

# ESPON activity overviews 2019/2

*The ESPON 2020 Programme aims at promoting and fostering a European territorial dimension in development and cooperation by providing evidence, knowledge transfer and policy learning to public authorities and other policy actors at all levels.*

This document serves as **an interactive catalogue to discover ESPON content** and to find a particular report, brief or event. For each activity, a first page presents an overview of the activity and a second page summarises the key messages and policy advice. The activities are at different stages of implementation and further details as well as the latest outputs can be accessed on the ESPON website by following the links to the relevant pages.

The document is designed for browsing and reading on a computer or tablet. It allows you to quickly **navigate and review relevant content** and perhaps also discover content by 'clicking' and 'flicking' through in an interactive way. You can use the navigation bar at the bottom of the

screen to jump to the tables of contents for the different sections. It is recommended that you open the document in a PDF viewer (such as Adobe's free Acrobat Reader DC). You can then use the arrow buttons or the 'Page Up' and 'Page Down' buttons to browse each activity section.



AR	Applied research
TA	Targeted analyses
TP	Thematic papers
OB	Territorial observations
TL	Tools for territorial analyses
EO	European outreach
TN	Transnational outreach
PB	Publications

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## SO1 – Applied research (AR)

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## 01 – The geography of new employment dynamics

*Population change is increasingly determined by migration and Knowledge Economy (KE) sectors are a key driver of intra-EU migration, particularly among young people and the territorial development of Europe.*

The **free movement of labour is one of the basic cornerstones of the EU**. Understanding the geography of new employment dynamics, particularly of knowledge economy workers, therefore continues to be a high-profile policy topic of key relevance to policymakers. Current EU Cohesion Policy has a very strong emphasis on research, innovation and information and communications technology sectors as a priority means for generating growth, investment and jobs.

Given this significant policy emphasis, current trends have an **inherent tendency towards urban regions as the primary engines of growth** and, as a consequence, significant relevance in the context of the spatial concentration of economic and employment growth, the corresponding out-migration and economic decline in lagging regions (so called, **‘Brain Drain’**) and the recent upsurge of self-exclusion politics e.g. BREXIT. Since the economic crisis there has been an increasingly unbalanced spatial distribution of new employment opportunities and increasing **polarisation** between urban and rural areas and between east-west and north-south.

<https://www.espon.eu/employment>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- By 2025 nearly half of the expected new and replacement vacancies within the EU will be for highly qualified workers.
  - Regional disparities in the take-up and adoption of new technologies and the skill level of the work force will further advance regional differences.
  - Spatial hierarchies dominated by the power of large metropolitan areas are more pronounced in the EU13.
  - Growing differences in the performance of local economies and labour markets demand greater attention to the territorial dimension in the EU's growth strategies.
- Policy suggestions for post-2020 Cohesion Policy which emerged from the study include:
    - An increase focus on lagging regions and on employment and social policies to complement competitive and industrial ones.
    - Support to lagging regions in valorising existing local knowledge and assets, providing services and infrastructures of general interest, fostering vertical and horizontal cooperation among stakeholders.
    - Adopting 'diaspora strategies' and encouraging return migration; strengthening urban-rural linkages and finding pro-active solutions.

## 02 – The world in Europe: Global FDI Flows towards Europe

*The results delivered by the World in Europe are extensive, detailed and provide relevant qualitative and quantitative insights on recent FDI trends and the territorial factors that determine their location. The objective of the study was to use detailed data on FDI at a regional level to cast new light on the integration of Europe in the global economy.*

The study has analysed the impacts of FDI for types of regions (rural-urban, metropolitan, more developed, transition and less developed regions) in order to assess the impact of FDI inflows on economic convergence across regions in Europe. This is important because

FDI patterns and potentials for FDI spillovers depend on regional and territorial characteristics of the host economy.

Recommendations are provided to support the **development of policies towards FDI at European, national and regional levels**. The study makes an important case for a place-based approach to attracting FDI. Regional development strategies and FDI promotion strategies should be integrated. The findings and conclusions reached are well informed and supported by the more detailed documentation.

<https://www.espon.eu/fdi>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- Global FDI flows mainly to large and economically mature countries.
- The benefits of FDI are unevenly distributed across regions: the direct impact of FDI appears to be smaller in rural, non-metropolitan and less developed regions.
- FDI is associated with positive productivity spillovers to local firms within the same industry and region.
- SMEs in less advantaged regions are also less internationalised.
- The benefits from intra-European FDI are distributed more evenly and intra-European

FDI stimulates convergence across countries.

- EU policy makers could improve the attractiveness of all European regions by implementing initiatives at the EU level that: reinforce the Single Market; ensure political regulatory and legal predictability; integrate Europe globally and support sustainable growth.
- National policies set the overall frame for FDI attractiveness by ensuring efficient collaboration between different layers of public administration; ensure labour market flexibility and integration; and implementing and enforcing efficient competition policies.

## 03 – SMEs in European regions and cities

*The main objective of the SME study was to map and analyse the territorial patterns and performance of SMEs in Europe, and to propose territorial development strategies that can be considered in different regions and cities to further strengthen the development and sustainability of SMEs.*

The study was conducted under the general premise that SMEs are the back-bone of the economy and that supporting SMEs is therefore of vital interest for the regions. The activity examined the **factors determining the development of a region's SME sector**, and the key drivers or obstacles to SME growth and performance at the regional level.

A wide spectrum of policy recommendations for further supporting SME development are put forward related to the EU level, the Member States and to the regions and cities. An important advice to policy-makers following from the findings is that they **need to take into account the different conditions and dynamics of SMEs** related to whether they are in a start-up or scale-up phase.

The final report of this activity provides important knowledge and understanding of the specific conditions for the development of SMEs in European regions and cities.

<https://www.espon.eu/sme>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- Knowledge of the distribution patterns of SMEs across European regions and cities in terms of size, employment, sectors, location, survival rates, and growth
- Analysis of the extent and the ways SMEs contribute to business development, job creation, and innovation in European regions and cities
- Insights on the particular role of SMEs in the areas of the knowledge and creative economy, ICT, and the low-carbon economy
- Critical conditions for SME development, such as education, good governance, and infra-structure, should be addressed at all levels, just as the need for differentiation along the life cycle of SMEs applies
- Post-2020 cohesion policy should support the introduction of specific strategies to help and encourage more microenterprises to grow or scale-up, and should consider that SMEs in different sectors have different needs as well as capacities to innovate
- Member states need to provide resources for investments in clusters/networking, research and education, and a skilled workforce
- Specialisation strategies should not necessarily follow classic industrial taxonomies, but rather focus on technology and competence fields which can be flexibly applied in different industries

## 04 – Territories and low carbon economy approach

*The territorial dimension of the transition to a low-carbon economy is one of the major challenges for European regions and cities. Making full use of European regions' low-carbon potential needs considering regional prerequisites, combining forces and aligning governance levels.*

Unleashing regional low-carbon potential requires strategies **making use of specific regional strengths** and involving the regions' stakeholder networks. In order to support such regional-level policy making, national framework conditions, EU directives and EU Cohesion Policy need to be designed in a way to better allow regions to use their potentials in

increasing energy efficiency and producing and distributing renewable energies.

**Cohesion Policy plays a very important role** in this transition. It has a **clear impact on agenda setting**, gives priorities in a European context and leads to innovative search for other financing sources to realise energy/resource-related projects as in R&D, innovation or capital investment support schemes.

This activity indicates some successful examples of regional actions and policies that promote local synergies, joining of resources and collaboration with the private sector.

<https://www.espon.eu/low-carbon-economy>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- The ability for a region to exploit its renewable energy potential depends on its ability to mobilise socio-economic change using governance powers and the capability to **stimulate bottom-up informal initiatives** through partnership and collaboration.
- **Institutional capacity** needs to be built **so that regions can lead in the transition** process. Capacity can be built from the bottom up and through well constituted multi-level governance processes.
- There is a **strong relationship between the level of regional autonomy and progress towards a low-carbon economy**.
- To have an impact on important elements of the low-carbon economy, i.e. renewable energy, low-carbon transport and energy efficiency, **regions need appropriate governance powers** in those areas to implement the necessary policies and measures, so that a regions' unique physical, social and economic conditions can be accomodated.
- In regions with lower levels of autonomy and less institutional capacity, the **implementation of EU policies has driven the transition to a low-carbon economy**.

## 05 – Inner peripheries

*Inner peripheries exist as the result of multiple combinations of processes, features and evolutionary dynamics affecting all kinds of territories across Europe. They are present in almost all European countries. Inner peripheries are present in almost all European countries and there are many areas that are at risk of becoming inner peripheries in the future.*

This activity yields significant knowledge, results and insights on the presence and characteristics of inner peripheries in Europe. Its main outcome is a **handbook for policy makers** at different geographical levels describing strategies for inner peripheries using an integrated approach to address and overcome their specific needs. In addition, the

activity delivered **datasets on the locations of the eight SGIs** (POI): banks, cinemas, doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, retail, primary and secondary schools.

Inner Peripherality needs political attention on the European and national/regional level in order to support the action of local stakeholders to deal with the challenges associated. Inner peripheries tend to be demographically disadvantaged, showing ageing, lower ratios of child and working age population, and high age dependency rate. **Outmigration of young and skilled population** is perceived as specifically problematic.

<https://www.espon.eu/inner-peripheries>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- **Territorial patterns** for inner peripheries are dominated by the following features:
  - The most peripheral areas in geographical terms frequently appear as IPs.
  - Border regions, not only national but also regional, show a greater incidence of IP than their non-frontier counterparts.
  - IPs with poor accessibility tend to overlap with intermediate, rural and mountain areas.
  - Depleting IPs also overlap significantly with urban and metropolitan areas, which imply that processes of peripheralisation could affect “enclaves” in these territories too.
- Future European policies should support a more **decentralized place-based approach** for addressing the challenges of inner peripherality by sub-national actors in the framework of a more simplified and coordinated set of EU programmes.
- At national level, addressing the challenges of inner peripheries requires sufficient **political attention** and addressing geographical and relational connectedness.
- Regional and local action should be based on **articulated strategies to promote connectedness**, joint initiatives as well as sufficient institutional and interaction capacities.

## 06 – Possible European Territorial Futures

*This activity developed and used a territorial foresight approach and answered specific “what if” questions to provide information on likely impacts for territorial cohesion, for the balance and polycentricity of the European territory, and for the different types of regions and cities in Europe.*

The results of the activity are composed of three parts: 1) a description of a methodology for foresight studies; 2) a territorial analysis of the present and future situation in Europe with regards to demographic, socioeconomic, environmental and technological changes; and 3) descriptions of what the possible territorial futures in Europe would be like if three different development patterns occurred.

Three topics, the “what if” questions, were used to test the territorial foresight methodology:

- What could be the territorial consequences if a new place-based economic organisation were implemented as part of a circular economy?
- What could be the territorial consequences if Europe’s energy production and consumption were 100% renewable?
- What could be the territorial consequences if European property markets collapsed?

<https://www.espon.eu/territorial-futures>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- **Territorial foresight can help** to better understand the implications of either development trends or ideas for a wanted or unwanted future.
- The **benefits of territorial foresight** are to: understand territorial consequences of (im)possible futures; approach complexity and uncertainty; create a larger ownership; and inform decision making.
- A prognosis of **Europe's territory 2030** points to the following territorial patterns and expected changes: increasing polarisation of settlement patterns; increasing concentration of economic activities; climate change and environment are growing concerns; technology and innovation hold the potential to make new regional stars; European disintegration processes challenge the path towards territorial cohesion; an increasing role for metropolitan regions but not necessarily all across Europe.
- To support the transition to a **place based circular economy** policy makers should: support the development of polycentric structures for additive manufacturing and local and regional industrial symbiosis processes in smaller and lagging areas, as well as small polycentric transport hubs; support the transfer and diffusion of circular economy solutions, especially in regions with low innovation; provide adequate

frameworks to support a sharing economy, paying attention to the needs of sparsely populated areas and inner-peripheries; consider policy action for tourist areas with high volumes of household waste.

- To transition to a **fully renewable energy system**, policy makers should: deepen regional coordination on energy and land use to keep areas suitable for renewable energy sources (RES) production free from infrastructure and settlement development; support remote, rural areas to become centres of RES generation, also by developing the grid, and introduce targeted policies to maintain them as liveable environments; and encourage “citizen energy” by introducing social protection measures against energy poverty and

launching an open dialogue about alternatives to our current growth-based economic model in order to enhance acceptance of measures to promote a fully RES future.

- In order to avoid or manage the negative impacts of a **property collapse** on territorial cohesion, policy-makers should: increase diversity in tenure structure and economic sectors to increase resilience; intervene in the housing market, reducing the rules or their strictness to encourage new entrants to the housing market, making it more robust, e.g. through different spatial planning tools; and rethink their use of instruments whose net effect is to increase prices rather than increase the affordability of accommodation for specific target groups.

## 07 – Spatial planning systems in Europe (COMPASS)

*The COMPASS project represents the first update of the landmark EU Compendium of European Planning systems prepared in 1997. This comprehensive new comparative analysis of European spatial planning systems geographically covers the entirety of the ESPON member and partner states and charts the influence of cohesion policy on national spatial policies over the preceeding decades.*

Since 2000, knowledge of territorial development trends in Europe has improved dramatically, notably from the ESPON programmes. However, understanding of the means by which member states seek to shape territorial development is lacking. This activity substantially improves the knowledge base on

territorial governance and spatial planning, and their relationship with EU Cohesion Policy.

There is great potential benefit in **bringing EU sectoral policies and domestic systems of spatial planning into a closer alliance**. But the European institutions have only limited knowledge of the way that member states seek to shape the development of territories – both the formal arrangements and their use in practice. Thus, there is much value in reviewing the relationship between territorial governance, spatial planning and EU sector policies, especially Cohesion Policy.

<https://www.espon.eu/planning-systems>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- Overall, after two decades of encouragement of stronger interrelationships between domestic spatial planning systems and EU cohesion (and also sectoral) policies and much reform on both sides, progress on effective coordination disappointing.
- EU Cohesion Policy has been important for domestic planning where there is significant funding. The Territorial Agenda has had limited impact compared with the ESDP and other general strategies such as Europe 2020.
- National arrangements for territorial governance and spatial planning systems are diverse, and except for a period of rapid change in the accession states, and a few other exceptions, they have remained relatively stable in form.
- Across Europe there has been extensive change in the mechanisms of territorial governance and spatial planning from 2000 to 2016, but with a few exceptions' reforms tend to be adjustments of an unexceptional nature and do not have far-reaching consequences.
- EU legislation has an important indirect effect on spatial planning and territorial governance, with environmental legislation being identified consistently as most significant but with varying consequences.

## 08 – Financial instruments and territorial cohesion

*The research will provide first ever pan European territorial analysis of the ESIF financial instruments (like loans, guarantees). Its focus is on 2007 – 2013 programming period investments in final recipients at NUTS 2 level.*

The project has benefitted from a unique unpublished data set from the European Commission and data gathered through European-wide Managing Authority survey. It also foresees 5 case studies on the use of ESIF financial instruments at regional level in Italy, Spain, Poland, Sweden and Norway.

The main objective of the research is twofold, firstly, to regionalize ESIF FI data in order to

understand the territorial uptake and, secondly, to provide evidence on the added value of financial instruments in comparison to grants, for instance, in terms of jobs creation.

The configuration of Operational Programmes offering FIs differs greatly between countries, for instance, in some FI are offered under Regional Operational Programmes that coincide with a single NUTS 2 region, but in others under National Operational Programmes covering multiple NUTS 2 regions. Thus, the territorial landscape of ESIF financial instruments is hugely complex.

<https://www.espon.eu/financial-instruments>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key preliminary findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- In territorial terms, most financial instruments appear spatially neutral, but some explicitly seek to offset regional or local disadvantage. Financial instruments also differ widely in domestic importance.
- Even in policy areas such as SME development where financial instruments are prevalent and their role is self-evident, grants often have an essential part to play.
- Financial instruments have the potential simply to reinforce existing spatial disparities in access to finance because of the pressure to disburse budgets and avoid decommitment. There appear to be comparatively few examples of FIs that proactively target disadvantaged areas.
- In context of territorial cohesion there is a need to be clear about what the policy objectives actually are, and potentially accept that there may be a trade-off between a focus on disadvantaged regions and some of the benefits of financial instruments e.g. FIs may be more costly to implement in more remote regions.
- The quality of the data collected on financial instruments, even in mandatory annual reporting, is poor: the information is often incomplete, error-prone or cannot easily be reconciled with other indicators.

## 09 – Green infrastructure and ecosystem services

*Green infrastructure (GI) is a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services. It incorporates green spaces (or blue if aquatic ecosystems are concerned) and other physical features in terrestrial (including coastal) and marine areas. On land, GI is present in rural and urban settings.*

GI can be used as an instrument to support policy objectives e.g. in relation to climate change and biodiversity protection. A connected and multifunctional GI network is an opportunity to contribute to mitigate the main

long-term environmental challenges Europe is confronted with.

The GRETA methodology and findings allow for:

- Identification of hotspots of potential GI but also deficiencies in terms of fragmentation.
- Identification of areas of opportunity for investments in restoration and maintenance.
- Identification of areas to strengthen cooperation in transboundary spatial planning.

<https://www.espon.eu/green-infrastructure>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- The maintenance of existing GI, the improvement of connectivity between protected areas and restoration of natural and semi-natural areas are particularly important in North-West Europe.
- In many cases where potential GI is low or disconnected, **agricultural areas could be turned into complementary elements of the GI network**, depending on their use. This is also an opportunity for greening agriculture in a more integrated way.
- The Nordic countries, the Balkan countries along the Adriatic Sea and the Eastern Alpine region display the highest potential for GI networks but have the lowest share of protected core areas. This requires priority actions for the conservation of unprotected links in those regions.
- Cities in eastern and southern Europe, the Netherlands and Finland have experienced a strong loss of green spaces between 2006-2012. In the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation, these cities need to focus on strategic, cross-sector planning to reverse these critical development trends.
- The **identification and quantification of GI benefits is key in improving stakeholders' understanding of the** environmental, social and economic **motivations for implementing GI**.

