

# KITCASP

## Key Indicators for Territorial Cohesion and Spatial Planning

Targeted Analysis 2013/2/20

Final Report | 31 October 2013

Part D | Appendix F



This report presents the final results a Targeted Analysis 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 EU28, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Each partner is represented in the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

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

Information on the ESPON Programme and projects can be found on [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)

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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## **Appendix F:**

### **Guidelines for National Stakeholders**

# Guidelines for the Use of Indicators in Spatial Policy Development



User Guide

October  
2013



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# Quick start menu

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## 1 What is KITCASP?

KITCASP is a research project sponsored by the ESPON Programme. The main aim of the project was to develop a set of key indicators for territorial cohesion that could be used to inform the development of strategic spatial policy at the national level. The five stakeholders in the project were Scotland, Ireland, Latvia, Iceland and the Basque Country. The work was undertaken by an international research team comprising the National University of Ireland, London South Bank University in the United Kingdom, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Spain, the University of Akureyi Research Centre in Iceland and the Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences in Latvia. The project started in February 2012 and ended in October 2013.



There was close co-operation between the research team and the stakeholder institutions and also significant consultation with spatial planning practitioners, policymakers and researchers within each case study nation. The process revealed interesting similarities and differences across the different case studies in terms of spatial development priorities, policy agendas and data availability. The Final Report (include link) provides useful insights into the use of indicators as a means of preparing and monitoring strategic spatial policy that will be relevant to practitioners and decision makers throughout Europe. One of the objectives of the KITCASP project was to develop guidelines on the use of ESPON data and indicators in territorial policy development at the national level.

## 2 What is in this user guide?

The user guide is intended to provide user-friendly advice for spatial planning practitioners on the use of ESPON data and indicators in the preparation and monitoring of spatial planning strategies and territorial development policies. The use of ESPON data and indicators in spatial planning is first discussed before the concept and rationale for the KITCASP indicators is explained. Transferable lessons are drawn that are potentially relevant in other national contexts and at different levels of governance. Guidance is also provided on how the KITCASP indicators can be applied and how practitioners throughout Europe can develop a bespoke set of indicators appropriate to their own specific territorial context.

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*User-friendly advice for spatial  
planning practitioners*

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### 3 How to use this guide

One of the key preferences expressed by stakeholders during the KITCASP project was for simplicity and clarity of approach. This led to the identification of a limited number of headline indicators relevant to the spatial planning agendas in each country. The emphasis on simplicity is reflected in these guidelines. Complexity has been deliberately avoided in favour of a clear and concise focus on the most important and relevant issues.

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*Practitioners value  
simplicity and clarity*

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The guidelines offer practitioners easily digested advice whether they are seeking general information about ESPON data or the use of indicators, whether they are intending to apply the KITCASP indicators or whether they are seeking to develop a set of bespoke indicators relevant for a specific territorial context. The structure of the guidelines is intended to help practitioners by being divided into easy to find sections focusing on each of these issues. Links are also provided at the end of the guidelines to useful sources of data and information.

## *ESPON data as a resource for spatial planning*

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### 4 Evidence informed spatial policy

The increased focus on evidence informed spatial policy has led to the generation of extensive datasets at EU and national levels. The breadth, fragmentation and compartmentalised nature of much of the available data form a significant challenge if this data is to be used effectively as a foundation for evidence informed spatial policy. ESPON is the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion and is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund. The mission of the ESPON Programme is to support policy development in relation to territorial development and cohesion by the provision of a robust evidence base and identifying territorial development trends, challenges and opportunities.

There will be an increased focus on results and performance in the revised Cohesion Policy for the post 2013 programming period and there is also a need to align national strategies with the priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. These factors mean that the need for a robust evidence base for spatial policy and the demand for reliable spatial indicators will continue for the foreseeable future.

### 5 ESPON as a resource

Approximately 40 research projects were sponsored by the ESPON 2006 Programme and the 2013 Programme has resulted in a further 67 projects being undertaken. These projects provide a substantial resource for planners and policymakers in domestic



contexts. However, the challenge for practitioners is to know where to look for the information that they need. Reports on all individual ESPON projects are available on the ESPON website and work is on-going to make the ESPON Database more relevant and user-friendly. There are clearly numerous sources of data upon which practitioners can draw to inform processes of spatial policy formulation, though ESPON is the only Pan-European research programme dedicated specifically to spatial planning. A key challenge for the ESPON Programme in the coming years will be to facilitate the engagement of practitioners operating in domestic contexts. By raising awareness amongst domestic practitioners ESPON will be able to optimise its potential as an evidence base to inform the formulation, implementation and monitoring of spatial policy throughout Europe.

The range of ESPON projects is highly diverse both in terms of thematic focus and also in terms of the type of outputs that have been produced. There have been a substantial amount of maps and typologies produced providing insights into spatial structures and spatial development trends. There has also been considerable work focusing on the development of different scenarios and concepts for spatial development as well as the development of diverse methodologies and spatial indicators.

There is a need to build upon existing ESPON research and data and this forms the starting point for all new ESPON projects. The KITCASP Project sought to build upon extensive ESPON research into indicators. The KITCASP methodology and filtering process for the selection of indicators drew heavily on the INTERCO (Indicators for Territorial Cohesion) Project. In addition, the KITCASP indicators were also cross-checked with indicators identified in various other projects including SIESTA, PURR, TANGO, TPM, EU-LUPA, ReRISK and Demifer (see Appendix 3: ESPON Projects)

ESPON data was also used extensively in the elaboration of the profiles for the KITCASP territories. Territorial profiles are often developed on the basis of national and sub-national data and the European dimension can be neglected. ESPON provides an ideal resource allowing practitioners to situate a specific territory in its broader European context. Such spatial positioning can facilitate new insights and identify new challenges and opportunities that may otherwise remain hidden.

## ***Using key indicators in spatial planning***

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### **6      What are indicators?**

Indicators have a variety of potential purposes. They can be used to translate complex relationships and phenomena in a way that is easy to understand and provides usable and reliable signals about important spatial development trends.

