

SPECIFICATION
ESPON Applied Research Project 2013/1/25

Economic Crises: Resilience of Regions
(2012 – 2014)

(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 current economic downturn is having asymmetrical impacts on regions and cities, often mostly related to their national context and more local economic base.
- 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 soon with additional countries, 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 Europe 2020 Strategy as well as to EU Cohesion Policy. Territorial diversity, particularly in the economic base, implies the need for

tailor-made regional strategies building on endogenous potentials and synergies through cooperation in order for regions, cities and larger territories to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

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:

a) 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.

b) 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.

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.

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

d) 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 evidence and awareness on European gateway regions. The project builds further on knowledge developed by former and other ongoing ESPON projects. Profound knowledge on European gateway regions 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

The global financial crisis from 2008 onwards realised a significant economic downturn as well as new and intensified social challenges in many European countries and regions. The problems in the diverse national financial and real estate markets affected specific economic sectors and consumer behaviour and resulted in declining employment and economic growth rates. The turmoil became probably most visible in countries with inaccuracies in relation to the financial and real estate markets but also in regions depending on specific economic sectors (e.g. construction). The current picture of the economic situation in Europe looks rather asymmetrical and diverse with regions that were not or hardly touched by the crises at all, with regions that were touched but that seem to recover rather progressively and with regions that still suffer quite a lot from the crisis. The fast and successful recovery of some particular regions strikes the eye and raises the question of what is behind this success.

The economic crisis and recovery are at the core of all recent policy initiatives that set the framework for territorial development and cohesion policy. The European Commission recognises in its Europe 2020 Strategy that the crisis has wiped out the steady gains in economic and social progress over the last decade (1995-2008) and that it has exposed some structural weaknesses of the socio-economic structure, i.e. globally compared low growth rates, low participation to the labour market and demographic ageing. The strategy indicates the possibility of a sustainable recovery from the crisis. Europe should in this scenario make use of its numerous strengths. These include not only economic advantages but also social, environmental and governance related ones. The European Commission states in its Fifth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion that Cohesion policy should continue to play a critical role in these difficult times, in order to deliver smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, while promoting

harmonious development of the Union and its regions. The policy debates taking place at European level but also within the framework of the OECD demonstrate that a reinforcement of the innovation and green economic sector as well as the role of small and medium sized enterprises are being considered as levers to find a way out of the crisis.

Most European countries have taken policy initiatives in order to correct macro-economic inaccuracies and have developed strategic frameworks to recover from the crisis. The OECD Ministerial Meeting of the Territorial Development Policy Committee illustrate that countries also unfold specific initiatives in the field of territorial and regional development. The Finnish Minister for instance indicates that “Public investments are being targeted at projects of crucial importance to regional development. [...] To enhance these measures, public sector structures and operating models are being reformed and new methods and forms of co-operation are being devised among the various parties involved. [...] Structural change measures can now be launched in close co-operation at the ministerial, regional and local levels as soon as such problems emerge. The aim is to alleviate the effects of the crisis, renew the production structure of the regions and, in the long run, create new development potential and opportunities.” And the Polish Minister said that: “Although Poland was not hit the hardest by the ongoing recession, its effects have differed across regions. As a result, any anti-crisis response should both take into account particular regional characteristics and provide a package of well coordinated actions across different sectors.”

Regional and local politics appear to be an important factor for successful economic recovery. The London School for Economics (2010) provides some examples of metropolitan regions that contribute significantly to their economic resilience by delivering targeted investment and incentives, integrated and long-term development strategies and the right co-operation models. Regional authorities seem to be capable to provide the necessary (territorial development) conditions allowing regional actors to better adapt to new socio-economic realities.

European countries and regions have been facing several other economic crises impacting their territories in the last two decades. In the early 1990s, Scandinavia was confronted with a banking crisis that led to a decrease of the investment level for information technology and computing equipment. In September 1992 speculative attacks on the currencies in European exchange rate mechanism (Black Wednesday) put wide parts of the European territory amongst which the UK into recession as large numbers of businesses failed and the housing market crashed. The dotcom bubble that deflated at full speed in 2001 finally affected a wide range of internet related companies all over the world and in many parts of Europe in the early 2000s. One is to conclude that the economic resilience and the capability of social and economic structures as well as national and regional authorities to adapt to new socio-economic realities have been tested several times. The overview indeed raises the question how it is possible that certain countries and regions seem to be capable to get out of economic misfortune over and over again.

