

SPECIFICATION

ESPON Targeted Analysis Based on User Demand 2013/2/10

Using applied research results from ESPON as a yardstick for cross-border spatial development planning (ULYSSES) (2010-2011)

(o) Targeted analyses within the ESPON 2013 Programme

The ESPON 2006 Programme provided integrated analysis and long-term spatial scenarios which enriched the European policy debate and knowledge base. Tying in with the achievements of the previous programme period, the ESPON 2013 Programme continues conducting applied research on European territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion. At the same time, a new type of projects is carried out in the form of targeted analyses based on specific demands expressed by stakeholders and making use of existing ESPON results.

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 in 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 on 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 undertaken to develop current achievements and make use of existing indicators, data and tools.

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

Under this priority, actions are foreseen that will make the evidence and knowledge already developed operational through raising awareness and involving stakeholders in the results and practical application of them.

Targeted analyses under Priority 2 enable stakeholders to obtain customised and up-to-date information on their particular territorial context and opportunities for development which can be used for policy development. Given the targeted focus of these projects on specific territorial entities, targeted analyses will contribute to the use of ESPON results in practise and to the involvement of policy makers, practitioners and scientists in a joint synergetic process.

(i) General objectives of targeted analyses under Priority 2

The general objectives of targeted analyses within the ESPON 2013 Programme are the following:

- Provision of evidence and knowledge based on ESPON results on the strengths and weaknesses of individual regions and / or larger territories seen from a European perspective, or a global context, giving European regions the option to compare themselves to other regions and hereby finding competitive advantages for development and cooperation.
- Improvement of the usefulness of ESPON results by testing new, experimental and innovative options such as (1) analysis of themes of interest for groups of regions, partly based on case studies, (2) methodological frameworks for translating territorial development goals and policy aims into concrete actions and (3) technical, methodological and analytical support to territorial planning processes and spatial programming and visions.
- Provision of analytical support and evidence based on ESPON results on thematic priorities in cooperation with other Structural Funds Programmes.

The aim is to carry through targeted analyses in partnership with policy makers and/or practitioners showing an interest in gaining awareness of European evidence, information, experience and/or knowledge on common challenges related to their territorial and/or urban development.

The individual targeted analysis shall support better informed policy decisions by:

- Integrating ESPON findings with more detailed information and practical know-how, either from a territorial part of Europe or from a sector authority.
- Contributing to a sound knowledge of territorial development perspectives/trends through new understanding of future development potentials and challenges for the respective territorial and / or urban development.

This project shall contribute to these objectives during its implementation by ensuring a close cooperation and partnership with the stakeholders who expressed their need for this targeted analysis.

(ii) Types of Action under Priority 2

Projects under Priority 2 can have different foci and accordingly vary in their content. In order to have a clear distinction between the various possible project orientations, each project needs to be clearly allocated to one of the following types of action:

1) Integrated studies and thematic analysis

This type of action is foreseen to follow a “traditional” analytical approach using existing results of ESPON applied research and other studies. The analysis can integrate several themes relevant for certain types of territories, regions and / or cities or they can be less comprehensive in the approach by focusing on one or a few themes.

The main objectives are:

- a) To provide added value for territorial development of specific types of territories¹ by offering new comparative insight and understanding on territorial potentials and challenges from a European perspective;
- b) To ensure that other (similar) types of territories / regions can benefit from the output of the analysis.

2) Knowledge support to experimental and innovative actions

This type of action clearly allows for the implementation of projects that differ from the mainstream of the ESPON 2013 Programme by being more experimental and/or innovative in character. It is in a way a laboratory for developing ways of meeting main territorial challenges that Europe is confronted with.

The objectives are:

- a) To support experimental and innovative actions carried through in partnership with stakeholders with European knowledge on territorial structures, trends, perspectives and policy impact;
- b) To provide methodological support to experiments and innovative efforts.

3) Joint actions related to other Structural Funds Programmes

The joint actions related to other Structural Funds Programmes take a geographical starting point in the area covered by these programmes, be it transnational, cross-border, interregional, regional or urban territories. The content of these actions can be integrated and thematic analyses or they can be experimental and innovative of nature (as described above). A main prerequisite is that they are justified by supporting Structural Funds Programme implementation.

