ESPON ATLAS
ESPON ATLAS - Mapping European Territorial Structures and Dynamics
ESPON ATLAS

Scientific Platform and Tools Project 2013/3/5

Draft Final Report | 30/05/2014

Background document to the Draft Atlas

EUROPEAN UNION
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This report presents the interim results of a “Scientific Platform and Tools” Project conducted within the framework of the ESPON 2013 Programme, partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

The partnership behind the ESPON Programme consists of the EU Commission and the Member States of the EU27, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Each partner is represented in the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

This report does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members of the Monitoring Committee.

Information on the ESPON Programme and projects can be found on www.espon.eu

The web site provides the possibility to download and examine the most recent documents produced by finalised and ongoing ESPON projects.

This basic report exists only in an electronic version.

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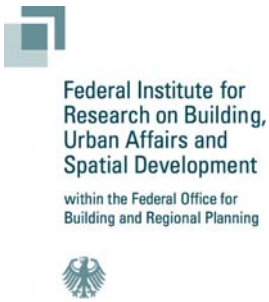

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1. Further work after the Interim Report

1.1 Layout and cartography

The format as well as overall style and layout of the Atlas (including the size) that had been proposed by the project partners had been accepted with some changes with the update of the Interim Report in July 2013.

The Atlas is in portrait format with 32 cm x 24 cm (portrait). This makes it larger than A4 and fulfils the aim better visibility, but at the same time keeps printing costs at a reasonable extent. The main page layout is a 2-page chapter. A very similar layout for 4-page chapter layout was developed as well.

