

## **SPECIFICATION**

### **ESPON Scientific Platform/Tools Project 2013/3/6**

### **Detecting Territorial Potential and Challenges**

**(2012-2013)**

#### ***(o) Territorial challenges relevant for ESPON 2013 projects***

The development of the European territory is facing several ongoing mega trends and impacts of policies:

- The integration of the EU in global economic competition is accelerating, offering more options for regions and larger territories in deciding on their development path as development is no longer a zero sum game for Europe.
- Interaction is growing between the EU territory and the surrounding neighbour countries as well as the other parts of the world, becoming apparent by e.g. migration pressure on more developed countries, which are themselves confronted with population decline and by access to and investment in new markets.
- Market forces and the evolution of society in general are supporting a geographical concentration of activities. The current economic downturn is having asymmetrical impacts on regions and cities, often mostly related to their national context and more local economic base.
- The ongoing demographic change with an ageing European population and migration is affecting the regions differently and boosts the competition for skilled labour.
- The occurrence of hazards is increasing due to climate change while different parts of Europe experience different types of hazards.
- Increasing energy prices and the emergence of a new energy paradigm have significant territorial impacts, some regions being more affected than others, some of which have particular potential for production of renewable energy sources.
- The enlargement of the EU to 27 Member States, and soon with additional countries, presents an unprecedented challenge for the competitiveness and internal cohesion of the Union.

ESPON results have revealed that territorial capital and opportunities for development are inherent in the regional diversity that is a characteristic of Europe. Consequently, different types of territories are endowed with diverse combinations of resources, putting them into different positions for contributing to the achievement of the Europe 2020 Strategy as well as to EU Cohesion Policy. Territorial diversity, particularly in the economic base, implies the need for tailor-made regional strategies building on endogenous potentials and synergies through

cooperation in order for regions, cities and larger territories to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The ESPON 2006 Programme provided integrated analysis and long term spatial scenarios which enriched the European policy debate and knowledge base. The results and observations produced by ESPON on territorial structures, trends, perspectives and assessment of EU policy impacts had not been fully evident before and supported a better understanding of the European dimension of territorial dynamics. Therefore, interest is growing among policy makers and practitioners for the information, knowledge and understanding ESPON can offer.

The ESPON 2013 Programme shall bring this knowledge base one step further by carrying out applied research and targeted analysis, indicator development and data collection, capitalisation events presenting results, etc. All these actions will be related to an improved understanding of territorial structures, development trends, perspectives and policy impacts.

The European-wide evidence provided by the ESPON 2007-2013 Programme will potentially benefit stakeholders all over Europe at all levels. Policy makers dealing with territorial development require sound evidence and comparable regionalised information as well as medium and long-term development perspectives in order to draw up sustainable and efficient integrated policy responses for their territories.

All in all, the European process moves towards a more integrated, evidence-based approach to policy making which makes the territorial dimension important for policy makers. The aim of territorial cohesion included in the Treaty supports this approach by taking the territory as an element in the framework for policy making. Due to its provision of evidence based analyses of territorial units the ESPON 2013 Programme is of strategic importance for the European policy development and cooperation.

By further extending and deepening the existing knowledge and indicators, the ESPON 2013 Programme will play a strategic role in supporting the policy process of the current period 2007-2013 and contributing to the development of Cohesion Policy beyond 2013.

### ***(i) General objectives of applied research projects under Priority 3***

The general objectives of applied research projects within the ESPON 2013 Programme are the following:

- Contribute to the consolidation of the scientific platform of the ESPON 2013 Programme and to the territorial knowledge base needed for informed policy formulation and application
- Ensure data, territorial indicators and tools that are usable for policy makers and practitioners at all administrative levels
- Respond to needs for public access to the ESPON data and tools
- Ensure availability of comparable and robust regional (and urban) data at as detailed geographical scale as possible as well as statistical quality control and data validation
- Ensure that European standards for spatial referencing and storage of data are respected (such as applying the ETRS1989 standard and the Inspire Directive).