The objective of this project is to expose territorial evidence that supports policymakers at different administrative levels in making the economic structure(s) in Europe and its countries, regions and cities more resilient to economic crises and a sudden economic downturn. The project is asked to draw lessons from the current and earlier economic crises.

The project shall deepen the understanding of:

1. The impact of the current economic crisis and other recent crises such as the one in the early 1990s;

2. The resilience of economic structures;
3. The capacity to adapt to new socio-economic realities.

These elements shall be investigated and mapped at the level of Europe and its position in the world, the level of countries and the level of regions and cities. This project is expected to address the theme of economic recovery from the perspective of the regional / territorial policymaker and is not expected to investigate macro-economic measures.

The project is expected to support policymakers in understanding how the economic crisis has impacted European Territorial Development and Cohesion Policy objectives (e.g. balanced and harmonious territorial development) and what are the assets leading to smooth recovery. The project is therefore expected to answer the following key policy questions:

- Territorial impact of the last economic crisis
 - What is the territorial impact of the last economic crisis?
 - What economic activities/sectors were particularly impacted by the crisis and where are these located in Europe?
 - How could this be mapped?
- Resilience of regions
 - What quantitative and qualitative factors allow regions to move faster out of economic downturn?
 - What elements in economic structures and policy responses made a difference for territories in order to be able to recover from the crisis?
 - What (types of) regions and territories turn out to be more resilient and successfully adaptive to the latest economic downturn and why?
- Policy responses
 - What can regional policymakers do to complement macro-economic measures stimulating at economic recovery?
 - How can policymakers enhance the resilience of the regional economies for future economic downturn?
 - Is part of better resilience to be found in integrated and place-based policy action?

The project results should provide knowledge support and examples to policymakers at European, national and (city-)regional level helping them in adapting their territorial development and cohesion policies.

(iv) Analytical framework and deliveries expected

The project shall develop a research approach that is capable of addressing the thematic scope and policy context as described above. The project is expected to conduct a pan-European territorial analysis of (the regional impact of) the latest financial and economic crises which certainly affects territories in Europe, however not in the same way. Building further on earlier territorial economic analysis, amongst others by ESPON, the sensibility to this crisis of different types of territories, and the territorial distribution of different impacts could be mapped.

Indicators should be developed in order to measure the regional resilience to economic recession and the impact different regions and types of regions might face. Conclusions could reveal the impact on a balanced development of the European territory as well as the effects on convergence of regional imbalances within Europe.

In the concrete design of the applied research project and its work packages, the project is expected to answer the following key research questions:

- Territorial impact of the last economic crisis
 - How can the territorial impact of the economic crises be measured at different levels of geographical scale?
 - What are good indicators?
 - What is the territorial impact of the economic crises (situation before and after) in different parts of the European territory and have specific types of regions been more affected?
 - How do economic crises impact territories in Europe in terms of spatial distribution and in terms of time (sequence of events – spatial cause-effect-relations)?
- Resilience of regions
 - What regions tend to be been resilient to crises and which are not?
 - What territorial and other characteristics make regions resilient and why?
- Policy responses
 - Is or can territorial development policy impact regional resilience and economic recovery and increase economic resilience?
 - How is and how can this be achieved?

The project shall – as it was one of the key findings mentioned in the First Synthesis Report of the ESPON 2013 Programme – strive for a holistic approach in order to achieve results related to a sustainable recovery of the economy.

The TPG is expected to present in the proposal an appropriate methodology and research approach that allows the project to answer the key policy and research questions mentioned above. The methodology should take into account possible limitations in data availability.

The project may combine quantitative and qualitative research techniques. Quantitative research seems necessary in order to provide an overall European wide picture of what is happening. Qualitative research might be needed (1) to complement the quantitative work in case of limited data availability and (2) to get an in-depth insight of policymakers' reactions.

