

// ESPON Week in Slovenia 29 November -2 December 2021

Consultation of the first four thematic priorities of the ESPON 2030 Programme

Quality of Life for territorial and citizen-centric policies

Programme version: 22/11/2021

All hours indicated in the programme are CET

// Context and objectives

The ESPON week from 29 November to 2 December 2021 is organised in cooperation with the Slovenian Presidency of the EU Council in the framework of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme, which aims to support policy development for promoting territorial cohesion and harmonious development of the European territory.

All events are taking place online.

The week addresses European, regional and local policymakers, as well as researchers, practitioners and experts.

One of the highlights of the week will be an introduction to the new ESPON 2030 Cooperation Programme and the official launch of the consultation process to define thematic priorities for future research activities by ESPON.

The discussion will revolve around the four following areas:

- Perspective for all people and places,
- Climate neutral territories,
- Governance of new geographies,
- Resilient places to crises.

During the meeting participants will learn more about the structure of the new programme and will actively contribute to shaping its main activities for the next few years.

The second key moment of the week is the ESPON Seminar, which aims at discussing “Quality of Life for territorial and citizen-centric policies” bringing together latest research on the topic and policy challenges.

Improving the Quality of Life is a key objective for policymakers at different scales, and it has become more relevant in the policy agenda along with increasing demands for the participation of citizens in the political process. But how can we measure quality of life and its impact on policymaking?

Until now, level of income and standard of living have been used to assess our personal success and Quality of Life. Yet, there is an ongoing discussion on how quality-of-life indicators can complement economic and social indicators to measure territorial development and link growth, prosperity and quality of life in a way that is reducing inequalities and harmful impacts on the environment.



The COVID-19 outbreak, underlined new, unprecedented challenges that affect directly our living conditions. The potential changes to our way of life are manifold, as this crisis has spared no territory and has had uneven impacts at global and local levels.

In this framework, the ESPON seminar brings together some of the most prominent organisations that are working on in Europe and combines them with insights from the latest ESPON studies that provide a newly developed methodology to assess QoL through a place-based and citizen-centric approach.

Among others, participants will also be offered during the week:

- a new release of **TerritoriALL**, the ESPON magazine, investigating the priorities of the Slovenian Presidency, latest ESPON research and an outlook on the future ESPON 2030 Cooperation Programme,
- A new policy brief summarizing ESPON research on "Quality of Life for territorial and citizen-centric policies",
- A new Atlas featuring multiple indicators to depict quality of life in Slovenia and in neighbouring regions,
- and a series of online workshops to get to know more and discuss latest ESPON research.

// The week in a nutshell

MON 29/11	TUE 30/11	WED 01/12	THU 02/12
Release of the 5th edition of TerritoriALL , the ESPON magazine	Publication of the joint ESPON – Slovenian Presidency's policy brief on Quality of Life	ESPON Seminar Insights from recently released research on Quality of Life and high-level policy debate	ESPON Seminar Thematic workshops
	Kick-off event for the consultation on the new ESPON 2030 Programme	Thematic workshops	

// Programme

TUESDAY

14:00 **Opening ****
14.30 **Parallel Sessions ****
16.30 **Parallel Sessions ****

18:00 End of the day

WEDNESDAY

09:00 **Opening ***
09:30 **Keynotes ***
11:15 **Policy debate ***

13:30 **Parallel workshops ***

17:30 End of the day

THURSDAY

09:00 **Parallel workshops ***

12:30 End of the seminar

* sessions accessible on www.espon.eu, [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), [Twitter](https://www.twitter.com) or [Teams](https://www.teams.com)

** sessions accessible online only for registered participants



// Monday, 29 November

- 9:00 **Publication of the joint ESPON – Slovenian Presidency's Policy Brief "Quality of life for territorial and citizen-centric policies – how to empower people as actors of change"**
- This policy brief invites all to engage in a culture of collaboration and co-creation, and to experiment innovative policy practices. Proactive engagement of all of us in policymaking is necessary and will help policymakers to understand what affects our quality of life. This approach will facilitate the design and better implementation of place-based and coordinated public policies and consequently help us to decide on the future of our territories together.

