### **SPECIFICATION**

# ESPON Targeted Analysis Based on User Demand 2013/2/8

# Territorial Diversity (TD) (2009-2010)

# (o) Targeted analyses within the ESPON 2013 Programme

The ESPON 2006 Programme provided integrated analysis and long-term spatial scenarios which enriched the European policy debate and knowledge base. Tying in with the achievements of the previous programme period, the ESPON 2013 Programme continues conducting applied research on European territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion. At the same time, a new type of projects is carried out in the form of targeted analyses based on specific demands expressed by stakeholders and making use of existing ESPON results.

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

# 1. Applied research on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion: Evidence on European territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts

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

# 2. Targeted analysis based on user demand: European perspective on development of different types of territories

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

# 3. Scientific platform and tools: Territorial indicators and data, analytical tools and scientific support

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

# 4. Capitalisation, ownership and participation: Capacity building, dialogue and networking

Under this priority, actions are foreseen that will make the evidence and knowledge already developed operational through raising awareness and involving stakeholders in the results and practical application of them.

Targeted analyses under Priority 2 enable stakeholders to obtain customised and up-todate information on their particular territorial context and opportunities for development which can be used for policy development. Given the targeted focus of these projects on specific territorial entities, targeted analyses will contribute to the use of ESPON results in practise and to the involvement of policy makers, practitioners and scientists in a joint synergetic process.

# (i) General objectives of targeted analyses under Priority 2

The general objectives of targeted analyses within the ESPON 2013 Programme are the following:

- Provision of evidence and knowledge based on ESPON results on the strengths
  and weaknesses of individual regions and/or larger territories seen from a
  European perspective, or a global context, giving European regions the option to
  compare themselves to other regions and hereby finding competitive advantages
  for development and cooperation.
- Improvement of the usefulness of ESPON results by testing new, experimental and innovative options such as (1) analysis of themes of interest for groups of regions, partly based on case studies, (2) methodological frameworks for translating territorial development goals and policy aims into concrete actions and (3) technical, methodological and analytical support to territorial planning processes and spatial programming and visions.
- Provision of analytical support and evidence based on ESPON results on thematic priorities in cooperation with other Structural Funds Programmes.

The aim is to carry through targeted analyses in partnership with policy makers and/or practitioners showing an interest in gaining awareness of European evidence, information, experience and/or knowledge on common challenges related to their territorial and/or urbandevelopment.

The individual targeted analysis shall support better informed policy decisions by:

- Integrating ESPON findings with more detailed information and practical know-how, either from a territorial part of Europe or from a sector authority.
- Contributing to a sound knowledge of territorial development perspectives/trends through new understanding of future development potentials and challenges for the respective territorial and/or urban development.

This project shall contribute to these objectives during its implementation by ensuring a close cooperation and partnership with the stakeholders who expressed their need for this targeted analysis.

## (ii) Types of Action under Priority 2

Projects under Priority 2 can have different foci and accordingly vary in their content. In order to have a clear distinction between the various possible project orientations, each project needs to be clearly allocated to one of the following types of action:

#### 1) Integrated studies and thematic analysis

This type of action is foreseen to follow a "traditional" analytical approach using existing results of ESPON applied research and other studies. The analysis can integrate several themes relevant for certain types of territories, regions and/or cities or it can be less comprehensive in the approach by focusing on one or a few themes. The main objectives are:

- 1. To provide added value for territorial development of specific types of territories<sup>1</sup> by offering new comparative insight and understanding on territorial potentials and challenges from a European perspective;
- 2. To ensure that other (similar) types of territories/regions can benefit from the output of the analysis.

### 2) Knowledge support to experimental and innovative actions

This type of action clearly allows for the implementation of projects that differ from the mainstream of the ESPON 2013 Programme by being more experimental and/or innovative in character. It is in a way a laboratory for developing ways of meeting main territorial challenges that Europe is confronted with.

The objectives are:

- To support experimental and innovative actions carried through in partnership with stakeholders with European knowledge on territorial structures, trends, perspectives and policy impact;
- b) To provide methodological support to experiments and innovative efforts.