- **Accurate and updated spatial data on potential GI networks should inform evidence-based decision making** on where to invest resources, particularly for identifying GI 'hot spots' that either require increased safeguarding or restoration.
- **Policy integration is vital to further embed GI in relevant policy domains** where it is not prominent yet, like in finance, energy, health, and social services.
- There is a **need for further collaboration, awareness and capacity building, and knowledge exchange** to build a common understanding between professionals operating at different implementation stages and scales.

## 10 – Circular Economy and territorial consequences

*A circular economy model strives towards using and re-using our resources in a more resource efficient way. Whereas our current economy operates mainly on a 'take-make-dispose' model. This research activity will try to increase our understanding of the territorial dimension of the transition towards a circular economy and of local and regional flows of waste.*

The recent adoption of the Circular Economy Package by the European Commission shows the relevance of this theme in the current European policy context. Existing research on the circular economy is lacking a territorial focus. In addition, data at regional level on

waste generated and processed and waste flows are lacking.

This activity aims to fill these data gaps by gathering and modelling regional data and flows. In addition, it will develop practical guidance for local and regional policy makers to analyse their local/regional context and to create framework conditions for the implementation of (elements of) a circular economy.

<https://www.espon.eu/circular-economy>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- The circular economy is a necessary sustainable development strategy that has a great potential, for all types of territories, to reduce environmental harm, increase material and energy efficiency and create new opportunities for businesses and communities.
- Agglomeration economies operating in urban areas seem the most relevant territorial factor driving circular economies. Cohesion policies should articulate measures to prevent circular innovations from increasing territorial disparities.
- For rural regions the biggest prospect lays in the circular bioeconomy, e.g. by closing the biological economic cycles in the form of cascades or replacing fossil-based products by bio-based alternatives.
- Industrial areas are the only possible setting for several circular economy strategies, ranging from industrial symbiosis schemes to product remanufacturing.
- Future Cohesion Policy should focus on waste prevention and responsible resource management within their support of circular economy.
- The Territorial Agenda post-2020 should integrate the principles of the EU Strategy on circular economy.

## 11 – Impacts of refugee flows to territorial development in Europe

*Currently being one of the hottest topics on the EU agenda, territorial evidence on the flows of asylum seekers and refugees, their distribution between and within EU countries, impact on socio-economic development as well as information on crisis management and integration is in high demand.*

The ESPON applied research activity “Impacts of refugee flows to territorial development in Europe” addresses these issues and aims to provide relevant territorial evidence and policy recommendations.

The objective of this service is to address regional and urban aspects of refugee migration to Europe focusing on different types of European regions and cities. In doing so, the study explores inflows, skills and qualifications, integration policies, impacts on recipient regions, policy responses and best practices in the past and present.

<https://www.espon.eu/refugee>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- The volume and paths of inflows varies over time.
- The patterns of flows and stocks across European countries and territories also vary – with volume peaks (in absolute terms) shared by arrival and destination countries, as well as relevant pressure faced by transit countries in relative terms (percentage with respect to the local resident population).
- The characteristics of individuals within and across ethnical groups of asylum seekers and refugees also differ and may vary over time.
- Some ethnic groups are characterised by well-balanced composition of age and gender, suggesting entire families seeking asylum in European territories, while other ethnicities comprise mostly younger males.
- Similarly, difference may arise in terms of skills and employability across individuals and among different routes and the ethnical groups with which they are composed
- Characteristics of receiving communities and territories also change, depending on a higher absorption and inclusion capacity – in terms of economic and job market performances – of certain destination countries and territories with respect to other arrival countries and territories.

## 12 – Youth unemployment: territorial trends and regional resilience

*More than 4.5 million young people (aged 15-24 years) are unemployed today in the EU. Younger generations have been hardest hit by the fallout from the global financial crisis than most other groups. Today's situation reflects a serious and structural problem.*

The EU has established the Youth Guarantee to ensure that all EU Member States make a good-quality offer to all young people up to age 25 of a job, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within four months of leaving formal education or becoming unemployed. Delivering a Youth Guarantee provides the basis for major

structural reform measures in the mid- and longer term.

The main objective of the research is to provide territorial evidence on youth unemployment trends and to propose recommendations for how territorial cohesion policy can contribute to strengthening the resilience in European regions against youth unemployment and enhancing the implementation of initiatives aimed at tackling the issues faced by young people in the labour market.

<https://www.espon.eu/youth-unemployment>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- An important barrier young people face is the transition from education to employment.
- Young people must be visible to be able to help them, so NEETs represent a particular policy challenge.
- Support can extend beyond employment to housing, transport, social problems, etc.
- Guidance is needed on their choice of options in education, training and employment.
- Integrated services to help young people are a popular approach.
- Youth Guarantee has been important in some areas but works best when customised to local situation.
- Economic improvement may not help young people into sustainable employment without support.

## 13 – Territories with geographical specificities

*The ESPON BRIDGES project explores the specific territorial development issues of the Territorial with Geographical Specificities (TGS): mountains, islands, sparsely populated areas and coastal areas. It provides inputs on how a better convergence of local, regional, national and European economic development interests could be achieved, with specific focus on these TGS.*

An updated analysis of the territorial features of these types of territories will enable policy-makers to prepare more focused interventions based on a functional rather than an administrative approach.

In this perspective, this service contract should look into possibilities to develop an integrated framework and measures to ensure that key obstacles and challenges are addressed, so as to improve development perspectives. In particular this service contract should identify the potentials of smart specialisation and the promotion of multi-activity as part of an integrated approach in specific types of territories.

<https://www.espon.eu/geographical-specificities>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- TGS tend to have territorial governance challenges
- By organizing exchanges of good practice, and by giving more visibility to the issues they are facing, EU policies can make a difference
- The objective would be to support ‘soft’, result-oriented forms of cooperation between actors concerned by geographic specificity
- Dealing with TGS in their interactions with other territories without creating any additional administrative or institutional layers
- “Territorial strategies” in current regulatory proposals for Cohesion Policy could target TGS
- However, in the absence of a pro-active approach at EU level, individual countries and regions are unlikely to seize these opportunities
- European level guidance would help regional and national programmes take better account of geographic specificity
- A European secretariat for each TGS category could help monitor progress, organise exchanges of good practice and enhance the European visibility of TGS issues

## 14 – Towards a Territorial Reference Framework for Europe (ETRF)

*A Territorial Agenda for Europe was last adopted in 2011. As the the EU enters a new programming period a new Territorial Agenda (TA+2020) is as needed as ever. The ETRF is a project aimed at provoking an intergovernmental debate on a long-term territorial vision for Europe.*

TA 2020 was developed in a very different social, economic and political context to today. Even if policy-aims, attached to core European values remain valid, its content and priorities need to be updated according to present challenges and prospects. The evolution of growth and disparities, population dynamics

and environmental risks are heavily influenced by globalisation and emerging technologies.

In the last decade Europe experienced less growth than before, while disparities between regions inside countries as well as at European scale increased significantly and this trend is set to continue. For this reason, a new TA +2020 is needed to ensure that Cohesion Policy is embedded in a renewed territorial perspective.

<https://www.espon.eu/european-territorial-reference-framework>

## Key messages and policy advice

Pointers proposed to elaborate TA+2020 include:

- Reforms are needed on Cohesion policy, both in the design and project implementation processes. **A new generation of cohesion policies is needed** to face increasing disparities, less between countries than between regions, municipalities and neighbourhoods. Cohesion policies may have a more positive impact if they are further customised to the needs of each place and become more sensitive to the evolution of macroeconomic conditions overtime.
- Cohesion policies may provide for an excellent framework to improve the quality of government elsewhere as well as better

territorial governance by **inducing “place-based” multilevel governance**. “Place-based” policy design processes have been proposed long ago (e.g. Barca report, 2015) as feasible approach towards multilevel governance, and already tested in a number of European policies. At the same time, “territorial cooperation” have been promoted by Interreg programs. These are promising seeds to grow and facilitate the reforms needed on European policy-making, at all levels

- **Pilot-actions and future visions need to be continuously monitored.** The TA2020+ should be considered as a continuous deliberative and action process that requires a proper governance mechanism. The

ESPO program, and other programs and European institutions, can make a very useful contribution to this territorial monitoring effort that should go beyond usual “territorial impact assessments” assuming that territories are not passive neither static –territoriality, political geographies, are changing as well.

- The ETRF project suggest that the new TA2020+ document supports a more action-oriented policy-process, around the two pillars.
  - **Pillar I:** Enabling territorial cooperation in spatial development at local and regional scale. It is in line with the overall objective to bring Europe closer to the citizens and ensuring that all places and parts of society, also as a process to improve governance and pave the way to cooperation between

places, between sector policies and between groups of society.

Encouraging the development of territorial visions shared by neighbouring regions and Member States is a necessary first step to facilitate cooperation in many sectors, and groups, as well as to improve quality of government. In between specific investments co-financed by European funds and overall policy-aims and macroregional strategies, there is a need for regions and countries to coordinate spatial development plans.

- **Pillar II:** Enabling territorial cooperation in European policies: An important feature will be to stress the broad approach to cooperation at any geographical level when designing and implementing European policies and regulations, not limiting it to existing

cooperation initiatives and programmes and/or to formal process of institutional consultation. Barriers to cooperation – legal and institutional, need to be removed and multilevel “place-based”

cooperation enabled in the design and implementation of European policies. More emphasis can be given to the territorial governance and quality of government on European policies.

## 15 – Technological Transformation & Transitioning of Regional Economies

*The debate on the implications of technological transformation is just beginning and the potential impacts in the long-term cannot yet be fully known. However, it is clear that regions and cities throughout the EU currently demonstrate differing capacities, socioeconomic profiles, levels of knowledge, attitudes and readiness to cope with transformative technological change.*

The objective of this research is to provide a pan-European investigation of the territorial dimensions of current technological

transformations and subsequent the transitioning of regional economies in Europe. The research should develop an understanding about what the technological transformation means from a territorial perspective and examine how emerging technologies are actively (re)shaping regional economies in different geographical contexts and the territorial and structural changes they are bringing about, focusing, in particular, on the transport, manufacturing and energy sectors, where the territorial impacts are likely to be strongest and most pervasive.

## 16 – The Future of Europe's Shrinking Rural Regions

*The development challenges and opportunities of rural Europe, representing almost half of the EU territory, comprise a very important policy agenda of crucial concern for achieving EU goals of economic, social, and territorial cohesion. This agenda is particularly pertinent in lagging and peripheral rural regions facing pervasive, and often irrevocable, socio-economic shrinking trends*

The objective of this research is to undertake a pan-European investigation of demographic and economic development trends and trajectories of shrinking rural regions in Europe. In exploring potential governance solutions, the research will specifically examine the potential for enhanced polycentric development patterns

to strengthen territorial development and the role of spatial planning policy, including the potential role of multi-level governance.

The main outcomes of this research will be knowledge about the territorial implications of current Europe-wide socio-economic trends and policies, as they effect rural regions, and recommendations for policy at European, national, regional and local scales. Policy recommendations will focus on how the newly emerging framework for future EU Rural Development and Cohesion Policy as well as other supra-national scale policies and funding mechanisms can be better mobilised, implemented and targeted to address the challenges faced by shrinking rural regions.

## 17 – Interregional relations in Europe

*The ESPON EGTC has launched a competitive dialogue to define a solution to establish European territorial evidence on regional trade in goods and services, flows of finance, labour movement flows and trends between regions in Europe.*

This activity will look at the interlinkages and interdependencies of Europe's economies at the regional level. The analysis of the relationships between regions should be designed to determine the extent to which interregional flows are drivers for and/or

barriers to development for specific regions and types of regions. Further, the conditions that increase or decrease interregional flows in different contexts will be analysed.

This research will also investigate the potential impact of Brexit on regional economies across Europe. Different scenarios could be assessed depending on the barriers that will be imposed on the movement of goods, services, capital and people. This would necessarily be a prospective approach given the very wide range of uncertainties involved.

## Key messages and policy advice

The key challenges to be addressed by the activity are:

- What are the characteristics of interregional relations in Europe in terms of the flows of goods, services, capital and people?
- What are the conditions and drivers that appear to increase interregional flows in diverse contexts? Which regions in Europe are taking deliberate steps to increase such flows?
- What are the barriers that appear to inhibit interregional flows in diverse contexts? What interventions may reduce such barriers?
- Have the EU macro-regional strategies started to address inter-regional flows effectively?
- What are the potential impacts of the different scenarios for European on interregional relations?
- What will be the potential impacts of the new Multiannual Financial Framework proposed by the European Commission on interregional relations?
- What will be the potential impacts of Brexit on flows between Europe's regional economies? Are these effects differing according to different types of regions? Which ones would benefit more or less?

## 18 – Sustainable urbanisation and land-use practices in European regions (SUPER)

*How can sustainable land use can be promoted? How can land-take, soil sealing and urban sprawl be avoided, reduced and compensated in Europe, its cities and regions.*

The starting hypothesis of this activity is that a sustainable use of land would entail that compact and denser urban development would lead to less need for transport, less energy use and more open spaces, enhancing the quality of life and thus generating benefits and requiring less costs.

The main outcome should be knowledge and evidence about the main effects, challenges,

achievements and development trends of European regions and cities in relation to land-use patterns, land-take, urban sprawl and sustainable land use and guidance for local, regional and national level policy makers to promote the sustainable use of land.

This activity is expected to build upon the work already done in Europe, build a coherent framework for sustainable land use and interlink with the Partnerships on sustainable land-use (SUL) in the frame of the Urban Agenda of the European Commission.

<https://www.espon.eu/super>

## 19 – Territorial impacts of natural disasters

*The objective of this research is to provide pan-European evidence at the territorial level on the direct and indirect economic losses due to natural disasters and an analysis of the best practices of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation at territorial level*

This research aims at developing a sound methodology for assessing the economic impact of natural disasters, structured in two steps: a wide scale methodology to be implemented with the existing data covering Europe, and a more focused and complete methodology, focused on regional/local scale

The main outcomes foreseen are: natural risk maps and evidence on the economic costs of natural disasters for different types of territories, broken down into direct and indirect costs and broken down per natural risk and per affected area.

This study shall identify instruments and tools (predominantly in spatial planning/territorial development) for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation measures and provide assessment of their benefits and usefulness.

## 20 – Quality of life methodology and measurements

*This service contract shall provide evidence, recommendations on how measures related to quality of life in Europe, its cities and regions can be promoted and achieved in practice by taking into consideration the diversity of the European territory in terms of socio-economic, cultural and environmental endowments but also demographic factors such as ageing and population structure.*

Over the past years, discussions have taken place on how assessing and measuring quality of life and on how more qualitative indicators (such as surveys) can complement existing economic and social indicators to measure

territorial development and well-being. Quality of life is being impacted by economic transitions, social changes and environmental challenges. Moreover, enhancing quality of life is a key objective for policy makers.

This service will build on key relevant initiatives mainly by EUROSTAT, the OECD and the UN, and provide recommendations on how quality of life aspects can be integrated in territorial development strategies at different geographical levels and in relation to a place-based approach to territorial development.

## Key messages and policy advice

The key questions to be addressed by this activity are:

- How does the concept and measurement of quality of life differ in meaning at different scales (national, regional, local)?
- What are the territorial dimensions of quality of life? What territorial patterns can be identified?
- How can we measure quality of life at different geographical levels? What territorial aspects (such as demography, economy and social and cultural issues) play a role in assessing and measuring quality of life?
- What are possible common indicators, which allow a comparative measurement and how can measurement can be adjusted to different types of territories?
- How can quality of life aspects be better integrated in territorial development strategies at different geographical levels?
- What are possible processes/good practices for the development and choice of quality of life measurements, especially with regard to increasing ownership and the aspects of multilevel governance and results orientation?
- How could quality of life be better integrated in Cohesion policy at European level and in territorial development strategies at national, regional and local levels?

## 21 – Cultural heritage as a source of societal well-being in European regions

*The aim of this research is to develop a pan-European methodology and analysis on the impacts of cultural heritage on society, considering well-being, social inclusion and other aspects.*

There is a growing demand for going beyond impact on growth and jobs and look into more wider impacts on society. The research is expected to produce evidence and knowledge on how the presence of cultural assets and associated investments contribute to societal well-being and improved territorial cohesion. The territorial perspective (analysis at NUTS 3 or lower spatial scale) will be a particular

innovation as research on cultural heritage has little focus on this.

The aim of this research is to cover cultural heritage in its entirety, looking both at material cultural heritage and intangible cultural heritage (oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, etc.). This research is named as one of the key studies by the “European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage” (adopted by the European Commission in December 2018).

## SO2 – Targeted analyses (TA)

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## 01 – Regional strategies for sustainable and inclusive territorial development

*ReSSI examines how smart, sustainable, inclusive development can be promoted by local/regional authorities in the EU, in a context of evolving territorial governance and planning.*

The European Commission seeks to promote development which is sustainable, inclusive and smart. Regional and local policymakers have an important role in delivering these outcomes.

The future of EU Cohesion policy is also being debated, specifically future directions and

objectives; and the process of the UK leaving the EU (*Brexit*).

Four ‘ideal types’ of strategies can be distinguished for promoting local and regional development in a context of change: 1) sectoral communication; 2) sectoral implementation; 3) territorial communication; and 4) territorial implementation.

<https://www.espon.eu/ressi>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity for local and regional authorities are:

### Sectoral implementation:

- **Turn investments into benefits for the region:** Use available funds to develop coordination and synergies with other regional stakeholders, especially businesses.
- **Understand local and regional government as a source of know-how:** Local government officials have the knowledge of how to align players, strategies and funding across local, regional, national and European scales. This is difficult to make explicit, as the knowledge often resides in individuals and is difficult to pass

on. It is important to have the right individuals in the right positions.

### Territorial communication:

- **Align strategies:** Assure local and regional strategies fit with national and European objectives.
- **Use knowledge as an incentive to cooperation:** Provide up-to-date, useful knowledge about the region as a mechanism to strengthen alliances and build trust.
- **Share – and show – the potential:** Help translate that knowledge into action. Visual tools – such as maps – can create excitement and build shared objectives.

