



ESPON 2013 Programme

Newsletter No 11/25 November 2009

Welcome to the electronic ESPON Newsletter. It offers information on the latest developments of the ESPON Programme.

Message from the ESPON Coordination Unit:

Substantial interest for new ESPON projects and results

Opening the Proposals for Applied Research and Expression of Interest from stakeholders after the deadline of 11 November 2009 confirmed substantial interest in ESPON. In total 69 applications have been received. Behind these applications are 385 partners and stakeholders that during the last months have worked hard in getting common applications ready for submission in time. This transnational cooperation is one of the hallmarks of the ESPON 2013 Programme and the result of the open calls is a concrete example of the growing acknowledgement of a European perspective upon territorial development and cohesion.

Territorial Cohesion as a new explicit objective for EU Cohesion Policy will accelerate the demand for fact and evidence on European territorial structures, trends, perspectives and policy impacts. Regional and local authorities are increasingly eager to understand their position in Europe vis-à-vis other regions and cities and to include their European comparative advantages and development opportunities in strategies for further development.

European Institutions are also part of the increasing evidence demand related to territorial cohesion. ESPON had lately the opportunity to present the ESPON 2013 Programme and examples of interesting findings for the European Parliaments Committee on Regional Development (REGI). A vivid and stimulating exchange of views was part of the session and thorough dissemination of future ESPON results to the Committee will be a priority.

2010 will altogether be a productive and active year for ESPON. Many new final results from research and targeted analyses will become available and several ESPON events including a conference, seminars and workshops are in the calendar for the dissemination and capitalisation of results.

Looking forward to a challenging and stimulating 2010, I take this occasion to thank all readers of the ESPON Newsletter for your support in 2009. Happy New Year 2010.

Peter Mehlbye
Director ESPON Coordination Unit

ESPON Open Calls for Proposals and Expression of Interests

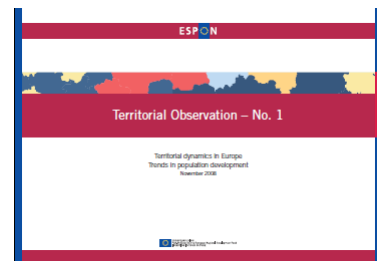
The deadline for submissions expired on 11 November 2009. The selection procedure is now running following two parallel tracks. One is the checking the eligibility of the received applications according to the established criteria. The second is the evaluation of the content, management and partnership of the applications. The Monitoring Committee will decide on projects to be approved in February 2010. Further information will be available at the ESPON Website.

Coming Publication and Events

New Territorial Observation No. 2 - Regional Accessibility Trends in Europe

The new Territorial Observation will present information on territorial structures and recent dynamics of accessibility development within the European Union, its regions and cities. The publication is structured in a summary chapter and 2 main chapters, each with a particular focus:

1. Most recent European territorial trends in accessibility for three different modes of transport, air, road and rail, as well as for multimodal transport.
2. Relation between multimodal accessibility and economic development and between multimodal accessibility and migration flows in Europe.



The ESPON 2013 Programme will continue observing accessibility trends in Europe. Looking into future accessibility developments and integrating economic, social and environmental issues in understanding better the development potential for European regions and cities will continue to be a major priority. The Territorial Observation No. 2 will be available at the ESPON Website on December 2009.

Internal Seminar on 2-3 December 2009 in Sweden



The ESPON Coordination Unit in cooperation with the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union is organising an Internal Seminar on 2 and 3 December 2009 in Malmö. The theme of the Seminar is "The ESPON Knowledge Base as Potential for Territorial Analysis and Policymaking at Regional Level".

The internal seminar will bring together for dialogue the Monitoring Committee, the ESPON Contact Points, and Project Groups on actions under the priorities 1, 2 and 3. The stakeholders participating in Targeted Analysis projects are emerging as a fourth grouping that will be integrated in the internal seminars.

The overall aim of the seminar is to explore the ESPON knowledge base as a potential for regional territorial analyses and hence supporting policymaking from the regional to the European level. The objectives for the seminar are threefold:

1. Show the added value of and provide practical suggestions on using European wide ESPON knowledge in territorial policymaking at regional level.
2. Discuss practical suggestions to researchers and practitioners involved in regional analysis on using the European wide ESPON knowledge.
3. Discuss lessons for future ESPON project development and implementation in order to further improve the use of ESPON knowledge in regional territorial analyses and policymaking.

To capitalise upon the seminar results a Report will be available at ESPON website.

ESPON Workshop at Regional Studies Association (RSA), Annual International Conference 2010

ESPON is organising a Workshop during the RSA Annual International Conference on 24 – 26 May 2010, in Pécs, Hungary. The theme of the RSA conference is “Regional Responses to Global Shifts: Actors, Institutions and Organisations”.