They can also provide direct measurements of performance. Whatever the purpose, indicators need to be analysed so that decision makers can make an informed choice

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*There is no such thing as a perfect indicator.*

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about whether a specific policy or objective is, or has been, successful or whether it needs to be adjusted or even abandoned.

There is no such thing as a perfect indicator. In order to be effective indicators need to balance scientific accuracy with the need for concise information. Ultimately, indicators are intended to inform decision-making in relation to spatial policy and can help to measure dynamic spatial development processes and spatial planning outcomes. In the context of territorial cohesion and spatial planning, indicators need to be, as far as possible, quantifiable and spatially-specific. KITCASP stakeholders valued simplicity and usually favoured the use of single indicators rather than complex indices.

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*The most informative evidence base for spatial policy will consist of robust and dynamic indicators capable of capturing change over time.*

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Indicators can focus on different aspects of policy making and implementation. Process indicators, for example, seek to measure the effects of a policy, strategy or concept within the governance system. This type of indicator relates to an understanding of the territorial cohesion agenda as being concerned with coordination of the spatial impacts of sectoral policies. While recognising the importance of such processes of governance to successful territorial cohesion, KITCASP stakeholders preferred a focus on spatial planning outcomes rather than process indicators.

*Process indicators*

*Outcome indicators*

Outcome indicators are concerned with the benefits to society that policy proposals are intended to achieve. An example might be the number of house completions in relation to a set target within a given period. Such indicators relate directly to issues that spatial policy is seeking to address and also provide a necessary evidence base for future policy intervention. However, sometimes such outcomes cannot be directly or easily measured. For example, quality of life is a desirable policy outcome, but not easy to measure. In such cases the solution will be to identify another output that can act as a proxy indicator, signposting progress toward long-term aims.

## 7 How can indicators assist spatial planning?

There has been a general shift towards evidence informed public policy in many policy domains including spatial planning since the publication of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) in 1999. This was the first time that a spatial vision had been elaborated for the EU and while it was heralded as a good example of contemporary spatial planning there was criticism that the vision was not sufficiently grounded in evidence. ESPON was set up partly in response to this criticism.

It is important to recognise that it may be difficult to attribute particular outcomes to specific policy interventions, because the effects of spatial policies are often linked to

other governance interventions and influenced by wider underlying social, economic and environmental change processes. The most informative evidence base for spatial policy will consist of robust and dynamic indicators capable of capturing change over time. They should also have the flexibility to be adapted and adjusted to emerging planning and development priorities and agendas.

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*The most informative evidence base for spatial policy will consist of robust and dynamic indicators capable of capturing change over time.*

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The diversity of territorial, socio-economic and institutional contexts across Europe means that defining a common set of pan European indicators is extremely challenging and all indicators need to be interpreted in light of the relevant context. The most effective indicators are likely to be those linked to a specific priority policy theme and the KITCASP project focused primarily on key policy themes that resonate at both European and national levels, combining a top-down with a bottom-up approach. The aim of providing a coherent set of pan European indicators made links to European policy agendas essential.

## 8 What can't indicators do?

Indicators are not intended to identify which policy option should be selected or to provide answers to specific questions. Indicators are simply tools and aids to decision making and always need to be interpreted taking into account a diversity of factors, including the political, governance, territorial and socio-economic contexts within which they are situated. Indicators do not provide decision makers with answers but they provide them with information that can help them to make informed decisions. The role of the spatial planner is often to help decision makers to select and interpret indicators relevant to spatial policy priorities and agendas. The diversity of spatial policy goals and differences in ways and units of measurement in different territories are hurdles to the provision of a coherent and comparable set of indicators capable of being applied throughout Europe.

