ESPON

EUROPEAN UNION

Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

// European and Macro-regional monitoring tool mrs.espon.eu

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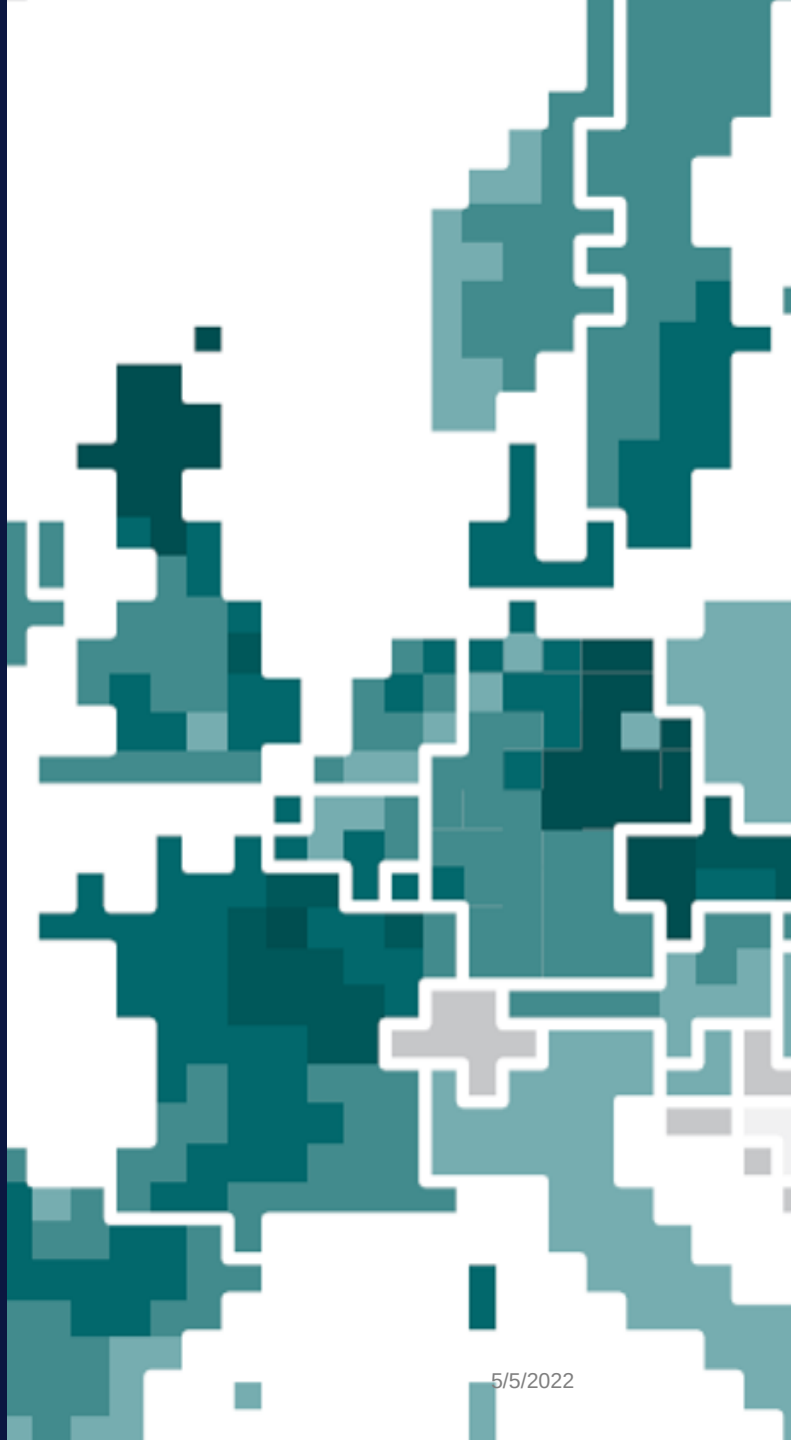
What is the ambition? What can a territorial monitoring tool deliver?

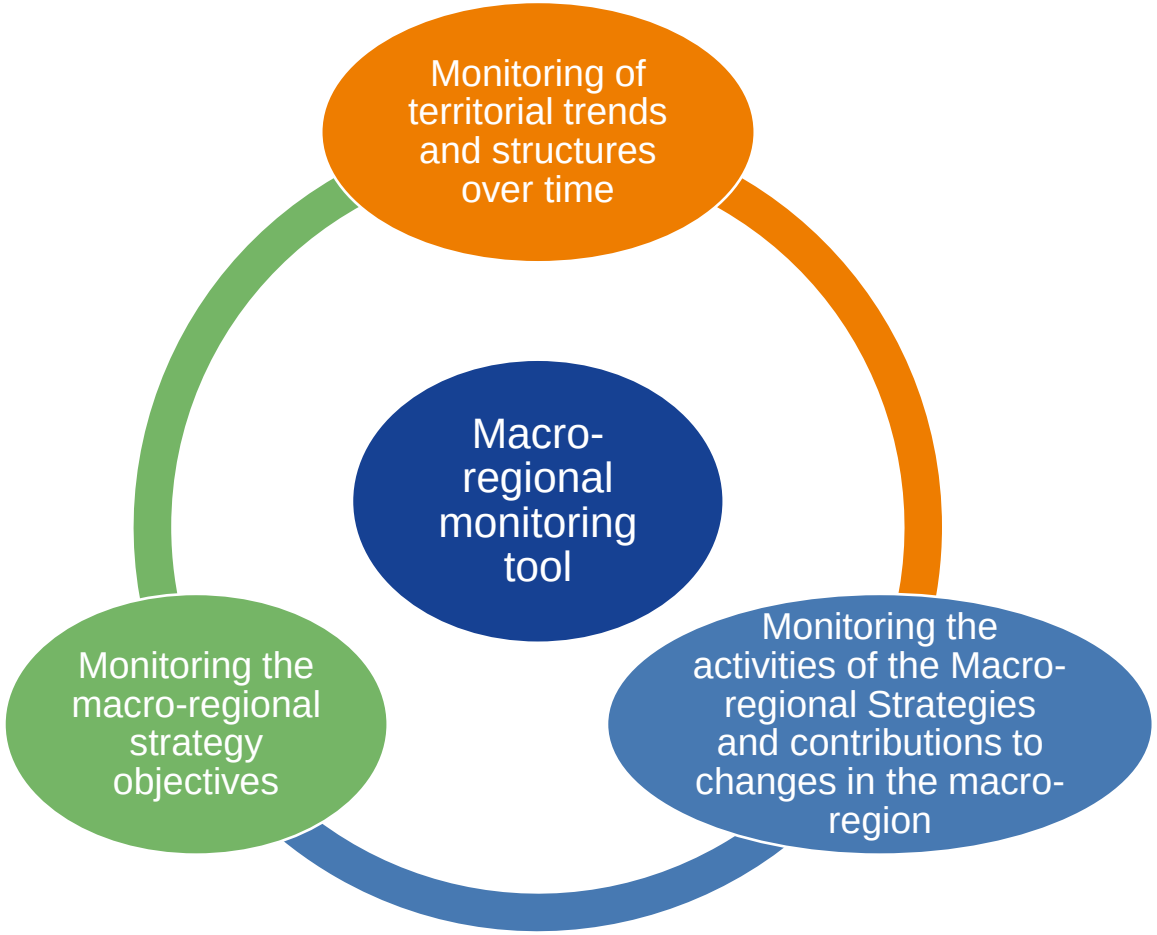


Ambition

- Offer territorial monitoring system for 4 macro-regions plus an European module
- Tailor-made modules with links to the European module and to the ESPON database and web-services to other databases
- Maintain and update macro regional territorial monitoring systems developed
- The project was developed from 2018 to 2020

