

## **SPECIFICATION**

### **ESPON Applied Research Project 2013/1/13**

#### **Territorial Dimension of the Innovation and Knowledge Economy (2010-2012)**

##### ***(o) Territorial challenges relevant for ESPON 2013 projects***

The development of the European territory is facing several ongoing mega trends and impacts of policies:

- The integration of the EU in global economic competition is accelerating, offering more options for regions and larger territories in deciding on their development path as development is no longer a zero sum game for Europe.
- Interaction is growing between the EU territory and the surrounding neighbour countries as well as the other parts of the world, becoming apparent by e.g. migration pressure on more developed countries, which are themselves confronted with population decline and by access to and investment in new markets.
- Market forces and the evolution of society in general are supporting a geographical concentration of activities.
- The ongoing demographic change with an ageing European population and migration is affecting the regions differently and boosts the competition for skilled labour.
- The occurrence of hazards is increasing due to climate change while different parts of Europe experience different types of hazards.
- Increasing energy prices and the emergence of a new energy paradigm have significant territorial impacts, some regions being more affected than others, some of which have particular potential for production of renewable energy sources.
- The enlargement of the EU to 27 Member States, and at a later stage maybe to more, presents an unprecedented challenge for the competitiveness and internal cohesion of the Union.

ESPON results have revealed that territorial capital and opportunities for development are inherent in the regional diversity that is a characteristic of Europe. Consequently, different types of territories are endowed with diverse combinations of resources, putting them into different positions for contributing to the achievement of the Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas as well as to Cohesion Policy. Territorial diversity, particularly in the economic base, implies that strategies other than opting for a knowledge-based economy might be more appropriate and viable for some regions.

The ESPON 2006 Programme provided integrated analysis and long term spatial scenarios which enriched the European policy debate and knowledge base. The results and observations produced by ESPON on territorial structures, trends, perspectives and assessment of EU policy impacts had not been fully evident before and supported a better understanding of the European dimension of territorial dynamics. Therefore, interest is growing among policy makers and practitioners for the information, knowledge and understanding ESPON can offer.

The ESPON 2013 Programme shall bring this knowledge base one step further by carrying out applied research and targeted analysis, indicator development and data collection, capitalisation events presenting results, etc. All these actions will be related to an improved understanding of territorial structures, development trends, perspectives and policy impacts.

The European-wide evidence provided by the ESPON 2007-2013 Programme will potentially benefit stakeholders all over Europe at all levels. Policy makers dealing with territorial development require sound evidence and comparable regionalised information as well as medium and long-term development perspectives in order to draw up sustainable and efficient integrated policy responses for their territories.

All in all, the European process moves towards a more integrated approach to policy making which makes the territorial dimension important for policy makers. The aim of territorial cohesion proposed by the Commission supports this approach by taking the territory as an element in the framework for policy making. Due to its provision of evidence based on analyses of territorial units the ESPON 2013 Programme is of strategic importance for the European policy development and cooperation.

By further extending and deepening the existing knowledge and indicators, the ESPON 2013 Programme will play a strategic role in supporting the policy process of the current period 2007-2013, namely by contributing to the development of Cohesion Policy.

### ***(i) General objectives of applied research projects under Priority 1***

The general objectives of applied research projects within the ESPON 2013 Programme are the following:

- Building new evidence based on comparable information about European regions and cities, including information on dynamics and flows, and covering the entire territory of EU 27, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
- Addressing major territorial challenges and political priorities providing comparable information covering the entire European territory, its regions and cities.
- Providing comparable regionalised information and possible policy options for making use of opportunities inherent in territorial structures; anticipating and counter balancing negative trends and structures, taking into account the diversity of the ESPON territory and considering institutional, instrumental and procedural aspects.

