

SPECIFICATION

ESPON Applied Research Project 2013/1/16

Indicators and Perspectives for Services of General Interest in Territorial Cohesion and Development (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 Boards¹.
- 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**

¹ 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.

The scientific platform and analytical tools built up within the ESPON 2006 Programme will be maintained and further expanded. New actions shall be 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 on services of general interest from a territorial development perspective. The project deepens and elaborates knowledge delivered by former and ongoing ESPON projects. Profound knowledge on services of general interest 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

General European policy context

Services of general interest are defined as “*market and non-market services which public authorities class as being of general interest and subject to specific public service obligations*”. (EC: 2001/C17/04) European social policies and their underlying studies use different classifications. Services of general interest traditionally comprehend electronic communications, postal services, electricity, gas, water and transport. More recent documents tend to be more comprehensive and do also include labour market services, education, health care, child care, social care, culture or (social) housing.

The elaboration in this project takes into account classifications being made in social studies and policies. It looks at the territorial relevance of “classic topics” but also more recently appearing topics. Furthermore, it not only considers the actual presence of services but also the actual access in terms of price or connectivity (e.g. via the internet). The project is expected to consider the inclusion of access by different target groups and its territorial relevance.

“Services of general interest are a key element of the European society. Article 16 in the EC Treaty confirms their place among shared values of the Union and their role in promoting social and territorial cohesion. These services also contribute to the overall competitiveness of the European economy and are provided in the context of continuously evolving markets and technologies. The globalisation of trade, the

completion of the European market and rapid technological change bring about increasing pressure to open new sectors to competition.” (EC: 2001/C17/04)

The policy ambition regarding services of general interest – as it is pointed out in the White Paper on Services of General Interest – focuses on *“ensuring the provision of [...] services of general interest to all citizens and enterprises in the European Union. [...] Citizens and businesses rightly expect to have access to affordable high-quality services of general interest throughout the European Union. For the citizens of the European Union this access is an essential component of European citizenship and necessary in order to allow them to fully enjoy their fundamental rights. For enterprises, the availability of high-quality services of general interest is an indispensable prerequisite for a competitive business environment.”* (EC: COM(2004)374 Final) In order to strengthen this policy framework a European directive on services of general interest is in development.

The implementation of policies regarding services of general interest remains for a main part a responsibility for EU Member States. The EU Member States and also the ESPON Partner States apply various policy approaches to services of general interest. The focus may vary between a focus on redistribution, fostering efficiency, privatisation of public services and so on.

Goal statement

Territorial cohesion and development policies integrated these general policy ambitions and developed a territorial approach towards services of general interest. The territorial evidence to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of territorial policy measures regarding services of general interest remains nevertheless insufficient. The project is expected to provide the territorial evidence filling this gap.

The main connecting factors of current European territorial policy documents the project is expected to build upon will be summarised hereunder. Subsequently the key policy questions the project is to address in order to fill the knowledge gap will be lined out.

Connecting factors in European territorial policy documents

Territorial cohesion and development policies at European level, as well as in most countries and regions, pay important attention to services of general interest. The European Ministers responsible for Territorial Cohesion state for instance in the Territorial Agenda (TA) that they *“regard in the context of the European social model that it is an essential task and an act of solidarity to develop the preconditions in all regions to enable equal opportunities for its citizens and development perspectives for its entrepreneurs.”*

Territorial policies approach the challenges related to services of general interest in a territorial and comprehensive way looking at territorial differences and interrelations with other phenomena (e.g. demography, economic development). The following connecting factors for this applied research project are recognised in European territorial policy documents:

In the first place, relevant territorial cohesion and development policy documents at European level show that a good notion exists on the relation between the territorial context and spatial structure and the level of services of general interest:

- Territorial imbalances regarding the level of services of general interest exist and some vulnerable regions in particular can be recognised where meeting the basic level is challenging. The Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion (GPTC, EC: SEC(2008)2250) refers in this respect to rural areas and sparsely populated, island and mountain regions and gives some examples:
 - *“Reliable access to energy is [...] important and the particular situation of networks isolated from the EU market for geographical (rural and remote regions, islands) or historical reasons needs to be further addressed to ensure a robust supply.”*
 - *“Access to services of general economic interest such as health care or education is often a problem in rural areas, where for example in remote regions, 40% of people on average live more than a 30-minute drive from a hospital and 43% live more than an hour drive from a university.”*
 - *“In 2007, household access to broadband internet at home is on average 15 percentage points lower in rural areas than in urban areas.”*
- The settlement structure of Europe, existing of a dense polycentric urban pattern including about 5.000 small and medium-sized towns spread across Europe, is an important carrier for balanced development. The GPTC points out for instance that this pattern *“contributes to the quality of life by offering easy reach of services to rural residents.”*

In the second place, relevant territorial cohesion and development policy documents at European level show various trends causing territorial dynamics that can influence the future perspective for the level of services of general interest:

- The critical mass in order to sustain a sufficient level of services of general interest might become too weak in some regions due to demographic changes: The TA for instance states *“...the territorial effects of demographic change (especially ageing) as well as in and out migration and internal migration [...] on the supply of public services of general interest [...]”*.
- Developments in ICT creating new possibilities for giving access to services of general interest in certain types of areas.
- Globalisation and changing market environments can influence the price and autonomous organisation of services of general interest by market forces.

In the third place, relevant territorial cohesion and development policy documents at European level indicate two major territorial ambitions with regard to services of general interest:

- Balanced territorial development in order to provide equal access to services of general interest. The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) speaks in this respect of *“a spatially more balanced access to services of general interest”*.
- Specific types of concentration of and specialisation in high-level services offering a particular strength to cities and rural areas can be supported in order to reinforce their position and the wider European territory in the global competition. The TA points out that specific services and amenities can help in strengthening the international identity as a way of becoming more attractive for investment.

In the fourth place, relevant territorial cohesion and development policy documents at European level provide some territorial directions and policy options concerning services of general interest:

- Guarantee or support sufficient critical mass in territories and regions in order to support access to services of general interest - In particular the GPTC underlines the idea that “...*public policies [...] can help to [...] reach critical mass.*” The creation of critical mass is strongly related to the “*polycentric development model as a basis for better accessibility*” as presented in the ESDP. The GPTC gives a good illustration in this respect: “*In rural areas which are more remote from cities of any size, small and medium-sized towns often play a more important role than their size might suggest. The role these towns play in providing access to services including the infrastructure necessary to invest in the adaptability of people and enterprises, is key to avoiding rural depopulation and ensuring the areas remain attractive places to live.*”
- Connecting territories - Territories that lack certain services can benefit from existing services in other territories via physical connections but also ICT. The GPTC points out for instance that “...*in remote areas especially, the potential of ICT to provide access to health care and education through telemedicine and remote learning remains to be developed.*”
- Offering place-based and tailor-made solutions - The TA underlines in this respect “...*that regional identities and potentials, needs and diverse characteristics of regions, cities and villages of Europe gain meaning through a policy of territorial cohesion and through other regional development policies*”.

Key policy questions

The policy formulation including the general ambitions and territorial approach needs further analytical support in order to define policy measures for implementation, monitoring and evaluation. There is in particular a need for indicators and development perspectives for different types of territories and at different levels of geographical scale.

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

- How should the defined (groupings of) services of general interest be addressed by territorial development and cohesion policies?
 - What territorial strategies are appropriate to approach services of general interest and what instruments can be used?
 - What variations of national policy approaches to services of general interest exist and how are these classified in public economy literature?
- What is the territorial distribution of the services of general interest throughout the European territory and how can this be measured?
 - Is this balanced throughout the territory and over the different types of regions or do concentrations exist?
 - To what extent the level of services of general interest and amenities within the different territories throughout Europe meets the necessary framework conditions for territorial cohesion and competitiveness (in order to sustain local economies and a decent level of welfare for citizens)?