Structure of the tool

The information in the tool is organised on three main axes for each of the Macro-Regions and on European level:



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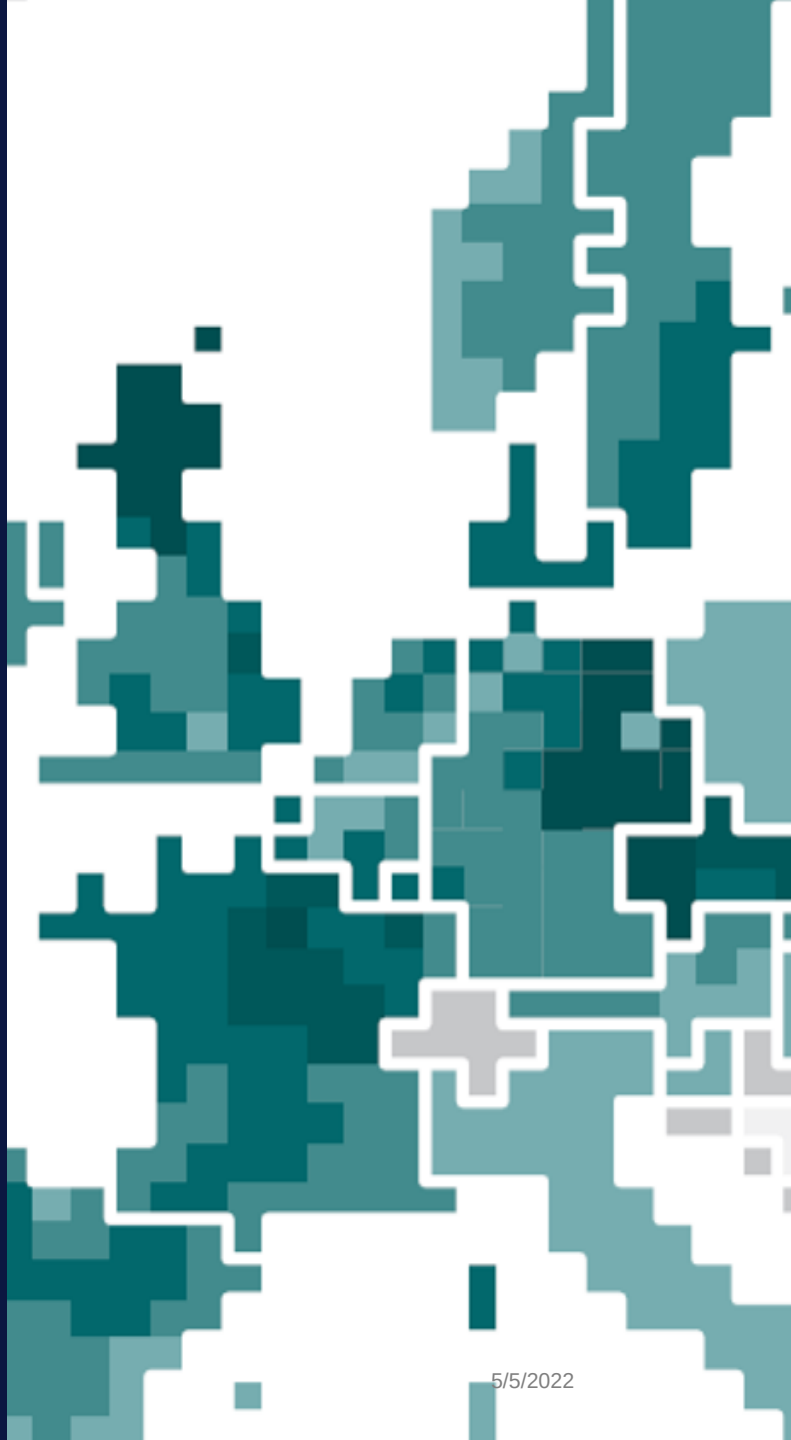
The online tool