### Territorial implementation:

- **Keep momentum through follow-up projects:** strategy-making is often set off by taking advantage of funding opportunities. Follow-up projects can bring in new energy and new stakeholders.
  - **Align strategies:** Build strong relationships with European or national funders, and align regional strategies, projects and stakeholders to funders' priorities.
  - **Offer pragmatic support:** Supporting independent and complementary projects can be more productive than focusing only on a pre-defined "Regional Strategy".
- The key findings and recommendations of the activity for both EU Cohesion Policy and a successor to regional funding in post-Brexit Britain are:
- **A strong place-based approach:** A stronger role for local and regional actors is required both in terms of defining the funding priorities and in the governance of strategies and projects.
  - **Support cooperation and coordination:** A part of funding could be used in capacity-building activities, supporting the role of regional and local actors and preserving existing tacit knowledge.
  - **Align strategic planning and funding streams:** Regional and local policy and decision-makers should be consulted by funding bodies about their funding bodies.
  - **Simplify the integration of funds:** Enhance the flexibility of funding regulation to help integrate various funds, could help promote policy innovation and creativity

## 02 - Territorial cooperation action areas

*Based on the Swiss experience in defining the so-called “action areas”, this service contract was aiming at exploring the added value and potentials of new forms of cooperation areas. As main outcomes a comparative analysis of existing cooperation areas in Europe and a practical guidance on how to implement and coordinate the implementation of policies in these areas in relation to existing levels of governance, including examples of existing good practices was produced.*

The main objective of EU territorial cooperation (TC) is to overcome the negative effects of

borders as barriers, maximise potential synergies, promote joint solutions to common problems and, as a result, promote further harmonious and balanced integration of the EU territory and enhance the quality of life for citizens.

These areas are not only defined on the basis of functional linkages (like FUAs) but are also a result of a political will to cooperate and to develop common spatial strategies.

<https://www.espon.eu/actarea>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- Soft territorial cooperation areas are instances of territorial governance. They bring together actors concerned by a set of territorial challenges and opportunities and who are prepared to elaborate and implement strategies to address them jointly. Their sectoral scope and geographical boundaries are generally defined in an 'open' or 'fuzzy' way.
- The European survey led to the identification of 100 territorial cooperation instances. They varied strongly in geographical reach (from macro-regional to local), scope, stakeholder composition and maturity.
- The review of soft territorial cooperation frameworks and concrete instances has shown that these are not alternatives but complements to 'hard' structures. Thinking and planning in soft territorial cooperation areas can overcome some of the constraints of dealing with territorial development within administratively defined territories.
- Soft forms of cooperation are not always embedded in a 'territory' that would satisfy the notion of 'region' as a continuous area. They may also be linked to a network of places (e.g. the City Network of Jura Massif (RVAJ), the Metropolitan Pole 'Sillon lorrain').

## 03 – Metropolitan areas - dynamics and strategies

*There are major policy issues in the spatial development of cities and metropolitan areas, like urban sprawl, that affect the latter's ability to meet the goals of sustainable and inclusive growth. Policy makers in cities often have limited capacity to address these challenges, due to the de facto (and sometimes de jure) existence of functional urban areas (FUAs), defining cities and their commuting zones.*

FUAs extend beyond formal administrative boundaries. Therefore, metropolitan areas often suffer from fragmented policy making. To address the challenges of metropolitan development in Europe, we need a better understanding of the complex relations

between city centres, suburbia and larger peripheries.

The SPIMA project explored a range of urban development issues raised by ten metropolitan areas across Europe and how these issues are addressed within their current institutional frameworks and the local authorities. Whether transport, environment or social disparity issues are at stake, the key concern is in finding a “problem owner” who can address these issues at an appropriate spatial and administrative scale.

<https://www.espon.eu/metropolitan-areas>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- The spatial planning systems may strongly influence the development of the metropolitan areas as these embed complex territorial governance processes between the national (federal) state, the regional (sub-regional) and local authorities
- In many cases (except federal states) national governments play a role in setting a spatial planning policy or legislation but are not directly involved in actual development of spatial plans at regional or local level.
- Effective metropolitan planning depends on a shared-governance process that is more flexible and dynamic, and is at the same time clearly linked to the administrative levels of statutory spatial planning
- Implementing a metropolitan planning approach can be highly beneficial in ensuring a “spatial fit” between the “de jure city” and the “de facto city”
- The formal status of the metropolitan area is not a strongly determining factor for the effectiveness of metropolitan planning and governance, whereas acceptance and recognition of the metropolitan areas as such is an essential trigger for initiating metropolitan collaboration.
- EU policy is a key incentive for regional and local authorities in initiating coordinated efforts in regional and local development

## 04 – Linking protected areas to territorial development - networks of high-biodiversity

*Networks of Protected Areas (NPAs) play an important role in European territorial development as they build the backbone of the European Green Infrastructure (GI) strategy within the framework of Cohesion Policy. NPAs can support biodiversity conservation across Europe as they respect the specific characteristics of each region and its identity within the post-2010 biodiversity policy.*

NPAs allow to adopt shared mitigation measures and policies to facilitate, in particular, climate change adaptation, through management and sector development strategies, generally integrated within planning

instruments (according to national/regional legislation).

In mountain regions, the NPAs play a particularly strategic role in territorial development, given that (a) they normally extend over national borders and cooperation between neighbouring countries is crucial for their sustainable development; (b) they have a central role in providing ecosystem services, particularly if they are covered by large forests.

<https://www.espon.eu/protected-areas>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- NPAs require a clearly defined mission and objective that must be supported by a clear mandate.
- NPAs capacities and competences need to be considered.
- NPAs activity requires continuity and institutional formalisation.
- NPAs are the most effective tools for sharing knowledge.
- NPAs objectives, strategies and mandate need to be aligned in mountain zones.
- Remain focused on NPAs policy role concerning climate change mitigation.
- NPAs need to be equipped with adequate funding instruments, capacities and competences if they are to fulfil additional roles.

## 05 – Territorial and urban potentials connected to migration and refugee flows

*Both the Adriatic-Ionian and Danube macro-regions face substantial inflows of migrants and refugees coming from outside the EU due to their geographical location. Some regions, like North Aegean and Puglia, have become the main landing points. Others, like Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, are facing the highest influx of migrants as points of final destination.*

The activity builds a comprehensive overview of the recent migration and refugee flows in the Adriatic-Ionian and Danube macro-regions from a qualitative and quantitative point of view looking at the main driving forces affecting the geographical distribution of the migrants. In

addition, the territorial impacts of migration will be investigated seeking to explain how migration affect the current socioeconomic challenges and bring about new opportunities. As a result, the policy recommendations focus on how different territories can overcome challenges of unpredictable and large-scale inflows, manage integration and enhance the potentials in their endeavors to cope with the current migration and refugee inflows within their strategic policy and development objectives and contribute to EUSAIR and EUSDR strategy and the ETC programmes.

<https://www.espon.eu/migration>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- Skills assessment and qualification recognition is important to facilitate **matching of skills with available job opportunities**.
- Special attention should be paid at protecting physical and mental health of both migrants and refugees. The **vulnerability of and trauma experienced needs to be early considered**.
- **Cities and small villages are key actors for integration**. Both need to have policies that build resilience and promote integration according to the **local context**.
- Transport, digital communication infrastructures and job opportunities are fundamental aspects to attract people. **Further investments on basic services are needed for long-term integration and for avoiding loss of territorial attractiveness** (access to health services; housing; vocational counselling).
- **Targeted training** (e.g. in tourism, agro-forestal sectors and environmental protection) should be provided both for locals and migrants, as a way to both strengthen social cohesion and respond to specific territorial needs.

## 06 – Territorial scenarios for the Baltic Sea Region

*This service (relaunched) is aimed at producing trend analysis and territorial scenarios for the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). Key topics to be addressed under various policies related to the Baltic Sea Region's territorial development should be identified and the role of the Baltic Sea Region in a larger European and global context outlined.*

The Baltic Sea Region (BSR) includes Poland, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark as well as North-West Russia and Northern Germany. The BSR is the first European macro-region

having a vision for spatial development (adopted in 1994, renewed in 2009).

The territorial scenarios to be developed will increase evidence on the territorial dimension of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, as well as contribute to EU MS policy making and cooperation between BSR countries on territorial development. The EU Territorial Agenda (EU TA) and Urban Agenda (EU UA), as well as UN New Urban Agenda.

<https://www.espon.eu/BT%202050>

## Key messages and policy advice

The main outcomes expected by this activity are:

- Identification of the main processes, external and internal factors, obstacles, drivers that will shape spatial development and spatial integration of the BSR by 2030 and 2050.
- Identification of synergies and conflicts between those factors (in particular from the perspective of the key policy processes and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region).
- Translating those findings into long term trends and assessing their territorial impact.
- Identification of possible black swan and wild card events that can break existing trends and syndromes of BSR spatial development and spatial integration.
- Formulation of territorial development scenarios and spatial integration of the BSR in relation to the scenarios identified in the ESPON European Territorial Scenarios 2050.
- Assessing the relevance of the existing VASAB vision and long-term perspective on the basis of the aforesaid findings, as well as a suggestion of the direction of changes.
- A suggestion of possible policy pathways i.e. policy actions requiring joint attention of the BSR ministers on spatial planning and development. In this case soft cooperation actions could also be taken into consideration.

## 07 – Alps2050 – Common spatial perspectives for the Alpine Space

*Alps2050 provides a territorial vision and common spatial perspectives for the Alpine area until 2050. It offers effective solutions for a balanced sustainable development as well as help to strengthen informal and formal cooperation between actors. In addition, guidelines are set up for the development of spatial perspectives and a spatial vision on the transnational level.*

The comprehensive territorial analyses reveal the complex patterns of spatial dynamics and interrelations of mountain and lowland areas: the **economic strength** of the Alps is **characterised by a North-South divide**;

tourism intensity shows a central-peripheral pattern; whereas there is an East-West gradient for the share of labour in the agricultural sector.

The Alps are confronted with **considerable challenges to sustainable development**, with climate change being a severe threat. Several results reveal **territorial fragmentations**, e.g. belonging to a specific nation-state determines the economic level and development to a high extent.

<https://www.espon.eu/Alps2050>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- The Alpine region is a space of multifaceted diversity that partly lacks coherence, linkages and strategic orientation.
- One key element to address sustainable development is innovation in the comprehensive sense (e.g. investment in technical R&D, pilot projects on digitalisation of SGI in peripheral mountain regions, social cooperatives in the field of tourism or renewable energies).

On a more general level, the following political measures help to achieve a harmonious, sustainable and successful development:

- **Inter-regional policy processes:** The existing platforms on the transnational level (in particular the EUSALP action groups and the Alpine Convention working bodies) are without doubt a good basis for further political dynamic: Improve data availability, ensure public transparency, pave the way towards transnational action is the promising direction (as it has been done for the transport policy under the roof of the so-called ‘Zürich process’). Developing such processes for labour market mobility, mountain agriculture support initiatives or ecological connectivity regimes are more than promising.
- **Enhancing governance efficiency:** A consequent reflection on mandates and

division of labour amongst the involved institutions is a minimum common denominator. The objective is to reduce overlaps, concentrate on core issues and to cooperate in order to make better use of synergies.

- **Funding alignment:** Alignment means stronger links between programmes and easier combination of funding opportunities. This is of crucial importance due to the macro-regional “three no’s” rejecting new institutions, new regulations and new budgets. Better linkages between the different strands of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), and between ETC and

investment or research-oriented funding (cohesion, agriculture, research etc.) is of key importance.

- **Innovative funding:** Reducing the high bureaucratic burden in European funding in general and in particular in cooperation is an ongoing challenge. Beyond this debate, many experts of the Alpine region call for more openness for innovative projects and experimental action that are currently impeded by formal requirements. This includes a more explicit focus on spatial development and goes beyond purely sectoral policy strands.

## 08 – Future Digital Health in EU

*Digital health is a topic which is relevant for very different territories – urban and rural municipalities, regional and state level – depending on how healthcare is managed. It is especially important due to demographic changes in Europe where which require ever more efficient solutions to meet the new demands.*

This targeted analysis will examine how digital health solutions and policies in the stakeholder territories foster development of data-driven healthcare and digital health services, identify existing and potential opportunities and

challenges to cross-border movement of health data and prescriptions and propose policy recommendations.

The main outcome will be evidence about the development of eHealth solutions in the evolving landscapes of technology, territorial governance and cross-border cooperation as well as a series of policy recommendations for maximising the potential of eHealth solutions, promoting and implementing eHealth services.

<https://www.espon.eu/eHealth>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- Estonia should strengthen healthcare professionals' demand for digital health solutions, encourage their **cooperation with start-ups**. Motivation of health professionals to **uptake** digital solutions **needs to be targeted**. Healthcare professionals are in the best position to identify the needs or even come up with and/or co-create digital health solutions in co-operation with start-ups.
- Finland should look towards establishing itself as the leading country for the testing and implementation of exponential technologies and services like **artificial intelligence, robotics and AR/VR** also in health and wellbeing of citizens. This requires well-functioning real life testbed environments, efficient use of **innovative public procurement procedures and investments of public funding** on research and pilots. Finland should also take a lead in setting the policies and standards in EU level for the application of new data driven solutions and infrastructure.
- Slovenia needs to implement regular monitoring, **ex-ante and ex-post evaluation of the e-Health programmes** and projects for efficient and effective development of eHealth solutions and rational use of resources. Evaluation should cover economic, administrative, quality/accessibility of services and social dimensions.

- Bulgaria should establish **national standards for data and IT infrastructure** - there is a strong need of a common

standards for data format, terminology, and data protection.

## 09 – Cultural Heritage as a strategic territorial development resource

*This research activity aims at developing a common theoretical framework defining the most important economic sectors in which material cultural heritage has an impact and producing an empirical evidence of such impact.*

The main objective of this study is to quantify the economic impact of **material cultural heritage** related to: archaeology, architecture, museums, libraries and archives, tourism, construction, real estate, ICT and insurance. The study focuses on the regions of Austria, Belgium (Brussels, Flanders), Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Portugal,

Slovakia, Slovenia. The project focuses on following impacts: employment, turnover and gross value added, public expenditure, volunteering and non-economic impacts.

This study is named as one of the key studies by the “European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage” (adopted by the European Commission in December 2018). It also builds on the work done by the European Heritage Heads Forum Task force on Economy and Statistics.

<https://www.espon.eu/cultural-heritage>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key preliminary findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- Given the diversity of types of material cultural heritage, potential impacts, sectors/activities and countries/ regions involved, a common approach and definition of all these elements is required to avoid fragmentation of the impact measurement
- In instances, where this is not the case yet, it is recommended for cultural organisations and National Statistical Institutes to map the stock of cultural heritage on a yearly basis and to publish yearly overviews to keep track of the change of the stock of material cultural heritage over time
- There is a potential to explore existing classification systems (such as NACE and ISCO) for defining the impact indicators
- Preliminary findings show that in many cases impact of material cultural heritage needs to be estimated using proxies, thus it cannot be easily calculated

## 10 – Cross-border Public Services

*The targeted analysis on cross-border public services (CPS) has been designed to improve the delivery practices of CPS. The main outcome is an EU-wide overview on main features of cross-border service provision at EU borders, potential territorial problems related to CPS, identification of future needs and a practical guide for policy makers.*

Cross-border public services are provided or made available by public authorities on both sides of a border, for an undefined time and with a target group across the border. They address joint problems or development potentials of border regions in a clearly defined cross-border territory.

They generate benefits for the general public or a specific target group in this territory. CPS may be delivered using existing or newly established infrastructure. By reducing negative border effects, supporting flows and contributing to better connections, CPS bring added value to border regions.

National and EU institutions could support this by:

- paving the way for CPS through Interreg;
- considering thematically focused support;
- marketing CPS achievements.

<https://www.espon.eu/CPS>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings of the activity are:

- **579 examples of CPS** provision in Europe identified. A high concentration of CPS along the borders of old EU Member States;
- **Most CPS deal with environment protection, civil protection and disaster management or transport;** A large share of CPS aims to improve the quality of public service provision in border regions;
- **Long-standing cooperation and existing interstate agreements** support CPS development.

The main recommendations are:

- **Practical solutions for common challenges:** Unfavourable legal and

administrative framework conditions are the challenge most frequently identified. CPS in in good practice examples illustrate mainly tailor-made practical solutions to address CPS development challenges

- **Step-wise approach to CPS development:** CPS provision is possible along any border in Europe. CPS development builds upon a common understanding of the framing conditions, needs and objectives for CPS provision.
- **Cross-border institutions, border regions and service providers support CPS development** by ensuring sufficient commitment and capacity for CPS endeavours.

# 11 – Territorial Impact Assessment for Cross-Border Cooperation

*The objective of this activity is to develop and test a methodology specifically tailored to assess ex-post territorial impacts of Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) programmes.*

The aim of the project is to provide a tailored methodology which could help during the programme evaluation process as well during programming. The service provider is asked to carry out 5 case studies to test the methodology, covering five EU-funded INTERREG CBC programmes with a focus on 2014 – 2020 programming period:

- Germany – the Netherlands
- Sweden - Norway

- Romania - Bulgaria
- United Kingdom - Ireland (Ireland-Northern Ireland-Scotland)
- Spain-Portugal (POCTEP)

This is an assessment of CBC programme effects at territorial level, it is not an evaluation (judgement) of whether the programme objectives have been achieved and the reasons for that. In addition, this project **is not** directly linked to ESPON TIA tool which is primarily used to assess **ex-ante territorial impacts** of legislative proposals and policies.

<https://www.espon.eu/TIA-CBC>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key preliminary findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- Given the special circumstances of CBC programmes, various challenges affected application of the methodology, e.g. small financial size of the programmes, limited availability of data on the issues tackled by the programmes or different administrative environments in the countries involved
- Beyond the common methodological difficulties, the results of the TIA in the five case studies show a differentiation in terms of thematic and territorial impact.
- Some CBC programmes experience higher impacts in areas in which other programmes register a rather lower or average impact.
- Some case studies could not produce a territorial differentiation either for the whole programme area or some part of it.
- Two core fields of action have been identified, based on the case studies: improving the indicator selection during the set-up of the programme, with help of the intervention logic; and improving the stock of indicator data which can be used for a TIA.