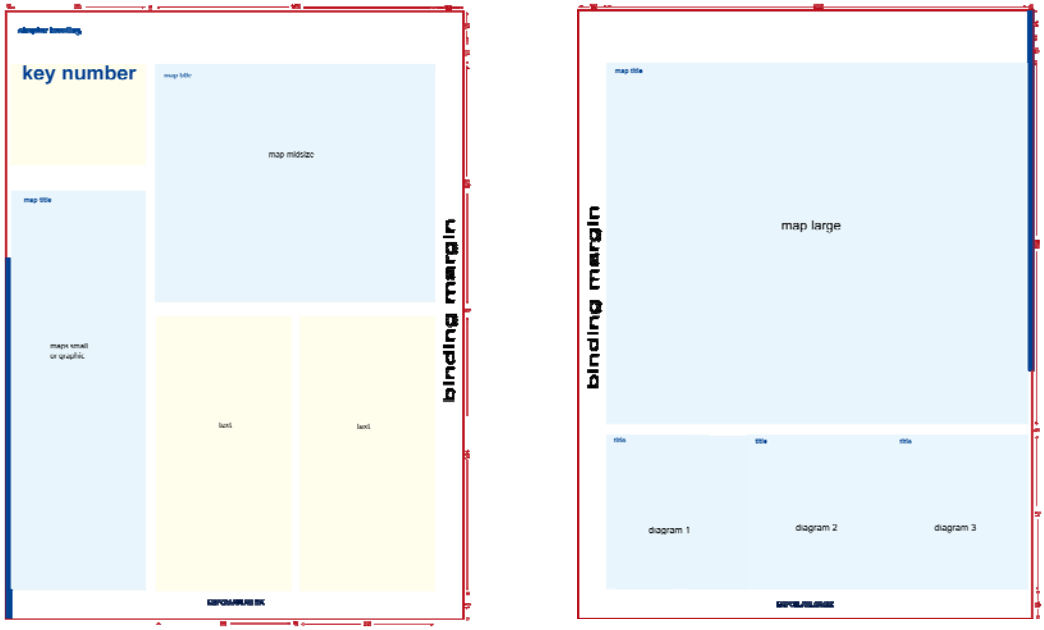

Figure 1: Layout of 2-page chapter

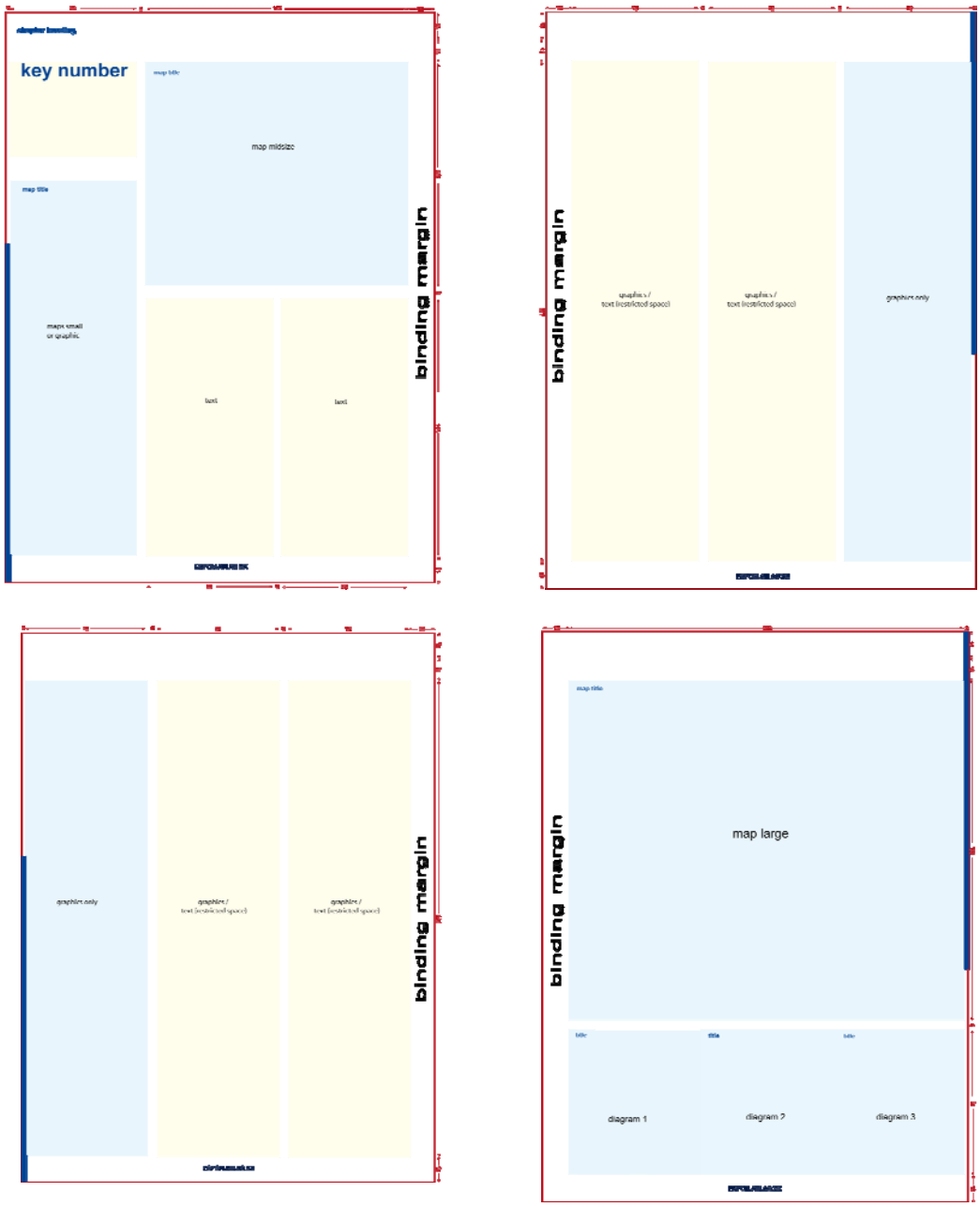

Figure 2: Layout of 4-page chapter

Some layout elements that were not presented in the Interim Report were agreed upon with the ESPON Coordination Unit in the continuous discussions. This applies to the so-called “Info maps” and generalised geometries.

