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Knowledge Demand for Future Calls for Proposals under the
ESPON 2013 Programme

**THEMES FOR
APPLIED TERRITORIAL RESEARCH
PROJECTS**

**Results of 2nd Stakeholder's Survey
(March – April 2010)**



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1. Introduction

The aim of territorial cohesion included in the Lisbon Treaty and the Territorial Agenda for the European Union together with the increasing requirement for an integrated and territorial approach to the development of Europe all point at a growing demand for more territorial evidence and facts. In addition, the new Europe 2020 Strategy will require that regions, cities and larger territories contribute to a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. In order to be able to do so knowledge about the diversity of existing territorial potentials in Europe will be indispensable.

The ESPON Monitoring Committee is currently discussing themes for future applied research projects within the ESPON 2013 Programme. The themes selected by July 2010 will be subject of the next two calls for proposals under Priority 1: “Applied research on territorial development, competitiveness & cohesion; evidence on European territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts”.

In the context of the ESPON 2013 Programme screening the demand of stakeholders for territorial knowledge and evidence is given a high priority. The themes for and content of applied research projects under Priority 1 of the Programme could not be fully decided in advance for a seven year long programme period. This gives the opportunity to consult stakeholders at different stages throughout the lifecycle of the Programme, thereby including their perspectives, interests and needs in the development of applied research projects.

From 18 March - 26 April 2010 the ESPON 2013 Programme conducted a 2nd survey among European stakeholders to identify their demand for applied research projects on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion. The survey was made publicly available via the ESPON website to all interested stakeholders being involved in territorial development at European, national, transnational, cross-border, regional and local levels. This paper presents the results of the survey which will be used in the process of the ESPON Monitoring Committee selecting themes for applied territorial research projects under Priority 1 of the ESPON 2013 Programme and will thereby significantly support the ESPON 2013 Programme in meeting stakeholders’ demands.

As current applied research projects within the ESPON 2013 Programme already cover many themes that were indicated as important in the first survey, this survey tried to capture more details about stakeholders’ specific needs. This resulted in not only a quantitative overview of priorities but also a qualitative overview of knowledge needs.

Chapter two defines the purpose and specific structure of the survey. Chapter three describes the characteristics of respondents. Chapter four provides condensed information about the results and potential areas of and detailed ideas on new applied research, also according to different types of respondents. Finally, the last chapter indicates appropriate conclusions.

The present report made by the ESPON Coordination Unit is an interpretation of the responses received in the framework of the survey, reflecting the opinions of the individual respondents. The report can therefore neither be taken as a formal response from the stakeholder institutions involved nor as reflecting the opinion of the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

2. Purpose of the survey

The first screening of user demand, conducted in summer 2008, delivered important knowledge about stakeholders' need for territorial evidence. This second screening serves the purpose of updating and receiving more details on the specific demand for knowledge and evidence among stakeholders involved in territorial development in different territorial contexts and at different scales. The survey was made available to stakeholders from 18 March - 26 April 2010 via the ESPON web page (www.espon.eu). Stakeholders contributed to an identification of themes and territorial issues, considered to be important from their perspective.

The results of the second stakeholder screening, which are presented in this paper, have been processed and condensed by the ESPON Coordination Unit. The outcome of the survey will be used in the process of the ESPON Monitoring Committee selecting themes for applied territorial research and will significantly support the ESPON 2013 Programme in meeting stakeholders' demands. Furthermore, the ESPON Concertation Committee and a selection of key stakeholders will give additional guidance in this process by making the link to the current European political agenda.

The questionnaire that built the basis of the survey consisted of one semi-closed and one open question which were the following:

1. **Areas of potentially new applied research themes.** In this question stakeholders were asked to indicate which themes and sub-themes, out of a given list of themes and sub-themes presented, they considered to be most important to receive knowledge on. In addition, respondents were requested to indicate for each sub-theme selected their specific information need and relevant policy questions.
2. **Ideas for future applied research themes.** In this question respondents could freely express their requirement and demand by specifying research ideas that could be supporting the implementation of the territorial cohesion dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