The objectives are:

- a) To provide information and analyses on the European position of these areas, their comparability with other similar areas, and their potentials and challenges, useful for Structural Funds Programmes (regional, cross-border, transnational, interregional and urban);

¹ Types of territories codified for the territorial dimension, include urban, rural-mountains, rural-islands, rural-area (sparsely and very sparsely populated), rural-other, former external border, area dependant on fisheries, outermost regions, transnational cooperation areas, cross-border cooperation areas and interregional cooperation areas (as listed in the ESPON 2013 Programme, p. 9).

- b) To provide methodological support for strategic processes, including visions and scenarios for spatial development and planning.

Independent of the type of action, each project should have a European perspective (i.e. supporting the understanding of the wider European context), a clear transferable character and a concrete implementation part, focusing on specific territories.

The analytical approach can provide integrated, cross-thematic analyses, study individual themes or sectors, or focus on a specific type of territories. At any rate, ESPON findings shall be integrated and supplemented with more detailed information and practical know-how, either from a territorial part of Europe or from a sector authority. Analysis can include/be based on case studies. The geographical coverage will normally have a more limited territorial coverage than the entire European territory.

This project belongs to the second type of action taking an experimental and innovative approach. Thus the challenge is to imagine and test new ways of doing territorial analysis that meet the needs of practitioners from different parts of Europe.

(iii) Scope and rationale of the targeted analysis

ULYSSES is an experimental and innovative project supported by 18 European border and cross-border areas, which aims at using applied research results from ESPON as a yardstick for decentralised cross-border spatial development planning.

Based upon a sound methodological approach, the targeted analysis is expected – as a first step – to establish high-quality and multi-thematic territorial analyses on six specific cross-border areas, which take into consideration future territorial challenges expressed in findings of the ESPON 2006 Programme and of the current ESPON 2013 Programme.

Main characteristics of the territory to be addressed

The cross-border structures concerned by the targeted analysis are built up by local and/or regional authorities and cover peripheral regions, mountainous and maritime regions as well as rural and urban areas.

The targeted analysis will **realise 6 comprehensive and multi-thematic territorial analyses for the following cross-border areas:**

- **The Upper Rhine cross-border area along the land borders between France, Germany and Switzerland.** The precise area to be analysed is the one covered by the “Trinational Metropolitan Area Upper Rhine (corresponding to the ESPON project “Metroborder”), involving the following four stakeholder organisations participating in ULYSSES: The Région Alsace, the Regio Basiliensis, the Regionalverband Mittlerer Oberrhein and the Regionalverband Südlicher Oberrhein. This area with a population of about 6 million inhabitants can be developed to one of the first cross-border Metropolitan areas in Europe.
- **The cross-border area along the entire Spanish-French land border (Pyrenees).** The precise area to be analysed is the one covered by the following two stakeholder

organisations involved in ULYSSES: The “Working Community of the Pyrenees” (as reference parameter) and the “Government of Navarra, Department of Housing and Spatial Planning”, covering a smaller part of the working community. The mountainous area of the Pyrenees needs an overall decentralised cross-border strategy co-ordinating existing sector plans, especially with the view to the infrastructural and environmental challenges.

- **The cross-border area along the land border between Greece and Bulgaria.** The precise area to be analysed is the one covered by the NUTS II areas “Eastern Macedonia-Thrace (GR) and South-West/South-Central (BG) (with the focus on the NUTS III areas Kavala and adjacent territory, Drama, Xanthi), involving the stakeholder organisation participating in Ulysses: The Prefectural Authority of Drama-Kavala-Xanthi”. This area along the former EU external border is since a few years a new internal border and due to this new situation is lacking a comprehensive and decentralised cross border development strategy as well as the necessary experience.
- **A cross-border area covering parts of the Northern Finland-Russian land border (Karelia).** The precise area to be analysed is the one covered by the following stakeholder organisation involved in ULYSSES: The “Euregio Karelia”. This cross-border region on the EU external border is a sparsely populated rural area located in a national and even European periphery (ENPI border). There exists a need for a more strategic development approach.
- **A cross-border area along the borders between Poland, Germany (land border) and Sweden (maritime border):** The precise area to be analysed is the one covered by the “Euregion Pomerania” involving the following stakeholder organisation represented in Ulysses: The City of Szczecin. In the wider cross-border area, having a land and sea border, the city of Szczecin can develop together with its German neighbours metropolitan functions for developing the wider rural surrounding.
- **Extremadura/Alentejo (ES/PT):** The precise area to be analysed is the one covered by the following stakeholder organisations involved in ULYSSES: Regional Development and Spatial Planning Commission of Alentejo (Spatial Planning and Land Management Direction) and the Region of Extremadura. The cross-border area belongs to the least developed regions of the EU. Up to now, sufficient experience with decentralised cross-border cooperation exists, while at the same time there is a clear need for a more strategic approach to be adopted.

