



ESPON - CADEC

CAPITALISATION AND DISSEMINATION OF ESPON CONCEPTS

DRAFT FINAL REPORT
31 OCTOBER 2013

A dissemination and capitalization strategy: using concepts as gateways to ESPON projects



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The partnership behind the ESPON Programme consists of the EU Commission and the Member States of the EU25, plus Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Each country and the Commission are represented in the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

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

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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. SUMMARY OF THE OVERALL PROJECT STRATEGY AND MAIN ACTIONS FULFILLED

OVERALL PROJECT STRATEGY

The CaDEC strategy is to use territorial development concepts used in ESPON reports as a vehicle to capitalize and disseminate ESPON results to stakeholders in the member states.

To attract stakeholder interest on ESPON reports, a limited number of people called ‘target groups’ were selected in each participating country that occupy strategic positions in their professional environment. These people would serve as springboards for further dissemination and capitalization.

The target groups subsequently filled in a questionnaire in order to identify the general level of knowledge and use of ESPON in the country and to gauge the needs of stakeholders as regards information on concepts. On the basis of the analysis of the answers given, the project partners were able to attune their dissemination strategy to the needs of stakeholders. This resulted in a selection of concepts and reports to be synthesized and summarized into a small number of briefs in the national language.

The delivery of the briefs on concepts became a cornerstone to the dissemination process of CaDEC. It empowered the different members of the target groups – capitalization - by providing them with a tangible and accessible means by which to further disseminate ESPON results.

On the basis of the briefs, stakeholders were asked to react both to the concepts and on ESPON reports used (during workshops). This feedback was used to assess their general understanding of concepts and ESPON reports, the level of the dissemination (ownership), their uses and potential uses (capitalization and empowerment) and their future needs.

Although the activities took place at the national level, the approach taken in the CaDEC project is fundamentally transnational. This was achieved by a synthesis of the analysis of the questionnaire and by means of transnational workshops, which aimed to identify common features in terms of dissemination, uses and needs.

MAIN ACTIONS FULFILLED

CHOICE OF THE CONCEPTS

A first broad selection of concepts was carried out by the LP using all the information (Final report, Draft final report, Interim report) on ESPON reports available at the time of the first project partner meeting (14 January 2011). During this meeting, a list of 6 concepts was established on the basis of exchanges between project partners on the relevancy of each concept. The list was validated by means of a vote. The final list was:

- Territorial cohesion
- Territorial impact
- Territorial governance
- Territorial cohesion
- Regional competitiveness
- Polycentrism
- Sustainability

The Coordination Unit subsequently presented this list of concepts to the Monitoring Committee, which took note of the selection.

IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

During the first project meeting on 14 January 2011, it was agreed (by a consensus) to involve a group of 10 to 15 people as 'target group members' in each partner country. This choice has been motivated by the involvement strategy chosen. The idea was to identify a group of people that could become involved in the CaDEC project in the following 3 years. In order to secure, as far as possible, the involvement of TG members for this period of time, they would be asked to answer a questionnaire and participate in 1-2 national workshops and 1 transnational workshop.

Once this was done, the LP provided instructions to the partners which outlined the transnational activity requirements. One was to involve policy makers, practitioners and scientists that would otherwise would not be informed from ESPON. Naturally, adaptations to national contexts has been done by each project partner to take into account some national circumstances, as for instance the existing organization of territorial power in each country (see part B Report: members of target groups by country). The total number of target groups was 102 people.

The engagement strategy of each national target group was to first make phone calls to each person concerned to explain the overall strategy of the CaDEC project and in order to secure their participation in all phases.

PROPOSAL, DISCUSSION AND FINALIZATION OF A QUESTIONNAIRE

During the first project meeting on 14 January 2011, the Lead Partner presented a draft proposal of a questionnaire. Project partners discussed it during this meeting. The outcome of the discussion was a questionnaire structured in the following way:

- Introductory part of the questionnaire:
 - Overall presentation of ESPON,
 - Presentation of the CaDEC project and its general strategy
 - Benefits for the members of the target groups: information on ESPON, expression of ideas, demands and needs on ESPON
- Content (see annex 3):
 - Personal data
 - General knowledge and uses of ESPON
 - Questions on concept chosen:
 - Knowledge of the concepts
 - Definition of the concepts
 - Uses of the concepts
 - Will to participate in the next stages (national and transnational workshops) of the CaDEC project
 - Suggestions and needs addressed in the CaDEC project

The questionnaire was written in English and translated in the different national languages of the target groups to remove the language barrier. The aim of the questionnaire was:

- To identify needs on ESPON
- To identify, thanks to the analysis by each project partner of the answers to the questionnaire, the concepts that seemed the most relevant to disseminate information from adequate ESPON reports (reports most in relation with interesting concepts for members of the national target group).
- To prepare the final choice of concepts and ESPON reports to be synthesized.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire was put online using the software Lime Wire. Each project partner asked members of the target group to respond to the questionnaire. Two project partners (Belgium, France) chose to interview their target groups instead, filling in the questionnaire themselves on the basis of the answers given.

ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

As mentioned, the objectives of the questionnaire were to assess the level of knowledge that members of the target groups have of ESPON, of the concepts selected and to identify needs in order to fine-tune the choice of concepts (among the 6 concepts selected for the project) and of ESPON reports to be synthesized. This was achieved thanks to the analysis of the questionnaire done by each project partner on a national basis. This analysis was used to select the concepts and to have a first idea on the ESPON reports that could be used to explain the concepts.

ORGANISATION OF A FIRST NATIONAL WORKSHOP

The objective of the first national workshop was to present the results of the questionnaire to the target groups in order to validate and complete the questionnaire results. It also provided an opportunity to get more precise information on dissemination needs on concepts.

National workshops took place in all countries (except for Belgium where the interview strategy was considered sufficient by the project partner). These took place in the period between November 2011 and February 2012.

The outcomes of the workshops were synthesized in minutes, written by each project partners. With the analysis of the questionnaire results and the workshop, each project partner was able to identify 2-5 concepts relevant for their national target groups.

During the mid-term meeting of project partners, the 28th of March 2012, the choice of the more relevant concepts for the different national target groups, according to the questionnaire results, was done. At the same time, each project partner selected which the ESPON reports would be the most relevant for writing the syntheses in trying to gauge the interest of the members of their national target groups.

DRAFTING SYNTHESIS ON CONCEPTS

A first discussion on the content and design of the syntheses was held during the mid-term meeting (28th March 2012). During this meeting it was also decided to use ESPON reports from both Priority 1 and Priority 2 projects.

On the basis of these discussions, the Lead Partner proposed a common template. A common layout was also elaborated for all the syntheses.

Every project partner, according to the choices made, wrote several syntheses. The number ranged from 2 to 5 syntheses. Once written, these documents were disseminated to members of the target groups via the [CaDEC extranet](#) or by email.

After distributing the syntheses, the target groups were asked to provide feedback. The Lead Partner was interested in learning about the following:

- The level of interest of the members of the target group for the concepts chosen and for ESPON reports chosen for the syntheses
- Problems and difficulties raised by the members of the target group in relation with concepts chosen and with the ESPON reports chosen for the syntheses on concepts
- Needs and suggestions expressed by the members of the target group on concepts chosen, on

ESPON reports and on the ESPON programme

- Some project partners organized a second national workshop to obtain feedback. Others decided to get feedback using phone calls and emails.

FIRST TRANSNATIONAL MEETING IN PARIS, THE 22ND AND 23RD OF MAY 2013

The first transnational meeting aimed at pulling together all the information taken from the different tasks realised under the CaDEC project. All project partners were present and national experts from the United Kingdom, Sweden and Portugal were invited to participate.

In preparation for the meeting, project partners were asked to write a national report that synthesized the CaDEC results on a national basis according to a template distributed by the Lead Partner that included the following items:

- In order to understand answers and feedbacks from national target groups members, a first section was dedicated to a description of the national planning system
- The second item consist in a presentation on feedback on the concepts from a national perspective (notably, questionnaire results on uses of concepts and definitions)
- From the third to the fifth elements, the feedback from the target groups (see above).

Also in advanced of the meeting, the national experts were asked to deliver a report following the below guidelines:

- A description of the national planning system (United Kingdom, Sweden, Portugal)
- A description of the national perspectives on the concepts chosen in CaDEC
- A description of how these concepts are mobilized (or not) in the national planning system
- An estimation of the interest for national actors of ESPON reports in terms of their conceptual contribution.

As mentioned in the CaDEC proposal, the idea to involve national experts was intended to extend the geographical scope of the CaDEC project to countries not involved in CaDEC. The choice of the national experts was done to represent the European geographical diversity.

All reports ([national project partners' reports and national experts' reports](#)) were compiled and put online in the CaDEC extranet.

The meeting itself was an opportunity to gather together all inputs so far in terms of needs for dissemination and capitalization of ESPON. It also provided a forum for a first discussion (see second transnational workshop, 17-18 October 2013) between project partners and the experts on target groups' needs and suggestions in terms of dissemination and capitalization and to identify potential future orientations for the future ESPON programme. The main results of this phase have been synthesized by the Lead Partner (see part B report).

Second transnational workshop in Paris, the 17th and 18th of October 2013

The second transnational meeting was the opportunity to present to a selected panel of stakeholders coming from different countries:

- the results of the CaDEC project, notably the [transnational analysis of the questionnaire](#) results
- a first feedback on needs and suggestions taken from national reports of the projects partners based on the national workshops and exchanges with stakeholders at national level by phone and by emails. The projects partners were also present together with two national experts from the United-Kingdom and from Portugal.

This meeting was the opportunity, from a transnational point of view, to get feedbacks from the stakeholders on the basis of the presentation of the results but also to give the opportunity to go deeper in the understanding of their needs and suggestions on concepts and on ESPON. The main results of this

meeting have been synthesized by the lead partner (see part B report). The lead partner also drafted a specific [document on needs and suggestions](#).

EXTRANET

Right from the beginning of the project, the extranet of CaDEC has been developed to facilitate communication between project partners but also to assure the communication, dissemination and capitalization process towards members of the target groups (see below for examples on uses during the project). The CaDEC extranet was a capitalization tool for the project itself (all internal documents are online) as well as for members of target groups because it provided them direct access to the syntheses on concepts and to ESPON reports. It contains a lot of information that can be useful for the future ESPON programme.

The extranet (<http://cadec.ums-riate.fr>) contains the following:

- A general section for project partners (login needed) with the following files:
 - “Relevant documents”:
 - Project proposal, financial and administrative documents
 - List of members of the national target groups, the questionnaire, the ESPON reports (Priority 1 and 2) used for the syntheses
 - Project meetings and transnational meetings (minutes and preparatory documents)
 - ‘Compilation’ of national and experts reports in one single document,
 - Transnational analysis of the questionnaire
 - New elements
 - List of users
- Syntheses of ESPON reports (open access): one file per country containing the syntheses of ESPON reports on the concepts. That has been the main tool for dissemination of the syntheses to the national target groups.

Blunder Checks

All blunder checks to be done over the period of the CaDEC project were carried out (see annex 4).

2. CONCLUSIONS ON THE OUTCOMES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT IN TERMS OF CAPITALISATION OF ESPON RESULTS IN THE TRANSNATIONAL CONTEXT AND THE MAJOR TARGET GROUPS APPROACHED

ON CAPITALIZATION

The capitalization process in CaDEC has achieved by:

- dissemination of ESPON results using concepts as gateways to the reports
- choosing target members from different positions and scales and levels of responsibilities, bearing in minds that the priority 4 aims to identify 3 categories of stakeholders: practitioners, policy makers and academics. Particular attention has been paid to identify people that do not seem, from the outset, have sufficient information on ESPON.

The CaDEC syntheses on ESPON reports on concepts (i.e. the briefs) can be considered a major achievement of the project. This can be considered a form of capitalization:

- because the syntheses use many different ESPON reports
- because the syntheses were presented and discussed during the different workshops in order to inspire target group members to use ESPON findings.

Naturally, the work done during the workshops also contributed to the dissemination process within the

framework of the CaDEC project and more generally to Priority 4.

ON MAJOR TARGET GROUPS APPROACHED

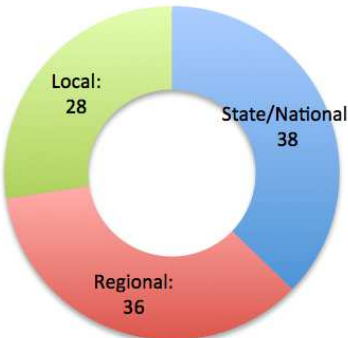
The transnational target group of 102 persons is composed the following way.

Graph 1 - Distribution of participants according to their professional position



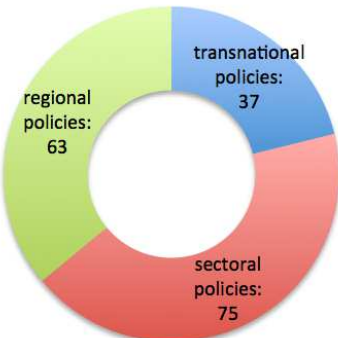
As the figure shows, there was a good balance between the different categories according to the position of the transnational target groups, especially if one considers that the members of staff in charge of studies and researchers have similar tasks as regards territorial development issues.

Graph 2 - Distribution of participants by level of institution



We can also see that respondents are fairly evenly distributed according to ‘institution / level’ categories, resulting in an almost equal share between the regional and national levels. Even though the local level is more difficult to reach for a programme like ESPON, the share of respondents, although lower than the other levels, still represents more than ¼ of the total.

Graph 3 - Distribution of participants according to the types of European policies they are dealing with (total number higher than the number of participants due to multiple choices)



Respondents to the questionnaire are fairly evenly distributed according to types of European policies implemented if one considers regional and sectoral policies; share of respondents who are implementing transnational policies being lower.

3. APPRAISAL OF THE IMPACT OF THE CAPITALISATION UNDERTAKEN AND THE ADDED VALUE OF THE PROJECT RELATED TO MOBILISING TRANSNATIONAL ACTORS AND STIMULATING NEW INITIATIVES

The questionnaire was a vital step for informing and raising interest about ESPON. The national workshops were also crucial, not only for informing stakeholders on ESPON, but also to get feedback on concepts and ESPON reports. The final transnational workshop was the opportunity to go deeper in the understanding of needs and suggestions from the stakeholders on concepts and on ESPON and consequently this has opened the way for new initiatives in terms of dissemination and capitalisation on concepts and on ESPON.

