

# ENECON ESPON Evidence in a North European Context

Transnational Networking Activities 2013/4/X

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This report presents the final results of Transnational Networking Activities 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](http://www.espon.eu)

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## **A Executive summary**

The ENECON project was set up as a macro-regional project. The transnational project group (TPG) has included the ESPON Contact Points (ECPs) of all the Baltic and Nordic countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway (Lead Partner) and Sweden.

The project addresses challenges and opportunities facing territorial development and spatial planning policies and practices, particular to the large territory of the northern part of Europe. By actively facilitating the use and capitalization of ESPON-evidence the overall aim has been to contribute to making clear the significance of the European perspective on territorial development and cohesion, and the need for a transnational cooperation approach to territorial analysis, policies and planning.

The project has focused primarily on the Baltic-Nordic area, consisting of the eight countries Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden, with a particular view to the spatial development and planning issues (challenges and opportunities) emanating from their common northern location and external northern neighbouring relations.

The countries of the region have a long history of cooperation in areas of relevance to territorial development and spatial planning; for instance on environmental issues (the Baltic Sea), development of coastal areas, large infrastructure projects, research, and planning guidelines. During the 1990s Baltic-Nordic cooperation was further developed in several areas.

Moreover, the countries in focus stand out also in other ways when regarded in a wider European context. Both the Baltic and the Nordic countries are relatively small in population numbers and partly sparsely populated, and characterized by a relatively small-scale pattern of urban settlements, which raises many question related to the application and interpretation in national research and policy-making of Europe-wide ESPON research findings.

An important point of departure has been that the strategies for dissemination and exchange should not be regarded mainly as a one-way (top-down) process but a genuinely interactive exercise. Therefore, in the implementation of its specific activities, the project has aimed to facilitate i) “top-down” transfer of European concepts/perspectives and ESPON-evidence/insights (i.e.

“*downloading*”), ii) “bottom-up” transfer of national/regional concepts/perspectives and evidence/insights, including ideas and interests (i.e. “*uploading*”), and iii) horizontal transmission of national/regional concepts/perspectives and evidence/insights among nations/regions and actors in the region (i.e. “*cross-loading*”).

The basis for implementation of the project aims has been ESPON-evidence and experience; ESPON-*evidence* referring to concrete empirical and theoretical results and insights from ESPON research projects; ESPON *experience* referring to important lessons learned from prior TNA/capitalization projects.

The target groups of the ENECON project activities have been policy-makers, professional planners and practitioners, scientists and young academics and students primarily in the Nordic-Baltic countries. However, also actors from other/neighbouring countries have been involved.

The ENECON implementation strategy has involved organizing of conferences, seminars and workshops with and for different partners and actors, with the purpose of *mutual* learning, in addition to dissemination of ESPON results.

The activities have included:

- a macro-regional conference (ENECON End Conference)
- an “ESPON meets the Arctic” conference (in cooperation with Northern Research Forum) focusing specific challenges related to northern/Arctic location and external/neighbouring relations
- three postgraduate workshops (integrated in relevant courses at three different universities)
- a thematic workshop addressing conceptual and operational challenges related to the concept and objective of “sustainable regional development”

In addition to the referred core activities the ENECON implementation has comprised the project website and the compulsory tasks of i) feedback on national activities, ii) submission of compiled national blunder-checks of Draft Final Reports, iii) biannual progress reports and administrative task. The link to the project website is <http://www.rha.is/enecon>. The website contains i.a. an overview and description of all the ENECON events, including written reports with summaries from each event

(conferences, seminars, workshops) and the presentations delivered at the events.

The first of the three ENECON postgraduate workshops was also the first ENECON event to take place. The series of workshops has focused on teaching and tutoring on ESPON knowledge at postgraduate level, doctoral and master's courses, also involving active students in relevant fields at bachelors' level. The target group included even young post-doctoral fellows. The workshops facilitated in-depth discussions on concepts, methods, findings, and governance practises in European territorial planning and cohesion policies. They were organized at participating universities, integrated in their postgraduate programmes.

*The first* postgraduate workshop was held in Joensuu, Finland, in October 2012, hosted by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies, University of Eastern Finland, and organized in connection with the lecture course "Territorial Development Policy and Cooperation in Europe" which was part of the master's programme Border Crossings: Global and Local Societies in Transition. The workshop focused on territorial governance, which had been investigated in several ESPON projects. ESPON experts and postgraduate students (25 in total) discussed Europeanization of national planning systems, implications of bilateral and multilateral territorial co-operation, and regional impact of EU investments.

*The second* postgraduate workshop took place in Tartu, Estonia, in April 2013, hosted by the University of Tartu, in connection with the NORDPLUS seminar on EU external borders. The workshop focused on issues related to the EU external border, territorial performance, disparities and policies of border regions. Discussions were facilitated on the basis of ESPON evidence extracted from several projects together with other border research. ESPON speakers and doctoral students debated i.a. EU enlargement, regional policy effects in transforming such regions, territorial potentials of borders as a resource and interface, as well as changing identities and perceptions. 45 students and lecturers from 5 continents and 21 countries attended the event.

*The third* and last postgraduate workshop was arranged in Alborg, Denmark, in March 2014, hosted by the University of Alborg, and organised in the frame of the master's course Land Management and Governance, in the programme of Land Management at the

University. The workshop addressed aspects of territorial governance, spatial planning and policy, and polycentric development, and other relevant themes based on evidence from several ESPON projects. 28 participants attended the event and debated evidence-based policy making approaches concerning governance and land-use patterns in border regions, strategic and spatial visions under emerging regionalization, stakeholder involvement in strategic spatial planning, and the emergence of new plans and instruments for the design of urban regions.

In November 2012 the second ENECON event took place, in the form of a thematic workshop, organized by ENECON but hosted by Nordregio in Stockholm, Sweden. The workshop focused on the concepts sustainability, sustainable growth and sustainable regions which are frequently used in research and planning, but with various interpretations. The aim of the workshop was to interpret, analyze and critically discuss the many dimensions of the concepts in a territorial development context, based on input from well-known researchers in the field and discussion facilitator. The workshop had 35 participants, and both the presentations (six) and the discussions related to several relevant ESPON-projects.

The next ENECON event (except for the postgraduate workshop in Tartu in April 2013, cf. above) was a larger conference in Akureyri, Iceland, in August 2013, organized in cooperation with Northern Research Forum and hosted by the University of Akureyri. The aim of the conference was to draw attention to climate change and its impacts on European regions, focusing on existing evidence and the need for future research in the northernmost regions of Europe and the Arctic, and the challenge of translating scientific knowledge into action. The conference brought together researchers, regional and local stakeholders and state politicians and policymakers, and channelled ESPON results as well as insights from other research. 104 participants from 17 countries attended, and a total of 50 presentations were delivered.

The last ENECON event was the End Conference with the overall theme “Challenges and opportunities for territorial development and cohesion in a North European macro-region”, which took place in April 2014 in Vilnius, Lithuania, hosted by Vilnius Gediminas Technical University. There were 55 registered participants, of which 48 attended the whole conference. The target groups were policy-makers, researchers, planning professionals and



practitioners at national, regional and local levels, which were invited to share and discuss findings and insights of a selection of relevant ESPON projects, and learn about the use of ESPON-Tools, in a Baltic-Nordic macro regional policy and planning context. One session was dedicated to the future development of ESPON. In the sessions representatives of the selected ESPON transnational projects presented and discussed research findings, followed by facilitated discussions.

The series of ENECON events (including the macro-regional conference in Vilnius as well as the thematic and post-graduate workshops in different Nordic-Baltic venues) facilitated dialogue and enabled mutual learning among different target groups, including users of ESPON-based results, such as policy makers and planners.

As its predecessor NORBA, the ENECON project succeeded in engaging a wide range of academic disciplines, not least a reasonable number of younger researchers/students which will constitute the coming generation of researchers and planning practitioners in the fields of territorial development and planning. The roles and relevance of ESPON-knowledge, and the integration of ESPON-results and the substantial body of national and regional/local research and insights, has been recurrent issues at the events, enhancing understanding as well as revealing needs for more dialogue and stronger integration. The implementation strategy, emphasizing genuine dialogue and mutual learning rather than top-down dissemination, was important in this context,

The experiences and impressions throughout the implementation of ENECON's activity plan has been that the interest in ESPON research and results are rather high among the attendants of the project events and at the partner/cooperation institutions, although varying somewhat between groups of stakeholder in general, i.a. according to professional role and nationality/location. The experiences also seem to show that opportunities for critical assessment and discussion of ESPON concepts, approaches, methodologies and results are very welcomed, not least from a local and regional policy making and planning point of view.

The project has obviously contributed to increased attention to a European and macro-regional perspective, and the potential added value of comparative approaches in this context, but has also

identified relevant problems and skepticisms related to the present state of affairs of ESPON results in this respect. There is little doubt, however, that increased awareness and use of ESPON results in national and regional policy development and planning would help forming a better understanding and more relevant/fruitful context of such activities. In this context the ECPs – and the transnational networking activities – have an increasingly important role, based on their insights from both “worlds” and ability to select, critically assess and mediate ESPON knowledge, and provide feedback to ESPON.

## **B Report**

### **1 Introduction**

The project ENECON has addressed challenges and opportunities facing territorial development and spatial planning policies and practices particular to the large territory of the northern part of Europe. By actively facilitating the use and capitalization of ESPON-evidence the overall aim has been to contribute to making clear the significance of the European perspective on territorial development and cohesion, and the need for a transnational cooperation approach to territorial analysis, policies and planning. The project was set up as a macro-regional project. The transnational project group (TPG) has included the ESPON Contact Points (ECPs) of all the Baltic and Nordic countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway (Lead Partner) and Sweden.

### **2 Aims, Objectives and Strategies**

The project has focused the Baltic-Nordic area, consisting of the eight countries Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden, with a particular view to the spatial development and planning issues (challenges and opportunities) emanating from their common northern location and external northern neighbouring relations. The countries and regions of the “Baltic-Nordic Macro-Region” share many distinctive characteristics as well as historical, functional and cultural links, and provide a suitable functional-geographical arena for the objectives and tasks of TNA-projects.

The countries of the region have a long history of cooperation in areas of relevance to territorial development and spatial planning; for instance on environmental issues (the Baltic Sea), development of coastal areas, large infrastructure projects, research, and planning guidelines. Cooperation has taken place at different levels – from the national to the local – and involved many (types) of stakeholders. The Nordic Council of Ministers has for several years facilitated joint education and research on spatial planning and development. During the 1990s Baltic-Nordic cooperation was further developed in several areas. Already early in the 1990s a joint spatial development perspective of the Baltic Sea Region emerged when the Ministers responsible for spatial planning set up *Vision and Strategies in the Baltic Sea Region, VASAB 2010*, in 2009 followed by “VASAB Long-Term perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region. Towards better territorial integration of the Baltic Sea Region and its integration with other areas of Europe.”

Moreover, the countries in focus stand out also in other ways when regarded in a wider European context. Both the Baltic and the Nordic countries are relatively small in population numbers and partly sparsely populated, and characterized by a relatively small-scale pattern of urban settlements, which raises many question related to the application and interpretation in national research and policy-making of Europe-wide ESPON research findings.

An important point of departure has been that the strategies for dissemination and exchange is not to be regarded mainly as a one-way (top-down) process but a genuinely interactive exercise. Therefore, in the implementation of its specific activities, the project has aimed to facilitate i) the “top-down” transfer of European concepts/perspectives and ESPON-evidence/insights (i.e. “*downloading*”), ii) the “bottom-up” transfer of national/regional concepts/perspectives and evidence/insights, including ideas and interests (i.e. “*uploading*”), and iii) the horizontal transmission of national/regional concepts/perspectives and evidence/insights among nations/regions and actors in the region (i.e. “*cross-loading*”).

The basis for implementation of the project aims has been ESPON-evidence and experience; ESPON-*evidence* referring to concrete empirical and theoretical results and insights from ESPON research projects.; ESPON *experience* referring to

important lessons learned from prior TNA/capitalization projects. Already there were some preliminary lessons to be drawn: i) Potential users of ESPON-results relate this knowledge to their existing understanding, based on prior/other evidence, implying i.a. that capitalization events should facilitate active dialogue between ESPON-based understandings and understandings founded on other sources. ii) Young researchers and students are important target groups, implying that events and material should be “tailored” for this group.