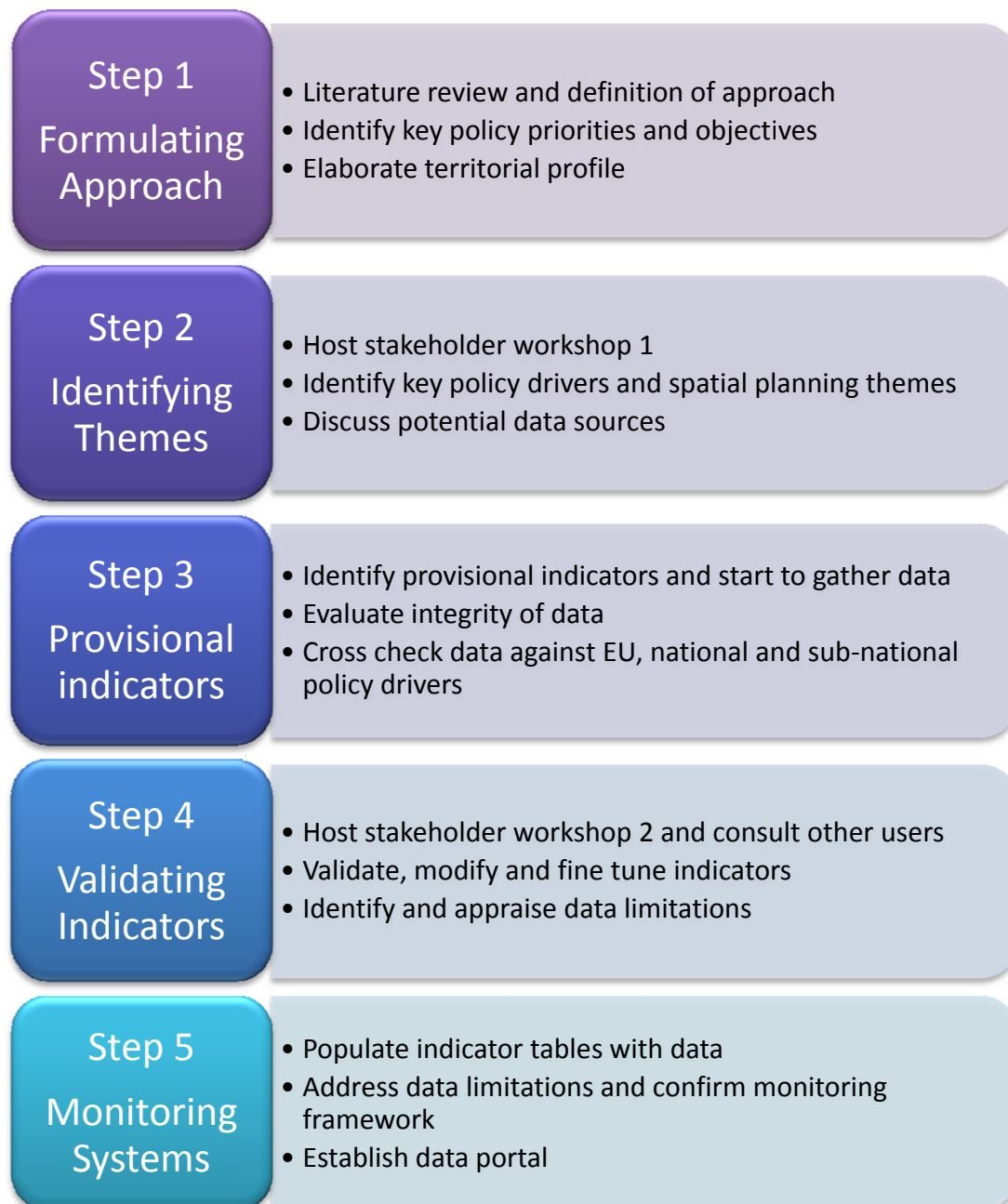
# The KITCASP approach

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## 9 Identifying the indicators

The KITCASP methodology followed the framework set out in the diagram below. The methodology can be applied to diverse contexts and may therefore be helpful to those seeking to develop their own set of indicators.

Figure 1: Step-by-step methodology



## 10 Policy drivers: from global to local

A combination of a top down and a bottom up approach proved effective in identifying relevant issues driving policy agendas. Such an approach can help to ensure that the identified policy drivers resonate with European level policy agendas and priorities as well as with those of the specific territory.

Economic recovery emerged as a key policy driver where visions and priorities are being realigned to address the consequences of the present post-recession economy. The promotion of economic competitiveness, resilience and job creation are high on European and national policy agendas and is likely to be challenging within a context of significantly reduced budgetary resources.

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*Economic recovery emerged as a key policy driver*

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The current difficult economic climate places pressures on long-standing policy goals such as the promotion of more balanced patterns of regional development. Nevertheless, the pursuit of territorial equity remains strong in the rhetoric of policy documents. The over concentration of development in capital regions remains a significant threat to cohesion in some countries. Potential tensions between the pursuit of more balanced patterns of development and strengthening the international competitiveness of the capital are apparent in some recent policy documents. The need to: reduce greenhouse gas emissions; improve natural resource management; protect landscapes, habitats and biodiversity; and to promote environmental sustainability are influential policy drivers internationally.

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*The need to: reduce greenhouse gas emissions; improve natural resource management; protect landscapes, habitats and biodiversity; and promote environmental sustainability are influential policy drivers internationally.*

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The need to improve strategic spatial planning practice and processes can be a significant policy driver, as can managing demographic change. The specific local context will have an important bearing on the specific policy drivers identified.

## 11 Thematic storylines for spatial planning

An important element in the KITCASP approach was the identification of a list of contemporary themes that can be used to group indicators for territorial cohesion. Initially, a list of potential themes was identified on the basis of a review of key spatial planning documents and preliminary discussions with the stakeholders. These were then combined to produce the following common themes:

Figure 2: Spatial indicator themes



KITCASP adopted a simple approach that would be easy to understand, to use and to adapt to different territorial contexts. A storyline or rationale for the choice of each theme was developed around a series of keywords identified by the research team. A maximum of five indicators were identified per theme so that the overall dataset remained of manageable proportions. Both the themes and the indicators were identified initially for the individual territories after an analysis of relevant spatial planning priorities and agendas and detailed discussions with stakeholders. A comparative analysis was then undertaken on the individual themes and provisional indicator sets before these were combined into a global set of indicators.

### **Theme 1: Economic competitiveness and resilience**

Economic recovery was identified as a key overarching theme relevant to all territories. There is a strong emphasis on the need to strengthen economic competitiveness and to create employment opportunities. Resilience is seen by some as more relevant than competitiveness as the latter is a more subjective term and can change with evolving economic circumstances.

Indicators to reflect economic performance are well established in most countries throughout Europe and also at the European level.



Indicators for productivity, employment, trade and economic structure are commonly used and in recent years there has been an increased focus on innovation and research, which resonates with the increased prioritisation at the European level of smart growth in pursuit of a knowledge-based economy.

Despite being far from unproblematic, GDP/GVA per capita is a commonly used and widely recognised indicator of economic prosperity. The number of people in work is fundamental to any assessment to economic well-being and so was chosen as a core indicator. This indicator can also usefully pick up upon economic activity rates and potentially connects to health concerns and more general issues of well-being.

The Europe 2020 Strategy identifies a target of 3% of GDP expenditure on research and development in order to promote innovation and the pursuit of a knowledge based economy, making it a salient focus for a core economic indicator.

### ***Core Indicators for Economic Competitiveness and Resilience***

- *Productivity (GVA or GDP per capita)*
- *Employment rate of population aged 16-64*
- *Gross expenditure on R & D as percentage of GDP*
- *Balance of external trade*
- *Economic structure*

Indicators of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) can resonate with policymakers, though there may be doubt about the value of such an indicator where investment simply displaces existing economic activity and jobs. In addition, high levels of FDI could be interpreted as reflecting economic vulnerability and lack of resilience. An indicator measuring the importance of exports, or some balance of imports/exports measure is therefore considered more appropriate. The key point is that as well as endogenous factors, indicators need also recognise the importance of attracting exogenous resources and capacities to the territory.