#### 3) Joint actions related to other Structural Funds Programmes

The joint actions related to other Structural Funds Programmes take a geographical starting point in the area covered by these programmes, be it transnational, cross-border, interregional, regional or urban territories. The content of these actions can be integrated and thematic analyses or they can be experimental and innovate of nature

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Types of territories codified for the territorial dimension, include urban, rural-mountains, rural-islands, rural-area (sparsely and very sparsely populated), rural-other, former external border, area dependant on fisheries, outermost regions, transnational cooperation areas, cross-border cooperation areas and interregional cooperation areas (as listed in the ESPON 2013 Programme, p. 9).

(as described above). A main prerequisite is that they are justified by supporting Structural Funds Programme implementation.

The objectives are:

- a) To provide information and analyses on the European position of these areas, their comparability with other similar areas, and their potentials and challenges, useful for Structural Funds Programmes (regional, cross-border, transnational, interregional and urban);
- b) To provide methodological support for strategic processes, including visions and scenarios for spatial development and planning.

Independent of the type of action, each project should have a European perspective (i.e. supporting the understanding of the wider European context), a clear transferable character and a concrete implementation part, focusing on specific territories.

The analytical approach can provide integrated, cross-thematic analyses, study individual themes or sectors, or focus on a specific type of territories. At any rate, ESPON findings shall be integrated and supplemented with more detailed information and practical knowhow, either from a territorial part of Europe or from a sector authority. Analysis can include/be based on case studies. The geographical coverage will normally have a more limited territorial coverage than the entire European territory.

This project belongs to the second type of action. By using, inter alia, existing ESPON results, the project will analyse the diversity of different types of territories in Europe and provide understanding and evidence on tailored policy mixes for their development.

### (iii) Scope and rationale of the targeted analysis

The Territorial Agenda adapted at the informal Ministerial Meeting in Leipzig in May 2007 stressed that through the policy orientations and actions of the Territorial Agenda, Ministers would contribute to sustainable economic growth and job creation as well as social and ecological development in all EU regions, thereby supporting the implementation of both, the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies of the European Council. It was further pointed out that the diversity of territorial potentials of regions in contributing to sustainable development, economic growth and job creation in the EU must be identified and mobilised.

All types of regions aspire to contribute towards common goals like sustainable growth, competitiveness and employment. However, the challenges and opportunities differ from region to region depending on a variety of variables ranging from the economic base, innovative capacity, human resource endowment, service provision, natural endowment and assets, accessibility and IT connectivity, etc.

In order to be able in the best possible way to contribute to overall goals like the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies, regions need to develop based on their comparative

advantages. To help facilitate this, it is necessary to develop differentiated and tailored regional and spatial development policies and strategies, which take into account the different circumstances of the regions.

Against this backdrop, the aim and innovative character of this project is to use analyses of different types of regions from different parts of Europe as a basis for developing new and differentiated regional and spatial development policies.

#### Main characteristics of the territory to be addressed

The TD targeted analysis will focus on areas with geographical specificities that are outside the Pentagon. This means that the territories to be addressed in this project are regions outside the main metropolitan and urban areas of the ESPON territory, like

- Mountain areas;
- Islands:
- Sparsely populated areas, other than mountain areas or islands;
- High (population) density areas with a peripheral position for example an island.

These regions are characterised by development challenges and opportunities which differ from metropolitan and major urban areas with regard to accessibility to markets, economic structure and access to public and private services. Challenges are often related to decreasing resources like declining population and labour, (new) enterprises not being able to utilise economies of scale, etc. Development opportunities can often be found in the accessibility to regional centres as well as to regions outside the EU or global markets; natural resources and some expanding industries like tourism or natural resource based industries. At the same time it is important, though, to be aware of the fact that a diversity of characteristics exists within these types of regions which means that the general picture of a region is not necessarily valid for all parts of the region

When developing spatial and regional development policies these characteristics need to be taken into account. They also need to be seen in a larger European and global context as their future development will be increasingly dependent on more global processes and a higher degree of cooperation with other regions.

