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ESPON Coordination Unit
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Ref.:
Tender for ESPON Project 2.2.1 "Territorial Effects of Structural Funds"

Following the invitation of the 16th of September 2002, we hereby submit a tender for ESPON project number 2.2.1 "Territorial Effects of Structural Funds".

Yours sincerely,



Hallgeir Aalbu
(director)

**Tender
to the European Spatial Planning Observation Network
(ESPON)**

**The envisaged Action 2.2.1 of the ESPON Programme
under Interreg III Art 53 entitled
“The territorial effects of the Structural Funds”**



October 2002

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1 Identification of the Tenderer

Nordregio, the Nordic Centre for Spatial Development, is proposing to lead a trans-national project group with a view to undertaking the ESPON project 2.2.1 on territorial effects of Structural Funds.

Identity of Tenderer		
Business Name (full legal title):	Nordregio, Nordic Centre for Spatial Development	
Short Name (where applicable):	Nordregio	
Legal Status:	Public Corporation	
Founding date:	July 1997	
VAT No:	SE 262 00 159001	
Official Registration No in Companies Register:	262000-1590	
Number of salaried employees:	28	
Registered office address		
Street:	P.O. Box 1658	
Post Code:	City:	Country:
11186	Stockholm	Sweden
Tenderer's bank details		
Name of bank/branch:	Nordea, Hamngatan, Stockholm	
Street:	P.O. Box 7063	
Post Code:	City:	Country:
103 86	Stockholm	Sweden
Bank/branch code:	Bank account No:	
-----	3001-1701595	
BIC code (SWIFT):	NDEASESS	
Tenderer's principal account holder (surname, forename):	Nordregio, Hallgeir Aalbu and Anja Proseby	
Title or position within the tendering organisation:	director and director of administration	
Details of the Invitation to Tender		
Invitation to tender No:	MS/ibi/02/0916	
Title:	Proposal in relation to ESPON 2.2.1 'Territorial Effects of Structural Funds'.	
Person who will sign the contract (statutory legal representative)		
Surname, forename:	Nationality:	
Aalby, Hallgeir	Norwegian	
Domicile:	Stockholm	
Acting in his/her capacity as:	Director	
Date and place of birth:	01.04.1955	

The trans-national project group has been brought together with a view to pooling existing knowledge and expertise in the field of spatial development and Structural Funds.

Organisation	Name
Nordregio, The Nordic Centre for Spatial Development	Hallgeir Aalbu, Kai Böhme and Kaisa Lähteenmäki-Smith.
Merit	Andreu Ulied and Marite Guevara
EPRC, European Policies Research Centre	John Bachtler, Laura Polverari and François Josserand
ITPS, Institute for Growth Policy Studies (ESPON Contact Point)	Göran Hallin
Infyde, INFORMACION Y DESARROLLO	Jaime del Castillo Hermosa, Belén Barroeta Eguia and Silke Haarich
Systema	Dimitrios Tsamboulas, Dimitris Korizis, Anastasios Roidakis and Aggeliki Roussou
University of Utrecht	Ton Kreukels and Willem Buunk
University of Hamburg-Harburg	Peter Ache
Margaret Hall Consultancy	Margaret Hall

1.1 Project Management and Co-ordination

In addition to the need for relevant expertise on the subject and knowledge and experience of related policies and territories, co-ordination and management will be key factors in the success of the project. As such they will thus constitute important aspects of the overall work programme. Nordregio is fully aware of the contractual obligations that accompany lead partner status as regards Interreg III C programmes, and will thus also ensure that work is carried out under the principles of sound project and financial management, that deadlines are met and that a clear audit trail is maintained.

In order to facilitate the smooth running of the project, the following mechanisms will be taken forward:

- Developing clear and transparent corporate governance arrangements that set out the responsibility of the individual partners in advance
- Clear communication and the establishment of trust between partners developed from the first working group meeting
- Dedicated personnel to ensure that targets are met, to ensure that financial procedures run smoothly and to identify and tackle any problems that arise
- In depth discussion of potentially challenging issues at the project meetings

1.1.1 Lead Partnership

A dedicated management team will provide the lead for the project. This team will be formed by Nordregio and will work in co-operation with a core project team. To facilitate the smooth running of a project with such a wide geographical scope and a broad variety of tasks, a core management team representing the project partners will be established.

The core management team will be lead by the director of Nordregio, Hallgeir Aalbu, who will direct the research project and ensure overall quality control together with Göran Hallin of ITPS. In close co-operation with colleagues from Mcrit, EPRC and Nordregio, they will take a strategic view of project development and will ensure that each partner is able to contribute fully to the project.

Everyday co-ordination and management will be taken forward by Kai Böhme, Nordregio.

In general, the project will be developed on a partnership basis, with individual partners taking forward key aspects of the work programme. This process will be aided by regular working group meetings to discuss the issues raised by the research and to set targets for taking the project as a whole forward. For this purpose the members of the trans-national project group will adopt different roles:

Core management team

The core management team consist in Nordregio, Mcrit, EPRC and ITPS.

Tasks experts

WP	Task	Lead	Main Partners
1	Elaboration of Concepts and Methods for Measuring Territorial Impact	Nordregio	Mcrit and EPRC
2	Formulation of Hypothesis for the Assessment of the Territorial Impact of the Structural Funds	EPRC	Nordregio and territorial experts
3	Reference Framework for the Analysis: European Spatial Development and Territorial Cohesion in the 21 st Century	Mcrit	M. Hall
4	Geography of Structural Funds Investments (1994-99): Spending and Output by Region	Infyde	Territorial experts
5	Comparative Analysis of National Systems Affecting the Structural Funds	EPRC	Territorial experts
6	The Influence of the Structural Funds on Territorial Cohesion and Specialisation	Mcrit	Nordregio
7	The Impact of the Interreg Community Initiative on Spatial Integration	EPRC	Nordregio
8	Final Analysis: The Territorial Dimension of the Structural Funds	Nordregio	All
9	Development of Policy Recommendations	ITPS	Nodregio, EPRC
10	Information Sharing and Overall Co-ordination	Nordregio	

Although the different partners are in some cases responsible for the work packages set out elsewhere in this document, Nordregio will still have a key role in ensuring that the work is completed on time and that proper co-ordination occurs with the other aspects of the work programme.

Territorial experts

As the project concentrates on the Structural Funds, it is assumed that the projects covers, in the first instance the current EU 15, and thus that it will

only to a certain extent draw conclusions on accession and neighbouring countries (i.e. EU 27 + 2).

Territories	Responsible partner
Austria	University of Hamburg-Harburg
Belgium	University of Utrecht and M. Hall
Denmark	Nordregio
Finland	Nordregio
France	EPRC
Germany	University of Hamburg-Harburg
Greece	Systema
Ireland	EPRC
Italy	EPRC
Luxembourg	M Hall
Netherlands	University of Utrecht
Portugal	Infyde
Spain	Infyde
Sweden	Nordregio
UK	EPRC
Candidate and neighbouring countries	<i>Nordregio, EPRC, Systema</i>

In addition, a wider group of representatives from institutions dealing with the most relevant ESPON projects with the candidate and neighbouring countries will be consulted through the utilisation of virtual networks. We would be happy to discuss the option of hosting a dissemination and consultation seminar in connection with the delivery of the third interim report in August 2004. At the present time however such an event has not yet been costed.