The fifth core indicator under this theme is economic structure and this provides important contextual information about the extent of economic specialization or diversity, though careful interpretation is required as either could be considered to be a strength or vulnerability. Similarly, the issue of proportion of employment across private, public and voluntary sectors is an informative indicator. Again, some might judge a high proportion of public sector employment as a vulnerability, but such employment has historically been stable and often relatively well paid and skilled, contributing to local economic well-being and resilience.

## Theme 2: Managed Spatial Development

This theme encompasses a diverse range of ideas, concepts and policy ambitions and measurement and evaluation in some instances is problematic. The drivers underpinning this theme in many ways came from territories which either have high levels of urban primacy (Iceland, Ireland, Latvia) or a strong political imperative to balance development across a number of competing regional urban centres (the Basque Country). Even where the compactness of a city or polycentricity of a territory can be measured, this cannot necessarily be interpreted as a good or a bad thing, as spatial planning is far more complex than that.

The dynamics of population change is always important to spatial planning and the distribution of this across the settlement hierarchy speaks to issues of polycentricity and settlement-infrastructure alignment. Population density is a far less dynamic indicator though undoubtedly provides useful contextual insights into the characteristics of a territory. Levels of house building will always be of concern to spatial planners and so is included as a core indicator. Ideally one might equate this with need, whether driven by population growth or changing demand, but that probably would require a bespoke housing needs assessment tool.

Transportation and the way people move around are important to spatial planning and attempts to combat climate change. A core indicator reflecting modal split resonates with the increased focus at both EU level and in individual territories on the development of a low carbon economy. Mobility issues are increasingly important to European 2020 'SMART' growth objectives, regional policy and rural development priorities as well as allocation mechanisms for EU Infrastructural Funds.

A measure of land-use change provides useful contextual insights into the characteristics of areas and a valuable means of comparison with other parts of Europe. This indicator also signals 'territorial capacities and assets', which are suggestive of key landscape features and cultural heritage assets and inventories of historic and cultural monuments, designated areas and general land use records are one means of capturing such features.

Indicators that capture access to services speak to a range of planning issues, including polycentricity, urban compaction, sustainability and social equity. The rhetoric of spatial planning usually emphasises the importance of local high quality service provision and this often contrasts with the reality of increasingly centralised and

### *Core Indicators for Managed Spatial Development*

- *Population density / change*
- *House completions*
- *Modal split*
- *Land use change*
- *Access to services*



specialized services whereby distances are likely to increase as more marginal services in remote areas become unviable. Drive times to key services (doctor, petrol station, post office, primary school, secondary school and retail centre) will therefore provide useful insights into these issues.

### Theme 3: Social Cohesion and Quality of Life

This theme is relatively straightforward, although debates over subjective and objective measures of quality of life, absolute and relative measures of equality or the nature of ‘cohesion’ are bound to stalk such considerations. It should be noted that access to services was located in the previous theme because driving time to services signals issues of settlement dispersal and hierarchy.

Judging the skills base of the labour market resonates with the themes focusing on economic performance as well as social cohesion and quality of life. Participation in higher education is one means of measuring this. Indicators relating to poverty provide an easy to understand outcome measure that has significant implications for social cohesion and quality of life.

#### *Core Indicators for Social Cohesion and Quality of Life*

- *Population with tertiary education*
- *Population at risk of poverty*
- *Green-space accessibility*
- *Well-being index*
- *Dependency ratio*

There has been significant interest in various countries in recent years in measures that broaden the concept of prosperity to include the more abstract concepts of well-being and quality of life. The accessibility of publicly managed green space in urban areas is thus increasingly linked to quality of life, health and well-being. Such spaces are important resources for formal and informal sport, leisure and recreation. The provision of such space is an aspect of the place-making role of spatial planners.

There has also been considerable work undertaken on the development of well-being indexes, which are usually a composite of factors relating to housing, physical environment, personal development opportunities and neighbourhood and community.

Finally, the dependency ratio provides useful insights into early years and aging population themes and both link strongly to economic performance and future challenges for social service provision.

## Theme 4: Environmental Resource Management

This theme focuses on the environmental assets of territories, but potential policy contradictions should be recognised. For example, the pursuit of a low carbon economy through the development of renewable energy resources can have significant impacts upon some measures of landscape quality and management. Tensions between environmental and economic

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*Tensions between environmental and economic agendas are apparent in many territories throughout Europe*

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agendas are apparent in many territories throughout Europe.

Core indicators for renewable energy production, greenhouse gas emissions, and population at risk of flooding and water quality status all provide information relevant to climate change objectives and of the development of strategies for mitigation and adaption.

The EU Water Framework Directive will have a profound impact on spatial planning over the next two decades with strict reporting requirements in 2015, 2021 and 2027 so it is appropriate to have an indicator relevant to water quality status.

The number and status of protected habitats and species provides insights into biodiversity and broader issues of environmental management. The EU-wide status of many such habitats also provides a useful basis for comparison.

