

AMCER

Targeted Analysis 2013/2/18

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This report presents a more detailed overview of the analytical approach to be applied by the project. This Targeted Analysis is conducted within the framework of the ESPON 2013 Programme, partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

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1 More detailed overview of the analytical approach to be applied

1.1 The concept of the project

European Union (EU) research and development (R&D) policies influence R&D systems and territorial cohesion, at European level and in the regions. However, regions only have a fragmented vision of the territorial impact of EU Regional Policy in the R&D field and of the results of EU programmes, such as the FP6/FP7 and the CIP, on their territories. To monitor these issues, they are using national or European general assessments and local empirical data. Despite the fact that they are actors in the R&D field, regions are lacking strategic knowledge for building better synergies between their policies and EU R&D ones.

Against this background, the Advanced Monitoring and Coordination of EU R&D Policies at Regional Level (AMCER) project aims to provide a framework for analysis, coordination and monitoring of impacts of EU R&D policy at the regional level and in order to create strategic knowledge for building better synergies between individual regional R&D policies and EU ones. The study is carried out in nine European regions involved¹ and through a set of specific tasks divided into five components².

1.2 Main objectives of the research

The high level objective for the AMCER project is to: Provide a framework for the analysis and monitoring of impacts of EU R&D policy at the regional level and its current coordination in order to create strategic knowledge for building better synergies between individual regional R&D policies and EU ones.

In furtherance to this main objective, the project will deliver the following results:

- A synthesis of the main R&D challenges and the territorial and R&D systems of the regions involved in the project;
- The development and/or consolidation of data with regard to the investments funded through EU R&D policies in the regions involved in the project;
- The development of a harmonised methodology for the development and consolidation of regionalised data concerning the investments funded in the framework of EU R&D policies in the regions involved in the project; a methodology for advanced monitoring that is able to control for headquarters effects and with recommendations for the next generation of EU R&D and innovation programme, Horizon 2020.
- The analysis of the impact of the investment funded in the framework of EU R&D policies in the regions involved in the project both in terms of: a) R&D performance, territorial cohesion, R&D specialisation and b) territorial trends like geographical concentration of R&D activities in regions, links and the eventual parallels between the territorial dynamics generated by EU funding for R&D in terms of geographical concentration of activities and the ones observed more globally;

¹ AMCER Regions: Tuscany, Andalusia, Catalonia, Bretagne, Provence Alpes – Cote d’Azur, Ostrobothnia, Lower Saxony, Flanders, East of England.

² See section 6 for a detailed description of the components.

- An inter-regional comparison of the results obtained for each of the regions involved, at horizontal level (all R&D sectors taken together), and at the level of specific R&D sectors to be defined.

2 Methodology and hypothesis for further investigation

The 5 components of the AMCER project are linked with each other, the first and the last components being respectively the introduction and conclusion of the project. Their outputs are required for and feed the tasks of subsequent components.

Component one was oriented toward the production of an overview of each region as regards RDT landscape, challenges and policies. Component 1 was envisaged as a first means for involving the regional policymakers as well as a first means for identifying existing data on R&D at regional level. Component 1 was designed with the objective to compare available data with the data useful for the sake of the project. From this point of view, component 1 was a milestone in the identification process of available regional RDTI data.

Component 2 is aimed at collecting and analysing data on project financed with EC funding. During component 2, data are collected from the different services of the European commission. Data are then analysed in order to remove/take into account the headquarters' effect in EC data. Both component 1 and component 2 have been designed in order to pave the way for component 3 and 4 which will elaborate on the previous components.

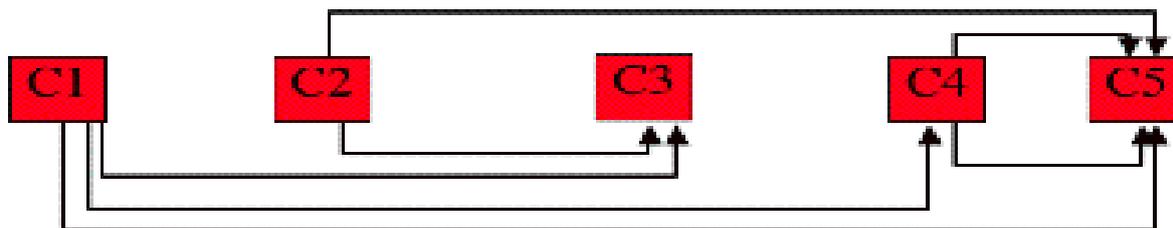
Component 3 is designed to present the results of component 2 and to fine-tune the methodology of both component 1 and component 2 in order to end up with a methodological paper which is seen as a milestone for the treatment of EC data and for the effective use of EC data for the regional stakeholders.

Component 4 is a follow-up of both components 1 and 2 in the sense that the data collected during the two first components are analysed in a broader context in order to measure the actual impact of EC funding on the regional systems of research and innovation.

