



## Message from the ESPON Coordination Unit

### ESPON Activities in 2013

The implementation of the ESPON 2013 Programme continues towards its final years. The planning and implementation of activities, that were started in 2008 and progressed according to plan since then, is now materialising in a vast amount of new territorial evidence, indicators and maps at European scale.

Importantly, the EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 will require evidence-based and result-oriented solutions. For ESPON this puts emphasis on the transfer of new insights and knowledge into relevant policy development processes, which is the role of ESPON. And it sets a positive framework for the use and capitalisation of the European knowledge base that has been constructed over the last 10 years by ESPON.

ESPON knowledge transfer will in 2013 be substantive. Evidence support is already undertaken, and many new publications are planned. To mention but a few examples:

- Dedicated deliveries of territorial evidence have already been made to programming activities in 66 Structural Funds programmes dealing with European Territorial Cooperation.
- On the EU 2020 Strategy, ESPON will soon issue an atlas showing the territorial dimension of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth within regions and cities of Europe.
- Territorial Impact Assessment guidance is being published providing tools for policy makers at EU, national and regional levels to take possible impacts into account in the process of policy development.
- A second ESPON Synthesis Report is under preparation based on final results from applied research and targeted analyses carried through by summer 2013.

The future of ESPON is as well in the process, preparing a proposal for an Operational Programme 2014-2020. In discussion is to continue and renew the ESPON programme for its third generation, particularly enhancing the knowledge transfer capacity and ensuring a leaner administrative setting. It is the plan to submit a proposal to the European Commission in autumn this year.

Altogether 2013 will be a busy year, also for ESPON, with many stimulating and interesting new results in the pipeline which you are all invited to share and use in policy making and science.

Peter Mehlbye

Director ESPON Coordination Unit

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**ESPON Events and Publications in 2013** (follow the ESPON website for the final dates)

### (1) Overview of events

Expected events:

- **Financial Managers Seminar** *Location: Greece, Date: 7 March 2013*
- **Joint Working Group on ESPON post 2013 Meeting** *Location: Luxembourg, Date: 13 March 2013*
- **ESPON Monitoring Committee Meeting** *Location: Luxembourg, Date: 14 March 2013*
- **ESPON Conference Synthesis Report 2 and 2020 Atlas** *Location: Brussels, Date: Spring 2013*
- **Workshop on Gateway Cities** *Location: Brussels, Date: May 2013*
- **Joint Working Group on ESPON post 2013 Meeting** *Location: Dublin, Date: 10 June 2013*
- **ESPON Monitoring Committee Meeting** *Location: Dublin, Date: 11 and 12 June 2013*
- **ESPON Contact Point Network Meeting** *Location: Dublin. Date: 12 June 2013*
- **Open Seminar** *Location: Dublin. Date: 13-14 June 2013*
- **Financial Managers Seminar** *Date: July 2013*
- **Scientific Seminar** *Location: Luxembourg, Date: September 2013*
- **ESPON Day** *Location: Brussels. Date: September 2013*
- **Joint Working Group on ESPON post 2013 Meeting** *Location: Brussels, Date: September 2013*
- **ESPON Monitoring Committee Meeting** *Location: Brussels, Date: September 2013*
- **ESPON at the Open Days** *Location: Brussels. Date: October 2013*
- **Workshop Stakeholders** *Location: Brussels, Date: 15 October 2013*
- **Group of Auditors** *Location: Paris, Date: November 2013*
- **Joint Working Group on ESPON post 2013 Meeting** *Location: Lithuania, Date: 2 December 2013*
- **ESPON Monitoring Committee Meeting** *Location: Lithuania, Date: 3 December 2013*
- **Internal Seminar** *Location: Lithuania. Date: 4 and 5 December 2013*
- **ESPON Contact Point Network Meeting** *Location: Lithuania. Date: 6 December 2013*

– **Past event**

**ESPON Internal Seminar in Paphos, Cyprus - 5 and 6 December 2012. At the ESPON Internal Seminar 190 people from 34 countries lively debated about the role of cities, regions and EU neighbourhood to enhance Europe's competitiveness in the global context**



ESPON organised in cooperation with the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union a two days Seminar on "Territorial Development Opportunities in Europe and its Neighbourhood - Fostering Global Competitiveness" in Paphos – Cyprus, on 5 and 6 December 2012.

The Seminar brought together 190 participants representing European Institutions, national governments, stakeholders, academia from all EU

Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and from neighboring countries such as Serbia and Russia.

Key note speeches set the scene for a detailed discussion organised around several themes such as accessibility, transport, territorial factors for global competitiveness and growth, cooperation at different scales, urban fabric, demographic change, core-periphery challenges. ESPON projects contributed with fact and evidence on territorial opportunities and challenges in Europe and its neighbourhood.

The active involvement of all participants and the energy, hard work and enthusiasm of the staff from the Cyprus Ministry of Interior - Department of Town Planning and Housing, contributed substantially to the success of the event, which gave the opportunity to discuss ESPON territorial evidence and share experiences from various international organizations.