- What strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats can be detected within the European territorial structure of services of general interest in order to exploit territorial capital in function of global competition and other territorial cohesion policy objectives?
 - What territorial indicators can be used to measure the level of services throughout Europe?
 - To what extent a low level of services of general interest plays a role in out-migration of people and businesses?
- How and to what extent do the various levels of services of general interest contribute to the global competitiveness, economic development and job growth of cities, urban agglomerations and other territories?

Ongoing projects under the ESPON 2013 Programme might produce highly relevant knowledge for this project. The project is expected to create strong interrelations with the following ongoing ESPON 2013 applied research projects:

- “Cities and Urban Agglomerations (FOCI)” that already includes some research on services of general interest in urban areas;
- “Rural Areas Development Opportunities (EDORA)” that already includes some research on services of general interest in rural areas;
- “Demographic and Migratory Flows (DEMIFER)” that provides the European wide demographic framework that seems of relevance in relation to (the future situation and territorial development perspectives for) services of general interest.

The project also is to create strong interrelations with the following applied research projects that will start in parallel with this project:

- “Accessibility at regional/local scale and pattern in Europe” that is supposed to include research on transport related aspects to services of general interest;
- “Attractiveness of European Regions and Cities for Residents and Visitors” that will identify key factors for attractive cities and regions.

It is very likely that this project is to exchange substantial amounts of information and data with both of these projects running in parallel.

The project also is to create strong interrelations with the targeted analysis “Territorial Diversity” that will address the challenge of service provision in (some) mountain areas, islands, sparsely populated areas and peripheral situated regions with high (population) densities.

The project “Typology Compilation” that is being implemented under Priority 3 of the ESPON 2013 Programme compiles the typologies being used in the ESPON Programme. The project is expected, when looking at types of territories, to make use as much as possible of this compilation.

(iv) Analytical framework and deliveries expected

The project takes the policy context as described above as a starting point to apply from a territorial perspective the commonly used definitions and recent classifications of “services of general interest”. This means that the project approaches services of general interest in a comprehensive and sophisticated way taking into account not only the presence of services but also elements like physical and non-physical (via the internet), access in terms of price, access by different target groups and the territorial variations in this respect. Access to services of general interest in cross-border situations and the cost factor in some specific territories like island regions are important concerns.

The project is clearly to refer to the twofold territorial ambition of (1) guaranteeing basic access (which might play in particular a role for services at regional/local level) and (2) integrating in the global network in order to create economic growth and jobs (which might play in particular a role for services at global/European level). To illustrate the latter, one might think of, for instance, very high levels of IT infrastructure or regional airports that give direct access to specific destinations. It is expected that certain types of services can create severe territorial and economic dynamics for cities and regions and make them compete at global level.

Applied research projects under the ESPON 2013 Programme are always asked to build further on existing knowledge from the ESPON 2006 Programme and to interlink strongly with other ongoing projects under the ESPON 2013 Programme. This particular project, however, is expected to make an extra effort in this respect as it is expected to select types of territories and to build a part of the indicators on the basis of work delivered by others.

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 1.1.1 on polycentricism developed a typology and a methodological concept of the urban structure of the European territory.
- ESPON project 1.1.2 on urban-rural relations in Europe includes a typology on urban-rural characteristics and socio-economic complementarities.
- ESPON project 1.2.2 on telecommunication services and networks provides evidence on territorial trends and basic supply of infrastructure for territorial cohesion.
- ESPON 1.2.3 on the information society identified its spatially relevant aspects.
- ESPON project 1.4.2 provides a preparatory study on social aspects of EU territorial development.
- ESPON project 1.4.3 on urban functions developed an approach on the morphological aspects of polycentrism and offers a data collection on urban functions.
- ESPON project 3.2 on spatial scenarios includes a basic perspective on the evolution of urban Europe.
- ESPON project 3.4.2 on EU economic policies and location of economic activities offers 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. 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 project is expected to deliver an overview of the current territorial situation of services of general interest in Europe. Understanding that the sub-questions mentioned below demonstrate a high level of ambition, the project proposal shall indicate to what extent these sub-questions can be addressed in the scope of this project.

