

Report on the
ESPON transnational ECP activity
YoungStars Seminar - Create Europe

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 30-31 May 2005



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This report represents the final results of an ECP Transnational Networking Activity conducted within the framework of the ESPON 2000-2006 programme, partly financed through the INTERREG programme.

The partnership behind the ESPON programme consists of the EU Commission and the Member States of the EU25, plus Norway and Switzerland. Each partner is represented in the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

This report does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members of the Monitoring Committee.

Information on the ESPON programme, projects and ECP Transnational Networking Activities can be found on www.espon.lu

The web side provides the possibility to download and examine the most recent document produced by finalised and ongoing ESPON projects.

This basic report exists only in an electronic version.

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Foreword

This report on the ESPON transnational ECP activity "ESPON YoungStars – Create Europe" which took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on the 30th and 31st of May 2005, attempts to present the idea, the concept, the programme, the realisation and the main outcomes of the seminar.

The activity was supported by the ECPs of Germany (lead partner), Austria, Greece, Netherlands, Slovenia and United Kingdom.

The ECPs and the organisation team would like to take the opportunity to thank to all persons and institutes inside and outside the ESPON Programme that were involved in the work or supported the team.

Special thanks to all the colleagues from the administration offices in Germany and Slovenia who worked hard, pragmatically and unconventionally to overcome formal requirements of the programme.

Only because of the mentioned support the realisation of the idea, which was born two years ago, was possible.

The very positive reaction of the participants showed the need for such kind of seminar. Therefore a second seminar is under discussion.

The ESPON Programme was launched in 2002, following the preparation of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), adopted by the Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning of the EU in May 1999 in Potsdam (Germany) calling for a better balance and polycentric sustainable development of the European territory. The programme is implemented in the framework of the Community Initiative INTERREG III. Under the overall control of Luxembourg, the EU Member States have elaborated a joint application with the title "The ESPON 2006 Programme – Research on the Spatial Development of an Enlarging European Union". The European Commission adopted the programme on 3 June 2002.

See <http://www.espon.lu> for more details.

The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

The present report and the successful conduction of the first ESPON YoungStars seminar is a team effort of all ECP partners and subcontractors under the leadership of the BBR.¹

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Abbreviations

AESOP	Association of European Schools of Planning
CU	Co-ordination Unit
ECP	ESPON Contact Point
ESDP	European Spatial Development Concept
ESPON	European Spatial Planning Observation Network
EU	European Union
SPESP	Study programme on European Spatial Planning

1 Summary

The first ESPON YoungStars seminar took place on May 30 and 31, 2005, in the city of Ljubljana, Slovenia. The idea for it came up at the ESPON seminar in Crete (Greece), in 2003. At that time it was obvious that a possibility to deepen the understanding of the ESPON Programme and challenges of European spatial planning today, in the near and further future for young professionals and students in the field of spatial planning and the related fields was missing.

The seminar aimed to reach this group of young people. Beside of deepening the knowledge about European territorial trends, the networking for the future generation of European planners was an important aspect, too. The seminar was also planned as a test for possible following seminar and a continuous YoungStars activity (see chapter 5.4 Outlook).

The best and easiest solution to realise such kind of YoungStars seminar was to have it as an ECP transnational activity. Thus six ECPs formed the project group. The German ECP, BBR, as the lead partner and the ECP Slovenia, the Spatial Development Office of the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, worked in close co-operation as the main actors together on the realisation of the seminar in Ljubljana. Beside of the formal ECP work, an organisation team of five young scientist, academics and practitioners from four European countries were formed and a scientific board of experienced advisors was established. The city of Ljubljana was selected to give young professionals from the New Member States as well as from non-EU countries in East-Europe the chance to participate.

The number of participants was restricted to 60 persons to secure an effective and productive seminar for the young professionals and the ESPON Programme. Information was provided via the ESPON YoungStars web page² and through e-mail to various groups, like the ECPs, the ESPON CU, a distribution list with a wide range of scientific institutes, organisations and networks.

Main aspects of the programme were to provide insights and launch discussions on findings deriving from ESPON projects. Therefore the seminar contained plenary lectures and discussions, as well as workshops and a study visit to discuss spatial implications of EU policies on sight.

Altogether 68 people participated, including speakers and organisers, coming from 16 different countries considering their present place of residence. A large share of participants came obviously from close proximity

² <http://www.bbr.bund.de/index.html?/raumordnung/europa/espon/youngstars.htm>

to the venue which explains the large proportion of Slovenian participants and participants from neighbouring areas. However, it has to be noticed that there are also one fourth of the participants came from rather distant areas of Europe, i.e. Spain, France, the Netherlands Sweden and Finland. Furthermore, we would like to point out that there were even participants from non-EU Member States, i.e. Romania, Croatia and Serbia & Montenegro, the latter two even being outside the ESPON space.

Table 1 Participants per country

COUNTRY	No. of Participants
Austria	7
Belgium	1
Croatia	1
Finland	2
France	1
Germany	4
Hungary	5
Italy	2
Luxemburg	3
Romania	1
Serbia & Montenegro	2
Slovenia	24
Spain	3
Sweden	2
The Netherlands	6
United Kingdom	4
Total	68

Roughly one third of the participants were still students, another third was researchers, about 10% came from public administration and about 20% from the field of private consultancy.

About 40% were professionally dealing with European or transnational issues, some 15% were active at national level and approx one fourth is dealing with the regional level. The remaining ones work on local level or in other fields.

More than 60% are not in any way engaged in ESPON activities, i.e. work neither in an ESPON projects nor are they involved in ECP or MC activities, and a quarter of the participants did

not even know about ESPON beforehand.

This information is obtained from a feedback questionnaire which had been handed out to the participants. A copy of the questionnaire is available in the annex of this report.

The result of the evaluation as well as the feedback directly to the organisation team was very positive. Indeed, 93% stated that the expectations they had when entering the seminar have been met. Furthermore, 57% considered the seminar as very good and 37% as good.

The positive reaction was followed by an invitation of the AESOP, Association of European Schools of Planning, to present ESPON and the YoungStars idea during the AESOP congress in Vienna from July 13 to 17, 2005.

To resume, it can be said that the first YoungStars seminar titled "Create Europe" reached its objectives and goals. Furthermore it received a positive feedback from the participants, in terms of organisation, realisation as well

as when it comes to the learning and networking effect (page 34 et seqq.). The seminar contribute to the idea of European spatial planning by offering young people an introduction to ESPON and its first findings. This required a trans-national environment in order to experience the range of different understanding of spatial development ideas and fully flesh out the basic idea and spirit of ESPON. It provided views and perspectives for the participants as well as for the moderators and speakers. For all a deeper and diverse understanding and interpretation of European wide planning challenges was the result. All in all, the seminar contributed to the idea of European spatial planning among young people and raised interest of the future generations of European spatial planners as well as related professions interested in European Spatial Planning and scientific activities.

Consequently, follow-ups of this seminar in terms of more ESPON activities targeting in particular young people in the corresponding field can be recommended.

For a possible ESPON II it should be considered to have the ESPON YoungStars as an element for the discussion of results, networking and promotion. At the moment the YoungStars activity is the only "young forum" which really concentrates on the ESPON and European spatial planning aspects and fosters in this way a common European thinking on the issue.

