



Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

## PRE-EVENT BRIEF

# ESPON Peer Learning Workshop: Sustainable urbanisation strategies

Virtual

20 May 2021, 9.30-12.30 (CEST)



## Introduction



The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to question where and how we want to live and work and has challenged our notions about responsible or sustainable urbanisation patterns. Is the compact city or transit-oriented development still appropriate, or should we build more spacious homes and gardens? What are the inherent trade-offs between different urbanisation strategies for the economy, environment, and society? How can urbanisation strategies be drawn up in a democratically legitimate way? How can they be best implemented into concrete legal regulations and investments?

The ESPON project *Sustainable Urbanization and land-use Practices in European Regions* (SUPER) investigated these kinds of questions and has recently delivered its findings (see <https://www.espon.eu/super>). These include an overview of land-use changes in Europe since the year 2000 and land-use modelling up to 2050, as well as an overview of over 230 interventions (e.g. strategies, plans, fiscal measures, and investments) and their impacts on urbanisation. Eleven of these were examined as in-depth case studies. Using this project as a backdrop, this peer-learning session brings together practitioners working on the Dutch regional urbanisation strategies and the national environment and planning strategy (NOVI) and their counterparts drawn from SUPER case study areas. The intent is to exchange experiences on how to draw up an effective strategy and provide tips on how to encourage support from stakeholders.

## Objective

The Netherlands is experiencing a renaissance in spatial planning thanks to the widely acknowledged necessity to reconcile competing demands for housing (estimated at 1 million new homes before 2030), businesses (particularly logistics and data centres), nature (due to the problematic state of habitats), and renewable energy. As these plans begin to take shape, this is an ideal time to share experiences. The discussions during the workshop will include the following policy questions:

1. **What kinds of interventions have proven effective in promoting sustainable urbanisation?**
2. **How can the base of support for sustainable land-use interventions be strengthened?**
3. **How do EU policies affect land-use and how can current and future policies be effectively deployed to promote sustainable urbanisation?**

From these discussions, Dutch practitioners should become aware that they are not alone; despite the diversity in Europe, there are many similarities concerning the desire to promote sustainable, orderly urban development.

## Structure and input

Divided into three parts, the virtual roundtable will start with introductory presentations that highlight the core takeaways from the ESPON SUPER project. These will be complemented with short pitches on policy implementation targeting urbanisation from an Italian region and from the province of Zuid-Holland. Secondly, three breakout rooms that are linked to different aspects of the strategies will initiate discussions on policy implementation in a setting where participants can freely share their experiences. Finally, each breakout session leader will present the main points from the discussions and open the floor for a plenary discussion. Organised in a such way, the virtual workshop will provide a unique opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss considerable interventions needed to promote effective and sustainable urbanisation.

## Agenda

### Introduction

#### Urbanisation and sustainable development

*Moderated by Ingmar Pastak (University of Tartu)*

**9:30 - 9:40**

**Welcome** by Wiktor Szydarowski, (Director of ESPON Programme) and Marcia van der Vlugt (Dutch Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations, ESPON Monitoring Committee)

**9:40 - 10:30**

#### **Setting the scene: introduction presentations combined with two short surveys**

Forward by Marjan van Herwijnen (ESPON EGTC)

- David Evers (Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency): Containment and diffusion trends, and 2050 scenarios
- Giancarlo Cotella (POLITO): SUPER Guide to sustainable urbanisation and policy examples

Policy implementation in practice (short pitches)

- Questions and answers

**10:30 - 11:20**

#### **Breakout rooms**

*Moderated by David Evers, Giancarlo Cotella, tba*

- Tackling urbanisation: aims and content
- Tackling urbanisation: support and participation
- Tackling urbanisation: implementation

**11:20 - 11:30**

#### **Break**

**11:30 - 12:20**

#### **Discussion, reflections and conclusions (aimed at peer-learning)**

*Moderated by David Evers (Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency)*

- Each breakout room leader presents the main points
- Plenary discussion

**12:20 - 12:30**

#### **Sum-up and final thoughts**



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#### **ESPON 2021**

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#### **Disclaimer**

This delivery does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members of the ESPON 2020 Monitoring Committee.