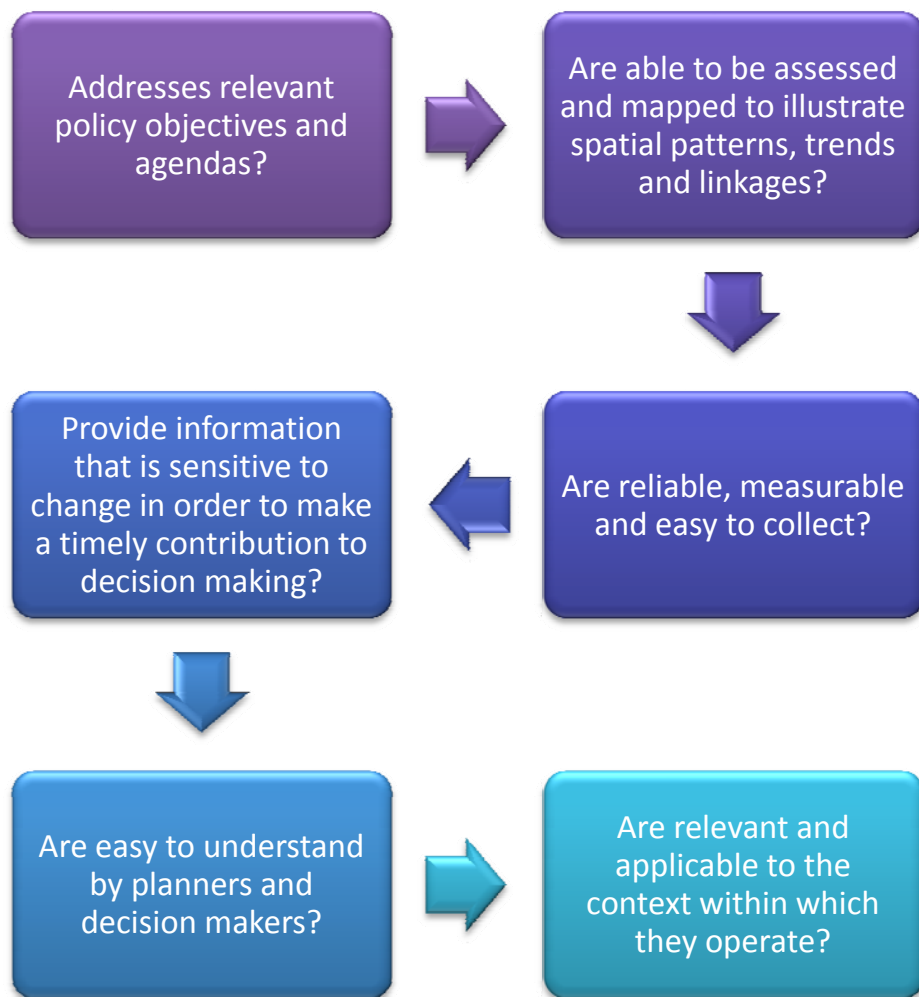
### *Core Indicators for Environmental Resource Management*

- *Renewable energy production*
- *Greenhouse gas emissions*
- *Population at risk of flooding*
- *Number and status of protected habitats and species*
- *Water quality status*

## 12 Choosing indicators

The choice of indicators is extremely important. The KITCASP project applied a filtering process to ensure that the chosen indicators were relevant and appropriate. This assessed the extent to which potential indicators addressed a series of key questions set out in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Key questions when filtering indicators



## 13 Data availability and management issues

The development of indicator sets and monitoring frameworks for spatial policy will be an iterative process as new agendas, challenges and opportunities emerge and others fade. Data availability has shaped the choice of indicators in some territories. Time or other resource constraints have dictated the adoption of a pragmatic approach making use of readily available indicators. However, the absence of data is not necessarily a reason for not selecting a particular indicator for inclusion and a wish list of indicators underpinned by a robust rationale can help make the case for the allocation of additional resources to data collection.

Spatial development trends often manifest over a long period of time and data collection and interpretation can be time and resource intensive. Nevertheless, data should be collected at appropriate intervals to build time series information that is sensitive to change. One of the key issues to emerge from the KITCASP project was the importance of the spatial resolution of available data. If data is to be useful in informing strategic spatial policy then it needs to be available at an appropriate resolution. Mapping indicators at NUTS I, NUTS II or even NUTS III level may be of only limited use for spatial planning at the national or regional level.

## *Developing your own indicators*

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### 14 Checklist of key considerations

The key considerations in choosing indicators are that they are clear and easy to interpret, relevant, applicable, measurable and analytically sound. The questions in Figure 4 provide a useful checklist for the selection of indicators.

Figure 4: Checklist for indicator selection

Does the indicator address policy objectives and priorities?	Is the indicator already included in any institutional strategy already in place?	Is the indicator derived from a consistent statistical framework?
Does the indicator have a clear and rational purpose?	Is the indicator capable of capturing change over time?	Has the indicator been identified through efficient participation from all the relevant stakeholders?
Is the indicator based on good quality and credible data?	Is the indicator well-understood by planners and decision-makers?	Can the indicator communicate the results in a concise and accessible manner?
Is the indicator regularly measured?	Is the indicator quantifiable and spatially-specific?	Are there reliable monitoring arrangements in place for the chosen indicator?

## 15 Where to get data?

The cross-sector and multi-disciplinary nature of spatial planning determines that there are invariably a vast array of potential datasets with relevant data available within a particular territory. Some territories have dedicated datasets designed to assist with the monitoring and evaluation of spatial policy. In other territories practitioners may require to take a more pragmatic approach and make use of data that has been collected for other purposes. Latvia's Territorial Development Index is an example of the former (though not all relevant data is incorporated in this Index).

Territories rarely appear to be making full use of existing research and stakeholders are often unaware of the full extent and nature of the data, either across diverse sources or even within the same institutional context. An inventory or centralised database of what is available and a requirement to upload relevant research and data would offer significant benefits both at the EU level and at the level of individual territories.

There is an increasing amount of data available at the European level from sources such as Eurostat and the European Environment Agency that can be used to inform strategic spatial planning at the national level. The spatial resolution at which data is available is a key issue. Data available at NUTS I, II or III levels is primarily useful for situating a territory in its broader European context rather than for a fine grained analysis of spatial development trends within a specific territory. The comparability of data available at the European level can also be questionable, though data collection and availability is likely to become more harmonised over time.

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*The spatial resolution at which data is available is a key issue.*

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Data available at the European level will usually need to be supplemented by national level data to allow a more fine grained analysis for the purpose of informing strategic spatial planning at the national level. National statistical offices and sub-national observatories are often the most useful sources of statistical data. In addition many government departments will have their own thematic datasets. Other potential sources include local authorities, public agencies, interest groups, think tanks, private consultants and charities.

## 16 Maintenance and monitoring

The European Union's Territorial Agenda 2020 (TA2020) recognises that the Europe 2020 targets can only be achieved if the territorial dimension of the strategy is taken into account, as development challenges and opportunities in different territories vary. TA2020 also stresses the need for improved territorially sensitive spatial monitoring as part of the proposed Europe 2020 surveillance regime to better coordinate evidence-based planning efforts to achieve country-specific targets.