The target groups of the ENECON project activities have been policy-makers, professional planners and practitioners, scientists and young academics and students primarily in the Nordic-Baltic countries. However, also actors from other/neighbouring countries have been involved.

Based on the above considerations the ENECON implementation strategy has involved the organizing of conferences, seminars and workshops with and for different partners and actors, with the purpose of *mutual* learning, in addition to dissemination of ESPON results. The activities have included: A macro-regional conference (ENECON End Conference), an “ESPON meets the Arctic” conference focusing specific challenges related to northern/Arctic location and external/neighbouring relations, three postgraduate workshops (integrated in relevant courses at three different universities), and a thematic workshop addressing conceptual and operational challenges related to the concept and objective of “sustainable regional development”. A second thematic workshop was planned, but could not be implemented due to circumstances beyond the TPG’s influence, cf. below. In addition to these core activities the ENECON implementation has comprised the project website and the compulsory tasks of feedback on national activities, submission of compiled national blunder-checks of Draft Final Reports, biannual progress reports and administrative task.

Below the different project activities within each Work Package are presented in somewhat more detail.

### 3 Activities

#### Work Package 1

The ENECON Lead Partner (Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, NIBR) has been the responsible coordinator of

WP1, which includes communication and coordination of WP2 activities among project partners in order to carry out the entire project according to plan, including duties concerning consolidation of partner project progress reports (Activity and Financial Reports) into overall progress reports to be submitted regularly to the ESPON CU, and the general management of financial matters. Project Manager at NIBR has been Olaf Foss and the Financial Manager has been Jon Olav Viste.

In order to facilitate the cooperation between the participating ECPs in the Baltic-Nordic region (the TPG) the planning and coordination has i.a. implied a number of joint planning and coordination sessions (regular project meetings). None of the WP2 actions (cf. below) has been the sole responsibility of one partner. However, for each WP2 event, a steering group has been appointed as main responsible for planning and practical arrangements, with a special responsibility assigned to the hosting partner. The ENECON project website has been the responsibility of the Icelandic partner (Grétar Thór Eythórsson, University of Akureyri), cf. below.

The official project start was 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The ENECON partners held a project proposal preparatory meeting at Copenhagen Airport on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The official kick-off meeting with the ESPON CU in Luxembourg took place the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2012. The project Lead Partner was represented by its Project Manager and Financial Manager. The first regular project meeting including representatives of the whole TPG took place in Oslo the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012, back to back with the NORBA Scientific Conference hosted by NIBR. The following six TPG regular project meetings were held in:

- Aalborg, Denmark, June 2012 (back to back with ESPON Open Seminar)
- Jurmala, Latvia, August 2012 (back to back with NORBA Final Conference)
- Paphos, Cyprus, December 2012 (back to back with ESPON Internal Seminar)
- Dublin, Ireland, June 2013 (back to back with ESPON Open Seminar)
- Vilnius, Lithuania, December 2013 (back to back with ESPON Internal Seminar)
- Vilnius, Lithuania, April 2014 (back to back with ENECON End Conference)

One more TPG regular project meeting will take place in Napflion, Greece, June 2014 (back to back with ESPON Open Seminar).

Overall the project group (TPG) and Financial Manager organized the project as a genuinely transnational activity; all activities/events planned and carried out as joint efforts. So far three progress reports were submitted for the years 2012–2013. The last progress reports (4 and 5), covering the period from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013 to the closure of the project (closure of administrative duties 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014) is due in the course of the first half of 2014. The Financial Managers of all project partners have attended the ESPON Financial Managers' training.

## Work Package 2

### *Arctic Conference in Akureyri 2013 (WP2b)*

#### Context and aim

Scientists predict global climate change to have great environmental and socio-economic impacts in the whole Arctic area as well as in northern Europe. Direct and indirect impacts on nature and communities are expected and there are also uncertainties. In addition, global warming is assumed to accelerate off-shore oil and gas activity in the Northern icy seas and enable opening of a new sea route from the North Atlantic Ocean through the Arctic Ocean to the eastern parts of the globe. All this is expected on one hand, to have great impacts on the economic and social opportunities of the northerly regions in the Arctic including North European countries, and on the other hand, to create larger risks to the fragile Arctic ecosystem. The impact of all this is going to be widespread in North Europe and the entire North. This has already meant and will in the near future mean an increasing need for research within both natural and social sciences as well as for interdisciplinary approaches.

The aim of the event was to turn the attention towards this aspect of territorial challenges for European regions by organizing a conference where the focus would be on existing evidence and the need for future research in the northernmost regions of Europe and the Arctic, and the challenge of translating scientific knowledge into action. The idea was that the conference would

bring together researchers with similar background but who had been focusing on different problems and situations and applied different methodological approaches. Regional and local stakeholders as well as state politicians and policymakers were also target groups for the conference. This was also believed to be a fruitful channel for disseminating ESPON results which had touched upon these problems and to harvest ideas for future research also within ESPON.

A total of 104 participants (researchers, politicians, bureaucrats and other stakeholders) from 17 countries attended this two day conference. Four keynote presentations were given plus two following presentations by young researchers, and additionally 44 presentations were given in 11 parallel sessions. This made a total of 50 presentations during the two days as can be seen from the program(Annex 1). The conference was organized in cooperation with Northern Research Forum (NRF). The number of presentations allows us to present only a selection (for complete report and access to all presentations, cf. ENECON website: <http://rha.is/enecon>).

### First Day – Selected Presentations

The rector of the University of Akureyri, Stefán B Sigurðsson, welcomed people to Akureyri and the University. He also gave a brief description of the history of this rapidly growing university located at 66°N. The Icelandic ECP/ENECON Partner, Grétar Thór Eythórsson, underlined that one of the main aims of the conference was to disseminate ESPON results by involving policy makers, practitioners and scientists and bringing people from different disciplines together. He presented and described the ESPON program and the ENECON project and its aims and events well, and underlined the following message: *“Our belief is that ESPON knowledge, research, methodology and experience could contribute to future research in the northernmost parts, where the problematic is in many ways so different from what it is in the more central parts of Europe”*. Finally, the chairman of NRF, Lassi Heininen, welcomed people to the conference and emphasized that the effort made by the ENECON project to initiate such a conference was important.

Jon Naustdalslid, former Director General at Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR) gave a plenary speech with the title *"The certainty of uncertainty: The challenge of planning for a changing climate"*. As the title indicates the question raised in Naustdalslid's presentation was: *How has climate change – or more precisely - our knowledge about climate change – caused new challenges for policymaking and planning?* His theme was about how we may adapt from a new known climate to a future unknown climate. His argument was that even though the common response was to acquire more knowledge and forecasts about the future, such precise modeling would not help at the local level. The more policy-relevant the knowledge, the less scientific certainty.

Further he argued that scientific studies of the climate had changed for the last 30 years from analyzing the physical reality of climate to trying to predict the development of global temperature



*Jon Naustdalslid gives his keynote speech on 22<sup>nd</sup> August*

with modeling. This of course also implies modeling of socio-economic consequences (modeling of both nature and society). Modeling society often refers to alternative scenarios, or story lines, which means that uncertainty in predicting the society is even larger than in nature modeling. He argued that this may imply a risk of mal-adaptation. The choice is to either adapt by



compensating for the effects of climate change or to adapt by making the societies more resilient to the uncertain and in many ways unpredictable future. His final assumption was that adaptive planning was likely to be the only possible response to the future climate challenge.

The ESPON project ITAN (Integrated Territorial Analysis of the Neighborhood) was presented in Session II on the 22<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Van Well and Johanna Roto, who are both researchers at NORDREGIO. In the presentation they emphasized the comprehensive view of the European Neighbouring Regions – the four main neighborhoods: Northern, Southern, South-Eastern and Eastern. ITAN Arctic was taken as an example of a case study in the project by zooming in for Barents region and West Norden. In other words: The Arctic was taken as one of Europe's strategic neighborhoods. The questions raised were: 1) In what sense can the spatial structure of the Arctic area be understood as "one region"? 2) What are the common links and flows between the Arctic and Europe? 3) Why is the Arctic important for Europe? Why is Europe important for the Arctic? 4) What are the drivers of integration in the Arctic itself and with the rest of Europe? 5) What are the territorial potential for cooperation? How has climate change altered these potentials or pre-conditions? Among their conclusions were that Arctic cooperation was evident through cross-border and cross-national cooperation; through Nordic cooperation; through joint policy frameworks and inter-governmental cooperation such as Arctic Council and BEAC. Further, on the question whether the Arctic was a threat or a potential for Europe, the answer was "both".



From parallel session II on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Here you see among others Johanna Roto (NORDREGIO), Erik Gløersen (Spatial Foresight), Ove Langeland (NIBR), Gestur Hovgaard (University of Faroe Islands) and Garri Raagmaa (University of Tartu).

## Second Day – Selected Presentations

Erik Gløersen, senior consultant at Spatial Foresight, lecturer and researcher at the University of Geneva, gave a plenary speech with the title *“Factoring in Territorial Diversity in development and adaptation strategies: Policy challenges and methodological proposals”*. He used results and findings from the ESPON project Geospecs as a base for his presentation and also referred to the ESPON project TeDi. Gløersen’s point of departure was three European categories of territorial diversity; a) Mountains, b) Islands and c) Sparsely populated areas. His point was that the focus always was on the handicaps of these unique types of areas in the European policy making, referring i.a. to an example from the European Treaty (art. 174): *“particular attention shall be paid to [...] regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps such as the northernmost regions with very low population density and island, cross-border and mountain regions.”* He argued that this approach is misinformed in a number of respects:

- Geographical specificity can be an opportunity as much as a handicap
- When geographical specificity limits development, this does not necessarily lead to backwardness

- Geographical specificities are generally permanent features, producing constant effects

Further he argued that central issues concerned:

- Specific vulnerabilities of small communities in the face of economic fluctuations in an open and deregulated economy
- The lack of a «systemic approach» in which the different types of contributions to a balanced, sustainable and prosperous Europe are identified.

Finally he argued that

- It is not meaningful to search only for statistical correlations
- The objective is rather to identify causal relations linked to geographic specificity
- The policy relevance of causal relations does not depend on the extent to which they produce observable effects, but on how they inform envisaged policy options

Gløersen's general conclusions were:

While quantitative data can inform policies, the evidence base is necessarily a qualitative understanding of causal processes

- Territorial categories based on geographical specificities may contribute to design better policies
- They help seeing beyond traditional divisions:
  - advanced / lagging
  - North / South
- Parallels between categories can be identified.
- One can gain a better understanding of “specificity” of the Northern Territories by approaching them as cases of these general categories,
- Categories of territorial diversity helps showing similarities between territories across the European space, rather than emphasizing differences between transnational groups (North, South, East, West)
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies can gain in efficiency by factoring in territorial diversity.



*Erik Gløersen gives his keynote speech on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (left). After the speech he answered questions on his speech (right). The Iceland ECP, Grétar Eythórssón was the moderator.*

The ESPON Climate project was the basis for a presentation in session XI on the 23<sup>rd</sup> by Ove Langeland, Bjørg Langset and Olaf Foss who are all working at NIBR in Oslo. Ove Langeland took care of the presentation on site and described the project as

- a pan-European vulnerability assessment as a basis for identifying regional typologies of climate change exposure, sensitivity, impact and vulnerability.
- On this basis, tailor-made adaptation options can be derived which are able to cope with regionally specific patterns of climate change.
- In the ESPON Climate project this regional specificity is addressed by seven case studies from the transnational to the very local level.

The main points in the project were related to:

- Climate change – long term changes
- Predictions in social science
- Scenarios as alternative future research

The concluding discussion was much about how to achieve optimal multidisciplinary, if it was possible (and fruitful) to predict the future in social sciences, and finally which kind of climate research was most helpful for spatial planning.



