



Info Day on New Calls and Partner Café

Brussels, 16 September 2009

CV of Speakers

Thiemo W. Eser

Thiemo W. Eser is responsible for European Affairs at the Ministry for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Department for Spatial Planning now for six years. He studied economics, as well as regional, urban and environmental economics and holds a doctorate in economics of the University of Trier, Germany. He was first junior than senior lecturer at the faculty of economic and social sciences of the same university. He co-founded and covered the co-director's post of a semi public research institute for eight years and led various projects financed by the EU, national, regional and local level in Western and Central European countries about European integration, regional policy and evaluation, federalism and governance, spatial and sustainable development before he joined the Ministry.

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Nicola De Michelis

Nicola De Michelis is the head of the unit responsible for economic analysis and additionality in the Directorate General for Regional Policy at the European Commission. He joined the EC in 1996 working - with the exception of a short parenthesis in the external relation service - on regional issues. He was part of the team which designed and negotiated the financial and legislative package for the reform of cohesion policy for the period 2007-2013. Before joining the European institutions, he worked for four years in the Territorial Development department of the OECD in Paris, and for five years in the private sector in Italy. He holds a university degree in economics and sociology.

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Sverker Lindblad

Sverker Lindblad is involved in regional analysis and territorial development at the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications in Sweden. He is a member of the ESPON Monitoring Committee and represents Sweden in the Network of Territorial Cohesion Contact Points (NTCCP) and the EU-committee Territorial Cohesion and Urban Matters (TCUM). He has been involved in the processes according spatial and territorial development at EU and national level from the ESDP to the Territorial Agenda with its Action programme.

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Peter Mehlbye

Peter Mehlbye is Director of the Coordination Unit for the ESPON Programme since the start in 2002. ESPON is a European observation network on territorial development and cohesion carrying through applied research and analyses providing new evidence and knowledge on territorial structures, trends, perspectives and impacts of EU policies within the European territory. The mission of the ESPON Programme is to support policy development related to European territorial development and cohesion. New evidence and comparable information on all regions and cities of Europe will normally cover 27 EU Member States as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Peter worked for more than 10 years in a Danish Ministry as Head of Unit for national spatial development and planning, regional policy and international cooperation. He was for most of this period in the ministry attached to the cabinet of the Minister. He then worked as an Expert to the European Commission, DG Regional Policy, where he was involved in the conceptual development of EU regional policy.

By education Peter holds a master degree in Economics and a master degree in Architecture, specialised in planning and development of urban, regional and national territories.

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Michaela Gensheimer

Michaela Gensheimer works as Cluster Coordinator/Project Expert at the ESPON Coordination Unit. She is responsible for developing and coordinating applied research projects and targeted analyses in the field of European territorial development and cohesion.

Before joining the ESPON CU, Michaela worked as Research Assistant at the Universities of Luxembourg and Trier focusing on European regional development, urban policy and territorial cooperation. She collaborated in various projects in these fields; among others she managed the EUKN (European Urban Knowledge Network) Focal Point as well as the ESPON Contact Point, both for Luxembourg. Prior to that, she worked at the Senator for Economy and Ports of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen where she was responsible for the evaluation, management and implementation of European Structural Funds Programmes (Objective 2 and URBAN 2).

She started her professional career at a project development company in Saarbrücken, predominantly being involved in cross-border and transnational cooperation projects. Michaela studied applied geography, urban and regional economics and architectural history at the Universities of Trier and Edinburgh.

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René van der Lecq

René van der Lecq is spatial planner and is currently working as Project Expert at the ESPON Coordination Unit. He is responsible for the development and implementation of applied research projects and targeted analyses and is also involved in capitalisation activities as the organisation of workshops and seminars.

Before joining the ESPON CU in 2008, René used to work for more than eight years as Deputy of the Director at the Spatial Planning Division of the Flemish Ministry for Housing, Town and Country Planning and Immovable Heritage. Here he was responsible for the preparation and implementation of strategic regional spatial planning policy and European and cross-border

planning initiatives. René has written several publications combining his experience in regional, cross-border and European spatial development. René holds a Master degree in spatial planning obtained at the University of Nijmegen, Netherlands.

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Cliff Hague

Cliff Hague is Professor Emeritus at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, where he held the Chair in Spatial Development and Planning before leaving in 2006 to work as a freelance consultant. He was the leader of the UK ESPON Contact Point from 2001 to 2006, and has played the same role in ESPON 2013 since 2008. With Verena Hachmann he co-authored a chapter on ESPON in European Spatial Planning and Research (edited by Andreas Faludi, 2008).

He has worked as a consultant in INTERREG and INTERACT projects and on territorial impact assessment. He is a member of the UK's Academy for the Social Sciences. He is a Past President of the Royal Town Planning Institute and of the Commonwealth Association of Planners, and is currently finishing a book on Regional and Local Economic Development.

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Sara Ferrara

Sara Ferrara works at the ESPON Coordination Unit as Cluster Coordinator “Programme, Finance and Budget”/Project Expert for Targeted Analyses. She started working here in 2003 as Project Expert.