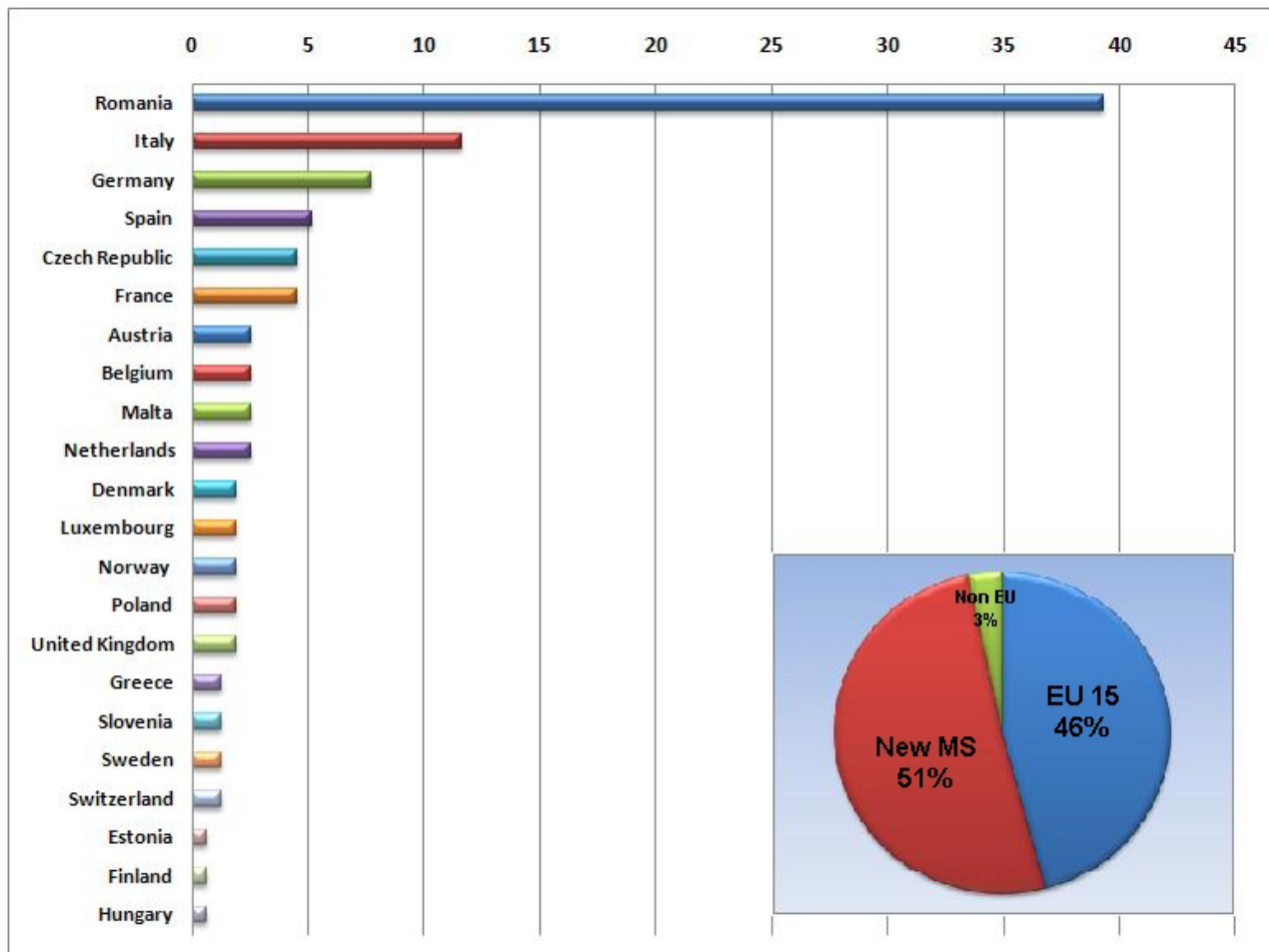
3. Characteristics of the respondents

The European-wide evidence provided by the ESPON 2013 Programme shall support policy development and will potentially benefit policy makers all over Europe at all levels. Policy makers dealing with the development of regions, cities and larger territories need for the design of their policies to be supported by evidence and comparable information on their territories as well as on long term evolutions and perspectives. This evidence and information should draw the attention to changing framework conditions such as the financial and economic crisis, ageing, globalization, climate change and rising energy prices.

In this respect the survey was mainly aimed at stakeholders working for public authorities on European, transnational, cross-border, national, regional or local levels as well as at research institutes, universities and consultancy companies.

In total 220 stakeholders from 22 out of 31 EU Member and ESPON Partner States participated in the identification of future ESPON 2013 research themes under Priority 1. Figure 1 presents the distribution of the respondents across the different countries.

Figure 1 - Percentage of respondents per country

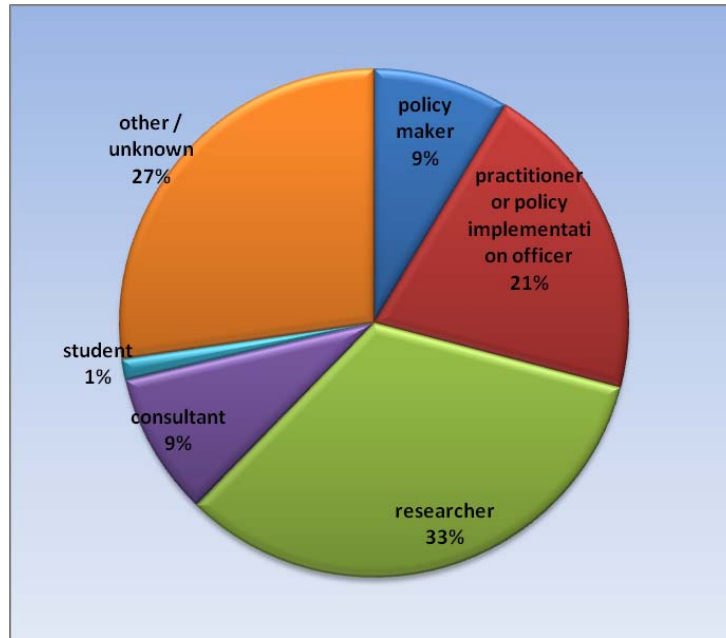


Source: ESPON CU

The chart indicates a strong representation of stakeholders from Romania. Stakeholders from some of the bigger EU countries like Italy, Germany, Spain and France are also well represented. The participation of new and old Member States in the survey is almost the same.

As presented in Figure 2, 9% of all respondents consider themselves as policy makers and 21% as practitioners. Researchers make up 33% of all respondents and consultants 12%. About 27% of the respondents did not indicate their profile.

Figure 2 – Distribution of stakeholders by profile they consider themselves



Source: ESPON CU

4. Results of the survey

An efficient and modern regional policy obviously has to be based on necessary evidence and knowledge to ensure a solid policy implementation. This base of information shall in today's era of globalisation include a European dimension and the wider territorial context for policy making. The actions under the ESPON 2013 Programme shall be decided in accordance to policy demand and the cycle of the relevant policy agenda.

In this respect, the following chapters present the results of the survey which reveal the need for prospective and explorative studies under Priority 1 of the ESPON 2013 Programme seen from the users' perspective.