*Ove Langeland in the presentation on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

## Both Days – A few other examples

Among the many interesting presentations, we may mention the one by Garri Raagmaa, University of Tartu, who in his presentation “Regional Higher Educational Institutions as Green Economy Knowledge Hubs in the Northern Territories” referred to the ESPON – KIT project. Antti Rose, University of Tartu and Estonian ECP/ENECON partner, together with his colleague Martin Gauk, gave a presentation on „Mitigation policies and planning responses to emergent suburban development in Estonia“. The Finnish ECP/ENECON partner Heikki Eskelinen, University of Eastern Finland, gave a presentation with his colleague Matti Fritsch about “The Arctic dimension in the Finnish Regional Policy”.

As a keynote speaker invited by our co-arranging partner, NRF, Matthias Finger, Ecole Polytechnique Federale (EPFL) gave the presentation: “The resources exploitation / climate change nexus: why the Arctic matters for the world”. He was followed up by the by NRF invited Young Researcher Hanna Lempinen with a presentation with the title: “Social sustainability in/and the Barents energyscape: Conceptual and methodological platforms for tracing the elusive social”.



*Throughout the conference there were exhibition and presentation of ESPON and ESPON material on site.*

## Panel Discussion

On day 2 (23<sup>rd</sup>) the conference was summed up by a panel discussion including all four keynote speakers: Erik Gløersen, Jon Naustdalslid, Matthias Finger and Patricia A. L. Cochran. Professor Lassi Heininen, the chair of NRF, coordinated the discussion and Heikki Eskelinen made some remarks on behalf of the ENECON project. After that Both Lassi Heininen (NRF) and Grétar Thór Eythórsson (ENECON) gave short farewell speeches. Two full 10 hour days of presentations, discussions and intensive networking came to an end late in the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

## *Postgraduate Workshops (Joensuu, Tartu, Aalborg) (WP2c)*

### Context and aim

This activity comprises three postgraduate workshops, focusing on teaching and tutoring based on ESPON generated knowledge at postgraduate level, doctoral and master's courses, also involving active students in this field at the bachelors' level. The target group includes also young, post-doctoral fellows.

The workshops intend to facilitate in-depth debate on ESPON concepts, methods and findings, and on governance practices, in relation to European territorial planning and cohesion. The

workshop series is integrating and disseminating ESPON findings and insights focusing on selected themes such as peripheral regions (rural areas – the ESPON projects EDORA, GEOSPECS, EU-LUPA, SeGI, PURR), secondary cities (city regions – SGPTD, ATTREG, FOCI, KIT) and multi-level territorial governance (TERCO, METROBORDER, TranSMEC etc). The regional and local cases consolidate the ESPON findings and cross-fertilise the debate on territorial cohesion.

The one day and two days workshops are organised at ENECON-participating universities/institutions in relation to their postgraduate programmes (geography, planning, European studies, social sciences) and in the framework of academic lectures/courses on territorial development and planning. The workshops are co-chaired by professors/senior researchers and leading ESPON experts. The working language of the workshops is English. *On the basis of the three workshops, e-learning short courses are compiled at the open-source PHP Moodle application, including series of web-based lectures (3 x 2 hours).* E-learning short course “ESPON Evidence in a North European Context” is going to be offered for academic use in the participating countries.

#### Workshop in Joensuu

The first workshop organised by the ENECON project focused on *territorial governance*, which has been investigated in several ESPON projects (e.g. TERCO, METROBORDER, TranSMEC, cf. [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)). This one-day workshop was organised in connection with the lecture course “Territorial Development Policy and Cooperation in Europe” which was part of the master’s programme Border Crossings: Global and Local Societies in Transition, at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies, University of Eastern Finland. Emerging discourses and current trends in transnational, national and regional territorial governance based on ESPON TERCO and ULYSSES projects were presented by ESPON experts. Also, ESPONTrain e-learning modules and platform were demonstrated to the audience. ESPON experts and postgraduate students (25 in total) debated on Europeanisation of national planning systems (Denmark and Finland), implications of bilateral and multilateral territorial co-operation (Finnish-Russian and Baltic Sea cases), and regional impact of EU investments (Latvian and Estonian cases). For complete report and access to all presentations, cf. ENECON website: [www.rha.is/enecon](http://www.rha.is/enecon).



*Words of welcome by ENECON-partner Heikki Eskelinen, University of Eastern Finland.*

Antti Roose, University of Tartu and ENECON partner, gave an introduction to the concepts of borderlands and territorial governance in a planning context, followed by lectures on “The European dimension of Danish Planning”, “The evolution of territorial governance in Finland: learning from Europe”, “Polycentric development projects in Latvia as an instrument of spatial development”, “What is territorial cooperation in the ESPON glossary?”, “Conducting scientific research to support cross-border co-operation in spatial development planning – ULYSSES study”, and “New Civic Neighbourhood at the Finnish-Russian Border: Cross-Border Cooperation and Civil Society Development”. The lectures were followed by open discussions facilitated by ENECON partners. Cf. Annex 2 for detailed programme.



Audience of the postgraduate workshop in Joensuu





Daniel Galland, University of Aalborg/ENECON Partner (Introducing the European dimension of Danish planning)

One of the discussants (PhD student Martin Gauk, University of Tartu) responded to the presentation based on the ULYSSES project (cf. above) by emphasising that “territorial cooperation is a vital contributing element for the prosperity of the regions and to European cohesion. Still, a lot more effort needs to be directed towards institutional capacity building, in order to fully exploit the benefits that mutual partnerships can provide. This is especially challenging task when we are looking towards the external border areas of the European Union such as the Karelia region, where governance structures, legal instruments, institutional frameworks and cultural diversity needs to be addressed”.

### Workshop in Tartu

The second postgraduate workshop organized by the ENECON project focused on the EU external border, territorial performance, disparities and policies of border regions. The workshop facilitated discussions on border areas based on ESPON evidence (the projects TERCO, TEDI, GEOSPECS, ULYESSES and others, cf. [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)) together with other border research. This *two-day* workshop was organised in connection with the NORDPLUS seminar on EU external borders.

45 students and lecturers from 5 continents and 21 countries attended the event and discussed regional development and cooperation at EU external border in the light of ESPON territorial

evidences based on the mentioned ESPON projects and others. Taking into account the increasing openness of Europe, but also the peripheralization processes, the workshop focused the discussions on intensified cross-border functional interdependencies and cooperation, exemplified by border regions of Estonia, Latvia, Finland and Russia, also Poland-Kaliningrad border. ESPON speakers and doctoral students debated on EU enlargement and regional policy effects in transforming such regions, territorial potentials of borders as a resource and interface as well changing identities and perceptions. Lefteris Topaloglou stressed in his Thessaloniki-Tartu Skype session on TERCO findings a need to consider and incorporate territorial diagnosis of the border phenomenon into the programming of territorial cooperation and neighbourhood policy. Cf. the complete report and presentations at the ENECON website; [www.rha.is/enecon](http://www.rha.is/enecon).

Antti Roose, University of Tartu/ENECON partner, introduced the ESPON 2013 research on cross-border studies, briefed on Estonian-Russian cross-border developments, and also introduced the workshop programme; with the aim of addressing the evolution of European external borders, their territorial performance and asymmetries. He pointed i.a. to two observed contradictory and simultaneous trends during last two decades (stating relevant references): the “de-bordering” of European territory, resulting from the proliferation of functional interdependences and institutional relationships, and the “re-bordering” of Europe, stemming from the re-emergence of nation-state building processes, resulting in an observed heterogeneous picture of the current process of integration in border regions in Europe, with a strong division between regions from old and new EU members, but also inside the former western and eastern parts of Europe, between metropolitan regions and less urbanized areas. While the main challenges for internal border regions is mostly related to enhancing institutional cross-border cooperation in order to minimize remaining obstacles to regional integration, external border regions from Central and Eastern Europe are facing the challenge of increasing their functional integration and improving the quality and density of cross-border infrastructure.

The introduction was followed by eight lectures/presentations (including the Skype session) over two day, spanning themes like “Territorial concepts and policy framework of EU external border”, “Border syndrome: Development Patterns in the EU Border

Regions and EU policy making”, “Undressing Europe: Growing pains & the geopolitical virtues of border uncertainty”, “Coordinated management of border crossing via joint information”, “Towards a More Open Border Between Russia and Poland? Taking a Step Forward in the Kaliningrad Oblast-Warmia Mazury Region”. The lectures/presentations were followed by moderated discussions. Cf. Annex 3 for detailed programme.



*Intervention by Garri Raagmaa, University of Tartu, on EU regional policy and EU external border interface.*

## Workshop in Aalborg

The third postgraduate workshop undertaken by the ENECON project addressed aspects of territorial governance, spatial planning and policy, and polycentric development, amongst other relevant themes and domains associated with evidence from ESPON projects such as TERCO, METROBORDER, LUPA, TOWN, TANGO, and others. This workshop was organised in connection with the master’s course *Land Management and Governance*, which is run by ESPON-ENECON partner Daniel Galland in the programme of Land Management at Aalborg University, Denmark. For detailed programme cf. Annex 5.

A total of 28 participants including ENECON speakers, post-doctoral and master’s students attended the event and debated evidence-based policy making approaches concerning governance and land-use patterns in border regions, strategic and spatial visions under emerging regionalization, stakeholder involvement in strategic spatial planning, and the emergence of new plans and

instruments for the design of urban regions, amongst other topics. The full report and presentations of these events can be directly accessed and downloaded at the ENECON project website: <http://rha.is/enecon>.

Daniel Galland, Asst. Prof at Aalborg University/ENECON partner, introduced the ENECON postgraduate workshop objectives and themes as well as the mission and key principles concerning the ESPON 2013 Programme Strategy. Moreover, he explained the scope of the ENECON consortium and its general aim to facilitate transnational dialogues on spatial planning between policy makers and practitioners, scientists as well as young academics and students in the Nordic-Baltic countries.

The introduction was followed by a total of 9 presentations subdivided in 3 blocks (of 3 presentations each), spanning themes such as: *“The effects of the border on land-use patterns and their governance in the Finnish-Russian borderlands”*, *“The transformation of ESPON results to national, regional and local policy guidelines”*, *“New strategic and spatial visions for the Tartu region under emerging regionalization”*, *“A spatial approach to regional demographic research and policy making: Example of Latvia”*, *“Plans outside the system: Ad-hoc instruments for designing and managing urban areas”*, and *“Polycentric development in Latvia and its evaluation”*.



*Dr. Daniel Galland, Aalborg University/ENECON partner, introducing the scope of ENECON project alongside the thematic contents of the third Postgraduate Workshop “Integrated Territorial Management and Governance”.*



Audience at the ESPON-ENECON Postgraduate Workshop in Aalborg, Denmark.

Each block of presentations was followed by moderated discussions, which were then summed up in the form of reflections and lessons learned by ENECON partners Dr. Daniel Galland and Dr. Antti Roose. Some of these reflections and lessons may be summarized as follows, and could be taken into consideration in the planning of future ESPON activities:

The workshop fulfilled the aim to foster dialogue between ESPON's core target groups, in this case master's and doctoral students, postgraduate researchers and ESPON-ENECON partners. This allowed younger generations to attain perspectives and understandings based on ESPON research and results.

Furthermore, in terms of the workshop's general theme, it was significant to discuss an array of standpoints on territorial governance given its inclusion in the European policy agenda and its relation to territorial cohesion. The workshop enabled subsequent discussions with and amongst students regarding the evolution of territorial governance from its inception as *integrated spatial development* in the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP 1999).

The Aalborg workshop (and also the two former workshops, cf. above) clearly showed that younger generations are eager to learn about and engage with territorial governance and spatial development research. Postgraduate workshops not only offer possibilities for dissemination of high-level teaching materials, but also for stimulating the potential formation of new networks of early career academics and more experienced researchers from diverse disciplines across different countries.

### *Thematic Workshops (WP2d)*

The intended purpose of the thematic workshops was to address and facilitate in-depth discussions of selected thematic issues of great importance to the main/typical challenges and potential opportunities of the focused macro-region, particularly the critical exchange of knowledge and arguments among researchers, experts and users across the ESPON-/non-ESPO "boundary". The workshops should emphasize "cross-loading" rather than "down-loading", cf. section B 2 above. Two workshops were proposed; i) one separate workshop focusing the concepts of sustainability, sustainable growth and sustainable regions, and ii) one focusing a sub-theme under the umbrella "Spatial planning policy and institutional changes within and across scales in the Nordic countries" as a session at the 2013 PLANNORD-symposium in Reykjavik.