- Support a concrete application and use of data for policy, strategy and planning processes, including tools and techniques for forecasting and modelling
- Continuously provide an updated basis for monitoring and assessing territorial development trends in relation to territorial policy objectives at European level based on relevant territorial indicators/indices.

This project shall contribute to these general objectives during its implementation, and in doing so make best use of existing ESPON results, new results in other ESPON projects as well as other research results and relevant studies.

### ***(ii) Relation of this project to the ESPON 2013 Programme***

The priorities describing the work-programme of the ESPON 2013 Programme are structured in four strands:

#### **a) Applied research on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion: Evidence on European territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts**

The applied research projects will opt for information and evidence on territorial potential and challenges focusing on opportunities for success for the development of regions. Cross thematic applied research will be a major activity integrating existing thematic analysis and adding future analysis of new themes. Territorial impact studies of EU policies will be another focus under this priority.

#### **b) Targeted analysis based on user demand: European perspective to development of different types of territories**

This priority responds to a clear demand of practitioners for user and demand driven actions within the ESPON 2013 Programme. By convening an analytical process where ESPON findings are integrated with more detailed information and practical know-how, new understanding of future development potentials and challenges may arise, which could be transformed into projects and actions.

#### **c) Scientific platform and tools: Territorial indicators and data, analytical tools and scientific support**

The scientific platform and analytical tools built up within the ESPON 2006 Programme will be maintained and further expanded. New actions shall be undertaken to develop current achievements and make use of the indicators, data and tools.

#### **d) Capitalisation, ownership and participation: Capacity building, dialogue and networking**

Under this priority, actions are foreseen that will be aiming at making the evidence and knowledge developed operational through measures raising awareness and involving stakeholders in the results and their practical use.

The Priority 3 project “Detecting Territorial Potential and Challenges” aims at meeting the increased demand for analytical approaches and methods supporting practitioners and policy makers looking for territorial potential involving a European perspective.

This project will cover the implementation for the period 2012-2013.

### ***iii) Thematic scope and context***

Regions in Europe are no longer isolated entities but are linked to a larger territorial context that opens up possibilities for utilising new and underused territorial potential for the development of regions and cities. Understanding the position of one's region or city in the larger territorial context and searching for potentials and comparative advantages is a necessity in the accelerating globalisation and competition. Awareness and openness for including a European dimension in strategy building and policy making is therefore of major importance in developing new regional policy approaches.

The European Commission as well as the countries and regions within the ESPON territory are increasingly putting emphasis on the need to make better use of the territorial assets and unleash the territorial potential of the European regions. *The Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion (2008)* points out that in a globalising and interrelated world economy the competitiveness and prosperity of the European regions depend on the capacity of people and businesses to make the best use of the territorial assets and potentials. This requires regional, transnational and global co-operation that is supported by public policy at all levels.

*The Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 - Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions (May 2011)*, stresses the importance of place-based policy approach to territorial cohesion, as it contributes to unleash territorial potential through development strategies based on local and regional knowledge of needs, and building on the specific assets and factors which contribute to the competitiveness of places. In this way places can utilize their territorial capital to realise optimal solutions for long-term development, and contribute to the achievement of the Europe 2020 Strategy objectives.

However, the place-based policy approach need to be evidence-based and accompanied by a broader outlook on the territorial potential involving a European perspective, which can reveal common solutions and support the utilisation of their territorial potential by sharing experience. "Territories with complementary potentials, often neighbouring, can join forces and explore their comparative advantages together creating additional development potential."

Against this political background and policy development, this project is expected to meet the demand for analytical methods approaches and supporting local and regional practitioners and policy makers looking for ways to detect territorial potential involving a European perspective and to turn challenges into potential. In doing so, it shall include experiences from ESPON Targeted Analyses as well as evidence produced by ESPON applied research.