The intervention logic is organised as such:

- 1) Component 1 present RDTI strengths and weaknesses in the nine regions;
- 2) Component 2 will enable a sharp identification of the participation of the regional actors of our nine region in the EC programmes;
- 3) Component 1 and component 2 will end up into a collective phase for fine-tuning the methodology (that will consists of component 3);
- 4) After RDTI strengths and weaknesses of the regions have been identified (component 1) and participation of the regional actors in the EC programmes have been determined (component 2), component 4 will compare the R&D specialisation of the regions with the specialisation in the EC programmes in order to show consistency/discrepancy between the regional RDTI assets and the regional actors involved in European projects.

Figure 1: Components interlinkages



	Component 1 Synthesis of the main R&D and territorial challenges	Component 2 List and breakdown of EU R&D investments at regional level	Component 3 Methodology for the development of regionalised data	Component 4 Analysis of EU R&D policies impact	Component 5 Synthesis and comparisons
Input : Relevant analysis and data to take into account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •ESPON 2006 thematic project (2.1.2) •Regional Innovation Monitor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •ESPON 2006 thematic project (2.1.2) •FP /CIP Contracts databases •ERDF annual impact reports •Regional general assessments 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •ESPON 2013 applied research project on territorial dimension (KIT) •Study for DG ENTR about Synergies between FP CIP and SF 	
Related Components			Component 1 Component 2	Component 1 Component 2	Component 1 Component 2 Component 3 Component 4
Output : Expected results / Deliverables / Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Synthesis study about policy challenges in the 9 regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Indicators, maps, SNA, projects breakdown tables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Methodological paper for advanced monitoring of R&D 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Overall analysis on the impact of European programmes at regional level, maps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Synthesis document, interregional comparison
Objectives/Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •TPG or regional correspondents are in charge to fill a template with information provided by stakeholders or other local authorities •Component leader collects the information sent by country correspondents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •TPG or regional correspondents are in charge to create a dialogue in stakeholders in order to identify and validate each regional participation •European collaborations of the 9 regions are investigated through Social Network analysis tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Component leader TPG and stakeholders develop a common approach to draw an approach of a first methodology to assess regional participation in European programmes. The use of the Component 2 results regarding headquarters effects and the analysis of specificities of R&D&I systems of each European countries is crucial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Indicators and information provided by C2 are analysed by country correspondents (Trend, Specialisation, actors strengthening). •Correlation between programmes is examined (leverage effect of SF on FP participation for example) •Analysis is completed by patents and clusters analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Synthesis and comparison at R&D sectors level and at interregional level
Key methodologies and analyses to be used (see Chapter 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Regional Innovation System analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Social Network Analysis •Headquarters effect correction 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Patent analysis, Cluster analysis, Impact analysis of EU R&D policies on regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Drawing up of comparative review and synthesizing analyses, digesting of findings, policy analysis etc.

3 Review of the main literature and data sources

3.1 Theoretical Background and Review of the main literature

Territorial Impact Assessment and territorial cohesion

The concept of Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) in an EU context did not appear until 1999 with the adoption of the European Spatial Development Practice (ESPDP). The ESPDP repeatedly refers to the importance of territorial impact assessment for a number of different EU goals, for example; 'Introduction of territorial impact assessment as an instrument for spatial assessment of large infrastructure projects (especially in the transport sector)'. In 2004, in the Third report on economic and social cohesion, Territorial Cohesion was included as one of the main development objectives of the European Union, therefore giving TIA the necessary stage for further development. More recently the European Policy debate has been structured by a number of initiatives that are centred on TIA and the development territorial evidence as a basis for decision making. The reference to Territorial Cohesion was included in the Treaty of Lisbon in 2010 as a means to facilitate economic and social integration between regions in Europe. The Europe 2020 initiative also incorporates a territorial approach, particularly through its 5th target, Poverty/Social exclusion, which looks to better integrate all nations and regions in inclusive growth strategies 'ensuring the benefits of growth reach all parts of the EU'. Further documentation on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion, including the Commission's 7th progress report, looks directly at the impact regions and cities make to growth whilst also linking back to the Europe 2020 targets

In 2008 the Commission published a Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion which focused on how 'Public policy can help territories to make the best use of their assets.' The report makes practical examples relating to regions with specific geographical features that result in added development challenges; 'mountain regions...island regions...the 18 sparsely populated regions' specifically. Similarly, the Green Paper on the European Research Area (SEC (2007) 412) advocates addressing R&D investments from a wider economic and territorial development perspective.

However, TIA has not been accepted easily across the EU, and the methodologies developed from existing studies are often regarded as too complex for policymakers to understand and too resource intensive to implement. TIA is, therefore, a controversial topic in certain Member States and is regarded by some as an additional regulatory requirement imposed on them.³

The AMCER project will support the argument for basing European policy on territorial needs, with the results of the project providing valuable and intelligent evidence for new policy suggestions. The work to be completed in the field of territorial impact assessment will exploit the aforementioned studies and analysis while achieving the project objectives based on a range of European research programme databases listed in section 3.3.