Unfortunately, as a case of "force majeure" (i.e. circumstances beyond the ENECON TPG control) the latter event (ii) could not take place. The ENECON responsible coordinator and key actor at the workshop session was prevented to travel to Iceland due to a last-minute problem with his passport. It was then too late to bring in both a substitute session coordinator and relevant ESPON material. Therefore only the former event (i) is summarized below.

#### The Stockholm Workshop

##### Context and aim

*Sustainability, sustainable growth and sustainable regions* are concepts that are frequently used at the European research scene of today. In the Territorial Agenda 2020 and Europe 2020 sustainable growth is highlighted together with smart and inclusive growth as desirable development paths. Sustainability and sustainable regions might, however, be interpreted in a lot of ways with many different ingredients. In "sustainability" and "sustainable regions" more dimensions might be included that not automatically is associated with economic growth. Even peripheral and/or shrinking regions might be sustainable if different preconditions are fulfilled.

The aim of this workshop was to interpret, analyze and critically discuss the dimensions of the concepts “sustainability” and “sustainable regions” and the implications for further regional and territorial research. Relevant themes were introduced from complementary points of view by well-known researchers who are specialists in topics concerning sustainable urban and rural regions, regional growth vs regional development, regional spatial changes and regional planning shifts, sustainability and regional innovation systems, and sustainability and peripheral regions. Each introduction was followed by interesting, critical and creative discussions among the participants in the workshop. In the end of each day a summarizing discussion introduced by a facilitator closed the sessions. The workshop had 35 participants (mostly researcher and planners), about half of them ECP and/or partners in an ESPON-project. For complete programme, cf. Annex 4.

## Content

The workshop included six interrelated presentations and two discussion sessions focused on the topic sustainability and sustainable regions. A general conclusion from the presentations and associated discussions was that sustainability is an important but complex multidimensional concept that seeks to capture many different aspects of future development. In the following we summarize some of the key content and messages from the presentations.

### First Day – Programme and Presentations

The first day was chaired by Lisa Van Well from Nordregio and it started with words of welcome by Olaf Foss from NIBR and Mats Johansson from KTH – both representing the ENECON-project – and Ole Damsgaard from Nordregio, the host of the workshop. Foss presented the aim and content of ENECON and Johansson the aim of the conference and underlined that this was intended to be a workshop with active participation of the audience.



*In front: ENECON partners Mats Johansson, Olaf Foss and Grétar Thór Eythórsson*

The first ordinary speaker was Hans Westlund from KTH who talked about “Economic crisis, regional development and resilience”. He began by introducing new findings on the relationship between economic crisis, regional development and resilience. Westlund carefully developed central aspects of the modern economic crisis and compared it to historical crisis in the 20 century such as the depression of the 1930s and the oil crisis of the 1970s – crises that differ in a lot of aspects. A point was made of that there are clear differences in how different countries and regions are affected by the crisis, as a consequence i.a. of their economic structure and competence intensity. Westlund then transformed the discussion into a matter of resilience, which should be recognized as a multidimensional concept on the “elasticity” of a region’s ability to move back to equilibrium after experiencing a chock. Westlund noted that specialization has been a key to economic growth in history but that diversified regions are less vulnerable to sector-specific shocks and then more resilient. He discussed also other sources of resilience.

The second presenter, Antonia Milbert from BBSR in Germany, discussed how sustainable regional development might be defined and measured, based on experiences and lesson from Germany (BBSR operates a comprehensive regional monitoring system), in order to examine if regional development is moving in a sustainable or non-sustainable direction. Since conceptualization of sustainability is a complex task, and there are not a nuanced set of clearly defined sustainability targets, a reasonable approach is to define what is not sustainable as basis for deriving indicators. BBSR has developed a system to be used by regions in their work



with sustainable development. This system that has been developed in corporation with experts and non-experts rests upon a range of different data sources and indicators that are sorted into different themes reflecting various aspects of sustainability (economic competitiveness, social and spatial justice, protection of natural resources). The system defines regions as more or less sustainable according to a “deficit method”. A critic against the system is that all indicators have the same weight. This is a trade off since the indicators reflect different aspects that are likely to have dissimilar effects on development. The indicator themes (sustainability dimensions) and indicators are not substitutable. Milbert concluded by arguing that the system could be improved by a more systemic approach to regional development and sustainability, and referred to a couple of alternative systemic perspectives. Milbert reflected on several lessons learned, both positive and negative. On the negative side she mentioned subjective indicator choice, interlinkages between dimensions not included, interlinkages between regions not included and at last that the question of “what is sustainable“ still remains unanswered.

Folke Snickars from KTH in Stockholm made a speculative and outward looking presentation about how sustainability is connected to globalisation and regional innovation systems. Snickars argued that there are many important questions related to these three aspects that jointly connects them with historical and current research. Such as whether we can attain a sustainable development by regional innovation systems, or whether sustainable development can be attained by location and trade, or, how sustainable is current international geography in terms of the development of foreign direct investment given the rising importance of multinational enterprises. To say something interesting about these three aspects, Snickars concluded that there is a need to consider them as a new joint topic of research, which should be conducted at a multidimensional level. Nevertheless, he stressed that although there is interesting work being done on these matters there is still a need for more research to develop how these aspects are interlinked and thus to develop the understanding for a sustainable development.

Hild-Marte Bjørnsen from NIBR started the discussion session of the first day by discussing and problematizing the theme “Sustainability and goal conflicts – short and long term aspects”. After her introduction a lively discussion during around 45 minutes

followed where most of the participants took part. The discussion session was, thus, a productive conclusion and summing-up of a day with many interesting speeches and constructive comments and disagreements from the audience.

## Second Day – Programme and Presentations

The second day was chaired by Daniel Galland from Aalborg University and ENECON.

The first speaker was Lisa Hörnström from Nordregio who talked about “Shrinking regions – contrary to sustainable regions? Experiences from North Europe”. She started with various interpretations of the concept “shrinking regions”. She highlighted two cases from Sweden – Norrbotten and Kalmar Counties – that both have a lot of problems with regard to population development such as decreasing population, out-migration, natural population decrease, ageing etc. The point of departure for the following reasoning was a “Handbook on demographic challenges” that was produced by Nordregio and based on a common Nordic initiative to put focus on demographic challenges. The project aims was to 1) Putting focus on demographic challenges in the Nordic countries 2) Analyzing the effects of the demographic development on regional development 3) Highlighting initiatives taken on local and regional level to handle the demographic challenges and 4) Providing an arena for Nordic exchange of experience. The concluding reflections with respect to sustainable development in shrinking regions were based on thought about eventual regional growth, service provision and quality of life and attractiveness with different aspects concerning differing communities.

Rasmus Ole Rasmusen, also from Nordregio, discussed what a green economy is and its implications for sparsely populated areas. Rasmusen argued in his speech “Green economy: a development option and challenge for sparsely populated areas?” that the green economy is a multidimensional concept that may be related to the common agriculture policy. The greening of the European Union implies to maintain the environment and future resources and will thus contribute to the overall goal on green growth. This involves, for example, consumption of green products, green production, and green innovation. Rasmusen put forward different options and challenges for sparsely populated areas towards developing a green economy. The findings from

OECD indicate that policy focused on the potential for renewable energy in the process of rural development should be cross-sector and place based. This implies identifying local conditions and opportunities, and integrating and linking the potential of renewable energy with local rural economies, as well as adopting inclusive modes of governance to ensure social acceptance. This also indicates that while renewable energy has the ability to create new jobs, we should not exaggerate its potential.

Petter Næss from Aalborg University talked under the heading “Sustainable spatial development of Nordic urban regions: is an eco-modernization approach sufficient?” about elements of ecological modernization, and how it is related to a sustainable spatial development of Nordic urban regions. He argues this is a process of transformation with decoupling from contemporary consumption behaviour towards eco-efficiency. There seems to be a consensus that ecological modernization is related to the dense compact city, characterized by reduced amount of travel, car dependency and energy use for transport, reduced energy use in buildings, reduced consumption of building material for infrastructure and building, and maintained diversity for choice among workplaces, service facilities and social contacts. According to Næss, the core elements of the theory of Ecological Modernization are four: 1) The solutions to environmental problems can be found within the context of industrial capitalism, 2) The capitalist economy in its present form is limited by the capacity of the natural environment to absorb the effects of economic growth and to supply necessary resource inputs, 3) Capitalism must therefore undergo a process of transformation if it is to be sustainable in the long term, 4) Decoupling of economic growth from resource consumption and environmental load (“dematerialization”) are key elements in this process of transformation.

Kjell Harvold from NIBR in Oslo introduced the final discussion session titled “Sustainability and sustainable regions – Multifaceted concepts” by examining sustainability and sustainable regions from a development perspective. He took as a reference the tragedy of the commons, from Garrett Hardin's article in science form 1968, where he maintains that nobody owns the environment. An important question is if sustainability is possible in a democratic system. The focus on the earth made an important document on our common future that put forward the importance of working together. According to Bruntland, democracy is crucial to achieve a

sustainable development. However, it is not a simple concept, and if sustainable development is everything it is nothing. Another interesting point is if everybody can be sustainable, and the role of networks of sustainable communities. The new multifunctional agricultural policy wants to promote new business, jobs and attractive housing schemes; by for example, reducing complexities.

Mats Johansson made some final remarks and thanked all involved persons. He also highlighted that the presentations have been well received and also been followed up by related and fruitful discussions that both have engaged the audience and brought up new perspectives and aspects on sustainability and sustainable regions

### *Macro-regional conference/End Conference (WP2a)*

#### Aim, scope and content

The ENECON End Conference, the last ENECON project event, took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, April 2014. Links for downloading of the conference report and the presentations at the conference is available at the ENECON project website. There were 55 registered participants, of which 48 attended the whole conference.

The overall theme of the conference was “Challenges and opportunities for territorial development and cohesion in a North European macro-region”. The target groups were policy-makers, researchers, planning professionals and practitioners at national, regional and local levels, representatives of Baltic and Nordic organizations, and the ESPON “family”, which which were invited to share and discuss findings and insights of ESPON projects, and learn about the use of ESPON-Tools, in a Baltic-Nordic macro regional policy and planning context. The conference targeted a selection of ESPON project findings which were considered particularly relevant for policy-making in a North European context, including a session focusing specifically contributions of Targeted Analyses involving Baltic and Nordic stakeholders, and Scientific Platform. One session was dedicated to the future development of ESPON, i.e. capitalization activities in 2014 and the progress towards ESPON 2020.

In the sessions representatives of the selected ESPON transnational projects presented and discussed research findings in a North European perspective. The main themes were:

- Territorial scenarios and visions for Europe
- Economic crisis and resilience of regions
- Territorial dimension of poverty and social exclusion
- EU neighboring regions and territorial development
- Key indicators for territorial cohesion and spatial planning
- Territorial monitoring system for the Baltic Sea Region

Additionally a "teaching and learning session" aimed at better enabling participants to utilize the different ESPON Tools, made publically available online at the ESPON website, as practical means of accessing and making analytical and practical use of ESPON findings. The ENECON TPG partners contributed actively as speakers, session chairs and discussion facilitators, and a representative of the ESPON CU informed of and reflected upon future developments regarding capitalization efforts and the next programme phase (ESPON 2020).

## Organization

The conference were organized in two main sections; "Challenges and opportunities as evidenced by ESPON Applied Research Projects" and "Challenges and opportunities as evidenced by ESPON Targeted Analysis and Scientific Platform". The first sections was divided into two sessions, chaired by ENECON partners Heikki Eskelinen and Mats Johansson, respectively. The two sessions were followed by a panel and plenary discussion, facilitated by ENECON partner Daniel Galland. The second session was chaired by ENECON partner Airida Bernotaitė, followed by a panel and plenary discussion facilitated by ENECON partner Antti Roose.