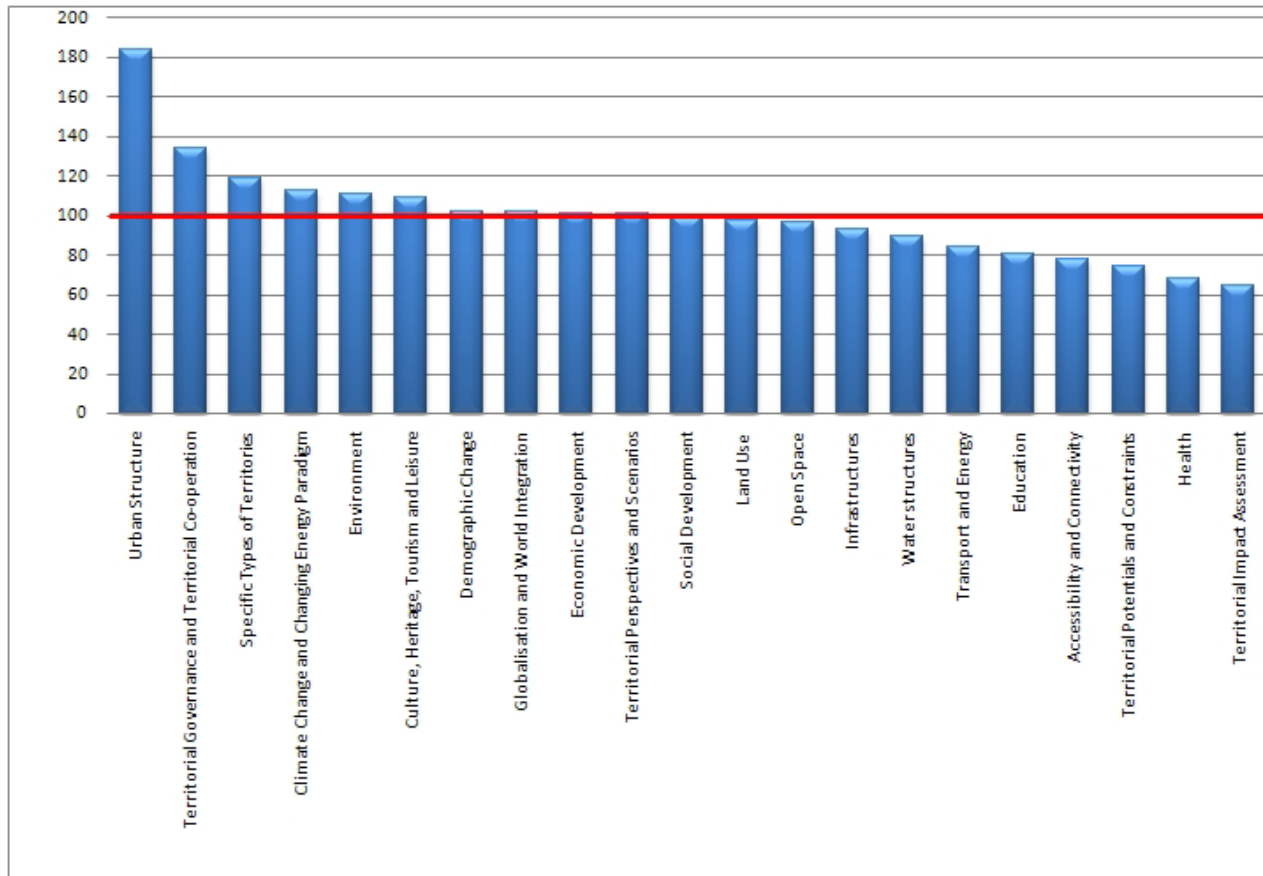
In the analysis of the responses received, an index was created reflecting the frequency of how often a theme was selected by stakeholders. The average reference index value equals 100.

4.1. Areas of potentially new applied research themes

European policy development has defined a number of territorial policy orientations in EU Cohesion Policy and in the Territorial Agenda of the European Union set up by EU Member and Partner States. The ESPON 2013 Programme offers under Priority 1 Applied Research Projects the possibility to analyse a range of themes and territorial issues. These themes can be cross-thematic or thematic (defining territorial potentials and challenges), including studies of territorial trends, prospective studies and territorial impacts of EU policies.

Figure 3 reveals the most popular themes selected in the survey by all stakeholders. The themes selected most often are "Urban Structure" (index = 183), "Territorial Governance and Territorial Co-operation" (index = 134) and "Specific Types of Territories" (index = 119). These themes are followed by "Climate and Energy Paradigm Change", "Environment", "Culture, Heritage and Tourism" (each of them with an index of approx. 110). Still above the average, even though receiving less interest by stakeholders, are "Demographic Change" and "Globalisation and World Integration" (both with an index of 102 each) as well as "Economic Development" and "Territorial Perspectives and Scenarios" (both with an index of 101 each). Themes like "Territorial Impact Assessment" and "Health" were mentioned less often (index < 70) as were "Territorial Potentials and Constraints" and "Accessibility and Connectivity" (index < 80).

