

SPECIFICATION

ESPON Targeted Analysis Based on User Demand 2013/2/21

Landscape Policy for the 3 Countries Park (LP3LP) (2012-2013)

(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-to-date 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 urban development.

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 they can be less comprehensive in the approach by focusing on one or a few themes.

The main objectives are:

- a) To provide added value for territorial development of specific types of territories¹ by offering new comparative insight and understanding on territorial potentials and challenges from a European perspective;
- b) 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:

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

¹ 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).

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 know-how, 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 first type of action undertaking a thematic analysis, as the project shall provide information to better exploit landscapes as an asset in cross-border regions.

(iii) Scope and rationale of the targeted analysis

The 3 Countries Park (3LP), situated in the Euregion Meuse-Rhine, is a cross-border European landscape with a high importance within its polycentric metropolitan context. In this project, ESPON studies and results shall be used to place this region in a European context, to identify the potential effects of EU policies and to take stock of the unique territorial capital and potentials for this region inherent in the attractiveness of a landscape. This information is envisaged to be used to formulate and establish a shared vision on the future of landscape in cross-border collaboration resulting in a cross-border landscape plan.

The landscape plan will serve as a framework for regional (cross-border) policy aiming to preserve and develop the core landscape qualities in the 3LP region that can support a sustainable growth of the region. The interface between the landscape plan and EU policy will provide insight on how European environmental policies and legislation (Water Framework Directive (WFD), Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) etc.) can be harnessed to develop a cohesive European landscape that in turn can contribute to overall European objectives of a smart, inclusive and sustainable growth. As such, this project can be viewed as a pilot for cross-border cooperation in landscape planning with a strong European dimension.

Main characteristics of the territory to be addressed

The 3LP is situated in the heart of the Euregio Maas-Rijn (fig. 1), at the foothills of the Ardennes-Eifel mountains. It cuts across the borders of The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. Together with the cities of Maastricht, Aachen, Hasselt, Heerlen and Liège the 3LP forms the MAHHL-area. In this region live 2 million people, of which 1.2 million in the cities. The countryside contains medium sized towns and large villages. The cities have a polycentric structure with their own architectural characteristics. The region profiles itself as a ‘Trinational Knowledge Centre’ with a dozen research and education institutions. The ‘common garden’ of these cities is the 3LP, providing added value to the cross-border polycentric metropolitan region. The 3LP is intended to play a similar role in the MAHHL context as the Emscher Park does in the Ruhrgebiet (Germany) with regard to protection and enhancement of the quality of the open space between the urban areas. Important means are careful spatial policy, nature development and protection and enhancement of landscape and heritage, integrated water management, multifunctional agricultural use, recreational use and access. This garden is an important landscape asset: the base for regional attractiveness. The Dutch part of the region is a national landscape. In Belgium, a comparable status is given to Haspengouw en Voeren. In Belgium and Germany are several national parks.