2 Idea and Concept

2.1 Overall aims and objectives

One of the main functions of the work of the ECPs is the transfer and translation of ESPON results to national contexts. This link fosters the exchange from the programme to the countries and vice versa.

The YoungStars seminar is one of the activities the ECPs carried out in this context, organising a seminar open for young professionals and students interested in the field of European spatial planning and territorial development. Via this ESPON YoungStars activity a widening of the discussion on ESPON issues to a broader public, related networks and communities was implemented.

The general aim of the YoungStars activity was to give young professionals and students in spatial planning and related fields a deeper understanding of ESPON, the challenges of European spatial planning and territorial development today as well as in the near and further future.

Going more into detail the aim of the proposed seminar was twofold. Firstly, it aimed at making ESPON results known among the young European scientific community, i.e. students and young professionals, interested in European spatial planning issues (equal to "promotion strategy"). Secondly, it aimed at providing a platform for new innovative ideas related to ESPON research, both from young members of the ESPON community – that are often doing the main part of the work but remain unseen and unheard in the official ESPON contexts – and from young professionals outside the ESPON discussing and potentially using ESPON results in their work. Expected was to develop, also, a scientific debate on the progress and results achieved by ESPON projects as well as on the ESPON Programme. Latter was planed to provide feedback to the programme, the scientists and politicians involved in ESPON projects.

As regards lecturers and moderators for the event members of the ESPON family and professionals from outside ESPON - for discussions of the wider scene and European spatial planning in general - were invited. Since the focus is on "youngsters" younger lecturers and moderators were chosen for this event.

2.2 Date and Place

The first ESPON YoungStars Seminar took place on May 30 and 31, 2005, in the city of Ljubljana, Slovenia. The venue was the City Hotel in the centre of Ljubljana. Originally the seminar was planned to be organised back to back to an overall ESPON seminar in order to link up with it and to save travelling costs for lecturers. The implementation of this idea depends, however, on several factors, funding amongst them. Linking an ESPON YoungStars Seminar with an ESPON Seminar would be preferable, but this also has its difficulties and disadvantages, like for example the given timeframe for the ESPON Seminar, the connected MC and ECP meetings or the location of the venue. ESPON Seminars do not take as first parameter the accessibility of areas where the seminars are organised. For the first YoungStars Seminar a good accessibility in monetary terms and related to the time distance was a main factor for the decision of the venue.

The advantage of the chosen venue was that the Slovenian Ministry provided support in organising rooms for a reasonable price. Overnight accommodations existed for a fair price.

Thus a lot of young colleagues from the New Member States as well as from non-EU member states of East-Europe had the chance to participate. Thereby, a fairly good coverage of the European territory, ensuring a wide exchange was realised.

3 Conduction of the seminar

The seminar was conducted during two days. The evening before the seminar was used for an official welcome by the ESPON Monitoring Committee Member of Slovenia Mrs. Margarita Jančič, as representative of the ESPON Programme. After the welcome speech there was the possibility for a first informal “get together and ice-breaking”.

3.1 First day

The first day had the title “Aspects of the European territory” and was split into two main sessions, a first one with lectures and discussions and a second one with a study visit.

Figure 1 Programme for the first day of the seminar

Monday, 30 May 2005

Day 1: Aspects of the European Territory / Moderator: Lars Porsche

Time	Topics: Introduction	Names
9.00	Registration	
9.30 – 10:30	Opening and introduction - Introduction to ESPON programme - Introduction to the seminar programme	Kai Böhme Marko Peterlin
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 12:30	<i>Spatial trends and conceptualisation:</i> • 1.1.1: polycentric development • 1.1.2: urban-rural relationships	Erik Gloersen Kaisa Schmidt- Thome
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:45	<i>Border Stories: Symmetries and Asymmetries in Central South-Eastern Europe</i>	Gabriele Tatzberger
14:45 – 15:30	<i>Making maps: traditions and perceptions in Europe</i>	Stefanie Dühr
15:30 - 15:45	Coffee break	
15:45 – 16:15	Discussion and short resume of the first day	Bas Waterhout Lars Porsche
16:15 – 18:15	Excursion (see special point excursion)	Marko Peterlin

Source:

http://www.bbr.bund.de/raumordnung/europa/download/Programme_ESPON_YoungStars_Seminar.pdf

After the registration, opening and introduction the first block started with the presentation on topics like polycentricity (ESPON Project 1.1.1), urban-rural relations (ESPON Project 1.1.2), border regions (taken from ESPON

Project 1.1.3) and the differences in making European maps (taken from a non-ESPON study). Each presentation was followed by a discussion.

The presentation on polycentricity coming from the finished ESPON Project 1.1.1 gave a good overview on the work and outcomes. The concept of polycentricity and approaches of the project were explained and discussed. The problems related to the research development and project development within such a field were addressed, e.g. different methodological approaches, different levels to work on as well as the main issue of contradictions between levels. For the following the given presentations and the excursions the presentation gave a good background³.

The problematic of urban-rural relationships became clear through the presentation of the ESPON Project 1.1.2 "Urban-rural relations in Europe". Already the chosen methodology and approach for the project showed the challenging field the project group was working with. For the participants the outcomes were very good to combine and to compare with those of the former presentations. First discussions touched upon contradictions and the difficulty to bring both topics together.

Another problematic aspect was addressed by the presentation on border regions which based on the work of the ESPON Project 1.1.3, dealing with issues of enlargement and polycentricity. The starting point was the attempt which was made towards the elaboration of typologies of border regions in the enlarged EU. Among other approaches such as geographical-physical or socio-economic typologies were explained. Different aspects concerning the security of the new increased amount of border kilometres, social, economic and ethnic aspects became very obvious and disclosed two missing aspects in the ongoing ESPON Programme. These are social and ethnic ones. The connecting and also the dividing elements of borders were explained as other important aspects. In the discussion especially two points were mentioned. On the one side the missing social topics or a view on such and on the other side how polycentricity is partly hindered by borders.

The last presentation of the day provided a broad overview and insights on mapping of European spatial development and planning, so to say on the "visual language". An historical overview of the last 20 years was given, as well as a very good overview on mapping and design in different European countries and at different territorial scales, including national and regional. Illustrations, spatial visions addressing polycentricity issue were presented. European examples were taken, such as the ESDP as well as "Spatial Visions" under INTERREG IIC. The importance of maps as tools for spatial

³ Please see: http://www.espon.lu/online/documentation/network/ecp/ecp_280.html , lower part of the page, please scroll down.

visioning and planning was highlighted, also with respect to the support they provide to a better understanding and communication of “written” spatial planning policies, which sometimes seem not to be enough. The last point played, interestingly, a role during the second day after the presentation on the ESPON Scenario project.

All presentations and the outcomes were discussed in the plenum. The discussions were refreshing and more daring and questioning than compared for instance to usual ESPON seminar discussions. This is probably a result of the relatively high number of “non-ESPO” participants as well as the fact that many of the participants were not deeply acquainted with European spatial development policies and thus not necessarily within the mainstream thinking in the field. Another fact might of course be related to the relatively low average age of participants. Finally, the modest size of the audience could also be highlighted in this respect, and is to be recommended for further YoungStars seminars.