### ***iv) General objectives***

The project shall provide practical guidance on how to utilise ESPON knowledge to detect territorial potential and turning challenges into potential deriving from their larger territorial context. The project is expected to include concrete cases of good practices in utilising territorial potential. Benchmarking, comparison with similar regions/cities and search for comparative advantages and territorial cooperation arrangements are key words in this respect.

The target group for the project is practitioners and policy makers, first and foremost at regional and municipal level, which will be provided with an important and sought after overview and

guidance in their day-to-day work. However, the general guidance on analytical approaches and methods envisaged through this project will also be relevant for practitioners and policy makers involved in development considerations in cross-border, national and transnational settings.

### **Structure and content**

The project shall provide an inventory of analytical approaches as well as qualitative and quantitative methods supporting the detection of territorial potentials and challenges. The starting point for the inventory should be a review of relevant ESPON Targeted Analyses projects (Priority 2). The Targeted Analyses is a tool to support stakeholders (often representing regions) to enhance their understanding of the larger territorial context, make comparisons to other territories and hereby provide a European perspective to considerations on the development of their territories.

The ESPON Targeted Analyses to be particularly considered include the ULYSSES, METROBORDER, TEDI, CAEE, SS-LR, SURE, TPM, EATIA and RISE projects. The analytical and methodological experiences and knowledge gained within these projects should be compiled and complemented by a review of supporting literature. Based on these reviews the project is expected to develop a conceptual framework including optional methodological approaches that will be used to select 5-8 case study areas, which can provide concrete examples on how a region or a city can analyse, distil and make use of their territorial potential and/or deal with particular challenges including a European outlook and combining ESPON results with local/regional knowledge. For doing so, ESPON evidence shall be used.

The case studies are expected to engage practitioners in testing the analytical approaches and methods in practice. The selection of case study areas should be based on the motivation of the potential regions and cities, which could include the national ECP. Furthermore, the geographical coverage should be balanced and seek to include different types regions/cities, which should take into account the nine standard ESPON Territorial Typologies: urban-rural; metropolitan regions; border regions; islands regions; sparsely populated regions; outermost regions; mountainous regions; coastal regions; regions in industrial transition. The first six were developed by DG Regio and the remaining three were proposed in the ESPON project on Typology Compilation.

The project should result in a document (handbook/guidance) giving good advice and guidance to practitioners and policy makers of all European regions and cities on analytical approaches and methods for detecting territorial potentials and challenges while integrating a larger European perspective.

The project is also expected to make use of the analytical tools, such as the database, indicators etc., that ESPON has at its disposal within the scientific platform.

### **Complementarity with other ESPON projects**

The project will complement in geographical terms the project proposal on “Territorial Evidence Packs for ERDF Programmes” (2013/3/7). It will as well supplement the use in practice of ESPON knowledge in general and in this context the outputs related to monitoring territorial dynamics.

Cross-examining ESPON Targeted Analyses for their analytical and methodological approaches and their subsequent testing by practitioners will be an innovative approach and provide

important hands-on experiences of value for the practitioners as well as for the ESPON Programme.

Furthermore, the output of the project will provide a major contribution to the use and capitalisation of ESPON results.

### ***v) Analytical framework and envisaged output***

The analytical approach of the project should in particular take into account the report from the ESPON Seminar in Malmö 2009 – “Regional Use of ESPON Knowledge” (ESPON 2010). The seminar offered a platform to policymakers, stakeholders and project groups closely involved in the ESPON 2013 Programme to discuss how regional territorial analyses and policymaking can be given added value by using European wide territorial information the ESPON knowledge base offers.

The seminar concluded that regions in Europe can benefit from integrating the European perspective in their territorial development strategies and policy actions, and recognised the importance of the knowledge base and practical tools that ESPON offer regions and cities throughout Europe to analyse their territorial development potential they derive from their wider European territorial context.