Before joining the ESPON CU, Sara was responsible for evaluation procedures and monitoring of projects at the Joint Technical Secretariat of the IIIB Medocc and IIIC South Programmes. Prior to that, she was for several years coordinating the monitoring of the Phare Partnership Programme after having being the main expert within the Technical Assistance Unit. Sara also worked as an international consultant for a British consultancy where she delivered technical assistance services to various EC DGs.

For several years she has been contributing to the review “Europa e Mezzogiorno” targeting local actors of the public sector. Sara started her professional carrier as research assistant in Sardinia at the CRENOS Centre for North-South Economic Research (University of Cagliari, Department of Regional Economics) mainly dealing with economic convergence across regions in the European Union.

Sara holds a degree in Political Sciences and two Masters in EU studies.

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József Szarka

József Szarka is working as Financial Expert at the ESPON Coordination Unit since 2005. He is responsible for project management and project monitoring including a wide range of

programme and financial management tasks, such as organization of selection procedures, evaluation of proposals and expression of interests, contracting, liaison with transnational project groups, assessment and recommendations for progress reports with regard to eligibility and certification procedures, supervision and guidance of project partners.

Before joining the ESPON CU, József was holding a position of an executive expert at the Centre for Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The focus of his work was international project management, in particular financial management, accounting, reporting and auditing of various ESPON, INTERREG, FP5 and FP6 projects.

He started his professional carrier in 2002 at the Transdanubian Research Institute being responsible for international relations. József holds two university degrees in economics and law from University of Pécs.

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Maria Herrero Canela

Maria Herrero Canela is geographer. She works as Technical Assessor at the «Centre d'Estudis Territorials, Direcció d'Estudis i Prospectiva, Diputació de Barcelona». She used to be involved in analysing territorial changes and conflicts but she is currently focused on the analysis of territorial trends and spatial patterns and land use change and stability.

She has coordinated several publications on analysis of territorial trends and governance, available at <http://www.diba.cat/territori/default.asp>.

She is also involved in the organisation and coordination of various seminars, the latest one was "Políticas de gestión de la baja densidad" and took place on 2008.

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Ann-Gritt Neuse

Ann-Gritt Neuse started working in 2008 as Junior Expert at the ESPON Coordination Unit where she predominantly supports the Cluster "Programme, Finance and Budget". She already joined the ESPON CU under the ESPON 2006 Programme as a trainee during her studies on Economic and Social Geography at the University of Osnabrück. Ann-Gritt holds a Master degree in Geography and wrote her thesis on cluster strategies of European metropolitan areas.

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Tobias Chilla

Since February 2008 Tobias Chilla is «Assistant Chercheur» at the University of Luxembourg; he is also representing the ESPON Contact Point in Luxembourg with Estelle Evrard and Christian Schulz. Before joining the University of Luxembourg, Tobias was Assistant Professor at the Dept. of Geography, University of Bamberg (Bavaria). He started his professional carrier at University of Cologne being Scientific Assistant and Consultant at International Consultancy in Düsseldorf as well.

Tobias holds a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Cologne. Tobias is interested in the following research areas: Europeanisation and EU Studies, Spatial Planning, Environmental Governance, Economic, Political, Urban Geography.

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Marjan Van Herwijnen

Marjan van Herwijnen is Project Expert at the ESPON Coordination Unit. She is responsible for the development and implementation of applied research projects and projects in the scientific platform with a main focus on statistics, data and maps.

Before joining the ESPON CU, Marjan worked as senior researcher at the Institute for Environmental Studies of the VU University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. In 1999 she received a PhD in economics at the VU University of Amsterdam on spatial decision support for environmental management. Her main topics of research are the evaluation of environmental problems with the help of multicriteria methods and spatial evaluation methods, spatial planning and design and the development of (spatial) decision support systems. She coordinated the EU-project SustainabilityA-Test which developed a handbook to support policy makers in selecting the best tool(s) to apply in a specific sustainability assessment.

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Kai Böhme

Kai Böhme is specialised in European regional and territorial policies and international comparative studies. He has considerable experience in policy advice at the European and national levels as well as in the management of international applied research and consultancy projects.

He has work experience from the ESPON Coordination Unit, Nordregio and the Secretariat for Future Studies (Germany). In parallel to his consultancy and policy advice activities he is associated assistant professor at the University of Luxembourg and holds visiting research fellowships at University of Sheffield (UK), and the Blekinge Institute of Technology (Sweden).

Kai holds a PhD in Management Sciences from the University of Nijmegen (the Netherlands). Among others, he is the service provider of the ESPON Typology Compilation. Via SWECO he is also heading the DG Regio study on regional governance in the context of globalisation, and a study for the Swedish EU Presidency on the progress made with the Action Programme of the Territorial Agenda.

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André Mueller

André Mueller is currently Cluster Coordinator / Project Expert for “Capitalisation, Analysis and Publication” at the ESPON Coordination Unit. He has been working as Senior Project Coordinator of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) in Bonn and he was Senior Adviser at the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS)

in Berlin. Holding a MSc in Engineering he interdisciplinarily studied architecture / urbanism, engineering, economics and arts at, amongst others, the IDEA League / RWTH Aachen. Work and applied research residencies brought him to almost all European countries and beyond, resulting in interdisciplinary publications.

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