. With regard to this issue it is important to consider the use of raster-based data sources in order to bridge the gap between the different breakdowns.

In addition, the project is expected on relevant indicators to make comparisons to the European average in order to make benchmarking in the European context feasible. The monitoring system should furthermore be flexible enough to reflect possible changes in the overall geographic delimitation of the region i.e. inclusion or exclusion of territories in the BSR.

Methodological questions

On the methodological side, several elements need to be considered in the development of the BSR monitoring system, including selection of indicators, data availability, data quality, data collection, harmonisation and maintenance. There is also a need for categorisation and grouping of regions for efficient benchmarking within comparable groups.

Finally, it is important to define a roadmap on how to maintain, update and revise the monitoring system.

Some key analytical questions to address in a proposal for the project are:

- Indicator setting. Which indicators, content wise, should be used to assess progress towards territorial cohesion and to assess the progress in relation to the main territorial potentials and challenges identified for the BSR (as mentioned under section IV)?
- Geographical level/scale. What is a suited territorial structure (aggregation) for permanent monitoring/reporting? What are the appropriate functional regions? From what level do we need to aggregate? In this connection particular attention should be given to the possibility to include LAU2 or municipal level as building blocks.
- Visualisation. How to visualize and present territorial structures and trends with appropriate maps, figures and tables?
- Benchmarking. How the monitoring system could be used for comparative analyses within groups of comparable areas or regions within the BSR and with other European (macro) regions?

The understanding of territorial cohesion should take its starting point in relevant European policy documents. On this basis the territorial cohesion challenges for the Baltic Sea Region as described under section (iii) should be considered. In particular the following thematic dimensions: demographic and economic development, urban

² See the Global Administrative Unit Layers (GAUL) from EC - FAO Food Security Programme (ESCG-SDRN) on this respect and used in the Commission reports (<http://www.fao.org/geonetwork/srv/en/metadata.show?id=12691>).

networking, urban-rural relations, accessibility and technical infrastructure, services of general interest, human capital, growth and employment.

System requirements and reporting

The Monitoring System shall address and integrate two types of monitoring: (1) A basic monitoring, providing fundamental basic information that can easily be communicated and understood, and (2) a more advanced monitoring, based on sophisticated and complex/combined socio-economic and territorial indicators.

For both, the following elements must be considered:

- Geographical scale
- Territorial structural, thematic and sectoral dimensions
- Data collection, harmonisation, quality, availability and time-series
- Visualisation

The necessary involvement of national and regional expertise related to data collection and harmonisation and correct interpretation of figures shall be ensured in order to make the Monitoring System robust and reliable.

The use of the two types of monitoring shall be tested in terms of a first demonstration of the system as such and of the analytical capability of the system in a selected number of thematic fields agreed with the Steering Committee (detailed under section VI).

The presentation and visualisation of output from the Monitoring System shall be designed so it is feasible for the BSR to publish Monitoring Reports containing compilations, interpretations and analyses based on the indicators included in the Monitoring System for the BSR.

The intention of BSR responsible authorities is to issue BSR Monitoring Reports on an annual basis. Based on these reports, a comprehensive analysis for the BSR will be developed and issued every second year. The focus will be on territorial dynamics of disparities and development over time. This analysis will be submitted to and discussed in a biannual workshop of experts.

The capability of the BSR Monitoring System to support such comprehensive analyses should be ensured and tested within this project by implementing 3-5 examples of analyses conducted on the basis of the Monitoring System and to be agreed with the Steering Committee.

Summing up in more detail, the Territorial Monitoring System for the BSR shall include the following components:

- A System for Monitoring Territorial development in the BSR tied to The Treaty of Lisbon which defines that the Union "shall promote economic, social and territorial cohesion", and backed by relevant European and BSR policy documents, including
 - A basic module providing simple information for interpretation of territorial development, which consists of a broad range of mainly thematic/sector oriented information.