- Identifying types of territories, regions and cities that share common development challenges and are affected most (positively or negatively) by the identified structures, trends, perspectives and/or policy impacts.
- Contributing to the further identification of structures within the EU territory that represent options for exploring comparative advantages and provide synergy through territorial cooperation arrangements, involving regions and/or cities.
- Contributing to the improvement of the scientific platform for European applied territorial research by refining existing concepts, methodologies, indicators, typologies, European maps and models and by defining new ones.
- Providing the knowledge and competence capabilities needed to ensure scientifically validated results of the applied territorial research with the support of Sounding Boards<sup>1</sup>.
- Supporting the use of and dissemination of results to an audience of policy makers, practitioners, scientist and experts.

This project shall contribute to these general objectives during its implementation, and in doing so make best use of existing ESPON results, new results in other ESPON projects as well as other research results and relevant studies.

### ***(ii) Relation of this project to the ESPON 2013 Programme***

The priorities describing the work-programme of the ESPON 2013 Programme are structured in four strands:

1. **Applied research on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion: Evidence on European territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts**  
The applied research projects will create information and evidence on territorial challenges and opportunities for success for the development of regions. Cross thematic applied research will be a major activity integrating existing thematic analysis and adding future analysis of new themes. Territorial impact studies of EU policies will be another focus under this priority.
2. **Targeted analysis based on user demand: European perspective to development of different types of territories**  
This priority responds to a clear demand of practitioners for user and demand driven actions within the ESPON 2013 Programme. By convening an analytical process where ESPON findings are integrated with more detailed information and practical know-how, new understanding of future development opportunities and challenges may arise, which could be transformed into projects and actions.
3. **Scientific platform and tools: Territorial indicators and data, analytical tools and scientific support**  
The scientific platform and analytical tools built up within the ESPON 2006 Programme will be maintained and further expanded. New actions shall be

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<sup>1</sup> For each applied research project a Sounding Board will be set up, accompanying the project throughout its life cycle and giving advice to the TPG on both, scientific issues as well as relevance for policy makers. Sounding Boards will normally be made up of one scientist and one practitioner. Their task will consist of assessing project proposals, giving continuous feedback to TPGs and commenting on their reports.

undertaken to develop current achievements and make use of the indicators, data and tools.

**4. Capitalisation, ownership and participation: Capacity building, dialogue and networking**

Under this priority, actions are foreseen that will be aiming at making the evidence and knowledge developed operational through measures raising awareness and involving stakeholders in the results and their practical use.

This project belongs to the first priority and holds a key position in developing a common understanding of opportunities and perspectives deriving from the territorial dimension of the innovation and knowledge economy. The project deepens and elaborates knowledge delivered by former and ongoing ESPON projects. Profound knowledge on the territorial dimension of the innovation and knowledge economy is vital for targeted policy development in the light of Cohesion Policy aiming at improved regional competitiveness and sustainable and balanced growth of the European territory.

Therefore a strong coordination and interlinkage with other ongoing ESPON projects is crucial for achieving comprehensive results. A close cooperation with the Sounding Board set up for following and advising the project and the Coordination Unit shall as well be established as part of the project implementation.

***(iii) Thematic scope and policy context***

Globalisation of research and technology is accelerating and new scientific and technological powers outside the European territory (e.g. China, India) are attracting considerable and increasing amounts of R&D investments. These developments bring new opportunities for Europe and the world. At the same time, they raise the question of Europe's ability to sustain a competitive edge in knowledge and innovation, which is at the core of the renewed Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs.

The innovation and knowledge economy (e.g. research and development, knowledge intensive services) has become a significant part of the European economic structure. It is made up of the development of technical innovation on one side, and the application of such innovation on the other side, resulting in new forms of processing, organising and making business. In order to foster a culture of innovative entrepreneurship and focus more strongly at the quality of processes and products the innovation and knowledge economy is recently also being approached from a broader perspective including social and educational innovation. The OECD LEED Forum on Social Innovations developed a comprehensive vision on innovation and defines social innovation as “conceptual, process or product change organisational change and changes in financing”. The conceptualisation of innovation in this sense might include the empowerment of specific groups of society, female entrepreneurship, life long learning and so on.