Besides problems concerning data availability other questions were raised on the value of the ESPON Programme for the national and regional level and the added value it produces in general. The small ESPON community was criticised partly⁴. The real use of the project outcomes was not always clear. For example an in-depth discussion came up on metropolis as motors for an economic development and how “motor-effects” will influence polycentricity. Another intervention pointed out that ESPON mapping techniques are restricted mainly two dimensions. For example, the topography (3rd dimension⁵) in a lot of projects seems not to be respected and that could lead to misinterpretations. The aspect of starting thinking and working in “three dimensions”, 3-D, by integrating topographical elements was pointed out. The current mapping was declared as a little bit old fashioned, but accepted as effective for the moment. Asked was also, if territorial development is a planning concept or a political project. It was criticised by the participants that it is not clear, what the role of Europe in the promotion of polycentricity is and what this term really means for the EU.

The second block for the 1st day was the excursion, which brought the group to Planinsko Polje. The aim of the excursion was to present in situ how different European policies meet in the territory, in this particular case the Habitat Directive conflicting with the implementation of TransEuropean

⁴ For part of the participants the ESPON community (participants) seems more or less limited. Furthermore it was expressed, that it seems that a few organisations, institutes and companies play a key role in most of the projects and thus the ESPON seems as a relatively closed community.

⁵ 3-D = stereoscopic picture

corridors. This conflict was shown on a case of planning the high speed railway between Trieste in Italy to Ljubljana in Slovenia. The case was explained by Špela Uršej and Davor Kontič, young experts that collaborated in the planning process, and discussed by the participants. This point of the agenda helped the participants to understand the difficulties and ambiguities of European spatial planning, faced with the national and regional interest, the non changeable geological situation as well as with the aim to protect the environment. To get an impression of the natural qualities of the territory and the features of Karst terrain the participants also got the chance to visit the entrance of one karst cave. The background information on the excursion which each participant had in the conference folder can be found in the annex of this report (annex *Excursion*).

Photos of the excursion to Planinsko Polje



Source: authors

3.2 Second day

The second day of the seminar was titled "Experiencing European spatial planning". As the first day the second was split into presentations and into a practical working part.

Figure 2 Programme for the second day of the seminar

Tuesday, 31 May 2005

Day 2:

Experiencing European spatial planning / Moderator: Gabriele Tatzberger

Time	Topic: Spatial Trends and Conceptualisation	Name
09:00 – 09:15	Purpose of this day	Gabriele Tatzberger
09:15 – 10:15	<i>Overview of the 3.1 project - tasks and results</i>	Lars Porsche
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 11:00	Introduction into the workshops and World Café	Kai Böhme
11:00 – 12:30	1st round of workshops	
Workshop 1: <i>Polycentric Development</i>	Workshop 2: <i>Spatial governance</i>	Workshop 3: <i>The territorial contribution to the Lisbon/Gothenburg strategy</i>
Erik Gloersen Lars Porsche	Bas Waterhout Marko Peterlin	Gabriele Tatzberger Kai Böhme
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:15	2 nd round of workshops* (continuation)	
15:15 – 15:45	Short statements from each workshop and agenda for discussion	Kai Böhme and Gabriele Tatzberger
15:45 – 16:15	Coffee Break	
16:15 – 17:15	<i>Outlook on European Spatial Development</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenarios for Europe (3.2) • The future of European spatial planning 	Moritz Lennart Bas Waterhout
17:15 – 18:00	Discussion and resume	Gabriele Tatzberger Kai Böhme
18:00 – 18:30	Closing of the seminar	Marko Peterlin

The presentations concentrated on an overview on the ESPON Project 3.1, its tasks and results, gave a manifold input for the following workshops. Another round of presentations concentrating on an outlook of European Spatial Development, scenarios (ESPON Project 3.2) and results of a study on the future of European spatial planning, took place after the above mentioned workshops. Thus the workshops were organised accordingly to the World Café technique in order to involve as much participants as

possible in the discussion. The results of the workshops were combined with the outcomes of the presentations to fit into the final discussion.

The World Cafés had the top priority on this day. But the starting point was a short resume of the first day and a presentation of the ESPON 3.1 project, its tasks and results.

As the first co-ordinating and cross-thematic project, the ESPON Project 3.1 had different tasks and objectives. The presentation gave an overview on the complexity, the wide range of activities and outcomes. Its key position in the programme was stated, considering its objective of preparing a common scientific "platform" for ongoing ESPON Projects and the integration of their results. The functions of this project, as a co-ordinating/supporting project, and challenges regarding its relation with other ESPON projects were also explained. Besides issues related to project management and scientific coordination including the linked difficulties, aspects regarding the own research and results developed by the project were presented. These were e.g. the different mapping approaches (Web based GIS, hyper carte) or the first version of the Regional Classification of Europe (RCE), as well as the overall methodological support provided by the project for the other ESPON projects, like guidance on how to come from spatial development goals or impacts on sector policies to spatial policy recommendations.

The discussion concentrated on the products the project team developed. Beyond others in particular the question was raised why the development of tools, as Web-based GIS and the "hyper carte" are important. The use for the public, especially for the professionals, was not clear considering that other very efficient mapping tools already exist, and that this type of users already have access to other GIS tools. Moreover, the demand for getting access to the ESPON database was clearly expressed.

The second part of the morning session and most parts of the afternoon session had been devoted to workshops. The intention of the workshops was to actively involve all seminar participants and offer a platform where everybody can give its reflections on the seminar discussions so far and launch new ideas.

For this reason the workshops have been carried out as World Cafés. The World Café technique has the advantage that it allows to voice aspects (ideas or critics) which would not be aired in situations where the "authorship" is recognisable. Thus the World Café has the potential to set up free ideas and reflections which do not usually come up in larger group

discussion, etc. At the same time the World Café allows to see whether there is any consensus around impressions aired.⁶

World Cafés were organised on three different issues:

- Polycentric Development
- Spatial Governance
- Territories between Competitiveness and Sustainable Development

For each of these topics, one World Café session was run before lunch and one after lunch, so that each participant could attend World Cafés on two different topics.

Figure 3 Programme for the World Cafés

11.00 – Introduction into topics / questions
11.15 – Recap organisation of world café
11.30 – First discussion round
11.45 – Second discussion round
12.00 – Third discussion round
12.15 – Conclusion in settings of first discussion round
12.30 – L U N C H
14.00 – Introduction into topics / questions
14.15 – First discussion round
14.30 – Second discussion round
14.45 – Third discussion round
15.00 – Conclusions in settings of first discussion round
15.15 – C L O S I N G T I M E of the World Café

⁶ Explanation of World Café technique as given in Final Report of ESPON 3.1 (pp. 456-457): “The World Café builds on the idea of groups sitting in a café debating intensively and using the tablecloth for illustrating aspects in their debate and underlining their statements. As time goes by people leave and new people join in the ongoing the discussion. By the end of the day, the tablecloth is the only witness and piece of evidence on what has been discussed around the table. In terms of a technique for group discussions, this means that (a) the main topic of the discussion is to be defined. After that (b) the group is split into sub-groups of four to six persons. Ideally, there should be as many people in a group as there are sub-groups, i.e. there is a limit as for how big groups this technique is sensible to use. The optimal group would be around 16 or maybe 25 persons, which are then split into 4 respectively 5 sub-groups distributed over equally many tables. For each table (c) a host is to be decided how is being with the table over the entire exercise (d) to (f) will be repeated a number of times – preferably until everyone has been guest at all tables. All this can be accompanied by drinking coffee, tea, beer or even eating small snacks creating a relaxed atmosphere for open and good discussions. Once all the World Café has closed, each host will summarize the main points from the discussion at the table on a napkin or small piece of paper. The summaries will then be presented to the plenary. Some discussions points will be similar for each table, others might be very specific for a certain table.”