In assessing the ESPON Targeted Analyses projects, the seminar particularly pointed to their contribution to new forms of territorial co-operation and to the introduction of a European dimension into the policymaking debate. However, it was also pointed out that it remains a challenge to make European wide knowledge operational for practical use at regional and local level. This project is expected to be an important contribution to this end.

The Malmö Seminar Report presents a framework for territorial analysis that distinguishes the following approaches to detect territorial potential:

- Exposing characteristics of a region
- Indicating performance of a region
- Detecting network relations of a region
- Detecting the larger functional area a region belongs to
- Detecting influences that impose themselves on a region
- Detecting influences a region imposes on other territories

This framework for territorial analysis should be taken into account by the project and used where relevant.

The project is expected to proceed in the following steps and make the following deliveries:

- Inventory of analytical approaches as well as qualitative and quantitative methods supporting the detection of territorial potential. This will include
  - A review of relevant ESPON Targeted Analyses projects.
  - A review of supporting literature.
- Development of a conceptual framework consisting of analytical approaches and methods for detecting territorial potential involving a European perspective.
- Documentation with examples of good practices.

- Plan for the 5-8 case studies, including selection of the case study areas and involvement of practitioners.
- Development of a preliminary guidance document that will be used and tested in the case studies for testing by the involved practitioners.
- Documentation of the results and experiences from the case studies.
- Final version of the guidance/handbook document.

These deliveries are integrated in the timing below.

***(vi) Expected results and timetable***

The project is expected to start in early 2012 and the final delivery will be scheduled for mid-2013.

The project is supposed to follow, as far as possible, a timetable and specifications of outputs as presented below:

**May 2012 (Inception Report):**

- Detailed description of the project, taking into account the objectives envisaged, including work plan until the Interim Report.
- Conclusions from the reviews of ESPON Targeted Analyses projects and supporting literature.
- Presentation of the conceptual framework including analytical approach and methods.
- Overview of good practices.
- Description of the analytical approach and methods to be included in the guidance/handbook.
- Draft table of content for the guidance/handbook document
- Considerations on the selection of 5-8 case-study areas

**November 2012 (Interim Delivery):**

- Interim results from the 5-8 case-study areas
- Final table of content for the guidance/handbook document
- Work plan until the Draft Final Report.

**March 2013 (Draft Final Report):**

- Concise Report including an overview of good practices (10 pages) and the case studies (20 pages).
- A guidance/handbook document on detecting territorial potential (30 pages).

**June 2013 (Final Report)**

- Final version from the Draft Final Report deliveries.

### ***(vii) Budget***

The maximum budget foreseen for this project amounts to €350.000. Proposals exceeding this value will not be considered.

The budget does not include printing and layout, which will be financed separately by the ESPON 2013 Programme.

All real eligible costs incurred for carrying out the approved project will be refunded 100% by the ESPON 2013 Programme.

### ***(viii) Existing access points***

The access points listed below can serve the purpose of providing the TPG useful information for preparing a proposal. It is by no means meant to be exhaustive, but should be considered as information that can be helpful in tracing additional useful background information.

#### **European policy documents**

- [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy)
- [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm)

#### **ESPON documents**

- ESPON Malmo Report (2010)
- ESPON Targeted Analyses
  - EUROISLANDS - The development of the Islands - European Islands and Cohesion Policy
  - METROBORDER - Cross-border polycentric metropolitan regions
  - SURE - Success for Convergence Regions' Economies
  - PURR - Potential of Rural Regions
  - SS - LR - Spatial scenarios: new tools for local-regional scenarios
  - TeDi - Territorial Diversity
  - EATIA - ESPON and TIA
  - ULYSSES - Using Applied Results from ESPON as a Yardstick for Cross-Border Spatial Planning and Development
  - RISE - Identifying and Exchanging Best Practice in Developing Regional Integrated Strategies in Europe
  - TPM - Territorial Performance Monitoring
  - SMART-IST - Smart Institutions for Territorial Developments
- ESPON Applied Research projects and projects on ESPON Tools are all available at [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)