1.1.2 Liaison within the wider context of ESPON

The team will co-ordinate closely with other research projects within the ESPON programme in order to be able to cross-reference and share knowledge and data as it emerges. The aim, as stated within the Terms of Reference, will be to prepare common ground for the investigation of the effect of sector policies on the spatial structure of Europe. ITPS as the National Contact Point will have a key role to play in this area. As stated above, we will also feed policy recommendation and findings into other ESPON projects. We envisage that this will be particularly useful as regards the horizontal measures under Priority 3. In this respect Nordregio and Mcrit, both of whom are members of the trans-national project group carrying out ESPON 3.1, will have key roles to play.

1.2 Geographical Representation

The team has been specifically chosen to provide good coverage of all 15 EU Member States as regards both the language skills of the individual researchers concerned and previous work experience as regards each European country concerned. Indeed, most of the participating institutes have staff from different European countries, as well as staff members with work experience from more than one country. Should any gaps emerge in our coverage however we will seek to incorporate other partners through our existing network of expert throughout Europe. Our experience and language

competences mean that we will also be able to effectively incorporate the views and experiences of the candidate and neighbouring countries.

Nordregio, Stockholm	Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Sweden
Mcrit, Barcelona	(Spain)
EPRC, Glasgow	UK, Ireland, France, Italy
ITPS, Stockholm	(Sweden)
M. Hall, Luxembourg	Luxemburg, (Belgium)
INFYDE, Las Arenas – Vizcaya	Spain, Portugal
Systema, Athens	Greece
University of Utrecht	The Netherlands, Belgium
University of Hamburg-Harburg	Germany, Austria

All partners speak English, which will enable research and reporting to be carried out in this common language.

While the research team's experience within the EU as a whole is set out elsewhere in this proposal, it is worth noting here that the team has considerable research experience in relation to working with the candidate and neighbouring countries, something that will be relevant to the ESPON research action.

2 Information Regarding Conditions of Exclusion

Annex 1 includes information on the legal constitution and financial statements for the lead partner. Annexes 2 – 4 include statements and declaration on financial capacity, legal status and absence of conflicts of interest for the tenderer and each of the sub-contractors.

There are thus no legal or financial reasons for exclusion from this tender as far as the team is aware.

5 Proposal of Services

This section will outline the approach adopted as regards the ESPON project 2.2.1. Before discussing the single working packages, we would like to highlight some issues regarding the award criteria.

5.1 Meeting the award criteria

To facilitate the location of information provided in this proposal against the requirements of Point 14 of the Call for Tender we will set out a description below.

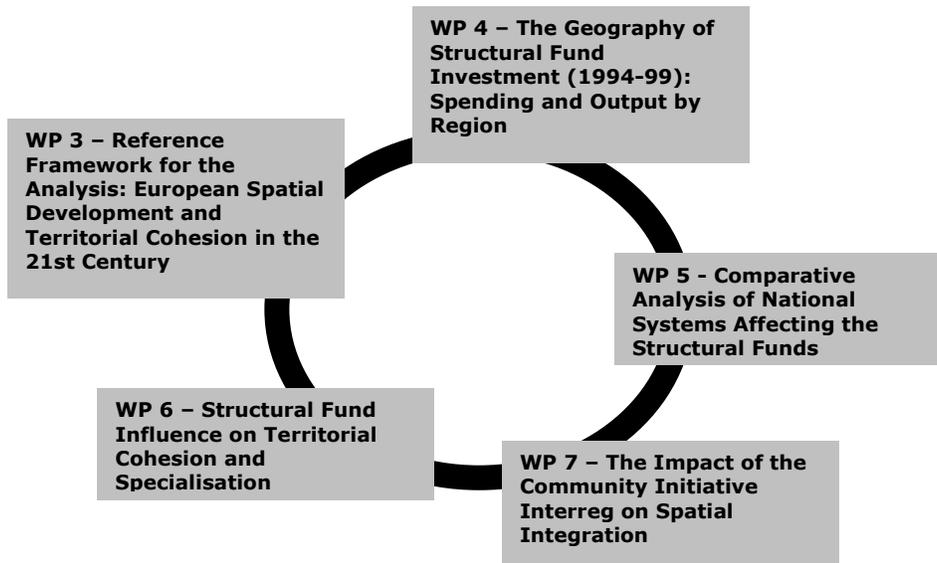
Research knowledge in the field is demonstrated in a previous section of this document. We are fortunate to be able to call upon the services of a network of experts that have a considerable expertise in the field. We hope that we have clearly demonstrated our extensive experience of the various fields of regional policy, European spatial development policy and territorial trends in the context of the Community and of the candidate countries. All those involved also have extensive experience of working as a part of trans-national research and consultancy projects. Both Nordregio itself and the other partners have long experience of working with, and managing, similar services across the Union.

Research experience within the terms of reference is also described previously. Again we are pleased to be able to provide a team that has extensive experience of the particular aspects of the terms of reference. We are indeed fortunate to be able to draw upon the experience of experts that have been closely involved in European spatial planning for a number of years, and have experience of dealing with the Structural Funds for perhaps even longer. Many of the texts referenced as potential (existing) access points have been led by, or have involved contributions from, members of this project team.

We briefly described the policy context in a previous part of this document. The combination of the notions of economic, social and territorial cohesion is a further element in this approach which means that one cannot look at territorial entities in isolation but rather one must also consider their role in regional, national and European (or global) space. Exploring the implications of how to address the specific territorial challenges in the policies is an important feature of the project. This is further elaborated in Work Packages 1 and 2. Based on first meta-evaluations Working Package 2 will enable us to formulate a working hypothesis. This hypothesis will then be contested in Working Packages 3 – 7.

WP 1 - Elaboration Concepts and Methods for Measuring Territorial Impact

WP 2 – Formulation of Hypothesis for the Measurement of the Territorial Dimension of



WP 8 - Final Analysis: The Territorial Dimension of the Structural Funds

WP 9 - Development of Policy Recommendations

WP 10 - Information Sharing and Overall Co-ordination

The territorial impact assessment of the Structural Funds will be approached from three directions:

- **Territorial Development**
Working Packages 3 and 4 deal mainly with analysing developments occurring on European territory at the lowest level possible, where ongoing spatial development will be mapped, and the investments of Structural Funds. The study team wishes to work closely with European statistical agencies as well as with the relevant national bodies. The range of available indicators is substantial, although most suffer from one or more failings when considered for application to a trans-European study. Key indicators will be collected at a European level (EU, neighbouring and candidate countries).
- **Governance and Policy Development**
Working Package 5 will partly draw upon the work carried out under Working Package 2, which address the policy dimension. This comprises the governance of Structural Funds in the various countries as well as their conformity to national policies. The aim is to identify a set of potential typologies for spatial policies. Another aspect of this dimension is the influence of Interreg on the formation of trans-national macro-regions. This will be analysed in Working Package 7.

