



*Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti*

ESP  N



**Inspire policy making by territorial evidence**

## **ESPON 2013 Programme Seminar**

# **Territories Acting for Economic Growth: Using territorial evidence to meet challenges towards 2020**

**4 and 5 December 2014**

### **Venue:**

Ministry of Infrastructures and Transports,  
Via Nomentana, 2  
Rome - Italy

## **Programme**



EUROPEAN UNION  
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## Overview

### Scope

This seminar in Rome will in particular focus on ESPON 2013 Programme results in relation to thematic priorities of the current Trio of EU Presidency countries, Italy, Latvia and Luxembourg. The seminar will address themes and integrated approaches that can stimulate territories, regions and cities in providing the necessary contributions to economic growth. In doing so, it will also look towards the long term future of the European territory.

Territorial evidence with pan-European coverage has become very rich and is one important element for picking the right investments to recover from the crisis and develop further, contributing to the aims of the Europe 2020 Strategy and Cohesion Policy 2014-2020.

The European policy debate has recently emphasised the growing need for addressing both towns and inner areas (areas with poor access to basic services) from a European perspective, but also in the national, regional and local context.

The diverse capacity of inner areas and their often poor access to basic services of general interest is a reality in almost all European countries. The living conditions here are less favourable than in other parts of Europe, however development potentials exist that need to be explored. This issue has been raised by the current Italian EU Presidency and is being considered by policy makers in terms of shared policy principles and specific objectives with regard to the Europe 2020 Strategy.

European towns of all sizes are important components of the European urban system. Their development is a common challenge for almost all European countries, to ensure that these places keep up providing adequate living conditions and don't lose out of the recovery process. Their size, functionality and proximity to larger cities seem the most important factors for their development.

The incoming Latvian EU Presidency has put a greater focus of the European policy dialogue on towns of different sizes. Together with metropolitan areas, second tier cities and other cities, towns form an integral part of considerations on a European Urban Agenda, which is currently taken up at European level.

A longer time perspective on the European territory is important for making the best possible public and private investments today. European scenarios and a European territorial vision for 2050 have recently entered the policy debate and will be further addressed by the Luxembourg EU Presidency during autumn 2015.

To support informed policy development, ESPON tools and monitoring are crucial for the choices of policymakers, for benchmarking their territories and deciding on what to invest where. The higher level of insight in European territorial dynamics now available represents an important opportunity for strengthening a territorial dimension in policy making. The ESPON toolbox is now more comprehensive than ever before and ready for a more extensive use.

Using European insight for inspiration and benchmarking of national, regional and local territories improves the capacity to better harvest the territorial diversities within Europe, and create further development and economic growth. To succeed in this ambition, reaching out to more policymakers and fostering an even wider uptake of the territorial evidence produced becomes very important.

## **Purpose**

The seminar shall address the above themes and approaches scoping the seminar. The dialogue and exchange between policy makers, researchers and experts at the seminar pursues the following purposes:

- Promote territories as actors for economic growth and the use of integrated territorial strategies.
- Discuss new solutions for re-balancing territorial development trends to the benefit of inner areas making them more productive places, also supported by closer rural-urban partnership and use of natural and cultural heritage assets.
- Discuss ways of making towns more dynamic, attractive and competitive and more accessible while still maintaining their identity and endogenous characters.
- Present and discuss the latest results of ESPON, including territorial visions and scenarios for 2050, regional resilience, poverty and social exclusion, and new ESPON toolbox developments.
- Consider ways of enlarging the outreach and uptake of ESPON results in policy at different levels based on experiences from transnational capitalisation efforts by ESPON.

The seminar will provide a unique opportunity for networking and for actors and decision makers at different administrative levels to engage with researchers and experts in reflections on further uptake of territorial evidence in policy development, and on demands for evidence and activities that could be covered by the ESPON 2020 Programme.

## **Flow**

The morning of the first day will, in two plenary sessions, focus on important themes for the European policy development. The first plenary session will address the challenge of counteracting impacts of the crisis by territories acting for economic growth. The second session will focus on the themes of inner areas and towns posing the questions of relevant investments and use of integrated strategies.

In the afternoon of the first day six parallel workshops will be arranged in two rounds. The workshops will take up issues raised in the plenary sessions and cross them with the relevant ESPON territorial evidence available. In addition, the workshops will address the latest results from ESPON applied research projects, targeted analyses and scientific platform projects. An important focus in the workshop discussions will be on key messages useful for policy makers in the context of Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 and in policy development promoting policy orientations of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Territorial Agenda 2020.

The first three workshops will deal with the practical use of integrated strategies for territories, concrete solutions for inner areas and the future of Europe's towns. The subsequent three workshops will address the territorial vision and scenarios for 2050, regional resilience, poverty and social exclusion as well as European evidence for territorial cooperation areas such as European macro regions.