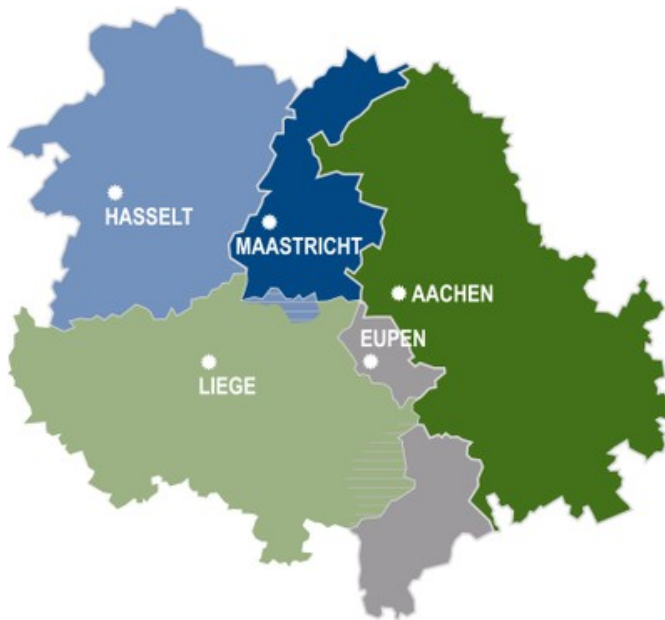


Figure 1: Euregio Maas-Rijn
Source: website www.euregio-mr.com

The land use concerns small-scale crop and cattle farming on irregular plots, intertwined with natural strips of forest, hedges and winding roads. The entire area has a rich cultural heritage. Local farmers diversify their income away from agricultural production to include green services, tourist services, regional products, health care and social welfare. Traditional farm buildings are often reused for business or recreational functions. Cross-border collaboration in the 3LP focuses on innovative ways of farming and landscape management, rehabilitation of green corridors and exchanging information

between various interest groups. Nature and landscape maintenance is carried out by both public and non-governmental organizations. The agricultural sector plays an ever increasing role in landscape and nature management.

The 3LP concept was further elaborated in the Development Perspective of the Three Countries Park (2003). In 2010 the area of the 3LP was adapted to the areas indicated by the actual partner regions (fig 2).