- **Causal Links**

Comparing actual spatial development to actual Structural Fund investment by region shows where development and investment coexist. However, it does not allow for conclusions on the causal links between them. In order to pin down the territorial effects of the Structural Funds, a number of hotspots and coldspots will be analysed with regard to their causal effects. This work will be carried out in Working Package 6. These efforts will result in a typology drawn up at the European level.

At various stages of the project data collection will be needed. The intention is to collect data at the lowest geographical level possible. For the overall European analysis we anticipate that this will predominantly take place at the NUTS III level. For the analysis of hotspots and coldspots however more detailed data will be needed.

Recommendations that could inspire policy development at Community, national and regional level are a function of all elements of the project. However, the nested analysis of hotspots and coldspots in Working Package 6 will provide a critical input into this process, as reflected in the resources dedicated to this particular element of the study. The project team is also open to wider inputs when developing recommendations, and we would be happy to discuss the option of hosting a dissemination and consultation seminar in connection with the delivery of the third interim report. We attach a significant level of importance to the proposed web-based communication tools for the development and testing of ideas. These approaches will enable ideas to be shared and critically appraised by external stakeholders (including policy makers and other ESPON researchers). In addition, the team has also developed a strong internal working process that will enable true partnership development and networking to occur rather than having researchers working essentially in isolation. In this we are able to build upon the experience of good practice developed through the SPESP process.

Interactions with other projects and with the Co-ordination Unit are also viewed as important inputs into the process as a whole. We have built in resources for promoting such activity through web-based communication techniques. We have however not costed a dissemination and discussion seminar, given the limited resources available to the project (and the high costs associated with paying the travel and subsistence costs of potential attendees). We would however be delighted to use one of the half-yearly ESPON symposiums for dissemination activities and discussions with members of the monitoring committee for such a purpose. We would welcome collaboration with projects and would be happy to attend relevant events on a reciprocal basis to the one that we have proposed. Equally, we would anticipate a close working relationship with the Co-ordination unit, facilitated by the NCP but not solely in their responsibility. We hope that the proposal for regular meetings will be considered favourably by the Co-ordination Unit. Unit members will be invited to all team events.

A list of tasks to be attended to is set out in the description of each Working Package and can also be found in chapter 6. The planned calendar of tasks follows chapter 6. It is here that the reader will find a clear statement of the days allocated to each of the proposed tasks. Financial resourcing can be identified in chapter 7.

The quality of the team is set out in chapter 3. We believe that the range of skills and experience reflected in the composition of the team is such as to be able to ensure a very positive result, with the ability to make an immediate start on the project owing to the level of existing knowledge in the topic area. All of the staff identified above are currently available to work on the study.

As outlined previously, the members of the trans-national project group take on different types of tasks. In part they will act as experts related to certain tasks and partly as territorial experts collecting data and information at the national and/or regional levels.

The experience of the team in international networking projects is also illustrated in chapter 3. This is a key consideration in a study of this nature and we believe that it would be hard to draw together a study team of greater experience in this subject area. In addition, many of the team have personal experience of working with their colleagues from the other companies and institutions involved in the study. This will also we think prove to be of significant benefit.

5.2 WP 1 – Elaboration of Concepts and Methods for Measuring Territorial Impact

Timescale:	Months 1 – 2 of the project.		
Deliveries :	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analysis of spatial policy concepts put forward in the ESDP and in the 2nd Cohesion Report, such as “territorial cohesion” and “balanced development”. 2. Method for Territorial Impact Assessment of EU policies. 3. Set of indicators for measuring territorial effects and territorial cohesion. 		
Key tasks	Key partners	No of days	Months
Review of spatial policy concepts forming the overall framework for a territorial impact assessment of European policies	Nordregio and EPRC	10	1-2
Development of a methodology of impact analysis	Nordregio	15	1-2
Identification of indicators for measuring territorial effects of Structural Funds	Mcrit and M. Hall	15	2

Review of the concepts of territorial cohesion and balanced development

The aim of territorial cohesion forms the overall framework for territorial impact assessments of European policies. Thus the first step of this exercise is to form a solid understanding of territorial cohesion as common ground for action. Relations to the other policy aims of EU cohesion policy (economic and social cohesion) and to the aims of European spatial policy will also be kept in focus. The policy guidelines laid down in the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) “polycentric and balanced spatial development in the EU”, “parity of access to infrastructure and

knowledge” and “wise management of the natural and cultural heritage” will certainly also serve as points of departure. Issues highlighted in the second report on economic and social cohesion, such as the challenges posed by the existing centre-periphery model, the function of cities as growth engines, developments in rural areas, border regions and areas with specific geographical features will be important elements in the discussion.

Definition of TIA of EU policies

The concept of Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) has been brought into the European debate as part of the process of co-operation as regards the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP). It was also particularly emphasised in the ESDP Action Programme agreed upon at the Tampere Meeting in 1999. To date however TIA has neither been defined nor carried out at European level.

There are however some European countries that have a tradition of spatial impact assessment e.g. Austria and Germany (Raumverträglichkeitsprüfung). One distinct difference between such existing national models however and the TIA as discussed at the European level is that national experience and tradition focus on the territorial effects of projects, whereas the European debate addresses the territorial effects of policies. Therefore it will be necessary to define and develop an understanding of TIA for policies at the European level.

We can also find some experience, and related exercises, of approaches to the spatial impact assessment of policies in the Netherlands and in Norway. These may also serve as source of inspiration. As the Structural Funds are grounded in national systems, national approaches for assessing territorial effects are natural points of departure. In any case, existing experience illustrates the broad range of challenges that TIAs of policies face, such as e.g. policies that do not address territorial effects often have more influence on spatial development than policies tailor- made for influencing spatial development.

It is also possible to build upon the methodological approach developed by the ESPON Action 2.2.3 on the effects of the Structural Funds in urban areas. However, the concept of the TIA of policies is new, as regards the European scale, and it thus needs to be defined.

Identification of indicators of measuring territorial effects and cohesion

Based on the review of the concept of territorial cohesion and the approach to indicators for the assessment of territorial development with respect to the policy aim of territorial cohesion, various sets of indicators will be discussed. The aim is to identify those indicators with which it will be possible to assess territorial development in the light of the policy aim of territorial cohesion. Collaboration with other ESPON projects will be crucial during this phase.

So far as we can see, it is to be expected that this project will face the same challenges as the other ESPON project as regards the existence of comparable data available at the European level. Therefore, we see three types of indicators/data that can be used. Firstly, there is the “standard set” of indicators referring to those that are harmonised and available Europe wide. Such indicators will also be used by other ESPON projects. Secondly, there are specific indicators related to the Structural Funds where Europe wide data will be collected from national sources. This involves especially

data on the amount of Structural Funds spending and the dominating type of investments by regions. Thirdly, there are indicators dealing with more detailed data that will only be collected for certain areas. This involves especially information which can illustrate correlations between Structural Fund spending in a region and the spatial development of that region.