The concept-based syntheses were considered as an important value added both for the ECPs part of the project (according to their general experience of disseminating and on the capitalization of ESPON) but also for the stakeholders. These greatly appreciated for the syntheses because it allowed them to get a good idea about a number of related ESPON reports by just reading a few pages. The idea of using a concept as an entry point (it could either be a theme, an issue) eased the process of capitalization both for themselves and their institutions. The fact that the syntheses were written in national languages was considered very important for the dissemination and capitalization of ESPON.

Key findings from the project :

1. The concepts chosen are very used by stakeholders.
2. The ways to define the concepts are very different.
3. No correlation can be established between the use of the concepts and the use of ESPON.
4. The concepts are more used at regional (or even local) levels than at the national level.
5. There is a strong need for common definitions of the concepts at EU level balanced by the need to have an overview on the possible variability of use of the concepts according to practices and territorial contexts. ESPON can contribute to this.

B. REPORT

1. PRESENTATION OF THE OVERALL STRATEGY FOR THE TRANSNATIONAL NETWORKING ACTIVITY AND THE PROPOSED PACKAGES OF TRANSNATIONAL ACTIONS AS WELL AS THE DEFINED TARGET GROUPS

OVERALL STRATEGY

The CaDEC general strategy has been to attract stakeholders' interest on ESPON by using a select number of concepts on territorial development (broad ones), which are used in ESPON reports. In this way, the CaDEC project used concepts as a gateway to ESPON reports.

To attract stakeholders interest on ESPON reports, it has been assumed that a selection of a limited number of stakeholders in every partners' countries occupying strategic positions in their own professional environment would be a good way to realize a real process of dissemination and capitalization. In order to maximise the impact of the project, we have tried as far as possible to select people that otherwise would not be informed on ESPON.

Once the different national target groups were chosen, the project aimed to identify stakeholders' needs in terms of information on concepts by means of a questionnaire. Partly on the basis of the answers given, the project partners were able to focus their dissemination strategy on the stated needs and interests of the target groups (e.g. which concepts and reports should be synthesized).

The delivery of syntheses on concepts was the cornerstone of the CaDEC dissemination strategy. The syntheses on concepts allowed the project partners to deal with many ESPON reports and share the information in an accessible way for stakeholders (synthetic, simple language, in the national language). This strategy mobilized the target group members to capitalize on ESPON results.

The strategy also contained a clear bottom-up aspect. On the basis of the information given in the syntheses, stakeholders were asked to give their reaction on the selected concepts and the ESPON reports (this occurred during workshops). This part of the feedback assessed their understanding of concepts and the related ESPON reports, the effects of the dissemination (ownership), their uses and their potential uses (capitalization and empowerment) and their needs for the future addressed to the ESPON programme.

Finally, the CaDEC project also contains a transnational approach. The results of the questionnaire were compiled and analysed at the transnational level and transnational workshops in Paris took place to identify common features in terms of dissemination, uses and needs. This was enabled by a transnational analysis of the feedback and by exchanges between the different national target groups during transnational meetings. From that point of view, we think that the composition of the team, involving countries that are not part of a sub-regional European space, has allowed us to get a diversity of approaches because national contexts were different from one country to another. Attuning the strategy according to the different national contexts within the project added to the robustness of the overall strategy of CaDEC.

PACKAGES OF TNA

The questionnaire

The aim of the questionnaire was to:

- identify needs in relation to ESPON
- identify, thanks to the analysis of the answers to the questionnaire of each project partner, the concepts that seemed the most promising for disseminating information in ESPON reports.
- prepare the final choice of concepts and ESPON reports to be synthesized.

The questions were focused on the general knowledge and uses of ESPON that the respondents had, their own definition of the concepts chosen, on the uses (or non-use) of the concepts and on their first suggestions and needs in relation to ESPON. The questionnaire distributed at the start of the CaDEC project was therefore part of the involvement strategy: respondents have been interviewed on their willingness to participate in the next steps of the CaDEC project (national and transnational workshops) (see annex 3).

The questionnaire was delivered to all members of the national target groups in national languages. In total, 102 persons have answered the questionnaire. The graphs 1, 2 and 3 (see pp. 10-11) shows the structure of the sample of respondents according to their position in their institution, their institutional level and of the types of European policies they deal with.

The results of the questionnaire were used as a basis for discussion during the first national workshops. The goal was to obtain feedback from the targets groups and to fine-tune the answers given from a more qualitative point of view.

Finally, the questionnaire was analysed at a transnational level in order to reveal a transnational image of the results. This [transnational analysis](#) was the subject of a specific report on the CaDEC extranet. It was also used during the second transnational workshop to elicit a response from the attending target group members and invite them to reflect on the results from a transnational perspective.

It has to be underlined that the answers given reflect the composition of the members of the various target groups. The results of the questionnaire cannot be generalized or be considered representative of all stakeholders across Europe. The results presented in the section 2 should be read with this in mind.

Extranet

From a synthetic point of view, the CaDEC extranet includes:

- The analyses on questionnaire results (national and transnational)
- The feedbacks on syntheses of ESPON reports on concepts (national and the synthesis at transnational level)
- The presentation of the different national planning systems of the different project partners
- The work of the national experts on the national planning systems and the way the concepts chosen in CaDEC and in ESPON are used (or not) in the 3 different countries that were not part of the CaDEC consortium (United-Kingdom, Sweden, Portugal).

Short syntheses of selected ESPON reports on concepts

Based on the questionnaire results in each country, and according to general guidelines delivered by the Lead Partner (see section 2), the project partners chose to use some concepts out of the six chosen for the CaDEC project as a whole (territorial cohesion, regional competitiveness, territorial impact, polycentrism, sustainability, territorial governance) as vehicles to disseminate ESPON reports.

The choice of concepts guided the choice of which ESPON reports should be used for the syntheses. Each project partner subsequently wrote the syntheses in the national languages according to stakeholders needs.

Synthesis of national reports

Each project partner wrote a national report in order to summarize the results of the questionnaire and of the national workshops. In order to make the national reports readable in a unique document, a 'compilation' of these reports was produced by the Lead Partner and downloaded on the CaDEC extranet.

Workshops

Two kinds of workshops were held in the course of the CaDEC project:

- National workshops, which employed the same approach in the different countries. The idea was to work towards dissemination on a national basis in the national language, but with a common methodological framework. This provided a transnational value to the national workshops.
- Transnational workshops were held to allow exchanges between project partners on national results in order to put together a transnational image of the results. The suggestions and needs of the stakeholders were focused on in the first transnational workshop. The second transnational workshop focused on gaining feedback from stakeholders, sharing knowledge and confronting stakeholders' views in a transnational context.

TARGET GROUPS

The choice of the target groups was made according to the requirements of the priority 4: involve policy makers, practitioners, academics. From a dissemination viewpoint, it was important to guarantee that people from different level of responsibilities and of institutions could be represented. The project tried to involve people that otherwise would not be informed on ESPON in choosing people that, to the knowledge of the project partners, had not yet been involved in ESPON. 10 to 15 persons were selected in the each country. The limited number of people was a way to go deeper in the dissemination and, above all, in the capitalization process since the same people would be involved over a long period of time (i.e. the 3-year duration of the CaDEC project).

Even if these guidelines were broadly followed by the project partners, some adaptation to national contexts were needed because the territorial organization that can be different from one country to another. According to these guidelines, a choice was made for each country involved (see list of the target groups members in annex 5).

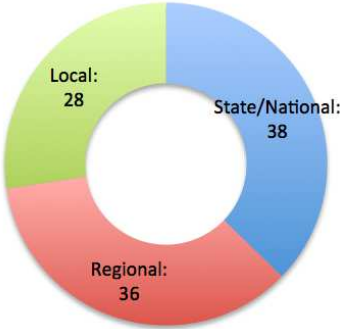
From a transnational viewpoint, the following graphs allow to describe the transnational target groups.

Graph 1 – Distribution of participants according to their professional position



It can be noticed a rather good balance of the different categories according to the position of the transnational target groups if one considers the category "Member of staff in charge of studies" and "Researcher, expert" as doing a quite similar job on the issues of territorial development.

Graph 2 – Distribution of participants by level of institution



We can see that participants are fairly evenly distributed according to "institution / level" categories, resulting in an almost equal share between the regional and national levels. Even if the local level is more difficult to reach for a programme as ESPON, the share, even if it is lower than for the other levels, represents more than ¼ of the total.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEPARATE ACTIONS AND HOW THESE HAVE STIMULATED TRANSNATIONAL INTEREST AND AWARENESS IN ESPON

CHOICE OF THE CONCEPTS

The Lead Partner proposed that project partners follow a general method to chose the concepts to be used in CaDEC. Two kinds of concepts were identified in this regard: (1) those that are in direct relation with European objectives in terms of territorial development and (2) those that are taken from the scientific literature (i.e. regional competitiveness). Concepts were considered 'ESPON concepts' if they were used in ESPON projects to deliver analyses, results and recommendations. The concepts selected had to be related to specific ESPON 2013 projects. On this basis, the aim was to choose 5 to 6 concepts that could be of interest to all project partners. The project partners were able to select 1 or 2 additional concepts relevant to their own national context. A list of concepts included in ESPON projects at the stage of Interim Report, DFR or FR was then drawn up. Another selection criterion was that the concept would allow the project team to disseminate as many ESPON reports as possible. The concepts should therefore be found in many reports of ESPON.

Table 1 - ESPON reports used for selecting concepts (at the date of our 1st project partner meeting, the 14th of January 2011)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic and Migratory Flows Affecting European Regions and Cities (DEMIFER) • European Development Opportunities in Rural Areas (EDORA) • Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies in Europe (CLIMATE) • Future Orientation for Cities (FOCI) • Regions at Risk of Energy Poverty (RERISK) • Territorial Impact Package for Transport and Agricultural Policies (TIPTAP) • The Case for Agglomeration Economies in Europe (CAEE) • Territorial Diversity in Europe (ESPON – TEDI) • The Development of the Islands – European Islands and Cohesion Policy (EUROISLANDS) • Cross-Border Polycentric Metropolitan Regions (METROBORDER) • Spatial Scenarios: New Tools for Local-Regional Territories (SS-LR) • Success for Convergence Regions’ Economies (SURE) • The Case for Agglomeration Economies in Europe (CAEE) • Territorial Diversity in Europe (ESPON – TEDI) • The Development of the Islands – European Islands and Cohesion Policy (EUROISLANDS) • Cross-Border Polycentric Metropolitan Regions (METROBORDER) • Spatial Scenarios: New Tools for Local-Regional Territories (SS-LR) • Success for Convergence Regions’ Economies (SURE)
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Table 2 – List of concepts selected from ESPON reports (see table 1) and results of the vote (in bold selected concepts)

CONCEPTS	VOTE
Territorial cohesion	8
Territorial impact	6
Regional competitiveness	6
Polycentrism	5
Sustainability	4
Territorial governance	3
Territorial development progress - opportunities	3
Territorial capital	2
FUA	2
Peripherality	2
Accessibility	2
Territorial cooperation	2
Secondary growth poles	1
Eurocorridors	1
MEGA	1
Urban/rural development	1
Regional disparities	1
Aging areas	1
Remote regions	1
Convergence	1
Territorial diversity	1
Placed Based approach	1
Macro-regional approach	1

The CU presented the common selected concepts to the MC that had taken note of this choice¹.

¹ Additional concepts chosen by the project partners: Macro regional approach (Bulgaria and Romania); Territorial cooperation: Belgium, Bulgaria; Regional disparities (Romania); Place based approach (Latvia, Belgium); Territorial

BUILDING OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND ANALYSE OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

➤ *Methodology*

The Lead Partner distributed a draft proposal of the questionnaire to the partners. This was discussed and amended in order to fit as well as possible with the different national contexts. Once this done, the questionnaire was finalised by the Lead Partner in its final version in English and had been translated into national languages and put online using the software Lime Wire (see annex 3). The translation into national languages was very important because the questionnaire was part of the involvement strategy. It was important that stakeholders could right from the beginning get into the CaDEC project without any kind of hesitation stemming from their ability to speak English. The members of the target groups were invited by the project partners to answer the questionnaire online. Some project partners (Belgium, France) decided to conduct direct interviews with their stakeholders and filled the questionnaire themselves afterwards.

The survey was performed from May to July 2011. Consequently, the ESPON reports quoted in this report are only the ones delivered at that time. All the results from questionnaire are taken into account here except for Bulgaria. Due to the disengagement of this partner, the Lead Partner was not able to check the questionnaire results from the Bulgarian target groups for accuracy with the Bulgarian partner. That is why we have decided not to take these answers into account in the transnational analysis. To guarantee the homogeneity of the results some answers to the questionnaire were omitted. When this was the case, this is mentioned in the tables presented in the course of the [transnational analysis of the questionnaire](#).

Even though the general guideline was to chose target group members in a way to give a certain level of homogeneity to the transnational target group, this still cannot solve the question of different national contexts that has influenced the choice of national targets groups by the project partners. Consequently, the results presented below should not be considered as a representative image of use of ESPON and on knowledge on concepts, but rather as, and in line with the aims of Priority 4 Transnational networking activities, what stakeholders involved in the CaDEC project have to say about concepts and on ESPON. For this reason, it would be scientifically unjustified to make a comparison of answers from one country to another. Moreover, this is not in accordance with the aim of the Priority 4, which is focussed on capitalization and not own research. Nevertheless, it is useful to recall that 102 persons have answered to the questionnaire.

diversity (Italy); Convergence and territorial regional opportunities (Italy). Please note that these concepts were introduced in the questionnaire but the analysis was done internally by the project partners. They are not considered as common CaDEC concepts and have not been taken into account in the transnational analysis.

➤ Objectives

As said above, the questionnaire was part of the involvement strategy but at the same time two ideas were followed:

- The questionnaire had to help the project partners identify needs of stakeholders and select concepts accordingly. The idea was here to fine-tune the choice of concepts that would be selected later on to write the syntheses on ESPON reports. This phase is closely related to the work performed in the first national workshops. That is why these results are presented below when it comes to deal the outcomes of the different national workshops.
- The analysis of all the national results to the questionnaire will provide a transnational overview on the knowledge and uses of ESPON and on definitions and uses of concepts. The questionnaire allowed the project to relate the two dimensions (ESPON / concepts). The transnational analysis aimed to give information on how stakeholders view and use ESPON and the concepts. This analysis was presented during the second transnational workshop so that members of the target groups from different countries could respond and put their answers in a European context. The results are presented below.

