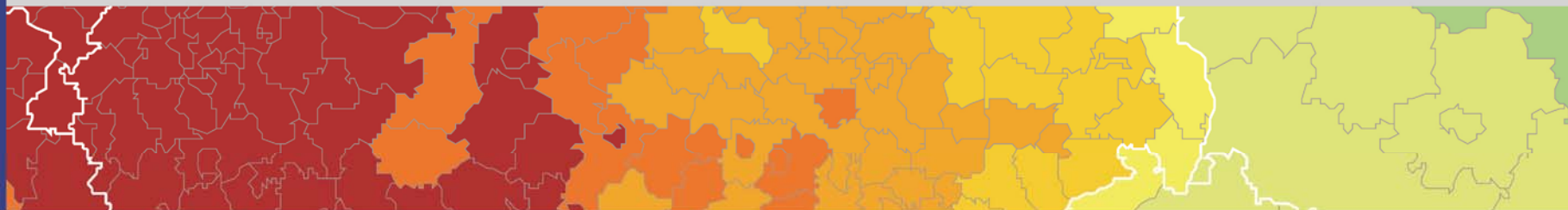




European Union

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# The approved ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme

ESPON ECP Meeting  
9-10 December 2015 in Luxembourg



# The approved ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme

## Guiding questions

- How is the third ESPON programme generation supposed to contribute to Cohesion Policy and Territorial Cohesion?
- What are the main elements of the renewed ESPON programme setting?

## Points to address

- Contribution envisaged to the EU2020 Strategy and Cohesion Policy;
- Evaluations pointing at renewal and leaner implementation provisions;
- Programme Strategy, Mission and Specific Objectives;
- Target Groups;
- Budget.

## Contribution to the EU2020 Strategy

- Context EU internal: increasing scarcity of public resources, economic crisis, key environmental and social challenges;
- Context EU external: international cooperation and competition growing, exploring wider perspectives such as climate change, impacts and responses and fast and safe border processing of external trade;
- Europe 2020 Strategy priorities today:
  - four themes research and innovation, the digital agenda, support for small and medium sized enterprises (SME), and the low-carbon economy;
  - achieving country specific Europe 2020 targets will be more closely monitored
- “Investment Plan for Europe” presented on 26 November 2014 - financially important investment initiative aiming at growth and job creation

## Contribution to the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

- The Cohesion Policy 2014-2020:
  - Recognises a more integrated, focused and results orientated intervention logic;
  - Concentrates funding on a number of 11 thematic objectives, closely related to the Europe 2020 Strategy;
  - Proposes to move beyond a “one-size-fits-all” approach to reflect the varied diversity of European regions to deliver policies;
  - Funds tailored to the specific place-based needs of individual regions;
  - Offers new territorially oriented instruments such as ITI, Urban development.

## Supporting economic, social and territorial cohesion

- the Lisbon Treaty elevated territorial cohesion to a core goal of the EU, on the level with economic and social cohesion;
- Member States, their regions and cities as well as the territories of Partner States and other neighbouring countries play a crucial role in influencing territorial cohesion in terms of setting national and European policy agendas and through national sectoral policy decisions that impact territories;
- The Territorial Agenda (TA) 2020 underpins the territorial dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy and sets out policy orientations for the development of the European territory.

## Supporting the Territorial Agenda 2020, which

- Recognises the territorial dimension challenges of globalisation, innovation, competitiveness, demographic change, climate change and environmental challenges as well as energy;
- And sets out policy priorities to:
  - Promote polycentric and balanced territorial development;
  - Encourage integrated development in cities, rural, specific regions;
  - Territorial integration in cross-border and transnational functional regions;
  - Ensure global competitiveness of the regions based on strong local economies;
  - Improve territorial connectivity for individuals, communities and enterprises;
  - Manage and connect ecological, landscape and cultural values of regions.

## The need for territorial evidence

- Shift in emphasis on investment, performance monitoring and the territorial;
- Dimension of Cohesion Policy is likely to yield a significant increase in the need and demand from the European Commission, Member States, regions and cities;
- High quality, relevant and up-to-date territorial evidence to inform policy decisions is needed;
- Cohesion Policy legislative package 2014-2020 requests the further improvement of territorial analyses and data at European scale;
- The European process emphasises the importance of urban policy requiring an urban focus in the development of territorial evidence;
- Benchmarking regions and cities in an European, and even global context, and for jointly exploring comparative advantages within wider territorial contexts.