As laid out in the Interim Report, the layout of the ESPON 2014 Atlas is based on the principle to show less text and more maps on the pages. To keep visual heaviness within a limit, it was decided to present small maps in a very generalised way, the so-called “Info maps”. They were built by raster-ising NUTS levels.

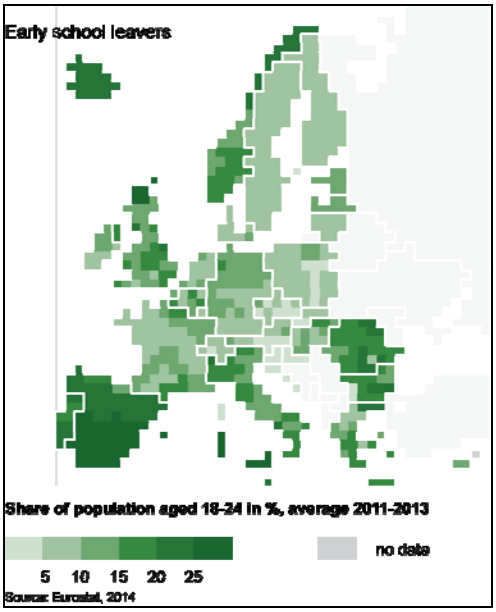

Figure 3: Example of an Info Map

Generalised geometries were deemed necessary by the Atlas team to underline the more territorial than topographic character of the maps. The Atlas team had expected the team of the Cartographic language project to develop a new, more generalised geometry as well as a new colouring scheme. When it became clear in autumn 2013 this would not be delivered, the Atlas team had to prepare a generalised geometry of its own. This was based on the Hyperatlas geometry, but a lot of additional work had to be done by the Atlas team to make it a suitable map basis (adjustment of borders, delineation etc.).

As to the colouring scheme, the Atlas team had decided to work with the existing ESPON colouring scheme. Upon presentation of additional sample chapters in February 2014 to the ESPON CU, the TPG agreed to develop a new colouring scheme. This scheme was developed, tested and discussed with the CU beginning of 2014.

1.2 Structure of the ESPON ATLAS

The structure of the ESPON Atlas had been presented to the MC with the Interim Report. The detailed work on the chapters has made some minor adjustments necessary:

- The topic of migration was given a separate chapter; instead the separate chapter on age was removed; age-related data and results were included into other chapters.
- The themes about cities and rural development have been combined, since there was not sufficient information available from the ESPON projects to fill two entire themes.

(This had already been proposed by some MC members on the meeting in Paphos in December 2012.)

- In Theme IX “Governance”, the chapters on policy contribution and territorial dimensions were combined; the chapter on multi-level governance was skipped because there were no regional results in the project report.

As the Atlas contents develop and become clearer, contents of interlinkages between chapters, which were not visible at the first development of the Table of Contens, are being harmonised. This might make additional adjustments to the structure:

Several chapters deal with the urban-rural typology, which is explained only in Theme IV; to make the other chapters fully understandable, it might be necessary to change the order of the themes, e.g. by putting Theme IV as very first theme. This will be decided together with the ESPON Coordination Unit.

Theme VII (Living Conditions / Regional Qualities / Attractiveness) had been created in May 2013 to give home to a number of topics that were deemed important, but were not included in the other themes. However, the quality of the project inputs is not convincing and there might not be enough material to fill an entire theme. Additionally, the chapters planned for this theme are quite diverse, and so far there is not really a central topic that embraces all chapters.

1.3 The Table of Content and status of chapter provision

The original project schedule had foreseen that all chapters from all themes would be provided with the DFR. Due to a number of unforeseen obstacles (see chapter 2), this was however not possible. The following list provides an overview of the chapters, gives details about the contents and informs about delivery and, where applicable, reasons for non-delivery and potential solutions.