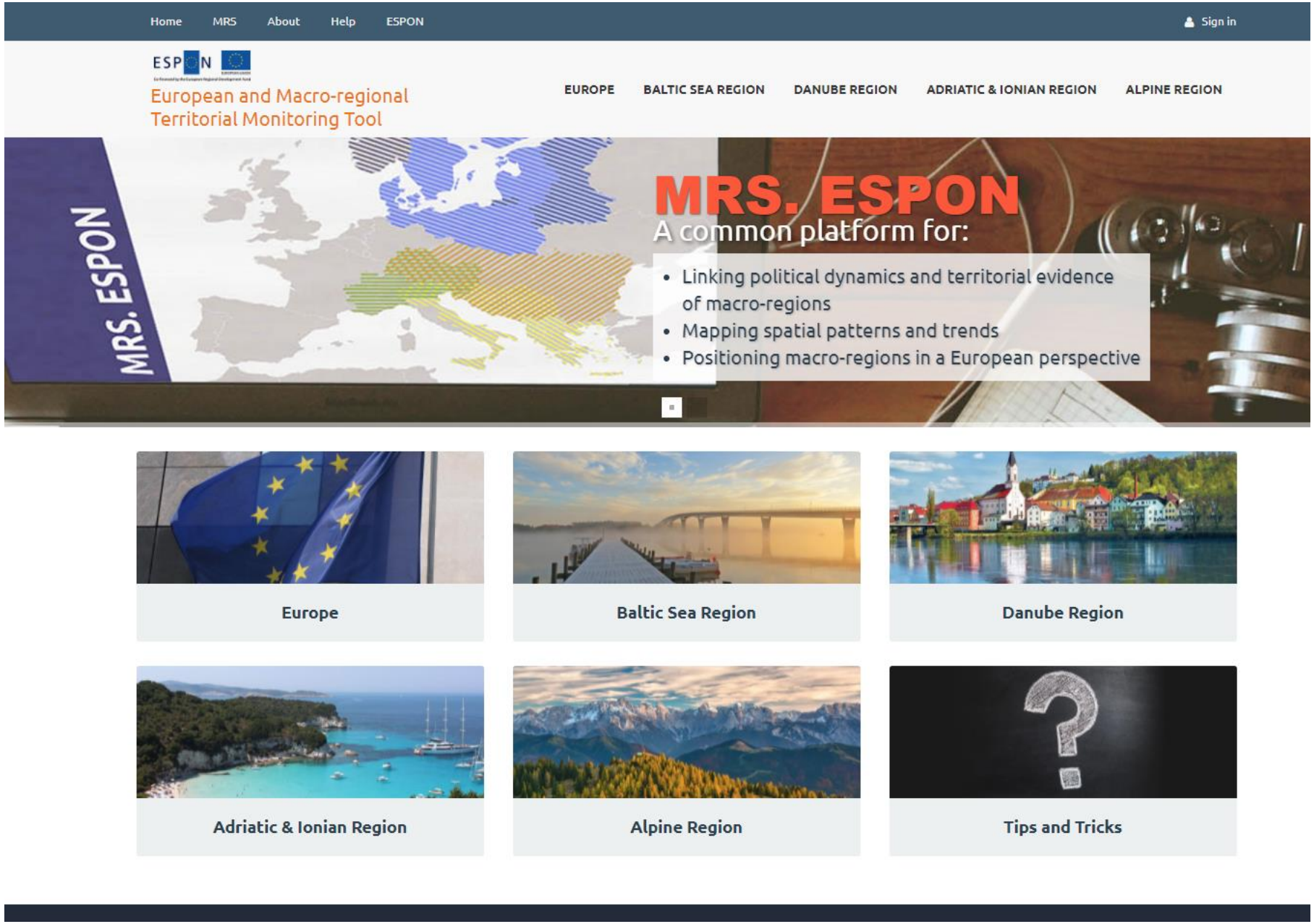
Indicators

Indicators are first proposed and then debated with the stakeholders

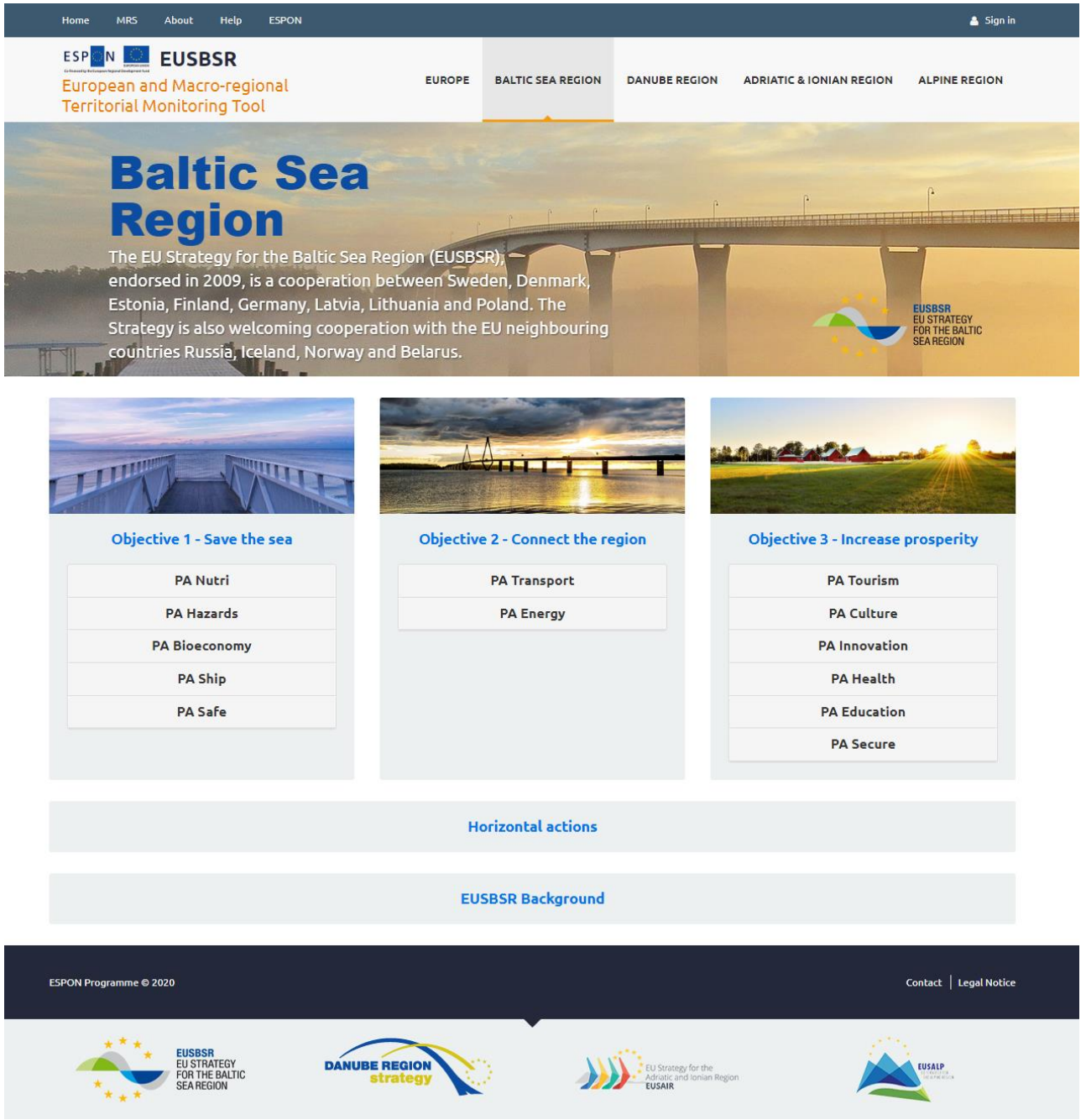
- EU module → 54 indicators grouped in 9 thematic areas
- EUSBSR → 41 indicators grouped in 3 pillars and 12 objectives
- EUSDR → 119 indicators grouped in 12 priority areas and 48 objectives
- EUSAIR → 68 indicators grouped in 4 pillars and 16 objectives
- EUSALP → 74 indicators grouped in 4 pillars and 9 objectives

- Total of 276 unique indicators, of which half come from ESPONDB and EUROSTAT (via web services)
- Some indicators available for FUAs/Cities/LAU2