In addition, the targeted analysis will, as part of the data collection process carried out for the six cross-border areas above, also realise **7 “data fact sheets” on the following cross-border areas of other stakeholders not covered by the six multi-thematic territorial analyses mentioned above:**

- EUREGIO (EUREGIO)
- Öresundskomiteen (The Öresund Committee)
- Duna-Körös-Maros-Tisza Euroregion (Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisa Euroregion)

- EuRegio Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land-Traunstein (EuRegio Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land-Traunstein)
- Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia (Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia)
- VšĮ Nemuno euroregiono Marijampolės biuras (PI Nemunas Euroregion Marijampole Bureau)
- Ems Dollart Region (Ems Dollart Region)

Thematic scope for the targeted analysis

Cross-border spatial development is by definition thematically cross-cutting, therefore the comprehensive territorial analyses realised for selected cross-border areas will not adopt a thematically narrow focus. However, ULYSSES is particularly keen on better taking into consideration a range of important territorial issues and challenges pin-pointed by strategic European policy orientations and/or by recent ESPON applied research. It is therefore expected that the comprehensive territorial analyses pay particular attention to the following topics by using ESPON results as far as possible:

- Cross-border polycentric development and patterns of urban-rural relationship in the cross-border areas.
- The cross-border areas' levels of accessibility & connectivity to existing Trans-European transport corridors and modern ICT-infrastructures.
- Effects of demographic change in the cross-border areas (i.e. an increasingly ageing society, migration processes, social inclusion of minority groups), which are of particular importance for border areas located in national and European peripheries and also for borders areas located near Europe's external borders.
- The performance of the cross-border areas in relation to the revised Lisbon/Europe 2020 Strategy objectives: e.g. main features of economic activities and of the economic environment in general, existing R&TD potentials and innovation processes; issues related to structural change / modernisation pressure due to an increasing globalisation, main features characterising the cross-border labour market within the context of a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- The performance of the cross-border area in relation to various objectives of the Gothenburg Strategy: e.g. preservation and sustainable use of natural / cultural heritage potentials; sustainable management of main environmental media (soil, air, water etc), effects of climate change (e.g. new natural hazard patterns, natural disasters), renewable energy sources & use of renewable energy sources / increased energy efficiency; potential sources for industrial risks.

Beyond these strategic themes of a European-wide importance, the comprehensive territorial analyses should also take into consideration other issues that are relevant for all or some of

the border areas concerned (e.g. physical / political nature of the common border; socio-cultural and linguistic settings prevailing in the respective areas, history / tradition of co-operation; legal-administrative framework conditions for co-operation prevailing in the respective areas etc). The stakeholders involved will support this with the necessary quantitative and qualitative information from the cross-border areas.

The comprehensive territorial analyses should in relation to the most important aspects mentioned above also identify the key problems and/or development challenges of cross-border relevance which should be tackled by co-operation in order to further the integration of co-operation areas.

The precise themes to be covered by the “data fact sheets” on cross-border areas not covered by the 6 multi-thematic territorial analyses will basically use the same data from the ESPON projects that are collected for the 6 areas for in-depth analysis. The stakeholders involved will have to provide additional data at a more disaggregate territorial level and this also for the elaboration of the fact sheets.

Objectives of the targeted analysis

Against this wider context, ULYSSES aims at achieving the following four overall objectives:

1. To generally raise the awareness among the involved stakeholders on the basic function / the practical utility of decentralised cross-border spatial development and to promote a more widespread use of ESPON research results for elaborating high-quality cross-border spatial development concepts.
2. To realise 6 multi-thematic territorial analyses for the cross-border areas identified in page 4 and 5 of this document by making use of available ESPON applied research results and other local analyses / data, mainly for initiating more comprehensive processes that will lead to an up-grading of already existing cross-border spatial development concepts and an elaboration of new ones by taking into consideration future territorial challenges that are pin-pointed by the ESPON 2006 Programme and the current ESPON 2013 Programme.
3. To promote the exchange of experience and best practice in the field of cross-border spatial development also by using cross-border strategies for preparing the future INTERREG Programmes.
4. To promote a further application of targeted research results in the selected cross-border cooperation (CBC) areas and to review the general usefulness of applied research results produced by the ESPON Programme in the context of cross-border spatial development, while disseminating widely the practical experiences made with the ULYSSES project.