Additionally two separate sessions were dedicated, respectively, ii) to "ESPON towards 2020" (continuation of ESPON capitalization activities in 2014 and progress on planning and organizing for the next programme phase; ESPON 2020), chaired by ENECON Lead Partner Olaf Foss, and ii) ESPON Tools; overview, demonstration and discussion of publically accessible ESPON online tools for practical and analytical use of ESPON results. This last session was organized, chaired and carried through by Martin Gauk,

University of Tartu and assistant to the Estonian ECP. The session was followed by a critical panel discussion among invited external stake-holders, also involving the audience. Cf. the programme (above) for details and a brief summary below.

All presentations from the conference are available for downloading at the ENECON website.

#### First conference day

In the “Welcome and opening session” Olaf Foss (ENECON Lead Partner) and Aleksandras Gordevičius (Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and ESPON MC Member) welcomed the audience and i.a. stated the background, context and aim of the ENECON project and the conference, including an overview of ENECON events, brief information on ESPON, the purpose of the ESPON project “family” (Transnational Networking Activities”) to which ENECON belongs, and the activities’ potential importance to territorial policies and planning in the region and its countries.

The first main section contained four presentations.

Alexandre Dubois from Nordregio gave an outlook on the Baltic Sea Region based on results from the ESPON project ET2050, with the title “A Vision for the European Territory in 2050”. He stated that territorial patterns are very durable, normally market by considerable inertia in their processes of change, and that effects of present political decisions may not come into full effect until a decade or to have passed. The effects (and effects of many other – more and less predictable - driving forces) are extremely difficult to foresee and the policy makers need some tools for making better future oriented decisions. Scenarios and vision-building processes involving many stakeholders, sound evidence and varied scientific methods, may provide a better basis for future oriented policy discussions. The more quantitative forecasting predicts growing territorial disparities in the aftermath of the economic crises and the mega question is if a more ideal Europe may be envisioned towards the middle of the century, and which (if any) are the possible pathways to such a goal, given identified constraints and limits of policy options. Three key points for the territorial vision 2050 are focused; polycentricity, openness and sustainability, each associated with sets of political priorities. Dubois finally reflected on the importance of understanding how

the BSR will be positioned in the European territory of 2050, given the vast territorial diversity of the region.

Veiko Sepp, University of Tartu, presented the ESPON project ECR2, about “Economic crisis and resilience of regions”. The objective of this project is to support policy makers at all levels in making economic structures more resilient to economic crisis/sudden economic downturns. Sepp offered a general definition of “regional economic resilience” and its components, and presented the methodology of the project, including its eight case study areas. Based on a set of indicators a typology of regions has been developed according to their post-crises development, displaying rather different patterns also among Baltic and Nordic regions. Focusing on one (Finnish) case a series of “components of resilience/nonresilience” are identified and he concludes with a series of policy (and research) questions related to the structural causes of crises and low resilience as well as to the role and importance of public policies in this context.

Petri Kahila from Nordregio presented and discussed results from the ESPON project TiPSE, “Territorial Dimensions of Poverty and Social Exclusion”. The project is based i.a. on the acknowledgment of co-existence within Europe of a variety of different social welfare policy traditions, neglect of regional patterns of poverty and social exclusion, and the need for more sound evidence at various territorial levels. Kahila presented different definitions of poverty and social exclusion and the EU 2020 operational indicators (number of individuals at risk of poverty, number of individuals suffering material deprivation, number of individuals living in households where adults work less than 20 percent of a full time year), and discussed some problems related to their application at regional level, and the crucial need for more detailed territorial specification since poverty, social exclusion and provision of welfare services seem to be regional and local challenges.

Lastly, Julien Grunfelder, Nordregio, talked about EU neighbouring regions and territorial development (based on the ESPON project ITAN). The point of departure of the ITAN project is two basic questions; What are the territorial structures, and the economic, social and environmental stakes and dynamics, of the ESPON territory’s regional neighbours? And what are the flows, interaction and cooperation between ESPON and neighbouring territories? “The four neighbourhoods” involve a large number of countries

with a substantial number of inhabitants, and varied social, economic and political structures. Establishing comparable territorial units and harmonized sets of data/indicators are a vast challenge. Moreover, relations between the Europe of ESPON-countries and the neighbourhoods are changing, calling for a dynamic approach to identification of territorial policy issues as well as research questions.

Daniel Galland facilitated the following panel and plenary discussion by summing up and stating a number of critical questions related to the four presentations. Some clarifications were given by the speakers, and the discussion then focused on the scientific foundation and political fruitfulness of long term scenarios (i.a. the “wild card” problem, the mix of policy consideration and research and the transparency of the methodology behind the results). Also the political responses to economic crises (notably austerity measures vs. their alternatives) were touched upon.

In the last session of the first conference day Piera Petruzzi, Communication and Capitalization Expert at ESPON CU, informed about the planned dissemination and capitalization tasks and schedule for the remaining ESPON 2013 period up till the end of 2014, comprising a series of publications in the established series and others, several events (conferences, seminars, workshops), and also remaining project deliveries etc. In the second part of her speech she presented the progress of planning towards the next ESPON programme phase, ESPON 2020, including thematic objective, target groups, mission and objectives, actions and activities (including themes listed so far by policy makers).

## Second conference day

The second main section contained two presentations, both concerned with the identification and definition of sets of indicators for policy consideration and monitoring purposes.

Visvaldis Valtenbergs, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, gave a presentation based on the ESPON project KITCASP, “Key indicators for territorial cohesion and spatial planning in preparing territorial development strategies”. The project purpose was to identify the *most suitable* set of key indicators of *significant practical usefulness* to policy makers and practitioners. The point



of departure was policy statements on goals and territorial priorities, and stakeholders' perceptions. On this basis a set of common indicator themes were identified and certain common indicator requirements ("filters") assessed (like relevance, applicability, regularity, spatiality, dynamics, quality, clarity). Selected indicators were cross-checked against indicators employed in other ESPON projects. The resulting set of KITCASP indicators for five common themes were presented and discussed in detail. The case project studies revealed i.a. a demand for indicators below NUTS3 level to account for local/micro trends and urban-rural differences in certain areas. The projects also produced guidelines for the use of indicators in special policy. The problem of territorial scale is a recurring theme in discussions of ESPON projects and Valteneberg's concluded with the question on how to improve coherency between ESPON data and local data, and for what themes ESPON should prioritize to produce results on a more detailed – sub-regional - scale.

In the second presentation Gunnar Lindberg, Nordregio, accounted for the Scientific Platform project "Territorial monitoring system for the Baltic Sea Region" (BSR-TeMo). The relationship with KITCASP (and other indicator-/policy monitoring activities) is apparent i.a. in the sense that they are both "comprehending a policy and a methodological dimension aimed at understanding territorial cohesion", in this case in the Baltic Sea Region. Also this project takes as its point of departure the policy context and the policy questions most relevant to the region and its stakeholders. The system is based on readily available data at NUT3 level and the study area includes Belarus and Russia. It takes into account the concept of territorial cohesion modified by a BSR "filter" and ends up with five "domains", 12 "sub-domains", initially 90 indicators subsequently reduced to 29. The structure of the resulting territorial monitoring system was presented with a detailed account of the selected indicators. The system is shown to reveal some "principle divides" within the BSR (East-West, North-South, Urban-Rural) and interesting results compared to "peer regions" in a benchmarking exercise and in comparison with the EU territory. Lastly the only tool for accessing the system was presented.

The following panel and plenary discussion was facilitated by Antti Roose who summed up the main themes and posed several critical questions related to the two projects, including the recurrent

topic of territorial scale and also the policy use of this type of information, i.e. simple quantitative mapping versus more qualitative, process oriented insights. A mild warning against “quantitative bias” potentially in the long run influencing policy goals, were issued. From the audience it was also remarked that the similarity between different monitoring concepts are striking (territorial cohesion, territorial sustainability, territorial competitiveness etc) and the resulting sets of indicators often similar/overlapping. It was also underlined that such efforts from a regional point of view are primarily justified by the potential added value of a European or macro-regional comparative perspective.

### ESPON-Tools, learning and training session

The last ordinary session of the second day was dedicated to ESPON-Tools, organized, chaired and carried through by Martin Gauk under the title of “ESPON online public tools for analytical and practical use of ESPON results “.

The organization of the session:

1. Introduction, overview and demonstration by *Martin Gauk*, University of Tartu, Estonia
2. Stakeholder comments on the relevance of tools, data and/or ESPON results in general by panellists:  
*Antti Saartenoja*, Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia, Finland  
*Eugenijus Kęstutis Staniūnas*, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania  
*Mykolas Dumbrava*, student at Urban Engineering study programme, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania

The learning and training session covered a selection of ESPON online tools designed for researchers, students, policy makers and practitioners as practical means of accessing and making analytical and practical use of ESPON findings.

The session started with a brief introduction, explaining the overall aims of ESPON tools, their usability etc, followed by live demonstrations for each tool, illustrated by examples from practical use.

The session focused on the following four ESPON tools:

- ESPON Database
- Online Map Finder
- ESPON HyperAtlas
- ESPON DataNavigator

At the end of the presentation, a panel consisting of representatives of students, researchers and practitioners from Finland and Lithuania gave some comments and feedback on how they see the relevance of ESPON tools, data and ESPON results in general. The panel was also asked to try and test out these tools in advance to get a better perspective and firsthand experience.

*Access.* The panellists were not able to access HyperAtlas due to Java update and security issues. Other than that, no technical issues were experienced.

*Functionality.* The tools were found relatively easy to use and well structured.

*Context.* There were a lot of different views regarding the contents of ESPON tools from the panellists as well from the audience. The discussion was about whether there is too much data and too many indicators available for decision makers already. The second argument was whether there is a need for more detailed Pan-European datasets that could extend to local levels, and should ESPON fill this gap. In the end, it was concluded that practitioners and decision makers have much more detailed and up-to-date data available to them from other sources and therefore find little use of ESPON tools. However, the student party considered that ESPON tools are good and interactive sources of information for course assignments and to get a better understanding of spatial developments in Europe.

### Closing session

Some brief closing remarks on the impressions from and usefulness of the conference (and the ENECON project, for which this was the last event), and thanks to participants and contributors, were given by Marija Burinskienė, Research Institute of Territorial Planning of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University

(ESPON Contact Point Lithuania/ENECON Project Partner) and Olaf Foss, ENECON Lead Partner.

### *Project Website (WP2e)*

The Icelandic partner/ECP (Grétar Thór Eythórsson) has been, responsible for developing, maintaining and continuously updating the project website for ENECON, which can be accessed at this location: <http://www.rha.is/enecon>. A snapshot of the front page looks like this:



The website briefly presents the ESPON 2013 programme (linking to the ESPON website) and the background, aim and goals of the ENECON project (linking to the ESPON website presentation of the Priority 4 projects). Furthermore it lists the project partners with contact information and gives a more thorough presentation of the partner institutions. There are also links to the other Priority 4 projects. Under the sub-page “ENECON ACTIVITIES” continuously updated information on the respective project activities (workshops, conferences etc) is accessible (announcements, calls, programmes, reports, presentations etc).

Through the website ESPON findings and other results/insights presented at ENECON events have been disseminated. The reports from the ENECON main events can be downloaded from the “PUBLICATIONS” sub-page. The total number of visits to the ENECON website from its establishment date until medio May 2014 has been 1037.

The last weeks the website of the Research Centre at the University of Reykjavik has been undergoing a reconstruction, also to some degree affecting the design of the ENECON website, which is hosted here. However, the responsible ENECON-partner (cf. above) will assure that the ESPON-EU Publicity requirements are still respected.

### *Blunder Checks (WP2f)*

Members of the ENECON TPG has carried out blunder checks within the project for 12 Draft Final Reports (DFR) during the project period (since February 8<sup>th</sup> 2012), namely the projects **SGPTD**, **GEOSPECS**, **KIT**, **TIGER**, **EsatDOR**, SeGI, SIESTA, TANGO, GREECO, **EU-LUPA**, **TERCO** and ITAN. For those projects marked with yellow the partners overlapping with the project NORBA submitted their blunder checks via this project.

