

Spatial Planning in Western Europe: current trends, policies and research

An ESPON Conference and Design thinking lab fostering Participatory Leadership for improved policy-making.

17 April 2019 // The Royal Theatre, Korte Voorhout 3

The Hague, The Netherlands

The conference and design thinking lab are **open to all but require a mandatory registration** until a maximum capacity of **100 participants**.

Registration: <https://www.espon.eu/netherlands> | Deadline for registration is **Wednesday 10th of April 2019**.

The conference language is English, and the event is **free of charge**. **Coffee/tea, lunch** as well as a **networking cocktail** will be provided by the organizers.

1. Outline

Today, **spatial planning is affected by a series of trends** such as the increased availability of data sources and new forms of data processing, the emergence of new voices ranging from community leaders to large technology companies hosting 'sharing economy' platforms. At the same time, governments are trying to reinvent themselves by employing new soft policy instruments and network governance models. These trends can be considered as **both challenges and opportunities** for the many challenges spatial planning seeks to address, such as managing the transition to a green economy, keeping cities prosperous, just and liveable, and promoting sustainable urban development.

The ESPON conference on "*Spatial Planning in Western Europe: Current trends, policies and research*" addresses these core questions by:

- Looking into the content, design and implementation of the new National Spatial Strategy in The Netherlands;
- Reflecting on relevant results from ESPON research projects on territorial patterns of ecosystem resilience, such as green infrastructure networks and sustainable land use;
- Taking stock of the discussions held during the previous editions of the roadshow in France, Ireland, Belgium, and Luxembourg in 2018;
- Finding inspiration in sharing our experiences in different European countries.

The **afternoon design-thinking lab will be facilitated by Sensetribes: participants will contribute to a collaborative brainstorming session on some of the core changes which are affecting the spatial planning culture in Western Europe today. The outcomes will be presented in the presence of the Director of Spatial Planning of the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations.**

This ESPON conference is one of a series of Transnational Outreach events organised in Western Europe in 2019. It comes as the final edition of a roadshow which included national editions in France, Ireland, Luxembourg and Belgium.

2. Draft agenda

Event Moderation by Richard Tuffs

Design Thinking Facilitation by Mira Bangel (Sensetribe)

08.30	Registration and welcome coffee	
Opening session		
09.00	Welcome, introduction and context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michaela Gensheimer, ESPON EGTC
09.15	Design-thinking for spatial planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mira Bangel, Sensetribe
Part 1: Spatial planning priorities in the Netherlands		
09.30	Keynote: The National Environment and Planning Strategy <i>Nationale Omgevingsvisie</i> (NOVI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emiel Reiding, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Kingdom Relations (BZK) and project leader of the National Spatial Strategy (NOVI)
10.00	Spatial Policy in Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Dijksterhuis, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Kingdom Relations (BZK), head of spatial policy division
10.30	Dutch planning and urbanization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Evers, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency and Dutch ESPON ECP
10.45	Coffee	
Contributions from ESPON Research		
11.15	Keynote: The parallel and divergent pathways of European spatial planning systems: integration, adaptation, and engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vincent Nadin, Professor of Spatial Planning, TU Delft
11.45	Green infrastructure: ecosystem services, network potential and trade-offs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michaela Gensheimer, ESPON EGTC (Senior Project Expert of GRETA – Green infrastructure: Enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services for territorial development)
12.15	Sustainable urbanization and land use in European Regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Evers, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency and Dutch ECP (Project Leader of SUPER – Sustainable Urbanization and land-use Practices in European Regions)
12.30	Lunch [delivered by Lekkerbrood – 100% organic local bakery in The Hague]	
Part 2: Design-thinking for spatial planning		
<p><i>Participants will co-create policy recommendations for spatial planning on specific issues identified during the previous editions of the ESPON roadshow. Using the design thinking approach, group facilitators will engage with the participants on 4 topics:</i></p>		

13.30	Design Thinking Lab facilitation by 	
	Public Participation Design methodology of regional spatial planning strategies Regional Spatial Strategies Urban development Environment and Planning	
The outcomes will be presented to Hans Tijn, Director of Spatial Planning of the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations.		
17.00	Wrap-Up and Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Tuffs
17.30	Networking Cocktail	
18.30	End	

3. Target groups

The conference targets **planners and practitioners, implementing authorities, regional and local policy-makers and university academics and researchers** interested in further understanding the trends, policies and research results shaping the current spatial planning activities in Western Europe. The conference specifically reaches out to **all participants in the spatial planning roadshow organized in 2018** in France, Ireland, Luxembourg and Belgium.

