

**Inspire policy making by territorial evidence**



**ESPON Workshop**

# **Polycentric Territorial Structures and Territorial Cooperation: What, where and how?**

**14 September 2016**

**Venue:**

Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovakia to the EU  
Avenue de Cortenbergh 107  
Brussels, Belgium

## **Programme**

## Overview

### Scope

For many years, polycentricity has been regarded as a concept of a favourable territorial structure of Europe that should be promoted in order to ensure accessibility of jobs and services to inhabitants in the regions using the accumulated capacity and potential of urban nodes, working jointly, borrowing each other's strengths and exploring comparative advantages together. In order to discuss the potentials for further development and practical application of this concept, ESPON EGTC and the EU Presidency of Slovakia have agreed to prepare a Policy Brief focusing on polycentric territorial structures and territorial cooperation.

The aim of this policy brief is, firstly, to contribute to further considerations on a potential EU Territorial Reference Framework which could support relevant policy processes, such as the update of the EU Territorial Agenda post 2020 and the development of EU Cohesion policy post 2020. Secondly, the Policy Brief will offer some guidance to policy makers for a wider use of certain territorial governance and territorial cooperation arrangements to support polycentric networks in the EU. The Brief will be guided by questions on:

- **What** has been done in terms of European policy development so far?
- **Where** are the opportunities for more polycentric development in Europe?
- **How** policy makers at European, national, regional and local level could engage in territorial cooperation arrangements to support further polycentric development?

### Purpose

As part of the development of the Policy Brief, ESPON in cooperation with the EU Presidency of Slovakia organises the **Workshop “Polycentric Territorial Structures and Territorial Cooperation: What, where and how?” on 14 September, 2016**. The workshop will be used as an opportunity to present and discuss the policy brief with key stakeholders who have been engaged in developing and supporting polycentric territorial structures and co-operation practices at different territorial scales – European, macro-regional, cross-border, national, regional etc. The outcome of the discussion will be used to formulate policy-relevant recommendations on building successful territorial governance structures and territorial cooperation practices that would support further polycentric developments around Europe. At a more general and strategic scale, the outcome of this workshop can be used as an input to further debate on future long-term and mid-term territorial orientations of EU policies. After the workshop the policy brief will be finalised and submitted for debate at the EU Directors' General meeting on territorial cohesion in Bratislava on October 3, 2016.

### Audience

The Workshop is targeting policy makers and practitioners at European, macro-regional, cross-border, national and regional level.

## Workshop Agenda

- 09h30 Registration and coffee
- 10h00 Welcome and introduction to the topic by the EU Presidency of Slovakia
- Tibor Németh, Department of Spatial Planning, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
- 10h15 Presentation of the draft ESPON Policy Brief “Polycentric Territorial Structures and Territorial Cooperation: What, where and how?”
- Ilona Raugze, ESPON EGTC Director
- 10h45 Experiences and “all-kind-of” practice examples of polycentric territorial governance and cooperation
- Moderated by ESPON EGTC*
- Paul Grohman, City of Vienna (ESPON POLYCE Targeted Analysis)
  - Manfred Perlik, University of Bern (ESPON METROBORDER Targeted Analysis)
  - Radu Neçşuliu, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration of Romania (ESPON GROSEE Targeted Analysis)
  - Peter Austin, City of Oslo (ESPON SPIMA Targeted Analysis and Chair of the EURO CITIES Metropolitan Areas Working Group (ESPON SPIMA Targeted Analysis)
  - Hans Hede, Spatial and strategic planner, Stockholm (METREX, Intra-metropolitan polycentricity in practice, 2010)
- Guiding questions for interventions:
- What is the added value and benefits of such cooperation?
  - What are the needs and possibilities to develop this practice further?
  - What are the current trends and updates of cooperation practice?
  - What are the factors of success and preconditions for developing polycentric territorial structures and cooperation?
  - Who are the leaders and key stakeholders in such cooperation practices?
- 12h00 Open debate on policy-relevant recommendations: Considerations on WHY? WHERE? HOW?
- Moderated by ESPON EGTC*
- 13h00 Conclusions and next steps
- 13h15 – 14h00 Lunch and informal exchange

**ESPON 2020 More information**

The ESPON EGTC is the Single Beneficiary of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme.

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