Outcomes of the World Cafés

In the World Cafés on *Polycentric Development* various aspects of polycentric development, functional urban areas and the importance of cities have been lively discussed. The discussions confirmed that polycentricity is a complex concept with multiple possible meanings. There was however some consensus that polycentricity is basically a policy countering current trend towards the concentration of economic activities just for a few region. In other words, polycentricity could be defined as a form spatial "anti-economism". Carrying out polycentric policies in other words first implies an agreement over the fact that there are problems connected to over-concentration and that it can make sense to attempt to counter these powerful trends.

One question asked is "why should we aim at preserving the current settlement structure? Is there any political or economic justification to keeping people where they are?" Comments in this respect pointed out that:

- there is a need to preserve a certain diversity in terms of living conditions;
- there are cultural values connected to the existing population patterns;
- maintaining a variety of economic models can be a wise on the longer term, as this improves the capacity to adapt to changing international contexts.

Some noted that there does not seem to be any concrete policies connected to polycentricity. Is the promotion of this concept only a way of triggering a debate? Other participants however pointed out that:

- polycentricity could be formalised as an institutional process to promote local democracy. This understanding of polycentricity implies that local governments are empowered with the tools to implement efficient development strategies;
- polycentricity can also serve as a general principle for re-thinking sectoral policies: what are the decisions that need to be made at central level? what could be left for local government to decide?
- finally, at the European level, some borders are obstacles to polycentric development. Policies aimed at facilitating cross-border flows can therefore be part of a polycentric strategy.

In way of conclusion, the discussion showed that there are some concrete polycentric policy options to be developed, but that they always need to be adapted to local, regional and national contexts. Moreover, the difficulty of formulating a polycentric policy at European level became obvious along the discussion.

In the World Cafés on *Spatial Governance* the discussions focussed around subjects such as co-operation between different sectors as well as between different administrative levels, examples where an assumed lack of governance had resulted in sub-optimal solutions and at the implementation of policies. The European dimension was not always included. Some frequently mentioned issues include:

- Territorial governance has to do with co-operation, vertical as well as horizontal
- Co-operation is being hindered by inequality between partners in terms of competencies, power and resources.
- Participation and openness of governance (as well as government) processes are necessary but not always feasible and have a tense relationship with efficient and fast decision making.
- Actors only participate when there is a certain need for it.
- Bottom up and top down initiatives meet each other somewhere in between. In order to overcome inconsistencies and contradictions it should be clear which are the needs of actors at each level. Possibly, it was argued, the media could play an important role in this respect.
- Governance processes should be focussed. From the outset it should be clear which subjects are negotiable and which are not.

The World Cafés on *Territories between Competitiveness and Sustainable Development* involved a series of extremely different discussions addressing the issue at various geographical scales (from building to global) and approaching it from various different angles. Some of the topics mentioned are:

- The need for a European dream, i.e. spatial vision shared by all of us.
- The European model and diversity as well as the long period of peace make Europe a unique place, which indeed is a factor of quality of life.
- Competitiveness is very important but not everything, furthermore we need to distinguish between interregional and intraregional competitiveness.
- Competitiveness and Sustainability/Cohesion can go together. Polycentricity might be a tool to counterbalance market forces. Cooperation and mutual learning was also considered an important aspect. Socio-economic specialisation are considered key, and the discussion on the "pig-tower"⁷⁸ as an example of specialisation in terms of single buildings illustrated also the importance of scale.

⁷ <http://www.archined.nl/archined/3251.html>

⁸ Originally the term is "pig city" and refers to the concept of the Rotterdam architecture office MVRDV which studied ways to streamline production in the intensive pig farming sector (<http://www.archined.nl/archined/3251.html>). The concept refers to a low consumption of land by constructing hog houses vertically. The concept were further

- There is also an issue of top-down and bottom-up developments, as there is a need for a framework coming top-down (e.g. by a EU Agency on Space) as well as there is the necessity of local action not at least linked to the issue of territorial awareness.
- Borders and border issues have to be taken into account.
- Also related to the issue of geographical scale, is the role and definitions of regions, be it within a state or a transnational area.

Summing up it can be said that the discussions focused on competitiveness and only to a minor degree on sustainability.

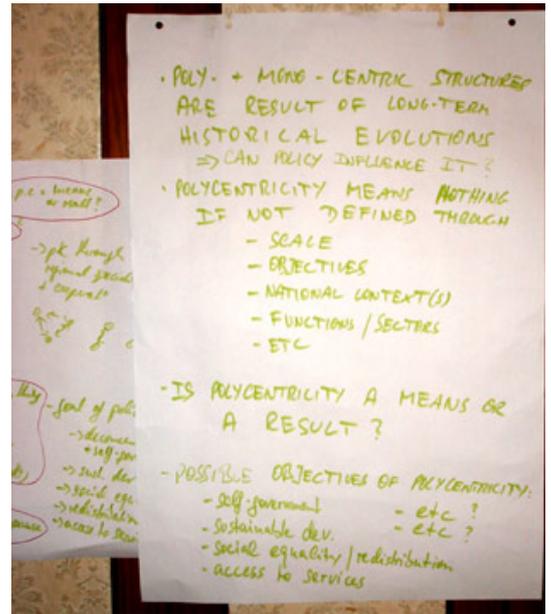
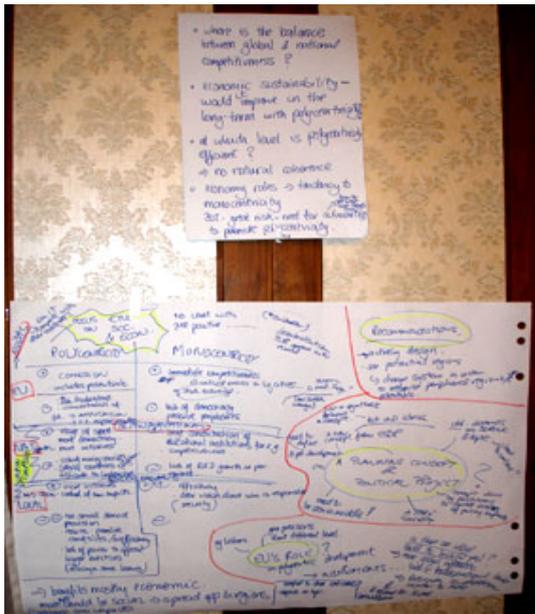
Photos of the World Café



More photos are available on the YoungStars web-page:
http://www.bbr.bund.de/raumordnung/europa/download/photo_documentation.pps
 Source: authors

developed for the EXPO Hannover 2000 Netherlands Pavilion presenting a vertical mix-use of different functions.

Photos of the World Café



More photos are available on the YoungStars web-page:

http://www.bbr.bund.de/raumordnung/europa/download/photo_documentation.pps

Source: authors

The main findings deriving from the various World Cafés were later briefly presented and discussed in the plenary session.

