



ESPON 2013 Programme/Press Release No 08/2012

Luxembourg, 13 June 2012

Showcasing paths to regional economic growth and the use of European Territorial Evidence

The regions of North Jutland, Denmark, Greater Manchester, UK, the Balearic Islands, Spain, and rural parts of Latvia all have good experiences to share on how to develop regional economy based on innovation and knowledge. Their different paths are showcased to policy makers across the EU at the ESPON Open Seminar on 13-14 June 2012 in Aalborg, organised in collaboration with the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The GNP (Gross National Product) and productivity of the Danish host region, North Jutland, has improved substantially over the last 10 years. In this context, the region is second only to Copenhagen area. In the 1990s, when faced with the challenges of de-industrialisation, high unemployment and de-population, the North Jutland Region embarked upon an ambitious strategy for regeneration and revitalisation.

This success story is presented at the Open Seminar in Aalborg, Denmark by Carsten Jahn Hansen (Associate Professor, Department of Development and Planning, Aalborg University, Denmark), who is addressing the main indicators, strategies and initiatives leading to the impressive changes in the region. Speaking before the event, Professor Jahn Hansen said “I’m looking forward to presenting the case study of the North Jutland region at the ESPON event in Aalborg. I hope that sharing these experiences will inspire policymakers in other regions all over Europe, and contribute positively to their debates on how to enable development based on innovation and creativity”.

The Open Seminar “European Territorial Evidence for EU Cohesion Policy and Programming”, organised by ESPON, focuses sharply on how European territorial evidence can inform the future result-oriented regional development policy in Europe.

The ESPON Open Seminar is taking place during the negotiating period for the EU’s future cohesion policy and is aimed at assisting national and regional authorities in their operational programmes for 2014-2020. Peter Mehlbye, Director of the ESPON Coordination Unit, said, “In the year of the tenth anniversary of ESPON, the supply of European-wide comparable evidence and tools for policy-making has matured substantially giving the possibility to benchmark and see new development opportunities from the European context”.

The ESPON Open Seminar addresses how territorial evidence can be used in relation to the coming thematic objectives of the EU's "Common Strategic Framework" (CSF), and how ESPON evidence and tools support a territorial dimension in the programming within the future EU Cohesion Policy. The key target groups of the event are policy makers, practitioners, managing authorities and programme secretariats currently working on the evidence base needed for the inclusion of a stronger territorial dimension in future programmes.

Policy makers and practitioners are able share their experience and discuss the use of territorial evidence as well as new approaches in developing European regions and cities. Against this backdrop, the ESPON Open Seminar has a double scope:

- Day one: the topic of "Creative Regions of Innovation and Knowledge" is addressed, stimulating a wide-ranging discussion on participants' concrete experiences related to territorial trends and evidence from ESPON projects.
- Day two: the event is structured around the thematic objectives of future Structural Funds. In a series of workshops dealing with the thematic priorities of the "Common Strategic Framework", researchers and experts are presenting territorial evidence that supports policy-makers and stakeholders in executing proposals in their specific policy area. The ESPON Open Seminar also offers insights on the tools, indicators and data made available by ESPON.

More details and programme of the event at the ESPON Website www.espon.eu

Interested in ESPON?

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 supports policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory. ESPON supports Cohesion Policy development with European wide, comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on framework conditions for the development of regions, cities and larger territories. In doing so, it facilitates the mobilisation of territorial capital and development opportunities, contributing to improving European competitiveness, to the widening and deepening of European territorial cooperation and to a sustainable and balanced development.

The Managing Authority responsible for the ESPON 2013 Programme is the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, Department of Spatial Planning and Development of Luxembourg.

More information: <http://www.espon.eu>. Follow ESPON on <http://twitter.com>, [Linkedin](#), [RSS feed](#)