// Tuesday, 30 November

- 9:00 **Release of the 5th edition of TerritoriALL, the ESPON magazine**
- This new issue will be focusing on the different approaches of Quality of Life and how it affects the design of public policies at the territorial level. As usually, it will also introduce and discuss newly released ESPON research and give the floor to prominent authors from the academic world, from EU institutions and from national and local authorities. Eventually, the reader will find a presentation of the objectives and framework of the future ESPON 2030 cooperation programme as well as information on how to contribute shaping the future of ESPON research.

14:00 - 18:00 **Consultation on the future ESPON 2030 Cooperation Programme**

The future ESPON Programme intends to actively engage and exchange with policymakers and scientists on the state-of-the art of the existing research on territorial matters, on the evidence and knowledge needs for current policy processes and to collect a wide range of proposals for research activities to ensure the relevance and added value of ESPON future activities. The Kick-off Day aims to launch a participative process that will shape the content of the future ESPON activities and raise awareness about the four first thematic work-streams to be opened, called Thematic Action Plans.

13:30: Registration and COVID Check

14:00 - 14:30 Introduction to the new programme, objectives and modalities of the consultation process, presentation of the first four thematic priorities

// Tiemo W. Eser, ESPON Managing Authority

// Blanka Bartol, Chair of the ESPON Monitoring Committee (Slovenian Presidency)

// Wiktor Szydarowski, Director of the ESPON EGTC

14:30 – 16:00 "Climate neutral territories"

Moderator: Ivana Lazic, Interact Programme

Introduction of the theme: Marjan Van Herwijnen, ESPON EGTC

// Tamás Pálvölgyi, Budapest University of Technology & Economics (HU)

// Mikel González-Eguino, Basque Centre for Climate Change (ES)

// Rose Power, Southern Regional Assembly (IR)

[Read the input paper Thematic Action Plan \(TAP\) on 'Climate neutral territories'](#)



14:30 – 16:00 “Governance of new geographies”

Moderator: Sabine Stoelb, Ministry of Energy and Spatial Planning (LU)

Introduction of the theme: Zintis Hermansons, ESPON EGTC

// Nikolaos Karadimitriou, University College London (EL)

// Barbara Bez nec, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SI)

// Klemen Miklavic, Mayor of Nova Gorica (SI)

// Peter Austin, Oslo City Hall (NO)

[Read the input paper Thematic Action Plan \(TAP\) on ‘Governance of new geographies’](#)

16:00: Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00 “Perspective for all people and places”

Moderator: Ivana Lazic, Interact Programme

Introduction of the theme: Andreea China, ESPON EGTC

// Karima Kourtit, Open University of the Netherlands (NL)

// Janez Nared, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SI)

// Rui Inácio, Portuguese Cohesion and Development Agency (PT)

// Joost Kuijper, Province Overijssel (NL)

// Natalija Haviđić, Ministry of Tourism and Sport (HR)

[Read the input paper Thematic Action Plan \(TAP\) on ‘Perspectives for all people and places’](#)

16:30 – 18:00 “Places resilient to crises”

Moderator: Sabine Stoelb, Ministry of Energy and Spatial Planning (LU)

Introduction of the theme: Michaela Gensheimer, ESPON EGTC

// Carolina Serpieri, Sapienza University of Rome (IT)

// Efren Feliu, Tecnalia (ES)

// John Bachtler, University of Strathclyde (UK) (tbc)

// Igor Caldeira, European Committee of the Regions (CoR)

// Xabier Velasco Echeverria, NASUVINSA (ES)

[Read the input paper Thematic Action Plan \(TAP\) on ‘Places resilient to crises’](#)



// Wednesday, 1 December

ESPON seminar: Quality of Life for territorial and citizen-centric policies

Moderation: The debate will be moderated by Jon Worth, political blogger, journalist and editor, covering EU affairs. All sessions include live interaction with the audience on site and on line.

9:00 **Welcome and opening**

// Andrej Vizjak, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

// Wiktor Szydarowski, Director of ESPON EGTC

9:30 **Keynote - The impacts of COVID on living conditions and quality of life in rural and urban areas**

// Massimiliano Mascherini, Eurofound

10:15 **Introduction to ESPON research: Measuring territorial Quality of Life – An outlook on Slovenia**

// Blanka Bartol, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

// Sandra Di Biaggio, ESPON EGTC

// Vassilen Iotzov, ESPON EGTC

// Janez Nared, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

11:00 Break

11:15 **Policy debate: Quality of Life for territorial and citizen-centric policies**

// Romina Boarini, Director of Centre for Well-Being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity, OECD

// Franc Bogovič, Member of the European Parliament

// Lili Madjar, Director of the Regional Agency of the Ljubljana Urban region

// Alenka Smerkolj, Secretary General, Alpine Convention

// Wiktor Szydarowski, Director, ESPON EGTC

12:30 Break



13:30 – 17:30 Thematic (parallel) workshops – make your own programme!