5.3 WP 2 – Formulation of Hypothesis for the Assessment of the Territorial Impact of the Structural Funds

Timescale:	Months 2 – 7 of the project.		
Deliveries:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meta evaluation of the Structural Funds 1994-99 as regards their spatial effects 2. Analysis of the Structural Fund programmes in terms of policies, politics and processes as they relate to spatial policies 3. Meta evaluation of the Structural Funds 2000-06 as regards their spatial dimension 4. Hypotheses for the Assessment of the Territorial Impact of the Structural Funds 		
Key tasks	Key partners	No of days	Months
Second level assessment of the territorial implications of past Structural Fund programmes – meta-analysis of the Structural Fund 1994-99 programmes' evaluation reports	EPRC and territorial experts	30	2-6
Review of current Structural Fund programmes in terms of policies, politics and processes as they relate to spatial policies	EPRC and territorial experts	70	2-6
Mapping exercise of current Structural Fund intervention types and assessment of their likely effect on territorial balances and polycentrism	EPRC and Nordregio	25	2-6
Formulation of working hypotheses on the spatial effects of past and present Structural Fund programmes.	ERPC and Nordregio	15	6-7

The research undertaken as part of this Working Package will aim at understanding the content and implementation of past and present Structural Fund programmes, in order to assess the spatial implications of past Structural Fund policies and the potential for current Structural Fund programmes to improve the Union's territorial cohesion. The analyses undertaken as part of this WP will be predominantly qualitative and will be supplemented and integrated by the quantitative analysis undertaken in WP4.

Assessment of past Structural Fund (and Cohesion) programmes – meta-evaluation of Structural Fund evaluation reports on the 1994-99 programmes

Evaluation reports which will be provided by the Commission on past Structural Fund programmes will be reviewed in order to assess the extent to which: (a) evaluation reports include spatial themes and with what view and methodology, and (b) whether

the Structural Fund interventions implemented in the past programming period have delivered, and are delivering, relevant spatial impacts in terms of more balanced territorial development and polycentrism as advocated by the European Spatial Development Perspective. In particular, 12 European reports and 32 national sub-reports will be reviewed, accordingly to the project's work-plan and the timescale to which the evaluation reports will be made available to the research team:

Objective 1 – EU report plus national sub-reports (available 2002)

Objective 2 – EU report plus national sub-reports (available 2002)

Objective 3 – EU report (available end 2003)

Objective 4 – EU report (available end 2003)

Objective 5a – EU report (available summer 2003)

Objective 5b – EU report (available end 2003)

Objective 6 – EU report plus national sub-reports (available 2002)

Community Initiative Adapt – EU report (available end 2003)

Community Initiative Employment – EU report (available end 2003)

Community Initiative Urban – EU report (available end 2003)

Community Initiative Leader II – EU report (available end 2003)

Community Initiative Interreg – EU report (available ?).

Relevant evaluation reports other than those listed above, identified in cooperation with the ESPON Managing Authority and made available to the research team in due course to feed into the project's timescale, may also be reviewed.

A focused review of these evaluation reports will allow the research team to build a first impression on what kind of spatial effects Structural Funds Programmes from the last programming period are delivering. The research team does not expect this meta-evaluation to provide solid answers on the programmes' territorial effects; the objective of territorial cohesion, as a component of economic and social cohesion, has only recently been introduced more explicitly onto the Structural Fund policy agenda. As such, the spatial implications are likely to be only marginal as regards the 1994-99 mainstreamed programmes, and in all probability their evaluations will be also. However, the research team anticipates that this meta-evaluation will provide a first qualitative insight into the programmes' effects on different types of territories, and that this will be usefully matched with the more quantitative information elaborated under WP 4, while also supporting the formulation of preliminary working hypotheses on the territorial implications of Structural Fund programmes.

Review of current Structural Fund programmes in terms of policies, politics and processes as they relate to spatial policies

Despite the common overarching framework represented by European regulations and guidelines, Structural Fund design, management and delivery varies significantly across countries because of their different institutional, social and economic development frameworks and cultures. This may have an impact on the ability of Structural Fund programmes in different countries to meet spatial targets, both as a direct or an indirect objective of policies formulated and implemented. The research team will carry out a review across the Member States of the contents and strategies (*policies*) of Structural Fund programmes in the current programming period (2000-06); of the institutional and managerial organisation of Structural Fund programming and implementation (*polity*); and, on the processes (*politics*) through which Structural Fund programmes are delivered. This analysis will focus particularly on current programmes with the aim of highlighting their spatial dimensions as they relate to all

three of the aspects mentioned above. Relevant considerations on the chronological evolution of policies and management practice may also be drawn to highlight the relevance that changes over time in Structural Fund implementation have on their potential for delivering territorial cohesion.

The European Policies Research Centre has undertaken extensive research in the field of Structural Fund management and implementation and has on-going contacts with Managing Authorities and national coordination administrations in almost all current Member States. Among others, EPRC coordinates a network of Objective 1 and 2 regions in Europe, for which it undertakes on-going research, and has claim therefore to in-depth knowledge of the Structural Fund policies and management systems operating in EU countries. Research for this section of WP2 will be predominantly desk-based; however, targeted interviews may also be carried out with national and/or regional policy makers, European Commission officers, or national experts to complement secondary sources when these prove unsuited to the drawing out of the necessary considerations.

Mapping of current Structural Fund intervention types and assessment of their likely effect on territorial balances and polycentrism

The European Policies Research Centre and Nordregio have recently completed an analysis of the spatial and urban implications of 2000-06 Objective 1 and 2 programmes for DG Regio.² The results of this research show that, albeit often coincidentally, current Objective 1 and 2 programmes are consistent with the objective of territorially balanced development and cohesion advocated by the ESDP.

On the basis of the results of the above -mentioned studies and the preparatory research undertaken in this context, the research team will conduct a mapping exercise on current Structural Fund programmes with the aim of categorising intervention types according to their likely effects on territorial cohesion. The exercise will map 2000-06 programmes, priorities and measures against a list of territorial cohesion targets, as identified in WP1. Such a mapping exercise will cover the programmes' aims and objectives; target areas (by socio-economic characteristics and spatial strengths and weaknesses); intermediary organisations involved in programme management and delivery; and beneficiary groups.

Formulation of working hypotheses regarding the spatial effects of Structural Fund programmes

Bringing together the results of the meta-evaluation of past programmes, the discussion of *policy*, *polity* and *politics* of the Structural Funds, and the mapping exercise on the territorial implications of current Structural Fund programmes a first assessment of the Structural Fund programmes' spatial effects will be drawn up. This will relate to both past and present programmes. This first assessment, of a purely qualitative nature, will support the formulation of working hypotheses which will be tested in the subsequent phases of the research and the selection of cases study examples of interventions with particularly significant spatial implications.

² European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde and Nordregio (2002) *The Spatial and Urban Dimensions in the 2000-06 Objective 1 Programmes*, Report to the European Commission DG Regio, by Polverari, L and Rooney M, L with McMaster, I, Raines, P and Bachtler, J (EPRC) and Böhme, K and Mariussen, Å (Nordregio); and European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde and Nordregio (2002) *The Spatial and Urban Dimensions in the 2000-06 Objective 2 Programmes*, Report to the European Commission by Rooney, M, L and Polverari, L with McMaster, I, Michie, Raynes, P, Taylor, S and Bachtler, J, March 2002.

