



ESPON 2013 Programme

Workshop

Scenarios and modelling in the framework of exploring Territorial Cohesion

4 September 2014
09h30 – 16h00

Venue

FEB
Victor Horta meeting room (418)
Rue Ravenstein 4
Brussels

Programme



Workshop background

The future of Europe is unknown and new narratives are being built and explored. Narratives as launched by the debate on the future of Europe, but also narratives in the form of exploratory scenarios illustrating and simulating possible futures by starting with the present and moving forward to the future by asking ‘what if’ questions about implications of possible events outside familiar trends.

Scenarios are not predictions about the future but are used as an exploratory method or tool for decision-making, to highlight the discontinuities from the present and to reveal the choices available and their potential consequences. The territorial exploratory scenarios developed within the ET2050 project are meant to support a high-level policy debate on the long term development of the European territory and to contribute to the design of an ideal long-term vision for the European territory. The pathways proposed towards the future also include considerations for strategic European policy reforms, particularly Cohesion policies.

Models have been used to try to get answers to the ‘what if’ questions. But models are simplified representations of reality: all the elements and complex interactions that act and happen in the real world can hardly be considered and appropriately replicated through quantitative modelling. Each model has its own nature and the models’ results are conditioned by specific scenario assumptions.

Aim and Structure

The aim of this workshop is to provide for dialogue and exchange of experiences between modellers involved in scenarios linked to cohesion policy and to discuss the reasons behind the similarities and differences between the results of the different regional models that exist at EU level for assessing the impact of Cohesion Policy, to identify the advantages and strengths of each of the models and to look into the next generation of models.

This workshop will address the following models that can be used for assessing the impact of Cohesion Policy:

- QUEST – a global macro-economic model
DG ECFIN
- RHOMOLO – a dynamic spatial general equilibrium model
DG JRC and DG Regio
- MASST 3 – an econometric and macroeconomic partial equilibrium model
Politecnico di Milano
- SASI – a recursive simulation model
Spiekermann & Wegener Urban and Regional Research

The first part of the workshop is devoted to learning more about the models addressed. The presentations will focus on the nature of the models, the assumptions used for modelling the forecasts, the forecasts themselves and finally the reasons explaining the forecasts. Each presentation will be followed by a short Q&A session.

The morning session will be closed by a discussion on the similarities and differences between the results of the models and, most important, the reasons for this. Are the differences related to the nature of the models, the model structures, or the assumptions? What can we learn from the different models?

The second half of the workshop will be devoted to reflect on what kind of new questions are emerging for Europe. What will be important for the next generation of models? And what kind of new techniques can be used to address these new questions and needs? What could be done together to further improve the modelling?

Target Groups

The main target group for this workshop are researchers and representatives from European Institutions and organisations that are active at EU level in the field of territorial development and cohesion and involved and/or interested in scenario and modelling in relation to the impacts of cohesion policy. Also policy makers at European, national, regional and urban level that are interested in this topic and the reasons behind the modelling results are more than welcome.

9.00-9.30 *Registration and welcome coffee / tea*

Introduction

9.30-9.45 *Welcome and setting the scene*

– Peter Mehlbye, ESPON Coordination Unit

Moderator: – Leen Hordijk, DG JRC (retired)

9.45-10.45 **Session 1: The model results explained**

Two presentations addressing the following issues:

- What baseline assumptions have been used regarding: demography, territorial cohesion policy?
- What are the modelling results for your baseline?
- What are the reasons / explanations for these results?
- What are the results of your most recent post-crisis applications?

QUEST – Global Macro-Economic Model

– Janos Varga, DG ECFIN

RHOMOLO – Dynamic Spatial General Equilibrium Model

– Philippe Monfort, DG Regio

10.45-11.00 *Coffee / tea*

11.00-12.00 **Session 1: The model results explained (continued)**

Two presentations addressing the same issues as mentioned above.

MASST 3 - Building Conditional Quantitative Foresight

– Roberto Camagni, Politecnico di Milano, Italy

SASI – Recursive Simulation Model

– Michael Wegener, S&W, Germany

12.00-13.00 **Session 2: The models compared**

Each of the presenters gives a short, 5 minutes statement on the areas of agreement and similarities with the other models and on possible reasons behind the differences.

– Roberto Camagni, Politecnico di Milano, Italy

– Michael Wegener, S&W, Germany

– Philippe Monfort, DG Regio

Discussion on the following topics:

- What modelling results are similar / robust?
- Which differences are related to modelling structures?
- Which differences are related to the assumptions?

13.00-14.00 *Lunch*

14.00-15.45 **Session 3: A new generation of models to apply for Europe**

Introduction to the topic

- Andreu Ulied, MCRIT, Spain

Panel discussion on the following topics:

Reflections on what kind of questions in Europe are emerging that we need to answer. What kind of new techniques could be used? What improvements could be made? What could be done jointly to make the modelling even stronger?

- Lewis Dijkstra, DG Regio
- Carlo Lavalle, DG JRC
- David Bartolini, OECD
- Philippe Monfort, DG Regio
- Michael Wegener, S&W, Germany
- Roberto Camagni, Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Open discussion with the audience

15.45-16.00 **Conclusions and closure**

- Peter Mehlbye, ESPON Coordination Unit

ESPON Workshop
“Scenarios and modelling”
4 September 2014, Brussels

More information

The ESPON 2013 Programme is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

It shall support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory. ESPON shall support Cohesion Policy development with European wide, comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on framework conditions for the development of regions, cities and larger territories. In doing so, it shall facilitate the mobilisation of territorial capital and development opportunities, contributing to improving European competitiveness, to the widening and deepening of European territorial cooperation and to a sustainable and balanced development.

The Managing Authority responsible for the ESPON 2013 Programme is the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, Department for Spatial Planning and Development of Luxembourg.

More information: www.espon.eu

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