Encouraged by the Lisbon Strategy all policy levels are contributing to a further reinforcement of innovation. The existence of a sufficient level of technological development provides an important basis for economic performance but it is especially the application of innovative ideas that contributes to the creation of jobs and growth.

The rise of the innovation and knowledge economy means at the same time that a new type of economic and territorial behaviour becomes more dominant. Businesses and research institutes forming part of the innovation and knowledge economy apply other criteria in their search for a location and also use the territory differently than other economic sectors. The territorial dimension of the innovation and knowledge economy is important for the development of Europe's territories and needs better understanding. Recent policy documents recognise this and underline its importance.

The European Commission recognises in both, the Green Paper on the European Research Area as well as the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion the territorial dimension of the innovation and knowledge economy:

- The European Research Area should structure itself along the lines of a powerful web of research and innovation clusters. Their reach should be amplified through 'virtual research communities' created by pooling and integrating activities and resources from different locations in Europe and beyond, using powerful computing and communication tools. Increasingly, clusters should form and expand through such virtual integration rather than geographical concentration.
- Full benefit should be derived from Europe's diversity. European countries and regions may build on their strengths by progressively developing specialisation in certain fields.
- European public research isn't always holding up to leading world standards. Therefore, some concentration and specialisation is necessary to permit the emergence of European centres of excellence competitive on the global scale.
- Access to high-quality research and the possibility to participate in transnational projects have an increasingly important effect on regional development. The territorial dimension of research policy is embodied in the establishment of the European Research Area, in which researchers can move, interact and cooperate in an open way.

Other policy documents of the European Commission show similar messages.

The Territorial Agenda includes two territorial priorities for the development of the European Union that are closely related to the innovation and knowledge economy. The ministers state that they (1) aim to strengthen polycentric development and innovation through networking of city regions and cities and (2) promote regional clusters of competition and innovation in Europe. Emphasis is put on the creation of innovative clusters where the business community, the scientific community and administrations can work together, and on the role of city regions as well as rural areas (focussing on existing centres of innovation) that should strengthen their international identity and specialisation as a way of becoming more attractive for investment.

The project should strive for a better understanding of the following key policy question, for which it should provide supporting knowledge and evidence:

- What is the current state and pattern of the European territory and its regions with respect to the knowledge and innovation economy and how does this relate to the overall global picture of the knowledge and innovation economy?
- What territorial potentials can be exploited in different territories in order to further support the development of the innovation and knowledge economy

within the framework of sustainable and balanced territorial development and cohesion? What types of territories and types of innovative clusters should be emblematic for European territorial cooperation in the field of innovation?

- What variations between regions exist in the innovation and knowledge economy and what types of ‘innovation and knowledge economy policy’ relevant for territories can be distinguished?
- What could be done to improve the capacity of regions in terms of innovation and knowledge economy? Is this the same for all regions or can different measures be distinguished for the various types of regions? What specific territorial assets and territorial development strategies (e.g. city-networks, regional clusters, landscape and culture) can create added value for the knowledge and innovation economy?

Coordination should take place with other relevant ongoing ESPON 2013 projects. In particular interrelations should to be sought with the ESPON 2013 project on “Continental territorial structures and flows (globalisation)”.

#### ***(iv) Analytical framework and deliveries expected***

The project takes the policy context as described above as a starting point to explore the territorial dimension of the innovation and knowledge economy. Innovation is in this project to be understood as an overall concept including product innovation, process innovation and organisational innovation and hence not only technological innovation.

The main objective of this research will be to establish a comprehensive picture of the EU regions from the perspective of innovation and knowledge. Existing material should be completed with new indicators based on a thorough discussion on the measurement of innovation and knowledge, possibly accounting for aspects such as the interrelations between research, higher education and regional innovation systems.

The analysis should also account for variations in the nature of innovation and knowledge across different types of territories. The research should address the spatial dimension of innovation and knowledge. In particular, it should contribute to improve our capacity to measure the diffusion process of innovation and knowledge in space. It should also contribute to identify what are the most important inter-regional spill-over-mechanisms and to establish a map of the innovation and knowledge related inter-regional linkages.