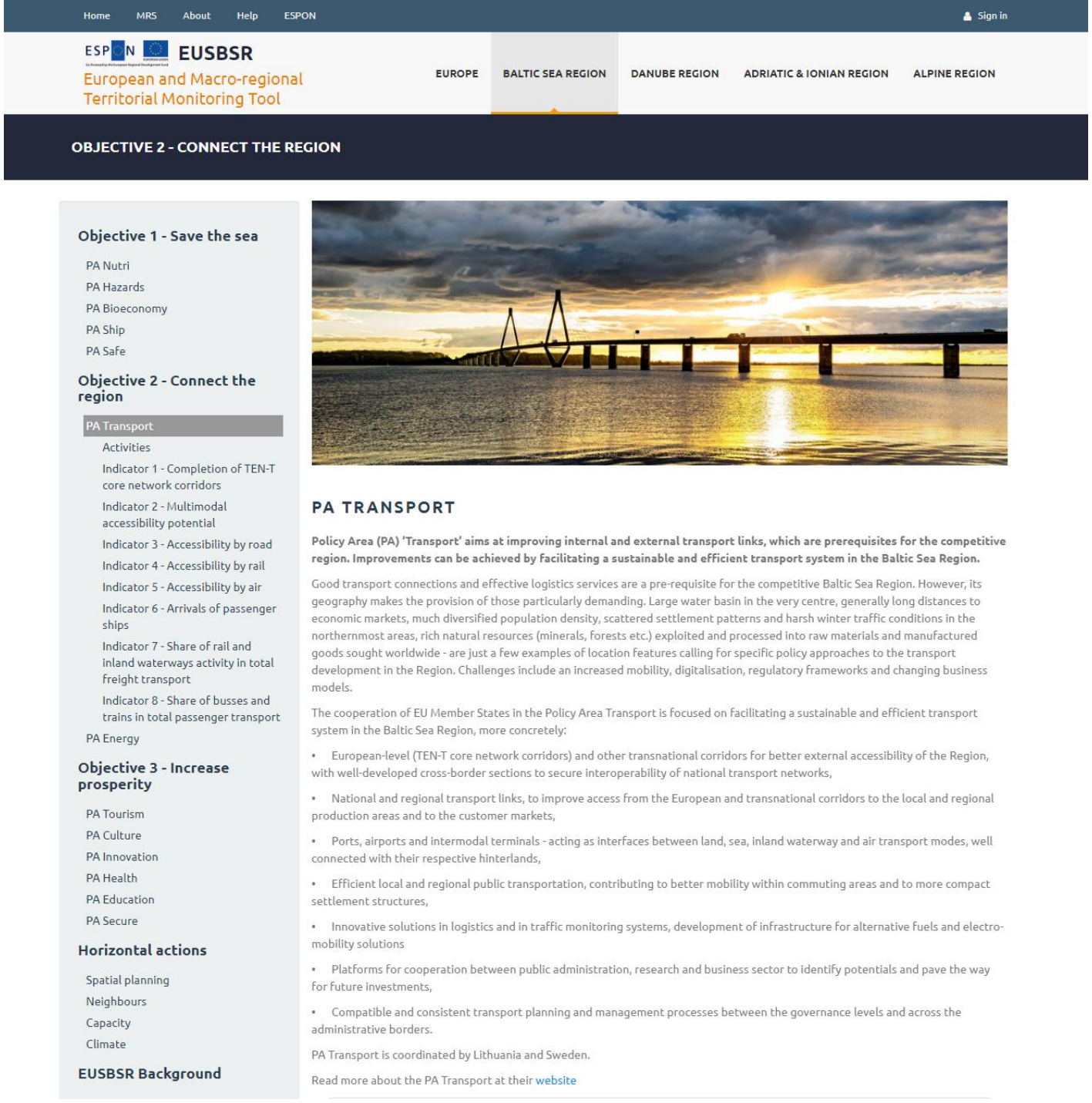
Modular structure



Adapted to specificities of each MRS



Priority Area Transport EUSBSR



Priority Area Transport EUSBSR: Multimodal Accessibility

Indicator and data

Multimodal accessibility is a combination of the modes road, rail and air.

Potential accessibility describes how easy or difficult it is for people in one region to reach people located in other European regions, in this case by road. It is calculated based on two elements: population in NUTS 3 regions and the effort (time, distance) to reach them. Basically, for each NUTS 3 region the potential accessibility is calculated by summing up the population in all other European regions, weighted by the travel time to go to there.

The values show in form of an index, i.e. 100 is the overall average of all territories displayed.

Trends and patterns

The maps shows a South-North contrast with better accessibility values in the South, which is in fact a central-periphery pattern related to road and rail accessibility in relation to Europe (see European maps on road and rail). Additionally, airport locations are visible as regions with a higher accessibility potential.

The trends show positive changes in the more peripheral regions of Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Baltic States. Germanys change is not as considerable.

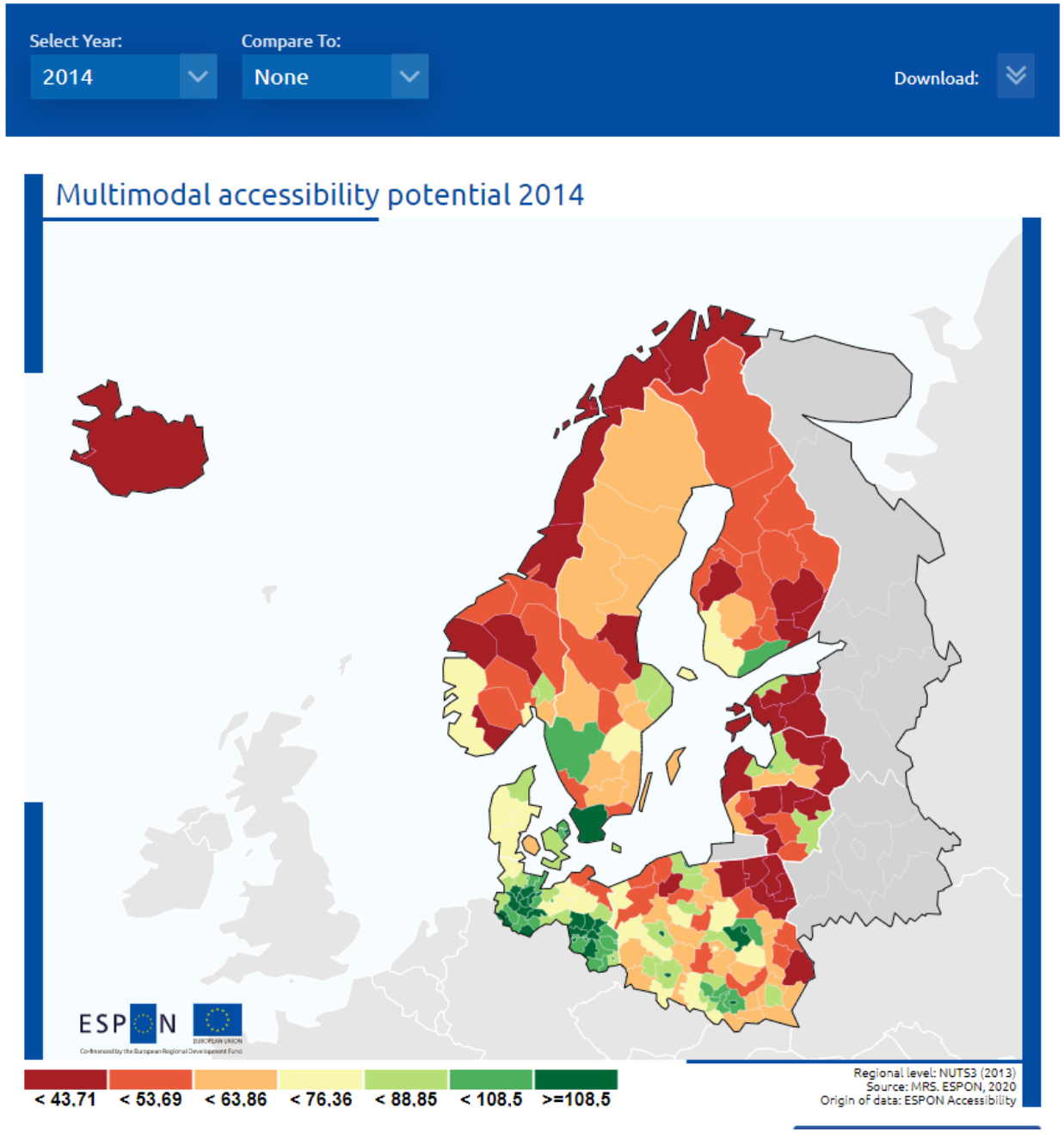
Political dimension

Improved accessibility is an overarching objective on all levels of the political system: Accessibility is a key to economic success and it plays a major role for the organisation of the daily life. On the macro-regional level, the PA Transport focuses on facilitating a sustainable and efficient transport system. Concretely this means to strengthen national and regional transport links, to improve access from the European and transnational corridors to the local and regional production areas and to the customer markets.