➤ Results:

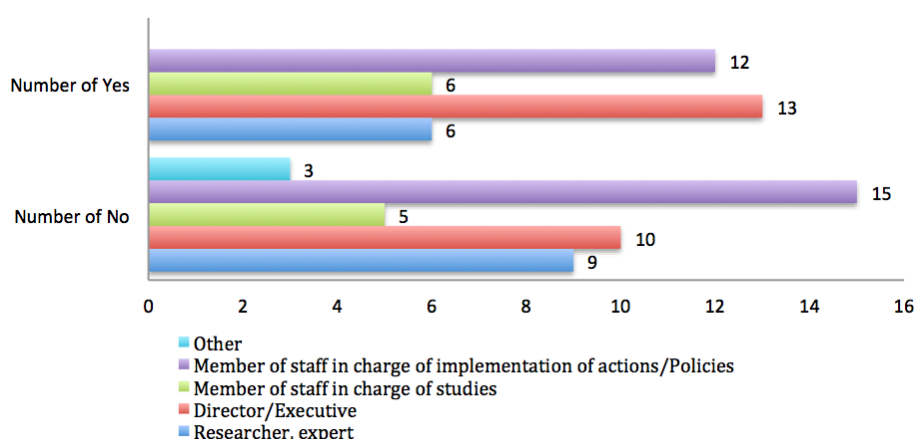
➤ General knowledge of ESPON:

Table 3 – Use of ESPON

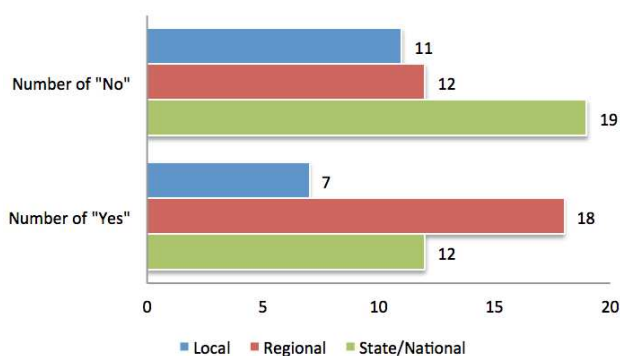
Number of « Yes »	Number of « No »
37	42
47%	53%

The number of "yes" in table 3 should not obscure the fact that most practitioners use the documents in a very superficial way. Some of them were used in ESPON meetings or information sessions, but not in their specific tasks. Some have scanned several reports, the ESPON website or databases to obtain a general knowledge of the European territory, but have not actually used the material in their work.

Graph 4 – Use of ESPON according to the position of the members of the target groups.



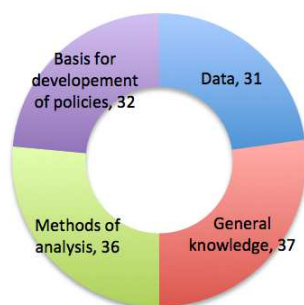
Graph 5 – Use of ESPON / Institution, level



With regard to the political and administrative level, the regional level is much more prominent, while national and local levels are where the negative responses are the more frequent. ESPON is known and used at the regional level (seen in some countries as the actual level of action on territorial development) and national levels. At the local level, practices of ESPON are rare, due to the lack of downscaling, the ESPON reports being considered as insufficiently detailed.

It is impossible to observe a significant correlation between the use of ESPON and the position of members of the TGs. This means that the use of ESPON does not depend on factors such as the position, the lever or institutional-wide policy of the European Union.

Graph 6 – What kind of information do you find in ESPON works ?



The reasons why members of target groups do not use ESPON are summarized below:

- Respondents considered that their activities are not sufficiently related to ESPON.
- Lack of time to find and select the appropriate research on certain subjects. Difficult access to ESPON makes it difficult to detect a specific study.
- Lack of information: it seems certain that using ESPON is not yet a habit, probably because they do not know exactly what aspects can be useful.
- Lack of utility in the daily work of some officials.
- Data on selected countries are for some of them too imprecise and raise doubts about the results.

➤ *Use of the concepts and knowledge of ESPON*

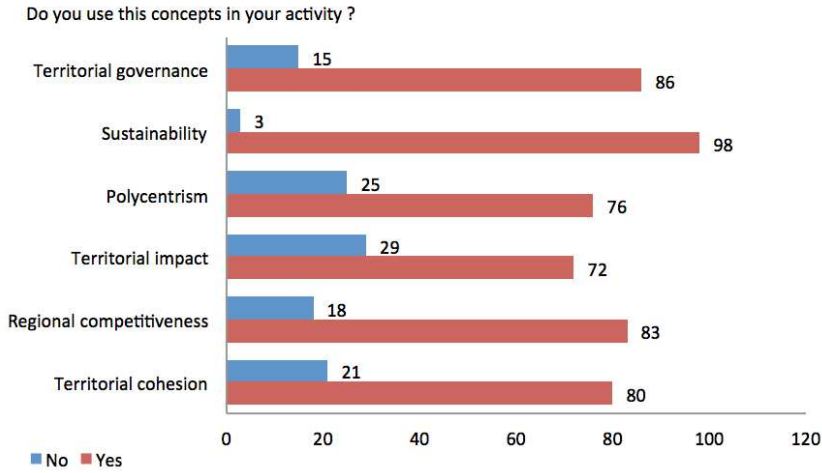
For each concept, the following graphs (graphs 8 to 13) are designed to understand which channels the practitioners are using or not in their daily activities. Several biases may disrupt the interpretation of results. The reasons for non-use of a concept or of ESPON do not necessarily correspond to a denial or ignorance but could be related to the activity itself (the service in the institution concerned) and the position or the capacity to read English.

The following graphs attempt to evaluate the relationship between proximity and / or familiarity with ESPON and the knowledge and / or use of concepts. These graphs allow us to understand by which means

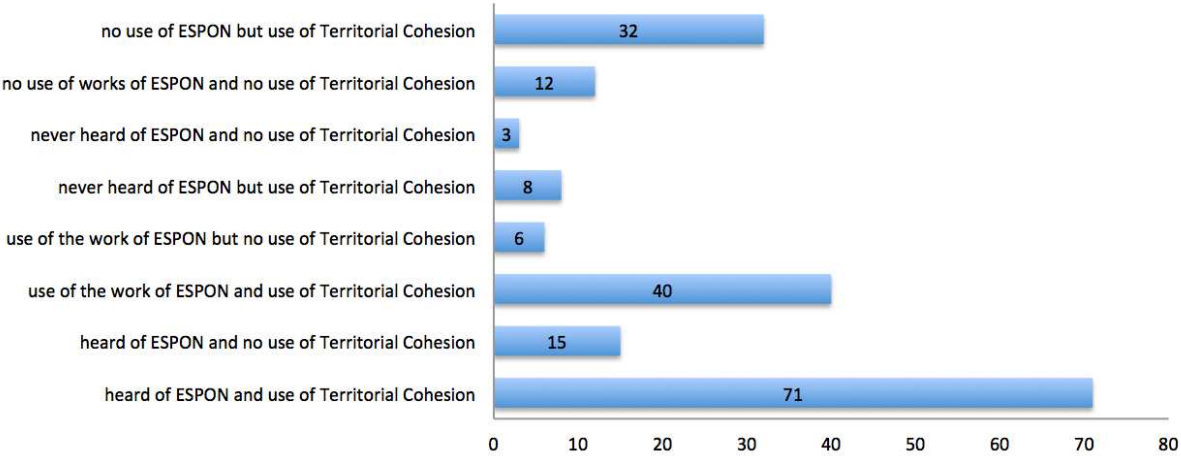
the members of the target groups are using (or not) the selected concepts. Two principles of differentiation can help understand the results. First the awareness of the concept: the non-specific ESPON concepts (sustainability, regional competitiveness) have less dependent responses on ESPON knowledge. Secondly, familiarity with a concept: the example of territorial governance could be understood as significant of divisions in the traditions of spatial planning in various countries.

These results indicate that the use of concepts increases with the familiarity of the ESPON programme, but in many cases the use of concepts is independent of the use of ESPON programme. Consequently, it can be said that mechanisms for disseminating concepts, sometimes very European ones, as for instance territorial cohesion, may be accompanied by the ignorance of the role of ESPON. This may point to a finding that an insufficient awareness of ESPON exists.

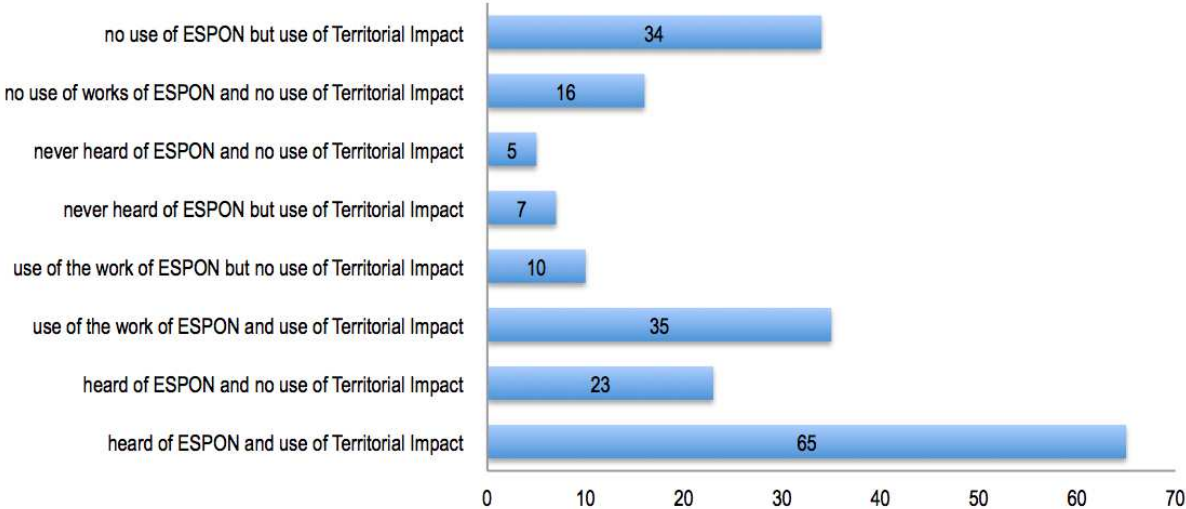
Graph 7 – Use of the concepts in the activity of the stakeholders



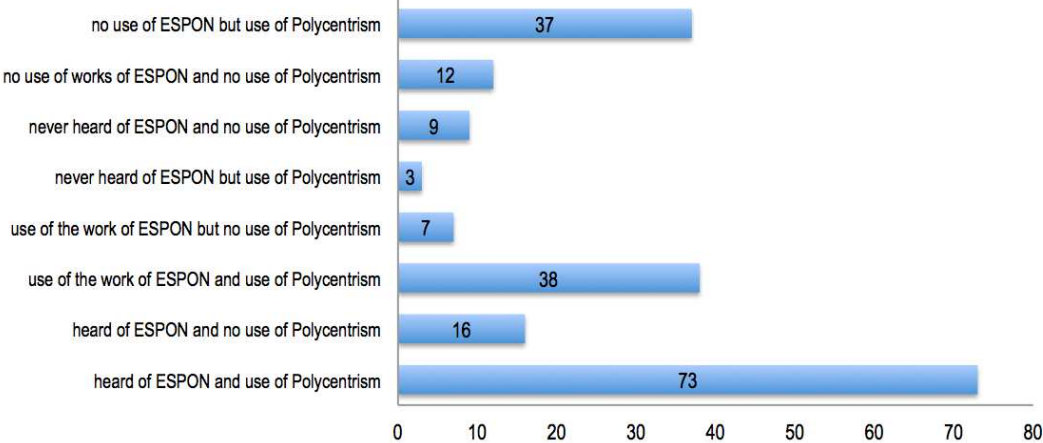
Graph 8 – Use of territorial cohesion and awareness of ESPON



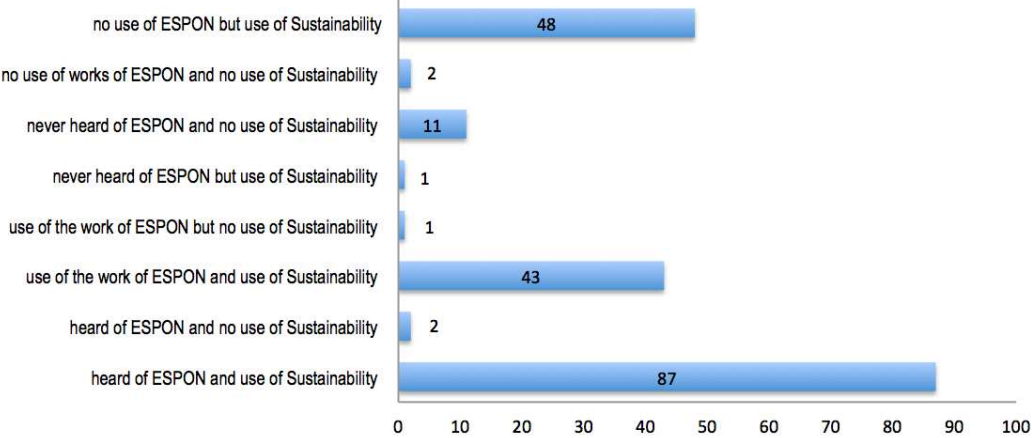
Graph 9 – Use of and territorial impact awareness of ESPON



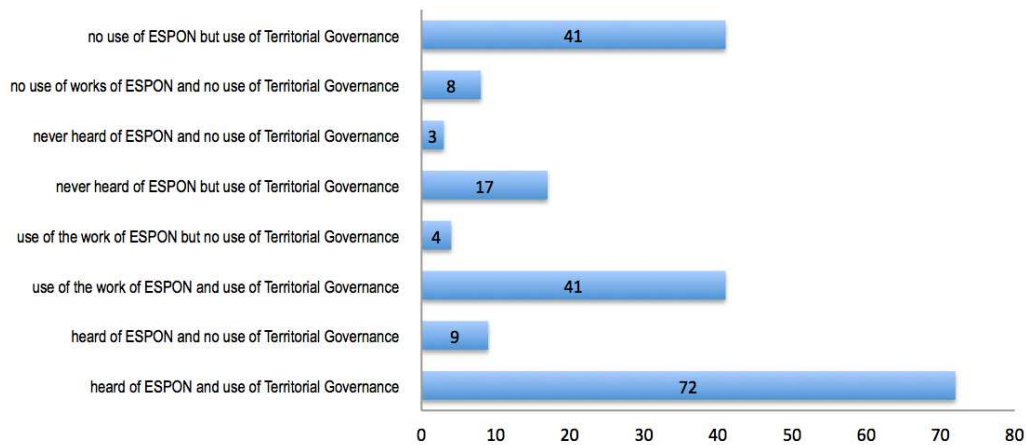
Graph 10 – Use of polycentrism and awareness of ESPON



