

ESPON ATLAS

ESPON ATLAS - Mapping European Territorial Structures and Dynamics

ESPON ATLAS

Scientific Platform and Tools Project 2013/3/5

Final Report | 02/10/2014

Background document to the Atlas



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

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

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

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

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

This basic report exists only in an electronic version.

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1. Further work after the Draft Final Report

1.1 Structure of the ESPON ATLAS

With the Draft Final Report, a slightly revised structure of the ESPON Atlas had been presented to the MC. The feedback to the DFR has entailed some additional adjustments:

- Theme VII (Living Conditions / Regional Qualities / Attractiveness) had been created in May 2013 to give home to a number of topics that were deemed important, but were not included in the other themes. However, the quality of the project inputs is not convincing and there might not be enough material to fill an entire theme. Additionally, the chapters that were planned for this theme are quite diverse, and so far there is not really a central topic that embraces all chapters. The feedback regarding the test chapter "Attractivity" showed that the topic is too complex to explain it in an understandable way in an Atlas, where there is not much space for written explanations.
- Several chapters deal with the urban-rural typology, which is explained only in Theme IV; to make the other chapters fully understandable, it was decided to change the order of the themes, by putting Theme IV (Urban and rural) as very first theme in exchange for Theme II (Economy)

These changes were already suggested with the DFR, and the reply to the DFR showed that MC and CU see this in the same way.

Overview of chapters including numbering and status

New no.	Old no.	THEME	Re-sponsible team	Status / remarks
I.	I	Introduction	BBSR	
II.	IV	Urban and rural areas		
2.1	4.1	Introduction	BBSR	
2.2	4.2	Urban-rural Europe	BBSR	
2.3	4.3	European network of cities	BBSR	
2.4	4.4	European poles of global integration	BBSR	
2.5	4.5	Characteristics and potentials of rural territories	LLKC	
2.6	4.6	Challenges of changing landscapes in Europe	LLKC	
2.7	4.7	Urban and rural Europe – territorial synopsis	BBSR	
III.	III	Society and Integration		
3.1	3.1	Introduction	BBSR	
3.2	3.2	Demographic change	BBSR	
3.3	3.3	Migration and mobility	BBSR	
3.4	3.4	Education and labour force	BBSR	
3.5	3.5	Labour market	BBSR	
3.6	3.6	Poverty and integration	BBSR	Might be updated in October based on FR TIPSE
3.7	3.7	Social cohesion - territorial synopsis	BBSR	
IV.	II	Economic Structures and Global Challenges		
4.1	2.1	Introduction	S&W	
4.2	2.3	Regional economic structure	LLKC	
4.3	2.4	Regional economic performance	S&W	
4.4	2.6	Regional dimension of the economic crisis	BBSR	
4.5	2.5	Territorial patterns of innovation	BBSR	
4.6	2.2	Europe and its regions on the global stage	LLKC	
4.7	2.7	Where European regions stand - Territorial synopsis	BBSR	
V.	V.	Linkages and Accessibility		Draft chapters have been checked by the ESPON CU and are in language editing. Final provision mid-October.
5.1	5.1	Introduction	S&W	
5.2	5.2	Regional linkages to the world	S&W	
5.3	5.3	European centre and periphery revisited	S&W	
5.4	5.4	Local and regional accessibility patterns	S&W	
5.5	5.5	Access to information	S&W	

