



# Science in support of European Territorial Development and Cohesion

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# Introduction

- What type of policy and/or scientific questions are currently important in your organisation, regarding territorial development and cohesion?
- For the EC:
  - **Policy and/or scientific questions which are at the intersection of Europe 2020 and the Territorial Agenda**



# On the format...

- Research with high quality and robust/up to date scientific content;
- Finely tuned on well defined and specific issues of interest for the policy makers;
- Results processed so as to be useful for policy makers;
- Aligned on the policy agenda and or the EC publications agenda;
- This implies to enhance the capacity of ESPON to respond to requests with different time horizons.



# On the content...

- Europe 2020 and the thematic objectives/investment priorities of CPR constitute core priorities for the EC;  

  - Examples:
    - Smart growth – Constraints to business and SMEs development
    - Inclusive growth – Geolocalisation of services of general interest
    - Sustainable growth – Mapping of existing green infrastructure
- Actions to help stakeholders to improve the design, the implementation and/or the evaluation of their programmes.
  - Example:
    - Contribute to assess the rationale of new macro-regional strategies
    - Monitor progress towards stakeholders specific objectives
- Impact of policy actions on territorial development
  - Example:
    - Contribute to (territorial) impact assessment (EC, CoR, ...)



# Conclusion

- Need to enhance dialogue with policymakers: the questions “What do you need ESPON results for? How do you intend to use the results?” must be investigated.
- Need to be reasonable: the question “Is what policymakers ask feasible?” must also be investigated.
- Research projects need to be focused on specific and precisely defined issues.
- Methodologies must be adapted to the needs of the end user of the results.



# Thank you for your attention



# Concentration of resources - Menu of thematic objectives

- *Research & innovation*
- *Information and communication technologies*
- *Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises*
- *Shift towards a low-carbon economy*
- *Climate change adaptation & risk prevention and management*
- *Environmental protection & resource efficiency*
- *Sustainable transport & removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures*
- *Employment & supporting labour mobility*
- *Social inclusion & combating poverty*
- *Education, skills & lifelong learning*
- *Institutional capacity building*