³ Faludi, Making Sense of the 'Territorial Agenda of the European Union', 2007

3.2 Data sources that will be used to contribute to the AMCER project

Regarding the Framework programme, FP6/FP7 and CIP contracts the following databases will be used.

- The FP6 contracts database (2002-2006)
- The FP7 contracts database named “Corda” database (2007-2010)
- The CIP-ICT PSP contract database (2007-2010)
- The CIP-IEE contract database (2007-2010)
- The CIP-EIP contract database (2007-2010)
- Structural Fund programmes

In the case of Structural Fund programmes a programme level analysis will be undertaken, identifying the nature of Structural Fund activities currently targeted on R&D. (see also description of Component 2 for more detail.)

3.3 Targeted use of secondary data and expert information sources

The description and analysis of the socio-economic framework conditions, the RTDI capability and performance, and the main R&D performers will be developed mainly on the basis of indicators from secondary statistical data and descriptive analytical methods. In order to meet the aim to describe the governance structure, the innovation policy issues as well as the main territorial trends and challenges mostly qualitative data, such as reports and expert information will be used. The final assessment of the regional R&D systems will be based on the information and findings resulting from previous analyses (Component 1).

The conclusion of several EU projects such as ERIK, RAPIDE, IMPACTSCAN, INNOWATCH and the PRO INNO Europe® project INNO Appraisal, have focused on regions and the innovation and knowledge economy and how policy can support this. Relevant sources of information concerning R&D and innovation policies and regional development, include: Regional Innovation Monitor (2011); Portrait of the Regions, on Circa website; ERDF Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013; EUROSTAT statistics notably concerning: Regions and cities; Science, technology and Innovation; Information Society; Europe 2020 Indicators, etc.; European Commission, DG Research, EU Framework Programme Evaluations reports, notably Impact assessment of the Regions of Knowledge programme; European Commission, Regional Policy, Evaluations of the 2007-2013 programming period, notably Evaluating innovation activities: methods and practices; Evaluations of the 2000-2006 programming period, Ex Post Evaluation of the ERDF in Objectives 1 & 2, etc.

3.4 EU Policy framework

In order to achieve relevant and meaningful results and recommendation, the TGP will continue to pay particular attention to developments at EU level, notably concerning Europe 2020 strategy and the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative, the new Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020), the modifications foreseen concerning Structural and Cohesion policy in the context of the new Multiannual Financing Framework, and EU Territorial Cohesion. The project results would provide a contribution to the debate on developing R&D and innovation, evaluating the performance and the impact of public assistance for this purpose at the EU, national and regional levels. In particular in Component 5, the (draft) final report will also include a part on policy analysis, which will allow to compare and put into context the results and findings from AMCER activities with the relevant development in the EU, notably related to the new Financing Framework.

4 Use of existing ESPON results relevant for this project

There have been a number of projects funded by ESPON in the 2006 and 2013 programmes that have used TIA to model the impact of policies on socio-economic impact indicators.⁴ These investigations include useful insights as to how the AMCER aims can be broadened to provide a wider range of information.

Territorial Impact of EU Research & Development Policy (Project 2.1.2) – is of particular relevance and interest for AMCER. The project analysed how structural and R&D policies can improve the R&D capacity of the regions, notably concerning FP5. The results of the project showed how ‘Levels of R&D and innovation in an economy are influenced by the ‘absorptive capacity’ of the territory in question.’ The results from 2.1.2 that relate directly to AMCER include: ‘Analysis of R&D indicators – collection of data for agreed indicators from EUROSTAT, OECD, National Statistical Agencies and some ad hoc data sources. Mapping of indicator coverage, analysis of patterns of activity per indicator.’

KIT - The KIT project can provide useful inputs from the theoretical point of view, even if it has a rather different perspective (large continental areas versus regions). We will explore in consultation with the KIT project team whether the information and data from that project can be used in the context of AMCER, taking into account the state of advancement of the former. It is scheduled to be concluded in late 2012.

TERCO - from the theoretical point of view, TERCO uses massively quantitative and statistical techniques which however may not be compatible with AMCER approach.

INTERCO may provide useful insights and it may also provide relevant data and indicators, depending on the status of advancement of its activities (it is scheduled to be concluded in February 2012). Consultations with INTERCO project team may also be undertaken to further explore possible synergies.

⁴ ESPON Project 2.4.1 ‘Territorial trends and impacts of EU Environment Policy’; ESPON Project 2.4.2. ‘Integrated analysis of transnational and national territories’; ESPON 2006 project 3.1 ‘Integrated tools for European spatial development’; ESPON 2006 project 3.2 ‘Spatial scenarios in relation to the ESDP and EU Cohesion Policy’; ESPON Project 4.1.3. ‘Monitoring Territorial Development’.