5.4 WP 3 – Reference Framework for the Analysis: European Spatial Development and Territorial Cohesion in the 21st Century

Timescale:	Months 2 – 7 of the project.		
Deliveries:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set of indicators for analysing territorial cohesion at the European level 2. Maps on trends in European spatial development 3. Maps on spatial discontinuities at different geographical scales 		
Key tasks	Key partners	No of days	Months
Fine tuning of indicators developed in WP 1	Mcrit and M. Hall	10	2-3
Mapping of ongoing spatial development trends	Mcrit	25	4-7
Mapping of territorial cohesion by using the method of spatial discontinuities	Mcrit and Nordregio	25	4-7

Fine tuning of data, indicators and scenarios relevant to the measurement of the impact of the Structural Funds

Drawing on the work carried out under WP 1, the data and indicators will be fine tuned for carrying out spatial analysis. One of the main challenges is that spatial effects correspond neither to administrative boundaries nor to statistical geographical entities. The aim is to present the data at the NUTS III level, though in some cases it may even be more detailed than this. As the final output will be NUTS relevant, other preliminary or intermediate steps may have other spatial references and/or analysis. In order to be able to relate the analysis of spatial development to the implementation of the Structural Funds, time series will be chosen that reflect the time before the second Structural Funds period began, while others will reflect time after that period respectively.

Diagnosis of ongoing trends in European territorial development

In order to be able to describe the impact of the Structural Funds, it is necessary to map territorial development in Europe. Special attention will be paid to aspects such as population growth and population density, connectivity, accessibility and decongestions, GDP growth, social aspects, quality of life, environment and land use. Furthermore specific features such as the challenges posed by the existing centre-periphery model, the function of cities as growth engines, developments in rural areas, border regions and areas with specific geographical features will be important elements in the discussion. Accordingly the general challenge will be to identify indicators that suggest/describe what makes a region attractive, and based on these to set target measures or target compositions.

For this part of the project the link to the work of other ESPON projects will be important, especially as regards ESPON 1.1.1 and its work on the development of polycentricity, ESPON 1.1.2 and its work on the development of rural-urban relations and ESPON 1.2.1 and its work assessing the impact of the basic supply of transport infrastructure and services for territorial cohesion. Also links to ESPON 2.1.3 working on the territorial impact of the CAP and rural development policy and ESPON 2.2.3 on the territorial effects of the Structural Funds in urban areas will be

necessary. Moreover, the close co-operation with those in the co-ordination project ESPON 3.1 will also be assured. The proposed trans-national project team involves partners participating in each of these ESPON projects to guarantee the permanent flow of information, a crucial element given the short working period available.

Analysis of spatial discontinuities at different geographical scales

Based on the work carried out under the Study Programme for European Spatial Planning (SPESP) spatial discontinuities will be analysed. Under the SPESP it has been shown that the convergence of the economic level of neighbouring regions has been much more significant across international boundaries than inside states themselves, while within states, regions and cities, economic divergence may also be higher than at aggregate European levels.

Building upon the method tested in the SPESP, under this ESPON action it will be possible to investigate spatial discontinuities for a broader set of indicators, i.e. aspects of territorial cohesion, and to enrich them when meaningful with detailed case-studies. Looking at spatial discontinuities before the implementation of the Structural Funds and in more recent times will help show in what areas discontinuities have become stronger or weaker, or in those that they have emerged or disappeared. In a later step (under WP 7) the change in spatial discontinuities will be compared to the geography of Structural Funds spending.

5.5 WP 4 – The Geography of Structural Fund Investment (1994-99): Spending and Output by Region

Timescale:	Months 3 – 11 of the project.		
Deliveries:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data set on the spending of Structural Fund Investments at the regional level 2. Map on Structural Funds Money Spent at the level of NUTS III regions 3. Map on the prevailing type of Structural Funds outcome at the NUTS III level 4. Map on the prevailing type of Structural Funds performance at the NUTS III level 		
Key tasks	Key partners	No of days	Months
Assessing data availability as regards the spending of Structural Funds Money at the NUTS III level, i.e. providing and overview on national databases and development of an approach for utilising other sources	Infyde and Nordregio	10	3-7
Analysis of the spending of Structural Funds Money at the NUTS III level, and processing of this data according to various categories for developing typologies of spending	Infyde and territorial experts	85	6-11
Analysis of the dominating character of Structural Funds Investments at the NUTS III level, and processing of this data according to various categories for developing typologies of outcomes	Infyde and territorial experts	55	6-11

Assessing data on SF spending: Data gathering and harmonisation

As regards the analysis of the geography of Structural Fund spending, the first step will be to assess data availability. In some countries databases containing this information do exist. In other countries it may however be necessary to collect this information from the programme co-ordination units themselves.

To go back to national data involves challenges as regards data comparability and reliability etc. It will, however, be necessary to collect such data at the national level in order to be able to draw conclusions on the geography of spending as the level of detail available at the European level is not sufficient for any conclusions on territorial effects. The co-operation between the national experts and the lead partner of this work package is thus of fundamental importance to the success of this WP.

In addition to the national databases, the gathering of geographic information on SF spending will include specific studies (focussed on specific spatial environments or regions) commissioned by the EC, information from the ESPON Data navigator and from other sources (universities, JRC, etc.).

Analysis of the geography of spending

In general, we assume that Structural Fund spending can be localised in the territory per project by connecting the amount of funding to the NUTS III region in which the lead partner is located. Based on data available from national databases and *ex-post* evaluations, the geography of this spending will be mapped out at the lowest geographical level possible.

Once the information on location of each project lead partner is available it is possible to draw maps showing how much money has been spent in each NUTS III region. Thus we will achieve a picture over the geography of Structural Fund spending indicating the distribution of Structural Funds spending as detailed as possible with existing data sources. Furthermore, it will show Structural Funds spending by region and programme category/priority. Thus regions can be divided into different types according to their funding profile. This will allow for the development of a funding typology, which reflects the types of investments e.g. human resources, business development, agriculture, research & development, tourism and environment. Eventually, the resulting map will offer an overview of SF patterns, per sub-region, country or European macro-region.

Analysis of the physical output of SF spending

Paralleling the analysis of Structural Fund spending, the physical outcomes of the Structural Funds will also be analysed at the lowest geographical level possible. This involves, on the one hand, the **type of outcome**, e.g. *km of highways and railways, numbers of employees trained, enterprises and direct employment created*, and on the other hand, the **level of performance** of the region, considering total outcomes and programme efficiency. The analysis will be based on data available from national databases and from the *ex-post* evaluations mentioned in WP 2.

The identification of the specific character of each programme and measure will also be used as an indication, where more precise information is not available. As with the SF spending and according to the priorities and type of measures, the outcomes will be classified in order to achieve patterns of similar categories.