The Fifth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion calls for “higher-quality, better-functioning monitoring and evaluation systems” as being crucial for moving towards a more strategic and results-oriented approach to cohesion policy. The increased focus on indicators and monitoring is also reflected in the nature of ESPON projects that have emerged in recent years and projects such as INTERCO (Indicators for Territorial Cohesion), SIESTA (Spatial Indicators for a ‘Europe 2020 Strategy’ Territorial Analysis), EU-LUPA (European Land Use Patterns), ReRisk (Regions at Risk of Energy Poverty), DEMIFER (Demographic and Migratory Flows Affecting European Regions and Cities), PURR (Potential of Rural Regions); and TPM (Territorial Performance Monitoring) have all been examined during the KITCASP project.

The detailed profiles of the KITCASP territories revealed a diversity of existing spatial monitoring arrangements and that some territories have more extensive pre-existing data gathering systems and monitoring arrangements in-situ than others. The use of existing datasets has the advantage that indicators are more likely to be currently applied and understood by planners and policy-makers and that a monitoring system is likely to be in place to ensure regular data gathering and reporting.

The applicability and usability of indicators is directly dependent on the quality, quantity and timeliness of data collected and the project highlighted some of the data gaps and limitations in the stakeholder territories. The eight NUTS III Regional Authorities in Ireland are currently in the process of developing a common framework for monitoring and indicator development in relation to the implementation of Regional Planning

Guidelines (RPGs) and an increasingly integrated monitoring framework will be established over the coming years. There is an increased emphasis in many countries in the development of key spatial data infrastructure in the form of publicly accessible data portals to support evidence-based spatial planning.

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An appropriate spatial monitoring framework must satisfy the need for an analytical base for sound spatial analysis and varying political demands, enabling the evaluation of policy strategies and the assessment of the achievement of policy aims. In addition, the desire for more comprehensive datasets needs to be seen within the context of continuing financial austerity under which it is likely that human and financial resources for collecting and monitoring data will be severely limited. Territories therefore need to be realistic and pragmatic, to use data that is available, easy to collect and understand, and to be aware of the resource implications and try to avoid time and resource intensive monitoring practices.



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# Useful websites

Ireland's *All-Island Research Observatory* (AIRO) has produced interactive core data indicator dashboards for the five stakeholder countries that participated in the KITCASP project. Details and maps can be found on their website at:

- <http://airo.ie/spatial-indicators>

Other websites and data sources used during the KITCASP project include the following:

## General relevance

Name	Description	Link
Eurostat	Statistics website of the European Commission	<a href="http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/">http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/</a>
Corine Land Use Cover	European wide database with inventory of land cover in 44 classes	<a href="http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/COR0-landcover">http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/COR0-landcover</a>
OECD Better Life Index	Worldwide index of well-being based on 11 topics in the areas of material living conditions and quality of life	<a href="http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/">http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/</a>
Household Download Index	Global broadband statistics	<a href="http://www.netindex.com">www.netindex.com</a>
European Trend Commission New Media Trend Watch	Trends in internet usage by tourism consumers across the world	<a href="http://www.newmediatrendwatch.com">www.newmediatrendwatch.com</a> ; <a href="http://etc-digital.org/">http://etc-digital.org/</a>

## Ireland

Name	Description	Link
My Plan	Public accessible guide to local and development plans in Ireland	<a href="http://www.myplan.ie">www.myplan.ie</a>
All Ireland Research Observatory	Management and dissemination of publicly available datasets	<a href="http://www.airo.ie/spatial-indicators">http://www.airo.ie/spatial-indicators</a>
National Parks and Wildlife Service	The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland	<a href="http://www.npws.ie/publications/euconservationstatus/">http://www.npws.ie/publications/euconservationstatus/</a>
Pobal - Government Supporting Communities	Datasets on social inclusion, reconciliation and equality	<a href="https://www.pobal.ie/Pages/Home.aspx">https://www.pobal.ie/Pages/Home.aspx</a>
Central Statistics Office	Census statistics for Ireland	<a href="http://www.cso.ie">www.cso.ie</a>
Environmental Protection Agency	Environmental datasets for Ireland	<a href="http://gis.epa.ie/">http://gis.epa.ie/</a>
National Spatial Strategy (NSS) 2002-2020	National planning framework for Ireland	<a href="http://www.irishspatialstrategy.ie/">http://www.irishspatialstrategy.ie/</a>
National Development Plan 2007-2013	Scheme of organised large-scale expenditure on (mainly) national infrastructure	<a href="http://www2.ul.ie/pdf/932500843.pdf">http://www2.ul.ie/pdf/932500843.pdf</a>
Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022	Planning framework to give regional effect to the NSS and to guide county development plans	<a href="http://www.rpg.ie/">http://www.rpg.ie/</a> ; <a href="http://www.swra.ie/">http://www.swra.ie/</a> ; <a href="http://www.border.ie/">http://www.border.ie/</a> ; <a href="http://www.sera.ie/">http://www.sera.ie/</a> ; <a href="http://www.mwra.ie/">http://www.mwra.ie/</a>



		<a href="http://www.midlands.ie/">http://www.midlands.ie/;</a> <a href="http://www.mera.ie/">http://www.mera.ie/;</a> <a href="http://www.galway.ie/en/Business/WestRegionalAuthority/">http://www.galway.ie/en/Business/WestRegionalAuthority/</a>
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## Scotland