The targeted analysis should be realised in a way that the above-stated overall objectives of ULYSSES can actually be fully achieved.

The 6 comprehensive and multi-thematic cross-border territorial analyses need to be clearly demand-oriented, innovative and based upon a sound methodological approach which takes into consideration future territorial challenges expressed in findings of the ESPON 2006

Programme and the current ESPON 2013 Programme. Section (ix) on “Existing access points” provides a first orientation on this. The following “guiding principles” shall help the Transnational Project Group (TPG) in developing a proposal that meets the above mentioned requirements.

- The TPG will establish a common methodology that is later used for realising all six territorial analyses of cross-border areas. This method should achieve a good balance between quantitative and qualitative approaches (i.e. mainly for producing an outcome that can be easily understood by the stakeholders concerned) and incorporate - at the same time - a “present situation assessment” and a “prospective view” (e.g. by elaborating overall or theme-specific development trend scenarios in a medium- / long-term perspective).
- The TPG will make the broadest possible use of applied research results produced under the ESPON 2006 and ESPON 2013 Programmes as well as of more area-specific data, information and research results already available in the relevant cross-border areas. The focus is clearly on producing analytical results and not on realising a cross-border harmonisation of quantitative data. Due to this, it is strongly recommended to work with already standardised data or composite indicators that are available either at the level of the ESPON Programme (i.e. ESPON Database) or at the level of the individual cross-border areas concerned. The group of stakeholders finds of particular relevance the results of ESPON 2006 and ESPON 2013 projects listed under section (ix).
- The TPG is expected to visualise - as much as possible - the outcomes of the “present situation assessment” and/or the “prospective analysis” for each multi-thematic cross-border territorial analysis.
- The TPG is expected to identify – for each comprehensive territorial analysis – also the key problems and/or development challenges of a cross-border relevance which could be tackled by co-operation in order to facilitate further the integration of co-operation areas.
- Once finalised, the TPG will present each multi-thematic cross-border territorial analysis in a way that the concerned stakeholders can use them as a starting point (e.g. in form of a coherent territorial analysis chapter that can be included in a future cross-border spatial development concept) for launching comprehensive processes leading to an elaboration of new cross-border spatial development concepts.

The 7 data fact sheets on the cross-border areas of other stakeholders not covered by the six multi-thematic territorial analyses mentioned above shall – as a starting point - motivate the other ULYSSES stakeholders to elaborate cross-border territorial analyses on their own initiative. The following “guiding principles” shall help the TPG in developing this part of their proposal to meet the above-mentioned requirements:

- The fact sheets on the cross-border areas should only compile already existing quantitative information at NUTS 3 level from the ESPON Database (i.e. raw data or data resulting from specific composite indicators broken down to individual areas), without providing an in-depth analysis of this data.

- The data fact sheets should be concise (app. up to 5-6 pages each) and presented in a way that the concerned stakeholders can use them as an initial starting point for launching their own cross-border territorial analyses.
- The stakeholders involved will have to be ready to provide additional data at a more disaggregate territorial level for the elaboration of the fact sheets. More qualitative information will also have to be provided by the relevant stakeholders on their respective territories.

Finally, while drawing upon their practical experiences gained with the above mentioned analyses, the TPG should also elaborate a shorter and easy-to-understand contribution for the future “Practical Guide of ULYSSES”, which will be finalised as a joint document of the stakeholders involved in the project and the ESPON Programme. This contribution shall be elaborated by providing answers to the following core questions:

- Which themes should at least be addressed by a comprehensive territorial analysis realised for a cross-border spatial development concept?
- How can key issues of a cross-border relevance (i.e. problems and/or development challenges) be identified which should be tackled by co-operation to enhance cross-border territorial integration?
- Which use can be made of ESPON applied research results for adequately addressing the strategic themes and for identifying key issues of cross-border relevance?
- Which methods and approaches can be used when realising a territorial analysis for a cross-border spatial development concept (i.e. quantitative and qualitative methods; present situation assessment and prospective analysis; visualisation approaches etc)?