- An advanced module including a sample of different and more sophisticated/composite indicators that can also catch trends in the territorial/structural development in the BSR. This module should be supported by the information included in the basic module and the build up on the selection of this set of indicators shall be closely related to the political options and objectives set for the Baltic Sea Region in relevant policy documents.
- Categorisation and grouping of regions after basic structural territorial indicators making it possible to benchmark within comparable groups.
- Tests of the analytical capacity of the system shall include 3-5 examples of comprehensive case analyses (e.g. for 1-2 cross-cutting issues on the level of BSR, for example transport and spatial development or economic development and spatial development, 1 -2 examples of in depth analyses of a limited geographic area like cross-border sub-regions and analyses of 1-2 of selected themes, such as interregional trade and transport flows demographic development, economic growth, employment, economic specialization, urban-rural development and cohesion in territorial differentiation on BSR level...) that can show the ability of the monitoring system to provide facts and evidence on the BSR in support of territorial cohesion and provide evidence based support to policy implementation.
- Concept for the visualisation of monitoring output in adequate maps, diagrams and graphs showing the BSR and the BSR regions/cities, also in their European context. Concrete examples of the visualisation options should in any case be included in the 3-5 examples of the comprehensive case analysis mentioned above.
- A simple and easy readable manual with guidance for the use, maintenance and update of the BSR Monitoring System, as well as recommendations for improvement of the territorial monitoring tool and advice on an application of similar monitoring systems in other Macro Regions of Europe.

Concerning the systems basic module, it should be able to provide basic information with regard to the main territorial divides in the Baltic Sea Region as described in the VASAB LTP. The issues in question are economic development, employment, accessibility and demographic issues, but should also include environmental issues and information related to services of general interest, all of them in relevant territorial/urban-rural differentiation. Examples of possible indicators are GDP/capita, unemployment, population trends, population density, CO2 emissions, distribution of institutions of services of general interest, etc.

The advanced module shall address more complex territorial development issues including issues related to European policy processes like the EU Baltic Sea Strategy, TA2020 and EU2020. Relevant issues in this connection are issues such as territorial balance and polycentric development, territorial capacities, imbalances and potentials, territorial cooperation, functional regions, urban-rural relations, specific types of regions like metropolitan areas or sparsely populated areas, sea(land)use issues, economic integration, innovation and convergence as well as the attractiveness of places. Examples of possible indicators are trends in trade, diversification of rural economies, renewable energy production, functional labour markets, maritime spatial use, etc.

The closer definition and selection of these issues shall take inspiration from other ESPON projects, in particular the projects on Territorial Indicators and a European Territorial Monitoring System.

The definition and selection of indicators and issues shall involve and be agreed by the Steering Committee.

(vi) Project implementation and timetable for expected deliveries

The national authorities in the Baltic Sea Region with responsibility for spatial and regional development policies are committed to be involved in the project in order to ensure a useful delivery. They will be contributing towards the development of the monitoring system by giving comments, providing access to relevant data sources, access to relevant studies and experts and by supporting the dissemination of results and by involving relevant stakeholders outside the project. In order to ensure an efficient project implementation a Steering Committee will be established by the ESPON CU to monitor the progress of the project. The Steering Committee will include the countries participating in the VASAB cooperation including representatives of Russia and Belarus³. Other relevant regions and stakeholders in the Baltic Sea region may be invited to Steering Committee meetings as observers.

The Steering Committee will during the lifetime of the project convey 3 - 4 meetings, where at least the Lead Partner, representing the TPG, shall be present. The main aim of these meetings will be to address the monitoring of the progress of the project directly coupled to the project reports delivered as part of the project implementation and to get particular inputs needed for the development of the project from the countries and authorities included in the Steering Committee. The authorities involved in the VASAB cooperation will coordinate a common feedback reflecting the feedback of the representatives of the Steering Committee on all project reports which will be sent to the CU before each Steering Committee meeting.

The Steering Committee will be supported by the regular work of the CSPD⁴ and the VASAB secretariat. The VASAB secretariat will be available for the project team with regard to information.

In particular, the delivery of necessary information and data from non EU Member States and regions outside the EU will need particular attention by the project. The VASAB secretariat will support the collection of data from this part of the BSR by providing contact to non EU territories of the BSR. However, the project proposal will have to foresee a budget reserve for eventual expenditure related to collection of data and data validation/harmonisation. The question will be taken up at the first Steering Committee meeting of the project.

³ VASAB received on 03.03.2011 a support letter No. 02-2-03/1193 from the Minister of Architecture and Construction of Republic of Belarus Mr. A.Nichkasov and 11.03.2011 support letter from the International Center for Social and Economic Research "Leontief center" of Russia.

⁴ A Committee on Spatial Planning and Development in the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD) has been established to guide the work of VASAB. It consists of members from the ministries responsible for spatial planning and regional development from the 11 countries involved. In addition, a secretariat in Riga with three persons is responsible for assisting the CSPD in its work

The results of this project creating a Territorial Monitoring System for a Macro Region shall be disseminated at EU-level, and the product and experience shared with other macro-regions in the EU.