Name	Description	Link
Scottish Government statistics	Range of thematic statistics gathered by the Scottish Government	<a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/</a>
Scotland Performs	National targets and indicators	<a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/scotPerforms">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/scotPerforms</a>
Scotland environmental web	Environmental statistics for Scotland	<a href="http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/">http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/</a>
Scotland Neighbourhood Statistics	Socio-economic statistics for Scotland to local neighbourhood level	<a href="http://www.sns.gov.uk/">http://www.sns.gov.uk/</a>
Scotland Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2012	Detailed index to local area level relating to following domains: income, employment, education, healthcare, housing and access to services. The scores for these domains are combined to provide an index of multiple deprivation.	<a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD</a>
National Planning Framework 2 Monitoring Report 2012	The National Planning Framework 2 Monitoring Report 2012 updates progress on implementing the strategy	<a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/03/3099/downloads">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/03/3099/downloads</a>
National Planning Framework 3	National Planning Framework for Scotland (currently under preparation, Main Issues Report is available)	<a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/NPF3-SPP-Review/NPF3">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/NPF3-SPP-Review/NPF3</a>
National Statistics	UK Office for National Statistics	<a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html">http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html</a>
Oxfam Humankind Index	An index to measure Scotland's prosperity according to a range of statistical indicators	<a href="http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/our-work/poverty-in-the-uk/humankind-index">http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/our-work/poverty-in-the-uk/humankind-index</a>
Carnegie Trust	More than GDP: Measuring What Matters, Report of the Round Table on Measuring Economic Performance and Social Progress in Scotland	<a href="http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/getattachment/edc70373-49a0-48bb-84a3-5b0a253a5a6f/More-Than-GDP--Measuring-What-Matters.aspx">http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/getattachment/edc70373-49a0-48bb-84a3-5b0a253a5a6f/More-Than-GDP--Measuring-What-Matters.aspx</a>

## Basque Country

Name	Description	Link
EUSTAT – Basque Statistical Office	Range of thematic statistics gathered by the Basque Government	<a href="http://www.eustat.es">http://www.eustat.es</a>
INE – Spanish Statistical Office	Range of thematic statistics gathered by the Central Spanish Government	<a href="http://www.ine.es/">http://www.ine.es/</a>
Basque Government Department of the Environment and Spatial Planning on-line link	Specific indicators of relevance to the environment and spatial planning	<a href="http://www.ingurumena.ejgv.euskadi.net/r49-estamapt/es/">http://www.ingurumena.ejgv.euskadi.net/r49-estamapt/es/</a>

Basque Government on-line link to agriculture, livestock and fisheries	Specific indicators of relevance to agriculture, livestock and fisheries	<a href="http://www.nasdap.ejgv.euskadi.net/r50-estadist/es/">http://www.nasdap.ejgv.euskadi.net/r50-estadist/es/</a>
Geoeuskadi Spatial Data Infrastructure	Geoportal providing public on-line access to the Basque Government's geographical information systems and spatial databases.	<a href="http://www.geo.euskadi.net/s69-15375/es/">http://www.geo.euskadi.net/s69-15375/es/</a>
Udalplan	Annual spatial planning and land use monitoring report published by the Department of the Environment and Spatial Policy	<a href="http://www.geo.euskadi.net/udalplan/visor/viewer.htm">http://www.geo.euskadi.net/udalplan/visor/viewer.htm</a>
Udalmap	Basque Government cartographic information system managed by the Department of Economics and Finance, but drawing upon data from a wide range of Basque and Spanish Government sources	<a href="http://www.ogasun.ejgv.euskadi.net/r51-udalmap/es/contenidos/informacion/udalmap/es_udalmap/udalmap.html">http://www.ogasun.ejgv.euskadi.net/r51-udalmap/es/contenidos/informacion/udalmap/es_udalmap/udalmap.html</a>
EUSTAT sustainability indicators	Selection of key indicators identified by the Department of the Environment and Spatial Policy	<a href="http://www.eustat.es/indic/indicadores.asp?idioma=c&amp;ambito=99&amp;indictipo=2#axzz263Uox63H">http://www.eustat.es/indic/indicadores.asp?idioma=c&amp;ambito=99&amp;indictipo=2#axzz263Uox63H</a>
Basque Country Environmental Framework Programme (2002-2006)	Part of the Basque Environmental Strategy of Sustainable Development (2002-2020)	<a href="http://www.ingurumena.ejgv.euskadi.net/contenidos/plan_programa_proyecto/eavds_pma/es_9688/adjuntos/pma0206.pdf">http://www.ingurumena.ejgv.euskadi.net/contenidos/plan_programa_proyecto/eavds_pma/es_9688/adjuntos/pma0206.pdf</a>

### *Latvia*

Name	Description	Link
State Regional Development Agency	Regional Development Indicator Module (RDIM)	<a href="http://www.vraa.gov.lv/en/research/rdms/">http://www.vraa.gov.lv/en/research/rdms/</a>
Latvia Central Bureau of Statistics	Official statistical data	<a href="http://www.csb.gov.lv/en">http://www.csb.gov.lv/en</a>
State Regional Development Agency	Annual survey "Development of Regions in Latvia" since 2005	<a href="http://www.vraa.gov.lv/en/research/research_publications/">http://www.vraa.gov.lv/en/research/research_publications/</a>
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030	<a href="http://www.latvija2030.lv/upload/latvija2030_en2.pdf">http://www.latvija2030.lv/upload/latvija2030_en2.pdf</a>
Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre	National Development Plan 2014-2020	<a href="http://www.pkc.gov.lv/images/NAP2020%20dokumenti/NDP2020_English_Final.pdf">http://www.pkc.gov.lv/images/NAP2020%20dokumenti/NDP2020_English_Final.pdf</a>

