



ESPON 2013 Programme

Conference

**Making the European Territory
Open and Polycentric**

29 April 2014
10h00 – 15h30

Venue

The International Auditorium
Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5
1210 Brussels - Belgium

Programme

Background

Policymakers in the field of territorial development and cohesion have asked for the development of a future oriented, long-term and integrated vision on the development of the European territory.

In a period of economic and political uncertainty, existing long-term perceptions guiding policy development are challenged. Previous scenarios and policy aspirations may have become obsolete. The speed of change is often faster than our capacity to adapt our previous expectations.

These dynamics have a territorial dimension that influences competitiveness and cohesion in Europe and the balances and structures within the European territory. They also have impact on long-term growth and job opportunities as well as challenges for regions and cities.

In this context, a long-term reference framework for policy thinking, which is informed by evidence and related to the development of the European territory, is considered to be helpful for policy makers in taking decisions today that, in a consistent way, will shape or influence conditions for the next generations.

ESPON has been asked by the 31 countries behind the programme to elaborate a Territorial Vision for Europe in 2050 and possible political pathways that can lead Europe towards this vision. The vision together with the pathways is meant to guide the policy debate on long-term territorial development and provide a coherent European framework for policy initiatives at different decision-making levels.

The ESPON project ET2050 has the challenging task to support this territorial vision-building process. The project implementation used a participatory process involving relevant stakeholders at European, national and regional level. During this conference the ET2050 project will present scenarios and debate vision statements and pathways towards the vision with the aim to adjust and integrate ideas and wishes from the participants.

Objectives

This conference has three major objectives:

1. To create awareness among all relevant stakeholders and stimulate dialogue and cooperation on the final development of a Territorial Vision for Europe towards 2050.
2. To create a sense of ownership of the relevant stakeholders for the Territorial Vision and a shared understanding of basic assumptions, territorial strategies, vision statements and pathways towards 2050.
3. To encourage an uptake by policy-makers and use of the Territorial Vision 2050 in relevant policy processes as a long-term European territorial reference framework.

Aim and Structure

The conference will start with a presentation of the project showing its striking findings for the baseline and exploratory scenarios for Europe in 2030 and 2050. Then two debates will take place. The first debate will be on the Territorial Vision for Europe in 2050 as an Open and Polycentric Territory. The second debate will be on the pathways that can lead Europe towards an Open and Polycentric Territory. Each of the debates will start with a short introduction to the topic, followed by statements from the panellists. A concluding session will close the conference.

Target Groups

The main target group for this conference are policy makers at European, national, regional and urban level. In addition, the conference is targeting representatives of European Institutions, practitioners, including representatives from Territorial Cooperation Programmes and organisations active at EU level in the field of territorial development and cohesion.

Programme

09.30-10.00 **Registration and welcome coffee/tea**

10.00-10.15 **Welcome, Opening and Chair of the day**

- Peter Mehlbye, Director of the ESPON CU

10.15-11.15 **Presentation:**

Baseline and Territorial Scenarios for Europe in 2030 and 2050

- Lasting Values and Policy Paradigms for Europe
- Europe in the World, and the World in Europe
- Territorial Scenarios for Europe in 2030 and 2050

Presentation (45 minutes)

- Andreu Ulled, MCRIT – Barcelona

Questions and answers (15 minutes)

11.15-12.45

Debate 1:

Territorial Vision for Europe in 2050: an Open and Polycentric Territory

Territorial Strategies:

- Connecting Europe globally
- Networking of European Cities
- Making Europe regionally balanced
- Enhancing Natural and Cultural assets in development

Facilitator:

- Peter Schön, BSSR – Bonn

Introduction to the topic (15 minutes)

- Carlo Sessa, ISIS – Italy

Panel statements on the topic (3-4 minutes each)

- Joris Scheers, ECTP-CEU
- Marlène Siméon, CEMR
- Nicolas Brookes, CPMR
- Irine Piria, EuroMontana
- Dorthe Nielsen, EuroCities

12.45-13:45 **Lunch**

13.45-15.15 **Debate 2:**
Possible Pathways towards the Territorial Vision for 2050

- Moving Europe towards the Territorial Strategies
- A New Generation of Cohesion Policies
- Sectoral Policies supporting the Territorial Vision
- Territorial Governance contributing to the Vision

Facilitator: - Patrick Salez, France

Introduction to the topic (15 minutes)

- Andreu Ulied, MCRIT – Barcelona

Panel statements on the topic (3-4 minutes each)

- NN, DG Regio (tbc)
- Bert Kuby, CoR
- Daniel de Groot, ESPON MC the Netherlands
- Jens Gabbe, AEBR
- Roger Read, Metrex

15.15-15.30 **Conclusions**

- Peter Mehlbye, Director of the ESPON CU

15.30-16.00 **Networking coffee and tea**

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29 April 2014

Brussels, Belgium

More information

The ESPON 2013 Programme is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

It shall support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory. ESPON shall support Cohesion Policy development with European wide, comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on framework conditions for the development of regions, cities and larger territories. In doing so, it shall facilitate the mobilisation of territorial capital and development opportunities, contributing to improving European competitiveness, to the widening and deepening of European territorial cooperation and to a sustainable and balanced development.

The Managing Authority responsible for the ESPON 2013 Programme is the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, Department for Spatial Planning and Development of Luxembourg.

More information: www.espon.eu

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