(iv) Implementation methodology and project governance

Partnership in the project implementation is vital in order to achieve useful results. This applies to both, the partnership between the ESPON Programme and stakeholders, as well as between the team of researchers (TPG) and the stakeholder representatives.

Stakeholder involvement is essential throughout the project’s life-cycle and starts off with the definition and development of the specific theme for the targeted analysis. During the implementation phase of the targeted analysis, stakeholders play an active role by providing and giving access to information relevant for the project, as well as by steering and guiding the work of the TPG.

Stakeholders involved

A total of 18 stakeholders from all over Europe are involved in ULYSSES and interested in issues related to cross-border spatial development. The group of stakeholders will be led by Région Alsace (Region of Alsace) who is representing the full group as Lead Stakeholder. Other stakeholders participating in the project as partners are:

- Regio Basiliensis,

- Regional Planning Board of the Middle Upper Rhine,
- Regional Planning Board of the Southern Upper Rhine,
- EUREGIO,
- Prefectural Authority of Drama-Kavala-Xanthi,
- Regional Council of North Karelia,
- Government of Navarra, Department of Housing and Spatial Planning,
- Regional Development and Spatial Planning Commission of Alentejo – Spatial Planning and Land Management Direction,
- General Direction of Urbanism and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Building, Regional Government of Extremadura,
- The Öresund Committee,
- Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisa Euroregion,
- City of Szczecin,
- EuRegio Salzburg-Berchtesgadener Land-Traunstein,
- Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia,
- Working Community of the Pyrenees,
- PI Nemunas Euroregion Marijampole Bureau,
- Ems Dollart Region.

Project management & working structures

The following project management structures are established to ensure a coherent and intensive work process among all partners of the ULYSSES project (see also overview below):

- **A “Steering Group” (SG) is set up** that consists of one representative per involved stakeholder organisation and the ESPON CU. The TPG will be present with at least one representative at each Steering Group meeting. The SG will meet 3-4 times during the lifetime of the project, ensuring coordination between the stakeholders, the ESPON CU and the TPG.
- To establish effective working relations that involve all stakeholders of ULYSSES, **4 “Geographical Clusters” (GCs) are set up:** (1) “GC North-West Europe”, (2) “GC South-West Europe”, (3) “GC South-East Europe” and (4) “GC North-East Europe”. For each of the GCs, a “Cluster Leader” (CL) is nominated who will lead the cluster-internal work process and be the contact person for the TPG for the cluster area. The ESPON CU will always be involved in all communication between the stakeholders and the TPG by being copied in emails.
- **A ULYSSES-Helpdesk is set up** to support the TPG, the Steering Group, the Cluster Leaders and the individual stakeholders in fulfilling their basic tasks and responsibilities (e.g. ongoing contact with the TPG and ESPON CU, co-ordination of data requests; seminar and workshop organisation; dissemination of intermediate and final results). Due to the distinct experience of the “Association of European Border

Regions” (AEBR) in managing and organising European-wide projects / topical networks and its concrete experience in developing cross-border spatial development concepts, the ULYSSES stakeholder partnership has entrusted AEBR with providing these ongoing co-ordination / technical assistance activities for the entire project.

Project-level interaction: Meetings, seminars & workshops

A kick-off meeting with the TPG will be organised at the ESPON CU in Luxembourg where the Lead Stakeholder will participate.

A number of meetings, seminars and workshops are organised by ULYSSES stakeholders in which the TPG (at least one representative) is expected to attend:

(1) A “Launching Seminar” is organised at the very beginning of the project, to which the various ULYSSES stakeholders as well as the selected group of researchers (TPG) will send a representative. The overall aim of this launching seminar is twofold:

- To further raise the awareness among the stakeholders about the basic functions / the practical utility of decentralised cross-border spatial development concepts (→ esp. those having no experience in this respect)² and to demonstrate how applied research results produced under the ESPON 2006 / ESPON 2013 Programmes can actually help elaborating high-quality cross-border spatial development concepts (→ all stakeholders).³
- To further deepen the TPG’s knowledge on the specific needs that project stakeholders have in relation to an elaboration of new and/or upgrading of existing cross-border spatial development concepts (e.g. from a thematic and/or methodological point of view).