Thereafter the two last presentations of the seminar have been hold providing food for thought on the future. Firstly some reflections and insights on European spatial scenarios (ESPON Project 3.2) have been presented and then some ideas on the future of European spatial planning (not coming out of the ESPON context).

The presentation on scenarios for Europe, drawing on interim results of the ESPON Project 3.2, gave a good overview on the scenarios in general and possible lines of development in Europe. This presentation addressed the ideas of scenarios as well as the challenges of communication between the scientific and the policy communities, touching also on issues such as multitude of factors and actors to be considered, the lack of proper regionalised data, the limits of methodologies and the question of geographical scale. By presenting both the methodology and processes used in the ESPON Project 3.2 as well as first results "Tell me a story, dad"⁹, the presentation gave insights on how scenarios are currently elaborated as well as which possible storylines there are for discussing the future spatial development of Europe.

⁹ "Storytelling" is a special technique for interviewers to get more detailed information or get more focused when situations are unclear or the given spectrum is too broad.

This outlook on European spatial development was followed by a presentation on possible futures of European spatial planning. Starting with the "Territorial Cohesion Dream" the presentation provided reflections on the current state of the territorial cohesion debate in Europe by looking into various elements of it and their specific storylines. From there the presentation developed four possible futures. Two of which, the integrated and soft/non-binding future policy or the one-dimensional and hard/binding future policy were considered as likely policy development paths. Whereas the multi-dimensional and hard/binding future policy as well as the integrated and hard/binding future policy were regarded as rather unlikely developments. This discussion was underpinned by a number of short-term and long-term decisive factors.

Both presentations were afterwards discussed in the plenum. The discussions focused merely on details of the scenarios presented in the ESPON Project 3.2 as well as the possible scenarios for European spatial cohesion policy. In both cases the stakeholders' perspectives have been part of the discussion.

The closing session of the seminar involved also a general feedback round. The feedback provided by the participants was very positive as regards both, the presentations, the workshops and the excursion. The initiative of bringing together young people in the field was very much appreciated. There was a general impression that the seminar might have benefited from being longer and in particular allowing more time for discussions and workshops. Furthermore, there was a feeling that such a seminar might benefit from having participants from all European countries. There was also a general appreciation that the experience should be repeated, and that more seminars should be organised in the future. As this seminar tried to give a very broad overview of different aspects of European territorial development issues, future seminars might focus on specific questions and thus allow exploring these in greater detail.

After the closure of the seminar, a group of students from the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalunya (Institut d'Arquitectura Avancada de Catalunya - IAAC) in Barcelona, Spain, gave a presentation titled "Mapping Europe" on innovative visualisations of European spatial planning approaches. This work has been part of their studies in Barcelona, and is inspired also by the info-graphic works carried out under the Study Programme on European Spatial Planning (SPESP). It might be interesting to include similar initiatives of complementing practices into the official seminar programme for future seminars.

4 Technical Aspects

Technically the ECP Transnational Networking Activity the management of the organisation, the finances, the networking and the development as well as maintenance of the ESPON YoungStars web space.

4.1 Organisation

The activity was supported by six ESPON Contact points (Austria, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Slovenia, United Kingdom). Please see list above.

The organisation of the seminar involved five persons (core team) plus additional assistance from ECPs and other colleagues mainly from the Spatial Development Office of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia (ECP Slovenia) and the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, BBR, ECP Germany. The Slovenian Ministry took care about the local organisation, venue, accommodation, bus transfer, supporting programme, etc. as well as information of different “multipliers”¹⁰ and scientific networks.

Figure 4 ESPON YoungStars organisation – core team

Name	Institute/ Organisation	Contact
Böhme, Kai ¹¹	ESPON Co-ordination Unit Luxembourg	kai.boehme@espon.lu
Peterlin, Marko	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning Spatial Development Office Slovenia	Marko.Peterlin@gov.si
Porsche, Lars	Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning Germany	Lars.Porsche@BBR.Bund.de
Tatzberger, Gabriele	Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning (ÖIR) Austria	tatzberger@oir.at
Waterhout, Bas	Delft University of Technology OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies The Netherlands	B.Waterhout@otb.tudelft.nl

¹⁰ Persons forwarding information to their scientific network.

¹¹ Kai Böhme is listed as a member of the core team, because at the time of the development of the YoungStars idea and the first steps towards the seminar Dr. Böhme worked for Nordregio, Sweden. After his change to the ESPON CU he was invited as a lecture to the ESPON Seminar to explain the ESPON Programme to the audience and to develop and organise the workshops.

A sub-group within the organisation is the Scientific Board, which consists of very experienced people with a broad knowledge of the topic from a scientific and /or political point of view.

Figure 5 ESPON YoungStars Scientific Board

Name	Institute/ Organisation	Contact
Bloemen, Pieter	Ministry of VROM Directorate General for Spatial Policy, The Netherlands	pieter.bloemen@minvrom.nl
Getimis, Panagiotis	Institute of Urban Environment & Human Resources, UEHR, Panteion University Greece	uehr@panteion.gr
Hague, Cliff	Heriot-Watt University School of the Built Environment United Kingdom	C.B.Hague@sbe.hw.ac.uk
Schön, Peter	Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning Germany	peter.schoen@bbr.bund.de
Strubelt, Wendelin	Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning Germany	wendelin.strubelt@bbr.bund.de

4.2 Financial Management

The financial management was ensured by the lead partner of the transnational ECP activity, BBR.

4.3 Networking

As the Slovenian Ministry was the local organiser of the seminar, it started distributing information and networking via e-mail to different persons and scientific networks which acted as "multipliers". After the seminar all participants were informed about the web-pages hosting follow-up information on the activity and the YoungStars Seminar, including e.g. given presentations and photo documentation.

Networking effect of seminar for the participants

It is not easy to receive statistical information on how intensive networking has been developed after the seminar between the participants. From the experience of the organisers, it can be stated that the networking is ongoing. After the seminar the organisation group for the ESPON YoungStars changed to apply for a second seminar. The group shows a good mix of former organisers and former participants of the seminar. Furthermore contacts exists for organising excursions by universities and public institutions, e.g. from Germany to Hungary. New contacts can directly be used to ease the organisation and to strengthen the co-operation.

Networking with ECPs and projects when organising the seminar

The idea as well as the organisation and realisation of the seminar was supported by various ECPs. The feedback to the team during some ESPON meetings (ESPOON Seminars, ECP and LP meetings) was very positive. Thus the support of the ECP network was secured and a great help. For the next ESPON YoungStars Seminar directly a new group of ECP was formed to apply for a second seminar.

Networking of ESPON and the outer world

The willingness and importance to co-operate with people from out-side ESPON was demonstrated through the presentation of Dr. Stefanie Dühr from the University of the West of England, Bristol, UK. The positive responses of the participants in the questionnaire showed that this was the right approach. Furthermore young the team from the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalunya (Institut d'Arquitectura Avancada de Catalunya - IAAC) in Barcelona, Spain, presented another approach to map making and presented European spatial topics in a unconventional way.

After informing the public about the first ESPON YoungStars Seminar the organisation team received a lot of requests. One of these was followed by an invitation to the AESOP seminar in summer 2005.