Moreover, a focus is to support the efforts on the European-level (TEN-T core network corridors) and other transnational corridors for better external accessibility of the region.

Further information

https://www.espon.eu/tracc



Priority Area Transport EUSBSR: Multimodal Accessibility

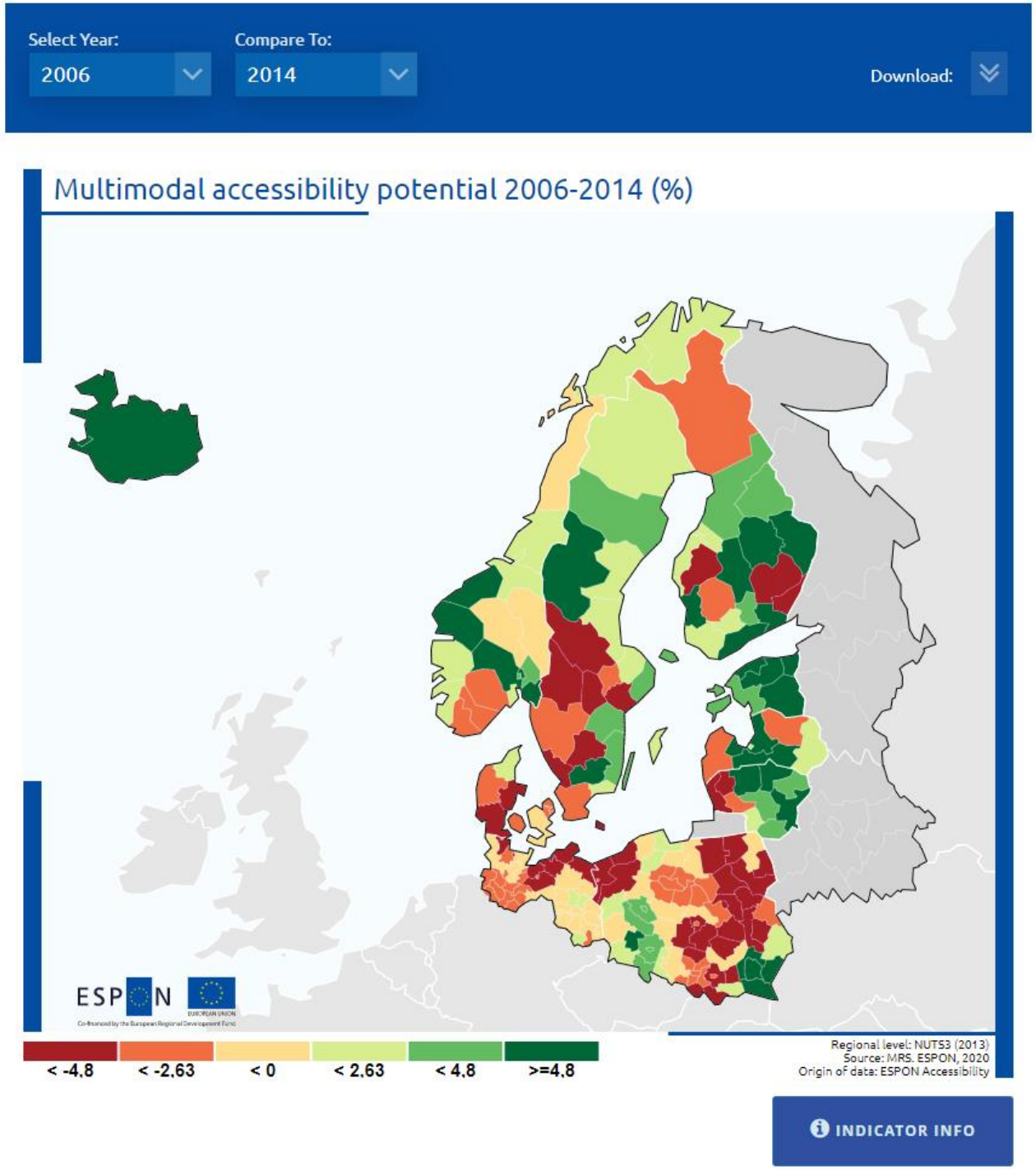
Metadata

ID: 1185
Name: Multimodal accessibility potential
Temporal Start: 2001
Temporal End: 2014
Unit: number
Source: ESPON Accessibility
Link: https://www.espon.eu/access-scenarios

Time comparisons

Download of data and maps

Navigable map with clickable territorial units + infowindow



Priority Area Sea EUSBSR: Water Clarity

Indicator and data

The displayed indicator is one of the HELCOM Core Indicators. It evaluates water clarity based on average Secchi depth during summer (June - September) during the assessment period 2011-2016. Water transparency is measured with a Secchi disk which is lowered into the water on a cord. The depth that the Secchi disk can no longer be seen through the water is the Secchi depth. When the water transparency is high, the Secchi depth is high.

The map displays the Eutrophication Rate. This rate shows the present water clarity condition measured as Secchi depth in relation to the target value. The threshold value for Eutrophication Rate is 1.00. Values below 1 show that the present conditions are better than the target conditions which describes a good status.

Trends and patterns

In open sea areas, good status (value below 1) for water clarity was achieved in the Kattegat and The Sound. For all open sea areas, the eutrophication ratio (ER) was below 1.5, with the highest value (1.38) being observed in Northern Baltic Proper. In general the average water clarity has remained relatively constant during the assessment period.

Political dimension

Interestingly, the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea was one of the major drivers for macro-regional cooperation to develop, a topic that is of particular relevance to the EUSBRS, but yet representing a continuous challenge to maintain good values.

High concentrations of nutrients and their ratios form the preconditions for algal blooms, reduced water clarity and increased oxygen consumption. Long-term nutrient data are key parameters for quantifying the effects of anthropogenic activities and evaluating the success of measures undertaken.