The following key research questions are expected to be answered:

- How can the existing definition and classifications of services of general interest be applied from a territorial cohesion and development point of view?
 - What (elements of what) groupings of services of general interest (e.g. communication, energy, education, housing, shops, banks, health and social services or transport) play a role at global/European, (trans)national, and regional/local scale?
 - What services of general interest are considered to be important for people and businesses? Is the perception of importance the same in different types of territories?
 - What different types of national policies on services of general interest do exist throughout Europe? What objectives and arguments are behind these policies? And how are these different types of policies translated into territorial objectives or strategies?
- What are good indicators to measure the level of services of general interest?
 - What are good indicators for measuring the basic level of services?
 - What are good indicators for measuring territorial development potential due to specialisations and concentrations of services?
 - How can the cost for access to services (and maybe other elements) be integrated in the indicators?
 - To what extent differentiation within the set of indicators is needed towards the different target groups (businesses and citizens), different types of territories (amongst which cross-border regions), different levels of geographical scale and eventual other aspects?
 - What are relevant single issue indicators and how can these be crossed in order to obtain 'sophisticated' crossed indicators?

- What is the current territorial situation of services of general interest throughout the European territory?
 - What is the territorial distribution of services of general interest throughout the European territory (balance – concentration)?
 - What is the territorial functionality of (the) services of general interest (sector) in the different regions throughout Europe?
 - Where and/or in what types of territories a weak basic level of services of general interest can be detected?
 - Where and/or in what types of territories can concentration and/or specialisation be detected (at the various geographical levels of scale, but in particular at European/global level) in services of general interest?

- What territorial development potential and constraints do different types of territories in Europe have?
 - What territorial development measures are best suited for different types of territories in order to guarantee a basic level of access to services of general interest?
 - What (types of) territories that possess a concentration or specialisation of services of general interest (at European/global level) can exploit them to create economic growth and jobs? What strategies are suited?
 - How do the different territorial trends (as detected in the ESPON-scenarios and the DEMIFER-project) affect territorial situations regarding the level of services of general interest in the future and what needs could these trends generate? How do they affect the territorial spread/concentration? How do they affect the basic living standards and the competitiveness of different types of territories?
 - What territorial development paths for services of general interest can be recognised for different regions and different types of territories throughout Europe? What are financial possibilities (and restraints) and efficient ways of (territorial) organisation in different regions and types of territories to maintain or improve a certain level of services?
 - How can territorial governance contribute to the policy objectives regarding services of general interest? What strategies and instruments can be used?

The project is expected to deliver as key delivery a set of sophisticated and comprehensive territorial indicators on services of general interest. A useful source of information may be the EU SILC special module on access to services in 2007. These indicators should enable policymakers to define tailor-made development measures for regions and different types of territories taking into account their different needs, opportunities and development constraints. The indicators should address the different levels of geographic scale in which service provision plays a role (global/European – (trans)national – regional/local). As the ESPON 2006 Programme and ongoing as well as ESPON 2013 projects running in parallel already offer a strong (but incomplete) base of data and indicators on services of general interest, this project will start off by making an inventory of available data and indicators, and data and indicators that are being developed in order to determine where this project is to complement in this respect.

The project is also expected to elaborate a baseline scenario (e.g. based on demographic and economic trends) in order to identify territorial perspectives aiming at (1)

guaranteeing the basic level of access to affordable high-quality services of general interest throughout the European Union (hence in particular focusing at territories with poorer access to services) and (2) reinforcing the position of territories in the global economy by using concentrations and specialisations in high-level services as a lever for economic development and job-creation (hence in particular focusing at stronger territories).

The project shall include 4-6 targeted case-studies (including some related to guaranteeing the basic level and some related to reinforcing the position in the global economy) in order to receive more focused and detailed information on how the developed indicators and the baseline scenario can serve to define territorial development perspectives for cities and/or regions. The case-studies should include a good picture of the national (and regional) sector and territorial policies with respect to services of general interest, including the way they are influenced by the EU policy framework. The case-studies should focus on innovative solutions towards the policy ambitions for services of general interest in territorial development. They also should address the governance dimension by describing how territorial cooperation can contribute to the policy ambitions and showing best practices in relation to territorial development strategies and instruments. The case-studies embrace all scales from the global to the local and interlink with conceptualisations developed in other ESPON 2013 Projects (in particular FOCI and EDORA).