ESPON will publish early 2013 a report with the main outcomes of the event. More reading and presentations made at the seminar at the ESPON Website: [http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Events/](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Events/).

*Photo credit: Cyprus EU Presidency.*

**(2) Overview of Publications**

- Territorial Impact Assessment of Policies and EU Directives, Practical guidance for policymakers and practitioners booklet, available in January 2013;
- Report from the Seminar in Cyprus "Territorial Development Opportunities in Europe and its Neighbourhood Fostering Global Competitiveness", January/February 2013;
- ESPON Projects Overview, available in January 2013;
- Territorial Observation N.7 "Hazards/ Climate", March 2013;
- Evidence Brief 1 "Territorial Cooperation", Spring 2013;
- Atlas 2020, Spring 2013;
- Synthesis Report II, late Spring 2013;
- Territorial Observation N.8 "Gateways", April 2013;
- Territorial Evidence Packs (10 SF programmes), May 2013;
- Territorial Observation N.9 "Targeted Analyses", July 2013;
- Scientific Report II, Autumn 2013;
- Territorial Observation 10 "Territorial Monitoring: Facts and figures", November 2013.

Additional "Evidence Briefs" giving a territorial dimension to topics such as EU 2020, Specific Territories, Secondary Growth Poles, Services of General Interest, will be published during 2013.

## New Projects

### (1) Economic Crisis: ECR2 - Economic Crisis: Resilience of Regions

The objective of the applied research project ECR2 is to analyze the economic crisis and recovery that are at the core of all recent policy initiatives. More at the ESPON Website: [http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_AppliedResearch/ECR2.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/ECR2.html).

### (2) Use of ESPON: USESPON - Use ESPON

This Priority 4 project will encourage and support the use of findings from the ESPON 2013 Programme. The aim is to create awareness and sense of ownership amongst key stakeholders.

The strategy is to draw on and share work done in four previous and ongoing Transnational Networking Activities (TNAs). More at the ESPON Website:

[http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_TransnationalNetworkingActivities/usespon.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_TransnationalNetworkingActivities/usespon.html).

## New Reports

### (1) Territorial Cooperation: TERCO delivers key policy messages for European Territorial Co-operation

The applied research project TERCO - European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life - has established the working definition of territorial cooperation, built database on the twinning-city network for the first time and applied new methods that had never been used in research on territorial co-operation (i.e. models of successful co-operation and network analyses of twinning cities).

TERCO results indicate that the main contribution of Territorial Co-operation to cohesion and development lies in institutional capacity-building, professionalisation of staff, circulation of innovative management ideas, strategies, and education. This is particularly the case for disadvantaged regions, such as those at the EU's external borders.

Those elements are vital for development and territorial integration because they facilitate various flows (of people, goods, and capital such as FDI) which otherwise would not cross the borders.

Read the TERCO Final Report at the ESPON Website:

[http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_AppliedResearch/terco.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/terco.html).

### (2) Integrated Strategies: RISE - Identifying and Exchanging Best Practices in Developing Regional Integrated Strategies in Europe - Final Report

The RISE project investigates regional integrated strategies (RIS) and focuses on Randstad, Zealand, Västerbotten and West Midlands.

These regions are amongst the more economically advanced territories of the EU. The Randstad contains the Netherland's two major conurbations and encompasses a complex range of powerful governance centres. The West Midlands includes the urban centres of Birmingham, the Black Country, Solihull and Coventry, as well as an extensive sub-urban and rural hinterland of shire counties. Västerbotten and Zealand are both primarily rural with low levels of urban concentration.

The final report includes case studies, useful handbook and toolkit. For all four stakeholders regions a profile has been drafted showing a detailed picture of the economic and social situation as well as the governance arrangements and planning system. The handbook describes the general setting of regional integrated strategies and creates awareness of the necessity to improve these and how. The toolkit presents a range of operational models, questions and recommendations that can be used as inspiration for policy makers and practitioners in reviewing the status of an existing RIS, finding ways to increase its level of integration and in preparing a new RIS.

Read the report at the ESPON Website:

[http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_TargetedAnalyses/rise.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_TargetedAnalyses/rise.html).

### (3) R&D: AMCER supports regions in managing R&D policy

The targeted analysis AMCER - Advanced Monitoring and Coordination of EU R&D Policies at Regional Level - equips 9 regional actors with an accurate picture of their R&D systems, EU R&D Policy activity and its territorial impacts. The evidence from the project should support them to formulate and manage R&D policy more effectively and, more broadly, to provide a harmonised methodology that other regions can use.

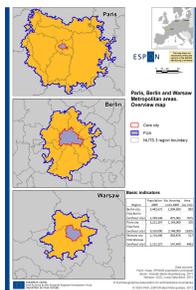
According to the Draft Final Report, the analysis of the Regional Innovation Systems reveals that despite the current economic and financial crisis, the regions which have already managed to build up a knowledge-driven regional economy are likely to have better, more sustainable, and less volatile growth perspectives (e.g. Ostrobothnia, East of England).