### *Final Report (WP2g)*

In the Final Report the TPG briefly reports from and jointly comment on the main findings and conclusions of the activities specified in WP2 a-f (cf. above), and summarizes the general experiences drawn and lessons learned. As Lead Partner of ENECON the Norwegian ECP is responsible for the compilation of the project’s Final Report on the basis of contributions from project partners with specific responsibilities related to the different project activities, and of discussions within the TPG.

## 4 Lessons and Conclusions

The series of ENECON events (including the macro-regional conference/End Conference in Vilnius as well as the thematic and post-graduate workshops in different Nordic-Baltic venues) facilitated dialogue and enabled mutual learning among different

target groups, including users of ESPON-based results, such as policy makers and planners.

The different formats of the events and the very different backgrounds and professions of the attendants seem to be a positive lesson to be learned and followed up in up-coming capitalization and dissemination projects. Moreover, the range in the number of participants allows for many aspects to be presented, disseminated and discussed at different levels of depths, which is also to be regarded as a simple, but constructive lesson.

As its predecessor NORBA, the ENECON project succeeded in engaging a wide range of academic disciplines, not least a reasonable number of younger researchers/students which will constitute the coming generation of researchers and planning practitioners in the fields of territorial development and planning. The roles and relevance of ESPON-knowledge, and the integration of ESPON-results and the substantial body of national and regional/local research and insights, has been recurrent issues at the events, enhancing understanding as well as revealing needs for more dialogue and stronger integration. The implementation strategy, emphasizing genuine dialogue and mutual learning rather than top-down dissemination, was important in this context,

The experiences and impressions throughout the implementation of ENECON's activity plan has been that the interest in ESPON research and results are rather high among the attendants of the project events and at the partner/cooperation institutions, although varying somewhat between groups of stakeholder in general, i.a. according to professional role and nationality/location. The experiences also seem to show that opportunities for critical assessment and discussion of ESPON concepts, approaches, methodologies and results are very welcomed, not least from a local and regional policy making and planning point of view.

The project has obviously contributed to increased attention to a European and macro-regional perspective, and the potential added value of comparative approaches in this context, but has also identified relevant problems and skepticisms related to the present state of affairs of ESPON results in this respect.

There is little doubt, however, that increased awareness and use of ESPON results in national and regional policy development and planning would help forming a better understanding and more relevant/fruitful context of such activities. In this context the ECPs – and the transnational networking activities – have an increasingly important role, based on their insights from both “worlds” and ability to select, critically assess and mediate ESPON knowledge, and not least to provide feedback to ESPON.

For the planning of future ESPON capitalization activities in line with this project type, some lessons related specifically to the three postgraduate workshops are worth mentioning. The workshops obviously fulfilled the aim of fostering dialogue between ESPON’s core target groups, in these cases master’s and doctoral students, postgraduate researchers and ESPON-ENECON partners. This allowed younger generations to attain perspectives and understandings based on ESPON-based research.

In terms of the workshops’ general themes, it proved significant to discuss an array of standpoints on territorial governance and the other themes, given their inclusion and importance in the European policy agenda and their relation to territorial cohesion. The workshops enabled subsequent discussions with and among students regarding, i.a. the evolution of territorial governance from its inception as integrated spatial development in the European Spatial Development Perspective.

The postgraduate workshop also showed that younger generations are eager to learn about and engage with territorial governance and spatial development research. Postgraduate workshops not only offer possibilities to disseminate high-level teaching materials, but also to stimulate the potential formation of new networks of early career academics and more experienced researchers from diverse disciplines across different countries.

Young researchers and students who debated local territorial evidence in relationship with ESPON-based results and understandings should continue being key target groups for future dissemination/capitalization activities. Postgraduate workshops will be increasingly relevant as dissemination/capitalization activities insofar as the potential for policy learning and innovation in diverse European contexts are concerned. Moreover, these effects will contribute to capacity-building for mutual learning.

The workshops also confirmed that several students already use ESPON as a source for coursework and theses, etc. The workshops supported this endeavor and informed students of the broad range of information that is available on the ESPON website. The use of results by students should be encouraged through some sort of ESPON student outreach strategy, perhaps based on a study into students' knowledge of and use of ESPON.

More generally, the workshop format stimulates discussion and includes more people in active participation than an ordinary conference format, regardless of the categories of attendants. In the case of focusing one theme, like in the Stockholm thematic workshop, the depth and multi-perspective quality of the discussion was favoured as all presentations and then the following discussions were closely related and stimulated the stringency of the dialogue.

In conclusion a few general and more principally oriented points are made, which should be considered and possibly have a bearing in the planning of future ESPON activities:

Communicative planning has become a priority for spatial planning practitioners in the Nordic and Baltic countries. Even if there is no consensus on this doctrinal turn, scientific evidence ("truthfulness") is increasingly complemented, or even displaced, by other modes of argumentation, including ethic-political approaches, such as normative rightness and equity. As a result, the legitimacy of decision making processes is only partially based on ESPON-type "positivistic objective" evidence and reasoning. This makes this kind of scientific research relatively less relevant to policy making and practice, and also increases the complexity of the dissemination and communication of ESPON results.

ESPON results provide a European-wide comparative setting for spatial positioning, but apparently there is only a limited demand for such a macro-level approach in regional and local level planning contexts. Therefore, ESPON may seem to be more relevant to policies at the national level, where also the dissemination activities are more easily and effectively carried out. At least in some Baltic-Nordic countries there is much more



interest in ESPON at the Ministry-level than at the level of the Regional Councils, Local Governments etc.

Interest regarding the ESPON findings (topics, themes, projects) vary to some extent from country to country and region to region. This is probably partly due to the prevailing territorial development trends and developments (present 'hot topics') and to prevailing and varying scientific and policy-making traditions, as well as to geographical location. In the Nordic-Baltic region, for example, the eastern countries show significant interest in the neighborhood. This raises the question whether ESPON should conduct studies into the utilization of ESPON projects (topics etc.) in each ESPON country?

## C Annexes

### Annex 1. Programme Akureyri conference in August 2013

*CLIMATE CHANGE IN NORTHERN TERRITORIES*

*Sharing Experiences and Exploring New Methods*

*Assessing Socio-Economic Impacts*

*Open Assembly/Conference in Akureyri, Iceland*

*22. – 23. August 2013*

#### **Program**

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#### **Wednesday 21st August**

**Pre-Conference day for the NRF Young Researchers**

#### **Thursday 22nd August**

08:15 – 09:00	<b>Registration – Coffee</b>
09:00	<b>Words of welcome</b> Rector Stefán B. Sigurðsson, Professor Lassi Heininen and Professor Grétar Þór Eypórssón
09:25	<b>Opening speech</b> Mr. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson President of Iceland
09:45	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> Executive Director Patricia A. L. Cochran, Alaska Native Science Commission: <i>"Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change: Framing the Dialogue"</i>  NRF Young researcher Nikolas Sellheim: <i>"Living with 'Barbarians' - Within the Commercial Sealing Industry"</i>  Open for questions/discussions
10:35	<b>Coffee break</b>
10:50	<b>Parallel sessions I, II and III</b>
<b>Session I:</b>	Stefan Sigurðsson: <i>"The Natural Resource: Reindeer"</i> Sigríður Kristjansdóttir: <i>„Global climate changes and the tensions of Sustainable Development“</i> Irēna Pučka: <i>„Sustainable forestry in the context of climate change mitigation“</i> NRF Young Researcher Susan Carruth: <i>„Climate &amp; Change: Greenland's energy landscape“</i>

- Session II:** Gestur Hovgaard & Gretar Eythórsson: „*The West Nordic region: Possibilities and role in future development in the North-Atlantic*“  
Dmitry Zimin: „*Climate Change and the Northern Sea Route: A New Russian Strategy in the Arctic?*“  
Lisa Van Well & Johanna Roto: „*The Arctic: Europe’s Strategic Neighbourhood*“  
Heikki Eskelinen & Matti Fritsch: „*Looking North – the Arctic Dimension in Finnish Regional Policy*“
- Session III:** Elin Ebba Ásmundsdóttir: „*Enabling social capital in the Arctic*“  
NRF Young Researcher Noor Johnson: „*Grantwriting and other translational skills in adaptation practice*“  
Andréa Finger: „*Agency as redefined by climate change: the case of the Arctic*“  
Robin Bronen: „*Climate-Induced Community Relocations: „Resilience and Adaptation of Alaska Native communities*“
- 12:20 **Lunch**
- 13:30 **Reporting from parallel sessions**
- 13:45 **Keynote speaker**  
Senior Researcher Jon Naustdalslid, former Director General at Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR): "*The certainty of uncertainty: The challenge of planning for a changing climate*"  
Open for questions/discussions
- 14:30 **Parallel sessions IV, V and VI**
- Session IV:** Natalia Loukacheva: „*Climate Change Governance in the Arctic and Legal Issues*“  
Anton Vasiliev: „*Arctic Council and Climate Change Policies*“  
NRF Young Researcher Bianca Tiantian Zhang: „*Legal Challenges of Precautionary and Ecosystem Approach in Arctic Fishery Governance*“  
Lára Jóhannsdóttir: „*Role of insurers when adapting to changing climate*“
- Session V:** Tanja Suni: "*Land-atmosphere-society processes in the boreal and Arctic regions – collaboration opportunities within iLEAPS and PEEX*"  
Antti Roose & Martin Gauk: „*Mitigation policies and planning responses to emergent suburban development in Estonia*“  
Kari Laine: „*Analysis of Regional Climate Strategies in the Barents Region*“  
NRF Young Researcher Julia Martin: „*Hyperextended objects in environmental planning*“
- Session VI:** Janis Lapinskis: „*Climate change impacts on coastal areas in Latvia*“

NRF Young Researcher Ilona Mettiäinen: „*Planned or emerging futures? Addressing climate change on regional level by strategic planning*“

Jaak Jaagus: „*Recent climate changes in the Baltic Sea region and their impacts in the coastal regions of Estonia*“

Arvo Järvet: „*Adaptation methods of climate change and recommendations for water management in Estonia*“

- 15:20 **Coffee break**
- 15:50 **Parallel sessions IV, V and VI (continues)**
- 16:40 **Reporting from parallel sessions, discussion and summing up**
- 17:45 **Buses to hotels**

### **Friday 23rd August**

- 09:00 **Keynote speaker:**  
Dr. Erik Gløersen, senior consultant at Spatial Foresight, lecturer and researcher at the University of Geneva: “*Factoring in Territorial Diversity in development and adaptation strategies: Policy challenges and methodological proposals*”

Open for questions/discussions

- 09:45 **Parallel sessions VII, VIII and IX**
- Session VII:** NRF Young Researcher Michał Łuszczuk: „*Maritime regionalism as a framework for analysing the territorial challenges of the Arctic transformation*“
- Kári F. Lárusson: „*Rapid Assessment for Rapid Change "information for adaptation in the North*“
- Vífill Karlsson & Gretar Eythórsson: „*Adaption to changes in two rural municipalities in Iceland*“
- Edward H. Huijbens: „*Incorporating climate change in polar tourism product development*“

- Session VIII:** Sigfriður Inga Karlsdóttir: „*Giving birth in rural areas*“
- Hildigunnur Svavarsdóttir: „*Factors affecting recruitment and retention of health care professionals in rural areas*“
- Sonja Stelly Gustafsdóttir: „*Public perspective on health care service in rural areas*“
- Sigrún Sigurðardóttir: „*Psychological Trauma, Stress and Violence: Consequences for Health and Well-being*“

- Session IX:** Bergur Einarsson: „*The impact of climate change on glaciers and glacial runoff in Iceland*“
- NRF Young Researcher Sigmar Arnarsson: „*Northern Shift of Species*“

Steingrímur Jónsson: „*Climate variability, climate change and the future of fisheries in the Arctic and sub-Arctic marine ecosystems*“  
Páll A. Daviðsson: „*THE ICE CIRCLE: funding research and providing an international channel of communication for Arctic voices*“

10:35 **Coffee break**

10:55 **Parallel sessions VII, VIII and IX (continue)**

11:45 **Reporting from sessions**

12:00 **Lunch**

13:15 **Keynote speaker:**

Professor Matthias Finger, Ecole Polytechnique Federale (EPFL): “*The resources exploitation / climate change nexus: why the Arctic matters for the world*”