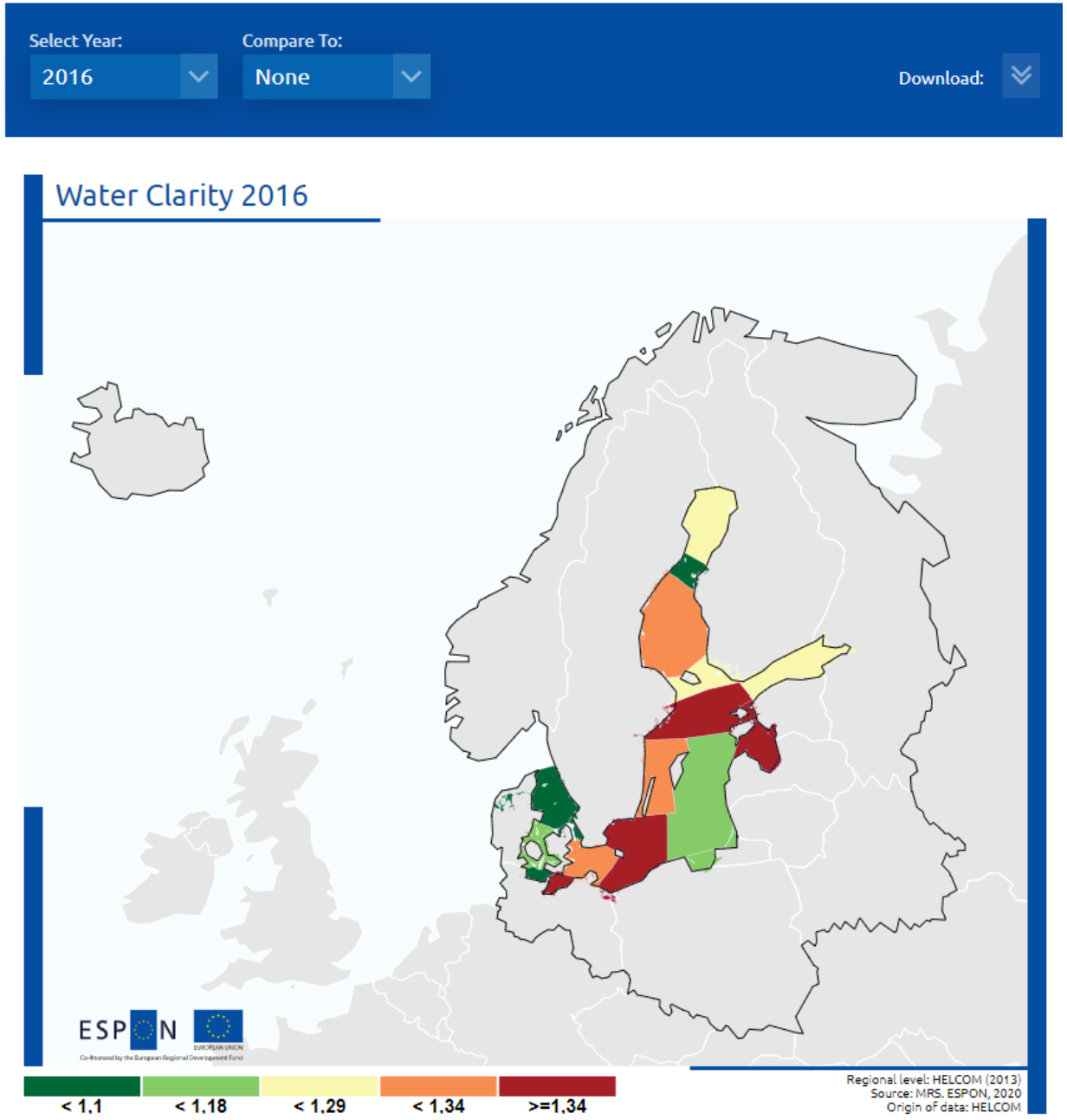
Eutrophication is one of the four thematic segments of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan with the strategic goal of having a Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication. The goal for eutrophication is broken down into five ecological objectives, of which one is 'clear water'. The EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive requires that "human-induced eutrophication is minimized, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters". The EU Water Framework Directive (Anonymous 2000) requires good ecological status in the European coastal waters.

Further information

https://helcom.fi/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Water-clarity-HELCOM-core-indicator-2018.pdf

http://stateofthebalticsea.helcom.fi/pressures-and-their-status/eutrophication/

HELCOM provides numerous indicators that are regularly updated. Please find additional information on their map service: http://maps.helcom.fi/website/mapservice/



Priority Area Bioeconomy EUSBSR: Forest area

Indicator and data

Forest area refers to the CORINE Land Cover data (level 2 'Forest'). The surface of the forest areas is calculated as percentage of the area of the NUTS3-unit.