The project proposal shall mainly envisage participating in dissemination activities organised by the CU and the VASAB Network and to present progress on and the final results of the Monitoring Tool for the BSR. In addition, the project should foresee dissemination towards other researchers and experts working on similar tools. Finally, the ESPON Seminars twice a year will require the presence of the project. In total 8-10 participation in dissemination events (including travelling and accommodation costs) should be planned within the project budget.

The VASAB-network will play a main role in disseminating to national, regional and local authorities, as well as to ETC-programmes in the BSR-region and the transnational institutions; CBSS⁵, UBC⁶, BSSSC⁷, HELCOM⁸ and the CPMR⁹. Here the VASAB annual conferences with participation of the representatives of other European macro regions will be used for dissemination of the project results to wider public and interested stakeholders over the BSR borders. VASAB will in addition consider financing of translation of the key results in Russian and support the capitalization of key results, reports, documents via its homepage.

The VASAB secretariat will disseminate and communicate output from the monitoring system to relevant national and regional stakeholders in the BSR, including international organisations, such as CBSS, HELCOM and CPMR when operational.

Under the ESPON 2013 Programme some of the ongoing projects are closely related to the implementation of this project and should be taken into account by the Transnational Project Group (TPG). Especially important are the projects of the triad in Priority 3: the Database Project, the Indicators Project (INTERCO) and the Monitoring and Reporting Project taking up the European level. The TPG for this project is expected to cooperate closely with the Lead Partners in charge of the mentioned projects, and in particular of the ESPON 2013 Database regarding the use of existing data and/or the development of new data, indicators and maps.

It is important to stress that the TPG is expected as far as possible to use statistical data and time series already available within the ESPON programme, in particular those developed in the framework of the INTERCO and ESPON 2013 Database Project.

In addition, the TPG should consider relevant results of ESPON 2013 applied research projects, such as the projects on demographic development (DEMIFER), the “Sea use / maritime inter-linkages”, “Climate change and territorial effects on regions and local economies”, “Effects of rising energy prices on regional competitiveness”, etc.

⁵ Council of the Baltic Sea States.

⁶ Union of the Baltic Cities.

⁷ Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation.

⁸ Helsinki Commission for the Protection of the Baltic Marine Environment.

⁹ Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of the EEC.

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

The implementation of the project during 2012-2014 shall include a flexible approach to the individual work packages proposed.

The project is supposed to follow an indicative timetable and specifications of outputs as presented below:

May 2012 (Inception Report):

This report focuses on the elaboration of the methodological framework and the research approach of the project. It will reflect a review of the main documents and data sources provided by involved authorities in the BSR and a first analysis of existing ESPON results that are relevant for this project, in particular the European Monitoring System being developed in parallel. The Inception report will particularly provide a methodological proposal for the project, including

- Detailed description of the envisaged conceptualisation of the project, taking into account the project scope and objectives, including the identification of priorities, resolution of problems and definition of delimitations.
- Presentation of a strategic overview of all activities envisaged and an overall time planning, including envisaged 3-4 meetings with the Steering Committee.
- Presentation of the description and timetable of the various project deliveries.
- Approach to data collection, validation and harmonisation in particular from non-EU parts of the BSR
- Work plan until the Interim Report, including meeting with the Steering Committee.

November 2012 (Interim Report):

This report focuses on the presentation of intermediate project results. The report shall include the following elements:

- Conceptualisation of the Territorial Monitoring System for the Baltic Sea Region, including the envisaged handling of
 - Geography and scales
 - Themes and indicators
 - Data availability, data collection, data harmonisation and approach to overcome possible data shortcomings
- Presentation of the selection of indicators for the simple and for the advanced module (taking into consideration outputs of the ESPON INTERCO project, the ESPON 2013 Database and progress of the project on Territorial Monitoring and Reporting at European level).
- Presentation of proposal for the testing of the system as such and for the 3-5 themes/issues selected for comprehensive analyses based on the monitoring system
- Presentation of approach for visualisation and dissemination of the project results
- Presentation of synopsis for the envisaged Manual
- Short reporting of the activities, both planned and realised, resolution of problems and definition of delimitations.

- Proposal for the dissemination of project results developed in collaboration with the Steering Committee
- Work plan until the Draft Final Report, including a meeting with the Steering Committee.