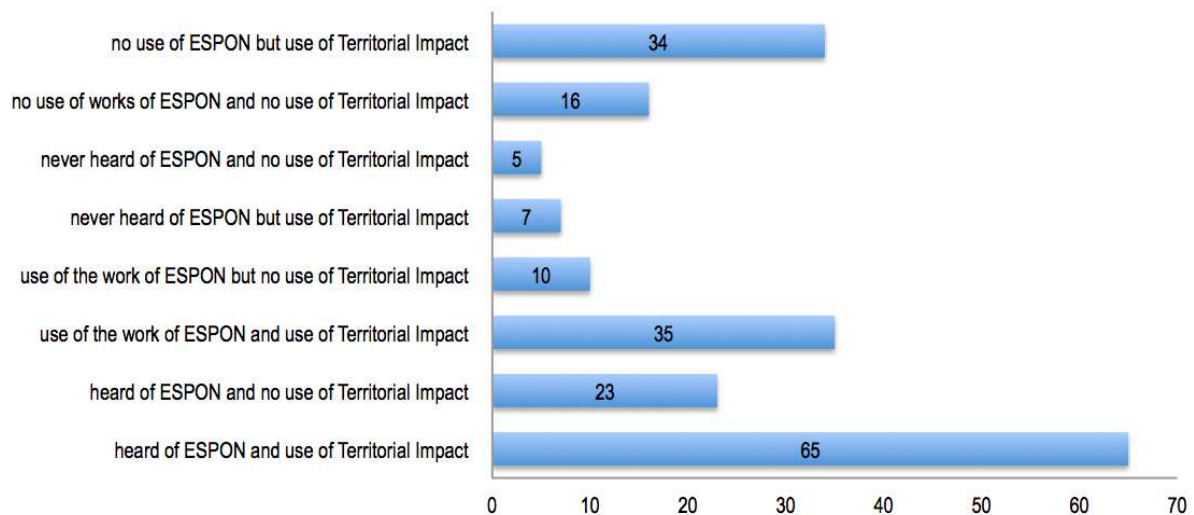
Graph 11 – Use of sustainability and awareness of ESPON



Graph 12 – Use of territorial governance and awareness of ESPON



Graph 13 – Use of regional competitiveness and awareness of ESPON



➤ *Definition of the concepts:*

- Territorial cohesion

The definitions can go in different directions. Sometimes multiple definitions can be found in a single definition given by a single respondent. Territorial cohesion can be defined as **an ideal situation or a goal, which combine the ideas of fairness, balance, consistency of the territories**. In other cases, the goal is defined by linking it to a project or to a larger political field, such as **social and spatial justice and sustainable development**. This type of vision tends to reduce territorial cohesion to part of a larger project (we should recall that the first idea of cohesion at European level referred to an ‘economic and social’ cohesion). This meaning is also apparent through the often-stated aim of **development of human resources of a territory**.

Territorial cohesion can be seen as a process implemented for the purpose of **compensation to reduce disparities or for improving the level of development** (e.g. “Ensure possibilities of balanced development”; “Promoting equal living standards and providing means for the regions less developed”). This position is rarely supplemented with details about which actions this entails (e.g. “The allocation of resources in order to even out the unfavourable differences”). Sometimes details on how to do this are given (e.g. “develop relationships taking into account own and external identities and capabilities”).

The strong interaction between the European project at Community level and the role assumed and asserted of territorial cohesion helps to assign **an active role in European integration** (e.g. “Factor of integration between different territorial strategies in Europe”).

The process is often the **result of actions or measures taken by officials either to improve or maintain a situation**, and includes specific objectives.

With few exceptions in the proposed responses, **levels of scale that refer to the idea of territorial cohesion are implicit** (e.g. “That can be present at any territorial scale”) and nothing is specified if it is a national, regional or other level. From this arises an ambiguity contained in the concept itself and not dissipated in the responses of the target groups. When we speak of territorial cohesion, reference is made to **an internal cohesion of a territory or the degree of ‘cohesion’ between neighbouring territories and thus to a form of inter-territorial cohesion** (e.g. “Unified and horizontal guidelines for sustainable development of all EU regions”).

- Regional competitiveness

The definitions of regional competitiveness cover a wide range of interpretations. First of all, regional competitiveness is linked with the idea of **competition between territories and domination in a globalized world**. The regional competitiveness reflects the competitive situation, both at national and international levels, between the territories: “The search for regional competitiveness should enable a region to face the challenges of globalization and to be able to compete with other regions in a number of areas”. It includes an idea of an area of supremacy vis-à-vis other regions:

- “It is the fight among regions to obtain the same goal, leading to a necessary rivalry”;
- “The ability of regions to increase performance and the ranking among regions and possibilities of exchange among them”.

More generally, for a territory, the search for regional competitiveness allows it “to participate, within a area, to a global economic competition”.

Regional competitiveness is also defined by action, for example when dealing with the **mobilization of specific strategies**:

- “Each area develops its specific strengths to be competitive in a global context”;
- “Each area should have development programs able to anticipate economic change”;
- “Regional competitiveness means the clustering in order to stimulate regional development through the modernization of the infrastructures and direct support”;
- “Regional competitiveness is the implementation of actions in order to be attractive and successful for a given territory within the competition between territories”.

Finding an advantageous **position and exploiting comparative advantages** is the way, for each territory, to succeed: “Regional competitiveness can express the position of a region compared to other regions in terms of its “comparative advantage”. These strategies use potentials, capabilities and efficiency. The regional competitiveness is the “Capability of each territory to channel and attract economic activities and investments”. Therefore, it is **the ability to react to new global challenges in an international context** that is at stake here.

Regions’ development potential among other areas, are based on economic, social and environmental aspects:

- “The sustainable efficiency and efficient use of endogenous resources (natural, human and built ones) and of opportunities derived”;
- and the idea of “good location of resources in each area in order to exploit comparative advantages”.

These potentials include factors like the resources of the territory: “The regional competitiveness is the ability to use its resources”. Several regional development potentials composed of different elements (economic structure, geopolitical position, resources) should be combined. They describe the potential of the area in the globalization era: “Competitiveness is a concept based on some well known elements as accessibility, specialization and quality of performance and other less known forms of as the positive cooperation between the actors of the local development and the capabilities of collective learning shown by local society”. Exploitation of endogenous resources in an efficient and rational way, as well as landscape and the public goods are good ways to achieve regional competitiveness: “The regional competitiveness is the set of activities mobilized by regions with the aim to promote regional territory”.

In some definitions competitiveness and attractiveness seem to be equivalent. The idea of **regional competitiveness is linked to attractiveness and development**: “The regional competitiveness represents attractiveness and employability of the workforce to strengthen their attractiveness: anticipating economic and social change, the support to innovation, knowledge society”. This attractiveness is based on the skills of the labour force and foreign Investments. The concept of regional competitiveness is close to regional attractiveness. This is to strengthen the regional territory in the world playing on its characteristics and to ensure, within the national territory, complementarities between territories.

Finally, regional competitiveness sometimes leads to an idealized definition when considered as a general objective of development in “order to generate a high level of income and of standard of life”; by social as well as economic objectives: “The development of existing economic agents and the raising of the standard of living of the population”. In this perspective, regional competitiveness can mean “balanced development by reducing discrepancies between different regions and by supporting those are the more poorly developed helping them to reducing their lagging,” or “the ability to ensure a sustainable economic growth for the territory and for the regional society”. But it is not considered as sustainable, at least as it is today understood, because it causes losses in terms of territorial diversity and in terms of wealth.

- Territorial impact

Members of the target groups used several approaches to a definition of ‘territorial impact’. Some define it by giving it a function: the concept is equated with its **evaluation function** of development policies in general, evaluation of certain decisions, and the ability to take stock of these policies. In this vein, the concept of territorial impact is often treated as a **diagnostic tool or measurement** of a particular decision or of the implementation of a legislation (“detect the impact of actions on a structure territorial”); or as a tool for forecasting.

Territorial impact is often presented as **a phenomenon resulting from the realization of an action** or as an effect or consequence of one. From this perspective, the mechanism that produces a territorial impact can be described. Around this type of definition, one can link the idea of the influence, and more specifically the ability to transform the spatial organization and functioning of the territory.

Some define ‘territorial impact’ as **a socially useful purpose**. The territorial impact is then referred to ethics. The territorial impact is the result of that or those who make a decision on the functioning of territorial responsibility. Continuing in this vein, regional impact would aim for a target of harmony “or an environmental improvement goal”.

Some proposals are presented as ‘bypass’ responses. The approach of the respondent is not to define the

concept but give its extension field, for example that territorial impact includes “any decision regarding the environment and / or the economy”.

- Polycentrism

Some members of the target groups consider the **polycentrism as a state**. For them, polycentrism is then a polycentric territorial configuration at any given time:

The idea of a polycentric spatial structure is related the idea of **a particular spatial configuration of a set of cities**, corresponding either to a single distribution site or to a “urban system configured by several cities” where the urban system is a network of cities, each of which is a node of a central network (e.g. “territory with several nodes acting as centres”). **This configuration opposes urban concentration and it is related to all forms of decentralization.**

From this first approach derives the scalar and hierarchical issue. Some target group members insist that **multi-scale nature of any polycentric structure** can also be applied to a network of “medium-sized cities” which can play the same role as major growth poles. A number of references to theories of spatial economics are more or less explicit in the definitions (growth poles, or urban clusters). Note that no definition refers to the intra-urban scale or to multiple centres within the same city.

Beyond the structural dimension or of shape, many definitions emphasize **the functional dimension**: “Existence of many settlements with centrality functions in each territorial or hierarchical level” to build a network and / or a system of functional relationships between cities based on the idea of complementarities.

To differentiate a vision of the polycentrism as a state, definitions are given which relate to the idea of **polycentric development** as a principle that should ultimately lead to a “...development scenario that foresees the establishment of multiple centres”:

- The polycentrism seen as **a driver of development** is often viewed as part of a wider project and broader considerations such as territorial cohesion, balanced and sustainable development (e.g. “promote efficient and sustainable development”). More generally, it is seen as necessary to achieve a status of “balanced and sustainable development of the territories”.
- With its positive virtues for the organization of a territory, polycentrism lends itself to the **ability to correct polycentric territorial inequalities**. The polycentrism promotes “a balanced regional development”, or even “equal living conditions” and “equal opportunity.”

Another dimension of polycentrism, although not explicitly cited, emphasizes **the idea of cooperation and territorial governance**: the polycentrism based on a structure that relies on autonomous centres of decision with repercussions on the political and administrative organization of the territory (e.g. “The presence of numerous centres of decision implies the necessity to identify effective methodologies of coordination”). Polycentrism becomes a web of relations between communities whose objective is to strengthen cooperation arrangements between towns and between them and the regional capital.

- Sustainability

Sustainability appears as a **consensual concept**. It is **related to the Brundtland report** and to its three pillars: economy, social, environment as well as the idea not to compromise the future of the next generation by decisions taken today. It is also a very used concept by all members of the transnational target groups.

The consensual aspect of the concept (well known, very used) does not mean that it was not criticized. For some members, the notion **is not really robust, often vague (perpetual shifts in meaning), and in relation with communication purposes (overused, misused, too 'trendy') rather than underpinned by scientific and technical approaches**.

Moreover, the transnational analysis reveals a much more complex picture of the concept. This situation could be related to the systemic aspect that emerges from the analysis of the transnational group answers. This concept has a **spatial and temporal dimension**. The spatial dimension could be related to the idea that territories are a **kind of melting pot of the different dimensions of sustainability**. The temporal dimension can naturally be related to the **long-term perspective of sustainability**, but not only. Indeed, some definitions given relate to the issue to take into account evolutions in time with **the idea to guarantee a certain level of homeostasis** (e.g. "Sustainability is the feature of a process or of a condition that can be maintained to a certain level indefinitely"; "Capacity to remain of a system, a component or a resource to which the concept is applied"). The key words summarizing the complex picture of sustainability given by the members of the transnational TG seem to be the following: **adaptation, equilibrium, preservation, regulation and quality**. All these terms can be related to a **systemic approach** of the notion.

The idea of adaptation could be defined as the need to **use the resources in an optimal and rational way**, using R&D (wise use) in trying to re-qualify and renew existing assets (public goods, buildings). This approach relates more to the idea of sustainable development and can be summed up by the idea to better adapt human activity towards natural resources.

The idea of equilibrium is also related to the definition of sustainability. The idea of a **prudent use of natural resources and not to compromise the capacity of nature to regenerate**, are central ("principles of 'being prudent with' and 'leaving it behind in a good state'"). The answers in relation with the preservation of the environment imply the depletion of natural resources and research on environmental impacts and limiting environmental risks (pollution).

The regulative aspects of the definitions given also help define sustainability as a systemic concept. Here, the answers relate to the **necessary process of governance in order to adjust the interests in the different fields**: economy, social and environment ("sustainability is not possible separate it from participative and cooperative governance"). They also relate to the **regulations at European and national levels** to give strength to the notion.

Finally, sustainability is for some of the respondents a concept that needs to be finalized according to broad objectives. This correspond to the idea of quality: sustainability appears as a **guarantee of a good development** (reference is made here to developing countries) – and relation is made between sustainability and territorial cohesion and territorial impact – and **allows to better or maintain the standard of quality of life**. Nevertheless, on this last aspect, exchanges in workshops show that members of the transnational target groups discuss the relationship between sustainability and growth. For some there is a clear link between these two elements (sustainability and regional development or even EU development, some prefer sustainable development to sustainability) and for others this link will need to be investigated further as far as they see a kind of opposition between the two terms (some note that, as far as they know, no ESPON projects are directly centred on sustainability).

- Territorial governance

Territorial governance is defined both as a **general framework to reshape the relations of power on the territories** on the one hand and on the other hand, **a practical tool to develop action on a territory**. It is also subject to questions on **'rules' and leadership issues**. Finally, its position in spatial development policy is regarded variably among the national target groups.