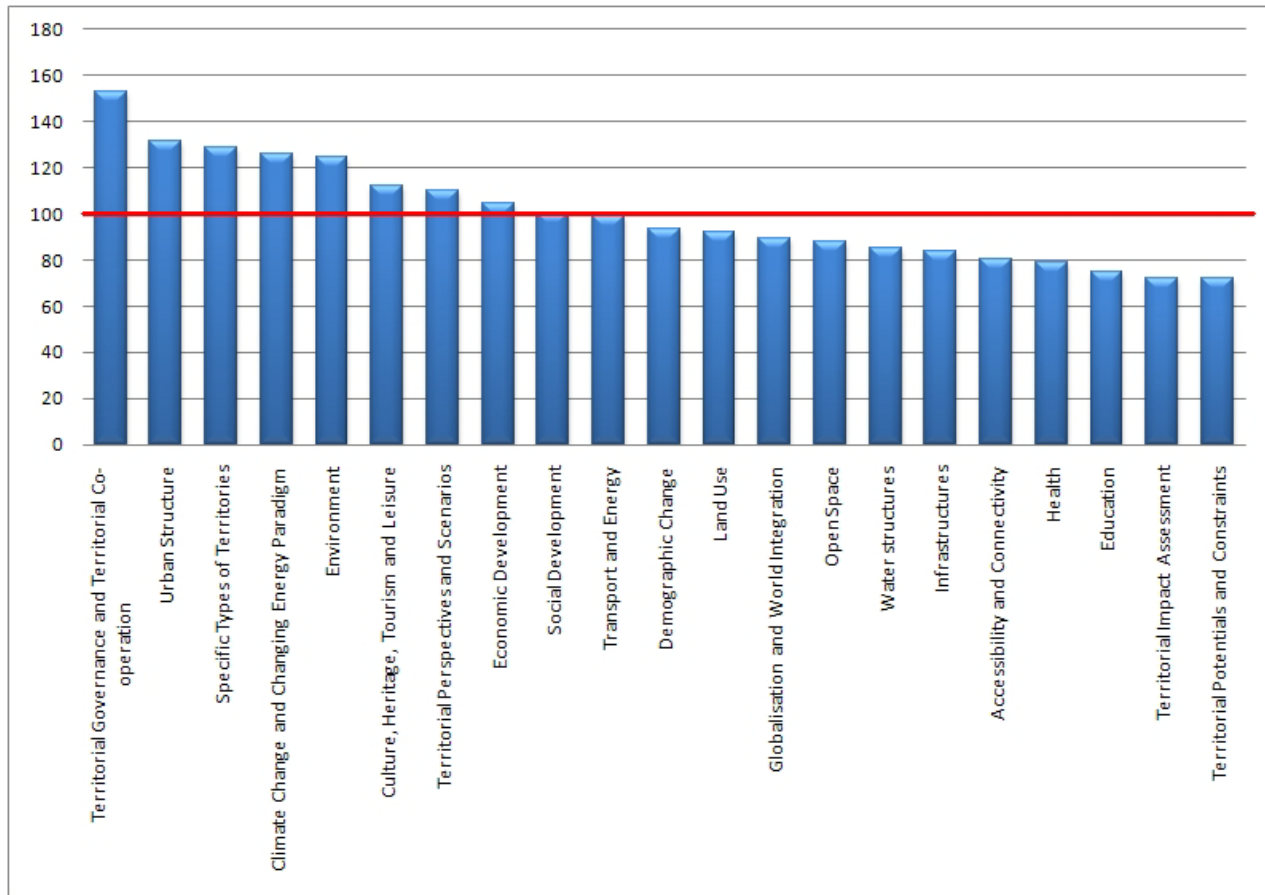
Fig. 3 – Importance of potential themes according to all stakeholders
(Index score: ref. value=average=100)



Source: ESPON CU

Figure 4 presents the most important themes from the perspective of policy makers and practitioners. In line with the previous results reflecting the responses of all stakeholders, this group of respondents was mostly interested in the themes “Territorial Governance and Co-operation” (index = 153) and “Urban Structure” (index = 132). Other themes that were considered important by this group were “Specific Types of Territories”, “Climate Change and Changing Energy Paradigm” and “Environment” (index between 125 and 129 for each). In addition, policy makers and practitioners also showed an interest in “Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Leisure” and “Territorial Perspectives and Scenarios” (index approx. 110 for each) and “Economic Development” (index = 105). The lowest interest was attributed to “Health”, “Education”, “Territorial Impact Assessment” and “Territorial Potentials and Constraints” (for all index < 80).

Figure 4 – Importance of potential themes according to policy makers and practitioners
(Index score: ref. value=average=100)



Source: ESPON CU

Table 1 below indicates which sub-themes were selected most often by all respondents to the survey. “Small and medium sized towns in Europe” and “Rural development” are the sub-themes considered most important out of all 84 sub-themes included in the questionnaire. Altogether four sub-themes of the theme “Urban Structure” featured among the ten sub-themes selected most often. This confirms the obvious interest of stakeholders in urban matters as expressed also in Figures 3 and 4 above, and the apparent need for more evidence and knowledge in this field. Of the themes “Climate Change and Changing Energy Paradigm” and “Demographic Change” three sub-themes each rank among the ten most often selected sub-themes. Even though ESPON has already done some research in both thematic fields, the prevalence of these sub-themes seems to indicate that there is still unbowed need for more knowledge.

Table 1 – Importance of sub-themes according to all stakeholders

Top 20 subthemes (out of 84)			
Ranking	Sub-theme	Ranking	Sub-theme
1	Small and medium sized towns in Europe	11	Demographic pressure (immigration regions)
2	Rural development	12	Territorial impact of economic transitions (economic crisis)
3	Urban-rural relations and sustainable forms of suburbanization	13	Depopulation areas
4	Territorial potentials for green economy	14	Transit corridors and gateways
5	Metropolitan and urban regions	15	Urban and rural territories
6	Territorial potentials for new forms and systems of energy supply in urban and rural regions	16	The role of spatial planning systems and instruments in territorial development
7	Cities as drivers for territorial development	17	Regional demographic structures (gender, age)
8	Tourism as driver for territorial development	18	States, trends and perspectives of infrastructures and infrastructure networks in Europe
9	Balanced and polycentric territorial development	19	Social inclusion, poverty and deprivation
10	Territorial dimension of European strategies for economic growth and job creation	20	Quality of life

Source: ESPON CU

4.2 Detailed ideas for new applied research

The second screening of user demand was not only limited to asking stakeholders for new applied research themes. It also requested stakeholders to identify for each potential research theme specific information needs and policy questions. In total about 75% of the respondents to the questionnaire provided detailed qualitative input to this question. The overview below presents some of the detailed ideas proposed by stakeholders on future themes for applied research projects, broken down by the four groupings that structured the questionnaire:

- **Components Structuring the EU Territory**

Under this grouping the following potential themes were gathered in the questionnaire: Urban Structure, Open Space, Infrastructures and Water Structures.

A deeper understanding of the **functioning of Europe's urban structure** remains important. Balanced and polycentric development of the European territory is a key challenge of territorial development and cohesion policy. ESPON has already paid much attention to the geographical spread of urban and economic activity throughout the European territory. Building further on and complementing the evidence from recent and ongoing ESPON applied research on cities and urban agglomerations as well as secondary growth poles, additional evidence is needed on how wider territories and in particular **small and medium-sized towns** can benefit from urban dynamics in Europe. These towns may contribute to the quality of life for European citizens. There is in this respect a need to formulate territorial potentials and development perspectives for these towns in relation to their wider urban context. The respondents refer to the role of “*smaller towns in relation to their polycentric city-networks*” or “*larger urban zones*”. One respondent stated that “*we are spending too much time looking at big cities - when the bulk of Europeans still live in medium sized settlements*”. Another stakeholder indicated the importance of “*the role of satellite towns and urban areas in achieving balanced growth*”.

