

DRAFT – 15 June 2006

ESPON Contact Point transnational activity

“MONTESPON”

Seminar for transnational exchange and networking on mountain topics

5 & 6 September 2006, Lucerne (Switzerland)

Co-Financed by the ERDF through the Interreg III ESPON Programme



Topics and Aims

The MONTESPON Seminar aims to foster better understanding of the specific situation, challenges and opportunities in the European mountainous regions and to facilitate mutual learning between different actors dealing with mountain development. In that respect, it will also be an opportunity to bridge the gap between the ESPON programme and Interreg III / Interact projects dealing with mountain topics, as key actors from the 3 programmes will be present.

Mountain-related findings of ESPON studies will be presented, discussed and compared with results from Interreg III projects. Four thematic groups of topics will provide a starting point:

- Demography and public services (demographic change, migration, new socio-demographic structures, situation of public services in mountain regions, new strategies to optimize the provision of public services)
- Economy and accessibility (economic structure and trends, diffusion of new branches, unemployment / loss of jobs, development of accessibility, quality of private and public transport, link between accessibility and economic development)
- Landscape and natural risks (development of mountain landscape due to natural and socio-economic impacts, climatic change and natural risks)
- Regional governance and new institutions (institutional setting of mountain policy, autonomy vs. external encouragement, concepts for territorial cohesion)

Within all these topics, new challenges, opportunities and risks for spatial policy on international, national and regional level will be highlighted.

Target groups

The target groups of the seminar are the ESPON community (Monitoring Committee, ECPs, TPGs, other partners) as well as representatives from various Interreg and Interact projects, from administrations, NGOs, planners / consultants and scientists active in the wide field of mountain development policy.

Practical information

Time	Tuesday, 5 September 2006 13.00 – 18.30 Session 1 19.15 Evening programme Wednesday, 6 September 2006 09.00 – 16.00 Session 2
Venue	Parliament Building Canton of Lucerne / Grossratssaal, Bahnhofstrasse 15, CH-6002 Lucerne (for further information see www.luzern.org)
Costs	Conference participation is free. All participants must however pay their own travel and accomodation costs.
Language	English
Registration	The last day to register is Monday, 21 August 2006. Please use the official registration form on www.espon.ch . Please note that only a limited number of participants can take part in the seminar, so please register as early as possible.
Hotels	See information on our website (www.espon.ch)
Contact / further information	Mr. Marco Kellenberger – ESPON Contact Point Switzerland or Mrs. Silvia Jost – International Affairs Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) marco.kellenberger@are.admin.ch / silvia.jost@are.admin.ch Phone +41 (0) 31 322 40 60

Programme (DRAFT)

Tuesday, 5 September 2006

12.15	<i>Registration and coffee</i>	
13.00	Welcome and introduction	Prof. Pierre-Alain Rumley, Director of the Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) Marco Kellenberger, ESPON Contact Point (ECP) Switzerland, ARE
13.30	The ESPON Programme – goals, main results and future	Peter Mehlbye, Director ESPON Coordination Unit (tbc)
14.00	Mountain regions in Europe – from the point of view of ESPON	Thomas Egger, Director Swiss Centre for Mountain Regions SAB (chair of the day)
14.20	Demographic change in Mountain regions – evidences from ESPON projects	Mats Johansson, ECP Sweden / Olaf Foss, ECP Norway
14.40	Proactive dealing with demographic change – new challenges and new strategies	Tor Bremer, Sogn og Fjordane Fylkeskommune, IR III C Project euromountains.net
15.00	Social aspects of territorial development in mountain regions – evidences from ESPON projects	Bernd Schuh, (ÖIR), Lead Partner of ESPON study 1.4.1 (Small and Medium Sized Towns) and ESPON project 1.4.2 (Social Aspects)
15.20	Public services – new strategies to improve the provision of mountainous areas	Ueli Stalder, SAB / Interreg III B project PUSEMOR
15.40	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16.10	Territorial impact of transport policy - chances and risks for mountain regions based on ESPON results	Klaus Spiekermann, Spiekermann & Wegener Urban and Regional Research, Lead- and Project partner in several ESPON projects
16.30	Sustainable solutions to grade up the accessibility of mountain regions	Angela Rollando, Leader+ Local Action Group (LAG) Appennino Genovese, Genova
16.50	3 parallel Workshops: • Demography • Public Services • Accessibility / Transport	(Extension of the presentations, presentation of other projects and activities, transnational comparison of various mountainous areas)
18.00	Conclusion from the workshops	Plenary discussion
18.30	End of the first session	
19.15	<i>Evening programme</i>	

Wednesday, 6 September 2006

09.00	Welcome and introduction to the second day of the seminar	Silvia Jost, ESPON Monitoring Committee, Switzerland and Marco Kellenberger, Swiss ESPON Contact Point (chair of the day)
09.10	Economic situation in Mountain regions: agriculture, tourism ... and anything else? (evidences from ESPON projects)	ECP Greece (tbc)
09.30	To grade up mountain regions with new technologies – a case of central Alps	n.n.
09.50	To grade up mountain regions with an integrated approach for agriculture and tourism – a case of southern Europe	n.n.
10.10	Quality of the environment, natural heritage and natural hazards in European Mountain regions – evidences from ESPON projects	Thomaž Miklavcic, ECP Slovenia
10.30	Climate change, Impacts and Adaptation Strategies in the Alpine Space	Peter Eggensberger, Bayrisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt, Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz
10.50	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.20	Governance of mountain development – evidences from ESPON projects	Input provided by ECP Switzerland
11.40	Challenges, necessities and opportunities of territorial cooperation in mountain regions	Frank Gaskell, Highlands and Islands Enterprise Inverness, President of Euromontana (tbc)
12.00	3 parallel Workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy • Landscape / natural risks • Governance 	(Extension of the presentations, presentation of other projects and activities, transnational comparison of various mountainous areas)
13.15	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.15	Conclusion from the workshops	Plenary discussion
14.45	The actual situation and the future of mountainous areas in Europe – new strategies for policy makers	Bernard Debarbieux, University of Geneva (tbc)
15.15	Round table and plenary discussion	Facilitated by the chair of the day
16.00	<i>End of Seminar</i>	

