

// ESPON Week in Portugal 14-18 June 2021

Green and Just Recovery for all European Territories

the bird's-eye view, intertemporal diagnostics and new
value creation

Programme version: 17/05/2021

All hours indicated in the programme are CET

// Context and objectives

The “Just and Green recovery” ESPON week from 16 to 18 June 2021 is organised in cooperation with the Portuguese Presidency of the EU Council in the framework of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme, which aims to support policy development for promoting territorial cohesion and harmonious development of the European territory.

The discussion for a just and green recovery is included in the priorities of the Portuguese Presidency in the context of the post-COVID-19 expected new era.

Indeed; amidst climate change, lurking resource deficits and demographic challenges, compounded by the damage inflicted upon regions by the COVID-19 pandemic, with the European Green Deal, the Recovery plan for Europe and the Just Transition Mechanism, the European Union has embarked on a paradigm shift from restitution to empowerment; from path dependencies to agility; from vulnerability to resilience; from linearity to circularity; from value extraction to value creation.

Territorial policies devised for the mid-term and long-term future are tasked to navigate on a trajectory between two guardrails: the Just and the Green. Both epithets, however, resonate differently in different territorial realities. Many people living in heavy-industry regions misperceive the green transition as territorial redistribution of social benefits while economic damage is inflicted upon a few regions. At the same time, many others living in places that embrace industrial decarbonization are concerned about the increasing marginal carbon damage and the environmental costs externalized from incumbent carbon-intensive industries. The just transition is often misperceived there as a reward for regions that delay decarbonization efforts. This fragmentation of the just and green concepts necessitates a thorough understanding of territorial trade-offs, interdependencies and mutual externalities.

Against this background, the role of ESPON in navigating between the just and green policies today is more important than ever. With comparative pan-European observations, policymakers can well capture territorial constellations. These constellations are both the result of past and source for future trade-offs, interdependencies and externalities, occurring with a time lag. For this purpose, ESPON data, impact assessment methodologies and scenarios for public policies have become indispensable instruments for diagnostics, understanding both the causes and potential trajectories of territorial change.

The ESPON week under the Portuguese EU Presidency 2021 is dedicated to the interplay of the two most prominent epithets expected to dominate EU policies for the coming decade. ESPON will organise a series of digital events, including physical attendance of prominent speakers in Lisbon, with the aim to connect policymakers, stakeholders and practitioners from all levels of governance with researchers and experts.



The interventions include

- two high-level policy debates with
 - Minister of Environment and Climate Action João Pedro Matos Fernandes and
 - EU Commissioner Elisa Ferreira

dedicated to the need to reconcile the just and green perceptions and expectations at different territorial levels;

- a new release of TerritoriALL, investigating the just and green implications in rural areas
- and a series of online workshops on ESPON research, setting the scene for finding an acceptable balance of the ‘just’ and ‘green’ aspirations.

The logical and sequential integration of ESPON evidence resorts to three aspects, recurring across all interventions: bird's-eye view of territorial constellations, intertemporal diagnostics of territorial change and new territorial value creation.

// Programme in a nutshell

MON 14	TUE 15	WED 16	THU 17	FRI 18
Publication of the joint ESPON – PT Presidency's contribution to a Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas	Release of the 3rd edition of TerritoriALL, the ESPON magazine	High-level political debate	High-level political debate	ECP meeting
MC Meeting	Joint Working Group meeting	ESPON online events	ESPON online events	
Joint Working Group meeting	Joint Working Group meeting	ESPON online events	ECP meeting	



// Monday, 14 June

9:00 **Publication of the joint ESPON – Portuguese Presidency’s contribution to a Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas**

The Policy Brief “Territorial evidence and policy advice for the prosperous future of rural areas” will be available on the ESPON website.

The Territorial Agenda 2030 recognises that policy responses need to have a strong territorial dimension and coordinated approaches, acknowledging and using the diversity and specificities of places. In this respect, TA2030 identifies a list of needed actions / challenges, clustered into 6 cross-cutting domains, all relevant for rural areas.

With this policy brief, ESPON proposes to use the evidence (data collected) and the (long term) trends that were identified, to further support and contribute in defining the future of rural areas, by approaching the complex territorial interactions in different strategical domains. ESPON evidence will be used to support policy recommendations by matching the 6 cross-cutting domains, which the Territorial Agenda 2030 focuses on, as these are particularly valid in rural areas, where economic and social disparities between places and between people, along with environmental risks and pressures, are having a very big impact.

10:00 - 17:00 **ESPON Monitoring Committee and Joint Working Group**

// Tuesday, 15 June

9:00 **Release of the 3rd edition of TerritoriALL, the ESPON magazine**

This issue will be focusing on recovery in Europe and the need for a long term vision that will include rural and urban areas. In this issue we expect to have contributions from the Vice President of the European Commission, Dubravka Šuica , the Minister of Environment and Energy of Portugal, João Pedro Matos Fernandes, as well as members of the European Parliament and many other authors.