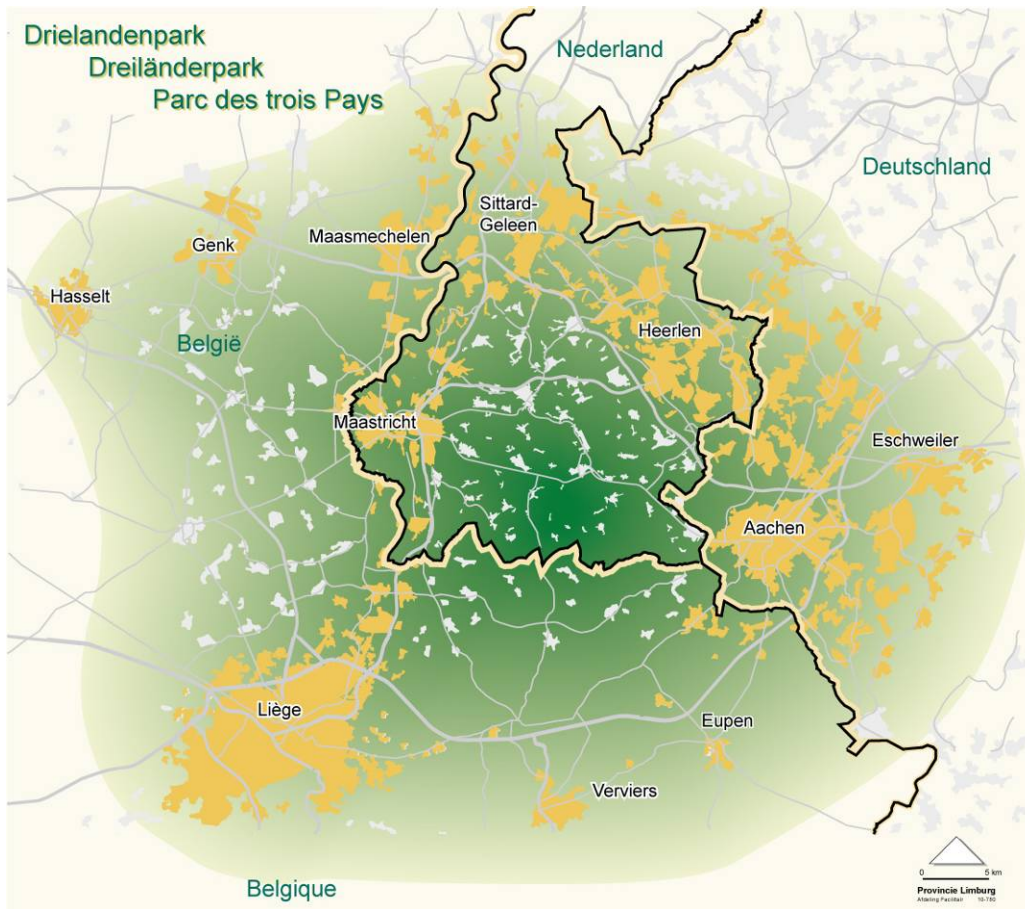


Figure 2: 3LP area within Euregio Maas-Rijn (2010)
 Source: www.3landenpark.eu

Thematic scope for the targeted analysis

The stakeholders of this project are regional authorities that consider spatial planning and development to be among their core competencies. Each country has its own traditions and rules in spatial policies. They are collaborating in the 3LP partnership. At the start of collaboration (2001- 2003) an overall vision for the spatial development of the 3LP was produced in the Development Perspective. In addition to its importance for agriculture, water and nature, the manmade landscape of the 3LP plays a role of the ‘historic garden’ for those who live in it, the surrounding cities and tourist visitors. Partly because of the influence of regional and European policy, this internationally shared garden is undergoing a rapid transformation. An effective vision to guide this transformation requires that stakeholders on either side of the border place their own region within a broader European context.

This project shall highlight the identity of the 3LP, emphasising on its importance within its polycentric metropolitan situation as well as territorial capital and potentials within a European context. As highlighted by the ESPON METROBORDER project are cross-border polycentric metropolitan regions an important emerging phenomenon of European spatial organisation having large development potentials.

It is the wider European perspective that can supply local stakeholders with the information needed to realize the full territorial potential of 3LP. Adding a European perspective to the regional knowledge base, the stakeholders intend to develop a shared evidence-based vision for the preservation, development and exploitation of their particular asset: the cross-border manmade landscape. The European Landscape Convention is important for the development of the landscape quality of the 3LP. Preservation and development of 3LP landscape is significantly affected by European policy and objectives, such as the Territorial Agenda 2020 and the Europe 2020 Strategy. In this project landscape shall be understood as an asset to support smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, for example by attracting people to the stakeholder region or supporting economic development. These mentioned objectives and the associated European instruments must be coordinated. One important concern in developing the shared vision, on the future of landscape in the cross-border collaboration of 3LP, is how to strategically combine landscape investments, nature development, climate adaptation, recreational functionality and economic development.

At the European level, the CAP, Natura 2000 policy and WFD provide an important boost for developing 3LP. At the same time, EU Cohesion Policy and Europe 2020 sets targets related to competitiveness and cohesion. The region can be a testing ground for effective European policy coordination towards improving shared territorial assets and provide an important contribution to the objective of territorial cohesion. So far, spatial impact of European policy on the landscape has often been top-down and sectoral, with insufficient understanding at the European level of the consequences for the landscape at the local level. The LP3LP project shall focus on the territorial significance of landscape. At the same time, the project shall help to provide the link to the European level for the stakeholder regions. As such, the 3LP is a cross-border testing ground for improving the effectiveness of European policy for territorial cohesion. An evidence-based vision of the development of the landscape is a necessary component of this approach.

Objectives of the targeted analysis

This project is targeted to produce a better understanding of the particular identity of 3LP compared to other European regions in relation to physical qualities, occupation patterns and - processes, land-use and economic potentials. It shall reveal the importance of the Landscape Park within its polycentric metropolitan context as well as territorial capital and potentials as an important starting point for a cross-border landscape policy. In the landscape vision, the stakeholders are particularly interested in the spatial integration of European challenges that are identified by ESPON research. The integration of these European challenges in the study allows making use of the stakeholder region as a cross-border testing ground for European policy.

Against this background the targeted analysis shall offer solutions for a spatial integration of European challenges as for example with regard to climate change. Important elements that should be considered in addition in this respect are the European nature policy, the future of agriculture within the CAP and European policy on landscape development. These various sectoral challenges shall be brought together in territorial analyses and place the 3LP in a wider context.

The diversification of agriculture by offering green-blue services – as proposed in the new CAP– is an important European policy issue bringing about an improvement in the quality of the landscape. This targeted analysis shall help in bringing a territorial perspective to this sectoral policy.

The LP3LP shall provide a vision of the future of the cross-border landscape, based on solid empirical evidence, which focuses on the preservation, development and clever exploitation of the core qualities as argued for in the European Landscape Convention. In addition, shall the LP3LP act as a source of inspiration at regional and local level for the spatial and landscape policy of the group of stakeholders.