Examples as regards outcome categories are, *built infrastructure, persons trained, enterprises or SMEs assisted, number of R&D projects, networks or development associations created.*

5.6 WP 5 – Comparative Analysis of National Systems Affecting the Structural Funds

Timescale:	Months 8 – 11 of the project.		
Deliveries :	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synthetic overview of the equalisation instruments available on a country-by-country basis 2. Typology of national regional equalisation/development instruments 3. First attempts to suggest policy recommendations 		
Key tasks	Key partners	No of days	Months
Review of existing national systems for financial equalisation	EPRC and territorial experts	45	8-11
Development of a typology of equalisation instruments leading to a discussion of potential policy recommendations	EPRC and territorial experts	15	9-11

The Structural Funds are not the only instruments for the support of disadvantaged regions. A wide range of financial instruments are used in different countries for the support and development of poorer regions and for wealth redistribution. These include explicit regional policy, other spatial policies (i.e. spatially discriminated policies other than regional policy, for example, urban policy, rural policy, policies for “crisis” areas etc.), sectoral policies with a regional dimension, and the regionalised allocation of public expenditure. The EC has already commissioned work in this area³ and a number of national studies have also been conducted in this field.

In some cases, these instruments overlap or are integrated with those of European regional policies (e.g. Ireland, Portugal); in others, there is a more clear-cut separation between national regional policies and other policies with a regional dimension, and European regional policy (e.g. the Netherlands). In addition, the Member States are increasingly moving away from a more traditional ‘*regional policy*’ approach – focussed on the strengthening and development of disadvantaged parts of the countries concerned – towards a more recent ‘*regional development*’ policy approach – focussed on the promotion of the competitiveness of all regions, by targeting those with the highest endogenous potential.⁴ It is clear that both of these issues can have an impact on the potential of Structural Fund programmes to deliver increased territorially balanced development and spatial cohesion.

³ European Commission (1998), *Economic and social cohesion in the European Union: the impact of Member States’ own policies*, Report to the European Commission by Wishlade, F, Yuill, D and Taylor, S (EPRC University of Strathclyde, UK) and Davazies, L, Nicot, B, H and Prud’Homme, R (L’OEIL, Université de Paris XII), Luxembourg, 1998.

⁴ Bachtler, J and Raines, P (2002) *A New Paradigm of Regional Policy? Reviewing Recent Trends in Europe*, Paper prepared for discussion at the twenty-third meeting of the Sponsors of the European Policies Research Centre, held at Ross Priory, Loch Lomondside on 7 and 8 October 2002.

As part of this project, the research team would provide a typology of the equalisation instruments implemented in the Member States, listing these policies and identifying the degree to which their objectives, areas, instruments and governance are coherent, complementary or whether they contradict the policies implemented under the Structural Funds as regards their potential for delivering a more balanced territorial development and cohesion. With particular reference to national regional policies, moreover, the research will address the interrelationship between national regional policy frameworks and the Structural Funds, in particular as they relate to spatial development.

Review of national systems for financial equalisation

Drawing on the pool of existing literature, the research team will undertake a review of national equalisation policies across the Member States, identifying the main instruments and their characteristics. The European Policies Research Centre has extensive research expertise in this area: among others, it undertook a major research project for DG Regio in 1996 – in cooperation with L'OEIL, University of Paris XII – on the impact of the Member States' own policies on the Union's economic and social cohesion.

As part of this review, a particular emphasis will be placed on the analysis of national regional policy frameworks, a theme that represents one of the main expertise areas of the EPRC. The research centre has in fact, since 1978, undertaken an on-going programme of research on the regional policies of the Member States and Norway, funded by a consortium of national governments, which currently includes 9 EU countries and Norway. This research activity involves detailed comparative assessments of regional policy and policy developments across the EU and Norway and culminates each year in an annual Sponsors' Meeting, where senior regional policymakers from the sponsor countries meet to discuss a range of EPRC policy papers. On the subject of the interrelationship between national regional policy frameworks and the Structural Funds, the research team would in particular seek to investigate the following themes: eligible areas and criteria for area designation (how do spatial considerations play a role in the selection of national regional policy areas?); strategies and development priorities (how are spatial objectives reflected in national strategies for regional development?); principal instruments of national regional development policies (to what extent do they reflect spatial considerations?) and horizontal and vertical allocations of policy responsibilities.

The output from this part of the research project will be a synthetic overview of the equalisation instruments and their main characteristics – including national regional policies - available on a country-by-country basis.

Elaboration of a typology of equalisation instruments

Based on the review of equalisation instruments across the Member States, the research team will outline a typology of instruments, on the basis of the degree of coherence and integration with the Structural Funds' territorial objectives. The typology will be made according to two criteria: the degree of *strategic* coherence and integration with the Structural Funds, and the degree of *institutional* coherence and integration with the Structural Funds. As a result, national equalisation policies and their instruments will be classified as follows:

- Policies that are complementary to the Structural Funds, that aim towards the same territorial development goals as Structural Fund programmes, enhancing

their potential territorial impact and that are integrated from an implementation perspective;

- Policies that are complementary to the Structural Funds, albeit implemented via separate implementation channels;
- Policies that are not complementary but which are nonetheless strategically coherent with those of the Structural Funds and implemented under the same institutional framework as Structural Fund policies;
- Policies that are not complementary but which are nonetheless strategically coherent with those of the Structural Funds, albeit implemented via separate implementation channels;
- Policies that are in conflict with Structural Fund policies.

The formation of this typology will enable the creation of an overview on the degree of convergence or divergence occurring between existing national equalisation policies and Structural Fund policies as regards the objective of increased territorial cohesion and balanced development. As a result of this analysis, a number of recommendations will be drawn up for the reform of the Structural Funds in order to enhance their potential of delivering territorial cohesion.

5.7 WP 6 – Structural Fund Influence on Territorial Cohesion and Specialisation

Timescale:	Months 10 – 17 of the project.		
Deliveries:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Map showing the coexistence of spatial development trends and spatial discontinuities (WP 3) and Structural Fund Investments (WP4) per region 2. In Depth analysis of a hotspots and coldspots as regards the influence of the Structural Funds on the territorial performance of a region 3. First attempts at policy conclusions as regards the territorial effects of the Structural Funds containing policy assessment simulation models 		
Key tasks	Key partners	No of days	Months
Comparison of the results of WP 3 and WP 4 for selecting relevant hotspots and coldspots for in-depth analysis of territorial effects of Structural Funds	Mcrit, Infyde and Nordregio	15	10-11
Development of method and working guidelines for the analysis of hotspots and coldspots	Mcrit, Infyde and Nordregio	10	10-11
In-depth analysis of around 15 NUTS III regions, and an analysis of the contribution that the Structural Funds have had on the spatial development and the territorial specialisation of the respective regions.	Nordregio, Mcrit and territorial experts	120	10-16
Cross European analysis of the territorial effects of the Structural Funds and the role of specific development factors concerning territorial specialisation	Nordregio and Mcrit	35	16-17

The outcomes ‘produced’ by the Structural Funds are however not only a matter of the amounts of money (European or national) invested in certain regions or the administration of the programmes. There are more far-reaching overall mechanisms of spatial development that need to be taken into account. In this project a number of such mechanisms will be identified and discussed. The discussion will reflect state of the art knowledge on the issues as regards both academic research and policy making. There are a number of features for which a balanced analysis of the negative and positive influence of such features on spatial development needs to be discussed. The precise identification of these features will derive from the work carried out in the foregoing working packages. Thus, the spatial performance of a region will be discussed in relation to the influences of accessibility, direct investments, natural resources and policies concerning innovation, segregation, education, agriculture, fisheries, employment or sector policy in general.