Moreover, it targets **policy makers and practitioners in the Netherlands** involved in the development of the national Spatial Planning Strategy, the Environment and Planning Act as well as planning practitioners at the provincial, regional and municipal levels. Finally, Dutch planning academics are warmly welcomed to attend.

4. ESPON input

GRETA – Green infrastructure: Enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services for territorial development

<https://www.espon.eu/green-infrastructure>

Green Infrastructures (GI) are considered a benefit, inter alia, for territorial development because they provide multiple functions on the same spatial area. The underlying principle of GI is that the same area

of land can offer many environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits at the same time, provided its ecosystems are in a healthy condition. However, valuable European ecosystems are being degraded by land fragmentation, urban expansion and the building of transport and energy infrastructures. This affects habitats and species and reduces the spatial and functional coherence of the landscape. Degraded ecosystems have lower species richness and are unable to offer the same services as healthy ecosystems. Ecosystem services cover the benefits that can be derived from ecosystems, including among others the provision by nature of food, materials, clean water, clean air, climate regulation, flood prevention, pollination and recreation.

SUPER – Sustainable Urbanization and land-use Practices in European Regions

<https://www.espon.eu/super>

Land is a finite resource and the way it is used is one of the principal drivers of environmental change. Increasing land take affects fertile agricultural land, puts biodiversity at risk, increases the risk of flooding and water scarcity and contributes to both the causes and effects of global warming. Moreover, the effects of land take differ depending on the value, quality and functionality of the land. By building on existing key relevant studies and projects, the research suggests measures on how sustainable land use can be promoted and how land-take, soil sealing and urban sprawl can be avoided, reduced and compensated in Europe, its cities and regions. The starting hypothesis is that a sustainable use of land would entail that compact and denser urban development would lead to less need for transport, less energy use and more open spaces enhancing the quality of life thus generating benefits and requiring less costs.

5. Registration information

Please register at <https://www.espon.eu/netherlands> ! Deadline - Wednesday 10th April 2019

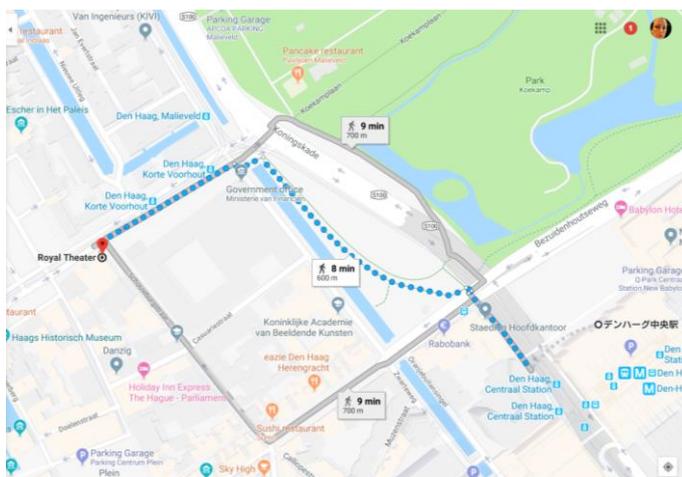
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6. Venue and Map of Location

Koninklijke Schouwburg – The Royal Theater



Korte Voorhout 3, 2511 CW, The Hague
 More information on its history:
<https://denhaag.com/en/location/419/royal-theatre>

Located in the heart of The Hague, the Koninklijke Schouwburg or Royal Theatre is one of the Netherlands' leading theatres, with the Dutch National Theatre as permanent artists in residence. This is a very modern theatre in a classic house.