The main research issue of this project is to deliver evidence on potentials and perspectives for the territorial dimension of the innovation and knowledge economy. The project builds further on and elaborates results of existing and ongoing ESPON projects, work done within the framework of the Joint Research Programme and other useful existing knowledge.

Data, indicators and maps of the ESPON 2006 Programme are important sources for this project. The project shall in particular be informed and make use of results from the following projects:

- ESPON project 1.2.3 on the identification of spatially relevant aspects of the information society containing a descriptive analysis and spatial assessment of the information society.
- ESPON project 2.1.2 on the territorial impact of EU research and development policies constructing typologies of regions and identifying indicators that reflect regional strengths in R&D, together with indicators of levels of innovation activity.
- ESPON project 3.4.2 on EU economic policies and location of economic activities offering an economic typology of European regions.

The project should strive for a comprehensive and integrated research approach, taking into account social, cultural, environmental and economic aspects. In addition a three-level approach (European, transnational/national, regional/local) to the analysis, commonly used by all ESPON applied research projects, should be applied in order to support a clear presentation of results, which might vary depending on the geographical scale.

The project shall also strive for delivering innovative results which can support the policy development in the field of territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion. It should demonstrate an inventive approach with regard to the scientific answers to the policy questions and should aim at showing new development opportunities for the European territory as a whole and the different types of territories within Europe. In particular the access to and use of global knowledge and innovative practices by Europe's regional economies is to be taken into account in this respect.

There should be a combination and interrelation of various sectors and territorial insights on the development in order to contribute to the creation of new development paths and visions.

The following key research questions are expected to be answered:

- **What is the territorial dimension of the innovation and knowledge economy?**
  - How can the definition of innovation and knowledge economy be further deepened?
  - What are the territorially relevant elements of the innovation and knowledge economy (including product, process and organisational innovation)?
  - What territorial dynamics are being caused or influenced by innovation and the knowledge economy?
- **What is the territorial structure and functioning of the innovation and knowledge economy?**
  - What is the territorial structure (distribution, density, location, ...) of the innovation and knowledge economy in Europe? What are strengths and weaknesses of this structure? What typologies of territories can be distinguished to describe this territorial structure and location patterns? Do different types of regions host different parts of the knowledge and innovation economy and can different types of innovation processes be detected in different territories? How does the current level of economic development of a region or territory influence the role it takes up towards innovation?

- What territorial characteristics play a role for the location of (different groupings of) businesses, research institutes and other bodies making part of the innovation and knowledge economy? How do businesses and other innovation related institutes access innovation? What typologies (for instance sectors) of businesses, research institutes and other bodies forming part of the innovation and knowledge economy can be distinguished in terms of territorial behaviour? Up to what extent does regional presence of small and medium enterprises (SME) play a role for successful innovative business environments?
  - What levels of scale (European – (trans)national – regional) play a role in location and day-to-day-functioning?
  - What is the role of existing spatial clusters for the location of new innovative businesses and what other impacts (e.g. in terms of GDP, labour market or level of education) do economic clusters have on territories? To what extent do leader-follower concentrations exist? What is the size of clusters?
  - What are the main characteristics of the diffusion process of innovation and knowledge in space? What are the most important inter-regional spill-over mechanisms at work and where do they locate?
  - What is the role of education (universities and other) in the innovation and knowledge economy and can this be used to fulfil the innovation needs of regions and specific territories?
- **What is the performance of the innovation and knowledge economy and what territorial potentials can be detected in order to increase this performance?**
    - What (types of) regions have territorial potential for further developing (parts of) innovation and knowledge economy? What regions have untapped and under-used potential? Where are these regions situated?
    - What is the performance of European (types of) territories from the perspective of innovation and knowledge and how is this affected by interrelations between research, higher education and regional innovation systems? What is the specific potential for cross-border (Medicon Valley (DK/SE)) and transnational innovation clusters (Biovalley (DE/FR/CH))?
  - **What building blocks can be defined for a spatial development strategy for the innovation and knowledge economy?**
    - What are the policy relevant components of the innovation and knowledge economy (e.g. developing technology, applying technology, consumer markets)? What territorially relevant quantitative data and indicators are available to measure and territorialise the innovation and knowledge economy?
    - What good examples and best practices can be given of (regional, national and European) spatial development strategies for innovation and knowledge economy?
    - What scope is there to foster innovative clusters and economic growth for the different types of territories and regions in Europe?
    - How do the detected building blocks relate to current structural funds policies?