By making use of existing ESPON research useful results shall be elaborated for the stakeholder region as well as for other cross-border regions with similar characteristics. In this respect the concept of cross-border polycentric metropolitan regions (CBPMR) as developed by the ESPON METROBORDER project shall be taken into account. The team of researchers (TPG) is asked to consider extending the analysis of the METROBORDER project on 11 European cross-border metropolitan regions by introducing an indicator on landscape quality. In addition, ESPON research can provide indications of how European policy and instruments can be utilised in implementing landscape policy and how spatial integration of European policy and instruments can be improved so as to produce an attractive and cohesive manmade European landscape that adds to the economic attractiveness.

Designing a landscape framework for the 3LP – where nature development, water management, recreational access and landscape development are integrated – might produce a European best practice for the development of these territorial assets - as an example for regions facing similar challenges and with similar identities.

The knowledge need of the stakeholders can be summarised in three interrelated phases:

(A) *Determining the European identity of the 3LP:*

For the development of the 3LP, it is important to understand the particular identity of this area in comparison to other areas with similar features. By positioning the 3LP within the European context using ESPON studies and results (particularly the EDORA project), it shall become feasible to determine the territorial capital and potentials of the area, taking into account also the polycentric metropolitan context.

(B) *Drawing up a landscape plan for 3 LP:*

The stakeholders consider the shared landscape as shared territorial capital, which quality is under pressure; the targeted analysis and the ESPON context can help in quantifying the various structural forces acting upon the region. Based on their own regional identity within the European context, the stakeholders need to create a shared cross-border vision of future development of the landscape, which is grounded in scientific evidence. The landscape plan is a necessary component in the analysis described under point (C). For the challenges posed by the EU Territorial Agenda, the LP3LP shall offer spatial integration at the regional level, focussing on the creation of an attractive manmade European landscape.

(C) *Understanding the interface between the landscape policy of 3LP and European policy:*

The stakeholders recognise the importance of the European dimension for the preservation and development of the core qualities of the landscape, as that dimension is influenced by European policy on rural areas. The LP3LP shall provide a unique case study for studying European policy impacts in a cross-border context. Not only can it help local stakeholders in dealing with European policy, but also help European policymakers design policies that allow regions to fully exploit their territorial potential. The territory under observation can function as a laboratory for multi-level and cross-sector policy co-ordination.

Before this backdrop the project will need to address the following questions:

(A) *Determining the European identity of the 3LP*

- What is the identity of 3LP in regard to its polycentric metropolitan situation as well as territorial capital and potentials within a European context using ESPON studies and results?
- Which European (cross-border) regions have an identity comparable with the identity of 3LP in a European context?
- What are the general implications of the established European identity of 3LP for the development of the landscape policy of 3LP?
- How can attractive landscape identity contribute to a smart, inclusive and sustainable development as well as growth in the cross-border area?

(B) *Drawing up a landscape plan for 3LP*

- How can, in a cross-border setting with different landscape approaches, a shared landscape policy be developed?
- What are the patterns and processes of the core qualities in 3LP (relief, green character, scale contrast in open and closed landscapes, heritage, etc.)?
- What is the design of a future landscape framework for 3LP that preserves and develops these patterns and processes of the core qualities in 3LP?
- How can the design of a future landscape framework in 3LP function as a combined carrier of water management, natural development, recreational access and landscape development?
- Which recommendations can be made for the development and coordination of spatial functions in order to preserve and develop the core qualities of the landscape in 3LP?
- To which European (cross-border) regions is the landscape plan and policy of 3LP transferable?

(C) Understanding the interface between the landscape policy of 3LP and European policy

- What is the impact of European funds and regulations on the preservation and enhancement of the core qualities of the future landscape in 3LP and regions with similar features?
- How can European funds and regulations be used and improved to preserve and enhance the core qualities of the future landscape in 3LP?
- How can European funds and regulations better be used or improved to realise the design of the future landscape framework in 3LP?
- To which European (cross-border) regions are the recommendations for use and improvement of European funds and regulations applicable?