NRF Young researcher Hanna Lempinen: “*Social sustainability in/and the Barents energyscape: Conceptual and methodological platforms for tracing the elusive social*”

14:05 **Parallel sessions X and XI**

**Session X:**

Garri Raagmaa: „*Regional Higher Educational Institutions as Green Economy Knowledge Hubs in the Northern Territories*“

NRF Young Researcher Marguerite Marlin: „*Leveraging Globalization: How Global Venues Offer a Comparative Advantage for IPO Influence on Arctic Policy*”

Eva Halapi: „*Climate Change – Perceptions and knowledge among young adults in Iceland*“

Anna Lilja Sigurvinsdóttir, Eva Halapi & Kjartan Ólafsson: „*Awareness, perception and attitudes on global climate change among Icelanders*“

**Session XI:**

Kristín Þórarinsdóttir & Rúnar Sigthórsson: „*Can action research act as a vehicle in climate change adaptation?*“

Olaf Foss: „*Methodological challenges in multi-disciplinary climate change research - experiences from ESPON CLIMATE*“

Janis Kaulins: „*Municipal Indicator System Development for risk adaptation and communication assessment in coastal risk governance*“

Erik Gløersen: „*Using Foresight to trigger entrepreneurship and growth in West Nordic rural communities*“

14:55 **Coffee break**

15:15 **Parallel sessions (continues)**

16:05 **Reporting from sessions**

16:20 **Panel discussion, summing up and farewell**

18:15 **Buses to hotels**

***Saturday 24th August***

**10:00 – 17:00** **Excursion Day:** Eyjafjörður coast line, Siglufjörður and Skagafjörður

<https://events.artegis.com/lz/CustomContent?T=1&custom=1657&navid=5691&event=1049>

4

# Annex 2 Programme Postgraduate workshop in Joensuu in October 2012



ENECON – ESPON Evidence in  
a North European Context

## “Territorial Governance and Co-operation – Exploring Neighbouring Regions”

Postgraduate workshop of the ESPON/ENECON project in Joensuu, Finland, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012

The first workshop organised by the ENECON project focused on territorial governance which has been investigated in several ESPON projects (e.g., TERCO, ULYSSES, METROBORDER, TranSMEC, see [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)). ESPONTrain e-learning platform was demonstrated.

One-day workshop was organised in connection with the lecture course “Territorial Development Policy and Cooperation in Europe” which is part of the master’s programme *Border Crossings: Global and Local Societies in Transition* at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies, University of Eastern Finland.

**Location:** University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu Campus

**Venue:** M306

### Programme

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**Friday 19 October 09:00 -16:00**

#### TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE SESSION

- 09:15 **Antti Roose**, PhD (ENECON project, University of Tartu): *Opening and introduction on territorial governance and cooperation*
- 09:30 **Daniel Galland**, PhD (Aalborg University): *Introducing the European dimension of Danish planning*
- 10:00 **Matti Fritsch** and **Heikki Eskelinen**, prof: *The evolution of territorial governance in Finland: learning from Europe?*
- 10:30 **Emīls Pūlmanis**, PhD.cand. MSc.proj.mgmt. (University of Latvia): *Polycentric development projects in Latvia as an instrument of spatial development*
- 11:00 Discussion (speakers, PhD students and 20 master’s students)

12:00 -13:15 *Lunch*

**Martin Gauk, Antti Roose:** *ESPONTrain demonstration: introduction to ESPON e-learning*

#### TERRITORIAL CO-OPERATION SESSION

- 13:15 **Sarolta Nemeth**, PhD (University of Eastern Finland): *What is territorial cooperation in the ESPON glossary?*
- 13:45 **Virpi Kaisto** PhD student (Lappeenranta University of Technology): *Conducting scientific research to support cross-border cooperation in spatial development planning*  
Discussant: **Martin Gauk** (PhD student, University of Tartu)
- 14:15 **Jussi Laine** (PhD student, University of Eastern Finland): *New Civic Neighbourhood at the Finnish-Russian Border. Cross-Border Cooperation and Civil Society Development*
- 14:45 General debate (including 20 master’s students)

On the basis of the three workshops, e-learning short course will be compiled at the open-source PHP Moodle application, including series of web-based lectures (3 x 2 hours). E-learning short course “ESPON Evidence in a North European Context” is going to be offered for the academic use in the participating countries.

## Annex 3 Programme Postgraduate workshop in Tartu in April 2013

### ② Postgraduate workshop in Tartu: European Union external border – territorial specificities, trends and disparities, April 16-17th, 2013

The second [ESPON/ENECON](http://www.espon.eu) postgraduate workshop focuses on EU external border, territorial performance, disparities and policies of border regions. The workshop facilitates discussion on border areas based on ESPON evidences (TERCO, TEDI, GEOSPECS, ULYESSES etc see [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)) and other border research. This two-day workshop is organised in connection with the NORDPLUS seminar on EU external borders. The working language of the workshop is English.

**Location:** University of Tartu, Omicum

**Venue:** Tartu, Riia str 23 – 105

**Programme**



16 April 10.00 NORDPLUS seminar  
*What makes peripheries different?* by Dr Ilkka Pyy  
Course introduction by Dr Garri Raagmaa  
Presentation case study areas  
12:00 Lunch at Kotka kelder Pepleri 14

#### Tuesday 16 April 15:00 - 17:30

- 15:00 **Rein Ahas**, Prof PhD (Head of human geography chair, UT)  
*Welcome*  
**Antti Roose**, PhD (ENECON project, ESPON Estonian ECP, UT)  
*Introduction*
- 15:15 **Matti Fritsch**, PhD (University of Eastern Finland, UEF)  
*Territorial concepts and policy framework of EU external border*  
Q&A, discussion
- 16:15 **Rodrigo Bueno Lacy** (Radboud University Nijmegen) *Undressing Europe: Growing pains & the geopolitical virtues of border uncertainty*  
Q&A,  
discussion
- 19:00 *ENECON dinner*

#### Wednesday 17 April 9:00 - 13:00

- Moderated by **Matti Fritsch**, PhD University of Eastern Finland
- 9:00 **Lefteris Topaloglou** PhD (University of Thessaly) *'Border syndrome': Development Patterns in the EU Border Regions and EU policy making*  
**Skype session**
- 9:30 Postgraduate session I  
**Stanislaw Domaniewski** (UEF) *Towards a more open border between Russia and Poland?*  
**Henrik Nielsen** (UEF) *Bringing perception across the border... and back home?* **Jūlija Stare** (University of Latvia) *The formation of hybrid identities in an ethnically and religiously diverse society*
- 11:00 *Light meal and coffee break at the lobby*
- 11:45 Postgraduate session II moderated by **Antti Roose**



**Mindaugas Staniūnas** (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University)  
*From border to border - Lithuanian case*

**Irina Kazina** (Transport and Telecommunication institute,  
Latvia) *Coordinated management of border crossings via joint  
information systems*

# Annex 4 Programme Thematic workshop in Stockholm in November 2012



**Nordic-Baltic ESPON/ENECON Workshop about  
“Sustainability and Sustainable Regions – Multi-faceted Concepts”**

Venue: Nordregio, Holmamiralens väg 10, Skeppsholmen, Stockholm,  
15-16 November 2012 (lunch to lunch)

**The ESPON project ENECON addresses challenges and opportunities facing territorial development and spatial planning policies and practices, particular to the vast territory of the northern part of Europe. The overall aim of ENECON is to contribute to make clear the significance of the European perspective on territorial development and cohesion in a macro-regional context and perspective.**

*Sustainability and sustainable growth* are concepts that are frequently used at the European research scene of today. In the Territorial Agenda 2020 and Europe 2020 sustainable growth is highlighted together with smart and inclusive growth as desirable development paths. Sustainability and sustainable regions might, however, be interpreted in a lot of ways with many different ingredients. In “sustainability” and “sustainable regions” more dimensions might be included that not automatically is associated with economic growth. Even peripheral and/or shrinking regions might be sustainable if different preconditions are fulfilled.

The aim of this workshop is to interpret, analyze and critically discuss the dimensions of the concepts “sustainability” and “sustainable regions” and the implications for further regional and territorial research. Relevant themes will be introduced from complementary points of view by well-known researchers who are specialists in topics as sustainable urban and rural regions, regional growth vs regional development, regional spatial changes and regional planning shifts, sustainability and regional innovation systems, and sustainability and peripherality. Each introduction will be followed by interesting, critical and creative discussions among the participants in the workshop.


**Information and Practicalities:**  
The workshop is free of charge  
The participants must book their own accommodation but the arrangers can assist with advices and some help.  
For hotels at discounted rate, see the link:  
<http://www.avropa.se/Hitta-ramavtal/Hotelltjansterinrikes/>  
Mention KTH at booking

**More info:** [mats.johansson@abe.kth.se](mailto:mats.johansson@abe.kth.se)  
[simon.falck@abe.kth.se](mailto:simon.falck@abe.kth.se)  
[olaf.foss@nibr.no](mailto:olaf.foss@nibr.no)  
**Swedish website,** <http://svenskecp.abe.kth.se/>  
**ENECONs website,** <http://rha.is/enecon>

**Brief Dictionary**  
ENECON= A networking project within the ESPON 2013 Programme, implemented by the ECPs from Norway (Lead Partner), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden  
ECP = ESPON Contact Point  
ESPON 2013 = The European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion



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**Preliminary programme (to be completed, inputs are welcome)**  
Questions and discussions after every introductory speech

**Day1, Thursday 15 November**  
Chair: Lisa Van Well (Nordregio)

11.30-12.30: Sandwich lunch

12.30-13.00: Words of Welcome..  
Olaf Foss (NIBR/ENECON),  
Mats Johansson (KTH/ENECON),  
Ole Damsgaard (Nordregio)

13.00-14.00: Economic crisis, regional development and resilience.  
Hans Westlund (KTH)

14.00- 15.00 Defining and measuring sustainable regional development - results and lessons from Germany.  
Antonia Milbert (BBSR, Germany)

15.00-15.30: Coffee break

15.30-16.30: Sustainability, globalisation and regional innovation systems  
Folke Snickars (KTH)

16.30-17.30: Sustainability and goal conflicts – short and long term aspects.  
Discussion. Intro:  
Hild-Marte Bjørnsen (NIBR)

**Day2, Friday 16 November**  
Chair: Daniel Galland (Aalborg University/ENECON)

08.30-09.30: Shrinking regions – contrary to sustainable regions? Experiences from Northern Europe.  
Lisa Hömström (Nordregio)

09.30-10.30: Green economy: a development option and challenge for sparsely populated areas?  
Rasmus Ole Rasmusen (Nordregio)


10.30-11.00: Coffee break

11.00-12.00: Sustainable spatial development of Nordic urban regions: is an eco-modernization approach sufficient?  
Petter Næss (Aalborg University)

12.00-13.00: Sustainability and sustainable regions – Multifaceted concepts  
Discussion. Intro:  
Kjell Harvold (NIBR)

13.00-13.15 Closing words.  
Olaf Foss (NIBR/ENECON),  
Mats Johansson (KTH/ENECON)

13.15: Sandwich lunch



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# Annex 5 Programme Postgraduate workshop in Aalborg in March 2014

## INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

III Postgraduate workshop of the ESPON/ENECON project

Aalborg, Denmark, March 28, 2014

### PROGRAMME

#### MORNING SESSION

**09:00 – 12:00** – *Facilitator: Daniel Galland*

- 09:00 **Daniel Galland**, prof. (ENECON, Aalborg University): *Opening and introduction.*
- 09:20 **Carsten J. Hansen**, prof. (ENECON, Aalborg University): *Transforming ESPON results to national, regional and local policy guidelines – the Danish case.*
- 10:20 **Matti Fritsch** (ENECON, University of Eastern Finland): *The effects of the border on land-use patterns and their governance in the Finnish-Russian borderlands.*
- 11:00 **Martin Gauk** (ENECON, University of Tartu): *New strategic and spatial visions for the Tartu region under emerging regionalization.*
- 11:40 Discussion (Speakers, PhD and master's students)