The TPG is asked to consider the following elements to be included in the research work:

- Data collection and data analysis

The project is asked to explore the availability of European wide data at NUTS2 (where possible NUTS3, in particular for smaller countries) that expose the swift economic downturn as well as (early) signs of recovery. Preferably a yearly state of affairs over the period 1990-2010 for a selected set of indicators (e.g. GDP, number of jobs, real estate prices

and number of bankruptcies) should be provided. The project is also asked to map a series of simple indicators like housing prices, foreign direct investment, credit prices, drop in export demand, consumer spending, changes in migration flows and remittances (money sent back by families to their country of origin). The project is asked to make a territorial analysis of the economic data. The collected data should be analysed at different geographical levels of scale and for different types of territories.

Possibly building further on the vulnerability concept as used in the ARTS Applied Research Project the project tries to indicate what regions in Europe tend to be more resilient to economic reversion. The analysis should provide a deeper understanding on why some territories have been hit much harder than others.

Available recent data at NUTS 2 (where possible NUTS3) that is necessary to implement this project is still scarce and many data might only become available during the projects' lifetime. The first time-series of economic evidence on the gravity of the economic downturn and first glances of economic upswing are becoming available. The economic figures have up to now however not been subjected to a European wide territorial analysis. The ESPON Applied Research Project "European Regions: Potential Contribution to the EU 2020 Strategy" intends to map a series of indicators related to Europe 2020 Strategy, the EU policy response to the crisis. This work could indeed reveal some first relevant findings for this project although it will most probably not include the most recent data nor will it carry out a more in-depth analysis on what really is happening in Europe's territories and how policymakers are responding both with and without success. Publications from the London School of Economics show that some that world-wide data also have been collected and analysed for metropolitan regions. The project requires a flexible but realistic approach in relation to data availability. The project proposal should clarify how the TPG intends to deal with this situation.

- Case studies

The project shall select 6-8 case study areas in order to have a deeper insight how policymakers at different levels have reacted to the crises. The selection of cases studies can be done on the basis of a matrix distinguishing regions hit by the crises or not and being resilient or not. The selection shall consider the use of the extreme cases Cork/South-West Region of Ireland, Stuttgart and the Region of Western Greece as well as the small (Baltic) countries. The cases should deliver sufficiently detailed time-series in order to justify the project findings. The project is asked to select one case study area where the crisis was a turning point towards the green economic paradigm.

The analytical work should provide insights for better policymaking. By cross-cutting these findings within the realities of the case study areas ideas could be developed to support territories in formulation ways out of the crisis. The historical comparison between the current and early 1990s crises shall be taken up in the data collection and analysis as well as the case-study work of the project.

The Transnational Project Group (TPG) should consider available evidence that has been or is being developed by the ESPON 2006 and 2013 Programme and DG Regio:

- The project should take account of the global embedding and prospects of the economies of Europe and its countries, regions and cities. The project shall therefore make use of relevant

economic literature and consider findings from the ESPON 2006 Project 3.4.1 “Europe in the World” and the ESPON 2013 Project “TIGER” (Territorial Impact of Globalization for Europe and its Regions).

- The vulnerability concept that is developed in the ESPON 2013 Project “ARTS” (Assessment of Regional and Territorial Sensitivity) delivers a methodological approach which can also be considered in this project.
- The ESPON 2013 Project on “Territorial Governance” might provide useful insights in relation to the adaptability of countries, regions and cities.
- The DG Regional Study 'Regions 2020' provides a first prospective analysis of the likely regional impact of four of the biggest challenges facing Europe: globalisation, demographic change, climate change, and the energy supply. Using a series of indicators, the report maps out the degree of vulnerability of European regions to these challenges, and examines the potential disparities that these may generate across the EU.

In the analysis and where relevant, the project is expected to make use of the nine standard ESPON Territorial Typologies: urban-rural; metropolitan regions; border regions; islands regions; sparsely populated regions; outermost regions; mountainous regions; coastal regions; regions in industrial transition. The first six were developed by DG Regio and the remaining three elaborated by ESPON.

The project should strive for a comprehensive and integrated research approach, taking into account social, cultural, environmental and economic aspects. In addition a four-level approach (global, European, transnational/national, regional/local) to the analysis 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 to deliver 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.

