



**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**  
**on the**  
**STRATEGIC ORIENTATION**  
**of the next**  
**ESPON PROGRAMME 2021-2027**  
<https://www.espon.eu/consultation-2027>  
**Open until 19 August 2020**

## 1. WHAT IS ESPON?

Since 2002, the ESPON programme organises and finances applied research, place-based analyses and specific tools to support the formulation of territorial development policies in Europe with evidence, systematic data, maps, policy advice and pan-European comparative analysis.

ESPON assists regions, cities and national governments to improve the quality of their decision-making by supporting the development, implementation and monitoring of their policies and strategies.

The ESPON programme is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and by all European Union Member states and the four Partner States Island, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

## 2. WHY THIS CONSULTATION?

The countries participating in the ESPON programme formed a Joint Working Group (JWG) to prepare a proposal for the ESPON programme covering the coming funding period 2021-2027. The JWG formulated an intervention logic and is calling now for inputs, feedback and ideas to shape the next ESPON programme.

## 3. WHO AND HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

The public consultation invites **all policy-makers and practitioners from all administrative levels, researchers, academia, students and citizens**, in particular interest for those who think that “**territory matters**” and that a place-based and territorial approach can provide for a better understanding of the challenges ahead of us.

Participants are invited to **answer 5 questions by 19 August 2020**. The contributions will be compiled and discussed at the next meeting of countries participating in the ESPON programme.

#### 4. SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ESPON: THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

##### 1. Strengthening the link - Bringing the evidence closer to the user

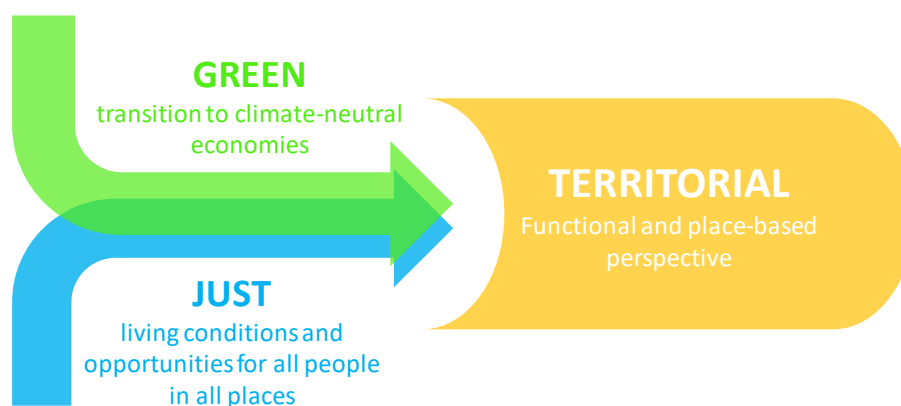
The mere provision of territorial evidence is not enough to meet the needs of policy-makers. The evidence has to be understandable, accessible and specifically tailored to their requirements. The underlying rationale of the next ESPON programme shall be to better place the research and evidence produced by ESPON into the context of policy-makers, so that they can use the ESPON evidence in real policy processes. This can only be achieved by directly connecting evidence production with outreach and knowledge development activities.



##### 2. Strategic orientation – Green and Just in a Territorial perspective

ESPON is embedded in **Cohesion Policy** and should contribute to its main goals while also supporting the EU **Territorial Agenda 2030** and its implementation with a particular focus on territorial cohesion. The **Green Deal** and the **recovery strategy from the COVID crisis** broadens the framework for the future ESPON programme; however a sharper focus of ESPON activities is needed.

ESPON provides territorial evidence to support stakeholders at all levels in achieving **green transition** to climate-neutral economies while ensuring at the same time **just living conditions** for all people in all places



Territories are exposed to diverse territorial trends, competing policy goals or contradictory sector policies, which may lead to self-reinforcing impacts on the territory. Therefore, territorial policy responses have to offer integrated approaches to steer the development in an effective way.

ESPON intends to support policy makers at all levels by providing territorial evidence and knowledge for policy responses. The focus being on **strengthening the recovery and resilience of EU territories** from the

crises by achieving a **green transition to climate-neutral economies** while ensuring at the same time **just living conditions for all people in all places**.

**The territorial and functional perspective is the cornerstone of ESPON's evidence and knowledge.** This supports public stakeholders to find appropriate and coordinated policy responses across sectors and governmental levels to the advantage of European citizens.

### 3. Better planning of activities – Thematic approach to evidence and knowledge

The programming of ESPON's activities will be done in a more strategic and integrated way through individual thematic action plans (TAPs). TAPs are comprehensive work packages that identify the evidence needs in relation to a specific territorially relevant topic.

This strategic programming approach through TAPs will allow for an early dialogue between policy-makers and scientists to assess how the specific needs can be addressed. Furthermore, the evidence production can be better linked to activities directly targeted at the users.

#### Model for a Thematic Action Plan



### 5. HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

This consultation aims at collecting your views on what ESPON should focus on, in particular:

- The territorial challenges ahead you think are emerging;
- The specific territorial evidence needed in order to tackle them; and
- The specific support in terms of knowledge development that you think is most useful to be provided by ESPON in the future.

Your inputs are very useful to further shape the future programme. Therefore, we would like to thank you very much in advance for your time and active participation in the consultation.