13:30 – 14:45 Territorial Scenarios for the Danube and Adriatic Ionian Macro-regions

This session will present and discuss territorial development scenarios for the EUSDR and EUSAIR as means to enhance the territorial dimension of the respective EU Strategies and to embed the territorial evidence in policymaking at relevant levels of the countries involved in their implementation. It will also give the opportunity to address recommendations on possible policy pathways (policy actions requiring joint attention of the EUSDR and EUSAIR governance bodies and other levels of governance) to steer the development towards the chosen scenarios. Taking this framework into account key elements are: areas soft cooperation and multi-level governance actions.

Moderator: Franziska Sielker, University of Cambridge (UK)

// Maria Toptsidou, Spatial Foresight (LU)

// Lenča Humerca Šolar, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (SI)

// Mathilde Konstantopoulou, Ministry of Development & Investments (EL)

// Robert Lichtner, Danube Strategic Point, EUSDR, (AU)

14:00 – 15:15 Interregional relations in Europe: will the pandemic result in deeper interdependencies or in increased divergence between regions?

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about a change in the way people live, work and travel. The closure of the EU's internal and external borders or other protective measures introduced by policymakers has affected cross-border mobility as well as cross-border (but not only) regions' societies and labour markets. Even though the EU external cross-border flows were in the past vulnerable to various political and economic factors (e.g. introducing a visa system, agreement on local cross-border traffic), only the pandemic showed how relevant are such measures for noticeable and broad change in international mobility. This session will present the first results of the ESPON applied research which aims at analysing interregional relations and investigate how interdependencies can be drivers for and/or barriers to the development of competitiveness and cohesion. The session will also provide the opportunity to present a new analysis of flows of goods, services, people, capital and knowledge between Slovenian regions and other European regions and discuss their possible consequences for renewed regional strategies in Slovenia.

Moderators: Nicolas Rossignol, ESPON EGTC (LU), Xavier Velasco, NASUVINSA (ES)

// Sheila Izquieta Rojano, NASUVINSA (ES)

// Carlos Llano, CEPREDE (ES)

// Dimitris Kallioras, University of Thessaloniki (EL)

14:00 – 15:15 Digital innovation in governance and public service provision: how to generate public value and increase the quality of life through digital transformation

Digital transformation has the potential to profoundly change public institutions. Not only by delivering better, cheaper, more efficient and more empathetic public services that meet user needs, but also because those institutions will provide a new foundation, a new digital infrastructure serving the whole of society. Digital transformation can be the great equalizer as well as divider, and the success lies in the ability of working together through international networks, multilevel governance frameworks, across the different departments, with the people, academia, industry and entrepreneurs to deploy and scale up best practices. This session will present the findings of the ESPON DIGISER project - Digital Innovation in Governance and Public Service Provision - and put them in the wider policy context and investment priorities for the upcoming programming period.

Moderator: Martin Gauk, ESPON EGTC (LU)

// Grazia Concilo Politecnico di Milano (IT)

// Michelangelo Sechi Politecnico di Milano (IT)

// Margarida Campolargo Open and Agile Smart Cities (PT)

**14:15 – 15:30 Metropolitan areas and Cohesion Policy**

Metropolitan areas have an important role in supporting the quality of life of their citizens. Speakers at this online workshop will use the final METRO project findings to address the role of cohesion policy in planning and implementing metropolitan policies, while also reflecting on how these policies can help to achieve cohesion policy objectives. At this workshop experienced policymakers and experts will explore opportunities, challenges, and objectives of the cohesion policy in metropolitan areas, and how a metropolitan dimension will contribute to enhance the quality of life in their territories.