The targeted analysis should include a representative sample of islands, mountainous and sparsely populated regions as well as high (population) density areas with a peripheral position in order to offer a closer description of the results of the more general crosscutting analysis (see below "Objectives of the targeted analysis"). Regions from the participating stakeholder countries must be included i.e. Malta, Cyprus, Romania, Switzerland, Finland, Sweden and Norway. It would also be desirable to include a region from Iceland that, given its geographical position, population size and economic structure, could be a valuable contribution to the project.

Examples of regions and areas which could be included are:

- The North Calotte cross-border region which covers Norbotten län (Sweden), Lapland län (Finland) and Finnmark, Troms and Nordland fylke (Norway),
- the whole of Malta,
- the Marathasa valley and surrounding villages in the Troodos Mountains and the Tilliria coastal area, (Cyprus),
- Canton Jura and Canton Wallis (Switzerland),
- Sibiu, Caras-Severin, Hunedoara, Alba, Cluj and Bihor (Western Romania) and Buzau (Eastern Romania).

# Thematic scope for the targeted analysis

It is often assumed that only metropolitan or major urban areas can significantly contribute towards overall policy goals like the Lisbon or Gothenburg Strategy. However, in reality many regions outside these areas make major contributions towards the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies.

Against this backdrop, it would be important for a comprehensive territorial cohesion policy not only to focus on territorial cohesion, but also to take account of territorial diversity, i.e. that all regions (sparsely populated areas, islands, mountain areas, etc) can and should contribute to overall policy goals. In this respect there is a need to develop differentiated regional and spatial policies which fit the potentials present in the individual regions or areas.

There is a particular need to support islands', mountains' and sparsely populated areas' development by providing more comparable knowledge about the comparative advantages with regard to achieving the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies and the appropriate policies to apply.

Potentials are often related to accessibility of regional centres as well as to regions outside the EU or global markets, the abundance of natural resources and the prospects of expanding industries like tourism or industries based on natural resource. Challenges are often related to decreasing resources like population and labour, where, in some extreme cases, extensive rural areas that flourished as recently as the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century are now approaching the verge of abandonment; (new) enterprises, not being able to utilise economics of scale etc.

Consequently, questions to be addressed by this targeted analysis are:

- How to ensure a sustainable development based on regional comparative advantages?
- How to improve the foundation of development by supporting innovation, entrepreneurship, a creative business environment, small scale economics (small is beautiful), the conservation and management of natural resources, etc.?

 How to develop actions that enable the targeted regions to achieve a continuous long-term improvement of quality of life, inter alia by tapping existing ecological and social innovation potential of the economy?

#### Objective of the targeted analysis

The TD targeted analysis is foreseen to be a cross-cutting study i.e. the selected regions will be analysed from the viewpoint of being an island, mountainous, sparsely populated or high (population) density with peripheral position. It is, however, important that a synthesis of the analyses and findings is made.

The focus of the project is on identifying regional comparative advantages. The project should address a number of key themes like utilising small scale economies (e.g. looking into the advantages small size economies can offer like lower transaction costs or greater flexibility), access to public and private services, global context/global positioning, innovation and networking between regions etc., so as to promote regional competitiveness.

It would be desirable to illustrate the findings of this cross-cutting study with a closer description of one region for each type of region (i.e. mountain, island, sparsely populated, high (population) density region with a peripheral position).

The targeted analysis shall address and report on the following three main elements:

- The present performance of the regions in question with regard to the overall policy goals of the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies.
- Potentials and challenges for the regions in question to contribute to overall policy goals like Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies.
- A discussion of future policy options for the types of regions and territories addressed. This could be done in a form so as to complement the ESPON Scenario project.

In pursuit of these ambitions the targeted analysis shall in particular consider the results of the following ESPON 2006 projects, which provide complementary information to be integrated in the TD project:

- ESPON Project 2.4.2 Zoom in, which focuses on the diversity of territorial opportunities and development potentials
- ESPON Project 3.3 Lisbon strategy
- ESPON Project 3.4.2 Economy
- ESPON Project 1.1.4 Demography
- ESPON Project 2.2.1 Structural Funds
- ESPON Project 1.2.1 Transport trends
- ESPON Project 1.2.2 Telecom trends

- ESPON Project 2.1.4 Fisheries
- ESPON Project 2.1.4 Energy

The analysis can, however, where necessary complement the ESPON projects to be considered and make use of other existing work that studied the development opportunities and threats that regions with geographic and/or demographic handicaps are facing across Europe.