5 Distribution of work packages among partners and the breakdown of the project's budget on Individual partners per budget line

5.1 Overview of working hours

Nr.	Lead/Project Partner Name	Number of working hours foreseen
1	INNOVA Europe	1.915,00
2	Technopolis	1.460,00
3	Centro di Risonance Magnetiche CERM	220,00
4	TASO Desarrollos	367,00
5	Vaasan Yliopisto	295,00
6	Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universitat Hannover	865,00
7	University of Sheffield	275,00
8	Fundacion Deusto	410,00
9	Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Paris (CCIP) ESIEE	280,00
10	Universita della Svizzera Italiana	400,00
	Total	6.487,00

5.2 Distribution of working hours in work packages among partners

Participant Id Nr.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Task 1.1	Overall project management	200	80	20	37	25	40	25	26	20	40
Task 1.2	Financial and quality management	80	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Component 0 – Task 2.0	Launching phase	150	120	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Component 1 – Task 2.1	Mapping the regional contexts	100	120	30	30	30	30	20	0	0	0
Component 2 – Task 2.2	General statement of the regional participation in FP, CIP and ERDF	350	400	60	120	80	340	80	0	0	0
Component 3 – Task 2.3	Methodology for the development of regionalised data on the results of FP6/FP7 and CIP	150	200	5	35	35	50	25	0	0	0
Component 4 – Task 2.4	Impact Assessment	350	400	60	100	80	340	80	320	200	300
Component 5 – Task 2.5	Synthesis and inter-regional comparison	335	60	20	20	20	40	20	39	35	35
Task 3.1	Mapping of interested audiences in project	40	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Task 3.2	Communicating to interested audiences on research results	160	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL hours		1.915	1.460	220	367	295	865	275	410	280	400

5.3 Breakdown by budget line and work package

Breakdown budget line/ workpackage	Workpackage 1 / Coordination	Workpackage 2 / Activity	Workpackage 3 / Dissemination	Total
1. Staff	€22.589,96	€217.757,89	€8.621,30	€248.969,15
2. Administration	€4.043,34	€40.481,84	€1.698,08	€46.223,26
3. Travel and accomodation	€0,00	€31.200,00	€0,00	€31.200,00
4. Equipment	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00
5. External expertise and services	€18.000,00	€0,00	€0,00	€18.000,00
Total	€44.633,30	€289.439,73	€10.319,38	€344.392,41

5. 4 Break down of the project 's budget on the individual partners per budget line

Nr.	Lead/Project Partner Partner name	Staff	Administration	Travel and accomodation	Equip ment	External expertise and services	Total
1	INNOVA Europe	62.005,40	10.974,67	9.500,00	0	3.000,00	85.480,07
2	Technopolis	53.516,50	12.095,61	7.900,00	0	3.000,00	76.512,11
3	Centro di Risonance Magnetiche CERM	11.000,00	1.762,50	750,00	0	1.500,00	15.012,50
4	TASO Desarrollos	10.239,35	1.760,90	1.500,00	0	1.500,00	15.000,25
5	Vaasan Yliopisto	10.410,55	1.786,58	1.500,00	0	1.500,00	15.197,13
6	Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universitat Hannover	39.573,75	7.543,54	4.800,00	0	1.500,00	53.417,29
7	University of Sheffield	10.400,50	1.850,98	750,00	0	1.500,00	14.501,48
8	Fundacion Deusto	16.350,00	2.677,50	1.500,00	0	1.500,00	22.027,50
9	Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Paris (CCIP) ESIEE	16.973,10	2.770,97	1.500,00	0	1.500,00	22.744,07
10	Universita della Svizzera Italiana	18.500,00	3.000,00	1.500,00	0	1.500,00	24.500,00
	Total	248.969,15	46.223,25	31.200,00	0	18.000,00	344.392,40

6 Detailed description of the AMCER components and preliminary findings

6.1 Component 1 Mapping the regional contexts

The overall objective of the first component within the AMCER project is to synthesise data about the territorial and R&D systems of the nine regions involved. Thus, the first component gives an overview about the regions and forms the basis for further analyses. On the one side, it outlines the elaboration of the theoretical and analytical framework as well as the research approach of Component 1, and on the other side, presents the analyses of the AMCER regions. In the course of the analysis, there is also important to point out the region-specific strengths and weaknesses as well as the existing diversity. In the meantime, the report gives a review of the main literature and data sources.

Against the backdrop of results regarding the impact of R&D policies on regional R&D systems and territorial cohesion, the main goal of the first component within the AMCER project is to provide general insights into the participating regions' RTDI systems. Focusing on regions, the insights will be developed by compiling a synthesis of the R&D systems and territorial challenges at the regional level for each of the nine case-study regions involved in the AMCER project. Based on secondary data, reports, and expert information, the component will provide an analysis and assessment of the regional R&D systems (using traditional STI indicators) and their territorial trends and challenges.