In connection to the launching seminar (before or afterwards), a first meeting of the “ULYSSES Steering Group” will be organised.

(2) The TPG (at least 1 person) is expected to participate in the first Joint Workshop of the four Geographical Clusters and the first working partnership meeting between the TPG and ULYSSES stakeholders as well as in the second meeting of the “ULYSSES Steering Group”, which are all organised at the same place and the same dates.

(2.1.) The 1st Joint Workshop of the four Geographical Clusters aims at realising a discussion / an exchange of experience among all ULYSSES stakeholders which focuses on the following issues:

- Methods / tools that can be used to elaborate a high quality territorial analysis for a cross-border spatial development concept: Practical issues such as the establishment of

² E.g. by making use of the ESPON-INTERACT study on “Spatial Visions and Scenarios” and by deepening specific issues addressed (i.e. the spatial knowledge base & main themes addressed, the objective system & the spatial policy programme; the application framework & its stakeholder orientation) and – at the same time - present related good practice examples from various border/cross-border areas.

³ E.g. by summing up the various results already achieved under the ESPON 2006 Programme and by giving an overview on particularly relevant components / key features / topics addressed under the new ESPON 2013 Programme.

adequate data sets (i.e. use of ESPON data and of regional-level data) or the focus of a territorial analysis (i.e. present situation assessment & prospective analyses, “inward-looking” and “outward looking view”) should be addressed.

- Themes / topics that should be covered by a high quality territorial analysis realised for a cross-border spatial development concept: Emphasis should be put on strategic themes that are of a European-wide importance and on issues related to the practical use of existing/future ESPON-research results.

It is expected that the TPG provides an active contribution to the above-mentioned issues e.g. in form of a presentation and/or a short paper.

(2.2) The first working partnership meeting between the TPG and the ULYSSES stakeholders concerned by the multi-thematic territorial analyses is organised after the delivery of the Inception Report. In relation to the elaboration of the six analyses, the TPG will:

- Present the common methodology elaborated for realising all territorial analyses;
- Discuss and agree with the relevant stakeholders concerned, the range of themes to be covered by each of the six territorial analyses;
- Identify with the relevant stakeholders concerned the regional data and information sources that are necessary for carrying out the multi-thematic territorial analyses.

(2.3) The second Steering Group meeting will summarise the outcome of the above-mentioned workshop/partnership meeting, clarify issues related to the ongoing project management and timetable, address the current work outcome of the TPG and decide with the TPG appropriate follow-up actions for targeted research.

(3) The TPG (at least one representative) is expected to participate in the second Joint Workshop of the four Geographical Clusters and the second working partnership meeting between the TPG and ULYSSES stakeholders as well as the third meeting of the “ULYSSES Steering Group”, which are all organised at the same place and the same dates.

(3.1) The second Joint Workshop of the four Geographical Clusters aims at realising a discussion / an exchange of experience among all ULYSSES stakeholders which focuses on the following issues:

- Organising the preparation / elaboration process of a cross-border spatial development concept: Practical issues to be addressed are how to achieve a balance between participatory bottom-up approaches and expert involvement and how to initiate a wide political discussion.
- Designing the policy dimension of a cross-border spatial development concept: Practical issues such as an elaboration of territorial development objectives (i.e. the spatial policy programme) and of a related application framework (i.e. translating territorial development objectives into concrete action) should be addressed.
- Ensuring the short- and medium-term application of a cross-border spatial development concept after its finalisation: Practical issues to be addressed are ways how to conceive cross-border spatial development as an ongoing (open) process and how to provide development concepts with a stable political anchorage, but also how to organise their future up-grading/up-dating.

It is expected that the TPG provides an active contribution to at least one of the above-mentioned issues e.g. in form of a presentation and/or a short paper (preferably: “Designing the policy dimension of a cross-border spatial development concept”).

(3.2) The second working partnership meeting between the TPG and the ULYSSES stakeholders concerned by the multi-thematic territorial analyses is organised after the delivery of the Interim Report. In relation to the elaboration of the six analyses the TPG will:

- Present the progress achieved by their targeted research on the selected cross-border areas;
- Jointly discuss with the concerned stakeholders the overall quality and usefulness of the intermediate results achieved;
- Pin-point and explain eventual problems that could not be solved;
- Forward requests on additional information and data needed to the stakeholders concerned;
- Agree upon appropriate follow-up actions and improvements that have to be realised by the TPG / by individual stakeholders.