The results of the project shall act as a catalyst to raise both awareness and understanding of the potential development dynamics of mountain areas, islands, sparsely populated areas and high density areas in peripheral regions. This can help European partners to understand and explore the opportunities for a sustainable long-term development of these areas where public sector intervention might or might not foster an acceleration of economic growth.

Consequently, the added value of this targeted analysis will be to identify, communicate and present the territorial trends and prospects of mountain regions, islands, sparsely populated areas and high (population) density areas in peripheral regions including a finer grained level of detail than covered previously, provided by the stakeholders involved. This will not only further the understanding of these regions, but also illustrate and support the formulation of policy options for their future endogenous development. Another added value will be the cooperation among stakeholders from the participating regions.

In doing so, the results of the targeted analysis will inform and help partners to identify how best to design and implement territorial cooperation projects that have a long lasting and effective impact for the development of mountain regions, islands and sparsely populated areas in Europe.

# (iv) Implementation method and project governance

Partnership in the project implementation is vital in order to achieve useful results. This applies to both, the partnership between the ESPON Programme and stakeholders, as well as between the team of researchers (TPG) and the stakeholder representatives.

Stakeholder involvement will be essential throughout the project's life-cycle and has started by the definition and development of this project specification for the targeted analysis on Territorial Diversity.

The partnership behind the TD targeted analysis has been developed by circulating and discussing the project idea with potential participants with responsibility for regional and spatial policies. These are public authorities that are involved in Structural Funds policies, the Territorial Agenda and its Action Plan.

The project will be led by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development in Norway. Other partners in the stakeholder consortium are:

- Ministry of Employment and Economy, Finland
- Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE, Switzerland
- Department of Town Planning and Housing, Ministry of the Interior, Cyprus
- National Rural Development Agency, Sweden
- Malta Environment & Planning Authority, Malta
- Ministry for Development, Public Works and Housing, Romania.

The Lead Stakeholder Norway will set up a TD Steering Committee closely monitoring the progress of the project. The Steering Committee will be composed of the participating stakeholders, one representative of the Transnational Project Group (TPG) conducting the project and the ESPON Coordination Unit (CU). EuroMontana, the North Sea Commission and Iceland will have observer status.

The ESPON Coordination Unit will bear the contractual responsibility for the TD targeted analysis on behalf of the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

To ensure coordination and communication across the partners from the start, the TD Steering Committee will, together with the ESPON CU, convey a Kick-off meeting with each partner nominating at least one member. One representative of the stakeholder consortium will also be involved in the assessment of the project proposals.

The TD Steering Committee will have a general overview of the targeted analysis and will give appropriate directions and advice to the appointed TPG to make sure that the agreed objectives of the project are met.

Among other decisions the TD Steering Committee will agree on the following:

- Communication and reporting mechanisms with the TPG and between partners;
- Date and agenda for meetings and events;
- Dissemination/communication strategy; and
- Content of the press releases and other dissemination documents.

The TD Steering Committee will meet a minimum of 3 times during the life of the project – Kick-off meeting, mid term to review the interim report and final meeting when the final report is available. Norway, as the Lead Stakeholder, will coordinate the communication and the agenda for the meetings in cooperation with the ESPON CU.

Decisions will be taken in accordance with the principle of majority amongst the represented partners.

During the implementation of the targeted analysis, stakeholders will play an active role by providing and giving access to data and information relevant for the project like data from national data bases, strategic development plans, strategy papers, national white papers, etc. There might be a need to complement existing ESPON-data. The project stakeholders, through their ESPON Contact Points (ECPs) will assist in acquiring complementary data.

Stakeholders will also provide access to experts on specific issues and facilitate dissemination through events, newsletters, and websites. Furthermore, together with the ESPON Coordination Unit, the stakeholder consortium will be steering and guiding the work of the TPG.