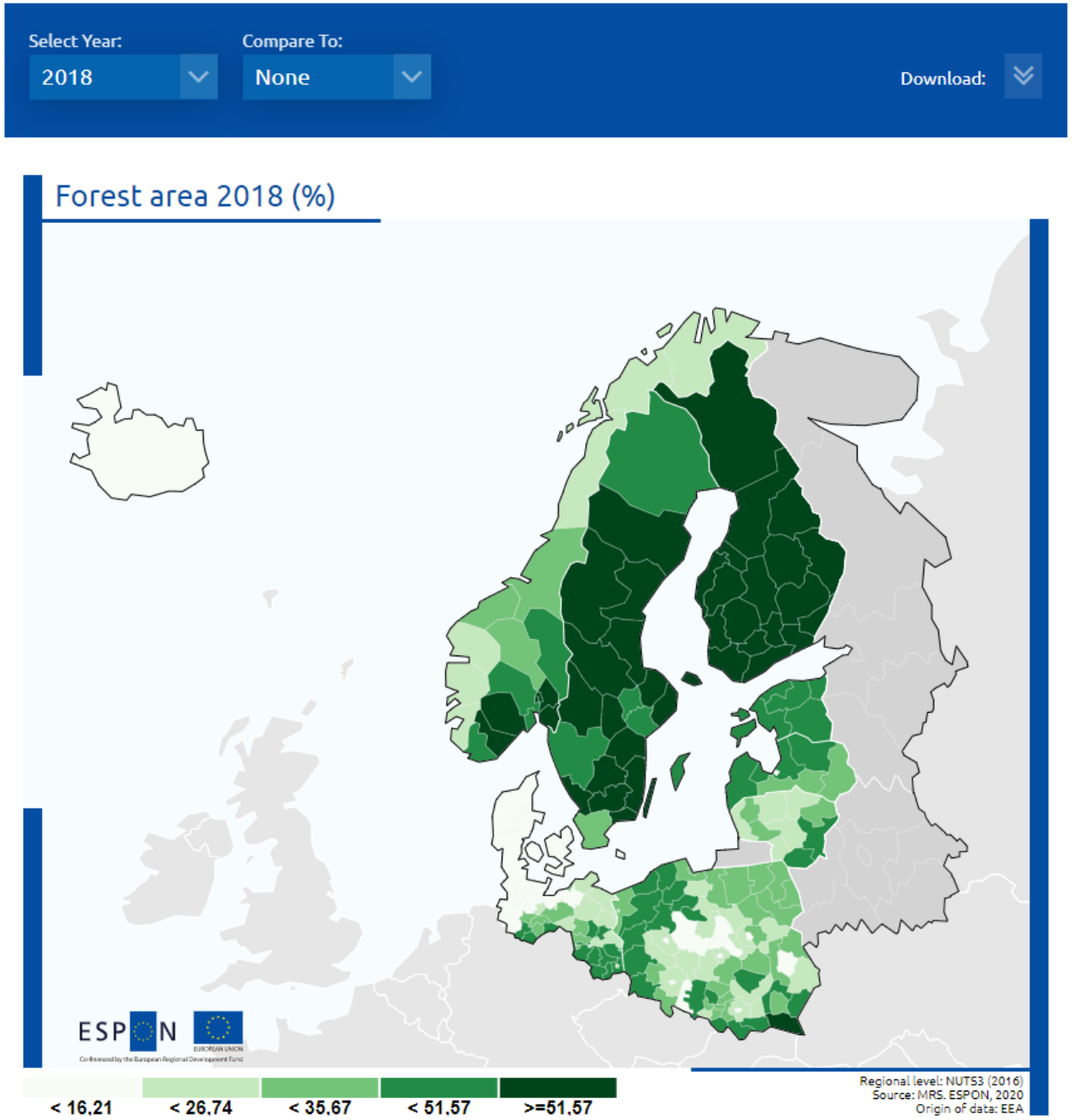
Trends and patterns

The map shows that Finland and Sweden have the highest shares of land covered with forest. Most of the regions in these two countries have more than half of their surface covered with forests, some even more than 60%. While Iceland, Denmark and the German regions close to the Danish border have few forest areas. Most of the regions of Norway, Germany, Poland and the Baltic states show values between 20 and 40%.

The trend over the years shows a lot of regions with nearly stable values. Forest areas are growing mainly in Northern Sweden. A loss of forest areas can be observed in Southern Norway, Southern Sweden and Southern Finland as well as the Baltic States especially Estonia and Latvia.

Political dimension

The boreal forest areas in the Baltic Sea Region are an important habitat for flora and fauna specific to this region, and therefore can be indicative of the opportunities for making use of the bioeconomy. Finland has for example developed a Bioeconomy Strategy, which indicates that the forest sector has the biggest share in the overall value of the bioeconomy in 2017. Similarly Sweden has set the goal to become a bioeconomy by 2050 under the guise of smart city developments, with particular relevance being given to forest raw materials.



Priority Area Energy EUSBSR: Energy consumption

Indicator and data

The **map** displays the indicator energy intensity. It measures the relation between total energy consumption and economic development. Energy intensity is calculated as ratio of consumed energy (in kilograms of oil-equivalent, a unit of energy defined as the amount of energy released by burning one kilogram of crude oil) over 1000€ of GDP measured in PPS.

GDP (gross domestic product) indicates the economic output of a country or region. PPS (purchasing power standards) is a way of looking at the economic activity of a country which relativizes the differences in price levels between countries.

The **chart** shows energy consumption disaggregated by the sectors industry, transport, households and services.

Trends and patterns

Iceland has clearly the highest level of energy intensity, followed by Estonia and Finland. The trend shows decreasing values of energy intensity in all countries which is a general European trend.

The share of consumed energy varies strongly between the different sectors and countries. Services have the most similar share amongst the countries (between 12% and 16%).

The share of energy consumed by the transport sector varies between 10% and more than 30%. In Iceland the share has the lowest and in Lithuania the highest value.

The share of energy consumed by industry varies between 17% and more than 50%. In this case Iceland has the highest share and Denmark and Estonia have the lowest share.

The share of energy consumed by households varies between 15% and nearly 35%. In this case the highest shares refer to Denmark and Estonia and Iceland has the lowest share.

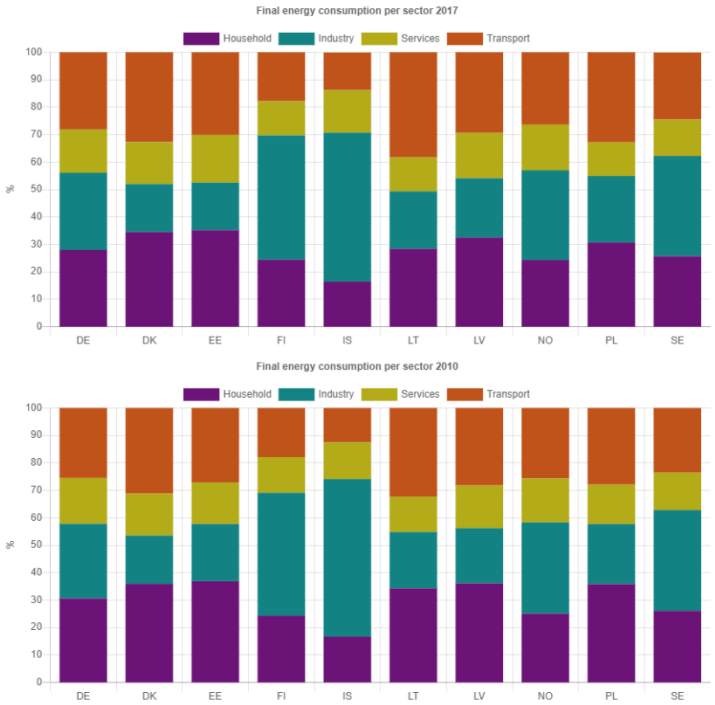
Political dimension

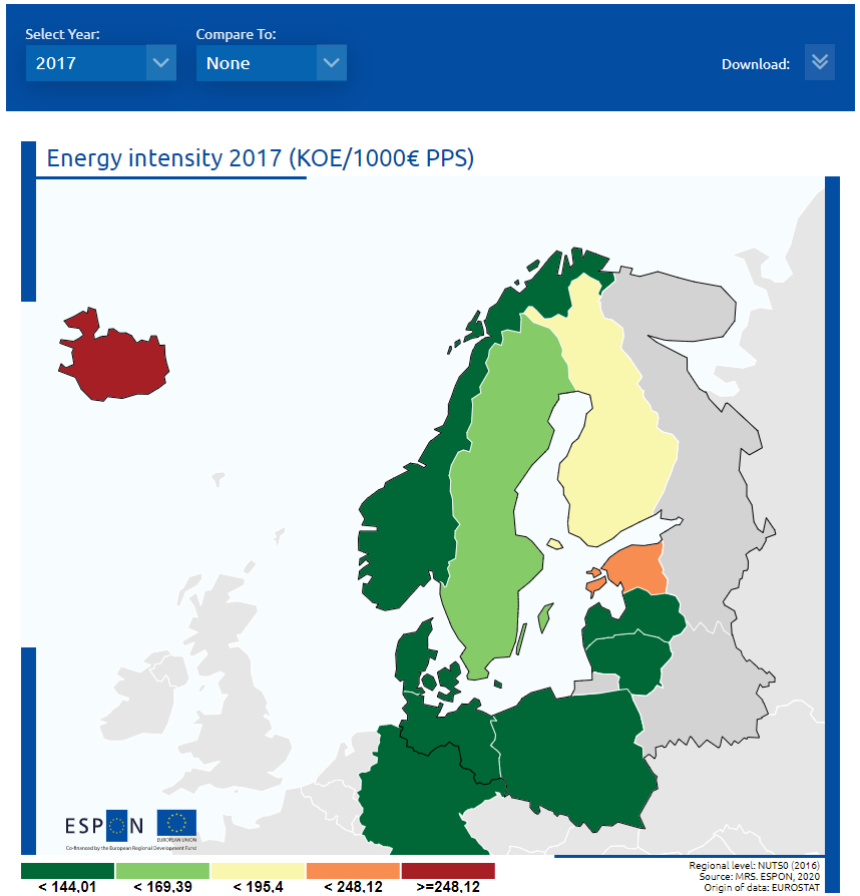
The decreasing values of energy intensity are related to a higher energy efficiency. A higher level of energy efficieny is one of the areas tackled by the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP) but also on other political levels, e.g. with the EU Climate and Energy policy. One of the Europe 2030 climate and energy targets is to save at least 32,5% energy by 2030 at EU level compared to 2007 baseline projections.