## 12 – Maritime spatial planning and land-sea interactions

*This targeted analysis research project seeks to improve stakeholders' planning processes through the coordinated, comparable and systematic acquisition and analysis of both marine and terrestrial data and information at a European, regional and sub-regional level.*

This research reflects a growing recognition of the importance of the sea in European territorial development. In part this relates to a renewed appreciation of the economic importance of the sea and the **Blue Economy** potential of marine and coastal areas, where innovation is generating new wealth creation opportunities.

The study contributes to evidence-based, coherent and transparent decision-making in EU Member States considering land-sea interactions (LSI) in the development of national maritime spatial plans, it also contributes to the extended use of territorial evidence (both quantitative and qualitative), thereby, adding a European LSI perspective to other fields of policy development.

<https://www.espon.eu/MSP-LSI>

## Key messages and policy advice

From the case study analysis, it can be seen that MSP can have a role in helping to manage change related to LSI issues in the sea and on the land in four distinct but inter-related ways:

- Create the space and regulate development in the sea
- Support development of maritime sector activities especially on the land, recognising that the spatial impacts will often be felt beyond the coastal strip
- Guiding development that is sensitive to the environment and meeting good environmental standards, both on the land and sea,
- Provide a forum for managing change and mediating between scales of interest, recognising and accepting there will be a need for compromise openness and transparency as to how this is realised

Further research is needed:

- to build a comparable user-friendly method of investigating bio-geochemical LSI issues that is suitable for use by territorial planning practitioners.
- to explore the capacity of all territorial planning actors to fully recognise and address LSI issues and what support and training is needed.

## 13 – Potentials of big data for integrated territorial policy development in the European growth corridors

*The main objective of this activity is to find and evaluate new available data sources for evidence-based policy making regarding growth corridors and to research the potentials of big data and location-based data mining to better inform comprehensive spatial policy in growth corridors. The Regional Council of Southwest Finland is the lead stakeholder and is supported by the Region Örebro County from Sweden and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications of Estonia.*

More concretely, the outcome of this activity is to answer the following key questions:

- What are the policy needs that could be better addressed with an improved understanding of spatial development dynamics along growth corridors?
- What are the different categories of new data sources to fill those gaps of knowledge?
- What are the main policy recommendations for improving new big data collection and provision?

<https://www.espon.eu/programme/projects/espon-2020/targeted-analyses/big-data-potentials-big-data-integrated-territorial>

## Key messages and policy advice

Portraying European growth corridors as frameworks for metagoverning spatial development highlights the role of evidence – and data – in their planning processes as corridors don't constitute a legally binding framework for territorial development. Rather, corridors, when supported by evidence-base demonstrating the existence of various functional geographies, act as a coordinative and integrative governance framework for numerous co-existing spatialities.

The existing gaps in the knowledge base could be significantly complemented by utilising new big and open data sources and methods of analysis.

Data makes the wider governance change possible - the shift from centralized and vertical hierarchical forms to decentralized, horizontal and networked forms supporting integrated territorial policy-making.

The project shows that Big data has a clear potential in renewing transnational corridor governance based on new collaborative business models between public and private actors. However, broadening the perspective is still needed to increase the understanding about constantly evolving territorial dynamics that challenge the existence of various administrative boundaries, and to increase the legitimacy of the corridor-based development policies.

## 14 – Improving Urban-Rural connectivity in non-metropolitan regions

*The main objective of this activity is to contribute to improving transport policy and systems related to urban-rural connectivity in four non-metropolitan areas and to advance understanding of urban-rural mobility and accessibility by engaging the participating stakeholders in knowledge transfer processes and activities based on networks of exchange.*

The stakeholders behind this activity represent the following regions: Scarborough Borough Council (UK), Marina Alta (Spain), Regione Liguria (Italy), and Västerbotten County (Sweden). Each stakeholder region has specific challenges that will be highlighted and explored

in detail. Västerbotten has particular challenges linked to a small labour market, long distances, huge outmigration, an ageing population and poor connectivity. Scarborough has the twofold problem of seasonality with people moving in and out during peak times and of mobility for the resident population in rural and isolated locations. Marina Alta is seeking to improve intra-regional transport to halt the ageing of inner areas and is looking at evidence to support investments in improving links. Regione Liguria is concerned with providing access to services and job opportunities by improving mobility to urban areas.

<https://www.espon.eu/URRUC>

## Key messages and policy advice

A key deliverable contained within the Interim report is the analysis of existing and emerging patterns of urban-rural linkages. It provides clear categories and definitions that underpin the 4 case studies.

In turn, this framework will allow for a detailed comparison of thematic concerns that will be utilised as part of development of policy guidelines and proposals for potential support by EU Cohesion Policy.

Another significant contribution is early findings from workshop events undertaken with identified stakeholders from the 4 regions.

Outputs include a fully developed map of transport policy units that affect their territories, divided into local, regional and national hierarchies of influence.

These issues are documented for each territory and represent a key thematic component for the final report.

## 15 – European Sustainable Urbanisation through port city Regeneration

*The project will assess the development challenges faced by small and medium sized European port cities and the potential of port city regeneration as a driver of sustainable urbanisation, growth and resilience.*

The project involves ESPON EGTC, the four stakeholder cities of Aalborg (DK), Brest (FR), Catania (IT) and Cork (IE), and a group of consultants and researchers from Ramboll (BE, DK), University College Dublin (IE) and University of Catania (IT).

The objectives of the project are (1) to provide insights to policy makers on the potential regional impact of port city regeneration as drivers of European sustainable urbanisation, growth and resilience; and (2) to provide municipalities with a better understanding of the frameworks, methods, tools and instruments which can enable, inspire and facilitate the implementation of sustainable port city regeneration.

<https://www.espon.eu/ENSURE>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity should be:

- Evidence on the economic, social and environmental impact of port city regeneration as well as the changed identity over the past 10 years in small/medium port cities in Europe.
- Knowledge about the main challenges and risks in small/medium port city regeneration.
- Case studies for the group of stakeholders, resulting in concrete tailor-made proposals for delivering sustainable port city regeneration in each stakeholder city, addressing the relevant existing challenges.
- A framework of good practice for the planning and implementation of sustainable port city regeneration, addressing municipal capacities needed, possible funding models, governance arrangements including involvement of civic society and public-private cooperation, reuse of built heritage, temporary/frontier uses to support the changed perception of the redeveloped areas.
- Recommendations for policy support (regional, national, EU policy) to port regeneration in smaller/medium-sized port cities.

## 16 – Adapting European Cities to Population Ageing: policy challenges and best practices

*The European population is ageing rapidly, and this is particularly evident in the cities. This significant demographic change is perceived as a major challenge for Europe's social and health systems.*

The eight stakeholders involved, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Gothenburg, Hengelo, Greater Manchester, Nantes, Oslo and Zaragoza, have some of the highest percentages of older people in their population, projected to increase by 2030. These cities also experience increasing levels of transnational migration, spatial segregation, and pockets of deprivation, which impact on the lives of older people.

Consequently, these cities need to adapt their policies and deliveries to better meet the needs of older residents.

ESPON ACPA will investigate the **effectiveness of policies and initiatives to develop age-friendly cities** and initiatives that support “ageing in place”. ACPA’s results will directly feed into the adaptation and development of policies and action plans related to age-friendly cities and social programmes including post-2020 cohesion policy.

<https://www.espon.eu/ACPA>

## Stakeholders's policy needs and main outcomes

- An overview and analysis of the **demographic development patterns** in the EU Member States concerning e.g. age structure, gender balance and life expectancy, with a particular focus on people above 65 years for the period 2000-2017. Predictions for future development of the ageing population should also be addressed. A breakdown should then be provided for the eight stakeholder cities.
- New insights into the **quality of life of older people** 'ageing in place' in different types of cities. Particular attention should be given to the sub-groups within the older population, e.g. single households, men-women, minority ethnic groups, and those living in 'gentrifying' neighbourhoods.
- Knowledge about how urban living and environments can assist and benefit the **social integration and civic participation of older people** (especially those experiencing social exclusion) within urban areas.
- Good examples of how to develop better methods for **working with older people as key partners**, e.g. participatory action research, to improve the quality of information and decision-making in areas affecting the lives of older people, but also how to support older people to become/remain economically active.

- Improved understanding of how to **prevent social isolation in later life**, by exploring how support networks and inter-generational relationships can be developed within different types of neighbourhoods.
- The development of a **cross-national community of practice**, fostering mutual learning between cities regarding how to change communities for more optimal experiences of ageing in different types of environments.
- In-depth **case studies** will be carried out in the stakeholder cities; in addition, the researchers will draft a “**practical guide**” with good practices and policy recommendations that can enable transferability of the ACPA outcomes to other cities. The guide will target actors and policy makers in the stakeholder cities and at the national level.
- Ultimately, the results of ESPON ACPA will provide a better understanding of the impact of the policies implemented in each stakeholder city and contribute to strengthening policies and initiatives towards developing more age-friendly cities not only for the stakeholder cities, but also Europe as a whole.

## 17 – Stocktaking and assessment of typologies of Urban Circular Collaborative Economy initiatives

*This activity aims at supporting a consortium of Member States and local authorities already involved in the Partnership for Circular Economy among the Urban Agenda for the EU process. The consortium is headed by the City of The Hague and includes the cities of Prato (Tuscany, Italy), Maribor (Slovenia) and Porto (Portugal), the Flanders Region (Belgium) and Greece. One of its purposes is to empower its members, peers and other stakeholders across Europe with a better knowledge of the Collaborative Economy, whether to mitigate its negative impacts or facilitating the positive.*

The main objective is to better understand how the ‘Collaborative Economy’ (also known as the ‘sharing economy’) is being implemented in different EU cities and how it is influenced by regulations at different levels of government, from the local, to the national and the EU. One of the main outcomes will be to identify and categorize different types of implementation, approaches and strategies to enable other cities to learn from those who are taking the lead as well as develop a ‘common language’ across Europe.

<https://www.espon.eu/>

## Key messages and policy advice

The result of the service will be increased knowledge about Urban Circular Collaborative Economy initiatives. In this perspective, the main outcomes of the service should be:

- Territorial evidence on the impact and potential (environmental, economic, social, governance improvement, etc.) of Urban Circular Collaborative Economy initiatives.
- Evidence (example cases and instruments) on the correlation between multi-level policies (entrepreneurial, educational and training, urban planning, etc.) and the success or failure of Urban Circular Collaborative Economy initiatives.
- Evidence on the correlation between cultural dimensions and the success or failure of Urban Circular Collaborative Economy initiatives.
- In order to describe the evidence, detailed case studies in the stakeholders' territories (including identification and analysis of local data sources, a set of maps, practical examples and policy recommendations to answer stakeholders' needs...).
- A practical guide describing evidence-based policy recommendations to provide appropriate support to these UCCE initiatives in other European contexts.

## 18 – Metropolitan Industrial Spatial Strategies & Economic Sprawl

*As cities evolve, whether industrial land in inner urban areas should be used for residential or other higher-value urban uses or retained for future industry and employment is becoming a significant land-use planning policy issue. With an increasing emphasis on sustainable land-use policies promoting compact urban growth and the notion of urban centres as places of productive work is being gradually supplanted.*

The challenges of being potentially unable to accommodate foreseeable, let alone, unpredictable urban economic functions risks cities being undermined as economic engines and as primary employment locations.

Territorial evidence and an adequate awareness of this phenomenon of ‘economic sprawl’ at all scales, and particularly at a functional urban scale, is therefore important for metropolitan industrial spatial policies to protect cities as sustainable places of productive work and retain sufficient space and capacity in urban areas as dynamic, flexible industrial locations in the context of unfolding technology-driven industrial change and modernisation.

<https://www.espon.eu/>

## 19 – Carrying capacity methodology for tourism 4.0

*In general terms, tourism is an important economic factor for the development of many regions and cities in Europe. For many regions, tourism is often the dominating “industry” providing employment and development perspectives, also for some cities tourism is an important income source. Tourism is a complex phenomenon and its study requires knowledge from multiple disciplines. When related to sustainability, the growth limits and carrying capacity of destinations must be considered.*

The main objective of this service contract is to provide an empirical foundation for destinations and help local leaders assess their situation and identify vulnerabilities. Foundation enables

development of a diagnostic tool based on simple, widely available indicators, including tourist arrivals, internet data, social media reviews, seasonality, and pollution with use of big data, artificial intelligence to be applied to the management of any European destination.

The project will also provide recommendations mainly to regional and local practitioners, as well as European, on how to identify and consider their specific territorial context and specificities for measurement of the carrying capacity of tourist destinations across Europe for better management and planning.

## Key messages and policy advice

The main outcomes of this activity expected are:

- Overview of existing models and methodologies for measuring the carrying capacity of tourist destinations and models of management with visitors
- Identification of data sources, including innovative methods and alternative data and tools for measuring tourist flows and their satisfaction
- Development of a specific method and methodology for measuring tourist capacity for each different types of stakeholders (municipalities, cities, regions...) and by considering the specific characteristics of the territories and their own vulnerabilities
- Territorial evidence based on the methodology developed on the carrying capacity of territories and tourist flows in Europe
- Detailed case studies in the stakeholders' territories (including identification and analysis of local data sources, a set of maps, practical examples and policy recommendations to answer stakeholders' needs).
- Practical policy recommendations to provide appropriate support to measure carrying capacity in the stakeholders' territories and in other European contexts.

## 20 – Business development opportunities on EU external borders

*The main outcome of this targeted analysis should be a concrete list of recommendations and support mechanisms in each stakeholder territory on development of entrepreneurship and attracting investments in the cross-border areas at the EU external border*

This research will primarily focus on the territories of the project stakeholders: the Latgale planning region in Latvia; eight municipalities in Lithuania which are members of the Euroregion “Country of Lakes”; and four counties in Romania which are participating in the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Republic of Moldova.

The project will provide analysis of the existing business environment at the EU external border in the project stakeholder territories, focusing on main challenges and opportunities; it will also look at the existing policies and business support mechanisms.

Recommendations will include concrete proposals for the necessary financial interventions, governance measures activities that could be funded by the EU funds, including those supporting territorial and cross-border cooperation, etc.

# TEVI – Territorial Evidence Support of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

*The objective of this activity is to make the ESPON territorial evidence knowledge base accessible and useful in practice for programme managers, joint technical secretariats and policymakers involved in the practical implementation of ETC programmes.*

ETC programmes provide a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors from different member and partner states, and their regions. This is important given that the challenges faced by countries and regions increasingly cut across national and regional boundaries and require joint,

cooperative action at the appropriate territorial level and scale

The objective of this activity, a joint initiative between the ESPON EGTC and the Interact Programme, is to develop an improved set of territorial indicators to help support, inter alia, the setting of investment priorities, strategic programming, monitoring and evaluation. This shall be supported by enhancing the usability, functionality and relevance of ESPON evidence by integrating the territorial indicators into the Interact KEEP database.

<https://www.espon.eu/TEVI>

## SO2 – Thematic papers (TP)

<b>09 – Smart and innovative approaches to responding to the developmental challenges of shrinking rural areas</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>14 – Inner peripheries in Europe: Possible development strategies to overcome their marginalising effects</b>	<b>106</b>
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## 09 – Smart and innovative approaches to responding to the developmental challenges of shrinking rural areas

*The purpose of this Policy Brief is to identify shrinking rural regions and where they are located; explore key development challenges and opportunities; examine some policy responses using case study examples from shrinking rural regions; and present some emerging policy recommendations at European, national and sub-national levels.*

Demographic change in Europe is increasingly becoming a major policy challenge. Over the past decades a shrinking population has become the normal trajectory for many rural regions as agriculture has been restructured

and population and employment have become increasingly concentrated in urban centres.

Many rural areas are facing conditions of a 'new rural reality' resulting from a 'vicious cycle' of trends. In such conditions many traditional policies do not have a desired impact and presents numerous 'wicked' challenges for national, regional and local governance. In order to address these challenges in a meaningful way, new knowledge needs to be created.

<https://www.espon.eu/rural-shrinking>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key message from this Policy Brief is that shrinkage is not just a practical problem but, critically, a matter of representation and presentation. Conventional policies typically function under the premise of growth allocation where shrinkage in one region is not considered as important as growth in another.

A key prerequisite for developing multi dimensional and innovative solutions to address shrinkage is therefore a change of perception and for national, regional and local governments to accept and adapt to emerging trends of an ageing and declining population, rather than seeking to fight against it. The conventional praxis of regional development, however, has developed a strong anchor in a

growth orientated policy paradigm and therefore adapting to declining trends is typically outside the “international planning box” (Martinez-Fernandez et al. 2012).

Thus, policy innovation in a shrinking context is not an easy task, particularly in rural regions which are often characterised by conservative structures and resistant to change. Moreover, strategic solutions cannot be based on addressing one factor alone but must holistically take into account the interplay of shrinkage drivers, both horizontally and vertically, at national, regional and local scales. While shrinkage is not a new phenomenon, it is a relatively new research and policy discourse and, outside of shrinking cities, there are no

real-world European examples of municipalities which have explicitly adopted an adaptation-orientated development strategy to address shrinkage. Nevertheless, some emerging policy pointers can be gathered from a review of the literature, including:

- **Promote multi-scale integrated strategic spatial planning** - Efforts made at the local municipality level alone will not be sufficient and more consolidated and collective efforts at national/regional levels are essential.
- **Improve scenario planning and demographic checks** - Scenario planning and forecasting can assist practitioners in this task, provided that the scenario choice criteria are realistic and not merely optimistic.
- **Take a long-term perspective** - In a process like demographic decline, policy

responses need to be patient and accept that progress will be slow.

- **Strengthen institutional capacity** - Shrinking regions suffer from precarious financial problems and often promotes a dependence culture and an aversion to policy innovation.
- **Improve communication and partnerships** - It is important to provide stakeholders with a voice even if it means (in the short run) an absence of consensus, time delays, higher costs etc
- **Develop alternative economies and smart diversification** - Shrinking regions need to develop economic diversification strategies to promote local resilience, focussed on harnessing endogenous resources and, where possible, encouraging entrepreneurs to settle within rural regions.

