

## **Guidance for stakeholder proposals for ESPON Targeted Analysis**

### **ESPON targeted analyses - How do they work?**

In a first step, stakeholders propose and describe the analytical need they have concerning their own territories, explaining why they need a targeted analysis with a European perspective, outlining the results they envisage to receive, as well as how they intend to make use of the targeted analysis in practice.

Stakeholders submit their proposals to the ESPON EGTC by filling in a digital application form, made available via the [ESPON website](#). The application needs to be complemented by letters of commitment of all participating stakeholder institutions.

- Stakeholder proposals for ESPON targeted analyses can be submitted continuously throughout the year. The process is the following:
- The ESPON EGTC evaluates twice per year all stakeholder applications received by a certain deadline. The exact deadlines will be advertised on the ESPON website.
- Together with the stakeholders the ESPON EGTC then further develops those proposals that are selected into detailed terms of reference.
- Selected targeted analyses will be openly tendered EU wide to procure highly qualified academic experts carrying out the requested analysis.

The selected experts will closely cooperate with the stakeholders and the ESPON EGTC in the implementation of the targeted analysis.

Stakeholders who submitted proposals which have not been selected shall be informed and, where appropriate, provided feedback from the selection process and encouraged to further consider proposing targeted analyses.

### **Who can apply?**

The following stakeholders can submit proposals for ESPON targeted analyses:

- Stakeholders and practitioners from national, regional and local administrations of EU member states and the four ESPON partner states (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland).
- Authorities implementing EU funded programmes, e.g. Managing Authorities and programme secretariats.

Concerning the first group of stakeholders mentioned above, the ESPON EGTC welcomes applications by single or groupings of national bodies, regions and cities. This is to

encourage that there is a wide geographical coverage and that numerous countries, regions and cities can benefit of bespoke evidence. However, it is not a prerequisite to set up a stakeholder consortium of minimum three partners. Targeted analyses can also be selected if they are proposed by only just one stakeholder.

Stakeholders can consider involving representatives of organisations at European level that might be interested in the specific theme as well as the private sector in the steering of the targeted analysis.

### **What are the general requirements for stakeholder proposals?**

When putting together an application for an ESPON targeted analysis, stakeholders should be aware that the following key criteria will be used in the selection process and should consider the following aspects in preparing their application:

- *Presence of European perspective/dimension in the targeted analysis*

Even though targeted analyses focus on specific study areas (i.e. the stakeholders' territories), they need to do so by analysing these territories also from a European perspective. This means for instance that the specific development opportunities of a given territory will include comparative analyses, identifying potentials in relation to potentials of other territories, neighbouring regions and cities, etc.

- *Degree of added value and transferability*

The results expected of a targeted analysis should offer a clear added value to the stakeholders behind the activity. Results should also be capable of being transferred to their particular policy contexts within the stakeholders' territories. At the same time, other countries, regions or cities throughout Europe should be able to benefit from the results.

- *Realism in analytical terms and complementarity to ESPON territorial evidence*

Stakeholder proposals should be of such a character that the analysis is realistic and can make use of relevant existing ESPON results. These can be complemented by other relevant sources, if needed, in particular with specific stakeholder knowledge, data and other information in order to create the new bespoke evidence that should result from the targeted analysis.

- *Use of the analytical results in policy making*

Stakeholders should indicate how they plan to make concrete use of the results coming out of the targeted analysis they are requesting. It could be possible that results will, for instance, feed into policy decision processes and/or a specific territorial development strategy. It's also helpful for the steering process of the targeted analysis that stakeholders have a clear view on what they want to do with the output of the activity.

- *Relevance for place-based development strategies*

The analysis needs to be related to the stakeholder's specific territorial context and the policy opportunities and challenges of the specific territory that stakeholders are representatives of. In this sense, the analytical results envisaged should feed into and support integrated place-based policy making of the territories in question.

- *Competent involvement of stakeholders in the analytical process and in steering of the activity*

Stakeholders proposing an ESPON targeted analysis need to bear in mind that their active involvement in the analytical process is required to receive meaningful and useful results. This means that stakeholders normally shall foresee to provide regional/local data, relevant documents and engage with the experts that are contracted to perform the analysis requested. The commitment of stakeholders is decisive for a useful analytical outcome which includes to be engaged in the entire implementation process on own costs, and give continuous feedback to intermediate and draft final results.

- *Relevance and complementarity to existing ESPON territorial evidence*

The ESPON 2013 Programme produced a wealth of territorial and analytical evidence. Furthermore, the ESPON 2020 programme is currently implementing a wide range of applied and targeted analyses and complementary tools and outreach activities. In order to maximise synergies, stakeholders should consider how their project proposal relates to past and ongoing ESPON activities.

### **Where to get further information?**

Staff at the ESPON EGTC is available to field queries on developing project proposals. Please email your query to [application@espon.eu](mailto:application@espon.eu).

All previously implemented and ongoing targeted analyses projects are available for download at the ESPON website, which may provide some useful guidance for stakeholders in developing their proposals.