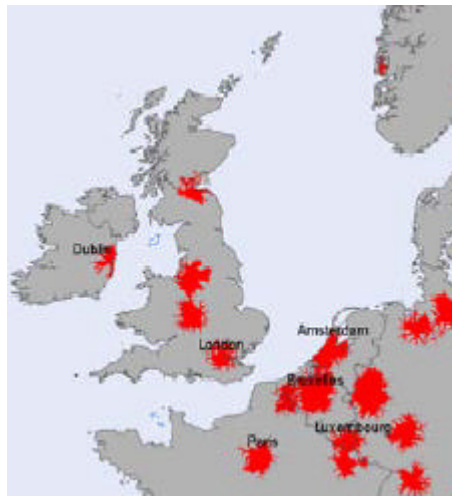


## **Competitiveness and Cohesion in North Western Europe**



**The implications of ESPON results.**

**An international seminar for policy-makers and researchers about European trends and policies for infrastructure, environment, competitive places and cohesive communities.**

**11 and 12 July 2005**

**The Friends House,  
173 Euston Road,  
London.**

## **What will be covered?**

Metropolitan areas are vital to the global competitiveness of Europe and to the jobs and life chances of millions of people. They power innovation, are the hubs in global networks, and the gateways to the continent for firms and migrants. The future of Europe over the next 20 years will be hugely influenced by decisions of those responsible for policy-making in these cities and regions. The challenges include:

**How can policy and practice help to make places more competitive?**

**Can the development dynamic be used to enhance the cohesion between rich and poor places within metropolitan Europe?**

**Is further growth compatible with conserving North West Europe's natural heritage?**

**How can Structural Funds be used – now and after 2007?**

Research, policy and practice need to work together across national boundaries to address these concerns. This meeting provides an exceptional opportunity to hear leading figures from different countries, and to build new networks.

The meeting will present the latest findings from Europe's major research programme on territorial trends and policies, and will showcase innovative examples from practice. The European Spatial Planning Observation Network has developed key indicators and regional typologies that show the condition of metropolitan areas today and the impacts of policies on territorial development. Programmes for trans-national collaboration, like INTERREG, are likely to become a key means through which local authorities will be able to access European funds after 2007. What are the lessons and the ways forward?

The focus will be on metropolitan regions in North-West Europe, an area that includes the UK, Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands and parts of France and Germany. It is the second conference under the theme of "ESPON Going Regional": the first focused on rural and peripheral parts of North West Europe, and was held in Belfast in February 2005. It is organised by a network of ESPON national Contact Points.

### **What is ESPON about?**

ESPON has been operating since 2002. It covers the 25 EU countries, plus Switzerland, Norway, Bulgaria and Romania. It is diagnosing trends and potentials, and developing key indicators and tools to enhance the integration of policy across different sectors. For further details visit [www.espon.lu](http://www.espon.lu) or [www.espon.org.uk](http://www.espon.org.uk).

## Who should attend?

The meeting will be relevant to those involved in North West Europe in economic development, transport, spatial planning and regeneration, or European networking in local government, regional development agencies, and to consultants, researchers and students working in these fields. In addition the findings and discussion are relevant to the work of infrastructure providers in the private sector.

The meeting will be useful to persons involved in INTERREG projects or considering projects for possible European funding after 2007.

## Programme

The programme is structured to allow for focussed discussions between researchers and practitioners, and between persons from different EU member states. The programme is as follows:

### Monday 11 July

10.30 Coffee and Registration

11.0 Welcome from Chairperson for the morning: Lisette Simcock from the UK's Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

11.15 Position Paper "Challenges and opportunities for Europe's metropolitan core: findings from ESPON", by Cliff Hague (UK ECP).

11.35 Discussion on Position Paper implications and responses from different European metropolitan areas:

Robin Thompson (GLA and University College London) London and the South East of England;  
Pierre Cornut (Belgian ECP), Brussels;  
Director Romain Diederich (Ministere de L'Interieur et de L'Amenagement du Territoire, Luxembourg Government): Saar-Lux region – transnational co-operation  
Elizabeth Vajidovich-Visy (Hungary ECP) capital cities in new member states.

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Introduction by Chair, Gerard Flament, Prefecture Nord Pas de Calais to the theme Transport and Inclusion.

13.40 "Transport and inclusion in metropolitan Europe: ESPON and Spatial Visions" Roger Vickerman, University of Kent.

14.00 "The HST Link INTERREG project" Detlef Golletz, UK Lead Partner/South East Development Agency (SEEDA)

14.20 Discussion

15.00 Tea

15.30 Introduction by the Chair [to be confirmed] to the theme of Place Competitiveness.

15.40 “Ingredients for competitive places” Kevin Morgan, University of Cardiff

16.00 “The role of sustainable housing” Kevin Scobell, Lead Partner, Smartlife INTERREG project/Building Research Establishment UK

16.20 Discussion

16.45 Introduction by the Chair (to be confirmed) to the theme of Spatial Visions as means to promote competitiveness and cohesion.

“Implementation of the North West Europe Spatial Vision”, Monica Tanaka  
NWE INTERREG IIIB Secretariat.

“Planned ESPON research on Spatial Visions”, speaker to be confirmed.

17.30 Close of Day 1.

## **Tuesday 12 July**

09.00 Introduction to the theme of Structural Funds and Restructuring to Increase Competitiveness by chair for the session. Jim Walsh, Maynooth University, Ireland and Ireland contact point for ESPON

09.20 “Structural Funds and Urban Areas” Adrian Healey, University of Cardiff.

09.40 “The role of Open Space Environments in Metropolitan Regional Development”, Clive Fox INTERREG IIIB SAUL project Lead Partner/  
Director of Groundwork UK London office

10.00 Discussion

10.30 Coffee

10.50 Introduction to the theme of managing conflicts between development and environment within metropolitan regions by the Chair for the session, [speaker to be confirmed]

11.00 “Managing natural heritage in metropolitan Europe” – Speaker from ESPON project on Natural Heritage, to be confirmed.

11.20 “Co-operation to tackle flooding and water management through INTERREG”, Rachael Hill and Oliver Grant, Environment Agency.

11.40 Discussion

12.15 Towards a European Research and Practice Agenda – Peter Mehlbye ESPON Co-ordination Unit and Pieter Bloemen, Netherlands ESPON Contact Point.

12.45 Close of conference.

## Venue

The Friends House is centrally situated within London on Euston Road, opposite Euston Station. It is within 10 minutes walking distance of Kings Cross and St Pancras Stations. The nearest tube stations are Euston and Euston Square, which are on the Northern, Victoria, Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith and City lines.

Those travelling by car should note that Friends House is within the Congestion Charge Zone – please go to [www.cclondon.com](http://www.cclondon.com) for details of how to pay.

Full details of the venue, including a map, can be viewed at [www.quaker.org.uk/hospitality/index.html](http://www.quaker.org.uk/hospitality/index.html).

## Booking

There is **no charge** for attending this conference. To book a place, please email your name, organisation, email and phone contact details to [espon\\_conf@sbe.hw.ac.uk](mailto:espon_conf@sbe.hw.ac.uk). Please copy the message to [C.B.Hague@sbe.hw.ac.uk](mailto:C.B.Hague@sbe.hw.ac.uk). Thanks.

There are many hotels within easy reach of the venue, so we ask delegates to make their own arrangements for accommodation.

## ESPON Contact Points in North West Europe

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