## Renewal, refocus and upgrade of ESPON

### Key messages from policy arena and evaluations are to

- Improve the transfer of European territorial evidence;
- Offer more policy relevant analyses upon demand, also to ESIF programmes;
- Ensure effective outreach and more users;
- Ensure rapid deliveries to ongoing policy processes;
- Improve validation of scientific quality and data comparability;
- Enhance the in-house capacity related to science, knowledge transfer and communication;
- Lower the administrative burden;
- Apply leaner administrative procedures and renewed set up;
- Use public procurement, calls for tender and service contracts only.



## Context in EC Regulations

### Reinforcing the effectiveness of cohesion policy

*“Analyses of development trends in relation to the aims of territorial cohesion, including territorial aspects of economic and social cohesion, and harmonious development of the European territory through studies, data collection and other measures”.*

*“Strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives through the analysis of development trends.”*

### Contribute to Thematic Objective 11

*“Institutional capacity building & efficient public administrations”,*

... which opens the possibility to address all 11 Thematic Objectives during the implementation of the Cooperation Programme

# Target Groups

## Primary target groups

- European policymakers (Cohesion Policy, sectoral and thematic policies and programmes);
- National policymakers and practitioners (responsible for territorial cohesion, ETC programmes, macro-regional strategies and Cohesion Policy implementation);
- Authorities implementing ESI funded programmes and preparing periodical reporting;
- Regional and local policymakers and practitioners involved in territorial development and planning, cooperation in larger territories.

## Secondary target groups

Organisations promoting different regional/urban interests at EU level;

- University academics (researchers and students);
- The private sector and wider European audiences.

## Mission Statement of the ESPON 2020 CP

“ESPON 2020 shall continue the consolidation of a European Territorial Observatory Network and grow the provision and policy use of pan-European, comparable, systematic and reliable territorial evidence”.

## Programme strategy based on the Mission Statement

- Enhance the use of territorial evidence in policy development, programmes of EU 2020 strategy, EU Cohesion Policy at EU, national and regional level, for sectoral policies / relevant policy processes;
- Implement applied research and analyses, knowledge transfer for policy processes, deliver territorial evidence for policy development at all levels including transnational and cross-border context;
- Monitor European territorial trends, potentials and challenges, provide analytical tools for EU-wide territorial evidence / experience to relevant policy processes, political debates, territorial strategy building;
- Ensure effective, timely and prompt communication / outreach to support the use by potential stakeholders together with facilitating on-going coordination / cooperation with a wide range of target institutions at EU, national, regional and urban level and ESI programmes, in particular at transnational and cross-border level.

## 5 Specific Objectives

- **Specific Objective 1:** *Continued production of territorial evidence.*
- **Specific Objective 2:** *Upgraded knowledge transfer and analytical user support.*
- **Specific Objective 3:** *Improved territorial observation and tools for territorial analyses.*
- **Specific Objective 4:** *Wider outreach and uptake of territorial evidence.*
- **Specific Objective 5:** *Leaner, effective and efficient implementation provisions and proficient programme assistance.*

# Priority Axes

## Two Priority Axes

*Priority Axis 1: Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach*

The Single Beneficiary – the ESPON EGTC shall contract on implementing this Priority Axis dealing with the content of the ESPON 2020 CP;

*Priority Axis 2: Technical Assistance (TA)*

The ESPON Managing Authority, the Ministry for Sustainable Development and Infrastructures in Luxembourg, will implement this Priority Axis.

## Administrative set-up of ESPON 2020

### Programme Bodies

- Monitoring Committee;
- Managing Authority;
- Certifying Authority;
- Audit Authority;
- Functions of Joint Secretariat assumed by the Managing Authority.

### Single Beneficiary

- ESPON EGTC which the members of the 3 Belgian Regions and Luxembourg as members

### ESPON Contact Point Network:

- Cooperating on outreach activities at transnational and national level

# Budget of the ESPON 2020

## Contributions

- ERDF contribution 41,4 Mio. Euro;
- EU Member States contribution 7,3 Mio. Euro;
- Partner States contribution 1,8 Mio. Euro;
- Additional Luxembourg support on the side of the Managing / Certifying Authority.

## Spending

- Total of around 50,5 Mio. Euro for 2014-2020:
  - Priority Axis 1: around 47,5 Mio. Euro (ESPON EGTC);
  - Priority Axis 2: around 3,0 Mio. Euro (ESPON MA).



## Timetable

12 February 2015: EC approval of the ESPON 2020 CP;

April 2015: Inauguration of the ESPON EGTC;

June 2015: MC meeting on provisions to invite the ESPON EGTC to prepare a Proposal for the Single Operation;

Beginning of July until end of November 2015:

Preparation of the Single Operation and Submission, evaluation and decision on the approval of the Single Operation by the Monitoring Committee;

Beginning of December 2015: The ESPON EGTC launched First Calls for Tender.

# The ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme

Welcome at the new ESPON Programme and  
thank you for your interest and attention