A better consideration of the **role of open space and strategies to preserve** it can contribute to a more sustainable development of the European territory. This goes particularly for cases where open space takes up a complementary role nearby urban space. In this context, one participant in the survey posed the question “*how to preserve open space and minimise pressure from speculation for more building?*”

River basins, transit corridors and infrastructures are considered as lever for **integrated territorial development strategies** as they combine different potentials and challenges (e.g. risk management, ecological connection, transport and economy related activity, tourism and quality of life). One stakeholder indicated the need for an “*exploration of the concepts of gateways and transit*” and another one is looking for “*integration of transit corridors with the local infrastructures*”.

- **Territorial Key Challenges**

The questionnaire included for this grouping the following potential themes: Globalisation and World Integration, Climate Change and Changing Energy Paradigm and Demographic Change.

The **financial and economic crisis** has hit many regions throughout Europe. The economic and social consequences are visible: jobs are being lost, unemployment rates go up, prices of real estate (e.g. houses, land) decline and businesses go bankrupt. Some regions and cities are more vulnerable than others. The economic downturn that is much related to the regional economic structure entails a decline of industrial production, especially concerning investment and export-oriented goods, the automotive industry, construction and property development, logistics and transport and a cut-back in foreign direct investments. The **sensitivity to this**

crisis of different types of territories, and the territorial distribution of different impacts could be mapped. **Indicators** should be developed in order to measure the regional sensitivity to economic recession and the impact different regions and types of regions might face. Conclusions could reveal the **impact on a balanced development** of the European territory as well as the effects on convergence of regional imbalances within Europe. One respondent proposes in this respect to develop a “*vulnerability index*” in order to “*ensure a more comprehensive measurement of a country’s development status*”.

Population decline is an important policy challenge for many European regions and cities. The decrease of population is mainly a concern for regions of New Member States. **Regions and cities in decline face territorial trends** like abandonment of parts of the built surface, potential decline of GDP and tax incomes. These are of course important challenges but they can also bring new opportunities for sustainable territorial development. Respondents to the survey pointed out various possibilities in this respect: “*aged people as a resource*”, “*youth mobility on the rural labour market*”, etc.

- **Territorial Integrated Issues**

The questionnaire included for this grouping the following potential themes: Territorial Governance and Territorial Co-operation, Territorial Impact Assessment, Specific Types of Territories, Territorial Perspectives and Scenarios, Territorial Potentials and Constraints, Accessibility and Connectivity and Land Use.

Territorial development requires **good governance and cooperation**. It also requires a deeper understanding of how territories are shaped by a complex of decisions taken at different administrative levels, for different sector policies and by different types of public and private actors. There is in particular a need to understand the interactions between decisions with regard to the key objectives of territorial development and cohesion policy. One respondent indicates the need for knowledge about “*modes and tools of desirable cross-sector governance*”. Another respondent remarks a distinction “*between spatial tools of diagnosis and territorial tools of action.*”

A comprehensive overview seems to be missing on how the European territory is developing. The **state and development of the European territory** needs to be described and mapped **bringing together results** from ESPON 2013 applied research. **Integrated scenarios and development perspectives** are needed to inspire policymaking in European cities and regions. One respondent asks to “*map the needs and strengths and future desires in the regional level and [to] develop a European plan for the potential stimulation of an integrated approach*”.

Understanding the **impact of European policies** on territorial development in regions and cities remains important. Stakeholders are still keen to learn how to implement European policies and to **anticipate their effects** in a **co-ordinated** manner. One respondent says there is a “*need of evolving current TIA practices towards a more substantial incorporation in territorial policy management*”.

Territorial development is not restricted by borders and policymakers are aware of that. Co-operation with European **neighbour regions** such as in the Balkan area, the Baltic area and the

Mediterranean area is important. Territorial co-operation and development is hindered, though, by a **lack of territorial data** and **understanding of development trends** in these regions.

The respondents indicate “*immigration pressure at EU borders*” as well as “*complementarities between Europe and its neighbourhood*”. There is according to some respondents a need for “*common spatial strategies*” or “*a new ESDP at pan European Scale including both eastern and southern neighbourhood, from Russia to Sahar*”): *no valuable strategy can be done without enlarging the analysis to this upper scale*”

- **Thematic and Sector Issues**

The questionnaire included for this grouping the following potential themes: Economic Development, Social Development, Environment, Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Leisure, Transport and Energy, Education and Health.

Regions throughout Europe are confronted with **environmental challenges** and specific **types of regions** are sometimes more vulnerable to such challenges than others. Due to global warming for instance snow is disappearing in mountain areas and river deltas and coastal areas are confronted with floods. Urban areas on the other hand are more sensitive to pollution and smog. In order to develop a more territorially diversified approach to address environmental challenges a deeper understanding is needed on how different types of territories are vulnerable to the environmental challenges Europe is facing. A respondent points out needing a “*comprehensive map showing ecosystems and biodiversity, protected areas and corridors, landscape protection and natural parks*”.

Territorial development is closely linked with social aspects, as it equally affects spaces (areas, regions), and the **people who live in these spaces**, and vice versa. The interdependence and mutual influence of population and space is a core factor of territorial development. Therefore, it is essential to **integrate social aspects in territorial analyses**. A respondent, for instance, stresses the need to investigate the “*spatial dimension of inclusion aspects, including dimensions of deprived social groups in specific types of territories*”.

European regions and cities possess a **highly diverse cultural and natural heritage**. The potential loss of this heritage is an important concern as it might not only result in the disappearance of the intrinsic qualities of regions and cities. The **economic importance of heritage** might increase due to the economic transition process as referred to in the Europe 2020 Strategy. The location of new types of economic activity (e.g. knowledge economy, sustainable tourism) tends to correlate stronger with regions that dispose of cultural and/or natural heritage. Or, as one respondent underlines, we need “*case studies showing areas, forms and subjects of private investment*”.