- **Improve comparative research for shrinking rural regions** - to date there has been a strong urban bias in shrinkage research. Further research attention should therefore be given to shrinking rural regions.
- **Roll-out the Smart Villages concept** - Multi-settlement strategic planning is important in the context of shrinking regions where services can be shared amongst accessible locations to provide multi-functional service hubs; optimise shared resources; and maximise the impact of ICT for public service provision.
- **Enhance place-based Cohesion Policy funding** - the current constitution of EU funding programmes is often complicated and inflexible, and shrinking regions frequently lack the institutional capacity, resources and knowledge to access EU funds and to develop integrated policy and funding responses.

## 10 – Territorial and urban dimensions of digital transition in Europe

*This ESPON policy brief on the “Territorial and urban dimensions of the digital transition of public services” and the respective working paper aim to help European, national, regional and urban authorities to better understand the level of digitalisation of public services, to learn from others through benchmarking and to design actions for the future.*

Digital tools and solutions are transforming public services and how governments respond to citizens’ needs. Many cities have been actively engaging in the modernisation and re-

engineering of government processes and services and have seen high returns through simplified governance and increased efficiency, effectiveness and outreach. However, cities face many challenges in the processes of digital transformation including re-thinking governance, allocating resources for re-skilling and adopting new technologies, as well as legislative and policy issues.

<https://www.espon.eu/digital-transition>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- Large cities tend to be at the forefront of digitalisation due to higher demand for more complex services and interactions, and their capacities to develop and provide those services
- The main factors constraining the digital transition of cities are lack of funds and lack of skills, although the scope and impact of these constraints differs
- Enhancing the capacities of cities to deliver digital services and tackling these challenges requires policy responses at all levels and by all actors, targeting specifically regions and cities that are lagging behind with their digital transformation and allowing them to become more attractive and competitive
- Policy makers at EU level should: remove barriers to cross-border interoperability; create a European platform for cities to share their data and services; and create a supportive legal framework for digital solutions in healthcare and social welfare services
- Policy makers at national and regional level should: build partnerships to develop digital solutions in key sectors including education and transport; and support the digital transition of towns and smaller cities
- Medium-sized and large cities should: invest in ICT infrastructures for local digital

services; and open up to support the development, testing and roll-out of advanced digital solutions

- Towns and small cities should: adopt and implement a digital strategy and appoint a

digital leader; map and prioritise services to be digitalised at the local level; develop collaborations to enhance peer learning and skills development.

## 11 – Governance, planning and financial tools in support of polycentric development

*The policy brief aims to provide arguments and inspiration for promoting polycentric development to those who are engaged in developing and implementing regional development policies, the EU Territorial Agenda post-2020 and the future EU Cohesion Policy.*

European states, cities and regions have developed a variety of horizontal and vertical cooperative ventures like institutional networks, partnership arrangements and governance inter-relations. Strengthening and intensifying cooperation needs a stronger place-based and endogenous approach, tailor-made

interventions and new culture of public policy and public action. In this context, polycentric development offers optimal approach to explore common strengths and promote more functional linkages and interactions among territories over the administration borders.

Cooperation between independent actors, institutions, functional activities and spatial organisations are still a challenge. Institutional networks, partnership arrangements and governance inter-relations, implementing win-win solutions require strengthening policy tools.

<https://www.espon.eu/polycentric>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- **Polycentric development can create critical mass** by combining the efforts of urban centres, while delivering more balanced development between regions and more co-operative and functional urban-rural linkages.
- While there are many vertical cooperation initiatives, **horizontal cooperation is still underdeveloped**, particularly, the potential of horizontal integration of funds.
- **Existing policy frameworks need to be revised** and new ones defined at EU, national, regional and local scales.
- Once the culture of cooperation has become embedded in the way territories and stakeholders perform, **it does not matter anymore whether the governance structure is fixed and permanent or it is fuzzy and flexible**.
- In order to adapt current planning systems to the need to manage development at the most appropriate geographic (functional) scales, **the functional planning approach must be embedding** in routine practices of public administration planning and sector policy departments.
- **Existing tools should be simplified** and their flexibility should be increased, thereby encouraging their wider use and achieving better results with limited resources.

- The complexity and the diversity of situations that coexist in Europe require **deeper understanding of the current trends** and of the impact that policies.
- **Big data** and smart solutions (using information and communication technologies) are potential tools that have to be deployed in a democratic, transparent, accountable and participative way.
- More **knowledge of the inter-relationship** between morphological and functional polycentricity is needed, and therefore further studies have to be conducted.

## 12 – Indicators for Integrated Territorial and Urban Development

*This brief was prepared at the initiative of the Bulgarian Presidency and it supported the intergovernmental debate among EU member states and partner institutions on possible solutions to measure the results and impacts of integrated territorial investments.*

The purpose of this policy brief is to offer advice on how to measure the impact of integrated investments, using insights from the ESPON 2013 projects which focused on indicator development and analysis: Indicators of Territorial Cohesion (INTERCO), Key Indicators for Territorial Cohesion and Spatial Planning (KITCASP), Spatial Indicators for the

‘Europe 2020 Strategy’ Territorial Analysis (SIESTA), and ESPON Atlas.

It offers a synthesis of the vast amount of information presented in the ESPON projects and recommends a short and clear set of indicators which could be used for measuring the impact of integrated investments. In addition, recommendations on how to attribute the impact of integrated investments to change in the impact indicators are also presented.

<https://www.espon.eu/integrated-indicators>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the policy brief are:

- There is a need for a short list of indicators which reflect the impact of the integrated investments on an aggregate level.
- Understanding the context is the key to choosing appropriate indicators. The actual content, territorial coverage, budget and scope of the integrated investments matter, as well as the purpose for which the indicators are selected.
- Hard indicators (based on registered data) should be complemented with softer qualitative indicators (based on people's perceptions).
- Composite indicators (indices) can be used as an effective tool to communicate the overall effectiveness of the integrated investments, especially in cases when it is hard to find single indicators that capture territorial aspects of investments.
- Timing should be taken into account. Most of the indicators used for measuring the territorial impact of integrated investments require time to capture the effects.
- Registered statistics may often prove to be a better source of data than official statistics. In many instances, information included in national registers is overlooked because of possible non-compliance with statistical standards; however, careful examination of data can remedy this problem.

## 13 – The territorial dimension of future policies

*The territorial thinking should become an integral part of pan-European and national policy guiding the design and implementation of regional, urban and local development strategies, particularly while a discussion on the future policies (including Cohesion Policy).*

Shaping the territorial dimension of policies requires understanding the territorial diversity of Europe within and beyond their administrative boundaries as well as formulating policy approaches and implementation tools that can help to maximise their development potentials with the aim of promoting the well-being of European populations. The territorial dimension in policy-making should be promoted on the basis of the concepts of **polycentricity and a**

**place-based approach**, understanding and stimulating territorial assets in the context of local and regional development strategies.

Increasing **interconnections and interdependencies** among places require us to adopt a new perspective on their development. Achieving more and better results with scarce public resources is possible only through joint action. **Cooperative endeavours** at wider geographical scales becomes a prominent element of public policies at all scales.

<https://www.espon.eu/future-policies-brief>

## Key messages and policy advice

In future policies the territorial dimension can be strengthened by:

- tailoring public policies and interventions to functional areas – functional urban areas, cross-border areas, transnational areas, etc.;
- designing policy frameworks that incentivise cooperation;
- developing new governance solutions that engage public authorities and private stakeholders in joint efforts to address shared development challenges;
- expanding cooperation practices in planning and making investments,
- strengthening the capacities of national, local and regional actors to engage in cooperative activities.

Future Cohesion Policy should:

- support the design and implementation of local and regional strategies.
- encourage and support joint investments both within mainstream EU support programmes and within the European Territorial Cooperation objective.
- promote the use of ITIs and other integrated territorial approaches and instruments (e.g. CLLDs).
- continue to finance pan-European programmes, aimed at developing policy-making and implementation capacities of national, regional and local stakeholders.

## 14 – Inner peripheries in Europe: Possible development strategies to overcome their marginalising effects

*This policy brief explains what inner peripheral regions are and where in Europe they are located. The brief also explores key development challenges and opportunities and explains what inner peripheries should consider when developing strategies to overcome their marginalising effects.*

Inner peripheral areas can be (a) enclaves of low economic potential, (b) areas with poor access to services of general interest or (c) areas experiencing a lack of relational proximity. A combination of these is, of course,

also possible. Inner peripheries are present in almost all European countries.

Inner peripheries have in common the fact that their general performance, levels of development, access to services of general interest, and quality of life of the population are relatively worse than those of their neighbouring territories.

<https://www.espon.eu/inner-peripheries-brief>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the policy brief are:

- For inner peripheries it is important to develop **strategic institutional capacity** by establishing cooperation and connectedness across boundaries and making use of established national and EU programmes. **Connectedness** generates synergies, networks and other types of links that allow inner peripheries to have a presence when relevant decisions are made.
- Developing **strategic plans** with an **integrated approach**, addressing in particular the need to overcome the lack of cooperation, appears to be important for all types of inner peripheries. This makes visible the specific needs of inner peripheries, enlarges their influence at higher policy decision-making levels and increases their development potential in general.
- To support inner peripheries in developing strategic plans and cooperation, it is recommended that the role of intermediary **regional agencies or platforms** is strengthened and that their long-term effectiveness is ensured.
- Inner peripheral regions appear to have a shared perception of “being forgotten” in the national political agenda. Therefore, at the regional, national and European levels, inner peripheries need to be given the necessary **political attention** and support for their development processes to overcome their marginalising effects.

## 15 – Cross-border public services in Europe

*This policy brief build on evidence provided by an ESPON targeted analysis on cross-border public services (CPS) across Europe.*

The policy brief is guided by questions on: where CPS exist along European borders; what the development potentials and future needs are for CPS and what the possible access points to exploit these potentials are; and what are the main policy recommendations to be derived from the analysis on CPS provision.

Based on these questions, the brief aims to provide arguments and inspiration for those who are engaged in developing and implementing cross-border cooperation and for

the development of the EU Territorial Agenda and Cohesion Policy after 2020. It seeks to attract interest not only from policy-makers in border regions but also from national decision-makers, public and private operators of services of general interest as well as from civil society organisations. In order to build up arguments and policy pointers to support the development of cross-border public services, the results of the targeted analysis undertaken by ESPON on this topic is used throughout this working paper with many case studies in diverse territories within the EU.

<https://www.espon.eu/cps-brief>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key messages of the brief are:

- **579 examples of CPS** provision in Europe identified. A high concentration of CPS along the borders of old EU Member States;
- **Most CPS deal with environment protection, civil protection and disaster management or transport;** A large share of CPS aims to improve the quality of public service provision in border regions;
- **Long-standing cooperation and existing interstate agreements** support CPS development

Exploring territorial patterns of cross-border public services, this overview highlights that CPS provision helps European border regions

to better integrate. Also, CPS address joint challenges of neighbouring border regions and their provision aims to generate benefits for the general public or specific target groups in the border area. These services contribute to reducing negative border effects, better connections, raising awareness of the cross-border potential and to supporting cross-border flows of people.

National and EU institutions could support this by:

- paving the way for CPS through Interreg;
- considering thematically focused support;
- marketing CPS achievements.

## 16 – Migration and the role of European Territorial Cooperation

*As the post-2020 EU programmes and budget is taking shape, this paper is looking at the challenges and opportunities related to territorial cooperation and managing migration flows and integration. The paper focuses on current and possible future migration-related challenges and policy responses.*

The joint ESPON and Interact Working Paper stems from the conclusions of the General Affairs Council meeting in November 2015. The Council emphasised that Interreg programmes, even though operating with a medium and long-term perspective, may support, where necessary and justified, and in complementarity

with other appropriate funding streams to help respond to migration challenges. The role of the ETCs was seen to address the migrant crisis by fostering institutional and administrative cooperation between EU and non-EU countries, supporting emergency measures such as the provision of shelters, and funding medium-term inclusion projects promoting the integration of migrants into the labour market or cooperation in the area of training.

<https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/migration-and-the-role-of-european-territorial-cooperation>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations of the activity are:

- **Transnational cooperation** is needed to manage the flows of migrants and refugees in arrival, transit, and final destination countries, regions and cities across Europe as well as with EU neighbouring countries by **developing joint systems to regulate controls and flows of extra-European migrants** and ease the pressure on entrance points; facilitating welcoming, aid, processing, and transit of asylum seekers and migrants at borders; establishing twinning projects between arrival regions of extra-European immigrants and other regions.
- **Transnational/national-regional-local cooperation** is needed to reduce the inflow pressure on areas with a high concentration of migrant diasporas as well as on very remote areas to support integration and assimilation by **matching immigrants competences, skills, and experiences with their relocation settings**; developing joint solutions for urban segregation and rural exclusion and facilitating interactions between natives and immigrants.
- **Transnational/national-regional-local cooperation** is needed for addressing integration by developing joint actions to help familiarise newcomers with their new environment, help them learn language, **access education,**

**training, labour market and housing**; strengthen joint labour mobility platforms to better integrate immigrants to the labour markets by matching immigrants competences, skills and experiences with the territorial needs and opportunities.

- **International cooperation** is needed for addressing cross-thematic issues related to

migration like **climate change, technological transition, commerce, ageing, unemployment** by developing joint actions to contribute to the mitigative and adaptive measures related to climate change; addressing the global socioeconomic trends and matching these with national, regional and local needs, opportunities and challenges.

## 17 – Territorial potentials for Green Infrastructure

*Incorporating Green infrastructure (GI) into related plans and strategies can help overcome fragmentation of habitats and preserve or restore ecological connectivity, enhance ecosystem resilience and thereby ensure the continued provision of ecosystem services, while providing healthier environments and recreational spaces for people to enjoy.*

The same area of land can offer many environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits at the same time, provided its ecosystems are in a healthy condition. However, valuable European ecosystems are being degraded by land fragmentation, urban expansion and the building of transport and

energy infrastructures. Degraded ecosystems have lower species richness and are unable to offer the same services as healthy ecosystems.

Local and regional authorities, which are generally responsible for land use decisions, have a particularly important role to play in assessing environmental impacts and protecting, conserving and enhancing natural capital. Better use of integrated spatial planning processes, improved capacity of decision-makers and better institutional cooperation are important elements to address this challenge.

<https://www.espon.eu/working-paper-territorial-potentials-green-infrastructure>

## Key messages and policy advice

The key findings and recommendations are:

- GI can be used as an instrument to support policy objectives e.g. in relation to **climate change and biodiversity protection**.
- The lowest percentage cover of potential GI network can be found in the area where **land-use** is the most intense and natural ecosystems are fragmented.
- Agricultural areas turned into complementary elements of the GI network could be an opportunity to **greening agriculture** in a more integrated way.
- Accurate and updated **spatial data on potential green infrastructure** networks should inform evidencebased decision making on where to invest resources, particularly for identifying green infrastructure 'hot spots' that either require increased safeguarding or restoration.
- **Policy integration** is vital to further embed green infrastructure in relevant policy domains where it is not prominent yet, like in finance, energy, health, and social services.
- There is a need for further **collaboration, awareness and capacity building**, and knowledge exchange to build a common understanding between professionals operating at different implementation stages and scales.

## 18 – Impact of labour migration on sustainable urban development

*While many cities grapple with an influx of migrants, other countries, particularly in southern and eastern Europe, are dealing with the opposite problem – the significant out-migration, particularly of young, skilled and semi-skilled workers resulting in economic and population decline. The objective of the policy brief is to present analysis and policy advice on the current dynamics of pan-European labour migration trends.*

The policy brief was developed together with the Romanian Presidency and is addressing three key policy questions:

- How can European urban centres be classified in relation to migration patterns?
- What territorial and governance conditions lead to significant out-migration of skilled and semi-skilled workers?
- What could be the policies to reverse emigration and attract/integrate migrants and human capital?

The policy brief will also examine how functional areas are related to labour migration patterns. It mostly will be based on the ESPON EMPLOY and ESPON PROFECY project results.

<https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/>

## Key messages and policy advice

The current labour migration trends show large differences across regions and countries in Europe. Eastern and southern European regions report a substantially negative net migration rate, while northern and western European regions report a substantially positive rate.

The presence, or absence, of knowledge economy is becoming a dominant factor in explaining migration trends. Migrants are more likely to be employed in metropolitan regions than in other types of regions.

There are different policy options to reverse emigration and attract labour force. Regions

and national-level policymakers are encouraged to:

- invest in the knowledge economy;
- improve the attractiveness of regions;
- develop diaspora strategies;
- implement functional approaches to urban governance.

A renewed emphasis on a functional approach and a wider territorial perspective can be identified as connecting elements to bridge various policy responses in both “sending” and “receiving” regions, to help address the challenges of labour migration and improve the attractiveness of regions as a means to maintain local labour forces and reverse emigration.

## SO3 – Territorial observations (OB)

01 – European Territorial Review \_\_\_\_\_ 118

02 – State of the European Territory \_\_ 120

## 01 – European Territorial Review

*The Territorial Review presents a synthesis of findings building on applied research undertaken up to summer 2017 by transnational research teams from all over Europe working on ESPON projects.*

The European Territorial Review provides fresh territorial evidence supporting arguments on the need for a stronger and more integrated focus on **territorial specificities, interactions** and **cooperation** in the next period of **Cohesion Policy**. This is done by addressing a wide range of different themes relevant for territorial development as well as for jobs and growth in Europe, as well as giving links connecting the diversity of Europe's places.

The **7 key themes** are: ageing and migration, employment in the knowledge economy, promoting economic growth through SMEs and FDI, boosting renewable energy sources, developing the circular economy, physical and virtual connectivity and improving the quality of life through services of general interest (SGIs), such as healthcare, education, public transport and waste disposal. Above all, the European Territorial Review focuses on the need to **intensify cooperation** between different territorial entities in Europe to **utilise existing** development **potential** and **master challenges** ahead.