The generation and the territorial representation of data and the development of territorial indicators on the innovation and knowledge economy form an important part of this applied research project. The teams of experts interested in this project are asked to give a clear indication already in their proposal on the quantitative data they will use and how this data will be obtained. The seventh framework programme, for instance,



makes new data available and indicators for the European Research Area have been developed. New data on e.g. research and development, patents, trade-marking and co-authorship are available that might be interesting to analyse and use from a territorial perspective.

The project is to deliver a typology of different types of regions that, based on a series of relevant characteristics, possess specific territorial potentials for developing the innovation and knowledge economy.

The project is to describe possible territorial perspectives for each regional typology. These perspectives can focus on possible specialisations, territorial impacts, policies and investments needed but also specific barriers to overcome.

The project is expected to deliver two different types of case studies:

- 3-5 case studies that show best practices of regions that have been recently able to accelerate their performance in the innovation and knowledge economy. The findings of the applied research at European level should be applied on the case studies for which more focussed and detailed information should be created.
- 3-5 case studies aiming at analysing, measuring and mapping technological spill-over effects (such as the effect of process innovation in one region causing impacts somewhere else) at case-study level (and not European wide). The choice of case studies takes into account that innovative neighbours do exist rather on the basis of activity than geographical proximity. The cases focus on the global dimension of the innovation and knowledge economy and look into the development of territorial diffusion processes over time.

In order to create coherence with project findings of other ESPON applied research projects, the project should present the main final results in relation to different types of regions and cities, using existing typologies for the urban system, rural areas, mountain areas, islands, coastal areas and outermost regions. The final results should also be presented for transnational cooperation areas under Structural Funds, and - where appropriate and possible - also for cross-border cooperation area and inter-regional cooperation areas.

The geographical coverage of the project should encompass all the countries participating in the ESPON 2013 Programme. Furthermore, the TPG should assess the data situation within their field of research in the EU Candidate Countries (i.e. Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey) and/or the other countries of the Western Balkans (i.e. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244), and report their findings in the Inception report (see below chapter (v)). Depending on the respective data situation these countries would then be included in the analysis.

The deliveries of the project should make use of and complement the existing scientific platform and tools of ESPON, which are accessible on the ESPON website. The project is expected to enhance the scientific platform of ESPON through the following deliveries:

- Data input to the development, update and extension of the ESPON database by additional data on education and skills, information and communication

infrastructure and the innovation system (firms, research centres, universities and so on) (preferably NUTS 2/3 level) gathered within the project, particularly in relation to the new Partner States Iceland and Liechtenstein. Indicators need to offer compatibility with a map-making facility, to provide a consistent, homogenous, reliable, and up-datable database.

- Indicators offering additional information on territorial potentials for innovation and knowledge economy of regions, and urban/rural areas.
- Typologies of different parts of the innovation and knowledge economy in terms of territorial behaviour and typologies of regions.
- Case studies on good practices of exploiting territorial capital for the innovation and knowledge economy.
- European maps revealing (1) the territorial structure of the innovation and knowledge economy, (2) typologies of regions, (3) potentials for regional development.

Regarding the development of new data and maps and/or the use of existing data, the TPG is expected to cooperate closely with the TPG in charge of the development of the ESPON 2013 Database.

The results and conclusions of the applied research within the project should be formulated in relation to policy orientations present at European level and make use of the new typologies – if applicable – and maps resulting from the project.