- A general framework to reshape government process: territorial governance is presented as a **way to better the government process and the management of public affairs using a territorial approach**. This can be achieved by the coordination of institutions and actors (public, private, citizens and communities, NGOs, firms), at different levels (multilevel) and across sectors (multisectoral) but also between the institutions and (sometimes) within them. The key words here are **complementarity, dialogue, responsibility, the sharing of competencies, the power transfer when needed or even autonomy, partnership, participation, acceptance, consensus, human factor and adaptable geometry**. These processes are relevant within specific contexts (they must be adapted to them, to each of them): a territory. In this conception, the concept of territorial governance is **an important aspect of territorial cohesion** (to give cohesion to institutions, actors, actions). Territorial governance is also regarded by the transnational target group as **a practical tool to shape, implement and follow the application of policies and actions** following the same process as above and, above all, **to adapt spatial policies to the needs of local citizens**. From that point of view, this synthetic definition is in line with European objectives.
- Nevertheless, what appears in the analysis of the answers of the members of the transnational target group is a difficult relationship of the territorial governance concept to **the question of 'rules'**. As far as territorial governance is related to informal and supple processes, is it really necessary to have regulation of the relationship between the different stakeholders? What is the nature of these 'rules' (agreement, contract, statutory)? If no *a priori* rules are needed to regulate the relations between actors or institutions, where is the power? Who is really taking the decisions? These questions relate to **the question of the leadership**: is leadership needed for territorial governance? Who initiates and manages the process? On what territorial basis (local, regional, State level)? The potential answers can vary from one national target group to another and within each target group.

These last questions can explain the variety of definitions given in some national groups but can also be explained by the **lack of familiarity** (too vague, too recent, lack of definition) with the concept. This concept seems to trigger **some confusion**. The consequence is that, for some of the national target groups, efforts by ESPON to try to answer these questions and clarify the concept will be appreciated.

➤ *Type of uses of the concepts:*

The analysis on the types of uses of the concepts demonstrates the extent to which the selected concepts are relevant according to the positions of the respondents, their levels of action and the types of European policies they deal with. Compared to the ambition of the ESPON programme and more generally to the ambition of the European Union to shape territorial development policies at European level, the results that follow could be of great interest, notably to better focus the ESPON programme on European political objectives.

The analysis of the data of the questionnaire has been done according to the following guidelines:

- A ranking of types of uses of the concepts in documents and/or in policies and actions and/or in the teaching activities. The three types of uses allow one to cover the strategic frameworks and studies for action ('documents', e.g. territorial impact assessment), the implementation of policies ('policies, actions') and the academic activities ('teaching'). All the concepts used in documents are put in the first rank. In a second rank, they are used to implement policies and actions and then in teaching activities. This ranking is the same for all concepts chosen, this tends to show the

strategic importance of the concepts chosen by the CaDEC project. Therefore, these concepts (possibly with others) should be considered very important for the ESPON programme.

- A comparison between the position of respondents (cf. categories of position graph 1, p. 10) and types of uses of the concepts²
- A comparison between the level of responsibility of respondents (cf. categories of levels graph 2, p. 10) and types of uses of the concepts³

The following table shows a synthetic view on the results of the two last comparisons. All the detailed analysis can be found in the document "[Transnational analysis of the questionnaire](#)" in the CaDEC extranet.

Table 4 – Synthesis of the results on types of uses of the concepts

TYPES OF USES (Documents - Policies/actions - Teaching) CONCEPTS	According to the positions of the respondents	According to the levels of responsibility of the respondents
Polycentrism	Fairly balanced uses but more in relation with operationnal positions	Stronger use at subnational level, notably at regional level
Regional competitiveness	Fairly balanced uses but more in relation with operationnal positions	Use quite evenly distributed among levels but with a stronger use at subnational levels
Sustainability	Fairly balanced use whatever the types of uses	Stronger uses at regional level
Territorial cohesion	Fairly balanced use whatever the types of uses	Relevance at subnational level, notably for « policies, actions »
Territorial impact	Uses that can be related to the positions of the respondents with the exception of member of staff in charge of studies (see comment)	Stronger use at local level as guidelines for action (« documents»)
Territorial Governance	Fairly balanced uses but more in relation with operationnal positions	Fairly balanced used (but more important interest at regional level when dealing with operationnal actions)

When comparing the types of uses with the structure of the positions of the respondents, it appears that all concepts are generally used according to what could have been expected.

Nevertheless, some concepts seem to have a more operational interest ('policies, actions') than others. This is true for regional competitiveness, polycentrism and territorial cohesion. Because of this, it could be interesting to observe to what extent the dissemination work done in the CaDEC project and more generally in ESPON meets the needs of a more action-oriented approach to these concepts. Especially as regards the policy recommendations that appear in all ESPON projects: do they properly fulfil this operational need (see also section on needs and suggestions)?

² The comparison has been done relatively to the initial structure of the sample in order to relieve bias caused by the sample composition. For more details on methodology, see the CaDEC Extranet *Transnational analysis of the questionnaire*: <http://cadec.ums-riate.fr/docs/Questionnaire-analysis-ESPON-CaDEC-2013.pdf>

³ Same remark as note 2

Territorial impact is an exception in so far as this concept seems more sensitive than the others to the position of the respondents. For instance, Executives / Directors use more this concept in documents and less in teaching than what could have been expected compared to the general share of each type of documents in the answers given. Members of staff in charge of implementation of policies / actions use territorial impact more in policies / actions and less in documents than what could have been expected. Researchers and experts use more the notion of territorial impact in teaching and less in policies / actions according to what could have been expected. Nevertheless, one can notice an exception to this: members of staff in charge of studies use territorial impact less in documents than what could have been expected. This result is surprising as far as it could be expected that these people use documents more (i.e. territorial impact assessment studies). That could show that territorial impact is used to evaluate policies' impact without being considered a method defined in advance in documents (ex-ante territorial impact) or taken into account in an overall evaluation process (ex-post territorial impact). Again, it would be interesting to observe to what extent the dissemination process of ESPON in the framework of CaDEC has helped to fill this gap (see part on needs and suggestions).

When analysing the relationship between the types of uses and levels of responsibilities of the respondents, it was striking to notice a stronger use of the concepts chosen at sub-regional level than at a national level. This can be seen for all the types of uses or more specifically for certain types of uses in relation with specific concepts.

The analysis of the uses of territorial cohesion demonstrates its relevance at the subnational level notably in the implementation processes ('actions / policies'). It appears that local levels tend to use the concept more in their documents compared to what could be expected. That could indicate the interest for the concept from a strategic viewpoint at the local level. This can be explained by the fact that these levels, notably the regional one, are the ones that actually implement European policies.

In comparison to the structure of the respondents' positions, regional competitiveness is slightly overused in documents at the local level and used in the norm at regional level. It is slightly underrepresented at the state/national level. Similarly, the uses are underrepresented at state/national level in policies/actions and slightly overrepresented at local level. There is also an overrepresentation, albeit modest, in terms of use of regional competitiveness in documents, policies and actions at the local level (in contrast, the use in teaching activities is lower). This analysis allows one to specify the strongest use of the regional competitiveness at the sub-national level.

For territorial impact, the use in documents at the local level is more important than expected.

For polycentrism, the overall results could demonstrate an interest for the concept at the regional level.

For sustainability, taking into account the types of uses by level, for all types of uses, the regional level is always overrepresented according to the norm and the national level is underrepresented for documents and policies-actions. We can stress here the regional uses of this notion. The results at the local level show also a slight overrepresentation of uses in documents and in policies / actions. Consequently, these results reinforce the previous conclusion on the importance of the regional dimension for the uses of this notion (and to a lesser extend local).

For territorial governance, the overall image of the results shows a fairly balanced use of the concept, regardless of the level of the respondents. But, taking into account the types of uses by levels, use of territorial governance in policies / actions is over represented at regional level. This could show the operational dimension of the concept at this level.

To sum up, the importance of the regional level for the uses of the concepts is noteworthy. This reflects the strong relationship between the concepts chosen and the preferred implementation scale of European policies. More generally, it can also be considered a success of dissemination and capitalisation process of these concepts.

NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

In order to guarantee their transnational value, the national workshops followed the same approach in each country.

➤ *First national workshop*

A common agenda was used for the first national workshops: presentation of national results of the questionnaire and discussion of these results by the members of the national target group.

○ *Objectives:*

- According to the common agenda, the aim was to go deeper in the understanding of target groups' needs and determine which of the 6 common concepts should be chosen in each country for the syntheses.
- The first national workshops were also the opportunity to give information about ESPON in general: what is ESPON? What can you do with ESPON? How ESPON can be useful for you?

○ *Results:*

All the project partners held a first national workshop. The total number of participants in the first national workshop was 71 out of 102 respondents to the questionnaire.

National workshops in Spain, Latvia and France



Table 5 – 1st national workshops: date, place, attendance

Project partner	Date and place	Number of attendants (target groups)
Bulgaria	23 rd of March 2012, Sofia	9
France	27 th of January 2012, Paris	7
Italy	16 th of December 2012, Rome	9
Latvia	9 th of December 2011, Riga	10
Netherlands	27 th of February 2012, The Hague	12
Romania	3 rd of February 2012, Iasi	8
Slovakia	18 th of January 2012, Bratislava	7
Spain	18 th of November 2011, Alcala de Henares	9
	TOTAL	71

Following the first national workshops, the project partners were asked to select concepts (out of the 6 common concepts) for the syntheses using the following criteria:

- The concepts chosen are not used or not well known in the country
- The concepts chosen are object of contrasting interpretations and of different definitions by the members of the target group
- The concepts chosen are used at a local level by different actors, but their usage is disconnected to the European dimension or the European dimension is very weak in their understanding.

This gave the following results:

Table 6 – Choice of concepts done by project partners for the syntheses on concepts⁴

Project partners Concepts	Project partners							
	BE	FR	IT	LV	NL	RO	SK	ES
Territorial cohesion		✓	✓			✓		✓
Regional competitiveness		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Territorial impact	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Polycentrism		✓		✓		✓		✓
Sustainability			✓			✓	✓	
Territorial governance	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓

➤ *Second national workshop:*

Second national workshops were organised on the basis of a common agenda. This included a presentation of the syntheses on the concepts (using ESPON reports) followed by a general discussion with stakeholders.

- *Objectives:*

⁴ At that stage, the Bulgarian project partner left the CaDEC project.

- During the workshops⁵, the aim was to spark a discussion with the members of the target groups on the syntheses on concepts delivered by the project partners with some key questions as a starting point:
 - The interest (general / operational) for the concepts chosen and the interest in ESPON reports that have been synthesized
 - The contribution of the CaDEC approach on concepts and of the work of ESPON in general (general aspects, operational)
 - The issues raised by the concepts, reports and the CaDEC approach in general
 - The suggestions made by the participants on the concepts, the reports and the CaDEC method in general
 - The needs expressed by the participants (notably in terms of new ideas for ESPON in terms of P1, P2 et P3 projects in relation with concepts).
- The final aim was to deliver feedback using these guidelines in a national report, and more specifically, to identify needs and suggestions expressed by the stakeholders (cf. the outcomes of the first transnational workshop) both on the concepts issue but also more generally on the ESPON programme.
 - *Results: needs and suggestions on concepts and ESPON*

The feedback on the syntheses of concepts were obtained differently. The project partner for Belgium, France, Italy, Latvia has organised a second national workshop (see table 7 below). Project partners the Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia and Spain has used phone calls and emails to get feedback from the stakeholders in their countries.

Table 7 – 2nd national workshops: date, place, attendance

Project partner	Date and place	Number of attendants (target groups)
Belgium	24 th of October 2012, Brussels	5
France	25 th of January 2013, Paris	8
Italy	18 th of January 2013, Rome	11
Latvia	29 th of November 2012, Riga	10
	TOTAL	34

⁵ Not all project partners opted to organize a second national workshop. The obligation of the project proposal was to organise 1-2 national workshops during the project period.

Using their selected method, all project partners were able to deliver a national report that contained feedback on the syntheses and provided needs and suggestions to enhance capitalization and to improve dissemination of ESPON concepts in peculiar and of ESPON in general. The inputs expressed by the participants are summarized below.

On concepts' capitalization

- When speaking about concepts, a structural difficulty arises: the different understandings and the different processes of implementation of these concepts in the various countries. To be able to understand each other, there is a missing link: a clear understanding of these concepts. In this respect, the stakeholders are very interested knowing how these concepts are understood in other countries. This could be the beginning of a better understanding of European terminology in territorial development, and perhaps in time a common vocabulary could emerge.
- Practitioners and stakeholders are demanding normative definitions of concepts. The target groups emphasize the importance of harmonized language at European level, which should lead to a shared definition of the ESPON concepts.
- Definitions of the concepts are considered as necessary in order to define (new) territorial trends and dynamics. This process of definition is considered as a key issue, and in some cases some worries emerge when considering the ideology behind these definitions. Consequently, ESPON should find a way to facilitate access to results and to the concepts and thus foster their use.

Improving dissemination of concepts and tools

- Practitioners encounter difficulties to translate, within their specific territory, results developed at a transnational level.
- ESPON should get more insight into the needs of stakeholders and then propose some tools and concepts to improve their daily work.
- The presentation, during an info-day of ESPON projects, according to a few key words / concepts, and the possible use of those reports at the national and subnational level, with concrete examples, was considered a fruitful way to capitalize ESPON results.
- ESPON needs more syntheses in order to explain, in a simple way, the meanings of concepts and tools. Brochures should explain, in national languages, the aim of a concept or a tool and how to use it. ESPON could use the syntheses that have been produced by the project partners for the CaDEC project as an example.
- The dissemination of the synthesis reports is a very good way to 'open the door' to many interesting and ESPON concepts and studies.
- As the concepts are linked to data and indicators, and in order to improve understanding of the ESPON programme, the target groups suggest that it would be appropriate to have a better interoperability of the ESPON database with EUROSTAT. A very important issue is to improve access to statistical data. It is considered that ESPON could play a crucial role in obtaining new territorial data at desired level, mainly at the levels of LAU1 and LAU 2. Moreover, the question of use of non-ESPON sources, besides ESPON sources, should be considered in the future when disseminating ESPON results.