Macro-challenges as climate change, demographic development, the economy and globalisation are seen as an important aspect for the landscape policy of 3LP. The results of previous and ongoing ESPON projects like ESPON Climate, EDORA, DEMIFER, TIPTAP, ATTREG and TIGER shall be considered during the implementation of the project before this backdrop. The results of ESPON Climate for example might be useful to design a landscape framework which takes account of this sensitivity. Also the results of the EDORA project are of high interest considering the typology of rural regions and associated development prospects.

In parallel to the LP3LP project, another targeted analysis focusing on landscape will be implemented 'LIVELAND – LIVEABLE LANDSCAPES: a key value for sustainable territorial development'. This project differs from LP3LP, as it does not focus on cross-border areas but on regions with other territorial features that have already elaborated landscape plans. The TPGs of these two projects are asked to exchange experiences during the project implementation.

(iv) Implementation methodology and project governance

The project will be led by the Department of Spatial Development (Ruimtelijke Ontwikkeling) of the Province of Limburg in The Netherlands. Other partners in the stakeholder consortium are:

- The Operational General Direction for land-use planning, housing, heritage and energy of the Wallonia public service, Belgium.
- The Department for Spatial Planning and Cultural Heritage of the Flemish Region, Belgium.
- The Department of Building and Environment of the City Region of Aachen, Germany.
- The Department of Planning and Environment of the City of Aachen, Germany.

Additional partners that are collaborating in the 3LP are the Provinces of Liège and Limburg (B), The German speaking Community (B) and the Bezirksregierung (Regional Government) of Cologne (D).

The stakeholder consortium will set up a LP3LP Steering Committee which will be closely monitoring the progress of the project. The Steering Committee will be composed of representatives from the Lead Stakeholder, the Partner Stakeholders, the ESPON Coordination Unit and eventually other representatives collaborating in the 3LP, latter might be invited as observers. Where possible, the existing 3LP partnership structure will be used. The role of the Steering Committee is to advise the ESPON Monitoring Committee and the ESPON Managing Authority on the overall decisions with respect to the project. By doing so it shall in particular give feedback to project reports, provide guidance to the next steps of the project implementation and advise on major changes in project activities and/or possible reallocations of the project budget.

Partnership in the project implementation is vital in order to achieve useful results. This applies especially for the team of researchers and the group of stakeholders. In this respect shall the Steering Committee also be used by the TPG as a platform to discuss and test results before their dissemination. Stakeholders will be available for all necessary steps during the process: i.e. refining the research assignment, selection of the implementing institution(s) or guidance during implementation and dissemination of results. In addition will the group of stakeholders and associated partners provide the project team all relevant policy documents and available spatial/geo-statistical data for the execution of the project. Other partners will be asked to provide assistance when and where required.

According to the presented phases the LP3LP targeted analysis shall contain the following research elements:

(A) Determining the European identity of the 3LP – Taking stock

- Identification of importance of polycentric metropolitan situation, physical qualities, occupation patterns and -processes, land-use e.g. territorial capital as well as economic potentials of the stakeholder region within a European context using ESPON studies and results.
- Identification of general implications of the European identity on landscape policy in the stakeholders region.
- Identification of European (cross-border) regions with similar features that are facing similar challenges as the stakeholder region.

(B) Drawing up a landscape plan for 3LP - In-depth analysis and design in the case study region

- Identification of the implications of the European identity of the stakeholders region for the development of the landscape policy.
- Further identification of development opportunities for the stakeholder region².

² The potential TPG is asked to take the following document as starting point for this research element: ONTWIKKELINGSPERSPECTIEF DRIELANDENPARK/ PERSPECTIVE DE DEVELOPPEMENT DU PARC DES TROIS PAYS / ENTWICKLUNGSPERSPEKTIVE DREILÄNDERPARK (<http://www.3landenpark.eu/c/dl/ontwikkelingsperspectief.pdf>).