### *Iceland*

Name	Description	Link
Statistics Iceland	Statistics Iceland is the main source of statistics in the country	<a href="http://www.statice.is/">http://www.statice.is/</a>
Icelandic Planning Agency	Icelandic National Planning Strategy	<a href="http://www.landsskipulag.is/">http://www.landsskipulag.is/</a>
Iceland 2020	Prime Ministry of Iceland; Iceland 2020	<a href="http://eng.forsaetisraduneyti.is/">http://eng.forsaetisraduneyti.is/</a>

	its development	
National Energy Authority	Energy data	<a href="http://www.nea.is/the-national-energy-authority/energy-data/">http://www.nea.is/the-national-energy-authority/energy-data/</a>
Icelandic Regional Development Institute	Selected data and reports on regional development (most of which in Icelandic)	<a href="http://www.byggdastofnun.is/en">http://www.byggdastofnun.is/en</a>
Data market	Diverse indicators, Iceland 2020 and several of its targets use this website to monitor indicators and targets	<a href="http://datamarket.com">http://datamarket.com</a>
Index mundi	Country profiles, e.g. data on foreign direct investment in Iceland	<a href="http://www.indexmundi.com/facts/iceland/foreign-direct-investment">http://www.indexmundi.com/facts/iceland/foreign-direct-investment</a>
The Environment Agency of Iceland	Environmental data and indicators (most of which in Icelandic)	<a href="http://www.ust.is/the-environment-agency-of-iceland/">http://www.ust.is/the-environment-agency-of-iceland/</a>
Icelandic Met Office	Environmental data; such as pollution, climate changes and other information relating to use and interpretation of environmental data	<a href="http://en.vedur.is/">http://en.vedur.is/</a>
Soil Conservation Service of Iceland	GIS information on soil cover and vegetation (work in progress)	<a href="http://www.land.is/landupplysingar/vefsja">http://www.land.is/landupplysingar/vefsja</a>
Icelandic Geodetic Service	Geoportal of thematic- and other maps	<a href="http://gatt.lmi.is/geoportal122/catalog/main/home.page">http://gatt.lmi.is/geoportal122/catalog/main/home.page</a>

# ***ESPON Projects***

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ESPON sponsors an extensive range of research to support policy development related to territorial development and cohesion. Its ESPON 2013 programme (the European Observation Network on Territorial Development and Cohesion) was launched in January 2008. This five-year programme for applied research into European territorial development builds upon the work of the ESPON 2006 Programme (the European Spatial Planning Observation Network). ESPON involves all of the 27 nation states of the European Union, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Full details of all ESPON 2013 projects are available at:

- [http://www.espon.eu/main/Men\\_u\\_Projects/](http://www.espon.eu/main/Men_u_Projects/)

A useful summary of its work is provided by *ESPON Projects: Final Overview (December 2012)*:

- [http://www.espon.eu/export/sites/default/Documents/Projects/ProjectOverview/ESPON\\_Project\\_Overview\\_December\\_2012.pdf](http://www.espon.eu/export/sites/default/Documents/Projects/ProjectOverview/ESPON_Project_Overview_December_2012.pdf)

Listed below is a sample of the projects it has sponsored:

## ***Applied Research Projects:***

### **Attractiveness: ATTREG** -

Attractiveness of European Regions and Cities for Residents and Visitors

**Economic crisis: ECR2** - Economic Crisis: Resilience of Regions

**Energy: ReRisk** - Regions at Risk of Energy Poverty

**EU 2020 Strategy: SIESTA** - Spatial indicators for a Europe 2020 Strategy Territorial Analysis

**Globalisation: TIGER** - Territorial Impact of Globalization for Europe and its Regions

**Governance: TANGO** - Territorial Approaches for New Governance

**Green Economy: GREECO** - Regional Potential for a Greener Economy

**Innovation: KIT** - Knowledge, Innovation, Territory

**Land use: EU-LUPA** - European Patterns of Land Use

**Poverty and exclusion: TIPSE** - Territorial Dimension of Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe

**Rural areas: EDORA** - European Development Opportunities in Rural Areas

**Services of general interest: SeGI** - Indicators and Perspectives for Services of General Interest in Territorial Cohesion and Development

**Territorial Cooperation: TERCO** - European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life

**Town: TOWN** - Small and Medium-Sized Towns

**Transport: TRACC** - TRansport ACCessibility at regional/local scale and patterns in Europe

## *Targeted Analyses Projects:*

**Agglomeration economies: CAEE** - The Case for Agglomeration Economies in Europe

**Airports: ADES** - Airports as Drivers of Economic Success in Peripheral Regions

**Growth poles: GROSEE** - Growth Poles in South-East Europe

**Indicators for Territorial Cohesion: KITCASP** - Key Indicators for Territorial Cohesion and Spatial Planning

**Landscape: LP3LP** - Landscape Policy for the 3 Countries Park

**Rural regions: PURR** - Potential of Rural Regions

**Scenarios: SS-LR** - Spatial Scenarios: New Tools for Local-Regional Territories

**Territorial governance: SMART-IST** - Smart Institutions for Territorial Development

**Territorial impact assessment: EATIA** - ESPON and Territorial Impact Assessment

**Territorial performance: TPM** - Territorial Performance Monitoring

## *Scientific Platform*

**Atlas: ESPON Atlas** - ESPON Atlas on European Territorial Structures and Dynamics

**Database: ESPON Database 2013**

**Mapping Tool: RIMAP** - ESPON Online Mapping Tool

**Territorial Evidence: TerrEvi** - Territorial Evidence Packs for Structural Funds Programmes

**Territorial indicators: INTERCO** - Indicators of Territorial Cohesion

**Territorial monitoring: BSR-TeMo** - Territorial Monitoring for the Baltic Sea Region

**Territorial monitoring: ETMS** - EU Territorial Monitoring System

**Territorial potential: DeTeC** - Detecting Territorial Potentials and Challenges

**Urban benchmarking: CityBench** - ESPON CityBench for benchmarking European Urban Zones

## *Transnational Networking Activities:*

**Capitalisation and dissemination: CaDEC** - Capitalisation and Dissemination of ESPON Concepts

**e-learning: ESPONTrain** - Establishment of a transnational ESPON training programme to stimulate interest to ESPON2013 knowledge

**Territorial scales: SCALES** - Breakdown and capitalisation of ESPON results on different scales

**Territorial strategies: INTERSTRAT** - ESPON in Integrated Territorial Strategies

**Use of ESPON: USESPON** - Use ESPON

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

The ESPON 2013 Programme is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. It shall support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory.

ISBN