## 6. QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer the following questions by 19 August 2020.

**Your country (mandatory):**

- |                  |                |   |
|------------------|----------------|---|
| • Austria        | • Hungary      | • Portugal                                |
| • Belgium        | • Iceland      | • Romania                                 |
| • Bulgaria       | • Ireland      | • Slovak Republic                         |
| • Croatia        | • Italy        | • Slovenia                                |
| • Cyprus         | • Latvia       | • Spain                                   |
| • Czech Republic | • Lithuania    | • Sweden                                  |
| • Denmark        | • Lichtenstein | • Switzerland                             |
| • Estonia        | • Luxembourg   | • United Kingdom                          |
| • Finland        | • Malta        | • Other country:<br>please indicate _____ |
| • France         | • Netherlands  |   |
| • Germany        | • Norway       |   |
| • Greece         | • Poland       |   |

**Your organisation is of the following type (mandatory):**

- A European institution
- An intergovernmental entity
- A transnational, macroregional or cross-border entity
- A national authority
- A regional authority (region, Land, federated state, NUTS1 and NUTS2 level or equivalent)
- An intermediary entity (in countries with three levels of subnational government: department, province, county, NUTS3 level or equivalent etc.)
- A municipality
- A subnational government-related entity
- A public research body (academia, research centre, etc.)
- A private consultancy or think tank
- A non-profit organisation
- Another non-governmental entity : please indicate \_\_\_\_\_
- An individual citizen
- Other: please indicate \_\_\_\_\_

Your **function** within the organisation (**not mandatory**): \_\_\_\_\_

Your **email address**, if you agree to be contacted in relation to this consultation (**not mandatory**):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your **name**, if you agree to be contacted in relation to this consultation (**not mandatory**): \_\_\_\_\_

If you want to receive updates about ESPON news and activities, please [subscribe here](#).

## 1. Territorial challenges

*ESPON intends to develop territorial evidence and knowledge, with a strong territorial functional and place-based perspective, to help identify policy responses that **strengthen the recovery and resilience of EU territories from the crises by achieving a green transition to climate-neutral economies ensuring at the same time just living conditions for all people in all places.***

*ESPON identified the **following main territorial challenges, which** often are intertwined:*

- *Environmental transition (mitigation and adaptation to climate change, scarcer resources);*
- *Social pressure and inequalities (migration, healthcare and ageing);*
- *Economic transformation and resilience (innovation ecosystems, industrial transformation);*
- *Technological change (digital society, post-carbon, and circular economy); and*
- *Governance and multi-level cooperation (public participation, soft cooperation; place-based development)*

With regards to **your territory and/or European territories**, are the **challenges**, which we will face in the **coming years, well captured** in the ones mentioned above?

**If not**, please indicate which **other territorial challenges/policy** are prevailing from your point of view?

## 2. Evidence production – specific topics

→ Question for policy-makers:

On which **specific or concrete topics** ESPON should **produce evidence** to support your work as policy-maker and practitioner in the coming years?

*(E.g. impact of green deal on mobility; governance of cross-border areas; low carbon energy supplies; impact of COVID crises to the tourism sector.)*

→ Question for researchers:

On which **specific topics** do you think ESPON should **produce evidence** to support the work of policy-makers in the coming years?

### 3. Evidence production – types of evidence

→ Question for policy-makers:

Which **type of evidence** do you find **more useful** for your work?

*(E.g. maps, scenarios, short focused analyses, in-depth studies on specific topics, data, etc.)*

→ Question for researchers:

Which **type of evidence** do you find **most useful** to provide on certain kind of topics and why?

*(E.g. maps, scenarios, short focused analyses, in-depth studies on specific topics, data, etc.)*

### 4. Knowledge development – how to acquire and use ESPON evidence?

*ESPON is planning to develop a series of activities to increase the use of the territorial evidence produced for policy-makers in order to support their **knowledge development**:*

- *Standard outreach activities, such as publications, dissemination events, position papers, learning platforms, etc.*
- *Active awareness raising activities, such as policy prototyping, territorial science boot camps, peer-to-peer workshops, etc.*
- *Accompanying measures to support ongoing policy processes, such as impact assessments, task forces, etc.*

→ Question for policy-makers:

Is there any particular **activity**, of those listed or additional ones, **that could support you to better understand and use ESPON evidence?**

→ Question for researchers:

Is there any particular **activity**, of those listed or additional ones, **that could better support policy-makers in understanding and using ESPON evidence?**

**5. Additional feedback, insight or recommendation you would like to give to ESPON**

**Data protection information note:**

By completing and submitting your answers to this survey, you consent to the ESPON Managing Authority and ESPON EGTC processing and collecting the data to feed into the programming process of the 2021-2027 ESPON programme. This data is collected and processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) 2018/1725. It will not be made public or passed on to any third parties without your prior written consent. The follow-up to this survey requires that your personal data and answers be processed in a file that will be kept for five years. You have the right to access your personal data, and the right to correct any inaccurate or incomplete personal data or to request its deletion, by sending an email to [espon2020@espon.mat.etat.lu](mailto:espon2020@espon.mat.etat.lu). Any queries concerning the processing of the personal data can be addressed to the same email address, which is the first point of contact for complaints and irregularities. The Data Protection Officer of the ESPON Managing Authority can be contacted at [renee.hostert@mat.etat.lu](mailto:renee.hostert@mat.etat.lu). You have the right to appeal at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor at [edps@edps.europa.eu](mailto:edps@edps.europa.eu)

**Take the online survey now: <https://s.surveymanyplace.com/espon2027>**