Table 1: Overview of chapter delivery

THEME	Respon-sible team	Delivery	
		DFR	Problems/expected delivery
I. Introduction	**BBSR**		
II. Economic Structures and Global Challenges			
Introduction	**S&W**	X	
Europe and its regions on the global stage	**LLKC**	X	
Regional economic structure	**LLKC**	X	
Regional economic perfor-mance	**S&W**	X	
Territorial patterns of innova-tion	**BBSR**	X	
Regional dimension of the eco-nomic crisis	**BBSR**	X	
Where European regions stand - Territorial synopsis	**BBSR**	X	
III. Society and Integration			
Introduction	**BBSR**	X	
Demographic change	**BBSR**	X	
Migration and mobility	**BBSR**	X	
Education and labour force	**BBSR**	X	
Labour market	**BBSR**	X	
Poverty and integration	**BBSR**		Depending on project input- DFR report available mid of May, but based on 2001 data → waiting for FR (scheduled for 31 Au-gust 2014)
Social cohesion - territorial synopsis	**BBSR**	X	To be updated after poverty chapter is in-cluded
IV. Urban and rural areas			
Introduction	**BBSR**	X	
Urban-rural Europe	**BBSR**	X	
European network of cities	**BBSR**	X	
European poles of global inte-gration	**BBSR**	X	
Characteristics and potentials of rural territories	**LLKC**	X	
Challenges of changing land-scapes in Europe	**LLKC**	X	
Urban and rural Europe – terri-torial synopsis	**BBSR**	X	
V. Linkages and Accessibility			
Introduction	**S&W**		No information from project partner
Regional linkages to the world	**S&W**		
European centre and periphery revisited	**S&W**		
Local and regional accessibility patterns	**S&W**		
Access to information	**S&W**		
Linkages and accessibility - Territorial synopsis	**S&W**		

THEME	Respon-sible team	Delivery	
		DFR	Problems/expected delivery
VI. Climate and Environment			
Introduction	**S&W**		No information from project partner
Land use change	**S&W**		
Sea use change	**S&W**		
Climate change	**S&W**		
Greening of the economy	**S&W**		
Climate and environment - Territorial synopsis	**S&W**		
VII. Living Conditions / Regional Qualities / Attractiveness			
Public services	**BBSR**		Not enough content; entire theme will have to be revised
Infrastructure	**BBSR**		Not enough content; entire theme will have to be revised
Attractiveness of regions, tourism	**BBSR**	X	
Attractiveness for investment	**BBSR**		Not enough content; entire theme will have to be revised
Regional qualities - Territorial synopsis	**BBSR**		Not possible yet due to missing chapters
VIII. Integrated View to Territorial Development			
Introduction	**LLKC**	X	
Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth	**LLKC**	X	
Territorial cohesion	**LLKC**	X	
Territorial diversity	**LLKC**	X	
Sustainable environmental development	**LLKC**	X	
Integrated territorial development - Territorial synopsis	**LLKC**	X	
IX. Governance, Territorial Cooperation and EU Policies			
Introduction	**LLKC**	X	
Territorial dimensions of different policies	**LLKC**	X	
Territorial cooperation towards the long term objectives of territorial cohesion	**LLKC**	X	
Governance, Territorial Cooperation and EU Policies - Territorial synopsis	**LLKC**	X	
X. Future territorial perspectives			
Introduction	**S&W**		Waiting for results of ET2050 consultation process
Transport scenarios	**S&W**		
Climate scenarios	**S&W**		
Scenarios for 2030 and 2050	**S&W**		
European territorial vision 2050	**S&W**		
Addendum			
References			

1.4 ESPON ATLAS online version

The contents of the paper version of the ESPON ATLAS will be transferred to an interactive digital version. This digital ESPON ATLAS will be implemented as part of the ESPON website, i.e. for a HTML web browser. An offline version of the online version can also be put on a CD-ROM and might be attached to the printed paper version.