Following the logic of the Territorial Agenda of the EU, orientations for policy makers should refer to the respective territorial development opportunities and the available options to mobilise these for the benefit of the cities, urban agglomerations and surrounding regions in question. In this respect, references to future policy options should take account of European Cohesion Policy orientations, in particular expressed in the Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion 2007-2013, the Fourth Report on Cohesion and the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion.

Project findings should make clear which impact the knowledge and innovation economy could have on the competitiveness and socio-economic situation of European regions and cities as well as on the realisation of economic, social and territorial cohesion in Europe.

Finally, the project should consider avenues for further applied research on the theme.

### ***(v) Outputs and timetable***

One of the main objectives of the ESPON 2013 Programme is to focus on research with policy relevance and to contribute to the development of relevant policies. Therefore, the outputs of the research project should be highly operational and coordinated in time, as far as possible, to fit into the relevant political agenda.

The proposal for the project is expected to reveal individual work packages on project coordination, research activities, and dissemination, as well as a schedule for project

implementation based on the following indicative<sup>2</sup> timetable and specification of outputs:

**June/July 2010 (Inception Report):**

Twelve weeks after the kick-off meeting, a more in-depth concept should be submitted by the TPG allowing for a detailed overview on the research approach to be applied, the methodology and hypothesis for further investigation, as well as a review of the main literature, data sources, etc. It also includes a list of territorial indicators on the innovation and knowledge economy that will be produced and mapped within the project. The Inception Report also presents the selection of case studies that will be analysed. It shall also include an overview of more detailed deliveries and outputs envisaged by the project as well as an indication of likely barriers that the project implementation might face. The report shall give clear orientation for the applied research previewed towards the Interim report. The research team should also report on the findings regarding the assessment of the data situation in EU candidate countries, the Western Balkans and Turkey and, on that basis, determine the geographical coverage of their research. Finally, the TPG should outline how it envisages making use of existing ESPON and other results that are relevant for this project.

**November/December 2010 (Interim Report):**

The content of the Interim report shall reflect the orientations given in the Inception Report as well as the results of the discussions having taken place with the Sounding Board. The report is envisaged to include elements such as:

- a) Main results on the basis of available data, developed indicators, typologies, and European maps, including
  - An overview on concepts and methodology on assessing the territorial dimension of the innovation and knowledge economy and possible final results.
  - A detailed presentation of a hypothesis on the typologies and selections.
  - Description of the technique/methodology/indicators/models to be used to detect and approach the territorial dimension of the innovation and knowledge economy.
  - Preliminary results on the basis of available territorial indicators, including draft European maps.
  - Further elaboration and preliminary results of the case studies.
  - Data collection achieved, including an overview on statistical and geographical data collected by EUROSTAT, the Joint Research Programme and national Statistical Institutes etc.
  - First indications on the conclusions and policy relevant options that could be the outcome of the project.
- b) Plan for the applied research towards the draft Final Report as well as the Table of Content envisaged for the Final report.

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<sup>2</sup> The final timetable for the project will depend upon the exact date of the project's Kick-off Meeting. At this meeting, the exact delivery dates for all project reports will be agreed upon with the Lead Partner.

### **November/December 2011 (Draft Final Report):**

The Draft Final report will take into account feed-back on the Interim Report from an ESPON seminar and by the Sounding Board. The report is supposed to include elements such as:

c) Report (max. 50 pages) on the main results, trends, impacts and options for policy development, including key analysis/diagnosis/findings and the most relevant indicators and maps (any additional information should be included in a scientific report). Particularly important are options for policy makers, which could provide the basis for interventions related to potentials for improving European competitiveness and cohesion. The report should include key messages on the following:

- The operational use of the territorial dimension of the innovation and knowledge economy in relation to EU policy development.
- Indication of policy options that could improve the tested policies in terms of supporting European strategies and territorial policy orientations.