National authorities with responsibility for cohesion and regional development policies will be directly involved in the project and will be contributing to the analysis and provide access to relevant data and studies. The regional level will be involved through the North Sea Commission and Euromontana.

# (v) Envisaged results of the targeted analysis

The stakeholders that expressed an interest in this targeted analysis would like to receive the following results:

- An understanding of the present performance of regions with geographic and/or demographic specificities with regard to overall EU policy goals like the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies, and an identification of possible factors hindering their performance. This should establish and improve a basic understanding in order to support decision-makers in the regions.
- A comparative analysis of the regions in question focusing on their potentials and challenges for contributing to overall policy goals like Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategy. This should outline the competitive positioning of the regions as well as their comparative advantages for future development contributing to the Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas.
- An identification and discussion of a range of relevant future policy options for the types of regions and territories addressed based on the integrated targeted analysis, which will help policy makers making choices to ensure the sustainable development of these regions, including using options for territorial cooperation. This must be based on the lessons that can be drawn from successes and failures of past policy responses for the regions in question.

# (vi) Stakeholders envisaged use of the targeted analysis

The targeted analysis will be of high value to the ongoing process of the Territorial Agenda and the implementation of the Action Plan, as well as for the follow-up of the Green Book on Territorial Cohesion and the discussion on the future Structural Funds Policy and relevant EU regulations. The study will also be of high relevance for the future development of regional and spatial development policies at the respective national and regional level.

All stakeholders as well as EuroMontana and The North Sea Commission will play a key role in disseminating and getting feedback on results of the study through their networks. This will also help reaching a wider audience with the results of the TD targeted analysis.

It is envisaged that the TPG enters into an ongoing dialogue with a wider audience of stakeholder/interested parties at regional, national and EU-level. For that purpose, the TPG will be expected to present and discuss its findings during the lifecycle of the project at the following events (indicative list):

- 24-26 June 2009, Haarlem, The Netherlands, North Sea Commissions yearly conference, (TBC)
- September 2009, Brussels, Belgium, Seminar on Territorial Diversity, Euromontana (specific event) (TBC)
- 08-10 December 2009, Kiruna, Sweden, "Making use of territorial potential", conference during the Swedish Presidency (TBC).

The regional level will be the main target group at the first conference. Both, the national and EU-level will be targeted by the second conference, and all three levels by the final conference in December.

The results of the project will, as a part of the First Action Programme for the Implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union be reported to the Network of the Territorial Cohesion related Contact Points. They will also be presented at Director General Meetings on Territorial Cohesion and Ministers responsible for planning and territorial development.

In addition to using the Steering Committee meetings to monitor the progress of the project, the TPG will be expected to make a short presentation of the project and its results to an audience of stakeholders in the country where the respective Steering Committee meeting takes place. The project results will also be used to feed the ongoing policy development in the countries participating in the project.

#### (vii) Outputs and timetable

The TD targeted analysis is expected to deliver the following four consecutive reports to be presented at Steering Committee meetings:

- One Inception report
- One Mid-term report
- One draft final report
- One final report
  - o including an executive summary of max. than 5 10 pages
  - o and a power point presentation of the main results

Furthermore, the TPG should participate at the three events mentioned above, presenting the results from the project (two mid-term and one final event)

The Mid-term report is to be presented at the events foreseen in June and September 2009. In addition to presenting results from the project, the events should be used to get feed-back which should be incorporated in the project. A draft final report should be ready for the final Steering Committee Meeting end of November 2009 and for presentation at the final dissemination event in December 2009. The report is expected to be finalised about two months after this event incorporating feedback from the conference. Reports should be made available to the Steering Committee two weeks in advance of its meetings.