Since the Interim Report, the online version of the Atlas has been developed further towards a test version with one sample chapter. This test version contains all functional areas (thematic navigation area, content display area, functional navigation area).

Functionalities already implemented include enlarging individual graphic elements, zoom-in and zoom-out and pan. Additional functionalities that were laid out in the Interim Report will be included in the coming months.

2. Obstacles and problems encountered

2.1 Layout-related obstacles

The Atlas team had been informed at the start of the project that at the same time other ESPON activities where underway that influence the ESPON Atlas, the most relevant being the Cartographic Language project which worked at the elaboration of a modernised ESPON cartographic language.

An exchange of ideas took place between the groups; especially the general layout proposed by the Atlas TPG was discussed and was supported by the Cartographic Language project. The original plan of the Interim Report to base the final version of the ESPON Atlas on the communication style and the cartographic representation developed in the guide on ESPON cartographic language project could not be followed, since no new geometry had been developed and the work on colours were more overall reflections and the colouring scheme was too much oriented on the old ESPON colours.

The Atlas team therefore had to take the generalised geometries developed for the Hyperatlas. Adapting this to match the ESPON format this lead to a considerable and entirely unplanned amount of work, since a lot of detail work still had to be done before the map basis could be used to produce maps (e.g. delineation, adapting the position of the islands etc.). In addition, several discussions took place before copyright and usage rights were fully clarified.

As outlined before, the Atlas team agreed in February 2014 to develop a new, more modern scheme. The resulting work and discussions ensued additional, again unplanned work.

2.2 Contents-related obstacles

The ESPON Atlas bid had been made by the TPG based on the assumption that all data from all projects would be available at fingers' tips and easily accessible from the ESPON database. This assumption has turned out wrong in a number of cases, which can be linked to the following reasons.

1) Data are not in the ESPON database and cannot be obtained from the project teams

The Atlas project specification and the TPG bid had been made on the assumption that all data from finished ESPON 2013 projects would be available in the ESPON database. Work throughout the project however showed that in a number of cases this was not the case.

The Atlas TPG and the ESPON CU had agreed on a procedure where the TPG partners would list their data needs and the CU would take care of obtaining

the data from the projects. In most of the cases, this worked out fine. There are however some cases where it is apparently impossible to obtain the data, often because the scientists that worked on the projects no longer work at the respective institute and successors are not able to obtain the data.

2) Data and project results are too old

A lot of ESPON 2013 projects were finalised in the years before 2009. The majority of the data in the ESPON database as well as a lot of the analyses in the reports are therefore based on data between 2000 and 2005.

This is would already be quite old data under normal circumstances. However the economic crisis changed Europe's development and territorial patterns significantly in the years after 2006, especially in the fields of migration and employment. Basing an Atlas to be printed in 2014 on these old results and data only would be unreasonable and not cast a good light on ESPON.

The project tried to solve this problem by searching for new data wherever this was possible without too much additional work. This means that simple indicators like e.g. unemployment rates or GDP were taken from Eurostat; they could easily be mapped. Eurostat data were also taken as a basis to refresh analysis, e.g. in demography. In these cases, more detailed calculations were done before putting the data on a map.

In some cases it was however not possible to update data or make new calculations because there is no new data available on European level; this is especially the case for migration data.

More complex ESPON results like typologies and clusters were not updated by the project. Updating these results would not only mean acquiring updated data and making new calculations, but also getting in contact with the original project to learn more about the way the typologies/clusters were calculated. The project team decided to postpone this step until it knows if the presented maps and results are in general agreed upon by the ESPON CU and MC and after clarifying with the ESPON CU and MC how this and other open questions will be solved (see chapter 4.1)

3) Data are not available yet because the respective project has not finished work yet

A number of ESPON 2013 projects were scheduled to end during or even after the Atlas project period (see Table 2). Some deadlines were even adjusted in the last months, e.g. for including more updated data into the report.