(3.3) The third Steering Group meeting will summarise the outcome of the above-mentioned workshop/partnership meeting, clarify issues related to the ongoing project management and timetable, validate the current work outcome of the TPG and decide with the TPG appropriate follow-up actions for finalising the targeted research.

(4) The Closing Seminar of ULYSSES will be attended by at least one representative of the various stakeholders / the helpdesk and by the TPG. In addition, this event shall also be made accessible for a wide range of interested third parties outside the immediate project partnership. The closing seminar pursues the following aims:

- The TPG presents the overall and area-specific results from the targeted analysis that realised on the six cross-border areas and highlights their experiences made in practically using results from applied research produced under the ESPON Programme (i.e. added value, limitations, persisting shortcomings / gaps).
- The stakeholders from the selected cross-border study areas voice their position regarding the usefulness of targeted research (→ What are new perspectives to further improving the quality / scope of cross-border co-operation? What are the limits and/or persisting problems that need to be tackled?). They also illustrate how they will actually apply these results for elaborating new cross-border spatial development concepts and for up-grading of existing ones.
- The TPG and the stakeholders jointly identify issues that should be better / more intensively addressed by forthcoming applied research projects being supported under the current ESPON 2013 Programme and/or by actions being realised under other programme components (→ deepening of specific themes / issues, further elaboration specific methods / tools; production of specific cross-border data sets).
- The AEBR presents the “Practical Guide” that shall support cross-border areas throughout Europe in launching the elaboration of new cross-border spatial development concepts and/or in an up-grading of already existing cross-border spatial development concepts.

In connection to the closing seminar (before or afterwards), a fourth meeting of the “ULYSSES Steering Group” will be organised. It concludes around the final outcome of the project.

(v) Envisaged results of the targeted analysis

The 6 multi-thematic territorial analyses elaborated as main outcomes of the targeted analysis will deliver to cross-border areas a “reference baseline” on ground of which new cross-border spatial development concepts can be elaborated and / or already existing ones can be reviewed and up-graded. The strategic result of this element of the targeted analysis is therefore to lay the basis for launching - both technically and operationally - more comprehensive cross-border spatial development planning processes.

Other outcomes of the targeted analysis (i.e. contribution to Joint Workshops of the four Geographical Clusters, the Practical Guide, the ULYSSES closing seminar) will result in raising the stakeholders’ awareness and know-how about crucial issues that strongly condition the quality of such cross-border spatial development concepts (i.e. required quantitative and qualitative methods, thematic- and time-related perspectives etc). By bridging knowledge gaps that frequently exist in this respect, the targeted analysis can also contribute to motivate other cross-border areas not directly covered by one of the pilot analysis to launch spatial development concept elaboration processes for their respective cross-border areas.

The 7 “data fact sheets” will constitute an operational input for these areas in understanding the European dimension of their development potentials and challenges.

The elaboration of the identified parts of the future “ULYSSES Practical Guide”, which will be published as a joint document of stakeholders involved in the project and the ESPON 2013 programme.

(vi) Operational use of the targeted analysis

The 6 multi-thematic territorial analyses will be used by the concerned ULYSSES stakeholders as reference documents on ground of which they subsequently elaborate a number of territorial development objectives, a related application framework as well as the necessary procedural options to ensure a short- and medium-term implementation of the cross-border spatial development process. Once finalised, the development concepts can also be used to prepare a sound territorial analysis for the future territorial co-operation programmes for the period after 2013.

The 7 “data fact sheets” will stimulate the cross-border areas concerned to move towards cross-border spatial development concepts including a European dimension. Once finalised, the data fact sheets can also be used as a reference document helping to realise a well-informed territorial analysis for the future territorial co-operation programmes for the period after 2013.

The Practical Guide will support the ULYSSES-areas and other cross-border areas in the EU to enrich and / or develop spatial development strategies, which are also useful tools for preparing the future territorial co-operation programmes for the period after 2013.

(vii) Outputs and timetable

The ULYSSES project is expected to start in October 2010 and will be implemented over a time-period of 18 months. The timing foreseen for the various aspects to be covered by the targeted analysis looks as follows.