Improving communication of ESPON in general

- The ESPON programme lacks an efficient communication plan that applies to every tool/concept/project. The multitude of websites and communication tools is not efficient and even confusing for the uninitiated.
- All partners involved in ESPON should be part of the dissemination and communication exercise including the national level and local networks (via the ECPs for instance).
- It has been reported that online information is hard to find. ESPON should develop a website dedicated to concepts, tools and case studies and link them to projects. This approach could lead to a broader knowledge and use of ESPON results than a list of projects.
- As the concepts are sometimes considered political objectives, clear policy recommendations in all ESPON projects should be made. If ESPON is serious about capitalizing the information in its projects, the fact that not all ESPON studies contain clear policy recommendations for national and sub-national governments is problematic.

Strengthening the link with practitioners and stakeholders

- National and subnational stakeholders should be able to use all ESPON tools and have an easy access to ESPON results. The type of approach developed in the CaDEC project may help build bridges between academic research and the applied spatial planning.
- The CaDEC project can also be used as a platform for knowledge and ideas not only about the analysed concepts but also about the spectrum of ESPON projects.
- The target groups suggest writing syntheses of ESPON projects with the aim of publicizing the results of the programme. In many cases, the importance of ESPON projects are underlined when comparative studies are proposed (e.g. benchmarking). The ESPON projects could be made more accessible by creating short reports with tables and maps accompanied by short explanations.
- It is strongly recommended that local experts are involved in drafting a country profile (or even a regional profile). For example, some criticisms were made on profiles written by foreign experts which did not take into account important elements of the national reality.
- Many ESPON reports use a different scale than those used in territorial development actions in countries. The information is so abstract and at such a high scale that the results are useless at some sub-national levels.
- To improve the practices of territorial planning, a greater connection needs to be made between the definition of the concepts and the implementation of actions. It would be useful to create a link between shared principles and specific objectives, which can also be interpreted at local levels, by sector and region. Practitioners are interested in learning new methods and new approaches to deal with spatial trends and dynamics, but face difficulties putting these into practice.

Policy and Governance

- The political approach prevails in spatial planning and governance processes. This must be taken into account in the future in ESPON. In this sense, more effort should be made to facilitate the participation of the public powers responsible of spatial planning at each level (mainly regional but also local and national) in ESPON projects.
- There is a need for intermediate actors (as the ECPs) between ESPON and the stakeholders to provide information to be used to draw up advice to policymakers to support decision-making.

- It has been highlighted that a tension exists between scientific studies that describe reality on the one hand, and the needs of policymakers, on the other hand. In order to carry its mission and build bridges between politics and researchers, it has been suggested that ESPON needs to create a new compendium of national planning systems.
- A more general issue raised by the participants is that the national workshops, while generally seen as useful, trigger queries that go well beyond the scope of the ESPON studies. Most of the time these were linked to the relevance of ESPON itself. It may reflect a decline of interest in the European dimension observed among some national actors. No respondent mentioned that the European scale was in itself interesting or illuminating. Instead, the answers were evaluated according to their immediate relevance for (sub-)national matters. This has obvious implications for future dissemination of ESPON results.

Obstacles within the Member States

- Stakeholders encounter difficulties in defining priorities because of the double requirement: being perennial and at the same time take into account a political strategy on a short-term perspective.
- Prolonged economic crisis in the last years has sometimes extinguished (almost completely) the interest of politicians for long-term planning.
- It has been noticed in several member states that target groups are unaware of the EU and of ESPON. Real power is in the hands of the politicians and in some cases they are not flexible or interested. Generally speaking, it is difficult to introduce innovations and changes in practices within administrative routines. In some countries regional policy has been built quite recently. That could explain that the diffusion of ESPON projects is still difficult.
- The feedback from the national workshops (and also the questionnaire) strongly question the willingness of national actors in the member states to disseminate ESPON results to sub-national stakeholders (even if, at least in the case of the Netherlands, the involvement of national authorities has been stronger in the CaDEC project than at the regional level).
- Another obstacle is that in some countries the interest of the population and the local authorities for spatial planning and for territorial development issues is weak (Eastern European regions).
- Detailed information on a country-by-country basis can be consulted online by downloading the document [Compilation of national reports](#).

SHORT SYNTHESSES OF SELECTED ESPON REPORTS ON CONCEPTS

➤ Objective

The objective of the syntheses on the concepts using ESPON reports was to disseminate information to target group members and gauge their interest both on concepts and on the selected ESPON reports. The syntheses are thus a tool for capitalization that allows each member of the target group to use it in his or her own work and within his or her own institution.

➤ Method of dissemination and capitalization:

- Use concepts as gateway to ESPON reports in order to attract stakeholders' interest.
- The syntheses offered a transversal view on many ESPON reports in a synthetic format.
- The syntheses were written in the national language in order to eradicate the language barrier.

- The syntheses are all organised the same way following the following format:
 - Short list of the ESPON projects used in the synthesis
 - Definition of the concepts in the different reports
 - Themes related to the concepts in the different reports
 - The use of the concept in the different reports
 - Case studies taken from the reports
 - Some relevant illustrations taken from the reports

A common layout was elaborated in order to attract attention and ease the reading of the syntheses ([all the syntheses can be downloaded from the CaDEC extranet](#))



Illustration 1 – First page of the layout of the syntheses on concepts (examples)

➤ Results:

Syntheses were written by each project partner on their final choice of concepts. The authors chose the reports that seemed the most relevant to their national context.

Table 8 – Relation concepts / ESPON reports in the syntheses by project partners country (reports available in March 2012)

Concepts chosen	ESPON Reports (P1 et P2)
Netherlands	
Regional competitiveness	ATTREG; FOCI; TIGER
Territorial Impact	ARTS; EATIA; TIPTAP
Romania	
Polycentrism	CAEE; FOCI; METROBORDER; POLYCE
Regional competitiveness	DEMIFER; EDORA; EU-LUPA; RERISK; TIGER
Sustainability	EDORA; ESPON CLIMATE; ESaTDOR; EUROISLANDS
Territorial cohesion	ARTS; EDORA; METROBORDER; TIPTAP
Territorial Impact	ARTS; EATIA; TIPTAP; TPM
Latvia*	
Regional competitiveness	EDORA; RERISK
Territorial Impact	ESPON-CLIMATE; EATIA
Territorial Governance	EDORA; SGPTD
Polycentrism	FOCI; POLYCE
Italy	
Regional competitiveness	RERISK; TIGER
Sustainability	EATIA ESPON-CLIMATE; FOCI; RERISK; TIPTAP
Territorial cohesion	ARTS; DEMIFER; ESPON-CLIMATE; TERCO; TIGER; TIPTAP
Territorial Governance	FOCI; SGPTD; TIGER
Territorial Impact	ARTS; EATIA; TIGER; TIPTAP
Slovakia	
Sustainability	FOCI; TIPTAP
Territorial Governance	FOCI; TIPTAP
Belgium**	
Territorial Governance	BEST Metropolises; CAEE; FOCI; METROBORDER; TANGO; TERCO
Territorial impact	ARTS; EATIA; TIPTAP; TPM
Spain	
Territorial Governance	ARTS; EATIA; EDORA; ESaTDOR; METROBORDER; TERCO; TPM
Territorial Impact	ARTS; TIPTAP; EATIA
Territorial Cohesion	ARTS; EU-LUPA; METROBORDER; RISE; SGPTD; TERCO; TRANSMEC
Polycentrism	CAEE; EDORA; FOCI; POLYCE; PURR; SGPTD
France	
Polycentrism	EDORA; FOCI; METROBORDER; RERISK; SS-LR; TRANSMEC; RISE; SGPTD; TIGER
Regional competitiveness	DEMIFER; ReRISK; EU-LUPA; TIGER
Territorial Cohesion	DEMIFER; EDORA; TIGER; TIPTAP
Territorial Impact	ARTS; EATIA; EU-LUPA; SGPTD; SS-LR; TIPTAP

* The project partner for Latvia wrote a synthesis on “place based approach” using the following ESPON reports: ATTREG, SGPTD.

** The project partner for Belgium opted to integrate a place based approach within the presentation of the two concepts chosen.

During the CaDEC project period, 21 ESPON synthesis documents were distributed. Dissemination to the target groups took place via the [extranet](#) and by email.

Once the dissemination was complete, feedback was obtained via the second national workshops (cf. supra p. 32 table 7) or by emails and phone calls. This work has fed a part of the national reports (see [Compilation of national reports](#) and has allowed the Lead Partner to write a synthesis on needs and suggestions.

'COMPILATION' OF NATIONAL REPORTS

➤ *Objectives:*

In order to report the work done by CaDEC and address the question of uses of concepts selected in specific contexts, each national report first includes a short presentation of spatial planning systems in each project partner country⁶. The reports also contain feedback from questionnaire analysis in the national contexts and an important focus on needs and suggestions derived from the context and results presented⁷. The main aim of the national reports to identify needs and suggestions for ESPON on a transnational basis. National reports were also written by national experts not in the CaDEC project in order to broaden the geographical scope of the CaDEC Project. This allowed feedback to be obtained on the concepts chosen in three new countries and expert opinion on the dissemination and capitalization of ESPON in their countries.

➤ *Method:*

The national reports of the project partners were written according to the following guidelines⁸:

- Short presentation of the national planning system
- National perspectives on concepts chosen in the national perspective on the basis of the questionnaire and feedback from stakeholders
- An estimation of the level of interest of the target group for the concepts and ESPON reports chosen
- An identification of the difficulties the target group members had with the concepts and the reports synthesized
- Needs and suggestions from stakeholders.

The experts' reports of Sweden, of the United Kingdom and of Portugal were written according to the following lines:

- Presentation of the national planning system
- Definition of the national perspectives on the concepts
- How are these concepts are mobilized (or not) under the national planning system
- Gauging the interest for national actors for the ESPON reports in terms of their conceptual contribution.

The national experts are as follows:

- Eduarda Marques da Costa, Associated Professor, Instituto de geografia e de ordenamento do Território da Universidade de Lisboa (Lisbon, Portugal)
- Richard Ek, Senior Lecturer, Institutionen för Service Management, Lunds Universitet (Lund, Sweden)
- Olivier Sykes, Senior Lecturer, School of environmental sciences, University of Liverpool (Liverpool, United-Kingdom)

The Lead Partner performed a [Compilation of national reports](#) in one single document in order to ease the

⁶ except the Netherlands because information on this topic is readily available in English

⁷ except the Netherlands as this had been delivered to the Lead Partner previously in a separate document

⁸ excepting the Netherlands

reading of these reports. As mentioned above, these reports include the feedback of stakeholders (see above p. 32, needs and suggestions) and the needs and suggestions of the stakeholders.

TRANSNATIONAL WORKSHOPS

➤ *First transnational workshop*

The first transnational workshop was aimed at sharing results at the national level in order to produce a transnational first picture on needs and suggestions from the target group members. An underlying goal was to identify common needs and suggestions on a transnational basis. It also provided an opportunity to get a broader insight in other national contexts using the input that had been presented during the workshop by the three national experts. The best way to organize the second transnational workshop, which would include stakeholders, was also discussed. A first overview of members of the national target groups (2-3 per project partner country) that could participate to the second transnational workshop was drawn up.

➤ *Second transnational workshop*

➤ *Objectives:*

The objectives of the second transnational workshop was to exchange experiences and insight between project partners and stakeholders on a transnational basis. The objective was build on the presentation of the CaDEC transnational results derived from the questionnaire and the national feedback to create a common understanding for needs and suggestions to be addressed by ESPON.

➤ *Method:*

The feedback from stakeholders in the different countries were presented by explaining the results of the CaDEC questionnaire. Next, the feedback on needs and suggestions were presented and discussed. This method sought to stimulate transnational exchanges and give participants the opportunity to explain their ideas and suggestions and propose new ones.

➤ *Results: needs and suggestions on concepts and on ESPON*

During the meeting the stakeholders were asked to discuss the results presented and to give their opinions on needs and suggestions on concepts and more generally on ESPON. A general discussion follows that can be summarised as below:

Needs on concepts

- Common definitions on concepts at EU level and in ESPON are claimed in order to understand policy orientations at that level but also to be able to relate these concepts to clear policy recommendations and to transfer them into the planning practices. The question to improve the awareness of private actors is also at stake here as far as these actors that intervene in territorial development policies can ignore the European orientations in that field.
- At the same time, it would be very useful to have an overview on the possible variability of uses of the concepts according to practices and territorial contexts.
- The methodologies to implement policies based on concepts should be developed to allow policy makers to use concepts in spatial planning and territorial development.
- Insights on knowledge and use of concepts in other European countries can be very useful for stakeholders in order to have ideas to implement their own policies. It could be the beginning of a

better understanding of European terminology of territorial development . This could allow partners to leverage with different meanings and different approaches of spatial planning in the EU.

Suggestions on concepts

- Develop the dissemination of concepts from the EU level but in presenting different possible meanings notably taking into account the different levels of implementation. Doing so, ESPON could fill the gap between European orientations and the sub-European actors.

From that point view, various ideas are suggested:

- A dictionary (a glossary, a reasoned lexicon...) of concepts can be developed in presenting the EU standpoint and the different meanings of the same concept and in giving examples of uses. The dictionary should be translated into national languages and allow all types of stakeholders to understand its meaning (academics, practitioners, policy makers and even citizens, but also private actors). Another vision of a dictionary, not contradictory, is to consider the concepts as the minimum common denominator related to a set of possible actions to be implemented in accordance with a given concept.
 - The multiplication of syntheses written on concepts using ESPON reports as the ones realised in the framework of CaDEC, can also be another way to disseminate both concepts and ESPON findings.
 - A web portal dedicated to concepts presenting concepts in a simple way and accessible to all persons: academics, practitioners, policy makers and citizens.
 - Specific events on Europe and on its main orientations in terms of territorial development could be promoted using concepts as themes.
 - Case studies (at regional or national level) dedicated to study how a given concept can be applied / is applied in a peculiar territorial context.
 - Comparative studies on the way concepts are used in order to share experiences and knowledge and gauge the capacity to transfer them.
- The main concepts could be selected for instance within the Territorial Agenda as the concepts should be considered as policy concepts in the framework of European territorial development orientations. Such an approach should be also a way to give guidelines to the ESPON programme in order to avoid the feeling expressed of a collection of projects without much links between them.
 - Studies to assess to what extend a methodology or a tool deriving from a concepts is good or not for territorial development.