The Europe 2030 strategy focuses on buildings and transport where energy consumption could be saved. Buildings refer to households as well as to services and industry. To reduce energy in buildings the use of efficient and clean electric heating, but also smarter buildings and appliances and improved materials for insulation are targeted. With regard to transport the objective is to have only zero emission vehicles on EU roads and make the best use of digital technologies to help reduce fuel consumption.

Clean Energy will remain a major political priority under the EU Commissions new Green Deal.

These topics are also focused on by the Horizontal Action 'Climate'.





Positioning of regions compared to other MRS

INDICATOR AND DATA

The map shows **two scales**: The smaller points represent *NUTS 2 regions*, the squares show the average of the regions that are part of the respective *macro-regions*.

Unemployment rate represents unemployed persons as a percentage of the economically active population. The indicator is based on the EU Labour Force Survey.

Unemployed persons comprise persons aged 15-74 who were (all three conditions must be fulfilled simultaneously): 1. without work during the reference week; 2. currently available for work; 3. actively seeking work or who had found a job to start within a period of at most three months. The employed persons are those aged 15-74, who during the reference week did any work for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour, or were not at work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent.

HOW-TO

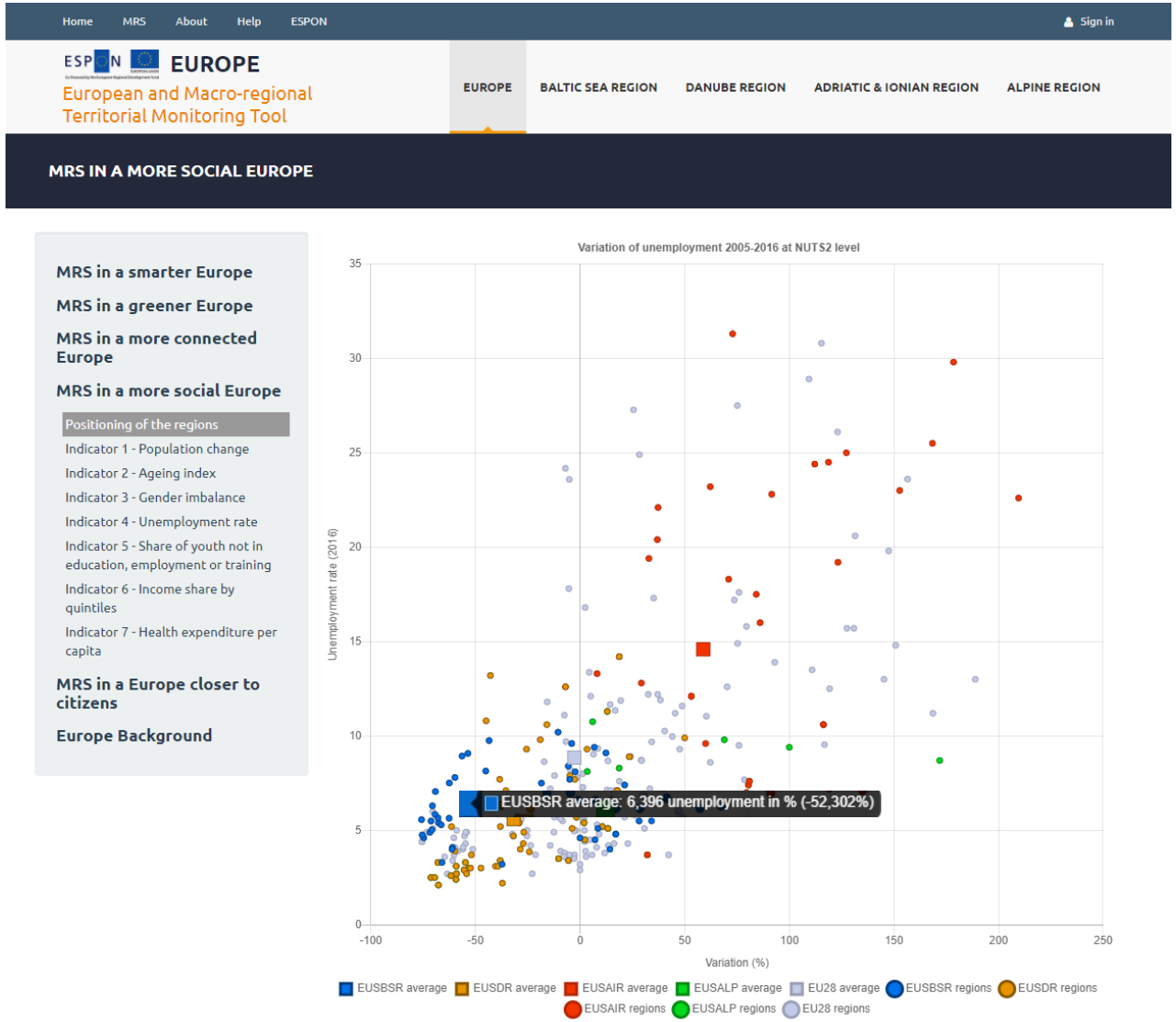
The purpose of this section is to understand how a particular region is developing from a comparative perspective.

The graphic combines the *level* of each region for the selected indicator (y-axis) and the *development* over recent years (x-axis). By **hovering** over the points of the figure, the respective name and value becomes visible.

It is possible to **activate** and **deactivate** the different categories by clicking on the legend symbol and thus, compare just selected types of territories.

INSIGHTS

The picture confirms the particular situation of the Adriatic-Ionian region (EUSAIR) regions that has - referring to the average values - to struggle most with unemployment. It is interesting to note that the other macro-regions are on lower unemployment levels than the EU 28 average, and that the Baltic Sea region (EUSBSR) is developing in the most dynamic way.



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Efrain Larrea, MCRIT

efrain@mcrit.com