



**Launch of the ESPON 2013 Synthesis Report**  
**New evidence on smart, sustainable**  
**and inclusive territories**

27 October 2010  
Bruxelles – Belgium  
14.30 – 16.30

**Venue**

Permanent Representation of Luxembourg  
Avenue de Cortenbergh 75  
1000 Bruxelles

**Programme**

- 14.30      **Registration and coffee**
- 15.00      **Opening and Welcome**  
Ambassador Extraordinary Christian Braun - Permanent Representation of Luxembourg  
to the EU
- 15:10      **Territorial Cohesion and Policy Making**  
Director General, Dr. Dirk Ahner - European Commission, DG Regio
- 15.20      **Perspectives on ESPON 2013**  
Director General Romain Diederich – Ministry for Sustainable Development and  
Infrastructure of Luxembourg
- 15.30      **Key messages of the First ESPON 2013 Synthesis Report**  
Director Peter Mehlbye - ESPON Coordination Unit
- 16.00      **Plenary**
- 16.30      **Closing reception**



## ESPON 2013 Context

The mission of the ESPON 2013 Programme is to support policy development in relation to EU Cohesion Policy. It does this by providing evidence and knowledge about European territorial structures, trends, perspectives and policy impacts which enable comparisons amongst regions and cities.

The current policy debate at European level is focusing on three main aspects:

- The implementation of the new Treaty Aim of Territorial Cohesion.
- The contribution of Cohesion Policy measures to the *Europe 2020* Strategy of Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth within Europe.
- The content of an EU Cohesion Policy after 2013.

The challenge for ESPON is to support evidence based policies in European regions, cities and larger territories that reflect the current dynamics and build on the diversity of territorial potentials embedded in each region and city.

The ESPON 2013 Programme meets this challenge by commissioning applied research on themes defined by policy makers in the field, and then disseminating the main results and key messages for place-based policy processes.

## First ESPON 2013 Synthesis Report

The ESPON 2013 Synthesis Report presents the first results from the major Applied Research projects undertaken by ESPON so far. It also contains examples from Targeted Analyses of the use of results by Member States, regions and cities.

The first research themes have focused on:

- The functionality of major urban agglomerations.
- The diversity of development options for rural regions, demography and migratory flows.
- The risks for regional economies of energy price fluctuations.
- The territorial impacts of climate change.
- The progress in techniques in support of territorial impact assessment of EU sector policies.

During the coming years ESPON will publish additional Synthesis Reports, which all aim to communicate major ESPON results on numerous ongoing research themes relevant for integrated, place-based policy considerations.

This launch event highlights the added-value the integrated ESPON 2013 projects can have for policy development with regards to the aims of the European cohesion agenda and the development of the EU territory.