The second day will begin with a third plenary session looking into new elements of the ESPON toolbox. The selective choice made will focus on presenting progress on four improvements: The European Territorial Monitoring System and a related, tailor-made monitoring system for the Baltic Sea Region, a web-based application for Territorial Impact Assessment and a screening of the possible use of Big Data by ESPON.

Before lunch, a fourth plenary session will present experiences and achievements in terms of capitalisation upon ESPON results at the transnational level through efforts made by the ESPON Contact Point Network and discuss how an even wider outreach could become reality in the future.

Finally, the seminar will close with an outlook on the ESPON 2020 Programme and the new ESPON EGTC, and with presentations of the intentions and timetables for the upcoming Latvian and Luxembourg EU Presidencies before the farewell by the Italian EU Presidency.

### **Audience**

A warm welcome is extended to policy makers, stakeholders, practitioners, scientists and experts, who are interested in the topics addressed at the seminar and who want to influence the further European policy processes on territorial issues and support the use of European territorial evidence for policy development and ESIF programmes implementation.

## Wednesday 3 December 2014

19:30

### **Welcome cocktail**

Welcome speech: Alessandro Coppola, Municipality of Rome

## Thursday 4 December 2014

8:30

### **Registration of participants and welcome coffee/tea**

9:00

### **Welcome and Opening**

Chair of the day: Paolo Emilio Signorini, Head of Department, Ministry of Infrastructures and Transports, Italy

#### **Welcome statements**

- Enrico Vicenti, Diplomatic Advisor to the Minister of Infrastructures and Transports, Italy
- Alessandro Coppola, Municipality of Rome

#### **Aims of the seminar**

- Peter Mehlbye, Director of the ESPON Coordination Unit

9:45

### **Plenary Session 1**

### **Counteracting the crisis: Territories Acting for Economic Growth**

The opening plenary session will address drivers and possible directions for territories to take in order to deliver on the Europe 2020 Strategy, Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 and the Territorial Agenda 2020.

The session will focus on efforts made in Italy. Key issues include the re-launch and use of integrated territorial strategies for regions and larger territories as means for added growth and job creation.

*Moderator:* Fabio Croccolo, Director General, Ministry of Infrastructures and Transports, Italy

- Key note speaker: Enrico Giovannini, Professor in Economic Statistics, University of "Tor Vergata", Rome
- Key note speaker: Alessandro Balducci, Professor in Urban Planning, Politecnico of Milan

#### **Feedback statements from panel**

- Marina Mastrostefano, European Commission, DG for Regional and Urban Policy
- Thiemo Eser, ESPON Monitoring Committee Member, Luxembourg
- Didier Michal, ESPON Monitoring Committee Member, France
- Adrian Healy, ESPON ECR2 Project

#### **Plenary reaction**

11:15 - 11:45

### **Networking with coffee and tea**

11:45

## Plenary Session 2

### Investment and Integrated Strategies supporting Towns and Inner Areas

Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 shall support investment in growth and jobs around Europe. The potentials and challenges of regions and cities are diverse and the crisis has hit regions and countries asymmetrically. Focus on a few thematic objectives and focus on investment priorities are key, and new tools such as Integrated Territorial Investment and Strategies are available.

Place based approaches to economic investment are important to ensure adequate living conditions and access to basic services in small and medium sized and very small towns as well as in inner areas. Focus on towns and inner areas are important for almost all European countries.

Moderator: Maria José Festas, former ESPON Monitoring Committee Member, Portugal

Key note speaker on Towns: Raivis Bremšmits, Director of Regional Policy Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia

Key note speaker on Inner areas: Carla Carlucci, Ministry of Economic Development (DPS), Italy

#### Feedback statements from panel

- Christian Svanfeldt, European Commission, DG for Regional and Urban Policy
- Sverker Lindblad, ESPON Monitoring Committee Member, Sweden
- Wiktoria Palion, ESPON Monitoring Committee Member, Poland
- Virna Bussadori, Autonomous Province of Bolzano (Italy) and ECTP-CEU Honorary President
- Pietro Elisei, Vice President of ISOCARP
- Roberto Camagni, Politecnico Milano

#### Plenary reaction

13:00

*Family photo*

13:00-14:00

*Lunch*

14:00-18:00

#### Parallel Workshops

### Inspire Policy Development with Territorial Evidence

The six parallel workshops will take up issues raised in the plenary sessions and cross them with the relevant ESPON territorial evidence available. In addition, the workshops will address the latest results from ESPON applied research projects, targeted analyses and scientific platform projects. An important focus in the workshop discussions will be on key messages useful for policy makers in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy, Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 and in policy development promoting policy orientations of the Territorial Agenda 2020.