Under the theme “Spatial Planning in Cities and Regions”, ESPON sessions related to regional competitiveness and cohesion will take place as follows:

1. Territorial Competitiveness and Cohesion: Development Paths of Cities and Urban Agglomerations – session coordinated by Moritz Lennert, Free University of Brussels, Belgium Lead Partner of ESPON FOCI Project.
2. Territorial Competitiveness and Cohesion: Development Opportunities in Different Types of Rural Areas– session coordinated by Andrew Copus, UHI Millennium Institute, UK, Lead Partner of ESPON EDORA Project.
3. Territorial Competitiveness and Cohesion: The Effects of Rising Energy Prices– session coordinated by Oihana Blanco Mendizabal, Innobasque, Spain, Lead Partner of ESPON ReRISK Project.

To register visit the RSA Website, link: <http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/events/2010/may-pecs-registration.asp>

Recent Events - Workshop on “Approaching New Functional Areas”



ESPON invited for a one day Open Workshop on Approaching New Functional Areas on 5 November to explore how different territorial research approaches to new functional areas can be used to support policymakers in setting policy actions for territories with sufficient internal coherence and functionality. Around 40 experts from all over Europe attended the workshop.

[More](#)

ESPON at the European Parliament on 4 November 2009



The European Parliament - Committee on Regional Development (REGI) invited ESPON to attend the REGI Meeting on 4 November 2009. Peter Mehlbye presented the ESPON 2013 Programme and its activities. After the presentation, Members of the Committee addressed questions and engaged in a dialogue on ESPON. The REGI meeting can be watched on the European Parliament Multimedia Library, [link](#).

ESPON for European Regions - Meeting at the EC on 18 November 2009

The European Commission DG Regio invited ESPON to attend the **Meeting for the Regional Representative Offices in Brussels** on 18 November 2009. Peter Mehlbye, Director of the ESPON Coordination Unit presented the ESPON 2013 Programme and its activities.

New ESPON results and Reports now available

Map of the Month "Performance of Less Accessible Regions"



This ESPON 'Map of the Month' focuses on less accessible regions in Europe, i.e. regions with a potential multimodal accessibility in 2006 below the EU average. The diversity of these regions is examined by analysing the GDP-PPS per capita in 2006 and the annual net-migration for 2001-2005. [More](#)

TIP TAP, Draft Final Report

The Draft Final Report of the applied research project "Territorial Impact Package for Transport and Agricultural Policies" is now online. The TIPTAP project is to explore and test possible methodological avenues for tools for Territorial Impact Assessment. The project has chosen to provide an update of the TEQUILA Model that was developed under the ESPON 2006 Programme. It successfully builds further on the two-level assessment approach including both single and summative policy impacts.

The innovative update includes three main new elements:

1. A weighting system capturing preferences on different policy priorities;
2. Value functions that translate impacts in their own units to a 0 to 1 value ranking;
3. A FLAG Model that addresses excessive impacts that are not liable to compensation.

The update of the model provides a basis and common framework for territorial relevant and integrated impact analysis. The test cases show that the model can serve as an important communicative tool that has an important potential for policymakers. [More reading.](#)

EUROISLANDS, Inception Report

Find out more about the targeted analysis project EUROISLANDS - The Development of the Islands – European Islands and Cohesion Policy. The aim of the project is to deliver an appropriate reference work and a set of policy recommendations and strategic guidance to foster the sustainable development of the European islands within the framework of the Single Market. The Inception Report presents a more detailed overview of the analytical approach to be applied by the project. Read the Inception Report [here](#).

New Call for Tenders Capitalisation and Media Bureau

The Call for Tenders Capitalisation Strategy and Media Bureau is now open. This Call aims at selecting a tenderer able to carry out the work of elaborating, coordinating, expanding and improving the strategy as well as the activities related to communication, media and

capitalisation of the Programme. Deadline for the receipt of tenders is 6 January 2010 by 14h00. [More](#)

Partner Café: ESPON doubles the number of potential project partners

The Calls launched on September 2009 has created an enormous interest amongst researchers throughout Europe in the ESPON Programme. The number of registered potential partners for transnational project groups has more than doubled, compared to the situation in May 2009. The [overview](#) that is weekly updated on the ESPON Website now contains 126 registered potential partners from 23 countries showing interest the various themes. The overview is therefore becoming a more and more useful tool in support of constructing transnational project groups.

News from INTERREG IVC: Capitalisation Conference on 9-10 December 2009

The INTERREG IVC programme is holding its first Capitalisation conference at the Gothenburg Convention Centre, Sweden. The event will be composed of plenary roundtable discussions, thematic capitalisation sessions, networking and speed-dating sessions, as well as current and proposed projects presentation, around INTERREG IVC's two priorities: Innovation & the Knowledge economy and Environment & Risk prevention. Further information on: www.interreg4c2009.eu

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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