Wherever possible and sensible, the Atlas team used interim data and results from the project for the DFR.

Table 2: ESPON Project deliveries

Project	Output originally expected	Output delivered / Status
ET2050	DFR: 28 February 2014 FR: 30 June 2014	Waiting for results of consultation process
TiPSE	DFR: 30 April 2014 FR: 31 August 2014	DFR based on 2001 census data; waiting for FR with 2011 data analysis
Economic Crisis	DFR: 31 March 2014 FR: 30 June 2014	Waiting for FR
Tango	20th December 2013 (FR)	Waiting for FR
GREECO	28 February 2014	Waiting for FR
ITAN	14 July 2014	Waiting for FR

3. Project activities

3.1 Activities related to the Draft Final Report delivery

Meeting of the TPG 6-7 March 2014

On this TPG meeting, a feedback from the meeting with the ESPON CU (see below) was given, layout questions were discussed and the chapters delivered so far. Additional topics were problems with ESPON results, the appearance of the policy synopsis chapters, and the presentations at the summer's seminar and MC meeting.

Meeting of the TPG 27 March 2014 (editorial meeting)

On the TPG meeting beginning of March 2014 the TPG had decided to make an editorial meeting to discuss the first available chapters in person.

3.2 Activities related to the coordination with the ESPON CU

TPG meeting with the ESPON Coordination Unit (CU) on 24 February 2014

This meeting was attended by the Lead Partner and by PP3, who is responsible for the online version. Participants discussed layout questions, cartography, sample chapters, data delivery problems and the further time plan.

3.3 Activities related to the dialogue with stakeholders

Presentation at ESPON seminar in Vilnius, 5 December 2013

The overall contents of the Atlas were presented to the participants of the internal ESPON seminar in Lithuania.

4. Steps towards the Final Report

As illustrated throughout this report (and especially in chapter 2), the Atlas project team already did much more work than it had already planned. Several problems arose and questions have to be clarified to fully know how long the finalisation of the project will take.

Depending on the decisions, an allocation of additional financial resources might have to be discussed.

4.1 Questions to be clarified

How to deal with outdated data and results?

Where it was possible to find updated data or to update results without too much efforts, the Atlas team did this for the DFR. However in a number of cases (e.g. migration), updated data is not easily available. If the Atlas team is asked to update these chapters, this will require additional resources.

How to deal with delayed projects?
If important projects and results have to be included in the final version of the Atlas, it might be necessary to extend the deadline for the delivery of the FR, which is originally scheduled for the end of August 2014.

How to deal with data which is undeliverable?
If data cannot be obtained, the best solution will probably be to leave the corresponding information out and to find a suitable replacement to fill the chapter.

How to deal with newly acquired data?
The Atlas team had to acquire and/or calculated a lot of additional data. As a regular ESPON project, the Atlas team would be obliged to upload all data gathered during the project to the ESPON database. This includes a meticulous, thorough and time-consuming preparation of data sheets according to the metadata specifications.

A solution has to be found how to deal with this, either by appointing this data preparation to another party or by providing the project with new resources. Leaving out the data from the ESPON database is no option, since this would mean a loss of a lot of new, updated and very important data whose preparation had cost a lot of time.

4.2 Further proceeding towards the Final Report

The complete amount of necessary adjustment of the Atlas can only be estimated after the first detailed feedback on the DFR from both CU and MC. The time table given in the next chapter therefore might be revised substantially.

The Atlas TPG and the ESPON CU discussed on the meeting on 24 February 2014 that the Atlas should be available for the final event of ESPON 2013, which at that time was supposed to be beginning or mid of October. An editorial meeting between the TPG and the CU was discussed to take place at the end of August, since the Final Report has to be delivered by 31 August.

Feedback, amendments, language editing, final layout and printing will therefore all have to take place in September.