European gateways like **sea- and airports** are important drivers for development. The territorial sediments of port-related economic activities go far beyond the location of the port. Policymakers are confronted with two trends: (1) port related activities become part of a **globalised network** in which activities that used to be located within the port area now take place wherever this seems suitable; and (2) entire regions or river deltas become part of the hinterland in which direct port-related activity takes place. The physical port hence not only

becomes a **gateway region** but this gateway region is also becoming just a chain in a globalised network of port related activities. Or, as a respondent raises the question: “How can [...] *transit corridors and gateways play a role in EU policies?*”

4.3 New applied research supporting the implementation of Europe 2020

The identification of stakeholders’ needs is of high importance for the user-oriented selection of future themes for applied research projects under Priority 1 of the ESPON 2013 Programme. The stakeholders therefore were asked to identify their personal requirements for future applied territorial research. In this respect, the stakeholders were particularly asked to express their research ideas supporting the implementation of the territorial cohesion dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy and a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the Union.

This part of the report aims at providing an overview of the contributions received from stakeholders on future themes for applied research projects that they could freely propose themselves. The following synthesises the elements stakeholders mentioned with respect to the Europe 2020 Strategy:

The Europe 2020 Strategy identifies three key drivers for growth, to be implemented through concrete actions at EU and national levels: **smart growth** (fostering knowledge, innovation, education and digital society), **sustainable growth** (making our production more resource efficient while boosting our competitiveness) and **inclusive growth** (raising participation in the labour market, the acquisition of skills and the fight against poverty). This battle for growth and jobs requires ownership at top political level and mobilisation from all actors across Europe. The strategy has an important territorial dimension and territorial cohesion policy is expected to add up to realising smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and meeting the **targets** set.

The Europe 2020 Strategy further promotes a greener economy as key asset of the priorities to create smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The green economy is to allow Europe to achieve environmental objectives as well as to create economic growth and jobs. The potential for green economic activities depends like other economic activities on the geographical context. Elements like location and regional characteristics might determine possibilities for green economic activity. A **deeper understanding of the territorial dimension of the green economy** could therefore help in formulating territorial and regional development strategies.

The responses of the stakeholders indicate a certain need for a deeper understanding of the territorial dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The respondents refer to the territorial dimension of the strategy’s targets and indicators as well as the green economy.

The responses also include some potential themes that have nowhere else been addressed:

- Territorial impact of different tax regimes
- Territorial patterns of food production and consumption
- Light-rail in rural regions
- Sustainable buildings in Europe

5. Conclusions

The purpose of this report was to analyse and compare the results of the contributions received from different groups of stakeholders (policy makers, practitioners, researchers, consultants and students) taking part in the survey on future themes for applied research projects.

In a first step the research themes that were given priority by all stakeholders were analysed. The majority of all stakeholders gave high priority to new applied research on “Urban Structure”, “Territorial Governance and Territorial Cooperation” and “Specific Types of Territories”. The results of the survey also demonstrate an above average demand for new applied research on the themes “Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Leisure”, “Climate Change and Changing Energy Paradigm” and “Environment”.

In a second step the potential research themes that were given priority by policymakers or practitioners were specifically looked at. This analysis showed that the themes mentioned above, that were considered most important by all respondents, were also of high relevance for policymakers and practitioners. In addition, though, this subgroup identified “Territorial Perspectives and Scenarios” and “Economic Development” as important themes for new applied research.

In a third step the indications stakeholders have provided as answers to the open questions were analysed. This analysis revealed something about the concrete questions stakeholders have. It shows that the stakeholders formulate many policy and research questions in relation to European neighbourhood regions, cities and regions in decline and options for integrated territorial development.

The Stakeholder Survey confirms to a large extent the interest for most of the themes already covered by the ESPON 2013 Programme:

- Cities and Urban Agglomerations/Functionality and Development Opportunities for European Competitiveness and Cohesion (FOCI)
- European Development Opportunities in Different Types of Rural Areas (EDORA)
- Demography and Migratory Flows Affecting European Regions and Cities (DEMIFER)
- Effects of Rising Energy Prices on Regional Competitiveness (RERISK)
- Territorial Impact Assessment of Policies (TIP TAP)
- Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies (ESPON CLIMATE)
- Attractiveness of European Regions and Cities for Residents and Visitors (ATTREG)
- European Patterns of Land Use
- Territorial Cooperation in Transnational Areas and Across Internal/External Borders (TERCO)
- Transport Accessibility at Regional/Local Scale and Patterns in Europe (TRACC)
- Secondary Growth Poles in Territorial Development (SGPTDE)
- European Perspective on Specific Types of Territories (GEOSPECS)
- Territorial Dimension of Innovation and Knowledge Economy (KIT)
- Continental Territorial Structures and Flows (Globalisation) (TIGER)
- Services of General Interest
- European Seas in Territorial Development

– Territorial and Regional Sensitivity of EU Directives (ARTS)

The results of these projects are or will be made accessible via the ESPON website (www.espon.eu).

Nevertheless, it is certain that information generated from the screening of stakeholder demand constitutes a good basis for determining future themes on applied research projects. It consequently supports the latter's value and usefulness in increasing evidence and knowledge on European territorial development.

Preliminary results of this survey were compiled in a discussion document that was used to ask for feedback from a group of key stakeholders at European level. The results of the survey were also used by the ESPON Concertation Committee in their deliberation on advice to the ESPON Monitoring Committee concerning themes for future applied research under Priority 1 of the ESPON 2013 Programme.