- Identification of the most important policies with an impact on landscape in the stakeholders region.
- Identification and analysis of the core qualities of the landscape in the stakeholders region.
- Design of a future landscape framework preserving and enhancing the core qualities of the stakeholders region, also to the economic benefit of the region.
- Recommendations for co-ordination and development of spatial functions to preserve and enhance the core qualities of the landscape of the stakeholders region.

(C) Understanding the interface between the landscape policy of 3LP and European policy

- Identification of the relations between EU regulations and funds and the core qualities of the landscape in the stakeholders region.
- Identification for use and improvement of EU regulation and funds for the development of the future landscape framework as integrating carrier for water management, nature development, recreational access and landscape development.
- Recommendations for use and improvement of EU regulation and funds for integral development of spatial functions that can contribute to the overall development of cross-border regions.
- Identification of transferability of the developed landscape policy in the stakeholders region to comparable (cross-border) regions in Europe.

(D) Dissemination

- Communication and transfer of the project results (lessons learned).

The potential TPG is asked to propose already in the project proposal methods that might be used in order to receive the analytical results envisage in the LP3LP targeted analysis. In order to achieve well-founded results with respect to the national framework, knowledge of the respective national languages will be required from the TPG to implement the analysis.

In phase A stakeholders will be available for the targeted analysis of the identity of 3LP in a European context. In this phase the project team will make use of ESPON studies and results. It will be important for the TPG to involve the stakeholders at this stage in the research process to reflect conclusions for the 3LP from ESPON studies and results.

In phase B the stakeholders will provide the necessary information from their sub-area and areas of specialisation in order to describe the core qualities of the landscape. The stakeholders will also provide all the information and map material needed to implement the project.

In phase C the Steering Committee shall provide a platform for discussion on the use and adaptation of European regulations and funds for the implementation of the landscape plan.

Strategic moments for the dissemination of results to the stakeholder region will be at the end of phase A, end of phase B and the end of phase C. The dissemination of project results to regions with similar characteristics to the stakeholder region will mainly take place at the end of the study. On these strategic moments participation of the TPG is important for the presentation of project results.

It will be necessary for the potential TPG to involve organisations representing target groups and sectors which are relevant to the further development and implementation of the landscape plan within the 3LP during the above mentioned strategic moments, e.g. agriculture, nature, water and residents' organisations, the recreation/tourism sector and other relevant regional economic development actors. In this respect the TPG is asked to organize in cooperation with the stakeholders on the three strategic moments public events in the stakeholder region involving the above mentioned target groups. The group of stakeholder will provide necessary contacts and the venue.

The collection and territorial representation of data forms an important part of this targeted analysis. The TPG is asked to select for each of the presented phases the most appropriate scale of analysis (NUTS1-3, LAU 1-2, scale 1: 50.000, etc.). Maps in scale 1:50.000 need to be delivered in Adobe Illustrator and ARCGIS format.

The TPG is asked to elaborate articles to both the national and international specialist media for professionals in planning and design. In addition an English publication shall be elaborated setting out the methodology of cross-border landscape planning and its use in creating development, including the lessons learned for cross-border regions in Europe on the basis of the LP3LP project results.

The stakeholders will discuss the results in meetings at various levels and within the various regions. The ultimate aim is to reach an agreement on a joint "3LP Landscape Convention", undersigned by all LP3 partners. This convention will serve as the common policy guideline for integrating landscape development on all administrative levels.

(v) Envisaged results of the targeted analysis

This targeted analysis will play an important role in supplying evidence for producing the landscape policy of 3LP. In order to obtain a shared vision of the future of the landscape within the 3LP, the project shall provide the following analytical and design results:

- Consolidated new findings regarding the identity of the 3LP within the European context on the basis of ESPON studies and results, revealing territorial capital and potentials and identifying similar (cross-border) regions in Europe.
- Description and analysis of the core qualities and potentials of the landscape (relief, green character, contrast of scale and heritage elements).
- Design study and elaboration of a cross-border landscape framework and the associated constructional measures for the limited expenditure of resources (scale 1: 50.000), focusing on the preservation and enhancement of the core qualities of the landscape and taking into account the identity of 3LP in the European context. The cross-border landscape framework will be a shared carrier for water

management, nature development, recreational access and landscape development.