Needs and suggestions for ESPON

- Need to precise what is expected from ESPON by the European authorities.
- ESPON should be able to deliver data at local level. Synthesis maps upon some european topics used to show some "small" countries only at national level and not at regional level (because of the distribution of NUTS 2 or 3). Synthesis maps at the european scale could lead to misunderstandings because they cannot display the regional details. The information is so abstract that it does not have much relevance at the provincial level.
- Develop training programme for policy makers in order to translate European orientations on the territories (according to the role of ESPON).
- Develop the priority 2 types of projects that allow the stakeholders to be better involved but not from a strictly academic standpoint but thanks to an interactive process (co-creation process). This type of project is a way to foster the usefulness of ESPON. In the same perspective, regional levels should be more involved to give a more operational standpoint on ESPON projects. It would be a good idea to ask directly to sub-national authorities, what are their needs in terms of studies.
- Disseminate the information to citizens notably by focusing on groups that have interest to act on territorial development and on spatial planning issues. This should be done by selecting the channels of dissemination (media) and also by adapting the wording.

EXTRANET

The extranet had been used to capitalize and disseminate ESPON to members of the target groups, particularly the syntheses on concepts written using ESPON reports.

The extranet was also used to disseminate and exchange information between project partners and stakeholders on CaDEC results, for example the national synthesis reports and experts' country reports (including the short presentations of the national planning systems) and the transnational analysis of the questionnaire.

3. MAIN OUTCOMES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT AND POTENTIAL NEW INITIATIVES

MAIN OUTCOMES

➤ *On use of ESPON*

The questionnaire found that when ESPON is used, it is more often used at the regional level (see graph 5). The negative answers on the use of ESPON is more frequent at the national and local levels. Consequently, it can be said, as far as the CaDEC transnational target group is concerned, ESPON is better known and used at the regional scale – in some countries it is also the relevant level for spatial development policies – than at the national level. At the local level, the uses of ESPON are fewer notably due to the lack of downscaling in ESPON reports. The use of ESPON does not depend on the position of the respondents (see graph 4, p.18). The kind of information that the respondents mentioned are evenly distributed among the categories proposed in the questionnaire (see graph 6, p.19). Consequently, ESPON seems to support general use and is not used to find a peculiar kind of information.

The negative answers on the use of ESPON are explained the following way. People have not heard of ESPON previously and some considered that their activities are not related to ESPON. Other reasons are also mentioned:

- Lack of time
- The difficulties in accessing ESPON reports
- Lack of information
- Lack of relevance for day-to-day work
- Data can be very inaccurate, which raises doubts about the results presented.

The use of concepts increased when respondents knew something about ESPON. Nevertheless, in many cases, the use of the concepts cannot be related to familiarity with ESPON. The concepts can circulate in different institutions without any reference to ESPON. This raises the issue of the insufficient awareness about ESPON.

➤ *On concepts*

➤ *On definitions*

As a whole, the analysis shows a rich but confused image of the concepts selected. An overall analysis reveals that this situation is related to the different ways these concepts were understood across the transnational target groups: to describe a situation, as a process or an objective (either as a ultimate objective or an ideal to be reached, particularly territorial cohesion, or as an intermediate objective or function that fulfils the concept, such as territorial impact). Another dimension of the mixed picture of the definitions is the question of scales. Some respondents treat concepts in a way as to prevent any reference to scales whatsoever, while others specifically identify a level of scale in their definition. Some respondents employed a strategy of circumnavigation, preferring to provide an answer in the area of implementation rather than providing a definition themselves. Others provided critical standpoints regarding the concepts. Although this situation can naturally be related to the different contexts and to the professional backgrounds of the respondents, it still has to be said that these outcomes do challenge the very idea of a transnational approach of the development of the European territory and, therefore, calls into question ESPON's ability to disseminate a message that can be understood through to a common language (or at least presenting the differences in understandings across Europe).

➤ *On types of uses of concepts*

The questions dedicated to the types of uses of the concepts can be considered as a way to validate the relevance of the concepts chosen. The striking outcome is that these concepts, with some minor variations, are widely and evenly used whatever the position and level of the respondents and whatever the types of uses (uses in strategic guidelines, in operational fields, in research and experts activities). From the types of uses emerges another interesting outcome: these concepts are much more used at subnational levels (regional, local levels, regional policies) than at a national level, both from a strategic point of view (e.g. answers on 'documents') but also from an operational view point (e.g. answers on 'policies / actions'). Nevertheless, these results are not so surprising when one considers the importance of the regional dimension (and even local dimension) in implementing spatial development policies. This again raises the question about the degree to which a common understanding of concepts exists across European territories, including subnational levels.

➤ *On [needs and suggestions](#)⁹:*

Concepts are linked to policy orientations at EU level. This situation is not considered by the stakeholders as a problem per se. The problem is the absence of definitions of the concepts given at EU level. It is

⁹ All the needs and suggestions taken from the national report and out of the transnational workshops are synthesized in [one single document](#)

broadly accepted that normative definitions can be given and that ESPON can contribute to work on this and to disseminate the EU message through the concepts. Nevertheless, it is also needed to have an overview on the different ways to understand and to implement a concept in the territorial development and planning practice. There is no contradiction for stakeholders between the delivery of guidelines at European level using concepts and the variability of implementation possible in the various territories. According to this general idea, comparative and case studies, assessment of concrete use of concepts in territorial development policies involving sub-national stakeholders is considered as an important issue. From that point of view, priority 2 type of projects can be used to achieve this goal. That also implies to have more local and updated data for the achievement of ESPON projects.

ESPON can play the role in articulating this two dimensions of the concepts issue (top-down and bottom-up) using different tools for dissemination and capitalisation towards all kind of people (policy makers, academics, practitioners, groups of citizens interested in territorial development): dictionary, syntheses on concepts using ESPON reports, web portal dedicated to concepts, specific events based on themes related to concepts, training programmes for policy makers on concepts.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The CaDEC project provided an opportunity to attract the attention of 102 persons in 9 different countries on ESPON using a questionnaire as a starting point. It has engaged people at different levels of positions and at different institutional levels in a relatively balanced way (see graph 1 and 2, p.10).

What is more, the project partners have tried to identify in their respective countries, persons that were, from the outset, unfamiliar with ESPON. As a result, it appears in the questionnaire results (see graph 4 and 5, p.18) that over half of the respondents did not use ESPON in their job. Consequently, the CaDEC project gave an opportunity to inform these people about ESPON.

Even though the dissemination process was aimed at all the members of the target groups, the level of participation in national workshops was lower than expected. Nevertheless, the first national workshop attracted approximately 70% of the initial sample, what can be considered as satisfactory. The second national workshops, if one considers the total amount of participants, attracted less people, partly because some project partners decided to do only one national workshop.

The CaDEC project was also be the opportunity to fine tune the dissemination strategy according to different national context. A selection was made of national target groups according to the national institutional organisation. The selection of relevant concepts used the outputs of the questionnaire and the first national workshop as well as the ESPON reports used in the national-language syntheses.

As indicated above, the CaDEC project results should be interpreted at the transnational level. These pertain to:

- the use of ESPON in general,
- the relationship between the use of ESPON and the selected concepts,
- and how the use of concepts varied according to the position of respondents, their level of action and the type of policies implemented.

The use of syntheses with a concept as its main theme was a way to disseminate ESPON in a transversal and one which is attractive to potential users. At the start of the project it was not sure that this use of concepts would be sufficiently interesting to stakeholders. The feedback shows that idea was appreciated (see new initiatives). It the positive feedback is also related to the user-friendly aspect of the syntheses. Some project partners decided to make additional syntheses by translating other countries' syntheses in to their national language (or used directly in case of a common language: i.e. France / Belgium).

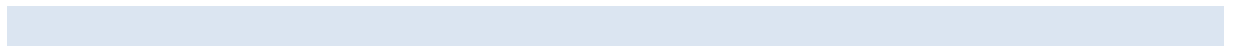
In conclusion, the project gave stakeholders an opportunity to identify needs and suggestions for ESPON.

NEW INITIATIVES

Some project partners have decided to develop the CaDEC method in the framework of their ECP's activities, delivering new syntheses on concepts using ESPON reports. This initiative could be developed further to accompany the ESPON programme and could be done in all the countries involved. If considered as relevant for the whole ESPON programme, this initiative should be supported by fundings from ESPON.

It has also been agreed with the project partners that the CaDEC project will be presented in professional journals or in journals dedicated to policy makers (as an example: French Assembly of Intermunicipalities Journal – Assemblée des communautés de France).

Considering new initiatives for ESPON, the needs and suggestions done under the CaDEC project (see pp.32-35 and pp.38-40) could give ideas to develop new projects under the different priorities in the future ESPON programme.



ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. SHORT SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW OF THE COMPULSORY ACTIONS AND CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS FULFILLED BY THE TRANSNATIONAL NETWORKING ACTIVITY PROJECT PARTNE (TABLE BEELOW)

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Annex 1. Short summary and overview of the compulsory actions and contractual obligations fulfilled by the transnational networking activity project partners (table below)

WP1 Coordination tasks			
	Tasks Description	Outputs	Tasks completed?
Kick off meeting, project partners meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The meetings took place in Paris - 2 to 3 persons / PPs + One other PP meeting at mid-term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection of ESPON concepts - Drafting the questionnaire - Identification of target groups (TGs) in each country - Selection of ESPON reports for the drafting of the syntheses - Design and identification of content of syntheses on concepts using ESPON reports 	✓
Management of the extranet	Need to deliver to the TGs members' information on the project and tasks that will be carried on: online questionnaire, results, ESPON reports and short online synthesis/concept note to explain their content, reports of the national and transnational workshops.	Setting up of an extranet tool to foster capitalisation and dissemination process towards TGs and as a common tool for PPs.	✓
Organization of 2 national workshops	According to will and budget, PPs organized 1 or 2 workshops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the questionnaire results in the national context to TGs members. - Feedback from TGs members to complete the results of the questionnaire - Inputs from PP on needs identified through the questionnaire and during national workshops. 	✓

<p>Organization of 2 transnational workshops</p>	<p><u>The first transnational meeting</u> took place in Paris and involve 2/3 by PPs max. LP has also invited 3 experts from 3 different countries out of the CaDEC consortium to broaden the scope of countries involved in the project and enhance its transnational aspect at the European level.</p> <p><u>Second transnational meeting</u> will take place in Paris and involve PPs (2/3 persons max.), the 3 experts (the same as previously) as well as selected members of the TGs.</p>	<p><u>First transnational meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the national outputs (transnational aspect of this workshop). - Experts have been asked to analyse the use and application of the chosen ESPON concepts in 3 different countries. - PPs and Experts: Ideas and suggestions for ESPON - Organisation of the second transnational workshop and identification of potential TGs members that could be involved in the second transnational workshop. <p><u>Second transnational meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the overall results of the project. - Discussions with present TGs members - New ideas and suggestions for ESPON from PPs, experts and TGs members. 	<p>✓</p>
<p>Draft final report</p>	<p>According to the programme manual (chapter 5)</p>	<p>✓</p>	
<p>Blunder checks management</p>	<p>According to the programme manual (chapter 5, point 5.3.3)</p>	<p>✓</p>	

W2 Activities			
	Tasks Description	Outputs	Tasks completed?
Selection of concepts	Selection of 5/6 concepts relevant to all PPs. PPs can also select additional concepts more appropriate to their own national context. Number of concepts is not limited depending on needs and capacity of each ECP. Selected concepts are related to ESPON 2013 projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement of all PPs on the chosen concepts (6) to guarantee the transnational character of the project. - PPs can at the same time identify and work on relevant concepts for their own national context. - These concepts had been analysed within the methodological framework of the project to give relevant feedbacks on needs of TGs members. 	✓
Creating the questionnaire and choosing target groups members	A common questionnaire was elaborated to ascertain the knowledge and uses of the TGs members. The questionnaire also aimed at identifying special needs of information and wishes to foster involvement in the national and transnational workshops. TGs members were chosen according to common categories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A common questionnaire to guarantee the transnational character of the activity - A common identification of TG members. 	✓

<p>Establishing an Extranet</p>	<p>LP had provided an Extranet dedicated to the project to all PPs. The Extranet was organised in two sections: a general one with all the common documents and tools of the project and a national one that can be used by PPs to give/report specific information to their national TGs members/from their member state.</p>	<p>The Extranet allowed a smoother communication between all PPs. It has also served as a capitalization and dissemination tool towards TGs. It includes: the questionnaire, syntheses on concepts using ESPON reports in national languages, links to ESPON reports, the compilation of national results and presentation of national planning systems (+ expert works), the transnational analyse of the questionnaire, the synthesis of transnational workshops on needs and suggestions.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Analysis of the questionnaire</p>	<p>The questionnaire had been drafted in English and all PPs have had to translate it into national languages. The diffusion of the questionnaire had been done through the Extranet and Lime Survey.</p>	<p>Each PP had to draft a synthesis of the questionnaire results according to the following lines: Level of awareness of TGs members about the chosen concepts Uses of the concepts Needs for more information on the concepts Personal needs and wishes to encourage their involvement in both national and transnational workshops A transnational analysis of the questionnaire has been written and put on line on the CaDEC extranet (distributed to TGs)</p>	<p>✓</p>

<p>Dissemination of short syntheses in national languages to make concepts and ESPON project explicit</p>	<p>Based on the questionnaire results, PPs presented some of the relevant ESPON projects to the TGs to help them understand the concepts. They built a corpus of short synthesis texts in national language.</p>	<p>A corpus of syntheses in national languages that clarify the chosen concepts, using different ESPON reports have been written and disseminated via the CaDEC Extranet to TGs.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>National reports on national workshops</p>	<p>The aim of the workshops was to deepen the understanding of the needs of the TGs members. Workshops were also an opportunity to disseminate more precise information and identify ideas and suggestions for ESPON post 2013.</p>	<p>The national reports written on the basis of the questionnaire results and on the minutes of the national workshops + reports from experts (from 3 different member states) had provided a picture on use of the chosen concepts and on use of ESPON reports. It was also the opportunity to gather needs and suggestions from national TGs.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Synthesis of national reports</p>	<p>A compilation of all national reports to enable a transnational overview, notably on needs and suggestions to the ESPON program.</p>	<p>National reports organised in the same (including experts work, cf. WP 1.4) have been "compiled" in one single report (on line in the CaDEC extranet and distributed to TGs)</p>	<p>✓</p>

<p>Transnational workshops (2)</p>	<p><u>The first transnational workshop</u> had involved all PPs and 3 experts;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the national results - New ideas and suggestions for the ESPON program - Exchange on the organisation of the second transnational workshop and identification of TGs members to be involved. <p><u>The second transnational workshop</u> had involved PPs, experts as well as selected members of the TGs.</p> <p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the synthesis of overall results of the project - Discussions with selected TGs members - Ideas and suggestions for the ESPON program 	<p>To complete the “compilation” of national reports a synthesis report on transnational workshops has been written focussed on needs and suggestions (on line in the CaDEC extranet (including experts participation, cf. WP 1.4)</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Blunder checks</p>	<p>According to the CU programme</p>	<p>CLIMATE; ARTS; ATTREG; SGPTD; KIT; TIGER; TERCO; GEOSPEC; EU-LUPA; TANGO ; SIESTA ; EsatDOR ; SEGI. // TRACC ; GREECO <i>:pas encore terminés</i></p>	<p>✓</p>

Annex 2. List of the materials developed by the project

[Syntheses on concepts using ESPON reports](#)

["Compilation" of national feedbacks on the questionnaire and workshops](#)

[Transnational analysis of the questionnaire](#)

[Synthesis document on needs and suggestions](#) (under construction)

More documents are available on the [CaDEC extranet](#). (login : guest / pass word : guest)

ANNEX 3. QUESTIONNAIRE

Name:

First name:

Position:

Institution:

Please answer the following questions on the basis of your current knowledge

- **Question 1:** In the framework of your job, what are your activities related with EU policies?