<https://www.espon.eu/european-territorial-review>

## Key messages and policy advice

Key insights and recommendations include:

- The increasing desire for greater fragmentation and division in Europe is political, and although the feelings of insecurity and a desire to return to 'how things were' is mainly amongst the older population, the desire must be recognized
- The impact of a return to a greater degree of territorial fragmentation will be negative: economically, environmentally and socially
- 'Territorial cohesion' is a pre-condition for the furtherance of the well-being and quality of life of its people
- Elements of territorial cooperation should be integrated into post-2020 Cohesion Policy programmes, thereby amplifying territorial cooperation beyond the experience of INTERREG
- Eligible regions and cities should be encouraged to include a certain level of territorial cooperation in their investment frameworks, thereby provoking broader thinking about the wider territorial implications of their investment proposals
- Member states, regions and cities should be further encouraged to plan and implement their investment initiatives at functional geographical levels, i.e. looking beyond administrative borders

## 02 – State of the European Territory

*The “State of the European Territory” report to be published in the second half of 2018 will offer practical advice to national, regional and local governance levels to help the responsible authorities and stakeholders to design and implement their integrated territorial development strategies efficiently, applying different types of tools, with a view to achieving EU level and global priorities.*

The report will provide observations of the main territorial development trends in Europe and offer policy advice to support the framing of integrated territorial development strategies and related implementation tools at national, regional and local scale for the post-2020 period. Policy recommendations presented by

the report will take full account of the European Commission’s multiannual financial framework and the related legislative proposals for the post-2020 period.

The exact thematic scope of the report will be further specified in cooperation with stakeholders. Territorial evidence from ESPON research activities will be the key source for compiling the report.

<https://www.espon.eu/state-of-the-european-territory>

## SO3 – Tools for territorial analyses (TL)

**Development of the ESPON toolbox \_ 122**

**01 – ESPON 2020 Database portal,  
phase I \_\_\_\_\_ 123**

**02 – TIA tool including Integrated Urban  
and Cross-border Impact  
Assessment \_\_\_\_\_ 124**

**– TIA workshops and trainings \_\_\_\_\_ 125**

**03 – Online MapFinder, additional maps  
and descriptions \_\_\_\_\_ 128**

**04 – Macro-regional monitoring systems  
& ETMS \_\_\_\_\_ 129**

**05 – Functional Urban Areas and Regions  
in Europe \_\_\_\_\_ 130**

**06 – Sustainable development goals  
(SDG) localising tool \_\_\_\_\_ 131**

**07 – Analytical tool for spatial  
comparisons \_\_\_\_\_ 132**

**Big Data for Territorial Analysis and  
Housing Dynamics \_\_\_\_\_ 133**

**Housing Market Dynamics in Cross-  
border Areas \_\_\_\_\_ 134**

## Development of the ESPON toolbox

*ESPON projects result in an enormous amount of interesting and useful information and evidence in the form of maps, data, policy observations and recommendations as well as methodologies. The challenge is to make all this information easily accessible to policy makers and stakeholders. The ESPON toolbox tries to do exactly this.*

The ESPON toolbox is an integrated suite of userfriendly and interactive web applications to assist policy makers in freely accessing and interrogating key territorial data and to monitor the dynamics of the European territory, regions and urban centres. The toolbox includes the ESPON Database portal and Online MapFinder to make data and maps from ESPON activities

accessible. The TIA tool can be used in a workshop setting to support regional policy makers and practitioners with identifying, ex-ante, potential territorial impacts of new EU Legislations, Policies and Directives.

A **tool selection wizard** has been developed and implemented to help users find the most applicable tool in the toolbox by answering some simple questions. At the end of the programme the toolbox will have at least eight tools. This will be accomplished by further developing and maintaining a selection of the existing tools and by creating innovative new tools.

<https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps>

## 01 – ESPON 2020 Database portal, phase I

*The gathering and harmonisation of international statistical data in a multidisciplinary environment are key to international comparative analysis and policy work. The availability of timely, accurate statistical information enables policy-makers, practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders to address a wide range of issues in today's rapidly-evolving global economic and social landscape.*

The ESPON Database Portal is an integral tool that contributes to further developing and improving an interactive and user-friendly ESPON Toolbox and to the enhancement of the European territorial evidence production and outreach.

The activity develops, maintains and gives access to an ESPON Database Portal that can store different types of data and data-related functionalities from various sources. In addition, it develops web-services, keeps core datasets up-to-date, integrates datasets resulting from ESPON 2013 projects and ESPON 2020 activities and provide support to other ESPON activities and the ESPON EGTC on data-related issues.

<https://www.espon.eu/espon-database>

## 02 – TIA tool including Integrated Urban and Cross-border Impact Assessment

*This activity will further develop and maintain an interactive and user-friendly ESPON Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) web application that can be used to support TIA workshops in relation to ex-ante potential territorial impacts of new EU legislation, policies and directives.*

There is increasing demand from both European policy makers and Member States to better understand the likely territorial impacts of EU sector legislation and policy. Such legislation and policy can have, both directly and indirectly, impacts on territorial

organisation and development at European, (trans)national and regional levels.

The further development of the tool is an important precondition to promote its use, serve the increasing demand of and to be able to address the needs expressed by our target groups for the TIA tool. The latter include the European Commission, different Directorates General, such as DG MOVE, DG ENV and DG EMPLOY, and the Committee of the Regions.

<https://www.espon.eu/tia-tool-upgrade>

## – TIA workshops and trainings

*The aim of the TIA workshops is to brainstorm and collaboratively create a systemic picture translating the text of EU or other legislative proposal into cause-effect relations. It is a unique setting which allows to automatically translate results of the brainstorming into quick visual assesement (via TIA maps) of potential territorial impacts. TIA workshops also provide space for a discussion on possible explanations of the impact and allow to draft and discuss recommendations on what to take into account from territorial perspective when further developing selected legislative proposals.*

TIA workshop is a one-day moderated workshop during which invited experts and specialists evaluate the extent to which

territories are exposed to legislative proposals. During the workshop the moderator is employing the ESPON TIA tool to measure the potential territorial impact using the expert judgement and territorial sensitivity of the regions. TIA trainings are one-day training sessions on how to handle the TIA tool and use it during a TIA workshop.

ESPON EGTC does not organize TIA workshops or trainings; this is normally done by European Commission, European Committee of the Regions or other stakeholders. The EGTC provides moderators and the ESPON TIA tool.

<https://www.espon.eu/>

## Activity update

Based on the request of the European Committee of the Regions, the EGTC has supported four TIA workshops in order to help the CoR to prepare the TIA report which would be used as an input material for the CoR's own-initiative opinions. The following TIA workshops were carried out:

- TIA workshop on the EU industrial policy strategy (6 March 2019, Brussels)
- TIA workshop on the European Commission's Updated Bioeconomy Strategy (1 April 2019, Brussels)
- TIA workshop on the European Commission's 2050 strategy on climate-neutral economy (5 April 2019, Brussels)
- TIA workshop on European Commission's legislative framework "Clean Energy for All Europeans" (2 May 2019, Brussels)

## List of TIA workshops

A place-based industrial strategy for Europe	6 March 2019	Brussels, Belgium
European Commission's Updated Bioeconomy Strategy, Committee of the Regions	1 April 2019	Brussels, Belgium
2050 strategy on climate-neutral economy at the Committee of the Regions	5 April 2019	Brussels, Belgium
European Commission's legislative framework Clean Energy for All Europeans	2 May 2019	Brussels, Belgium

## 03 – Online MapFinder, additional maps and descriptions

*A survey showed that users find the Online MapFinder one of the ESPON tools that they are most familiar and 'most used in practice'. They use the Online MapFinder to find a specific map resulting from ESPON projects and reports.*

The online MapFinder is an online web application to search, display, zoom-in and out, download maps as well as to create a comparison list of favourite maps. The web application has a user-friendly interface which allows to find a specific map resulting from an ESPON project or report in an easy and fast way. To support the use of the maps, each map

is accompanied by short interpretations and key observations tailor-made for policy-makers and policy development.

It is foreseen to prepare additional maps to be included in the MapFinder. Work is ongoing in-house to implement this activity. The extent of external support needed to implement this is currently under consideration, also in the context of other developments related to the ESPON toolbox.

<https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/espon-online-map-finder>

## 04 – Macro-regional monitoring systems & ETMS

*This service contract is aimed at developing a web tool that provides territorial evidence to stakeholders and policymakers in Europe and in particular on the Baltic Sea, Danube, Alpine and Adriatic-Ionian macro-regions on key development trends over time and on the progress, implementation and contribution of policy objectives as defined in the EU macro-regional strategies and in the VASAB Long-Term Perspective.*

In order improve the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the policy making processes, monitoring and evaluation has a strategic role to play. The stronger political focus on the territorial dimension in various policies and strategies on one hand and the improved

knowledge of territorial structures, trends and scenarios generated by ESPON on another, highlight the needs as well as the opportunities to create a monitoring platform that on a regular basis can provide and promote territorial information and evidence in relation to European and macro-regional policy orientations and objectives.

The tool developed in the framework of this service contract will be deployed and made available via the ESPON website and establish a direct link to the ESPON Database through web services.

<https://www.espon.eu/european-and-macroregional-monitoring>

## 05 – Functional Urban Areas and Regions in Europe

*The main outcome of this service contract will be an updated version of the ESPON OLAP (Online Analytical Processing) cube which was developed during the ESPON M4D project (2013) and a practical and communicative web tool integrating the new ESPON OLAP cube functionalities*

Both tools will allow to disaggregate NUTS 3 and other data at a lower scale, thus providing an opportunity to benchmark and analyse data on the current situation and recent trends in functional urban areas and other functional regions in Europe. In addition, the web tool will provide a range of analysis functionalities, for

instance benchmarking possibilities via mapping, charts and graphs.

This project will fill the existing data gaps, complement the work of Eurostat, OECD and DG Joint Research Center in this field and will facilitate policy debates at various levels, for instance within Urban Agenda Partnership on Sustainable Use of Land and Nature-based Solutions.

<https://www.espon.eu/functional-urban-areas-tool>

## 06 – Sustainable development goals (SDG) localising tool

*The main objective of this service is to support local and regional governments to play their role in localising the SDGs by developing a web application.*

This web application should make regional data and indicators related to the SDGs accessible for local, regional and national governments. One of the sources for the regional data and indicators is the ESPON regional database making results of ESPON projects available so that the SDG localising tool is at the same time a way to disseminate ESPON results.

The main outcome of this activity should be 1) a simple, intuitive and user-friendly web application that can be used by governments at all levels to identify regions that are leading and lagging in the implementation of the SDGs and to find peers with similar profiles, 2) guidance on how to use the SDG localising tool with practical examples and 3) guidance on how to maintain the tool.

<https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps>

## 07 – Analytical tool for spatial comparisons

*Analysing a territory can be done in various ways and depends on the purpose of the observation. From a policy point of view and in a social science perspective, contrasts and gradients are often much more interesting than absolute values, because regions belong to broader territorial and spatial systems.*

*Aggregating and disaggregating territorial units allow policy makers to see how local values perform within a territorial context and how do they position in relation to others on different spatial scales.*

The aim of this activity is to transform the existing ESPON HyperAtlas in an easy to use tool to support policy makers in analysing and comparing their regions with the local, regional,

national and European situation. Indices used for political decisions are often evaluated in relative terms. This can be done according to various territorial contexts depending on the scale of the intervention or action they are referring to. The HyperAtlas contains a set of functionalities to do this and analyse and visualise spatial phenomena by taking into account the relative situation. However, the current tool is considered to be too complicated for policy makers, the data is outdated and the Java technology used is too restrictive. To fulfil the aim of supporting policy makers in analysing and comparing their regions a revision of this tool is foreseen.

<https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps>

# Big Data for Territorial Analysis and Housing Dynamics

*This activity will investigate to what degree new Big Data collection approaches can be used to enrich existing territorial policies and provide more up-to-date evidence by analysing spatial patterns and dynamics in urban areas related to housing.*

The main outcome of this activity will be a description of a methodological framework and methodologies developed and applied for using Big Data to analyse spatial patterns and dynamics in urban areas, a guidance document describing how these methodologies can be used and a report describing the housing dynamics in European cities as well as the

wellbeing of European citizens focussed on affordable housing and their living situation.

Relevance for these methodologies can be found in the light of specific objectives and aims of the European Cohesion Policy and by considering specific priorities, headline targets and flagships of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Territorial Agenda 2020.

<https://www.espon.eu/big-data-territorial-analysis-and-housing>

# Housing Market Dynamics in Cross-border Areas

*This activity shall contribute to enhancing cross-border data and indicators collection and to developing a methodology to produce cross-border information for better policy making.*

Research focusing on cross-border cooperation frequently face a major common problem: the lack of data. In many fields, data with a regional disaggregation is already difficult to find. The interregional dimension (exchanges or flows from one region to another) is a bigger challenge. But when it comes to interregional dynamics across national borders the challenge is even greater.

The aim of this ESPON activity is focus on one dimension of some cross-border contexts, namely the integration of housing markets.

The main outcome should be:

- a description of housing market dynamics in several cross-border functional areas allowing to understand the “border effects” and their impacts on cross-border flows
- and guidance on how to collect and monitor data and indicators about cross-border housing markets.

<https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps>

# SO4 – European Outreach (EO)

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ESPON Dissemination and Debate Session	139	ESPON peer-learning workshops	143
European Maritime Day 2019	140	Peer-learning workshop: Common Future Vision for the Polish-German interaction area 2030_	144

## Implementation of the outreach strategy

Through its outreach activities, in the first part of 2019, the ESPON EGTC raised awareness and explained the implications of ESPON's scientific work to its audience. Further development of better-contextualised communications has been achieved.

The ESPON EGTC provided appropriate, consistent, accurate and timely communications to policy and decision makers, stakeholders, academia and the public at large, based on the needs assessments and scientific evidence produced under the Specific Objectives 1, 2 and 3.

European and Transnational activities aimed at increasing openness and dialogue and to

develop activities that meet users' expectations and satisfaction.

The ESPON EGTC reinforced its stakeholder engagement approach, which is based on targeted capacity-building activities following specific demands of stakeholders.

The successful project of Peer Learning Workshops is kept in 2019 and a PLW took place in Poland at the end of June 2019; the participation in several external events is another indicator of a strong stakeholder engagement approach.

Continued content related work on the ESPON website support efforts to improve the visibility

and impact of ESPON's work both at European and Transnational level with the precious contribution of ECPs / MC Members in feeding the national webpages.

Press and media activities have been enhanced as well. The implementation of a structured social media approach increased ESPON's visibility and influence on social media channels and enabled ESPON to better communicate and engage with its stakeholders.

## List of European outreach events

Workshop	Dissemination and debate session at the Directorate-General for Territory	15 May 2019	Lisbon, Portugal
ESPON Seminar	The role of functional areas for territorial cohesion	19 - 20 June 2019	Iasi, Romania
Peer-learning workshop	Peer-learning workshop for Common Vision 2030	24 - 25 June 2019	Szczecin, Poland
ESPON Seminar	ESPON Seminar	27 - 28 November 2019	Helsinki, Finland

# ESPON Dissemination and Debate Session

**Lisbon, Portugal, 15 May 2019**

*The Directorate General for Territory and ESPON EGTC organised dissemination and debate session, to share and foster critical reflection and debate on relevant results emanating from ESPON 2020*

In the framework of the preparation of the post-2020 programmes, Laurent Frideres, ESPON EGTC Head of Unit Evidence and Outreach, presented the ESPON programme, its structure

and main aims and focused on the latest results from 3 ESPON projects:

- Report on the State of the European Territory
- European Territorial Reference Framework
- COMPASS

The audience was mainly comprised of ESPON current and potential stakeholders, members of the administration, researchers and academics.

# European Maritime Day 2019

## Lisbon, Portugal, 16-17 May 2019

*ESPON EGTC participated for the first time to the European Maritime Day that was held this year in Lisbon, with the project on Maritime Spatial Planning – Land Sea Interaction that involves stakeholders from Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, and the Netherlands.*

ESPON organised a stand in the exhibition area and two “speed exchange meetings” coordinated by the Lead Expert of the project, Kidd Sue, from the University of Liverpool, around our stand with experts that participated also in the EMD 2019.

“Speed exchange meetings” is an innovative and very interactive concept where a number of experts discuss for 30 minutes on a specific topic, exchange ideas and information without any presentations or formalities.

The two meetings were about “MSP-LSI Netherlands/North Sea LSI reflections and experience in other sea basins” and “MSP-LSI Maritime sector value chain analysis and addressing LSI”.

<https://www.espon.eu/espon-european-maritime-day-2019>

## ESPON Seminar “The role of functional areas for territorial cohesion”

**Iași, Romania, 19-20 June 2019**

*The ESPON seminar “The role of functional areas for territorial cohesion” is organised in cooperation with the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council.*

People are increasingly mobile and developments don't stop at administrative borders. Moreover, policy decisions and actions reach beyond administrative borders. This means geographies for policy making are not aligned with the geographies affected. Policy-making using functional areas should overcome these challenges.

This seminar looked into how the scale of policy intervention can be matched with the scale of developments by using functional areas. What is the role of functional areas for territorial cohesion? How can areas in decline profit from policy-making using functional urban areas? How can development in functional areas be measured?

Furthermore, the seminar provided insights to the latest ESPON evidence on many of the topics related to the territorial cohesion debate regarding financial instruments, green infrastructure, circular economy, refugee flows, youth unemployment, geographical

specificities, cultural heritage, territorial impact assessment, land-sea interactions, big data, and urban-rural linkages.

The seminar was aimed at policy makers, stakeholders, practitioners, scientists and experts who are interested in understanding the

development challenges and potential of their territory in a wider context and implementing policies ‘on the ground’ and how ESPON evidence can support these processes.

<https://www.espon.eu/iasi>

## ESPON peer-learning workshops

*The ESPON EGTC is organising a series of peer-learning workshops for all types of public authorities responsible for territorial development. The workshops are designed to enable a rapid know-how transfer and can serve various policy needs based on the experience of stakeholders who were involved in ESPON targeted analyses.*

Policy makers who need analytical and methodological advice to forge ahead with various policy processes can make use of this unique ESPON service quickly and conveniently at their own premises. It is a demand-responsive and flexible service that

does not require complex application procedures. Upon request, stakeholders who had commissioned and already benefitted from an ESPON targeted analysis will embark on a know-how transfer mission that is organised by the ESPON EGTC. Provided that ESPON is running / has run a targeted analysis in the respective field of interest, this mission will be prepared within 2-3 months following the request for peer-learning. The workshop duration is typically 2 days

<https://www.espon.eu/peer-learning>

## Peer-learning workshop: Common Future Vision for the Polish-German interaction area 2030

### Szczecin, Poland, 25-26 June 2019

In 2016, the Spatial Development Committee of the Polish-German Governmental Commission for Regional and Cross-Border Cooperation presented “Common Future Vision for the Polish-German interaction area 2030”. Vision goal: In 2030, the strong social, economic and natural Polish-German area of connections as a common area of sustainable growth is an important engine of development in the heart of Europe, also affecting other regions.