Embedded in the general résumés of features, single cases of Structural Funds experiences will be used to exemplify how and why certain issues worked out in certain places and why, in other places, they did not.

Comparison of the results of the spatial analysis (WP 3) and the geography of Structural Fund spending (WP 4) will allow us to draw first conclusions concerning where certain developments coincide with Structural Funds spending. The comparison will be carried out regarding both the general development of certain indicators for spatial development and the change for spatial discontinuities. A set of “hotspots” and “coldspots” will be identified and thoroughly assessed as regards the influence of the mechanisms of spatial development (WP5 and 6), i.e. national equalisation systems, administration of Structural Funds and the overall influence of certain aspects as accessibility, investments or natural assets.

As stated in the 2nd cohesion report, chapter 1.3 territorial cohesion, achieving regional balance in the EU requires that policies be designed to prevent further widening of the gaps (disparities) between the weaker and stronger areas in the EU. The report goes on to say that the economic location (or health) of a region is characterized by different positive and negative externalities. We propose that an environmental perspective can help find or develop a balance between some of these positive and negative externalities (i.e. market forces matched with accountability for natural assets).

Altogether around fifteen such “hotspots” or “coldspots” will be analysed in order to identify the correlation between the Structural Funds and certain spatial developments. These in-depth analyses will involve literature studies as well as interviews with stakeholders. Thus they will complement and partly explain the analysis of Structural Fund spending and correlations with certain spatial developments. The focus of these studies will be on explanatory factors as regards the relationship between the spatial performance of a region and the type of Structural Fund investment, as well as the overall amount of funding.

The European-wide analysis of such ‘hotspots’ and ‘coldspots’ will address questions relating to Structural Funds and territorial specialisation. Thus single outcomes will be regarded in order to single out the causes for different developments. Working hypothesis as to the influence of specific development factors, such as e.g.

accessibility, direct investments, the role of natural assets or training and education, will be developed and assessed. This will also involve the development of policy assessment simulation models.

5.8 WP 7 – The Impact of the Interreg Community Initiative on Spatial Integration

Timescale:	Months 18-22 of the project.		
Deliveries:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analysis of the influence of Interreg on the formation of trans-national sub-regions 2. Analysis of the influence of Interreg on the decisiveness of policy issues and European integration through the establishment of trans-national communities of practice 3. First attempts at policy conclusions as regards the effects of the European Funding of trans-national co-operation in the field of territorial development 		
Key tasks	Key partners	No of days	Months
Assessment of the potential and importance of trans-national sub-regions emerging as a result of the Interreg IIC and IIIB activities	Nordregio and EPRC	30	18-22
Assessment of the promotion of European policy issues and trans-national networks by Interreg IIC and IIIB	Nordregio and EPRC	30	18-22
Overall analysis as regards the potential of trans-national co-operation as regards the strengthening of territorial cohesion and specialisation in Europe	Nordregio and EPRC	20	20-22

Intrinsic to Community Initiative Interreg IIC was the launching of a new approach to territorially designed European regional policies. The focus here is very much on stimulating actors from the regional and local levels to catch up with European policy developments and to contribute to achieving them in a ‘bottom-up’ manner. Thus one of the major effects of the Interreg IIC and IIIB programmes in this regard has been the contribution made to European integration within the trans-national programming areas as well as the emergence of trans-national macro regions of different kinds. Two of these Interreg programmes, namely, the Baltic Sea Region and CADSES (the Central European, Adriatic, Danubian, South-East European Space), also include regions from candidate countries, and are therefore considered to be of considerable importance to the integration of future EU Member States.

The ability of the Interreg initiative to promote territorial integration and cohesion will be an important element of the analysing mechanism for spatial development. Because of its unique character as compared to other Structural Funds instruments it will thus be reviewed in greater detail. We will focus in particular upon two aspects:

The Promotion of new sub-regions

On the one hand Interreg IIC and IIIB programmes have a certain ability to promote new, or to strengthen existing, macro-regions in Europe. To what degree this is the case, and how it works, will be discussed. The Baltic Sea Region as one of the forerunner regions in the field of trans-national co-operation in spatial planning and development will be the focus here. Considering the importance of the creation of macro-regions to the enlargement of the European Union however, processes within the CADSES will also be discussed. Taking the Baltic Sea Region as a ‘test –bed’ an analysis will be carried out on the emergence of trans-national macro regions. The analysis will focus on factors contributing to the emergence of such regions, the function, role and the importance they have for spatial development/cohesion and territorial integration. With a view to the EU enlargement aspects of the inter-play with Non-Member States, preparations for enlargement and the potential to better facilitate the integration of the New Member States will be highlighted.

The Promotion of European policy issues and co-operation

In addition to the promotion of macro-regions, Interreg IIC and IIIB provide unique opportunities for transferring policy aims, such as e.g. polycentric development or rural-urban partnership, from the European level to the local level. How regional and local level representatives take on such issues through Interreg, and how they from the co-operation and learning forums that make Europe come closer together will thus be analysed. This analysis will, to a large extent, relate to a study on Interreg co-operation in the North Sea Region and the Northern Periphery, currently being carried out by Nordregio and EPRC. Thus it will be possible to analyse the lessons learned by regions and other partners in trans-national co-operation projects in the field of spatial planning and regional development and to identify the practical and policy lessons for effective inter-regional co-operation projects. With regard to the policy recommendation the issues suitable for trans-national co-operation programmes will be identified, as will the institutional arrangements facilitating co-operation.

Findings

The discussions on the potentials of Interreg for promoting new trans-national sub-regions and for promoting European policy issues at regional level will finally be brought together in an overall analysis. The main focus of the overall analysis will be on the potentials of trans-national co-operation as regards the strengthening of territorial cohesion, integration and specialisation in Europe.

With regard to possible policy recommendations, the overall analysis will relate to the debate on the Structural Funds 2006+ and especially debate on a possible objective drawing on the approach and experience of Interreg IIC and IIIB.

5.9 WP 8 – Final Analysis: The Territorial Dimension of the Structural Funds

Timescale:	Months 18-25 of the project.		
Deliveries:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Typology of key facts regarding regional development and Structural Funds investments 2. Typology of the national and European policy influences on territorial cohesion 3. Overview of the territorial effects of the Structural Funds on the future territory of the EU 4. Policy assessment simulations 		
Key tasks	Key partners	No of days	Months
Cross -European analysis of the foregoing working packages on changes in the regions, i.e. dealing with spatial development, the geography of Structural Fund investments and analysis of hotspots and coldspots	Mcrit Nordregio, and Infyde	15	18-25
Cross -European analysis of the foregoing working packages on national and European policies, i.e. national influences and aspects related to the governance of the Structural Funds	EPRC, Nordregio and territorial experts	25	18-25
Assessment of how the Structural Funds may contribute to the more balanced territorial development of an enlarged EU. Here also policy simulations models will be used	Nordregio, EPRC, ITPS and Mcrit	30	18-25

Key facts on regional developments and Structural Fund investment

Bringing together the results of WPs 3 – 6, conclusions will be drawn concerning the overlap between spatial development and Structural Fund activities. Relating this to the results from the analysis of “hotspots” and “coldspots”, a typology of Structural Fund activities and their spatial effects will be developed.