In order to answer the research questions and to fulfil the research aims formulated (see AMCER application, Tasks 2.1.2, 2.1.3 and 2.1.5), every region will be analysed separately as the following:

In the first part the region's socio-economic characteristics are stressed. Herewith insights will be gained into the regional economy. The second part will deal with RTDI-related issues and thereby deliver information about R&D efforts and inputs into the process of knowledge generation, human capital endowment, innovation through output and the region's internal and external connectivity. The third section aims at analysing RTDI governance and innovation policy matters. The fourth part constitutes trends and challenges resulting for the region. The fifth and final part aims on a short, final assessment of the respective regional R&D system on the basis of the gained information and cognitions.

6.2 Component 2 General statement of the regional participation in FP, CIP, ERDF

Component two will provide a list and breakdown of EU R&D investments at regional level in the nine study regions. For this purpose the following tasks will be carried out:

- Initial data collection and methodological refinement.
- Design of templates and selection of indicators for data mining.
- Matching and cleaning vis-à-vis central EC database contents.

- Analysis of the EU R&D budget and projects breakdown (ERDF, FP and CIP) per region.
- Assessment and analysis of the collaborative links developed by stakeholders involved in projects funded by FP6/FP7 and CIP.

Data collection and checking (Task 2.2.1 of the proposal): Regarding the Framework programme, FP6 and FP7 contracts database are known and will be used. The full availability of the CIP contracts database needs to be ensured and would depend on the degree of cooperation of the relevant EU services. Information regarding European collaboration is provided for each theme with regional maps and the structuring effect of FP for the regional stakeholders is shown by Social Network Analysis. Regarding Structural Funds, they are related to research and innovation to varying degrees. Each European region manages normally the ERDF budget and monitors the ERDF funding uptake through structured databases. ERDF database structures depend normally on the country. In the case of the Structural Fund programmes, we will undertake a programme level analysis, identifying the nature of Structural Fund activities currently targeted on R&D. The role of TPG and stakeholders will be crucial to achieve this task. Design of template (Task 2.2.2 of the proposal): In order to implement the communication between TPG and AMCER Excel sheet templates have to be designed to set a common framework for each of the 9 regions and to ease the comparison between them. These templates have to be designed by TPG in consultation with AMCER participants. In order to build a set of agreed indicators, a common taxonomy has to be decided with a set of definitions.

Matching and cleaning of regional information vis-à-vis central EC databases contents (Task 2.2.3 of the proposal). Analysis on EU R&D budget and projects breakdown (ERDF, FP and CIP) for each region (task 2.2.4 of the proposal): From the data gathered on regional participations under the previous task, indicators and budget breakdowns will be calculated. Regional participations and budgets for FP, CIP, and SF are then distributed into R&D sectors (an adapted FP7 taxonomy can be used for that) at intra-regional level (NUTS 3 generally) in order to obtain a first set of comprehensive and aggregated indicators. The core project group for component 2 will provide the indicators of reference for this and will ask the TPG to comment upon them and to further contribute to them, notably as regards:

- The number of projects and the stakeholders funded in the regions involved in the project through the EU regional policy, the FP and the CIP.
- The total EU R&D budgets invested through the EU regional policy, the FP and the CIP in the regions involved in the project
- The typology of the participants in each region (Higher education, research, company, SME...)
- The breakdown of the projects funded through the EU regional policy, the FP and the CIP, and of their aggregated budgets into scientific fields, at regional and infra-regional levels, in the regions involved in the project
- The collaborative links developed by the stakeholders involved in the projects funded by FP and CIP

6.3 Component 3 Methodology for the development of regionalised data on the results of FP6/7 and CIP

The Component will be an opportunity to confront results to the existing typologies that have been proposed to define regional characteristics with regard to R&D and innovation efforts and R&D and innovation outcomes.

The aim is to develop a methodology, with recommendations to EU and regional authorities, to monitor and evaluate the effects of various EU programmes on regional R&D and innovation sectors.

The objectives will be to

- Define common regional analysis and typology
- Present and discuss the results of AMCER analysis in the context of a workshop
- Prepare on this basis a methodology for analyzing FP and CIP data at regional level
- Prepare a synthesis paper on the above-mentioned methodology

The aim of the **workshop** (Task 2.3.3) will be twofold:

- Discussing the impacts of regional policy in favour of R&D and innovation on employment and growth; and
- Discussing the methodology to measure these impacts with experts who have participated in similar projects.

In practice, the workshop will be organised in three steps. After a presentation in a plenary session of the objective and of the organisation of the workshop, parallel sessions will be held. Each parallel session will start with a presentation by a key speaker who was or is involved in a similar project. After the presentation, a common set of questions will be tackled dealing with the pitfalls, the outcomes and the ability of the project to reply to policymakers' needs. A rapporteur will be assigned to present the main conclusions of the parallel session to the plenary session (third step). The Consortium suggests that the rapporteurs will be regional policymakers. This will ensure that issues and topics that will be discussed will be oriented towards policymakers' interest and needs (Component 3).

Participants should mainly be the regional policymakers and the European commission staff, in addition relevant experts may be invited as keynote speakers.

