

# ESPON moving forward

Thiemo W. Eser of the ESPON Managing Authority

ESPON seminar

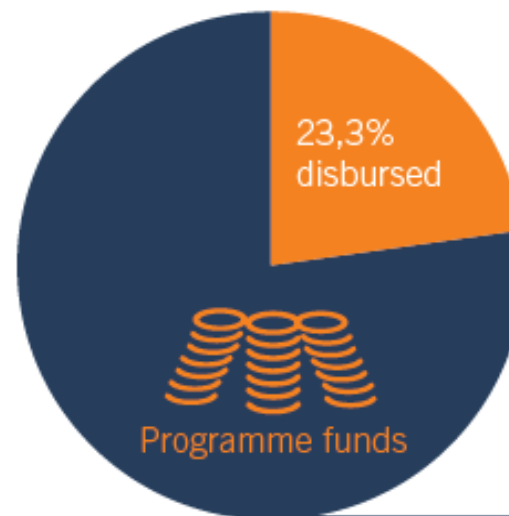
Iasi, Romania - 20 June 2019

# 1. Where do we stand with the implementation?

## Progress during 2018

During 2018 ESPON has continued the development of territorial evidence towards key ongoing and new policy processes at all levels. ESPON has as continuously been involved in a debate with key EU, national, regional and local stakeholders for the identification of their main policy-needs. In addition, the programme has supported EU sectoral policies and the development of national policies on regional development, spatial planning, thematic areas (rural, digital, cultural heritage, industrial etc.) and regional/local/urban development strategies.

Start of the single operation



100 % of the funds have been committed and 11,359,933.30 € disbursed.

## 2. Main feedback from the evaluation

1. More efforts towards **regional and local policy makers**
2. More efforts to **involve scientists** and **stimulate debate**
3. A more **strategic approach to reach the target groups**: more specialised outputs, more specialised outreach and communication strategies focusing the specific needs of the identified target groups; etc.

### ➤ **Message for the next generation of ESPON**

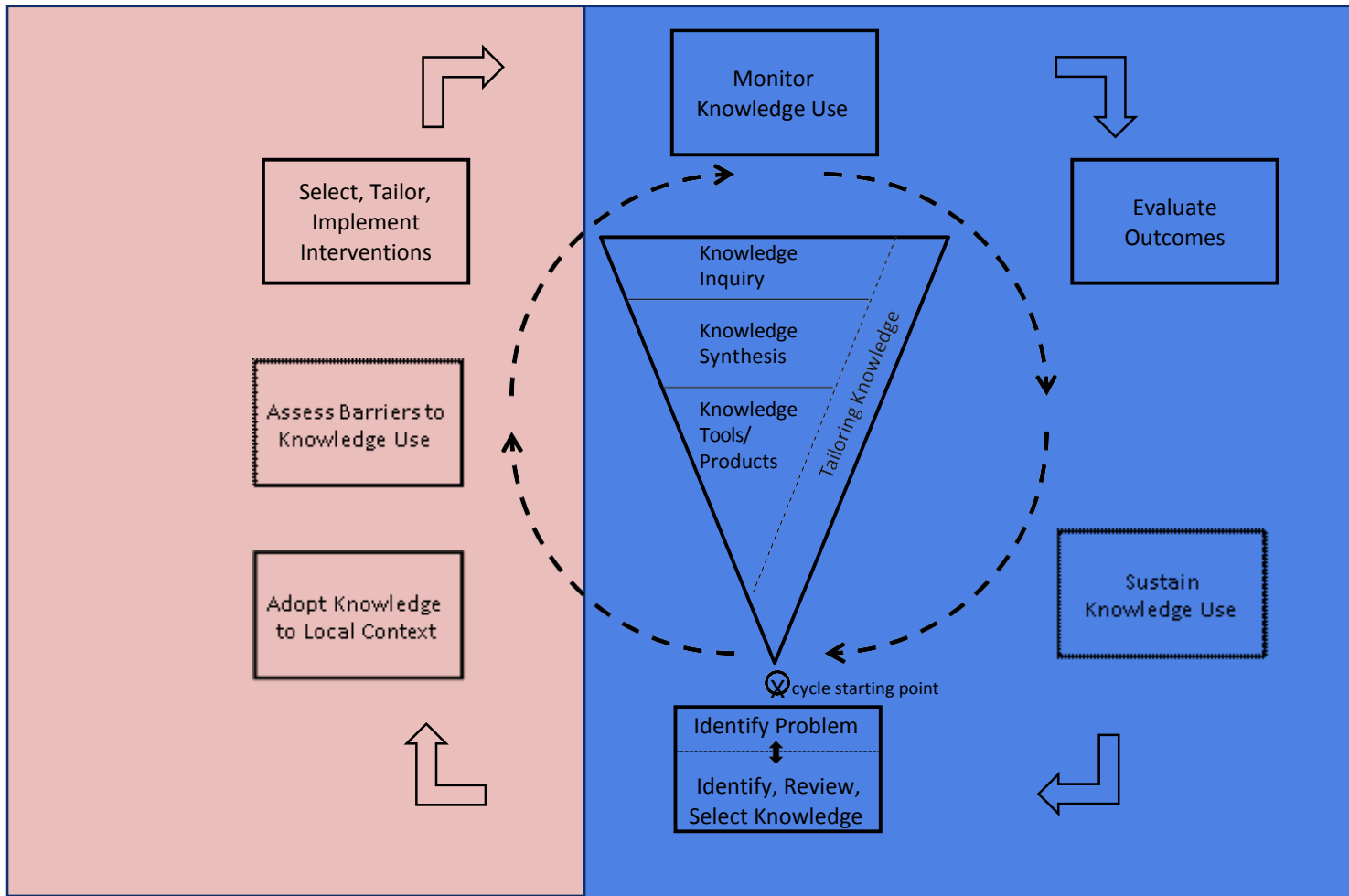
To add a **new dimension** to its activity:

**The acquisition of the evidence by the target groups and knowing how to use it → acquiring knowledge**

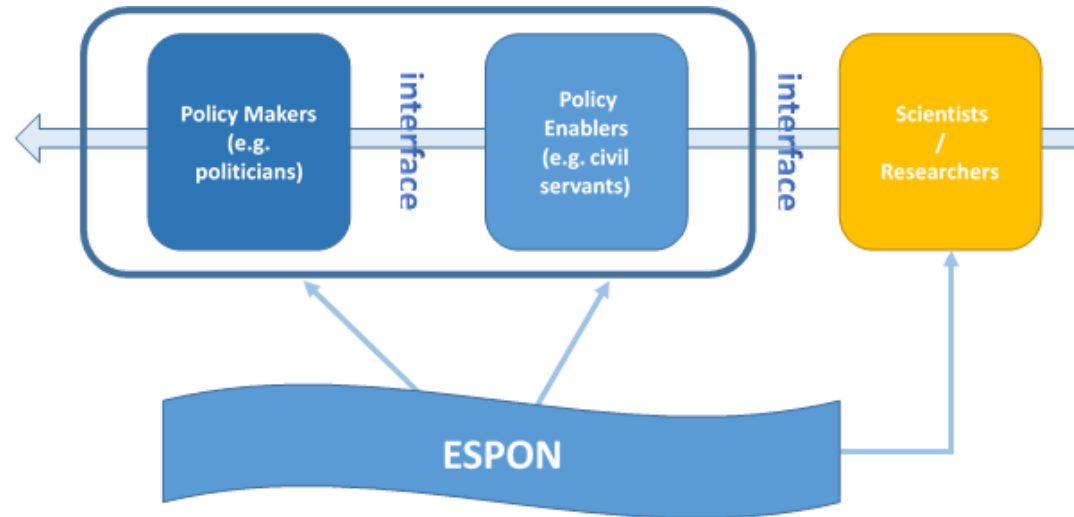
# 3. Ways to think forward

- ESPON developed a role of **inspiring policy makers and stakeholders by using its** network and being close to users.
- Examples: TIA, functional areas within regions, demographic and economic scenarios, etc.
- Complementarities on evidence production by ESPON and capacity building with other programmes could be better used;
- The core business of ESPON should remain the same >> **evidence production better link to the policy / action cycle**

# 4. The knowledge-to-action cycle



# 5. The option of ESPON further evolving as knowledge broker



Activities in the perspective of a knowledge to action cycle

- a) Respond to the evidence needs
- b) Support the skills needed for the productions and, more important, the use of the evidence knowledge, and
- c) Fill in and support the interface between these three groups of actors / target groups.

**We will launch opportunities to discuss and keep you informed**

**Thank you for your attention**