National and European policies affecting territorial cohesion

Based on the results of WP’s 2, 5 and 6, the importance of national systems and of the mechanisms behind spatial development, i.e. selected aspects such as accessibility, investments or natural assets as regards spatial development will be discussed. This discussion will draw on the analysis of the ‘hotspots’ mentioned above, and also in the general discussion on what form of institutional and organisational setting, and what type of measures are appropriate for future Structural Fund interventions with regard to their territorial effects.

The Structural Funds’ likely effect on future EU territory: A prospective vision

After bringing the various analyses together it will then be possible to evaluate exactly how the Structural Funds programmes may be able to contribute to balanced territorial development in an enlarged EU, in light of the fact that impacts may be expected, most probably, in the peripheral regions of the EU. In particular, for

instance, it is to be expected that they may initially become more peripheral, as present investments in these regions may be diverted to future Member States. This implies that an overview of the various types of regions and spatial effects of Structural Funds will be developed. As far as possible conclusions will be drawn concerning the transfer of results from EU Member States to Candidate Countries.

In addition, the function of cities as growth engines in polycentric systems, developments in rural areas, border regions and areas with specific geographical features will be important elements in the discussion.

Based on the work carried out in WP 6, policy assessment simulations will be used to discuss the effect of the Structural Funds on future EU territory.

5.10 WP 9 – Development of Policy Recommendations

Timescale:	Months 19-27 of the project.		
Deliveries:	1. Development of policy recommendation as a basis for the future of the Structural Funds, including thematic recommendations and recommendations on institutional settings and instruments		
Key tasks	Key partners	No of days	Months
Development of policy recommendations as a basis for the future focus of the Structural Funds post-2006, including institutional settings and instruments for the third Interim Report	ITPS and all partners	20	19-27
Conclusions and the proposition of thematic policy adjustments regarding Structural Funds policy	ITPS and all partners	20	19-27

Referring to the ESDP policy options and to the second report on economic and social cohesion, policy recommendations will be elaborated. These will take into account the policy context and the scope of the study. The policy recommendations will address aspects such as the methodology needed for selecting eligible areas and the selection and focussing of policy measures with particular attention to territorially bound development assets. Furthermore the question of how institutional settings and instruments can better support the co-ordination of structural, regional programmes with spatial planning and sector policies towards spatial concerns will also be addressed. In addition, models of regional programmes as well as spatial development perspectives and plans applicable to different types of regions integrating Structural Funds, Cohesion Funds, sector policies and national policies - taking into account the guidelines and priority actions of the ESDP – will also be discussed.

The ongoing debate on the future Structural Funds is considered a cornerstone of this working package. As the project is designed, it will be possible to feed into the debate regarding the future threshold for Objective 1 regions in an enlarged Europe, support other development priorities as well as lessons from trans-national co-operation in spatial development:

- The implications for EU regional policy stem from the fact that several of the new Member States have a per capita GDP of less than half the EU average. The

- statistical effect of lowering the average EU GDP per capita figure will be to shift several of the current Objective 1 regions above the 75 percent threshold.
- Looking beyond the lagging regions, moreover, there is also no consensus yet as to whether and how EU regional policy should provide support for other development priorities. The Commission has identified ten thematic and territorial priorities where, it argues, the Community has a justifiable role: industrial areas undergoing conversion; rural areas undergoing conversion; urban areas in difficulty; areas facing specific geographical or demographic handicaps, social inclusion; equality of opportunity; the new economy and knowledge society; and more and better jobs.
 - Cross-border, trans-national and interregional co-operation are increasingly considered important for implementing European spatial policies as well as for European integration at large. Deriving from the analysis of trans-national co-operation and effects of Interreg IIC, input to this specific debate on can be generated.

As co-operation with other ESPON projects and stakeholders in the ESPON exercise is considered an important element of this project, the dissemination of information and the facilitation of a broad discussion going beyond the project team is considered to be an important element in this project.

As regards policy relevance, the recommendations will be discussed with partners who are involved in actual policy-debates. In general, the project team would like to develop the project in close contact with the relevant actors working on the elaboration of the next generation of the Structural Funds. Using the half-yearly ESPON symposiums to instigate discussion with the monitoring committee would thus be a good option. Through direct contact in this manner with those in the policy-arena, the generation of “useful” research results generating direct inputs into the current debate can thus be guaranteed.

Furthermore, close co-operation with ESPON 3.1 will help to achieve the smooth integration of the project results into the overall analysis ongoing under ESPON.

This will enable the project team to elaborate concrete proposals for Structural Fund interventions post- 2006, guided by sustainability criteria and informed by policy aims and options set out in the ESDP but fundamentally based upon ‘good practice’ as identified through the project.

The main results of the project will be reported in the Final Report (March 2005), though preliminary findings will be published in the third interim report (August 2004). The third interim report will, already address proposals for the introduction of appropriate new indicators, typologies and instruments to be pursued in territorial impact assessment and designed to detect the regions and territories most negatively and positively affected by the identified trends, as well as new methodologies of considering territorial information. Furthermore, it will contain policy recommendations in view of the implementation of the Structural Funds in relation to measures, eligible areas and delivery mechanisms.

5.11 WP 10 – Information Sharing and Overall Co-ordination

Timescale:	Ongoing throughout the entire project.		
Deliveries:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Smooth and effective running of the project 2. Dialogue with other ESPON projects and stakeholders 		
Key tasks	Key partners	No of days	Months
Internal co-ordination of the project, organisation of working meetings etc.	Nordregio	30	1-27
Dissemination of results and dialogue within the project and with other ESPON projects, the policy community and institutions from the candidate and neighbouring countries	Nordregio	20	1-27

The overall aim of this working package is to ensure the smooth and effective running of the project, to co-ordinate working group meetings, and networking with other ESPON projects and institutions in neighbouring and candidate countries, and to discuss finding at the interim stage.

For a successful project implementation it is important to strengthen the overall research finding, to disseminate these widely across the research community, policy makers and practitioners, and ensure that the value of the research action is maximised.

As a lead partner, Nordregio, will ensure that the partners with the main responsibility for taking forward each working package will be kept up to date with progress on other ESPON projects. This will be facilitated by the development of an e-mail or web-based network with a series of key experts working on relevant ESPON projects. An additional network will also be set up with interested institutions from the candidate countries to facilitate the dissemination of research findings to these institutions.

In addition, the role and function of the project during the half-yearly ESPON symposiums will be utilised in order to achieve a fruitful exchange with all research and policy communities in the field.