Annex

Table – Scores of themes' importance by different groups of stakeholders

Themes	All Stakeholders	Public authorities at different administrative levels		Scientific oriented stakeholders		Policy makers/ practitioners		Researchers	
	No.	No.	Index (%)	No.	Index (%)	No.	Index (%)	No.	Index (%)
1.Urban Structure	380	115	6.1	116	9.3	93	6.3	162	8.7
2.Open Space	201	78	4.1	45	3.6	62	4.2	73	3.9
3.Infrastructures	193	78	4.1	50	4.0	59	4.0	71	3.8
4.Water structures	185	76	4.0	49	3.9	60	4.0	69	3.7
5.Globalisation and World Integration	211	89	4.7	64	5.2	63	4.2	99	5.3
6.Climate Change and Changing Energy Paradigm	233	107	5.6	65	5.2	89	6.0	83	4.4
7.Demographic Change	212	90	4.8	51	4.1	66	4.4	94	5.0
8.Territorial Governance and Territorial Co-operation	278	131	6.9	82	6.6	108	7.3	117	6.3
9.Territorial Impact Assessment	133	71	3.7	35	2.8	51	3.4	54	2.9
10.Specific Types of Territories	246	113	6.0	68	5.5	91	6.1	103	5.5
11.Territorial Perspectives and Scenarios	209	99	5.2	57	4.6	78	5.3	84	4.5
12.Territorial Potentials and Constraints	154	66	3.5	45	3.6	51	3.4	71	3.8
13.Accessibility and Connectivity	162	75	4.0	48	3.9	57	3.8	67	3.6
14.Land Use	202	88	4.6	59	4.8	65	4.4	91	4.9
15.Economic Development	210	90	4.8	64	5.2	74	5.0	99	5.3
16.Social Development	206	93	4.9	53	4.3	71	4.8	100	5.4
17.Environment	230	109	5.8	80	6.4	88	5.9	104	5.6
18.Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Leisure	225	106	5.6	68	5.5	79	5.3	101	5.4
19.Transport and Energy	175	85	4.5	52	4.2	70	4.7	73	3.9
20.Education	166	69	3.6	52	4.2	53	3.6	90	4.8
21.Health	141	66	3.5	38	3.1	56	3.8	63	3.4
Total	4352	1894	100.0	1241	100.0	1484	100.0	1868	100.0

Source: ESPON CU

No. Number of subthemes indicated by respondents (As each theme includes more subthemes the total number can be higher than the total number of respondents)



**FINAL VERSION
15 March 2010**

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR STAKEHOLDERS
THEMES FOR APPLIED TERRITORIAL RESEARCH
KNOWLEDGE DEMAND FOR FUTURE CALLS FOR PROPOSALS
UNDER THE ESPON 2013 PROGRAMME**



EUROPEAN UNION
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INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

PRELUDE

The ESPON 2013 Programme – the European Observation Network on Territorial Development and Cohesion – shall support policy development in relation to territorial development and cohesion. Applied research and analysis shall provide stakeholders at European, national, regional, urban, cross-border and transnational levels with comparable facts and evidence on territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts, seen from a European perspective. This shall help improving the awareness and understanding of development opportunities in regions, cities and larger territories as well as of challenges and problematic trends that need political attention.

The ESPON Monitoring Committee is currently discussing themes for future applied research projects within the ESPON 2013 Programme. The themes selected by July 2010 will be subject of the next call for proposals under Priority 1: “Applied research on territorial development, competitiveness & cohesion; evidence on European territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts”.

The ESPON 2013 Programme foresees a regular screening of themes in demand by stakeholders. The first screening of user demand, conducted in summer 2008, delivered important knowledge about stakeholders’ need for territorial evidence. The results of this survey contributed to the definition of themes for the second round of applied research projects.

It is vital that different stakeholders again make a contribution to the definition of new themes in this second screening of user demand so actual policy development receives the best possible evidence support.

The aim in the Lisbon Treaty of Territorial Cohesion, the work on the Territorial Agenda for the European Union as well as the increasing interest in an integrated and territorial approach to the development of regions, cities and larger territories all point at a growing demand for evidence and facts. In addition, the new Europe 2020 Strategy will require that regions, cities and larger territories contribute to a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. In order to do so knowledge about the diversity of existing territorial potentials in Europe will be indispensable.

The present questionnaire serves the purpose of mapping this demand for knowledge and evidence among stakeholders involved in territorial development in different territorial contexts

and at different scales. The selection of new projects shall add up to the ongoing knowledge production as listed here below:

1. Cities and Urban Agglomerations/Functionality and Development Opportunities for European Competitiveness and Cohesion (FOCI)
2. European Development Opportunities in Different Types of Rural Areas (EDORA)
3. Demography and Migratory Flows Affecting European Regions and Cities (DEMIFER)
4. Effects of Rising Energy Prices on Regional Competitiveness (RERISK)
5. Territorial Impact Assessment of Policies (TIP TAP)
6. Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies (CLIMATE)
7. Attractiveness of European Regions and Cities for Residents and Visitors
8. European Patterns of Land Use
9. Territorial Cooperation in Transnational Areas and Across Internal/External Borders
10. Accessibility at Regional/Local Scale and Patterns in Europe
11. Secondary Growth Poles in Territorial Development
12. European Perspective on Specific Types of Territories
13. Territorial Dimension of Innovation and Knowledge Economy
14. Continental Territorial Structures and Flows (Globalisation)
15. Services of General Interest
16. European Seas in Territorial Development
17. Territorial and Regional Sensitivity of EU Directives

By answering the following questions you will contribute to a sound identification of themes and territorial issues, considered to be important from your perspective. The results of this stakeholder screening will be used in the process of the ESPON Monitoring Committee selecting themes for applied territorial research and will significantly support the ESPON 2013 Programme in meeting your demands. The results will be published in a report on the ESPON Website.

You should base your answers on your personal considerations keeping in mind the possible contribution of ESPON projects in supporting you in your work. Your contribution will be treated anonymously.

In case you have any queries do not hesitate to contact the ESPON CU (rene.vanderlecq@espon.eu or mariusz.matyjaszczyk@espon.eu).

Please take the 10 minutes needed to express your need for new evidence.

Thank you in advance for your time, involvement and cooperation.

I.) Areas of potentially new applied research themes

The ESPON 2013 Programme offers under Priority 1 Applied Research the possibility to analyse a range of themes and territorial issues. These themes can be cross-thematic or thematic (defining territorial potentials and challenges), including studies of territorial trends, prospective studies and territorial impacts of EU policies.