4.4 Web space

For constant information the German BBR provided the development and maintenance of a web page for the YoungStars seminar¹². All information concerning the YoungStars idea, approach and the seminar is available through the web page. The web page will be available for a possible further ESPON YoungStars Seminar.

¹² See: <http://www.bbr.bund.de/index.html?/raumordnung/europa/espon/youngstars.htm>

Figure 6 Screenshot of the entrance to the ESPON YoungStars web space



Source: BBR, <http://www.bbr.bund.de/index.html?/raumordnung/europa/espon/youngstars.htm>

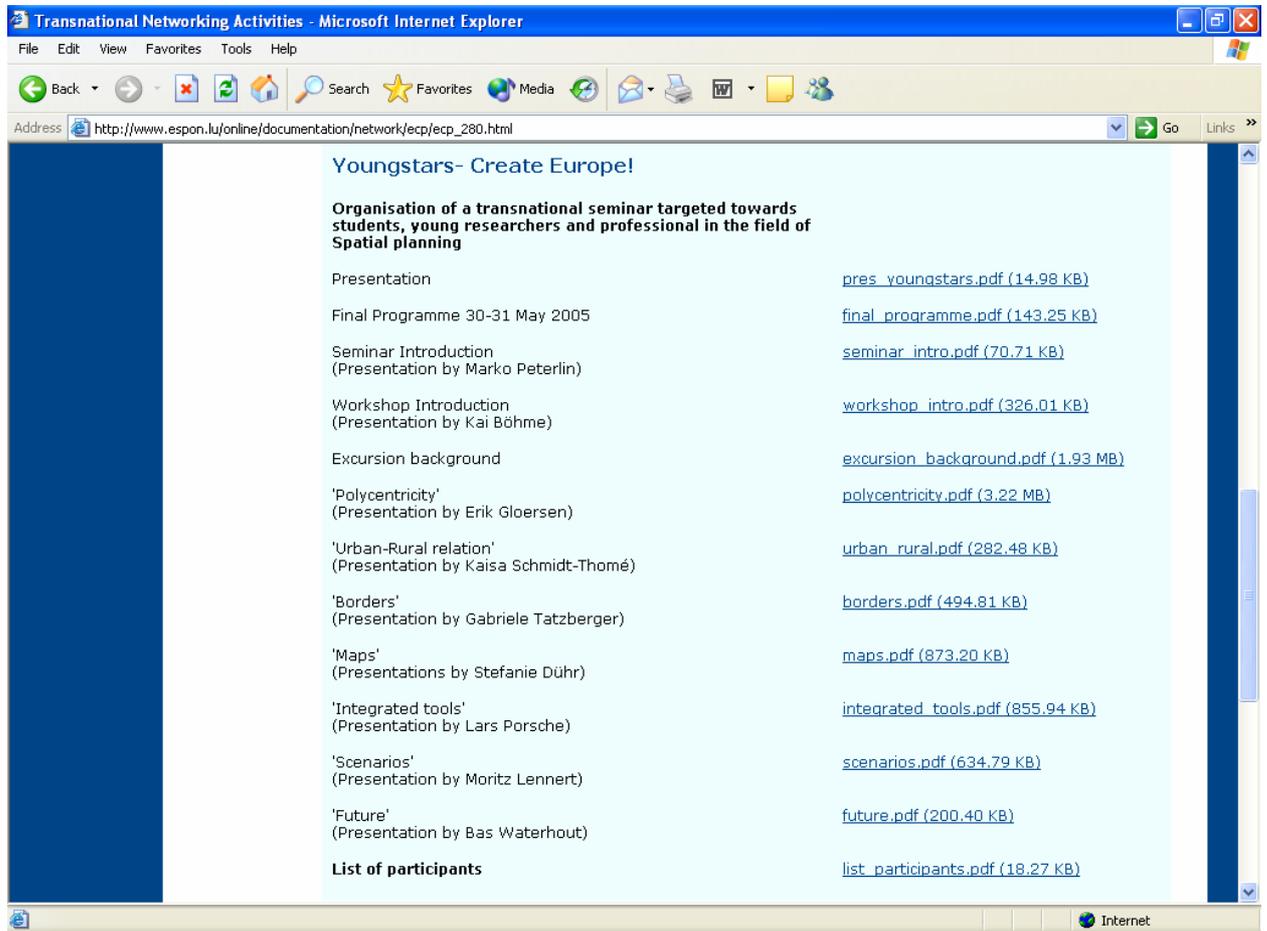
Figure 7 Screenshot of the entrance to the ESPON YoungStars web space

- Details:**
- >> Presentations
(You'll find the presentations on the linked page on the bottom.)
 - >> Photo-Dokumentation
(pps 1.748 KB)
 - >> Programme (pdf 63 KB)
 - >> Venue
 - >> City of Ljubljana
 - >> Access to Ljubljana
 - >> Accommodations
 - >> Subscription
 - >> Target group

Source: BBR, <http://www.bbr.bund.de/index.html?/raumordnung/europa/espon/youngstars.htm>

The ESPON website hosts all presentations given at the seminar

Figure 8 Screenshot of the ESPON website – overview on hosted presentations



Source: http://www.espon.lu/online/documentation/network/ecp/ecp_280.html

5 Results

Considering the positive feedback received, one could conclude that the realisation of the first ESPON YoungStars Seminar was a real success. Since the idea was born the interest in the YoungStars activity was high and increased. However critics have been raised and were partly used for positive improvements. Concerning to the concept there are no loose ends in the story. The criticised limited number of participants turned out as an advantage for the seminar, considering the efficiency of the workshops and discussion sessions. Thus all activities during the seminar were very effective. The presentations were visible and understandable for all. All participants were able to raise questions and take part in discussions. All were actively involved in the "World Café" activity.

The seminar reached its goal, to contribute to the idea of European spatial planning by disseminating ESPON results among young people and to raise interest of the future generations of European spatial planners as well as planners interested in European Spatial Planning and scientific activities. A very positive aspect was that the participants came from academia, public and private planning offices. That showed the broad range of "origin" of the participants concerning their professional background as well as places of work. Thus the seminar was not a "self-fulfilling" "closed" activity.

To resume, the seminar offered young people an introduction to ESPON and its first findings. This required a trans-national environment in order to experience the range of different understanding of spatial development ideas and fully flesh out the basic idea and spirit of ESPON. It provided views and perspectives for the participants as well as for the moderators and speakers. For all a deeper and diverse understanding and interpretation of European wide planning challenges was the result.