12:00 *Lunch in Utzon Centre*

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

**13:30 – 15:00: Postgraduate Presentations I** – *Facilitator: Antti Roose*

- 13:30 **Inga Jekabsone** (University of Latvia): *Integrated governance model for municipalities in EU based on subjective well-being assessment and co-responsibility approach.*
- 14:00 **Vytautas Palevičius** (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University): *Transport systems integration into urban development planning processes.*
- 14:30 **Aleksandrs Dahs** (University of Latvia): *A spatial approach to regional demographic research and policy making: Example of Latvia.*

**15:20 – 16:50: Postgraduate Presentations II** – *Facilitator: Daniel Galland*

- 15:20 **Juha Halme** (University of Eastern Finland): *Stakeholder participation in place branding: a case study of three regional level place branding programs in Finland.*
- 15:50 **Pablo Elinbaum** (International University of Catalonia): *Plans outside the system. Ad-hoc instruments for designing and managing urban areas.*
- 16:20 **Inese Haite** (Daugavpils University, Latvia): *Polycentric development in Latvia and its evaluation.*
- 16:50 Discussion (Speakers, PhD and master's students)
- 17:15 **Daniel Galland**, prof. (Aalborg University): *Closing remarks.*
- 17:30** End of Session

# Annex 6 Programme End Conference in Vilnius in April 2014



EUROPEAN UNION  
Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund  
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

**ENECON**

ESPON Evidence in a North  
European Context

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Baltic-Nordic Macro Regional Conference  
(ENECON project end conference)

***Challenges and opportunities for territorial development  
and cohesion in a North European macro-region***

**10-11 April 2014**

**Venue: Hotel Holiday Inn Vilnius, Lithuania**  
(Address: Šeimyniškių str.1, LT-09312, Vilnius)

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**CONFERENCE DRAFT PROGRAMME:**

**THURSDAY 10 APRIL 2014:**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>12:00-13:00</b> | <b>Check-in, registration and buffet lunch</b>  |
| <b>13:00-13:30</b> | <b>Welcome and opening session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Olaf Foss</b>, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (ENECON Lead Partner)</li><li>- <b>Aleksandras Gordevičius</b>, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania (ESPON MC Member)</li></ul>   |
| <b>13:30-14:45</b> | <b>Challenges and opportunities as evidenced by ESPON Applied Research Projects</b><br>(Chair: Heikki Eskelinen, University of Eastern Finland - Karelian Institute) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Alexandre Dubois</b>, Nordregio: Territorial scenarios and visions for Europe (ET2050)</li><li>- <b>Veiko Sepp</b>, University of Tartu: Economic crisis and resilience of regions (ECR2)</li></ul> |
| <b>14:45-15:15</b> | <b>Coffee break</b>   |
| <b>15:15-16:30</b> | <b>Challenges and opportunities as evidenced by ESPON Applied Research projects, cont.</b><br>(Chair: Mats Johansson, Royal Institute of Technology) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Petri Kahila</b>, Nordregio: Territorial dimension of poverty and social exclusion (TIPSE)</li></ul>  |

- **Julien Grunfelder, Nordregio:** *EU neighboring regions and territorial development (ITAN)*
- 16:30-17:00**                      **Discussion**  
(Facilitator: Daniel Galland, Aalborg University)
- 17:00-17:30**                      **ESPON towards 2020**  
(Chair: Olaf Foss, NIBR/ENECON)
- **Piera Petruzzi, ESPON CU:** *Capitalisation Activities in 2014 and progress on ESPON 2020*
  - *Questions and answers*
- 19:30-**                                **Conference Dinner (Narutis Hotel, Pilies St. 24)**

**FRIDAY 11 APRIL 2014:**

- 09:00-10:30**                      **Challenges and opportunities as evidenced by ESPON Targeted Analysis and Scientific Platform**  
(Chair: Airida Bernotaitė, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University)
- **Visvaldis Valtenbergs, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences:** *Key indicators for territorial cohesion and spatial planning in preparing territorial development strategies (KITCASP)*
  - **Gunnar Lindberg, Nordregio:** *Territorial monitoring system for the Baltic Sea Region (BSR-TeMo)*
- 10:30-11:00**                      **Discussion**  
(Facilitator: Antti Roose, University of Tartu)
- 11:00-11:15**                      **Coffee break**
- 11:15-12:15**                      **Learning and training session: ESPON online public tools for analytical and practical use of ESPON results**
- **Martin Gauk, University of Tartu:** *Introduction, overview and demonstration*
  - **Panel (Antti Saartenoja, Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia/Eugenijus Keštutis Staniūnas, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University/Mykolas Dumbrava, student at Urban Engineering study programme):** *Stakeholder comments on the relevance of tools, data and/or ESPON results in general*
- 12:15-12:30**                      **Closing session (conference and ENECON project)**
- **Marija Burinskienė, Research Institute of Territorial Planning of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (ESPON Contact Point Lithuania/ENECON Project Partner)**
  - **Olaf Foss, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (ENECON Lead Partner)**
- 12:30-13:30**                      **Lunch and departure**

## Annex 7 List of institutions attending the ENECON events

AKUREYRI CONFERENCE AUGUST 2013	
Aalborg University	DENMARK
Agglomeration "Terres de France"	FRANCE
Agricultural University of Iceland	ICELAND
Akureyri Hospital	ICELAND
Alaska Native Science Commission	CANADA
Arctic Centre, University of Lapland	FINLAND
Arctic Slope Regional Corp Energy Services	UNITED STATES
Arkitektsskolen Aarhus	DENMARK
Bifrost University	ICELAND
Brown University, Environmental Change Initiative	UNITED STATES
Byggðastofnun	ICELAND
CAFF	ICELAND
Centre for Arctic Policy Studies	ICELAND
Centre for Gender Equality, Iceland	ICELAND
CFA, ACCA	LATVIA
Cracow's University of Economics	POLAND
Cross-sectoral coordination center	LATVIA
Eastern Shore Law Centre	CANADA
Embassy of Canada	ICELAND
Embassy of the United states of America	ICELAND
EPFL	SWITZERLAND
Fjarðabyggð	ICELAND
Goldsmiths, University of London	UNITED KINGDOM
HEPIA	FRANCE
Husavik Academic Center	ICELAND
Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network	ICELAND
Icelandic Parliament Member	ICELAND
Icelandic Tourism Research Centre	ICELAND
ileaps	FINLAND
Institute for Spatial Development	CZECH REPUBLIC
Institute for Spatial Development	CZECH REPUBLIC
Jan Kochanowski University	POLAND
Karelian Institute, UEF	FINLAND
KTH	SWEDEN
Lateral North	UNITED KINGDOM
Luleå University of Technology	SWEDEN
McMaster University	CANADA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation	RUSSIAN FEDERATION
NIBR	NORWAY
Nordregio	SWEDEN
Northern Research Forum	ICELAND
NRF	ICELAND

NTNU	NORWAY/ICELAND
Ph.D Student. Edinburgh	ICELAND
President of Iceland	ICELAND
Rannsóknarmiðstöð Íslands	ICELAND
Canadian Polar Commission	CANADA
Scandinavian Institute for Maritime Law (University of Oslo)	NORWAY/UNITED STATES
Spatial Foresight GmbH	LUXEMBOURG
State Regional Development Agency	LATVIA
Turku University of Applied Sciences	FINLAND
Univeristy of Alaska, Fairbanks	UNITED STATES
Univeristy of Latvia	LATVIA
Univeristy of Tartu	ESTONIA
University of Akureyri	ICELAND
University of Akureyri/Tromsø	NORWAY
University of Alaska Fairbanks	UNITED STATES
University of Eastern Finland	FINLAND
University of Faroe Islands	FAROE ISLANDS
University of Iceland	ICELAND
University of Lapland	FINLAND
University of Sheffield	UNITED KINGDOM
University of Tartu	ESTONIA
University of Tromsø-International Fisheries Management	NORWAY
Veðurstofa Íslands	ICELAND
VOX Naturae	ICELAND
West Iceland Regional Office (SSV)	ICELAND

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#### **STOCKHOLM WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 2012**

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Aalborg University	DENMARK
BBSR	GERMANY
Boverket, Karlskrona	SWEDEN
ENSPAC, Roskilde University	DENMARK
KTH	SWEDEN
Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications	SWEDEN
Ministry of Environment and Territorial Planning	LITHUANIA
Ministry of Regional Development	LATVIA
NIBR	NORWAY
Nordregio	SWEDEN
Real Estate Development Association	LITHUANIA
State Regional Development Agency	LATVIA
TMR, SLL	SWEDEN
University of Akureyri	ICELAND
University of Eastern Finland	FINLAND
University of Tartu	ESTONIA
Vilnius Gediminas Technical University	LITHUANIA

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**VILNIUS END CONFERENCE APRIL 2014**

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Aalborg University	DENMARK
Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania	LITHUANIA
Daugavpils University	LATVIA
ESPON Coordination Unit	LUXEMBOURG
Euromonitor International	LITHUANIA
Institute of International Relations and Political Science (Vilnius University)	LITHUANIA
Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland	FINLAND
Kaunas University of Technology	LITHUANIA
Klaipėda City Municipality	LITHUANIA
Laboratory of Urban Traffic, VGTU	LITHUANIA
Latvian Association of Local and Regional governments	LATVIA
LU ASPRI	LATVIA
Member Regional Studies Association	SWEDEN
Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania	LITHUANIA
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia	LATVIA
National Board of Housing, Building and Planning	SWEDEN
NIBR	NORWAY
Nordregio	SWEDEN
Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia	FINLAND
Research Institute of Territorial Planning	LITHUANIA
Riga City Council City Development Department	LATVIA
Royal Institute of Technology	SWEDEN
State Regional Development agency	LATVIA
The Institute of Architecture, VGTU	LITHUANIA
University of Akureyri	ICELAND
University of Eastern Finland	FINLAND
University of Latvia	LATVIA
University of Tartu	ESTONIA
Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences	LATVIA
Vilnius Gediminas Technical University	LITHUANIA

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**AALBORG WORKSHOP MARCH 2014**

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Aalborg University	DENMARK
Aalborg University Copenhagen	DENMARK
University of Eastern Finland	FINLAND
University of Tartu	ESTONIA
University of Latvia	LATVIA
Vilnius Gediminas Technical University	LITHUANIA
Daugavpils University	LATVIA
International University of Catalonia	SPAIN

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**JOENSUU AND TARTU WORKSHOPS OCTOBER 2012/APRIL 2013**

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University of Eastern Finland	FINLAND
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University of Tartu	ESTONIA
Aalborg University	DENMARK
University of Latvia	LATVIA
Lappeenranta University of Technology	FINLAND
Radboud University Nijmegen	NETHERLANDS
University of Thessaly	GREECE
University of Bergen	NORWAY
University of Reykjavik	ICELAND
University of Umea	SWEDEN
Vilnius Gediminas Technical University	LITHUANIA
Transport and Telecommunication institute of Latvia	LATVIA
National University of Lujan, Argentina	ARGENTINA
University of Sul de Santa Catarina, Brazil	BRAZIL
University of Michoacana, Mexico	MEXICO
Technical University of Chemnitz, Germany,	GERMANY
University of Leipzig, Germany	GERMANY

## Annex 8 ESPON projects promoted/highlighted or discussed at the ENECON events

<b>Akureyri:</b>	GEOSPECS, TeDI, ITAN, CLIMATE
<b>Stockholm:</b>	ATTREG, CLIMATE, DEMIFER, GREECO, TIPSE, EDORA, SeGI, SEMIGRA, INTERCO (projects mostly referred to and discussed)
<b>Vilnius:</b>	ET2050, ECR2, TIPSE, ITAN, KITCASP, BSR-TeMO
<b>Joensuu:</b>	TERCO, TIGER, METROBORDER, TranSMEC, ULYSSES, SIESTA
<b>Tartu:</b>	TERCO, TIGER, GEOSPECS, ULYSSES, ITAN, DEMIFER, SIESTA
<b>Aalborg:</b>	TERCO, METROBORDER, LUPA, TOWN, TANGO

[www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)

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