Coordinator: Piera Petruzzi, ESPON egtc

Moderator: Lia Brum, Metropolis (ES)

- // Alessandra Barbieri, Municipality of Florence (IT)
- // Christophe Demaziere, DEMAZIERE (FR)
- // Claudia Fassero, Citta Metropolitana di Torino (IT)
- // Clémentine Dubois, Metropolitan Area of Lyon (FR)
- // Filipe Ferreira, Lisbon Metropolitan Area (PT)
- // Giancarlo Cotella, Politecnico di Torino (IT)
- // Jacek Zaucha / Iwona Sagan, Institute for development (PL)
- // Joanna Bogdziewicz-Wróblewska, Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot Metropolitan Area (PL)
- // Luděk Sýkora, Charles University (CZ)
- // Marc Marti Costa, Barcelona Institute of Regional and Metropolitan Studies (ES)
- // Mario Vale, University of Lisbon (PT)
- // Mário Vale, University of Lisbon, (PT)
- // Pietro Reviglio, Eurocities (BE)
- // Sandrine De Meyer, perspective.brussels (BE)
- // Xavi Tiana, Barcelona Metropolitan Area (ES)
- // Zaiga Krišjāne, University of Latvia, LV

15:00 – 16:15 Re-setting tourism industry for improving quality of life for residents

This session will highlight the need new understanding of tourism within territorial development, addressing the question of enhancing the collaboration of stakeholders for embedding the tourism in the local economy and environment. Measuring the carrying capacity of tourism offers the opportunity to reduce the pressure of over tourism on the environment as on the quality of life for residents.

Moderator: Tomaž Miklavčič, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (SI)

- // Majda Odar, Triglav National Park and Unesco Biosphere Reserve management (SI) (tbc)
- // Klemen Langus, Turizem Bohinj (SI) (tbc)
- // Miro Kristan, Posoški razvojni center (SI) (tbc)
- // Bernd Schuh, OIR (AU) (tbc)

15:15 – 16:30 Soft territorial cooperation: how mapshots can help policymakers? Inspiration from good practices in Lithuania, Greater Region and Alpine Region

In the Territorial Agenda adopted in December 2020, Member States commit themselves to take "engage with local and regional decision makers to strengthen cooperation on long-term place-based strategies and address sustainable functional links between neighbouring areas". Soft territorial cooperation can contribute to the promotion of the integrated multilevel governance approaches and mapshots are an important tool in this process, providing a synthetic representation of evidence, expert opinions and stakeholder perceptions. This workshop will be based on ESPON activities carried out in Lithuania, Greater Region and Alpine Region and will show how mapshots can help policymakers and participatory approaches in relation to territorial cooperation.

Moderator: Susan Brockett (NO) (tbc)

- // Erik Gloersen, Spatial Foresight (LU) (tbc)
- // Frederick-Christoph Richter, Ministry of Spatial Planning and Energy (LU) (tbc)
- // Karolis Kinčius, Ministry of Environment (LT) (tbc)
- // Marco Kellenberger, Federal Office for Spatial Development (CH) (tbc)

16:30 – 17:30 Communicating science to policy makers



With the support of senior journalists and professionals in communication matters, this session will focus on providing hints on how to better communicate science to policy makers, while taking example out of recent ESPON research activities.

Moderator: Nikos Lampropoulos, ESPON EGTC (LU)

- // Jon Worth, Journalist and editor (UK/DE)
- // Alessandra Briganti, Journalist at ANSA (IT)
- // Natasa Briski, Journalist, co-founder of metinalista.si (SI)

// Thursday, 2 December

Thematic (parallel) workshops – make your own programme!

09:30 – 10:45 **How living labs can bring European, national and regional policies closer to citizens**

The ESPON approach to quality of life can be used at various geographical levels, which can offer a better reflection of where people live, work and engage in recreation. The Slovenian EU Presidency in cooperation with ESPON engaged in the further development and deepening of the approach to place-based and citizen-centric quality of life assessments, and applied it to the tri-national functional cross-border region of Coastal–Karst Region in Slovenia, county of Istria in Croatia and Trieste in Italy. This session will investigate how this case study could inspire better territorial policymaking, for instance while implementing pilot actions of the Territorial Agenda 2030 of the EU.

Moderator: Kai Boehme, Spatial Foresight (LU)

- // Carlo Sessa, ISINNOVA (IT)
- // Tomaž Miklavčič, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (SI)
- // Marc Pfister, Federal Office for Spatial Development (CH)
- // Michael Flood, OECD
- // Iga Solecka, Post-doc researcher, Institute of Spatial Management, Wrocław University of Environment and Life Sciences (PL)

09:30 – 10:45 **Integrated development of large lakes in Europe: ESPON contribution to a framework concept**

This session will present and discuss perspectives for more integrated development in European large lake regions, focusing in three lake regions: Balaton, Constance and Västra Götaland. The approach and recommendations developed in this ESPON activity combines a European perspective benefiting all large lake regions in Europe and can be used as the basis for a framework concept for integrated development in large lakes regions.