5.1 Feedback from the Participants

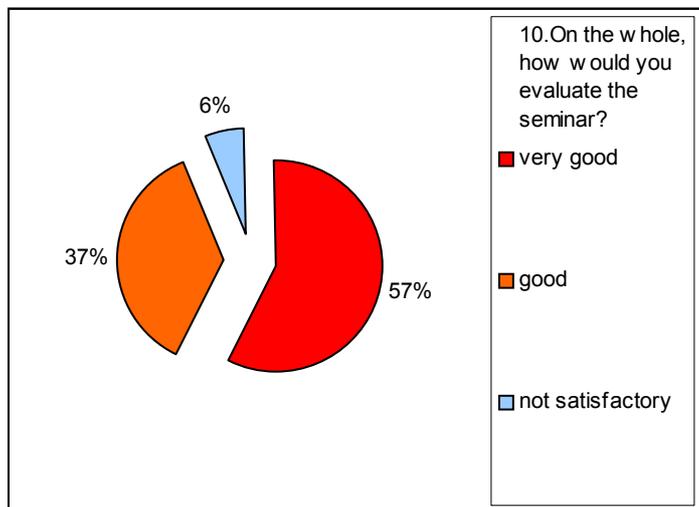
"ESPON is still a work in progress and the level of honesty in debate about the shortcomings involved in research and political actions was really appreciated. There is a great potential for young researchers / professionals to contribute to debate / growth of Europe which creates a positive atmosphere for the future." (reply to feedback questionnaire)

"The organisation was really welcoming and efficient. It is a good thing that a seminar for young people is organised by 'less young' but not old as usual seminars" (reply to feedback questionnaire)

As mentioned earlier the participants were asked to provide their feedback not only in the last session of the seminar but also by filling in a

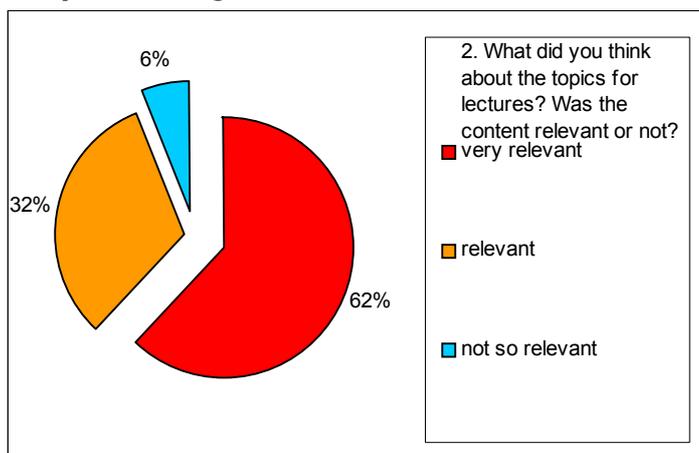
questionnaire anonymously assessing various elements of the event (cf. annex).

Graphic 1 Question no. 10 - results



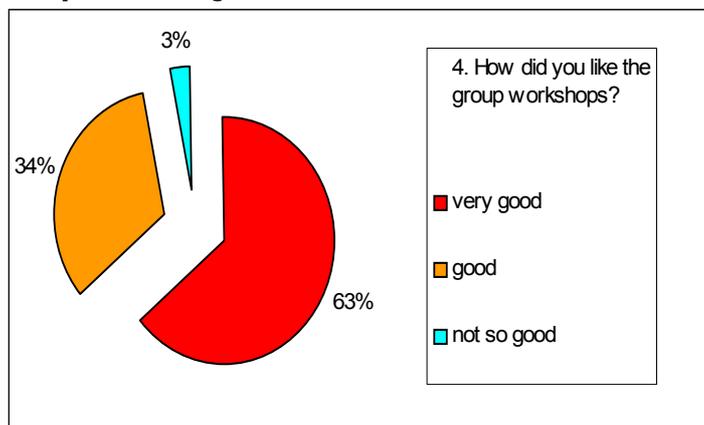
Altogether 39 questionnaires have been returned. As already indicated in the beginning of this report, the feedback is very positive. Just to repeat the figures: 93% stated that the expectations they had when entering the seminar have been met. Furthermore, 57% considered the seminar as very good and 37% as good.

Graphic 2 Question no. 3 - results



Throughout all lectures got good remarks both on topics and lecturers. In total 62% of the answers considered the topics of lectures as very relevant, 32% as relevant and 6% as not so relevant. With regard to the quality of the presentations, 58% considered the lectures as very good, 36% as good and 6% as not so good. The two presentations which received most positive feedback are Erik Gløersen's presentation on polycentric development and Gabriele Tatzberger's presentation on border stories.

Graphic 3 Question no. 4 - results



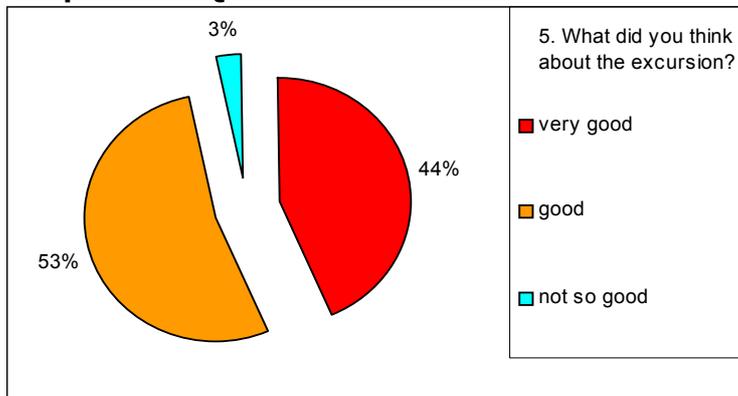
Also the workshops got all very good remarks. Taken all workshops together, 63% of the answers considered the workshops as very good, 34% as

good and only 3% as not so good. Generally the workshop technique was appreciated and a number of feedback indicated also the wish for longer workshops.

The excursion was also well received, with 53% of the answers considering it as good, 44% as very good and the remaining 3% as not so good.

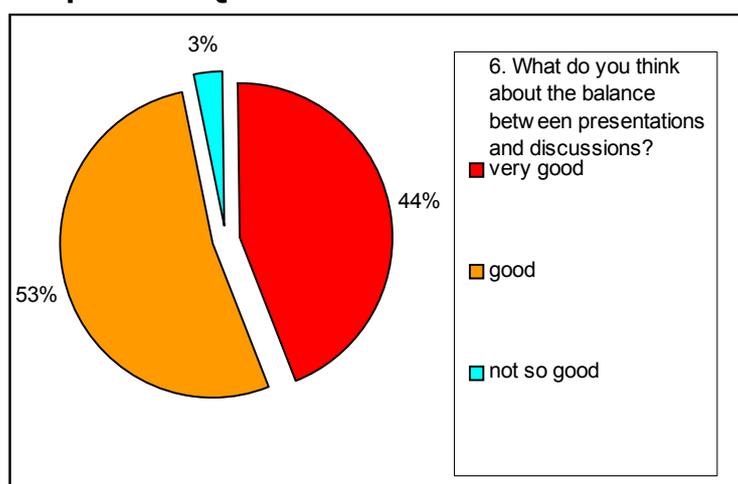
Altogether the feedback indicated that there was a good combination of theory and practice.

