ESPON seminar
6 October 2003

Brief synthesis of the Workshop "ESPON mapping tools"

The workshop concerned an overview of **ESPON mapping and spatial analysis tools**.

A first introduction (by Andreu Ulied) presented some ideas for the development of a **policy support system**, i.e. a web-based system, including not only data from the TPGs, but also dynamic maps, a knowledge base on ESPON projects, and tools for dissemination and communication.
A policy support system (PSS) should receive input data from TPGs, but also be able to provide output (data) towards other TPGs. An essential question would be if a PSS should set up in a centralised or a decentralised way.

Secondly, the **web GIS application**, under development, has been presented (by Dionysios Kalivas). This application foresees tools for interactive mapping, exploratory analysis, as well as some more sophisticated spatial analysis.
For quantitative data input, the application links to the ESPON indicators database.

Thirdly, Claude Grasland presented the **hypercarte application**. This application now comes with a user interface enabling to experiment with multiscalar territorial analysis (as described in a paper distributed at the Crete seminar in May).

So, **different initiatives** have been taken as regards interactive mapping and analysis tools.

ESPON should now define a development strategy. This includes:

- Assessing the potential usefulness (taking into account the possibility of having a differentiated "audience" or public).
- Ensure complementarity of the different tools, avoiding possible overlaps.
- Clear identification of the priorities as regards the application functionalities.
- A web-based GIS should ensure an optimal integration of quantitative data and geographical layers.
- To examine the possibilities of integration of non-NUTS layers (e.g. transport networks) and raster-based information in the (mapping) application.
- Ensure that the applications can last longer than the lifetime of project 3.1 (implies matters of hosting and maintenance).

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