New no.	Old no.	THEME	Re-spon-sible team	Status / remarks
5.6	5.6	Linkages and accessibility - Territorial synopsis	S&W	
VI.	VI	Climate and Environment		
6.1	6.1	Introduction	S&W	Draft chapter provided to the Coordination Unit for check. Final provision mid- to end of October
6.2	6.2	Land use change	S&W	No draft chapter due to major overlaps with chapter 2.6.
6.3	6.3	Sea use change	S&W	Draft chapters provided to the Coordination Unit for check. Final provision mid- to end of October
6.4	6.4	Climate change	S&W	
6.5	6.5	Greening of the economy	S&W	
6.6	6.6	Climate and environment - Territorial synopsis	S&W	
	VII	Living Conditions / Regional Qualities / Attractiveness		Theme removed
VII.	VIII	Integrated View to Territorial Development		
7.1	8.1	Introduction	LLKC	
7.2	8.2	Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth	LLKC	
7.3	8.3	Territorial cohesion	LLKC	
7.4	8.4	Territorial diversity	LLKC	
7.5	8.5	Sustainable environmental development	LLKC	
7.6	8.6	Integrated territorial development - Territorial synopsis	LLKC	
VIII.	IX	Governance, Territorial Cooperation and EU Policies		
8.1	9.1	Introduction	LLKC	
8.2	9.2	Territorial dimensions of different policies	LLKC	
8.3	9.3	Territorial cooperation towards the long term objectives of territorial cohesion	LLKC	
8.4	9.4	Governance, Territorial Cooperation and EU Policies - Territorial synopsis	LLKC	
IX.	X	Territorial perspectives		Detailed outlines of chapters have been provided to the Coordination Unit for check. Final provision mid- to end of October
9.1	10.1	Introduction	S&W	
9.2	10.2	Towards a territorial vision 2050	S&W	
		Addendum		
		References		

1.2 Changes to the schedule

First reply to DFR was only received two months after delivery; project needed time to implement changes, and to deliver the missing chapter, so the deadline was prolonged to end of September 2014

1.3 ESPON ATLAS online version

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

A test version was provided to the ESPON CU end of July 2014.

2. Obstacles and problems encountered

These problems were already reported in the DFR.

2.1 Layout-related obstacles

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

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

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

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

2.2 Contents-related obstacles

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

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

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

The Atlas TPG and the ESPON CU had agreed on a procedure where the TPG partners would list their data needs and the CU would take care of obtaining the data from the projects. In most of the cases, this worked out fine. There are however some cases where it is apparently impossible to obtain the data, often because the scientists that worked on the projects no longer work at the respective institute and successors are not able to obtain the data.

2) Data and project results are too old

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

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

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

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

More complex ESPON results like typologies and clusters were not updated by the project. Updating these results would not only mean acquiring updated data and making new calculations, but also getting in contact with the

original project to learn more about the way the typologies/clusters were calculated. The project team decided to postpone this step until it knows if the presented maps and results are in general agreed upon by the ESPON CU and MC and after clarifying with the ESPON CU and MC how this and other open questions will be solved (see chapter **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.**)

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

A number of ESPON 2013 projects were scheduled to end during or even after the Atlas project period. Some deadlines were even adjusted in the last months, e.g. for including more updated data into the report. Wherever possible and sensible, the Atlas team used interim data and results from the project for the DFR or took data from other sources.

2.3 Clarification of open questions

From these problems, a number of questions arose that were raised in the DFR. Here, it was also clearly pointed out that due to these problems, the delivery of all things in the agreed way would only be feasible with additional financial resources. This was declined by the ESPON CU. The solution found for the encountered problems is pointed out in the following.

Outdated data and results

Where updated data is not easily available (e.g. migration chapter), the existing data were taken and the chapter included a mention that the situation has changed since then.

Undeliverable data (also delayed projects)

When data could not be obtained from ESPON projects, either data from other sources was taken or a suitable replacement was found.

Dealing with newly acquired data

The Atlas team had to acquire and/or calculated a lot of additional data. As a regular ESPON project, the Atlas team would be obliged to upload all data gathered during the project to the ESPON database. This includes a meticulous, thorough and time-consuming preparation of data sheets according to the metadata specifications. Since no additional financial resources were allocated to the project, the TPG will provide the data in the way they received it to the ESPON CU, who will take care of or organise the correct provision to the ESPON database.

3. Meetings

There were two meetings after the provision of the DFR. A TPG meeting took place on 6 and 7 March 2014 in Budapest and a so-called editorial meeting on 27 March 2014 in Bonn. In addition, the TPG presented the synopsis maps to the Management Committee at the MC meeting in Nafplio on 3 June 2014.

4. Further proceeding towards the printing

The missing themes will be provided mid-to end of October to the CU. The sources and abbreviations will have to be updated based on these new inputs.

Some additional streamlining has to be done regarding the graphic elements, since during the preparations of the Final Report it became clear that several graphic elements, maps or headlines do not have the exact size and/or colour.