The immediate outputs to be produced by the targeted analysis / the TPG can briefly be summarised as follows:

- **Submission of the Inception Report (31 January 2011):** This report focuses on the elaboration of the analytical framework and the research approach of the project and shall in particular integrate the results of a further detailing of the user demand. The inception report shall as well include the first elements needed towards the elaboration of a common methodology for the multi-thematic territorial analysis.
- **Submission of the Interim Report (15 October 2011):** This report focuses on the presentation of intermediate project results and an insight on how the project is expected to formulate recommendations. The report targets the stakeholders behind the project and potential end users of the project results. In particular the report will include the final draft of the 6 multi-thematic territorial analyses for the selected cross-border areas as well as the first drafts of the 7 data fact sheets and the first sketches for the contribution to the Practical Guide (selection of the topics and identification of the structure and table of content).
- **Submission of the Draft Final Report (29 February 2012):** This report presents the final results of the project and focuses on relevant conclusions and recommendations. The report will include draft final versions of all expected project deliveries.
- **Final Report (30 April 2012):** This report is in principle a revision of the Draft Final Report taking into consideration final comments and suggestions from the stakeholders and end users, the ESPON Monitoring Committee, the European Commission and the ESPON Coordination Unit. Simultaneously, the datasets, maps and figures used and produced within the framework of the project should be delivered.

The time-schedule for a **participation of the TPG in various events** of the ESPON 2013 Programme and the ULYSSES project can briefly be summarised as follows:

- Kick-off meeting with the ESPON CU in Esch-sur-Alzette /Luxembourg (date to be agreed upon between the selected Lead Partner and the ESPON CU).
- Launching Seminar of ULYSSES & first Steering Group Meeting (October 2010).
- First workshop of the Geographical Clusters and first working partnership meeting TPG/stakeholders and second Steering Group Meeting (February / March 2011).
- Second workshop of the Geographical Clusters and second working partnership meeting TPG/stakeholders & third Steering Group Meeting (October / November 2011).

- ULYSSES closing seminar and fourth Steering Group Meeting (April 2012).
- The TPG is as well expected to participate in four ESPON seminars (end 2010, mid 2011; end 2011 and mid 2012).

(viii) Budget for the targeted analysis

The maximum budget foreseen is € 350.000. Proposals exceeding this value will not be considered. This amount will include all the costs for completing the study including travel expenses, attendance at meetings and any additional dissemination activity at the own initiative of the TPG. The publications cost for the Practical Guide and cost for organising the above mentioned seminars and workshops (except kick-off meeting with ESPON and the participation in 4 ESPON seminars) will be borne by the ULYSSES stakeholders. The will report design will respect the ESPON Corporate Identity for reports at project level.

ESPON projects are generally conducted in a partnership of several bodies from at least three EU Member and Partner States (from three different countries taking part in the ESPON 2013 Programme).

(ix) Existing access points

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

The study will take into consideration several applied research projects delivered by the ESPON 2006 Programme:

- ESPON-INTERACT study on “Spatial visions and scenarios”
- ESPON-INTERACT study on “Territorial evidence and cooperation”
- ESPON Project 1.1.1 “Urban areas as nodes in a polycentric development”
- ESPON Project 1.1.2 “Urban-rural relations in Europe”
- ESPON Project 1.1.3 “Enlargement of the EU”
- ESPON Project 1.1.4 “Spatial effects of demographic trends”
- ESPON Project 1.2.2 “Telecommunication services and networks”
- ESPON Project 1.3.1 “Spatial effects of natural and technological hazards”
- ESPON Project 1.3.2 “Territorial trends of the management of the natural heritage”
- ESPON Project 1.3.3 “Impacts of cultural heritage and identity”
- ESPON Project 2.1.1 “Territorial impact on EU transport policies”
- ESPON Project 2.4.2 “Integrated analysis on transnational and national territories”
- ESPON Project 3.2 “Spatial scenarios in the relation to the ESDP”
- ESPON Project 3.3 “Territorial dimension of the Lisbon-Gothenburg Process”

In addition, to the above mentioned reports other European policy documents should be also taken into account, such as:

- Lisbon-Gothenburg Strategy
- European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)
- European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)

- ENPI Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) Strategy Paper
- INTERREG IVA Operational Programmes 2007-2013
- ENPI-CBC Operational Programmes 2007-2013