For the purpose of implementing the vision, partners have assumed a concentration of

activities on the first of the five thematic areas, as a main structure for the rest of fields and activities: “Taking advantage of polycentric settlement patterns”. According to the vision, by 2030:

- the potential of centres of all sizes and functions will be jointly developed, used and promoted, also outside the German-Polish interaction area.
- the cross-border Metropolitan Region of Szczecin will have a permanent structure and will be closely linked to the Baltic Sea region as well as known throughout Europe.

- each local and regional development strategy will include a chapter on the implications of neighbourly relations.
- the practice of sharing social and technical infrastructure re-sources along the Oder-Neisse line will have become common.
- municipalities, cities and regions in the German-Polish cross-border region will consistently implement common strategies to reduce energy consumption.

The VISION team identified flows a priori and needed to be closely monitored to stimulate systemic exchange supporting joint solving of strategical and spatial challenges. ESPON-peer-learning workshop in Szczecin were shaped the learning questions that have been formulated by the team, collected stories (failures and success) of existing analysis and initiatives and recommended future operations

based on practical optimisation of spatial development. To foster integrated polycentric cooperation, it was important to:

- 1) define needs of the area 2030 resulting from the flows of inhabitants, their motivations and demographic situation,
- 2) find ways to introduce a governance framework allowing a better combination of bodies,
- 3) define a catalogue of actions aimed at optimizing the existing tools.

Optimization of spatial management reflecting strategic goals and their territorial impact will help German-Polish cooperation generate wide flows, dynamic interactions and impact on socio-economic development over administrative borders.

<https://www.espon.eu/peer-learning-szczecin>

List of peer learning workshops

Peer-learning workshop	Peer-learning workshop for Common Vision 2030	24 - 25 June 2019	Szczecin, Poland
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## SO4 – Transnational Outreach (TN)

### **Transnational Outreach Support 2016-2019** \_\_\_\_\_ **148**

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Shorter documents \_\_\_\_\_ 152

### **Transnational Grouping I – Central Europe** \_\_\_\_\_ **157**

From evidence to action: territorial trends and challenges identified in the ESPON projects \_ 158

### **Transnational Grouping II – Northern Europe** \_\_\_\_\_ **164**

The Future of Digital Health – Design evidence-based policies in the era of data-driven healthcare \_\_\_\_\_ 165

### **Transnational Grouping III – Western Europe** \_\_\_\_\_ **169**

Open territorial data for policy and journalism 170

New thinking in spatial planning - from methodology to implementation \_\_\_\_\_ 171

### **Transnational Grouping IV – Southern Europe** \_\_\_\_\_ **175**

Understanding the economic and territorial impact of cultural heritage: better investments through improved evidence collection \_\_\_\_\_ 176

## Transnational Outreach Support 2016-2019

*The transnational outreach (TNO) activities are tailor-made to specific policy needs at transnational, national and subnational level. They customise evidence produced through applied research, targeted analyses and monitoring tools.*

The activities programmed as per Annual Work Plan 2019 are a unique opportunity to enhance the involvement of and stimulate interaction between stakeholders at transnational, cross border, national and subnational levels. To do so, the TNO service provider engages in efforts to bring ESPON closer to the relevant stakeholders. The service provider involves speakers and moderators which are most suited for a certain context and most likely to

engage in a context-relevant dialogue with both the audience and fellow-speakers.

In response to specific demands and expectations, context-relevant formats and engagement methods are being applied so as to allow for a stimulating experience. TNO activities do not end with an event. While bringing context-relevant recommendations, the activities are not limited to one-sided normative messages. For the best outcome, every activity seeks to stimulate discussion and bring in a multi-layered expertise to a discussion. The conclusion as to how a certain recommendation relates to a certain context can only be reached through dialogue with the concerned stakeholders. These conclusions can be

relevant for other stakeholder groups – those who could not attend or stakeholders from other territorial contexts where these conclusions can be extrapolated. Therefore, conclusions are being communicated through follow-up activities including articles and

dissemination measures using relevant channels.

<https://www.espon.eu/transnational>

## Activity update

For the first semester of 2019, nine activities are been programmed, out of which six have been carried out between March and May 2019.

A workshop on the economic impact of cultural heritage aimed at both cultural heritage stakeholders and economists from Cyprus and the next EU Presidency trios (in particular from Southern and Central Europe) as well as officials from the Council of Europe and DG EaC involved in respectively Strategy 21 and the European Agenda for Culture. The workshop took place on 28 March 2019.

The challenges emanating from the planned evaluation of the EUSDR Action Plan and the

post-2020 programming of Interreg Danube were a subject of a Seminar in Vienna, that took place on 4 April 2019.

Four were designed to roll-out the updated version of the ESPON database, aiming at new users (policymakers) and user segments (data journalists and media outlets). The first training took place on 9 April in Brussels, followed by 2 webinars on 10 and 11 April.

The emerging challenges for spatial planners related to climate change, land use competition, responsive and collaborative planning culture in general as well as the New Dutch Spatial Plan in particular were addressed

through the final edition of the spatial planning roadshow in the Hague on 17 April 2019.  
A conference on e-health aiming at the links between the digital transformation of healthcare

systems and territorial development took place on 22 May in Oulu, Finland.

## Shorter documents

Transnational events are accompanied by information material produced on demand. In the first semester of 2019, two shorter documents were released to support the seminar on the EUSDR in Vienna and the conference on spatial planning in Hague.

The transnational observation 'Danube economies, ecosystems, crossborder services and territorial challenges' was designed to support EUSDR and Interreg Danube stakeholders with territorial insights on SME patterns, the Knowledge Economy and Foreign Direct Investment in the Danube macro-region; Danube's green infrastructure and ecosystem services; public services in Danube border regions and Danube's Inner Peripheries.

The transnational brief 'New thinking in spatial planning: From methodology to implementation – views from the ESPON Transnational Outreach events in Western Europe' gives an overview of some of the main topics the four previous transnational outreach workshops and seminars that took place in Western Europe in 2018 and provides a context for the final conference in the Netherlands in April 2019.

<https://www.espon.eu/transnational>

## List of transnational outreach events

TNO Workshop	Understanding the economic impact of cultural heritage	28 March 2019	Nicosia, Cyprus
TNO Seminar	Territorial trends and challenges in the Danube region	4 April 2019	Vienna, Austria
TNO Training	Training on the database for policy makers and journalists	9 April 2019	Brussels, Belgium
TNO eLearning	E-learning on the ESPON database for journalists	10 - 11 April 2019	
TNO Conference	Spatial planning in Western Europe	17 April 2019	The Hague, Netherlands
TNO Conference	TNO Conference eHealth	22 May 2019	Oulu, Finland
TNO Training	Training on the database for policy makers and journalists	5 June 2019	Riga, Latvia

TNO Seminar	TNO Seminar on cross-border planning and programming	11 June 2019	Dresden, Germany
TNO Training	Training on the database for policy makers	27 June 2019	Bratislava, Slovakia

## List of transnational outreach shorter documents

Transnational Brief	New challenges and thinking for spatial planning systems: insights from ESPON projects	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/tallinn">https://www.espon.eu/tallinn</a>
Transnational Brief	Cross-border planning, governance and public services	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/nova-gorica">https://www.espon.eu/nova-gorica</a>
Transnational Brief	New thinking in spatial planning- From methodology to implementation – views from the ESPON Transnational Outreach events in Western Europe	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/netherlands">https://www.espon.eu/netherlands</a>
Transnational Observation	South Europe at the Crossroads: Investments in Road, Rail, Air and Seaborne Transport for the Future	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/accessibility-southern-europe">https://www.espon.eu/accessibility-southern-europe</a>

Transnational Observation	Integrated Territorial Development in V4+2: new challenges, new ideas, new responses	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/budapest">https://www.espon.eu/budapest</a>
Transnational Observation	Regional and national spatial planning: new challenges and new opportunities	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/paris">https://www.espon.eu/paris</a>
Transnational Observation	Economic development in northern rural regions	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/vaxjo">https://www.espon.eu/vaxjo</a>
Transnational Observation	Fighting rural depopulation in Southern Europe	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/soria">https://www.espon.eu/soria</a>
Transnational Observation	Refugee and asylum seeker flows	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/athens">https://www.espon.eu/athens</a>
Transnational Observation	Danube economies, ecosystems, crossborder services and territorial challenges	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/danube">https://www.espon.eu/danube</a>

## Transnational Grouping I – Central Europe

*The challenges emanating from the planned evaluation of the EUSDR Action Plan and the post-2020 programming of Interreg Danube were a subject of a Seminar in Vienna, that took place on 4 April 2019.*

The ESPON Seminar that took place in Vienna on the 4th of April at ÖROK addressed the specific challenges of the Danube Region – as geographically discussed by the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the Interreg programme Danube transnational 2014-2020 – for territorial cohesion and the consequent needs for macro-regional/transnational cooperation.

Seventy participants from fifteen countries participated in the Seminar and reflected on how to better coordinate policies and actions considering the specificities of the region: with its 115 million inhabitants, the Danube Region, considered as a functional area determined by the second longest river in Europe, covers 9 European countries and 5 non-European countries. Furthermore, the Seminar provided insights to the latest ESPON evidence on topics related to macro-regional/transnational cooperation.

<https://www.espon.eu/news-events>

## From evidence to action: territorial trends and challenges identified in the ESPON projects

**Vienna, AU – 4 April 2019**

One specific objective of this event was to “translate ESPON research results to the specific needs of the territories in order to support evidence-based policy-making”, as introduced by Markus Seidl, from the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning, in his opening speech, “especially at a time in which flows, interdependencies, interlinkages and functional relations crossing national borders within and beyond the region are growing”.

Roland Arbter, from the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism, welcomed the participants by recalling a key message that

emerged from the Seminar organized in Vienna in cooperation with the Austrian Presidency of the EU Council: “as we take stock from the previous programming period and look into the renewal of the Territorial Agenda post-2020, it is necessary to embrace new narratives for territorial development, moving from facts to storytelling”. “The data, indicators and research results which compose the ESPON toolbox foster inspiration, testing and creativity”, he added.

Laurent Frideres, Head of Unit Evidence and Outreach from ESPON EGTC, presented the programme of the day and highlighted the

characteristics of the ESPON programme, which is built from a demand-driven perspective: in this sense, he stated, the active involvement and feedback of the different stakeholders is critical to the definition of new research priorities. Moreover, he underlined that the ESPON findings are useful as they adopt a European perspective to facilitate comparative approaches.

The first session of the day “Territorial trends and challenges in the Danube Region as identified by ESPON projects” started with a keynote intervention from Kai Böhme, Spatial Foresight, about ‘The European Territorial Review put into the Danube context’. Kai highlighted that “nowadays territorial cooperation is a must” and a key feature of macro-regional strategies is to help territories with the challenges they cannot solve

individually, especially when considering on the one hand the trend of territorial concentration (of the population, of the economic activities), and on the other the increasing territorial links and interdependencies between the main hubs. He then brought these territorial trends in the macro-regional perspective, highlighting specific cooperation needs of these functional areas: refugee management across borders, transnational ICT solutions or transport corridors, or finding the right complementarity between regions, for example.

Efrain Larrea, MCRIT, presented to the participants the ‘ESPON macro-regional monitoring tool’ that will be delivered by 2020 and is currently under development as it serves in parallel a participative dialogue with the main potential users. He described the tool, composed of 3 blocks: (i) territorial trends

(context indicators); (ii) objectives of the priority areas and; (iii) activities (projects implemented). The ambitions of the tool, he said, are to offer territorial monitoring systems for 4 macro-regions; provide tailor-made modules with links to the ESPON database and web-services to other databases; maintain and update macro-regional territorial monitoring systems. His presentation included different examples linked to nine priority areas and concluded by giving an overview of the next steps towards the finalization of the tool.

Andreu Ulied, MCRIT, gave a forward-looking presentation tackling the need of a future-oriented and integrated vision on the development of the European territory for those policy-makers which operate in the field of territorial development and cohesion. In order to present the findings and policy

recommendations of the ‘ESPON European Territorial Reference Framework’ in the context of the Danube Region, he started from stressing the current challenges faced by Europe: social fragmentation, network interdependencies and territorial mismatch are growing, in a context of economic disparities across Europe and political fragmentation. In the future, spatial development plans will have to integrate a shared vision of Europe taken in a changing world, where Europe needs to be prepared to live in a “pervasive uncertainty” that will hit the Member States asymmetrically.

Again, territorial cooperation was presented as a necessity, as Mr Ulied made the case that although “enabling cooperation” scenarios bring more growth, they will not necessarily diminish disparities at local and regional scale. There is a strong need for the development of common “bottom-up” territorial visions and, in this sense,

spatial development plans at the regional scale provide for a useful territorial reference framework for functional cross-border areas to design and operationalize concrete strategic projects.

Kathrin Huber, EUSDR – Danube Strategy Point, opened the second session of this ESPON Seminar “Evidence-based planning for a stronger impact” with a presentation of the EUSDR, a macro-regional strategy adopted by the European Commission in December 2010 and endorsed in June 2011 by the European Council. The outcomes of the operational evaluation (governance and strategic dimension) will feed into the capacity building measures. The Danube Region is a functional area defined by its river basin, and the strategy is all about establishing and promoting closer cooperation.

Imre Csalagovits, Head of Managing Authority of Interreg Danube, gave an overview of the Danube Transnational Programme, embedded in the context of its development. He highlighted the evidence needs for the post-2020 programming of Interreg Danube and explained how territorial evidences are being used, namely sectoral and strategic documents from ESPON, EUSDR and DTP, and other existent national and sub-national territorial statistics, in addition to consultation with key experts and institutions to balance the gaps. Luca Ferrarese, Joint Secretariat of Interreg Central Europe, presented the Interreg CE fourth call as a testbed for a new impact-driven coordination mechanism between different EU instruments, launched on the basis of an analysis of the challenges and needs of the regions, and the potentials for exploitation and

coordination. He concluded that ‘coordination’ is a must for all future generation of programmes after 2020 and highlighted the role of ESPON to provide data and evidence, in order to build meaningful place-based coordination between EU instruments.

Thomas Dax, Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research, has presented to the audience the ESPON evidence for other macro-regions “Alps 2050: Common Spatial Perspectives for the Alpine Area – Towards a Common Vision”. The topic of Alps2050 is very relevant to many different European regions where a similar territorial diversity can also be found and also engaged in territorial cooperation actions.

The third and last session of the day brought Stefan Gänzle, University of Agder, Norway, to bring the perspective of experimentalist governance. Stefan highlighted that the EU is

too big to be governed by only one set of rules and it is the reason for so many different regulatory areas and regional arrangements. While macro-regions are built on two established forms of cooperation – regional and territorial – he looked at the concept of “experimentalist governance” with provisional goals-setting and regular revision, where monitoring comes in to support the ‘project to policy’ loop.

Jürgen Pucher, Metis, Austria, closed the last session with an outlook on the operative evaluation of EUSDR and asked for inputs from the audience about the expectations, which stakeholders to address and critical elements to keep in mind when doing the research. The result of a lively and interactive discussion among participants highlighted the importance of maintaining a clear distinction between the

strategies (which offer a policy framework) on the one side, and the programmes and projects on the other.

<https://www.espon.eu/danube>

## Transnational Grouping II – Northern Europe

*The ESPON Conference “The Future of Digital Health – Design evidence-based policies in the era of data-driven healthcare” took place at the Lapland Hotel in the city of Oulu in Finland, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2019.*

This event brought together representatives of the European institutions, policy-makers and relevant stakeholders from the national and regional healthcare ecosystems to reflect on

the link between the digital transformation of healthcare systems and territorial development, with the objective of inspiring strategic orientations and fostering the integration of the territorial dimension within different policies at all governance levels.

<https://www.espon.eu/news-events>

## The Future of Digital Health – Design evidence-based policies in the era of data-driven healthcare

### Oulu, FI – 22 May 2019

Mr Kyösti Oikarinen – chair of the City of Oulu Executive Board – and Ms Sinikka Salo – leader of change in reforming social welfare and healthcare – shared the welcome session of this ESPON Conference and explained why the conference is important for the Finnish Government: “How does the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health take into consideration the territorial dimension of health policies when designing them? What are the role and potential of e-health services in Finnish health care in the future?” Mr Martin Gauk – project expert at ESPON EGTC – presented the targeted analysis “The future of e-health”, a

new research topic of ESPON, highlighting that linking health policies and spatial planning is not always easy.

Ms Sinead Mac Manus, Senior Programming Manager and the lead for Digital Health in Nesta's Health Lab, has presented NESTA innovative methods in digital health and people-powered health: “Why digital health with people, by people and for the people is the future?”.

The first session “Transforming healthcare across the European Union: policies, practices and visions” have set the scene of the European policy framework related to the digital

transformation of healthcare systems, bringing the concrete experience of regional players working on its value chains and ecosystems. Ms Birgit Morlion from the well-being and ageing unit of EC DG Connect, refers to the “digital transformation of health and care in the EU” and how the European Commission is supporting innovation and the uptake of digital solutions for the post-2020 programming for the digital transformation of Health and Care – empowering citizens and building a healthier society. Interventions from the Catalonia region (Spain), Campania region (Italia) and the City of Oulu (Finland) brought the concrete experience of regional players working on transforming the healthcare value chains and ecosystems and the actions being taken to deploy reforms on the health system.

Ms Lucia Medori, from the European Health Parliament, closed the morning session by sharing some policy recommendations and the three key priorities to build the EU Health Data Ecosystem: connect, share and protect. While health data is essential to trigger digital innovation and foster disease prevention and care, this comes with unprecedented challenges and opportunities. The European Health parliament calls for the EU and its countries to build a data ecosystem able to promote healthy societies by connecting healthcare settings and sharing data for research while protecting citizens’ data.