The second objective is to fine-tune the methodology to measure the relative impacts of EU assistance. At the end of the Component we will propose a working paper with the objective of making it available to the public in one form or another. The paper will present the main results and will represent a milestone for further research on the measurement of the impacts of R&D and innovation policies on employment and growth.

6.4 Component 4 Impact assessment

Component 4 constitutes the impact assessment of the previous components' research data; providing an analysis of EU R&D policies' impact on both R&D performance and territorial cohesion in the regions involved in the project. It will focus in particular on the impact of European projects and on the regional R&D systems, in terms of Inputs, Networking and Outputs, etc. It builds directly on the activity from Component 1.

The Region Profiling (task 2.4.1. of the AMCER application) aims at identifying the most important and promising research/economic sectors, the main actors and the policies developed to support R&D at the regional level. This section makes use of indicators as well as document analysis.

EU funding profiling (task 2.4.2. of the AMCER application) aims at identifying in greater detail which areas at regional level are more often funded by EU program. The regional partners will be required to collect more detailed information on funding streams and initiative promoted by the regional level toward its R&D system.

Quantitative estimation of impact will make use of the Cluster analysis and of the Network and Patent analysis. The cluster analysis will identify the agglomerations of economic activity that are particularly significant in each of the nine regions. Employment data from the European Cluster Observatory will be used to calculate specialisation indicators. This will provide a basis for comparative analysis with the data gathered in component 2 on the distribution of R&D subsidies from FP and CIP programmes, enabling an exploration of the relationship between specialisation and EU public-policy support in R&D over time.

Estimates of impacts will be based through approximations, such as correlating cohesion spending and GDP, employment and R&D growth; investments in specific cluster of activity and outputs measured in terms of firms involved in the Framework Programs, patents, commercialization, employment.

In a second stage, qualitative assessments (task 2.4.3. of the AMCER application) will be carried out with the support of the regional partners. Key players will be identified as targets of the qualitative analysis, by using both information from the previous components and in consultation with regional partners.

A survey, in the form of on-line questionnaires, will be developed in order to qualitatively assess how the EU (and Regional) policies impact at micro level. The target of such questionnaires will be technology and R&D directors of the companies involved as well as other important regional actors. In addition, some regional experts and key players will be interviewed in order to further address the previous questions (task 2.4.3. of the AMCER application).

The component will result in a paper on impact assessment summarizing the main results of the analysis carried out (task 2.4.4. of the AMCER application).

6.5 Component 5 Synthesis and inter-regional comparison

The final Component will bring together the results from each of the previous Components and tasks. The work will provide a synthesis of the research results and of inter-regional comparisons. Creating comparative analysis and synthesis at both the horizontal level and at the R&D sector level. Also, the (draft) final report will also include a part on policy analysis, which will allow to compare and put into context the results and findings from AMCER activities with the relevant developments at EU level, notably related to the new Financing Framework, Europe 2020, Innovation Europe initiative, Territorial Cohesion, etc.

The presentation of the results will take place at the final conference and will follow the final report. The final report will have been checked at draft stage by the end users, the ESPON Monitoring Committee, the European Commission and the ESPON Coordination Unit. Therefore the final conference is expected to allow for creating synergies between the project results and related policy and research initiatives. The conference involves members of the Steering Committee, as well as other organisations to be invited by the steering committee.

6.6 Work Package 3 Dissemination

The objectives of the dissemination activities can be summarized as follows:

- Maximize the visibility of the AMCER project to external stakeholders in each of the partner countries
- Support and improve the value of the AMCER project activities through constructive interaction with concerned audiences
- Disseminate the main results of the AMCER project to relevant stakeholders and wider target audiences.

Task 3.1. Mapping of interested audiences in the project: Activities related to this task will involve the compilation and creation of a database containing useful contacts details (names, function, and email and phone contacts, as appropriate) of relevant audiences. Indicatively, the database should include between 500 and 1000 contacts. Concerning regional contacts, cooperation will be sought from Stakeholders and Project Partners. The database will be populated by all partners in the project ensuring that there is a potential for wider dissemination to stakeholders from all the countries involved.

Task 3.2. Communicating to interested audiences on research results: The above-mentioned database will be used to communicate to relevant audiences' insights and progress statements relating to the dissemination content. The various options outlined in the application concerning dissemination and communication activities (section 4, 5.1. dissemination and communication strategy) will be reviewed and validated in coordination with stakeholders to assess their interests and priorities, both in terms of impact and feasibility. In this context, careful reflection will be engaged in cooperation with regional stakeholders on ways to communicate the AMCER results to a non-regional and scientific audience. In particular following ESPON MC valuable comments, and depending on the timing available and the availability of the project results, possibility will be explored for partners to set aside

some time for dissemination to regions in their own country, preferably through co-operation with their ECP.

It should be noted that progress on the activities related to this task is depended on the project's progress in achieving its objectives on the various components as well as the availability of relevant information and inputs from all partners and Stakeholders. Therefore, it is likely that most of the dissemination activities will be concentrated following delivery of the draft final report when results of analyses carried out within components 1 to 5, and notably the synthesis and interregional comparison, will be available and validated by TGP and Stakeholders.