- Elaboration of recommendations for coordinating spatial developments of various spatial functions in relation to the landscape core qualities and for using them in support of the development of the cross-border region.
- Analysis and description of relevant European policy and instruments using evidence from completed and ongoing ESPON research, along with recommendations for the territorial coordination and improvement of European policies with regard to the implementation of the landscape plan for the 3LP.
- A shared cross-border landscape policy supported by all stakeholders, other partners in 3LP and relevant target groups.

The 3LP is a cross-border testing ground for improving the effectiveness of European policy in rural areas, and in this way, supporting Europe 2020 objectives and territorial cohesion. An evidence-based vision of the development of the landscape is a necessary component of this approach.

(vi) Stakeholders' envisaged use of the targeted analyses

To date, the spatial impacts of European policies on the landscape has all too often been top-down and sectoral based, with insufficient understanding at the European level about the consequences for the landscape at the regional level. ESPON research has already provided insight into the territorial impacts of these kind of policies. The LP3LP project provides an opportunity for ESPON to branch out into a new, but not wholly unfamiliar, area of study: the territorial significance of landscape.

The contribution of project research shall provide the evidence base for the landscape policy of 3LP for the following operational use:

- Further development of the particular identity of the 3LP and related European regions implemented by the 3LP authorities.
- Implementation by the 3LP, regional and local authorities of a transformation of the 3LP as the 'historic garden' for the people who use it as inhabitant or visitor.
- Improvement of the regional spatial policy and landscape policy of individual stakeholders.
- Better coordination of cross-border differences in spatial policy and landscape policy on regional and local level.
- Spatial concentration of measures within the 3LP for climate adaptation, recreational access, nature development and in the landscape framework.
- Spatial integration of European policy and the advocated development within the 3LP for the creation of an attractive European manmade landscape supporting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

As a result of the project, the stakeholders will translate and publish a compact summary of the LP3LP results in four languages (English, Dutch, French and German), accompanied by attractive maps.

The stakeholders will also ensure:

- The organization, in cooperation with the TPG, of three public events to disseminate project results among the target groups on the above mentioned strategic moments.
- Exchange of experience of the LP3LP project among professionals within the 3LP and stakeholders of other European regions with similar characteristics.
- Project results will be published via internet and press releases.
- Attention for the project results will be raised in regional media.
- Dissemination of final results of the LP3LP project at meetings, educational institutions and among professionals within the 3LP, the associated cities, relevant organizations and target groups in the three countries.
- Where elaboration of the landscape vision at local level is concerned the presentation of the results to relevant target groups.

(vii) Outputs and timetable

The project is expected to start in February 2012 and shall deliver the following four reports throughout the lifetime of the project:

- **Inception Report:** May 2012
This report focuses on the elaboration of the analytical framework and the research approach of the project. It will reflect a review of the main documents and data sources provided by stakeholders and a first analysis of existing ESPON results that are relevant for this project.

The report shall provide a proposal for the different phases A, B and C of the project and their interrelations. For phase A the report will provide a proposal for the use of existing ESPON results with regard to the identity of 3LP in a European context. For phase B the report will provide a proposal for the development of the landscape vision of 3LP taking in account the identity of 3LP in a European context and the landscape core qualities. For phase C the report will provide a proposal for the approach of assessments of potential effects of EU policies on the landscape vision, developed in phase B, and ways to improve negative effects of EU policies on the landscape development in 3LP.
- **Interim Report :** November 2012
This report focuses on the presentation of project results of phase A with and intermediate project results of phase B. The report will include an identification of the identity of 3LP in a European context. A first draft of the description and analysis of the core qualities of the landscape, the elaboration of the landscape

framework and recommendations for the coordination of spatial developments in relation to landscape core qualities shall be presented.