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 for Croatia for which the accession negotiations were closed, allowing for the signature of the Accession Treaty by the end of 2011 and in the EU Candidate Countries (i.e. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Montenegro) and/or the other countries of the Western Balkans (i.e. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, 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 may enhance the scientific platform of ESPON through the development of data and indicators and is expected to develop:

- European maps showing regional impacts of the economic crises
- European maps showing regions with fast recovery
- Typology of different economic structures throughout Europe
- List of success factors and barriers for recovery strategies including potentials for place-based approaches

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 being in charge of the development of the ESPON 2013 Database.

The project is also expected to contribute to the ESPON 2013 capitalisation and communication strategy by providing at strategic moments during the project implementation the following:

- Slideshow(s) explaining the assumptions, the methodology and the results of the project (one for the interim, draft and final delivery).
- A selection of 5-10 maps for the communication of project results and to be used for creation of posters, postcards, exhibition materials.

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 2020, 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 Fifth Report on Cohesion, as well as (the debate on the) Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion.

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:

May 2012 (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. The Inception Report also presents the final selection of case studies that will be in-depth 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 2012 (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 at least the following elements:

- a) Main results on the basis of available data, developed indicators, typologies, and European maps, including:
 - An overview on concepts and methodology on analysing European gateway regions and possible final results;
 - A detailed presentation of a hypothesis on the typology;
 - Preliminary results of the case studies;
 - Preliminary conclusions from the case studies;
 - First indications on the conclusions and policy relevant options that could be the outcome of the project;
 - Data collection achieved, including an overview on statistical and geographical data collected by EUROSTAT, the Joint Research Programme and national Statistical Institutes etc.
- b) Plan for the applied research towards the Draft Final Report as well as the Table of Content envisaged for the Final report.
- c) Additional material to contribute to the ESPON 2013 capitalisation and communication strategy, including:
 - A slideshow explaining the assumptions, the methodology and the results of the project so far;

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.

- A selection of 5-10 draft maps suitable for the communication of project progress and results at the different stages on the ESPON website, but as well suitable to be used for exhibition materials.

November 2013 (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 envisaged to include at least the following elements:

- a) Main Report (max 50 pages) that includes:
 - the key findings/analysis/diagnosis of the project bringing together the most relevant outcomes of the case studies;
 - guidance for multi-level and cross-sector territorial governance (preconditions and success factors);
 - policy options for future EC Cohesion Policy;
 - policy options for national, regional and local authorities.
- b) Executive Summary (max 10 pages) that is well elaborated, summarising the main results of the applied research and containing clear messages that can be easily taken up by policy makers and practitioners. This summary should be based on the Report mentioned above.
- c) 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 description 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.
- d) Appendices to the Scientific Report including detailed results of the separate case studies.
- e) Additional material to contribute to the ESPON 2013 capitalisation and communication strategy, including:
 - A slideshow explaining the assumptions, the methodology and the results of the project so far;

- A selection of 5-10 maps suitable for the communication of project progress and results at the different stages on the ESPON website, but as well suitable to be used for creation of posters, postcards, and exhibition materials.

April 2014 (Final Report):

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

May-October 2014 (Dissemination):

- a) 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. At transnational level, the Programme is supported in its capitalisation activities by the ESPON Contact Point Network. 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.

The MC and the Sounding Board will address the Draft Final report and eventually ask for clarifications.

(vi) Budget for the applied research project

The maximum budget available for this applied research project is 759.153 Euro. 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

The ESPON Website (www.espon.eu) provides access to all available project results from the ESPON 2013 and 2006 Programme. Synergies and use of results from outside the ESPON regime also 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:

- The European Commission Website (<http://ec.europa.eu>) provides access to all relevant EC policy documents (e.g. Europe 2020 Strategy, fifth Cohesion Report) responding to the Financial and economic crisis.
- The OECD Website (www.oecd.org) provides access to the OECD Territorial Reviews.
- OECD Round table: <http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/fullstory.php/aid/2852/>
- The COPTA Website (www.eu-territorial-agenda.eu) provides access to most relevant policy documents on territorial cohesion.
- The INTERACT Website (www.interact-eu.net) includes references to Interreg projects on regional and local spatial-economic development strategies.
- The London School of Economics provides in its Global Metro Monitor (2010) (http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/1130_global_metro_monitor/1130_global_metro_monitor.pdf) an overview of 150 metropolitan economies and elaborated also some interesting case studies (http://aws1.cloud.globalmetrosummit.net/media/nue/2010_NUE_PolicyLessons_gmm.pdf)