

# ESPON 2030 PROGRAMME - CONSULTATION PROCESS ON THEMATIC ACTION PLANS

KICK-OFF DAY 30 NOVEMBER 2021, BLED, SLOVENIA

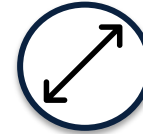
## **Session 2B. Places resilient to crises**

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# CHALLENGES FOR RESILIENT PLACES

Opportunity to address **exposed social (welfare) and environmental (climate) vulnerabilities** in regional recovery.  
Increasing importance of **monitoring** and regional **data** collection



Deepening of existing **territorial inequalities** via uneven digital transition, disrupted investments, spatially blind recovery measures etc.  
Regional policy role in **developing more balanced economies** (incl. digital access, youth support, re-skilling)

Re-evaluation of **reliance on global value chains and re-industrialisation responses**.  
Regional investments in infrastructure and R&I



More complex, place-based and inclusive regional policy



**Emerging disparities** due to protracted recovery. Regional policy role in building **resilience and economic diversification**

**Emerging opportunities** related to advances in **remote working**



Raised profile of **institutional arrangements and instruments** promoting partnership and democracy as well as 'adaptability'



**Increased social discontent** esp. in most vulnerable places and among vulnerable social groups

# POLICY PRIORITIES FOR RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

Response	Legislative / Strategic	Institutional	Spatial	Operational
<b>Trend</b>				
<b>Reducing Territorial Disparities</b>	Strengthening the focus on disadvantaged areas CH, NO, UK, HR	Decentralisation processes PT, BG, BE, FR, LT Institutional capacity building IT, PL, SE, CZ, LT	Strengthening use of place-based responses (stimulating new forms of economic activity, holistic approach) PL, UK (Sco), BE, BG	Programmes/measures to implement strategic shifts, including the urban dimension FI, UK, BE, FR
	Support targeting small and medium-sized cities NO, PL, BE	Re-location of public sector jobs DE, NO, PT, UK		Programmes/measures to strengthen place-based inclusive development of territories with structural economic weaknesses UK (Sco)
<b>Targeted Territorial Action</b>	Legal frameworks laying ground for stronger agreement-based regional policy FI	New instruments supporting thematically targeted territorial transition NL, DK	Introducing or expanding on the concept of functional zones PL, NL, LT	New contract/partnership-based regional instruments PL, FI, FR
<b>Grand Societal Challenges</b>	Pursuing sustainability, well-being and quality of the living environment as objectives of regional policy FI, NO, SE, BE, IE, LU			Climate change objectives in new or amended investment schemes SE
<b>Better Policy Delivery</b>	Policy coordination to encourage consideration of territorial dimension in other policies NO, SE, CZ	Shift of policy responsibilities to sub-national level / consideration of new sub-national frameworks AT, PT, BE, EE		



# REDUCING TERRITORIAL DISPARITIES

Legislative / Strategic	Institutional	Spatial	Operational
Strengthening the focus on disadvantaged areas CH, NO, UK, HR	Decentralisation processes PT, BG, BE, FR, LT Institutional capacity building IT, PL, SE, CZ, LT	Strengthening use of place-based responses (stimulating new forms of economic activity, holistic approach) PL, UK (Sco), BE, BG	Programmes/measures to implement strategic shifts, including the urban dimension FI, UK, BE, FR
Support targeting small and medium-sized cities NO, PL, BE	Re-location of public sector jobs DE, PT, NO, UK		Programmes/measures to strengthen place-based inclusive development of territories with structural economic weaknesses UK (Sco)

- Majority of responses are institutional changes; **a combination of different types of responses** in some countries – e.g. PL, FR
- Recognition of the development potential of **small and medium-sized towns** which can rebalance patterns of economic activity
- Responses go **beyond** solely **investment objectives** and strive for **positive social and welfare outcomes**



# TARGETED TERRITORIAL ACTION

Legislative / Strategic	Institutional	Spatial	Operational
Legal frameworks laying ground for stronger agreement-based regional policy FI	New instruments/approaches supporting thematically targeted territorial transition NL, DK	Introducing or reinforcing on the concept of functional zones PL, NL, LT	New contract/partnership-based regional instruments PL, FI, FR

- Link growth potentials with **enabling complex grand transitions**
- Covering a **range of different geographies** cutting across existing administrative boundaries
- **Impact on the way regional policy is delivered** in terms of operational instruments but also institutional implications
- Focus on **collaboration** and **'adaptable' implementation frameworks**



# GRAND SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

Legislative / Strategic	Operational
Pursuing sustainability, well-being and quality of the living environment as objectives of regional policy FI, NO, SE BE, IE, LU	New action plans SE

- Increased strategic commitment to grand societal challenges.
- Shift of focus from growth to development; from physical investments to reduced human footprint.
- BUT challenging to translate these strategic developments into practice.
- Small-scale adaptations of some existing schemes BUT more significant changes in discussion.



Key objectives of the **Programme for Territorial Development** are  
No net land take by 2050  
Designing together major infrastructures  
Zero carbon by 2050  
Fair and solidarity-based economic development



2021 White Paper on Norway's plan to achieve **UN Sustainable Development Goals** by 2030 reflected in the new strategies for small towns, mountain and island areas, and costal areas



Key objectives of the **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies** are  
Compact, smart and sustainable growth;  
Low carbon energy supply;  
'Liveability' of the regions



# BETTER POLICY DELIVERY

Legislative / Strategic	Institutional
Policy coordination to encourage consideration of territorial dimension in other policies NO, SE, CZ	Shift of policy responsibilities to sub-national level / consideration of new sub-national frameworks AT, PT, BE, EE



## Development of an intermediate sub-regional level

- **Seventeen 'reference regions'**, with each Flemish province divided into 2-5 sub-regions;
- These will **coordinate different sectoral policies** and new and existing **collaborations**;
- Represent **innovative consensus model**
- new inter-municipal links stimulated by a subsidy (c. €900,000).

- As regional challenges become more complex ongoing need to improve **effectiveness and efficiency**
- Strategic changes aim to improve policy coherence and increase the **visibility** of regional policy objectives in other policies
- Institutional responses aim to provide competences at the '**right**' **spatial level(s)**
- How to address **administrative capacity** deficits

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# WHAT IS THE NEW NORMAL?

## Uncertainty about the impact of COVID-19 and implications for recovery and resilience for different types of regions

- the effects of disrupted and changing **global value chains** on industrial regions
- future **tourism trends** and implications for tourism-reliant regions
- new approaches to **mobility**, particularly in large urban centres
- the influence of **digitalisation service provision** and home working in rural areas
- future **working patterns** and implications for urban areas (and urban renewal)



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