- **Draft Final Report:** August 2013
This report presents the final results of the project and focuses on relevant conclusions and options for policy development. The final results cover the following requested elements: results of phase A, B and C as defined. The report includes recommendations for the use and adaptation of EU regulation and funds in relation to the implementation of the landscape plan in 3LP.
- **Final Report:** November 2013
This report is in principle a revision of the Draft Final Report taking into consideration final comments and suggestions from the stakeholders and users, the ESPON Monitoring Committee, the European Commission and the ESPON Coordination Unit. Simultaneously, the datasets, maps and figures used and produced within the framework of the project should be delivered.

The TPG is expected to give presentations of (intermediate) results at the occasions mentioned above.

(viii) Budget for the targeted analysis

The maximum available budget for the targeted analysis is of 360,000.00 EUR. Proposals exceeding this amount will not be considered.

The amount will include all costs for the TPG for completing the project including all travel expenses and the attendance at ESPON Seminars (taking place twice a year in June and December – June 2013 included) and Steering Group meetings as well as the events mentioned above.

Travel costs in relation to dissemination events, outside the public events on the three strategic moments, organised by the stakeholders or for which participation of a representative of the TPG would be requested from the stakeholders will be covered by the latter.

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).

(ix) Existing access points

The stakeholders will utilise ESPON studies that are relevant to the European dimension of the study. Relevant ESPON projects and results are presented below:

ESPON 2013 projects:

- ARTS - Assessment of Regional and Territorial Sensitivity
- ATTREG - Attractiveness of European Regions and Cities for Residents and Visitors

- DEMIFER - Demographic and Migratory Flows Affecting European Regions and Cities
- EDORA- European Development Opportunities in Rural Areas
- ESPON Climate - Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies in Europe
- ESPON TEDI - Territorial Diversity in Europe
- EU-LUPA - European Patterns of Land Use
- METROBORDER - Cross-Border Polycentric Metropolitan Regions
- Re-Risk - Regions at Risk of Energy Poverty
- RISE - Identifying and Exchanging Best Practices in Developing Regional Integrated Strategies in Europe
- TERCO - European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life
- TIGER - Territorial Impact of Globalization for Europe and its Regions
- TIPTAP - Territorial Impact Package for Transport and Agricultural Policies

ESPON 2006 projects:

- Territorial trends of the management of the natural heritage (Project 1.3.2)
- Impacts of cultural heritage and identity (Project 1.3.3)
- Governance of territorial and urban policies (Project 2.3.2)
- Territorial trends and impacts of EU Environment Policy (Project 2.4.1)
- Spatial scenarios in relation to the ESDP and EU Cohesion Policy (Project 3.2)

All available at www.espon.eu

Relevant Documents and data provided by stakeholders:

The stakeholders have documents and data concerning their spatial planning and all other relevant sectors needed for this study as may be expected from regional authorities. All can be delivered on request or being downloaded at several websites.

For a first glance use shall be made of the websites of the stakeholders and partners in 3LP as well as the document on the development perspective of the 3LP:

- www.3landenpark.eu
- www.limburg.nl
- <http://mrw.wallonie.be/dgatlp/dgatlp>
- www.ruimte-erfgoed.be
- www.staedteregion-aachen.de
- www.aachen.de
- [ONTWIKKELINGSPERSPECTIEF DRIELANDENPARK/ PERSPECTIVE DE DEVELOPPEMENT DU PARC DES TROIS PAYS / ENTWICKLUNGSPERSPEKTIVE DREILÄNDERPARK \(http://www.3landenpark.eu/c/dl/ontwikkelingsperspectief.pdf\)](http://www.3landenpark.eu/c/dl/ontwikkelingsperspectief.pdf)

Statistical information on Euregio Maas-Rijn:

- Euregio Meuse-Rhine in figures, 2006 and 2007 (Euregional Information Service) (www.limburg.nl/e_Loket/Onderzoeksrapporten)

Important landscape studies:

- Atlas des Paysages de Wallonie L'Entre Vesdre et Meuse for Wallonia
- Landschapsvisie Zuid-Limburg for the Province de Limbourg (NL)
- Landschapsatlas (2001) and Landschapskenmerkenkaart (2002) (in Flanders)
- Landschaftspläne (in Aachen and the City Region of Aachen)