7 Overview of more detailed deliveries and outputs envisaged by the project

The following deliverables have been planned:

- **Revised Inception Report**

This report provides an analytical framework and methodological approach for the overall project. It presents the overall background and context of the assignment and profiles of the 9 AMCER regions based on a uniform set of indicators and an RDI typology. Finally, it reports on the first screening of data availability and quality in relation to Components 1-4 and the corresponding methodologies of analysis. The Report will be presented to the Steering Committee. In parallel to this, the synthesis report resulting from Component will also be circulated to Stakeholders.

- **Interim Report**

This report will present intermediate project results, to the extent possible. It will also provide an insight on how the project is expected to formulate strategic recommendations. Activities performed and the degree of advancement of components 2, 3 and 4 will be included in the Interim Report.

- **Draft Final Report**

This report will present the final results of the project and will focus on relevant conclusions and recommendations at the level of each region. Also the monitoring tool shall be fully presented. The report will comprise findings from the activities performed with regard to the research components 1-5.

- **Final Report**

This report shall be a revision of the Draft Final Report taking into consideration comments and suggestions on the Draft Final Report received from the stakeholders and end users, the ESPON Monitoring Committee, the European Commission and the ESPON Coordination Unit.

The report will comprise findings under components 1-5. In parallel with this final report, the datasets, maps and figures used and produced within the framework of the project will be delivered.

To prepare the above, the following activities need to be carried out:

- Background study about policy challenges in the 9 regions (Component 1)
- Indicators, maps, SNA, projects breakdown (Component 2)
- Common and agreed methodology according countries (Component 3)
- Overall analysis about the impact of European programmes at regional level (Component 4)
- Synthesis document and interregional comparison (Component 5)

8 Indication of likely barriers that the project implementation might face

1. Access to data of EU datasets has proved to be much more complicated and time consuming than initially expected. Although finally the task was largely achieved, this diverted resources from other tasks and has delayed the start of component 2 which focus on the analysis of the data related to EU R&D programmes.
2. Access to regional data has not been optimal concerning component 1 and has created delay also in that component. The possibility to effectively access, obtain and consult regional data is essential for the rest of the project components and notably Components 2 and 4. In order to achieve access to regional data, the TGP has taken the following steps. In September 2011, the Consortium instructed the respective regional correspondents on activities under Component 2 aiming at providing a list and breakdown of EU R&D investments at regional level. In December 2011, the TGP has issued a request of cooperation to regional correspondents. A meeting should be held with the competent regional representatives to clarify and address all possible questions and avoid additional delays. Difficulties may also be related to disparities in the data and its quality that would prevent or complicate the task of comparing regional situations.
3. Slow and ineffective cooperation with Stakeholders: the contacts with Stakeholders are not structured and organising steering committee meeting has proved problematic. Regular consultation of stakeholders will be pursued and stepped up as much as possible both as a group and on an individual basis. However, there is a serious risk that the project progress may be impaired by slow or no commitment by stakeholders regions. A pragmatic approach need to be agreed upon by all parties involved in the project that, while preserving the prerogatives of the stakeholders, would allow the TGP to complete the tasks that it has been allocated in a timely fashion.

9 Orientation of the project previewed towards the Interim report

The original Inception Report was submitted on 30 September 2011 to ESPON CU. The formal reply from ESPON CU including a feedback with detailed comments and a request for resubmission was received on the 20 December 2011. In this reply the ESPON CU has requested a resubmission of a revised Inception Report for 31 January 2012.