d) An executive summary (max. 10 pages) summarising the main results of the applied research that can be communicated to a wider audience of stakeholders. This summary should be based on the Report mentioned above.

e) Scientific report documenting the scientific work undertaken in the applied research including elements such as:

- Literature and methodology/theory used.
- Typologies, concepts developed and used.
- Data collected and indicators used, including tables with the exact values of indicators.
- Maps produced in support of the results, covering the territory of EU 27, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
- Models and other tools used or developed.
- Detailed results of the case studies implemented for the three mentioned European, and eventually national, policies.
- Roadmap for policy implementation and on the further research avenue to follow, including further data requirements and ideas of territorial indicators, concepts and typologies as well as on further developments linked to the database and mapping facilities.

### **April/May 2012 (Final Report):**

f) Revision of the Draft Final report on the basis of comments received.

### **May/June – November/December 2012 (Dissemination):**

g) Dissemination of project results by the TPG in the framework of international conferences and seminars, e.g. transnational activities of the ECP Network, events organised by the CU. These activities need to be reflected in the budget proposed by the TPG for the implementation of the project.

The ESPON 2013 Programme foresees in Priority 4 also capitalisation of project results including events, printed reports, website facility, etc. The Programme includes, in other words, substantial dissemination activities at Programme level which all projects should make use of and support. This means that the project's dissemination activities shall

ensure consistency and avoid overlaps with and repetition of respective activities organised at Programme level. The project team shall refer to the objectives of Priority 4 of the ESPON 2013 Programme “Capitalisation, ownership and participation: Capacity building, dialogue and networking” when considering dissemination activities and closely coordinate these with the ESPON CU.

Irrespective of the above mentioned reports to be submitted at certain stages in the project life cycle, the TPG is expected to give presentations on the state of their research or/and the results in the framework of internal and external ESPON seminars. Therefore, when setting up the project proposal, the TPG should also allow for travel expenses for the attendance of ESPON seminars.

### ***(vi) Budget for the applied research project***

The maximum budget foreseen for this applied research project amounts to €800.000, including VAT, if applicable. Proposals exceeding this value will not be considered.

All real eligible costs incurred for carrying out the approved project will be refunded 100% by the ESPON 2013 Programme.

### ***(vii) Existing access points***

Synergies and coordination should be established with the European Commission services, particularly with the efforts made within the framework of the Joint Research Programme.

The access points listed below can serve the purpose of providing the TPG useful information for preparing a proposal. It is by no means meant to be exhaustive, but should be considered as information that can be helpful in tracing additional useful background information.

- Results of the ESPON 2006 and 2013 Programme, data and maps: [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)
- The websites [www.clusterobservatory.eu](http://www.clusterobservatory.eu) and [www.proinno-europe.eu](http://www.proinno-europe.eu) offer extensive overviews of references and links to recent European policy and research activities related to the innovation and knowledge economy.
- The Commission Staff Working Document SEC (2008) 2637 on the concept of clusters and cluster policies and their role for competitiveness and innovation.
- Research activities of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission: [http://www.jrc.cec.eu.int/default.asp@sidsz=our\\_work.htm](http://www.jrc.cec.eu.int/default.asp@sidsz=our_work.htm)
  - KEI - Knowledge economy indicators: Development of innovative and reliable indicator systems;
  - PRIME - Policies for research and innovation in the move towards the European research area;

- MICRO-DYN - The competitiveness of firms, regions and industries in the knowledge-based economy: What room for job-rich growth in Europe
- The INTERACT Database give reference to projects on the innovation and knowledge economy carried out within the Interreg framework. The projects give access to general information, development practices and data.
- Relevant projects under the Framework Programmes for Research, managed by DG Research, such as Sensor
- Relevant background information and global indicators can be found on [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org) ; this website also provides information on the definition and conceptualization of the innovation concept (see OECD LEED Forum)
- Relevant scientific (background) information in the knowledge and innovation economy and regional clusters is available and can be used as a framework for this applied research project (e.g. The Oxford Handbook of Innovation (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004))