Graphic 4 Question no. 5 - results



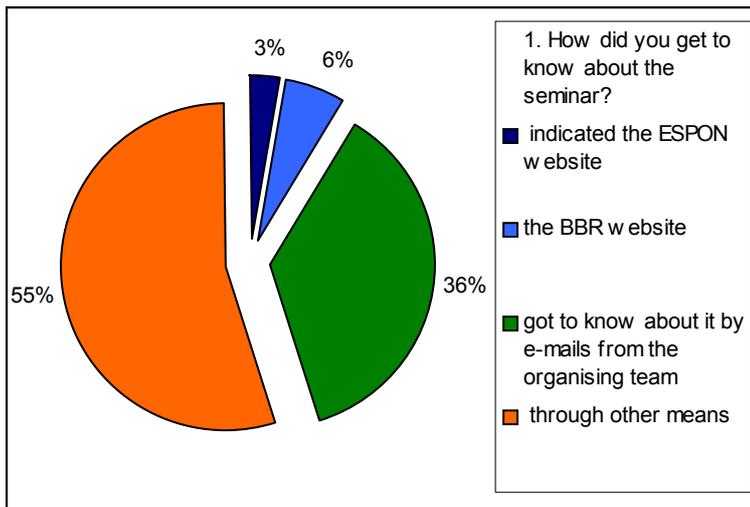
Asked about the balance between presentations and discussions, the concept put forward for the event was clearly confirmed. 53% considered the balance as very good, 44% as good, and only 3% as not so good. However, it was also indicated that the discussion in the plenary was not always fully efficient as people were partly rather exhausted – in particular the last plenary session of the second day – and as, at a certain moment, ESPON “insiders” have been dominating the discussion. The replies indicate that 65% considered the plenary discussions as good, 32% as very good and 3% as not so good.

Graphic 5 Question no. 6 - results



With regard to the organisation and preparation of the event, information service both before the seminar start and during the session has been considered as satisfactory by more than 98% of the replies.

Graphic 6 Question no. 1 - results



Interesting is also to note how the participants learned about the seminar. 3% indicated the ESPON website, 6% the BBR website, 36% got to know about it by e-mails from the organising team and 55% through other means, such as colleagues, universities and partly even ESPON Contact Points.

Taken all these points together, it can be said that the seminar was very well received and thus it does not come as a surprise that all participants stated that they would recommend organising more ESPON YoungStars seminars.

5.2 Deliveries – Monitoring Indicators

In the proposal for this seminar, a number of indicators for measuring the success of the event have been indicated. In the following we briefly follow up on these:

✓ **Possible new ideas for projects or improvements by the participants:**

Especially in the workshops but also in the plenary discussions following the presentations a number of ideas in that field have been discussed. Just to mention a few:

- projects on social aspects
- 3D-mapping
- better information on projects and its results (was related to more activities like the YoungStars or information seminars)

✓ **Number of participants (incl. country, age and profession):**

The aimed number of 60 participants was reached only a few weeks after informing the public about the YoungStars seminar. At the end 59 participants attended. 4 persons were invited as speakers and 5 persons acted as organisers and gave also presentations. Thus in total 68 persons attended the seminar. As mentioned above, at the seminar there were people from 16 countries – considering present residency – and if not

considering speakers, the participants came from 15 countries. There was a good mixture of people as has been frequently indicated in the feedback forms. This involves also the fact that there were a good mixture of research, public civil servants, private sector workers and students. The average age was below 30.

✓ **Feedback questionnaire:**

As discussed in the previous chapter a feedback questionnaire has been handed out to the participants in order to get further insights on which aspects of the seminar were more and which less appreciated. The results of that questionnaire are very positive as reflected in the above chapter. The questionnaire itself is available in the annex.

✓ **Creating a link to the young professionals via networking with other related professional or student networks:**

The seminar was a first and successful step into that direction. Networking between participants started. Furthermore the Young AESOP, (Association of European Schools of Planning) was interested in organising a similar event. It has been agreed that on their invitation a representative of the YoungStars should present ESPON and the YoungStars idea during the AESOP congress in Vienna from July 13 to 17, 2005.

✓ **The publication of a seminar report on results and outcomes:**

The present report sums up results and outcomes as well as lessons learned from the seminar and will be made available to the public. Furthermore all presentations and additional information on the seminar are available at the internet, partly at the BBR and partly at the ESPON website. Besides, various articles on the seminar have been published by participants in their country and native language.

5.3 Added Value

The added value of the seminar can be summarised in three words: ESPON-dissemination, awareness-raising and networking.

The seminar clearly contributed to disseminating ESPON results to an audience which so far was not very familiar with ESPON activities, which was at least illustrated by the fact that over 60% of the participants were not in any way engaged in ESPON activities, i.e. neither involved in ESPON projects nor in ECP or MC activities. 25% even stated that they did not know about ESPON beforehand.

The seminar clearly also contributed to awareness raising and learning. The feedback forms showed clearly that a lot of participants have learnt about ESPON and also about European territorial development and policies, about difficulties of European wide research, about differences between planning cultures and about working and discussing in international contexts.

Undoubtedly, the seminar contributed to networking, i.e. to the strengthening of European-wide networking and exchange among the young European scientists and practitioners' communities. Thus the ESPON community, which is still relatively limited and does not reach all parties which could have an interest, has widened up. Young colleagues have now the chance to get easier in touch with overreach other around the ESPON Space¹³ and the western Balkan countries.

By using the World Café technique, the participants were confronted with a very modern and efficient method used in several fields of today's project management.

5.4 Outlook

The positive experience of this ESPON YoungStars seminar and the call for similar activities in future show that the basic principles should not be changed. From the experience made with this first ESPON YoungStars Seminar resulted some improvements and further developments.

First the seminar hold in future should be related to one main ESPON topic, which should be the central thread. All presentations of ESPON projects as well as of projects from the outer ESPON world should concentrate on the main topic. This regards also the workshops.

Second, the seminars should take place in a city which has a good accessibility. It might be worthwhile considering whether every of the four big European areas (S,N, E W) should have all four years a seminar to give "young" people the chance to participate.

As an alternative an ESPON YoungStars "road show" or "traveling circus" could be envisaged. The intention is to reach more interested students and young professionals in a shorter time and for less money. The idea behind is that every year a group of four organizers who are lectures and organisers at the same time lectures will organise in the four European areas (S, N, E, W) together with a group of regional ECPs and partner universities respectively institutes a two day event, including two to four regional lectures. The four events will have the same structure and content. Thus the

¹³ EU 25 + Bulgaria and Rumania + Norway and Switzerland

main topic will be transferred and discussed in various areas during one year. The financial extra cost will be those for travelling. The extra time would proportionally be very positive including the transfer and learning-effect, bearing in mind the main aim of the ESPON YoungStars initiative¹⁴. Costs could be reduced through a joint venture between the ESPON Programme and the partner universities/ institutes.

To establish a continuous work and information an institute should be found which will host and maintain an ESPON YoungStars web-site.

A small team of volunteers should work as an organisation unit and represent the YoungStars idea and activities in other networks.

¹⁴ 'The general aim of the YoungStars activity is to give young professionals and students in spatial planning and related fields a deeper understanding of ESPON and the challenges of European spatial planning today as well as in the near and further future. ... Firstly, it aims at making ESPON results known among the young European scientific community, i.e. students and young professionals, interested in European spatial planning issues (equal to "promotion strategy"). Secondly, it aims at providing a platform for new innovative ideas related to ESPON research, both from young members of the ESPON family – that are often doing the main part of the work but remain unseen and unheard in the official ESPON contexts – and from young professionals outside the ESPON family discussing and potentially using ESPON results in their work.' Application for a transnational ECP activity. ESPON YoungStars Seminar – ESPON Academic Seminar Youth, page 11

6 Annexes

6.1 final programme

6.2 information on the excursion to Planinsko Polje

6.3 list of participants

6.4 feedback questionnaire

All presentations given during the seminar you find on the ESPON web page:
http://www.espon.lu/online/documentation/network/ecp/ecp_280.html