Moderator: Erik Gloersen, Spatial Foresight (LU) (tbc)

- // Clément Corbineau, Spatial Foresight (LU)
- // Károly Fekete, Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency (HU) (tbc)
- // Laila Gibson, Vänercooperation, (SE) (tbc)
- // Luisa Pedrazzini, MC representative Italy (IT)

09:30 – 10:45 **Comparing regions in multiple contexts**

In this session we will explore how policymakers can make use of the ESPON REGICO tool to compare and benchmark their regions in multiple contexts. Practical application cases how regional and national authorities can apply the tool functionalities will be presented and discussed. Furthermore the technical handling of the tool will be demonstrated, allowing interested participants to independently make use of its functionalities.

Moderator: Stephanie Kirchmayr-Novak, OIR (AT)

11:00 – 12:15 **The new ESPON Greenhouse Gas Impact Assessment tool**

This session will show how regional and local policy makers, responsible for spatial planning in their regions, can be supported in reducing the GHG emissions. It will present and discuss the Greenhouse Gas Impact Assessment tool (GGIA tool), a tool developed by the QGasSP targeted analysis, to estimate the impacts of spatial plans on GHG emissions. The methodology integrated in the tool addresses land



use changes and changes in buildings, transport and electricity. The use of the tool will be illustrated and discussed during the workshop using examples of the four stakeholder regions behind the project.

Moderator: Marjan van Herwijnen, ESPON EGTC (LU)

// Kimmo Sakari Lylykangas, Tallinn University of Technology (FI)

// QGasSP researchers and stakeholders

11:00 – 12:15 **Territorial indicators based on big data from private digital platforms**

In March 2020 the European Commission reached a landmark agreement with Airbnb, Booking, Expedia Group and Tripadvisor on sharing tourism data. As the first incoming data is being published by Eurostat as experimental statistics, the workshop will deliberate on what kind of big data can be extracted from private digital platforms and where the challenge lies. In particular, the recent ESPON BIG data and territorial indicators project will be presented along with experiences from big data enthusiasts. The session will conclude with a reflection on how the ESPON programme could build a lasting cooperation with private digital platforms, allowing for big data sharing and extraction on a regular basis for the purpose of developing territorial indicators (which would be useful also for measuring quality of life).

Moderator: Zintis Hermansons, ESPON EGTC

// Jan-Philipp Kramer and Georg Klose, Prognos AG (DE)

// José Vila, Devstat (ES)

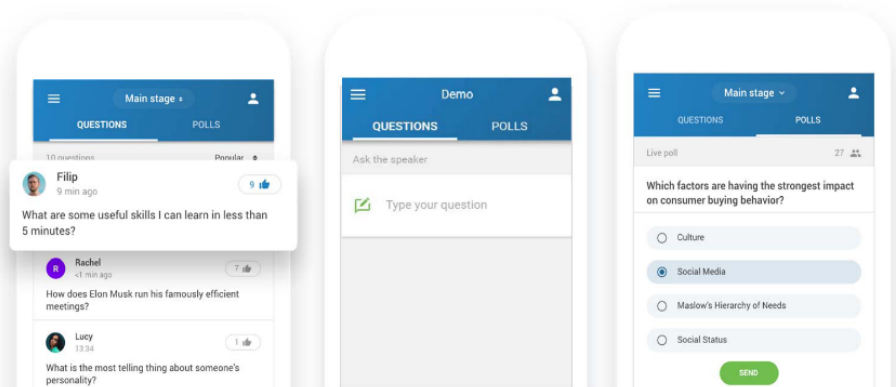
// Eurostat representative (tbc)

// Juergen Wastl, Digital Science (UK)

// Luigi La Riccia, Politecnico di Torino (IT)



// 3 easy steps to join the interactive debate



Ask questions and upvote the ones you like

Stay anonymous or attach your name to the question

Share your thoughts and opinions by voting in live polls

All hours indicated in the programme are CET

Find the most recent updates on our website: <https://www.espon.eu/quality-life>