Mr Peter Varnai, the leader in Health & Life Sciences at Technopolis Group, presented the ESPON targeted analysis “Future Digital Health in the EU” focusing on the opportunities and challenges of eHealth services in the EU,

particularly looking at individual journeys taken by four countries – Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland and Slovenia. He shared his vision that “Progress in digitalising healthcare across the EU is being achieved but a coherent strategy to achieve equitable access to health services for all EU citizens is still a major challenge”.

The session “Transnational and cross-border cooperation via evidence-based policy-making”, by Mr Ville Sirvio, CEO of the ‘Nordic Institute for Interoperability Solutions’ focused on the Nordic cooperation in cross-border data exchange. He presented to the audience the current status of cross-border cooperation between Estonia and Finland and other aspects related to the interoperability of data between healthcare systems and X-Road: ‘how could X-Road be utilized in the health sector as an open source solution for data exchange?’. Ms

Hannalore Taal, from the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs, continued this session with an overview of the cross-border cooperation activities between Estonia and Finland to ensure health data exchange between countries for the benefit of their citizens, via two main collaboration areas – cross-border exchange of ePrescriptions and X-road cooperation. Ms Karolien De Bruine (East Netherlands) and Mr Dirk Lles (Limburg) focused on the S3 strategies for personalised medicine and highlighted the central role played by regional smart specialization strategies in the development of stronger regional ecosystems around the healthcare domain, towards a paradigm shift in health care systems.

Ms. Maritta Perälä-Heape, Director at the Centre for Health and Technology from the

University of Oulu, moderated the last session of the day, bringing the concrete experience of Finland – a forerunning city in the field of digital healthcare, integrating health and social policies, to discuss the future of care: “How can digital health services offer better healthcare?”. The Oulu Health unique ecosystem involves a wide range of stakeholders, including more than 600 health companies and 200.000 inhabitants. Ms Minna Komu presented to the audience the OuluHealth ecosystem and particularly the OuluHealth Labs – an innovation, testing and development environment for companies and healthcare professionals. Ms Pia Liljamo focused on the Virtual Hospital & Health Village, a health service developed together with patients that provides information and support for all, care for patients, and tools for professionals that will support access to health services and

harmonise care processes. Mr Timo Alalääkkölä has presented the OuluHealth Labs Concept which can bring good ideas into development and testing stages.

This session ended the Conference and the productive discussions that took place during the day among participants and speakers about the roadblocks, lessons learned and potentialities of data-drive future healthcare. While e-services cannot fully replace face-to-face services, they can quite well complement the range of existing services. Citizens are motivated to use e-services in the health sector and the meaningfulness of e-services have proven to be prominent.

<https://www.espon.eu/oulu>

## Transnational Grouping III – Western Europe

*Two activities in Western Europe were carried out in the first half of 2019.*

A database training was designed to roll out the updated ESPON database portal and extend it to new users (policymakers) and user segments (data journalists).

The ESPON Conference “New thinking in spatial planning – from methodology to implementation” took place at the historic Royal Theatre in The Hague to discuss the current trends, policies and research needs for spatial planning in Western Europe.

<https://www.espon.eu/news-events>

## Open territorial data for policy and journalism

### Brussels, BE – 9 April 2019

This training was designed to roll out the updated ESPON database portal and extend it to new users (policymakers) and user segments (data journalists).

It introduced the functionalities of the database portal in an effort to ensure an autonomous use of the portal in future.

The training presented selected sets of base indicators with complete time-series on themes

including demography, economy, environment and others, covering the ESPON space.

The promotional efforts succeeded with the involvement of data journalists from The Economist, Politico, Associated Press, the European Data Journalism Network as well as developers like Google New Lab.

<https://www.espon.eu/open-data-training>

## New thinking in spatial planning - from methodology to implementation

**The Hague, NL – 17 April 2019**

**Nicolas Rossignol** from ESPON EGTC welcomed the participants to the fifth and final event of the Spatial Planning Roadshow 2018/2019 (Paris, Dublin, Luxembourg, Brussels and The Hague) and presents the latest ESPON applied research activities of 2019, the forthcoming cut-off-date to submit proposals for Targeted Analyses as well as the different capacity building activities proposed to local policy makers (e.g. peer-learning workshops, territorial impact assessment tools, webinars...). He introduced both the agenda and the main expected outcomes of the day. In particular, he highlighted the need to end up

with the identification of knowledge gaps in spatial planning and proposals for potential future ESPON research activities.

“We can’t solve problems using the same way of thinking we used when we created them”.

**Mira Bangel** from SenseTribe presented the ‘Design-Thinking collaborative approach’ to tap into the collective wisdom and tackle some of the spatial planning core challenges which are affecting Western Europe today.

**Robert Dijksterhuis**, head of the spatial policy division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and

Kingdom Relations (BZK) highlighted the evolution of rules and strategic plans in The Netherlands, where multiple challenges and limited space lead to the search of innovative combinations of actions: “Major transitions ask for new, more integrated laws and planning”.

“Good spatial planning starts with embracing complexity” – **Emiel Reiding**, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Kingdom Relations (BZK) and project leader of the National Spatial Strategy (NOVI), gives an outline of the basics of Dutch spatial planning. While the principles and qualities of territorial policies in the Netherlands have contributed for ranking among the top 5 of countries with the highest quality of life, which challenges are foreseen for the years to come?

Travelling across the ESPON Roadshow on Spatial planning, a panel discussion brought the contributions from France, Ireland, Luxembourg and Belgium.

**Laura Courtney** from Ireland presented the Irish National Planning Framework (NPF) and highlighted the role of the newly established Land Development Agency. She also reflected on the part of cities and on the importance of tying spatial strategies to investment funds.

**Benoit Fanjeau**, from the Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, identified as the main challenges mobility, affordable housing and climate change. The development of the new spatial strategy (SRADDET) aimed to reinforce the attractiveness of the region, to fight against urban sprawl, to strengthen centralities and organise them in a network, but he concluded

that “more flexible approaches to planning are needed”. From Luxembourg, **Frederick-Christoph Richters** presented the revision of the Master Programme for Spatial Planning based on five basic functions: quality of life, resources, resilience, social and territorial cohesion. He also highlighted the importance of public participation in this process, through a collaborative, change-making approach of co-creation rather than just consultation. **Kristien Lefeber** from Flanders, presented the Flemish spatial planning policy and raised the provocative question: “An integrated environmental vision, a utopia?”

**David Evers**, Dutch ESPON Contact Point, shared some concluding remarks about this panel discussion and highlighted some of the key themes that come up: the international component, the fact that territories share

common problems and challenges, the balance between integration and focus on the spatial plans, the challenge of implementation. More than concrete answers or conclusions, this session brought a vivid exchange of experiences between the participants.

The following session “Contribution from ESPON Research” brought **Vincent Nadin**, Professor of Spatial Planning at TU Delft, to present the ESPON Compass project, completed in 2018 and revealing a considerable diversity of spatial planning and territorial governance practices in Europe. Planning authorities are seeking more integration of spatial plans with sectoral policies, though this is still weak in some critical areas. Surprisingly, the links with the EU Cohesion Policy are not strong enough, and territorial cooperation has not had a significant

impact on mainstream planning systems. It is time for the EU institutions to make a more concerted effort to engage with spatial planning and territorial governance in the member states.

**David Evers**, leader of ESPON project SUPER– Sustainable Urbanization and land-use Practices in European Regions, shared some initial concepts of this study, which is in a preliminary stage, namely ‘sprawl’ and ‘urbanization’, proposing to challenge their somehow pejorative connotation: “Don’t call it ‘land take’ or ‘sprawl’”. He indicated that the project will rather mainly focus the driven factors for “Land-use changes” (demand-factors, but also supply-factors).

The afternoon session “Design Thinking Lab” brought the participants to collectively identify trends and knowledge gaps for spatial planning on specific issues already explored during the previous events of the Roadshow. Using a participatory design thinking approach, participants have engaged on five topic discussions: (i) Sustainable urban development; (ii) Green planning; (iii) Meeting the housing demand; (iv) Energy and climate change; (v) Well-being and inclusion.

<https://www.espon.eu/netherlands>

## Transnational Grouping IV – Southern Europe

*One TNO activity in Southern Europe was carried out in the first Semester of 2019.*

The workshop welcomed all types of stakeholders involved directly in heritage initiatives or benefit from cultural heritage spill-over effects in other sectors as well as potential beneficiaries of EU funds aimed at built cultural heritage projects, local, regional and national public officials.

The workshop was designed to create a discussion framework that recognises the economic impact of cultural heritage

investments, is able to measure this impact and hence to demonstrate the leverage effects and return on investment towards funding programmes and financial institutions.

To support these discussions, ESPON will introduced latest evidence and methodologies to measure the economic impact of built cultural heritage, supporting these with case studies.

<https://www.espon.eu/news-events>

## Understanding the economic and territorial impact of cultural heritage: better investments through improved evidence collection

### Nicosia, CY – 28 March 2019

The workshop “**Understanding the economic impact of cultural heritage – Better investments through improved evidence collection**” took place at the Department of Town Planning and Housing of the Cyprus Ministry of the Interior, in Nicosia, on the 28th of March 2019. It brought together delegates from various EU MS, seeking to strategically position cultural heritage on the respective national agendas.

An introductory speech and welcome to the participants was given by Ms **Elena Christofidou** (CY), highlighting the importance of assessing the economic impact of cultural heritage beyond the recognition of its universal value, setting the scene for the discussions along the day.

The first session “The Strategic Place of Cultural Heritage in Europe” started with the presentation of Ms **Irene Hadjisavva-Adam**, from the Cyprus Ministry of the Interior, who presented the Strategy 21 and highlighted the territorial and economic development

component which focuses on the relationship between cultural heritage and spatial development.

**Ms Erminia Sciacchitano**, a representative from the European Commission (DG EAC), presented to the participants the New European Agenda for Culture and the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage. Multi-Stakeholders cooperation in complex structures is a challenge shared by the MS, raising the need for EU cooperation. The legacy of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 needs to be maximized, profiting from the momentum created between stakeholders, and now is time to give continuity to the actions within a common direction at EU level, based on four main principles: a holistic approach, mainstreaming, evidence-based

policy-making and multiple stakeholders engagement.

The second session brought together representatives from Romania, Cyprus, Slovenia and Greece to discuss “The strategic place of cultural heritage on national agendas”.

Mr **Stefan Balici**, from the National Institute of Heritage of Romania, presented to the participants “The Heritage Code”, a new approach aiming to achieve a unitary, coherent and up-to-date legal framework. He also pointed out as future needs an increased knowledge of cultural heritage and its impacts as well the use of collaborative funding instruments.

Ms **Barbara Mlakar**, secretary at the Cultural Heritage Directorate from Ministry of Culture of

Slovenia, briefly presented the strategic documents related to cultural heritage in Slovenia and the key objectives of the "Cultural Heritage Strategy 2019-2027" that is expected to be adopted in the next few months.

Ms **Stella Kyvelou** presented some ideas of alternative paths for linking spatial development strategies with cultural heritage, explained and represented to the participants via three case-studies.

The third session of the day "Towards evidence inspired policy: monitoring the impact of cultural heritage" included a presentation from Dr **Elissavet Lykogianni** and Mr **Richard Procee** from VVA about their work in the scope of the on-going ESPON HERITAGE Project. The ESPON's project "The Material Cultural Heritage as a Strategic Territorial Development

Resource: Mapping Impacts Through a Set of Common European Socio-economic Indicators" aim is to quantify the economic impact of material cultural heritage related to: archaeology, architecture, museums, libraries and archives, tourism, construction, real estate, ICT and insurance. The study covers regions in Austria, Belgium (Brussels, Flanders), Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and focuses on the impact on employment, turnover and gross value added, public expenditure, volunteering. The key operational recommendations highlighted were: (1) the need for a common operational definition of MCH and standard units of MCH to be used in MCH inventories, (2) a common methodology for data collection and engagement with relevant stakeholders to cover data gaps; (3) capacity building, awareness raising and dissemination and

accessibility of data between stakeholders; (4) EU and national funding for future research activities and the use of alternative sources for data collection.

Mr **Zintis Hermansons**, project expert from the ESPON EGTC presented the next project on ESPON pipeline related to cultural heritage, namely the applied research “Cultural Heritage as a Source of Societal Well-being in European Regions” which will be launched at the beginning of 2020.

The final morning session featured a presentation from Mr **Glafkos Constantinides**, an economist and urban planner from Greece, who highlighted some key aspects related to quantification of the economic impact of cultural

heritage: (1) the cost of inaction; (2) the economic added value of the investment in a cultural heritage monument; (3) the involvement of markets in a way to broaden the fields of benefits, unlock the values into tangible revenues and bring cultural objectives into the sphere of public policy.

The afternoon round table discussion between the participants on the Implications for policy-making and next steps focused on two key aspects after the reflections during the morning presentations: the future role of cultural heritage in national cultural agendas; the role of monitoring indicators in territorial planning, funding policy and future investments.

<https://www.espon.eu/cyprus>

## SO4 – Publications (PB)

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## List of publications

Policy brief	Territorial Scenarios for Europe towards 2050	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/maps-month/territorial-scenarios-europe-towards-2050">https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/maps-month/territorial-scenarios-europe-towards-2050</a>
Policy brief	Territorial and urban aspects of migration and refugee inflow	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/policy-briefs/territorial-and-urban-aspects-migration-and-refugee-inflow">https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/policy-briefs/territorial-and-urban-aspects-migration-and-refugee-inflow</a>
Policy brief	Territorial Implication of Better Regulation for Europe towards 2050	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/policy-briefs/territorial-implication-better-regulation-europe-towards">https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/policy-briefs/territorial-implication-better-regulation-europe-towards</a>
Policy brief	Urban Partnership Themes in a Wider Territorial Context	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/policy-">https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/policy-</a>

		briefs/urban-partnership-themes-wider-territorial-context
Policy brief	Second Tier Cities Matter	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/second-tier-cities">https://www.espon.eu/second-tier-cities</a>
Policy brief	Polycentric Territorial Structures and Territorial Cooperation	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/policy-briefs/polycentric-territorial-structures-and-territorial">https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/policy-briefs/polycentric-territorial-structures-and-territorial</a>
Policy brief	Pathways to a circular economy in cities and regions	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/circular-regions">https://www.espon.eu/circular-regions</a>
Policy brief	Shaping new policies in specific types of territories in Europe: islands, mountains, sparsely populated and coastal regions	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/policy-briefs/shaping-new-policies-specific-types-territories-europe">https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/policy-briefs/shaping-new-policies-specific-types-territories-europe</a>

Policy brief	Smart and innovative approaches to responding to the developmental challenges of shrinking rural areas	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/rural-shrinking">https://www.espon.eu/rural-shrinking</a>
Policy brief	Territorial and urban dimensions of digital transition in Europe	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/digital-transition">https://www.espon.eu/digital-transition</a>
Policy brief	Governance, planning and financial tools in support of polycentric development	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/polycentric">https://www.espon.eu/polycentric</a>
Policy brief	Indicators for Integrated Territorial and Urban Development	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/integrated-indicators">https://www.espon.eu/integrated-indicators</a>
Policy brief	The territorial dimension of future policies	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/future-policies-brief">https://www.espon.eu/future-policies-brief</a>
Policy brief	Inner peripheries in Europe: Possible development strategies to overcome their marginalising effects	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/inner-peripheries-brief">https://www.espon.eu/inner-peripheries-brief</a>

Policy brief	Cross-border public services in Europe	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/cps-brief">https://www.espon.eu/cps-brief</a>
Policy brief	Migration and the role of European Territorial Cooperation	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/migration-and-the-role-of-european-territorial-cooperation">https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/migration-and-the-role-of-european-territorial-cooperation</a>
Policy brief	Territorial potentials for Green Infrastructure	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/working-paper-territorial-potentials-green-infrastructure">https://www.espon.eu/working-paper-territorial-potentials-green-infrastructure</a>
Policy brief	Impact of labour migration on sustainable urban development	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/">https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/</a>
Policy brief	Digital urbanism: sustainable innovation in cities	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/">https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/</a>
Policy brief	Cross-border e-health services	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/">https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/</a>
Policy brief	Economic diversification through material cultural heritage	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/">https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/</a>

Policy brief	Responsive transport planning in transnational growth corridors	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/">https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/</a>
Policy brief	Transition to green regional economies	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/">https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/</a>
Working paper	Cross-border public services in Europe	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/news-events/news/latest-news/publication/working-paper-cross-border-public-services-europe">https://www.espon.eu/news-events/news/latest-news/publication/working-paper-cross-border-public-services-europe</a>
Working paper	Migration and the role of European Territorial Cooperation	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/migration-and-the-role-of-european-territorial-cooperation">https://www.espon.eu/topics-policy/publications/migration-and-the-role-of-european-territorial-cooperation</a>
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Territorial observation	European Territorial Review	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/european-territorial-review">https://www.espon.eu/european-territorial-review</a>
Publications	ESPON Tools: Toolbox	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps">https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps</a>
Publications	ESPON Tools: Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring System	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/baltic-sea-region-territorial-monitoring-system">https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/baltic-sea-region-territorial-monitoring-system</a>
Publications	ESPON Tools: CityBench	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/citybench-urban-benchmarking">https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/citybench-urban-benchmarking</a>
Publications	ESPON Tools: Database Portal	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/espon-2013-database">https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/espon-2013-database</a>
Publications	ESPON Tools: DataNavigator	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/espon-data-navigator">https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/espon-data-navigator</a>
Publications	ESPON Tools: European Territorial Monitoring System	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/etms-tool-european-territorial-monitoring-system">https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/etms-tool-european-territorial-monitoring-system</a>

Publications	ESPON Tools: Functional Indicators Tool	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/functional-indicators-tool">https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/functional-indicators-tool</a>
Publications	ESPON Tools: HyperAtlas	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/espon-hyperatlas">https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/espon-hyperatlas</a>
Publications	ESPON Tools: Online MapFinder	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/espon-online-map-finder">https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/espon-online-map-finder</a>
Publications	ESPON Tools: RIMAP	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/rimap-online-mapping-tool">https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/rimap-online-mapping-tool</a>
Publications	ESPON Tools: Territorial Impact Assessment	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/espon-tia-tool">https://www.espon.eu/tools-maps/espon-tia-tool</a>
Publications	ESPON Contributions to post-2020 Programming of ESIF	<a href="https://www.espon.eu/post-2020">https://www.espon.eu/post-2020</a>