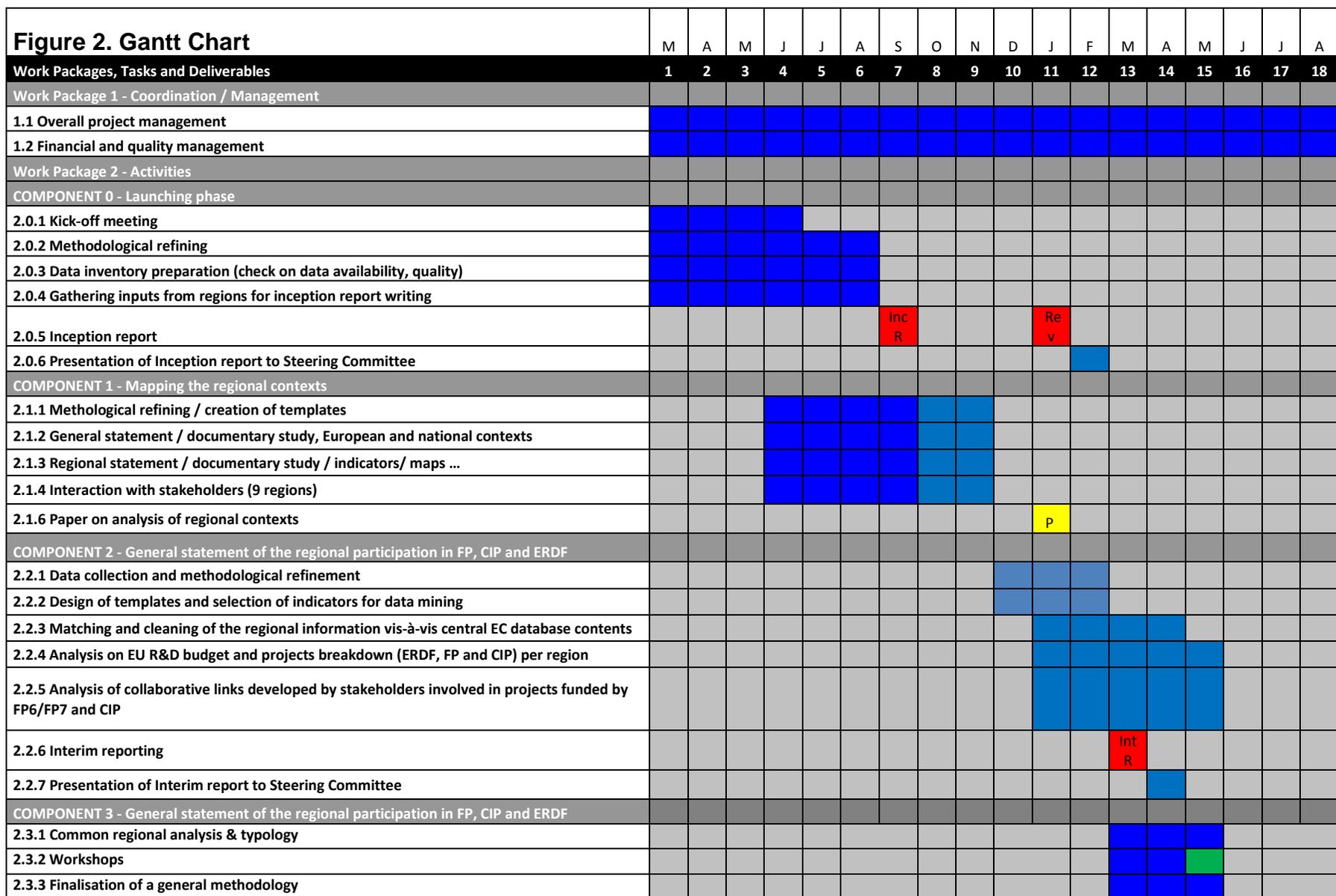
The group of stakeholders is fully aware of the changes and has set a meeting to discuss the revised Inception Report for the 16 February 2012.

The Interim report was scheduled to be delivered 22 January 2012 and a request of postponing the deadline to 31 March 2012 has been submitted to the ESPON MC.

No changes in the draft final (1st July 2012) and final report (30 September 2012) deadlines are currently anticipated.

In the period toward the next report the following development are expected:

- Completion of activities on Component 1: submission of synthesis report (task 2.1.4.), in parallel to the revised Inception Report; presentation and discussion with Stakeholders at Steering Committee on 16 February 2012; and collecting and addressing as appropriate possible comments and remarks.
- Continuation of activities related to Component 2: access to the relevant sources of data at EU level, designing of template and indicators, matching regional data vis-a-vis EU data, analysis of EU R&D assistance per region, analysis of collaborative links between stakeholders involved, etc.
- Initiating activities related to Component 3, notably with a view to the preparation of regional typology and as regards organisation of the workshop (task 2.3.2.).
- Initiating and pursuing as much as possible the activities related to Component 4: in depth regional analysis; analysis of correlation between EU programme participation and R&D output; etc.
- Dissemination: activities related to communication and information will be pursued concerning information of stakeholders, mapping of interested audiences, devising possible means for communicating the project results, etc. Ideas and proposals should be discussed with stakeholders, notably in the context of the forthcoming Steering Committee.



	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
Deliverables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
D1 Inception Report																		
D2 Interim Report																		
D3 Draft Final Report																		
D4 Final report																		
Meetings with ESPON and the Steering Committee																		
M1 Kick-off meeting																		
M2 Steering Committee meeting further to Inception Report																		
M3 Steering Committee meeting further to Interim Report																		
M4 Steering Committee meeting further to Draft Final Report																		
M5 Final Conference further to Final Report																		
Consortium meetings																		
Project management board meetings																		
Dissemination board meetings																		
Milestones																		
Ms0 Partnership agreement																		
Ms1 Regional contexts paper																		
Ms2 Methodology paper for the development of regionalised data on the results of FP6/FP7 and CIP participation and funding at regional level																		
Ms3 Impact assessment-Regional Analysis-Quantitative Analysis paper (incl. patent and cluster analyses)																		
Ms4 Contact database																		
Ms5-n Circulation of information on AMCER progress and highlights																		
Workshops																		
Ws1 Workshop with ESPON, Steering Committee and TPG																		