EU policies	Short description of your activity in relation with the EU Policy quoted
1-	
2 -	

- **Question 2 a:** Have you heard of ESPON?

- Yes
- No

- **Question 2 b:** if yes to question 2 a, do you use ESPON works in your job?

- Yes
- No

- **Question 2 c:**

- If yes to question 2 b:
 - What are ESPON works that you use?¹⁰
 - What kind of information do you find in these works (multiple choices possible)?:
 - General knowledge on the European territory
 - Basis for development of policy orientations
 - Methods of analysis
 - Data
 - Other (please precise):
 - Could you give precise examples of uses in relation with your previous answer (actions, documents, ...)?:
 - Do you see other potential uses in the future?
 - If yes, which ones?
 - If no, why?
- If no to question 2 b, why do you not use ESPON works in your job?
 - I do not know ESPON

¹⁰ This question has been considered as difficult to take into account due to very few references to ESPON reports and because at the period of the delivery of the questionnaire, only some ESPON reports had been delivered.

- Works done within ESPON seems irrelevant to me
 - My activities are not in relation with ESPON works
 - Other (please precise):

- **Question 3 a** : Do you use the following notions in your activities (notions related or not with EU policies)?
 - Territorial cohesion:
 - Yes
 - No
 - If yes, what does this notion mean for you? (5 lines max.):
 - If no, why? (5 lines max.):

 - Regional competitiveness:
 - Yes
 - No
 - If yes, what does this notion mean for you? (5 lines max.):
 - If no, why? (5 lines max.):

 - Territorial impact:
 - Yes
 - No
 - If yes, according to you, what definition can be given of this notion? (5 lines max.):
 - If no, why? (5 lines max.):

 - Polycentrism:
 - Yes
 - No
 - If yes, what does this notion mean for you? (5 lines max.):
 - If no, why? (5 lines max.):

 - Sustainability:
 - Yes
 - No
 - If yes, what does this notion mean for you? (5 lines max.):
 - If no, why? (5 lines max.):

 - Territorial governance:
 - Yes
 - No
 - If yes, what does this notion mean for you? (5 lines max.):
 - If no, why? (5 lines max.):

- **Question 3 b:** For each notion you are using, please indicate in which circumstances (in documents, policies/actions, teaching activities, others – multiple choice possible):

TERRITORIAL COHESION		
Documents	Yes/No	Precise references and brief description (+ web address if it exists):
Policies/actions	Yes/No	Brief description:
Teaching activities	Yes/No	Brief description:
Others	Yes/No	Brief description:
REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS		
Documents	Yes/No	Precise references and brief description (+ web address if it exists) :
Policies/actions	Yes/No	Brief description:
Teaching activities	Yes/No	Brief description:
Others	Yes/No	Brief description:

TERRITORIAL IMPACT		
Documents	Yes/No	Precise references and brief description (+ web address if it exists) :
Policies/actions	Yes/No	Brief description:
Teaching activities	Yes/No	Brief description:
Others	Yes/No	Brief description:

POLYCENTRISM		
Documents	Yes/No	Precise references and brief description (+ web address if it exists):
Policies/actions	Yes/No	Brief description:
Teaching activities	Yes/No	Brief description:
Others	Yes/No	Brief description:

TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE		
Documents	Yes/No	Precise references and brief description (+ web address if it exists):
Policies/actions	Yes/No	Brief description:
Teaching activities	Yes/No	Brief description:
Others	Yes/No	Brief description:

- **Question 4 a:** Would you like to participate to workshops in *precise the place for national workshops* (1 or 2 days over a 3 years period) to be further informed on the project findings and on ESPON works (participants must support travel and accommodation costs)?
 - Yes
 - No
 - If yes, please feel free to ask any questions in relation with these workshops:

- **Question 4 b:** Are you interested to be involved in an international workshop (participants must support travel and accommodation costs and in English language)
 - Yes
 - No
 - If, yes please feel free to ask any questions in relation with this workshop:

- **Question 4 c:** Do you have specific expectations you think we can fulfil?

Annex 4. Blunder checks achieved

- ✓ CLIMATE
- ✓ ARTS
- ✓ ATTREG
- ✓ SGPTD
- ✓ KIT
- ✓ TIGER
- ✓ TERCO
- ✓ GEOSPEC
- ✓ EU-LUPA
- ✓ SIESTA
- ✓ EsatDOR
- ✓ SEGI
- ✓ TANGO

Annex 5. List of stakeholders/National Target Groups (table below)

First name	Family name	Professional position	Institution
Belgium			
Herman	Baeyens	Expert	Strategic Advisory Planning for Flanders
Kristien	Lefeber	Head of Spatial Planning and Policy	Province of Limburg
Erik	Grietens	Advisor	Bond for a Better Environment
Bram	Tack	Coordinator for Urban Planning, Environment and Nature	Intercommunale Leiedal
Michel	Hubert	Professor, Vice President Brussels Studies Institute	University of Saint Louis
Thibault	Ceder	Responsible Spatial Planning	Union of Cities and Municipalities of Wallonie
David	Morel	Advisor	Cabinet of the Minister in charge of the Environment, the Unused Site, Transport, Mobility, Regional Planning
Michaël	Van Cutsem	Research Director, Head of the Foresight Unit	Destrée Institute
Benoit	Périlleux	Political advisor	Brussels Capital Government
Bulgaria			
Irina	Aaharieva	Director General	MRDPW
Elean	Gagov	Junior Expert	MRDPW
Mila	Krasteva	Head Expert-Eurointegration	Pernik Municipality
Marusia	Tsvetkova	Expert Projects and Programmes	National Association of Municipalities In the Republic of Bulgaria
Zdeavko	Sechkov	Executive Director	Foundation for Local Government Reform
Stoicho	Motev	Expert	National Center for Territorial Development

Djani	Antova	Chief Expert	Bulgarian Construction Chamber
Poli	Roukova	Research-Fellow, Department of Geography and IGGG	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Milena	Mihaylova	Executive Director	Bulgarian Association of Regional Development Agencies and Business Centres
Yonka	Stefanova	Executive Director	Agency for Sustainable Development and Euro Integration
Milena	Mihaylova	Executive Director	Bulgarian Association of Regional Development Agencies and Business Centres
France			
Michel	Hagnerelle	Inspector General of Education (geography)	Ministry of Education
Samuel	Widmer	Senior Research Fellow	Development and Planning Agency (Pays de Montbéliard)
Jean-Pierre	Rochas	General Manager	Inter-municipal local authority (Val de Drôme)
Delphine	Vincent	Director	Business Territories Development Association
Pascale	Poupinot	Director	Planning and Development Agency of the Valley of the Oise
Benoît	Guinamard	Project Manager (international prospective)	Regional Council of the Nord Pas-de-Calais
Pascal	Perrissin	Director of Territorial Policies	Conseil Général de l'Hérault
Delphine	Lapray	Head of Economic Department	Inter-municipal Local Authority (Montceau-Le Creusot)
Marc	Guerin	Research Director	IRSTEA Agricultural Research Institute

Marie	Gastaldi	European Affairs Chief Officer	Eurométropole and European Partnerships Department, Lille Métropole Communauté urbaine
Milena	Stojkovic	European Projects Officer	French Assembly of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Territorial Policies Direction
Pierre	Cuisinier-Raynal	Head of project	General Council of the Gironde
Christian	Brunner	Director	AGAM (Urban Planning Agency for Marseille agglomeration)
Italy			
Alessandro	Selva	External Expert	Regione Emilia Romagna
Alberto	Clementi	Dean of Architectural Faculty	University of Pescara
Laura	Peretti	Architect	Studio Insito / Own studio, Private body
Massimo	Sessa	Vice-President and President of Section Ports, Strategic Infrastructure, Plans	National Board of Public Works under Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport
Filippo	Bencardino	Rector	University of Sannio
Laura	Cavallo	Director	Department of European Policies - Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministries
Fabio	Guerra	Employee	Ministry of Environment
Maria Antoinette	Piscioneri	Manager of Technical Office: Managing, Human Resources, State Property	Lazio Region
Massimo	Tronci	Full Professor of Scientific Field	Sapienza, University of Rome
Danila	Scarozza	Ph. D. Student in Public Management and Governance	University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
Caterina	Cirelli	Full Professor in Economic Geography	University of Catania

Massimo	Lo Cicero	Free Lance	University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
Elena	Poggio	Employee	Ires Piemonte
Tiziana	Quaglia	Employee	Veneto Region
Latvia			
Vita	Skuja	Senior Desk Officer	Ministry of Economics
Mudite	Priede	Secretary General	Association of Latvian Municipalities
Helma	Jirgena	Director	Latvian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Economics
Valentina	Locane	Analyst	State Regional Development Agency
Laura	Anteina	Senior Desk Officer	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
Inta	Rozensteine	Deputy Director of Department	Ministry of Transport
Elina	Konstantinova	Board Member	Association "BaltRegio", Baltic Institute for Regional Development
Maija	Geidane	Chief Architect	Sigulda County Council
Inga	Vilka	Associated Professor	University of Latvia
Iveta	Zalite	Deputy Head of Spatial Planning Department, Territorial Planner	Kekava County Council
Janis	Butkevics	Head of the Policy Division	Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mara	Zira	Head of Analytical Planning Unit, Economics Department	Riga City Council, City Development Department
Rūdolf	Cimdins	Expert on Development Document Monitoring	Riga Planning Region
Romania			
Sorin	Pavel	Geographer, Researcher at the Centre for Regional Development – START, Lecturer PhD	University of West, Timisoara

Daniela	Nedelea	Assistant General Manager	Regional Development Agency North-East, Piatra Neamt
Adina	Girjan	Public Manager	Prefecture of Iasi County
Angela	Zarojanu	Sub-prefect	Prefecture of Suceava County
Diana	Obada	Assistant Manager Coordinator Department of Iasi Growth Pole Iasi	North East Regional Development Agency
Adrian	Covasneanu	Geographer	S.C. Pro-Activ Consulting S.R.L. Iași
Alexandru	Banica	Researcher	Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch
Silvia Mihaela	Oostveen	General manager	Arhitectural S.R.L. Bucuresti
Radu Valentin	Frumusani	General Manager	RYV Proiect SRL, Bucuresti
Eugenia	Marginean	Chief Architect	Alba County Council, Alba Iulia
Mihaela	Gotcu	Teacher, Responsible for European Programs and Projects	National College "Emil Racovita", Iasi
Bogdan Alexandru	Suditu	Head of Policy of Urban Planning and Legislation	Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism (MDRT)
Slovakia			
Jana	Bracíníková	Head of Department of Regional Development and Planning	Žilina Self-governing Region
Martin	Čaja	Head of the Strategic Activities Department of the Nitra Self-governing Region	Nitra Self-governing Region
Anna	Dobrucká	President of the Association for Urban and Spatial Planning in Slovakia and Authorized Landscape Architect (ZUUPS)	SAS (Slovak Architects Association, Slovak Architects Society), ZUUPS – Association for Urban and Spatial Planning in Slovakia
Eva	Michalinová	Mayor	Village Zohor

Pavlina	Misikova	Employee of the Ministry of Environment of the SR, Department of Environmental Policy	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
Adam	Cifra	Architect, Authorized Representative, Manager	Private company
Anna	Mareková	Head of the Territorial Plan Department of the Košice Self-governing Region, Architect	Košice Self-governing Region
Peter	Lapín	Architect, Town Planner	Department of the Chief Architect of Banská Bystrica
Jana	Braciníková	Head of Department of Regional Development and Planning	Žilina Self-governing Region
Lenka	Stankovská	Spatial Planner	Aurex Ltd.
Martin	Čaja	Head of the Strategic Activities Department of the Nitra Self-governing Region	Nitra Self-governing Region
Spain			
Xavier	Muños Torres	Terrassa Municipality Sustainability Economic and Social Observatory's Head (in Barcelona Province)	Terrassa City Hall
Manuel	Benabent Fernandez de Córdoba	Manager	Arenal Consulting s.l.
Antonio	Serrano Rodríguez	President (Head)	Inter-professional Spatial Planning Association (Fundicot)
Eduardo	De Santiago	Technical Adviser for Soil (Land) and Urban Policies	Spanish Ministry of Development
Manuel	Borobio sanchiz	Head of Directorate Sustainability and Landscape (General Director)	Galicia Autonomous Region Government (Xunta de Galicia)
Domingo	Gómez orea	Full Professor	Madrid Polytechnic University

Antonio Angel	Clemente	Head of Service of Spatial Planning	Murcia Autonomous rRgion Government
Oriol	Nel·Lo Colom	Senior Lecturer	Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona
Margarita	Castañer Vivas	Human Geography Senior Lecturer. Spatial planning Catalonian Society President	Universitat de Girona
Pascual Esteve	Josep Maria	Director	Estrategias de Calidad Urbana
The Netherlands			
Esther	Vos	Strategic legal spatial policy	Province of North Brabant
Ellen	Driessen	Senior policy official	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
Jan	Buiten	Senior policy official	Province of Groningen
Juliane	Kürschner	Spatial planner	Municipality of Amsterdam, planning department
Jolanka	Van der Perk	Legal policy official	Province of Flevoland
Joost	de Koning	Consultant	Ecorys
Willemieke	Hornis	Policy official	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
Gijsbert	Borgman	Senior policy official	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
Bianca	Peeters	Project manager	Urban.nl