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, where applicable, 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 services of general interest (preferably NUTS 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 on services of general interest offering territorial information on the level of services at different geographical levels and for different thematic clusters (e.g. communication, education, health care).
- Typologies of territories classifying territorially relevant characteristics on services of general interest and different territorial development perspectives.
- 4-6 case studies revealing added value of the indicators in defining territorial development perspectives and providing more detailed information on national situations.
- European maps revealing (1) different levels of services of general interest (by using indicators); (2) different types of territories and their territorial development perspectives and (3) relevant maps of the case studies.

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, as well as (the debate on the) Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion.

Project findings should make clear which impact services of general interest 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 indicative² timetable and specification of outputs:

² 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.

January/February 2011 (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. This overview includes a thorough screening of relevant data and indicators being produced in other ESPON projects and the methodology and framework for building the territorial indicators for services of general interest. The report shall also inform about the selection of the case studies. The Inception Report 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 and includes a proposal on the case studies. 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.

July/August 2011 (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 services of general interest in the perspective of territorial cohesion and development and possible final results.
 - Description of the technique/methodology/indicators/models to be used to detect and approach services of general interest in the perspective of territorial cohesion and development.
 - Preliminary results on the basis of available territorial indicators, including draft European maps.
 - Preliminary results of the case studies.
 - Data collection achieved, including an overview on statistical and geographical data collected by EUROSTAT, 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.

July/August 2012 (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 indicators for services of general interest in relation to EU policy development.
- The operational use of territorial development perspectives for relevant target groups and different types of regions.
- The extent in which the current territorial state on services of general interest meets (territorial) policy objectives and eventual policy measures that can be taken to overcome ambiguities.

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.
- 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.

November/December 2012 (Final Report):

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

December 2012/January 2013 – May 2013/June 2013 (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 is 1.000.000 Euro 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 use of results from outside the ESPON regime shall be sought. 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.

- Bauby, P. Hall, D., Thiry, B. and B. Sak (2004) Contribution of Services of General Interest to Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion – Final Overall Report, Study prepared by Ceriec for DG Regio (Contract No. 2003.CE.16.0.AT.038)
- ECOPLAN (2002) Grundversorgung: Ausländische Lösungen – Folgerungen für die Schweiz, im Auftrag von Bundesamt für Raumentwicklung ARE
- European Commission (2004) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – White Paper on Services of General Interest, COM(2004)374 final
- European Commission (2006) Communication from the Commission – Implementing the Community Lisbon programme: Social services of general interest in the European Union, COM (2006)177 final / SEC(2006)516
- European Commission (2007) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Services of general interest, including social services of general interest: a new European commitment, COM(2007)725 final
- European Commission (2008) Commission Staff Working Paper – Biennial Report on social services of general interest, SEC(2008)2179/2

- European Commission (2008) The Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion – Turning territorial diversity into strength:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/consultation/terco/index_en.htm
- Huber, M., Maucher, M. and B. Sak (2006) Study on Social and Health Services of General Interest in the European Union – Final Synthesis Report, Study prepared by European Centre, ISS Gemeinnütziger e.V. and Ciriec for DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (Contract DG EMPL/E/4 VC/2006/0131)
- PUSEMOR (2007) Provision of public services in alpine areas – state of the art – recommendations – good practice, Final Report of the Interreg IIIB Project Public services in sparsely populated mountain areas
- Results of the ESPON 2006 and 2013 Programme, data and maps: www.espon.eu
- Research activities of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission:
http://www.jrc.cec.eu.int/default.asp@sidsz=our_work.htm
- Information on the CEMAT (European Conference of Ministers Responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning) report, recommendation and resolution on “Services of general interest in rural areas, a key factor in territorial cohesion policies” can be found on www.coe.int