Except East of England, all regions need to increase their R&D capabilities. Additional spending and personnel will help to strengthen the competitiveness of the regions in terms of knowledge and technology production. Moreover, in some regions (e.g. Andalusia, Tuscany, Lower Saxony) the structural change towards a more diversified and knowledge based economy has to be fostered.

SMEs play a crucial role when it comes to strength existing potentials in high-tech sectors. The link between businesses and research institutions is in some cases rather weak (e.g. Tuscany, Catalunya, Brittany, PACA, and Andalusia). Read the draft final report at the ESPON Website:

[http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_TargetedAnalyses/amcer.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_TargetedAnalyses/amcer.html).

### (4) Metropolitan Regions: Draft Final Report of BEST METROPOLISES (Best Development Conditions in European Metropolises: Paris, Berlin and Warsaw)



The report presents the main findings of the Best Metropolises project, the primary purpose of which was to identify metropolitan development trends and their consequences in different spheres while also assessing the policy measures and governance models that guide this development.

The research undertaken also generated pertinent knowledge about the main driving forces in respect of metropolitan development and their consequences in different spheres; the relationships between the processes of socio-economic and spatial development in metropolitan areas; and the impact of institutional arrangements and governance on their development paths. Read the Report at the ESPON Website:

[http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_TargetedAnalyses/bestmetropolises.ht](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_TargetedAnalyses/bestmetropolises.html)

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### Call for abstracts: Climate Change in Northern Territories - Sharing Experiences, Exploring New Methods and Assessing Socio-Economic Impacts



ENECON (ESPON Evidence in Northern Territories) calls for abstracts for general participation and young researchers for its international conference to be held in Akureyri, Iceland on 22 and 23 August 2013.

The objective is to turn our attention towards territorial challenges, on existing evidence and the need for future research in the northernmost regions of Europe and the Arctic, and the challenge of translating scientific knowledge into action.

This conference will bring together researchers which have similar background but have been focusing on different problems and situations and applied different methodological approaches. Regional and local stakeholders as well as state politicians and policymakers are also target groups for the conference. The deadline for abstracts is 28 February 2013. Further information at the ENECON website:

<http://www.rha.is/enecon/forsida/>

### ESPON in Your Country

#### (1) Netherlands – Event “Landscape Policy for the Three Countries Park”, Maastricht 28 February 2013

The three universities of Aachen, Wageningen and Brussels, who form the transnational project group of the project LP3LP - Landscape Policy for the 3 Countries Park - will present the results of the project.

To receive an invitation with the agenda of the event, fill in the form at this link:

<https://fd9.formdesk.com/provincielimburg/LP3LP>.

Contact: Jan Houwen, Province of Limburg, e-mail: [jtm.houwen@prvlimburg.nl](mailto:jtm.houwen@prvlimburg.nl)

**(2) Romania - Event “Territorial imbalances and the role of EU and national policies in reducing them”, Bucharest, 28 November 2012**



The ESPON Contact Point in Romania in cooperation with the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism organized a thematic meeting aimed at promoting towards national policy makers the results of ESPON studies relevant for territorial development and for the preparation of the programming period 2014 – 2020.

Researchers from the ESPON Contact Point presented an analysis of the territorial imbalances based on results of the ESPON research studies.

According to the organisers, some of the main conclusions of the event were:

- 1) Adapting the implementation of the ESPON methodologies to the Romanian space is an important process that can support political decision;
- 2) Improvements to transport infrastructure have a strong impact on regional development only if their result is the removal of a structural deficit of accessibility;
- 3) Migration follows spatial diffusion laws, and it is affecting not necessarily the poorest areas but the ones that have a slightly higher level of development;
- 4) The urban hierarchy model proposed in ESPON projects, which is valid for the EU territory, should be adjusted at the particularities of the Romanian urban system;
- 5) Evidence from ESPON projects is very useful and can provide a basis for the process of policy making.

More information at the ESPON Contact Point in Romania web page:

<http://www.esponromania.ro/evenimente/arhiva/28.11/>

**News from INTERREG IVB NWE - Vacancy**



INTERREG IVB

The INTERREG IVB North-West Europe Programme is recruiting a Finance Officer (short term contract). Deadline to apply: **31 January**.

More at the INTERREG IVB North-West Europe Programme website:

[http://www.nweurope.eu/index.php?act=vacancy\\_details&id=3022](http://www.nweurope.eu/index.php?act=vacancy_details&id=3022)

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**More information**

The ESPON 2013 Programme is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

It shall support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory. ESPON shall support Cohesion Policy development with European wide, comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on framework conditions for the development of regions, cities and larger territories. In doing so, it shall facilitate the mobilisation of territorial capital and development opportunities, contributing to improving European competitiveness, to the widening and deepening of European territorial cooperation and to a sustainable and balanced development.

The Managing Authority responsible for the ESPON 2013 Programme is the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, Department for Spatial Planning and Development of Luxembourg. More information: [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)

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