Please select maximum 9 out of the 21 research areas listed below. The selection should reflect the particular knowledge needs you experience in your daily work. Please further specify your research demand by selecting for each chosen research area up to 2 sub-themes.

Components Structuring the EU Territory

1. Urban Structure

- a. States, trends and perspectives of the urban structure in Europe
- b. Balanced and polycentric territorial development
- c. Cities as drivers for territorial development
- d. Metropolitan and urban regions
- e. Small and medium sized towns in Europe
- f. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

2. Open Space

- a. States, trends and perspectives of the open space in Europe
- b. Pressure on open space
- c. Rural development
- d. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

3. Infrastructures

- a. States, trends and perspectives of infrastructures and infrastructure networks in Europe
- b. Transit corridors and gateways
- c. High-tech infrastructures (broadband)
- d. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

4. Water structures

- a. States, trends and perspectives of the water structures in Europe
- b. River basins and deltas as structuring component for territorial development
- c. European seas and territorial development
- d. Waterways
- e. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

Territorial Key Challenges

5. Globalisation and World Integration

- a. Territorial impact of economic transitions (economic crisis)
- b. Territorial dimension of European strategies for economic growth and job creation
- c. Information flows and knowledge networks at global level
- d. Global flows and their hubs for people and goods
- e. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

6. Climate Change and Changing Energy Paradigm
 - a. Regional variations in energy use of households
 - b. Territorial potentials for new forms and systems of energy supply in urban and rural regions
 - c. Territorial potentials for a green economy
 - d. Natural hazards
 - e. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

7. Demographic Change
 - a. Depopulation areas
 - b. Demographic pressure (immigration regions)
 - c. Regional demographic structures (e.g. gender, age)
 - d. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

Territorial Integrated Issues

8. Territorial Governance and Territorial Co-operation
 - a. Multi-level governance for territorial development and subsidiarity
 - b. Cross-sector governance for territorial development
 - c. Potentials for and experiences in integrated regional co-operation (cross-border, transnational, interregional and macro-regional) in Europe
 - d. The role of spatial planning systems and instruments in territorial development
 - e. The role of private sector investment in European territorial development and potential for public-private collaboration
 - f. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

9. Territorial Impact Assessment

- a. Territorial impact of European key strategies
- b. Territorial impact of European investments (e.g. TEN, CAP)
- c. Territorial impact of European directives
- d. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

10. Specific Types of Territories

- a. Urban and rural territories
- b. Coastal and inland territories
- c. Core and peripheral territories
- d. Sparsely and densely populated areas
- e. Regions with a specific development identity (islands, mountains, industrial transition)
- f. Drivers for development in specific types of regions
- g. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

11. Territorial Perspectives and Scenarios

- a. Territorial development trends (actual changes)
- b. Territorial development perspectives (desired futures)
- c. Territorial development scenarios (possible futures)
- d. Territorial concepts for an integrated development of the European territory
- e. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

12. Territorial Potentials and Constraints

- a. Regional functional specialisation
- b. Complementarities and clusters in nearby European regions
- c. Complementarities through long-distance networking between European regions
- d. Regional capacity to exploit existing potentials
- e. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

13. Accessibility and Connectivity

- a. Integration of new EU Member States in the European territory
- b. Access to services, markets, jobs and housing
- c. Connectivity of European regions and cities
- d. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

14. Land Use

- a. Densities in Europe
- b. Urban-rural relations and sustainable forms of suburbanisation
- c. Location policies for economic and human activities
- d. Landscapes and integrated development of territorial functions
- e. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

Thematic and Sector Issues

15. Economic Development

- a. Entrepreneurship and creation and expansion of new businesses
- b. Economic clusters and attractive business environments

- c. Research, development, ICT and innovation
- d. Transport and logistics as driver for economic development
- e. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

16. Social Development

- a. Social inclusion, poverty and deprivation
- b. Safety and security
- c. Employment and income of households
- d. Quality of life
- e. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

17. Environment

- a. Risk management
- b. Ecosystem and biodiversity
- c. Protected areas (NATURA 2000) and ecological corridors
- d. Low-emission settlements
- e. Landscape protection and natural parks
- f. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

18. Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Leisure

- a. Urban regeneration and landscapes
- b. Tourism as driver for territorial development
- c. Private investment (theme parks, retail)
- d. Tourism pressure on cultural and natural heritage
- e. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

19. Transport and Energy

- a. Road, rail and waterway investment
- b. Multimodal transport systems
- c. Road pricing
- d. Renewable energy
- e. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

20. Education

- a. (Changes in) regional level of education
- b. Labour market, labour skills and education
- c. Regional education infrastructures
- d. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

21. Health

- a. Medical care as territorial potential
- b. Labour market shortages in the medical sector
- c. Regional adaptation to an ageing society
- d. Life expectancy
- e. Other (Please specify)

Please indicate for each selected subtheme your specific information need and policy questions?

II.) Your ideas for future applied research themes

The identification of your personal requirements for future applied territorial research is very important from the ESPON 2013 Programme point of view. Please specify below any other themes and topics that you consider to be relevant, in addition to those listed above.

You are in particular asked to express your research ideas supporting the implementation of the territorial cohesion dimension of the **Europe 2020 Strategy** and a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the Union. If possible, please also include some key research and policy questions and guidelines, which can support the specification of an applied research project.

Themes for applied research supporting the territorialisation of the Europe 2020 Strategy:

III.) Please indicate whether you are working for:

- | | |
|--|---|
| a.) public authority on European level | b.) organisation / authority on transnational level |
| c.) public authority on national level | d.) organisation / authority on cross-border level |
| e.) public authority on regional level | f.) public authority on local level |
| g.) research institute | h.) private body (e.g. consultancy, expert) |
| i.) university (specify the Faculty) | j.) other (please specify): |

IV.) Please indicate whether you consider yourself mostly as:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| a.) policy maker | b.) practitioner or policy implementation officer |
| c.) researcher | d.) consultant |
| e.) student | f.) other (please specify): |

V.) Please indicate the country you come from:

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Thank you a lot for taking the time to answer this survey!

The results of this questionnaire will be published on the ESPON website mid 2010.