ESPON moving forward

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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.

- Applied research projects: 17 projects
- Targeted analysis activities on stakeholder’s demand: 14 activities
- Thematic focus papers: 17 papers
- ESPON tools (e.g. TIA, Mapmaking; etc.): 6 tools
- ESPON outreach events: 41 events
- ESPON publications: 20 publications

Programme funds: 23.3% disbursed

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.