The project is expected to run throughout all of 2009, starting in January and ending in February 2010. Three Steering Committee meetings and three dissemination events are foreseen as follows:

Date	Event
January 2009	Kick-off and First Steering Committee Meeting
End of March 2009	Submission of Inception Report
End of May 2009	Submission of Mid-term report
Beginning of June 2009, Cyprus	Second Steering Committee Meeting
24-26 June 2009 in Haarlem	First dissemination event - North Sea Commissions yearly conference (TBC)
Mid-September 2009, Brussels	Second dissemination event, Seminar on Territorial Diversity, EuroMontana (specific event) (TBC)
Mid-November 2009	Submission of Draft Final Report
End of November 2009	Final Steering Committee Meeting
8 -10 December 2009,	Final dissemination event
Kiruna, Sweden.(TBC)	
Mid-February 2010	Finalisation of project and Submission of Final Report

The Steering Committee Meetings will be held in the different stakeholder countries reflecting the composition of the countries taking part in the project.

## (viii) Budget for the targeted analysis

The maximum budget foreseen for the implementation of the TD targeted analysis is € 210 000, including VAT if applicable. Proposals exceeding this value will not be considered. This amount will include all the TPGs' costs for completing the study including travel expenses and attendance at Steering Committee meetings. The travel expenses arising for the TPG to participate in the first two dissemination events mentioned above will be covered by the stakeholder consortium. The travel costs in relation to the last dissemination event, though, should be included in the TPG's total budget for implementing the targeted analysis.

ESPON projects are generally conducted in a partnership of several bodies from at least three EU Member and Partner States (from three different countries taking part in the ESPON 2013 Programme). However this requirement does not apply to projects with a budget up to €200.000 (incl.).

# (ix) Existing access points

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

#### **ESPON Documents**:

- ESPON project 2.4.2 Zoom in, which focuses on diversity of territorial opportunities and development potentials
- ESPON project 3.3 Lisbon strategy
- ESPON project 3.4.2 Economy
- ESPON project 1.1.4 Demography
- ESPON project 2.2.1 Structural Funds
- ESPON project 1.2.1 Transport trends
- ESPON project 1.2.2 Telecom trends
- ESPON project 2.1.4 Fisheries
- ESPON project 2.1.4 Energy

All available at www.espon.eu.

#### Documents provided by stakeholders:

- National Strategic Reference Frameworks and the Competitiveness Programmes 2007-2013 (delivered in the partners' regions)
- Nordic inputs to the EU Green paper on Territorial Cohesion. Ole Damsgaard et al. Nordregio 2008. 98 pp (WP 2008:4)
- Regional Development in the Nordic Countries 2007. 152 pp. Neubauer, J. et al.: (Nordregio Report 2007:1)
- The Rural and Regional Policy of the Norwegian Government. Summary of White Paper No. 21 (2005-2006)
- Maltese inputs to the EU Green paper on Territorial Cohesion
- Structure Plan Review for the Maltese Islands
- Operational Programme 1 and 2 for Malta
- Rural Strategy for Malta
- Strategic documentation prepared by the strategic planning team of MEPA
- Strategy paper for rural development (ARE), Switzerland
- Regional policy for Switzerland
- Raumkonzept Schweiz, Switzerland
- BAK Basel Economics, Rapport International de Benchmarking Arc Jurassien Suisse, 31 mai 2007
- Strategic Development Plan 2007-2013 for Cyprus
- Independent "Study for the Protection and Revival of the Marathasa Area" (available only in Greek)
- Action Plans for selected villages in Cyprus and other spatial planning documents provided by the Department of Town Planning and Housing, other material on the environment, biodiversity, forests, natural resources, statistical data, regional policy, tourism policy, heritage conservation, historic and archaeological studies etc. (some available only in Greek)

#### **European Policy Documents:**

- Lisbon / Gothenburg Strategies
- The Territorial Agenda for the European Territory
- Communication from the Commission: Cohesion Policy in Support of Growth and Jobs: Community Strategic Guidelines, 2007-2013
- Third and fourth progress report on cohesion: Towards a new partnership for growth, jobs and cohesion
- Scoping document and summary of political messages for an assessment of the territorial state and perspectives of the EU towards a stronger European territorial cohesion in the light of the Lisbon and Gothenburg ambitions (May 2005)
- The Fifth Progress Report on the Cohesion Policy
- The upcoming Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion (previewed for September 2008)