10:00 - 17:00 **ESPON Joint Working Group**



// Wednesday, 16 June

10:30 – 12:00 **High-level political debate**

This online event will be broadcasted from Lisbon (Digital Azul Studio) featuring :

- // João Pedro Matos Fernandes, Minister of Environment and Climate Action
- // Dubravka Šuica, VP EU Commission (video message)
- // Vasco Cordeiro, First vice President of the CoR
- // Younous Omarjee, President of the REGI Committee – European Parliament

The debate will be moderated by Wiktor Szydarowski, ESPON EGTC director

13:30 – 14:30 **Workshop: Employment and spatial dynamics**

What are the spatial development potentials in Central Europe that can be tapped to transition to a more inclusive, sustainable and integrated development? How can transnational cooperation structures and mechanisms contribute to that transition? A Workshop on the results of the EMPLOY and CE Flows projects

14:30 – 16:00 **Workshop: Territorial impact of natural disasters (tbc)**

Workshop on the results of the TITAN project. The online workshop will be web streamed. Participants can register to participate or follow via social media and ESPON website

16:00 – 17:30 **Workshop: ESPON Tools (tbc)**

This workshop session will provide a bird's eye view on the ESPON toolbox as well as go into details in two tools following the preferences of the participants. The tools that will be addressed in this workshop are: ESPON Database, SDG benchmarking tool, FUORE tool, REGICO tool and MRS.ESPON tool. The participants will obtain more insight in how the ESPON tools can support their work as a practitioner.



// Thursday, 17 June

09:30 – 11:00 **High-level political debate**

This online event will be broadcasted from Lisbon (Digital Azul Studio) featuring :
// Elisa Ferreira , Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms (video message)
// Ana Abrunhosa, Portuguese Minister of Territorial Cohesion
// Prof. António Costa e Silva, Portuguese PRR Coordinator.
// Claude Turmes (video message)
// Wiktor Szydarowski, ESPON EGTC director

Moderator (TBC)

11:00 – 12:00 **Workshop: Cohesion policy for metropolitan areas**

Workshop on the results of METRO project. The online workshop will be web streamed. Participants can register to participate or follow via social media and ESPON website

13:00 – 14:00 **Workshop: Greenhouse gas impact of spatial planning**

This workshop session will address regional and local policy makers who face the current EU Climate and Energy Framework targets of a 40% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. The stakeholders of the QGasSP project will explain how they deal with measuring GHG emissions in relation to spatial planning in their region. The researchers will present a web application that models GHG emissions to support regions in estimating impacts of spatial plans on GHG emissions.

14:00 / 17:00 **ESPON ECP meeting**

// Friday, 17 June

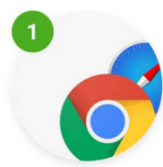
09:00 / 12:00 **ESPON ECP meeting**

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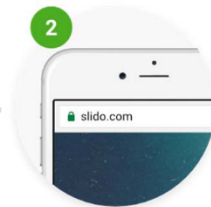
Find the most recent updates on our website: <https://www.espon.eu/espon-week-green-and-just-recovery-all-european-territories>



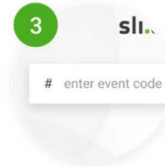
// 3 easy steps to join the interactive debate



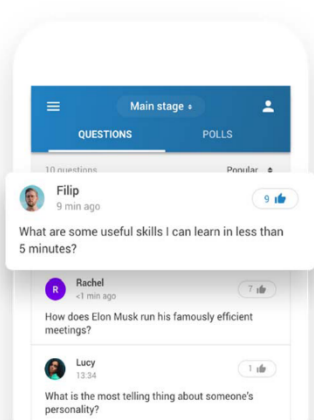
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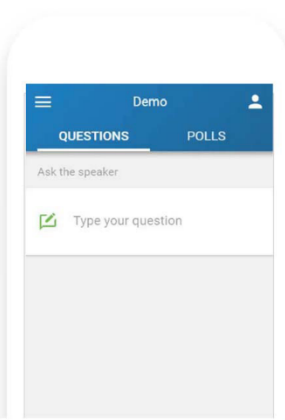
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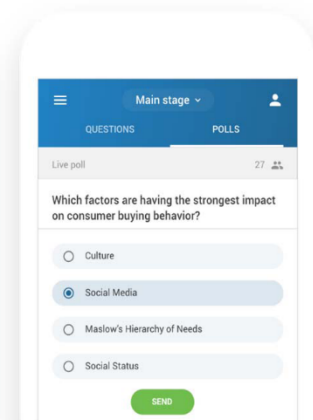
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