June 2013 (Draft Final Report):

This report presents the draft final results of the project including the following requested elements:

- Draft Final version of the Monitoring System for the BSR based on the selected indicators to be included
- Data collected and indicators used, including tables with the exact values of indicators, including metadata (to be delivered to the ESPON Database Project).
- Draft Final Analyses of 3-5 cases of comprehensive analyses based on the Monitoring System related to territorial cohesion in the BSR selected by the Steering Committee
- Final approach to the visualisation related to the territorial monitoring system including graphs and maps in a vector format (preferably .ai files) of the BSR and of the BSR in Europe
- Draft Manual with guidelines for further development, maintenance, update and application of the Territorial Monitoring System for the BSR, and including considerations or alternative options on the envisaged resources needed in terms of manpower, money and technical facilities as well as institutional setup or network respectively related to the implementation and permanent operation in BSR as well as to a transfer of the developed BSR Territorial Monitoring System to other Macro Regions in Europe.
- Draft documentation of all aspects of the project implementation, including the dialogue with the steering committee on the focus and selection of high priority policy areas.

February 2014 (Final Report)

- Final documentation of all aspects of the implementation of the project
- Final versions of the Territorial Monitoring system for the Baltic Sea Region including the simple and the advanced module, visualised with maps
- Final versions of 3-5 policy case analyses
- Delivery of the technical system and the data collected to the ESPON CU and the BSR, including the System Manual
- Advice on institutionalisation and (human, financial and technical) resources needed for the implementation and permanent operation of the developed Territorial Monitoring System in BSR
- Advice on the transfer of the monitoring system to other European macro regions, including resource indications
- Supporting deliveries for communication (such as 10 slides including the main outcomes of the first European Territorial Report, presented in a very communicative and simple way for policy makers).

(vii) Budget

The maximum budget foreseen for this project amounts to € 360.000. Proposals exceeding this value will not be considered.

All real eligible costs incurred for carrying out the approved project will be refunded 100% by the ESPON 2013 Programme.

No eventual printing and lay outing costs related to the deliveries of the project shall be borne by the project budget.

(viii) Existing access points

The stakeholders will utilise ESPON studies that are relevant to the European dimension of the study. Relevant ESPON projects and results are presented below:

Policy Documents

- Europe 2020 Strategy
- Fifth Cohesion Report
- Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion
- Territorial Agenda 2020
- ETC Baltic Sea Strategy
- Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010 (Tallinn Report)
- Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010 +
 - Background Document for VASAB 2010+ (publication will be submitted to the selected project team)
- VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region
 - Background Synthesis Document for VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (http://www.vasab.org/conference/upload/dokumenty/ltp_background_document.pdf)
- The East-West Window project (<http://www.vasab.org/east-west-window/>)
- Background Report based on TA 2020 How to strengthen the territorial dimension of “Europe 2020” and the EU Cohesion Policy, (http://www.mrr.gov.pl/rozwoj_regionalny/Prezydencja/Documents/Background_report_territorial_dimension_of_EU2020_CP.pdf)

Particularly relevant ESPON projects:

Applied research:

- ESPON EDORA – European Development Opportunities in Rural Areas
- ESPON DEMIFER – Demographic and Migratory Flows Affecting European Regions and Cities
- ESPON Geospecs - Geographic Specificities and Development Potentials in Europe
- ESPON CLIMATE - Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies in Europe

- ESPON SGPTD - Secondary growth poles in territorial development
- FOCI – Future Orientation for Cities
- ESPON TRACC- Transport Accessibility at regional/local scale and patterns in Europe
- ESPON SeGi – Indicators and Perspectives for Services of General Interests in Territorial Cohesion and Development
- ESPON Europe of the Seas - European Seas in Territorial Development
- ESPON 2006 project 4.1.3: Monitoring Territorial development

Targeted Analyses:

- ESPON TeDi - Territorial Diversity in Europe
- ESPON PURR - Potential of Rural Regions
- ESPON EUROISLANDS - The Development of the Islands – European Islands and Cohesion Policy Scientific Platform
- ESPON TPM – Territorial Performance Monitoring

Scientific Platform and Tools:

- ESPON Database 2013
- INTERCO - Indicators of Territorial Cohesion
- ESPON Typology of Regions
- ESPON Monitoring and Reporting (running in parallel)

All available at www.espon.eu

Relevant documents related to Data and Monitoring Tools:

- ESPON 3.4.1 “The Modifiable Areas Unit Problem”
- EUROSTAT - http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1090,30070682,1090_33076576&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL
- GMES – Global Monitoring for Environment and Security - <http://www.gmes.info>
- INSPIRE Directive - <http://www.ec-gis.org/inspire/>
- International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) - <http://www.iso.org/iso/home.htm>
- Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities - <http://www.rfsustainablecities.eu>