14:00 – 15:45

#### Workshop Session 1:

#### Integrated strategies, inner areas and towns: What to do where?

##### Workshop 1.A: Building and using Integrated Territorial Strategies

Integrated strategies for territories are relevant and have been implemented at different scales and across borders. The workshop aims at presenting interesting strategies at regional level, for polycentric metropolitan regions and in cross-border cooperation. What



is the added value of integrated approaches? How could integrated strategies be promoted as useful in relation to current policy orientations?

Moderator: Sandra Di Biaggio, ESPON Coordination Unit

- Graziella Guaragno, Emilia Romagna Region
- Thiemo Eser, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures of Luxembourg, ESPON Metroborder Project
- Jens Gabbe, AEBR, ESPON Ulysses Project

#### Workshop 1.B: Inner areas in Europe

Inner areas are being addressed by policy makers as areas with low access to basic services of general interest. These are often rural and remote areas that need to develop on endogenous potentials such as nature and culture assets. Areas with more than 60 minutes travel time to the service provision of a city exist in almost all European countries. How could Europe address these inner areas or peripheries in policy terms? Is their development more a national or regional responsibility?

Moderator: Peter Mehlbye, ESPON Coordination Unit

- Erik Glørsen and Marta Pérez-Soba, ESPON GEOSPECS Project
- Klaus Spiekerman, ESPON TRACC Project
- Pier Paolo Prosperini, Ministry of Economic Development (DPS), Italy

#### Workshop 1.C: Towns in the European territorial fabric of the future

Towns are an important component in the European urban fabric. The prospects for small and medium sized towns as well as very small towns seem highly dependent on three factors: size, functionality and territorial context, in particular their proximity to larger towns or cities. In smaller countries and more sparsely populated areas, towns play a major role for the economy and the provision of services of general interest, while in larger and more densely populated countries they may have a more passive role as places of residences. What can and should be done at European level related to policies for towns? How can their important functionality, in some parts of Europe, be captured and turned into policy?

Moderator: Peter Billing, ESPON Coordination Unit

- Loris Servillo, ESPON TOWN Project
- Indra Ciukša, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Latvia to the EU

15:45 – 16:15

***Networking with coffee and tea***

16:15 – 18:00

### **Workshop Session 2:**

#### **New ESPON territorial evidence: Territorial Vision 2050, Regional Resilience and Poverty, and evidence support to territorial cooperation**

##### Workshop 2.A: Territorial Vision and Scenarios 2050

The European cooperation moves in the direction of emphasising stronger place-based approaches and the territorial dimension in policy and strategies. In many countries and regions of Europe, territorial visions and scenarios are used as reference frameworks for development. However, adding them up to a European image displays a rather incoherent patchwork. Considering as well the need for a stronger global outlook in policy opens the debate of a long term European Territorial Vision 2050. What would be the benefits in terms of efficiency and coherence at European level? Is the proposed open and polycentric Europe the right vision for Europe?

Moderator: Peter Mehlbye, ESPON Coordination Unit

- Andreu Ulied, ESPON ET 2050 Project
- Thiemo Eser, ESPON Managing Authority, Luxembourg
- Christian Svanfeldt, European Commission, DG for Regional and Urban Policy

#### Workshop 2.B: Regional Resilience and Poverty

The economic crisis has hit European countries and regions unevenly. Measures have been taken to ensure recovery at European as well as national, regional and local levels. Some regions are still below pre-crisis levels of GDP and employment. Others are on the road to recovery or have already reached former economic levels. And some regions have not experienced a decrease as a result of the crisis. In the worst hit countries and regions, the rate of risk of poverty has raised the most. What are the resilience measures that regions could prepare for counteracting future economic shocks? How could combating poverty and social exclusion become an integrated part of regional resilience strategies?

Moderator: Gavin Daly, ESPON Coordination Unit

- Adrian Healy, ESPON ECR2 Project
- Mark Shucksmith, ESPON TiPSE Project
- Marina Mastrostefano, European Commission DG for Regional and Urban Policy

#### Workshop 2.C: European Macro Regions

The development of European macro regions is well underway. The thematic priorities for the individual macro regions have to be related to the respective territorial specificity and diversity and related policies. Four macro regions are currently decided. The use of evidence is important for macro regions to benchmark and capture the European context in their strategies and programmes. Are there certain standards that can be found in all macro regions? What are unique conditions for the four macro-regions? Could continuous and tailor-made territorial evidence support efficient implementation and investments?

Moderator: Adriana May, Regione Lombardia, ESPON MC Member, Italy

- Andrea Gramillano, ESPON TerrEvi Project
- Frithjof Ehm, European Commission DG for Regional and Urban Policy for the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Paolo Rotoni, Marche Region for the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

18:00 **End of seminar day 1**

20:00 ***Formal dinner in historical place***

*Free shuttle bus service by Ministry of Infrastructures and Transports with archaeological site visit*



## Friday 5 December 2014

Chair of the day: Zaira Piazza, Ministry of Infrastructures and Transports, Italy

9:00 – 11:00

### Plenary Session 3

#### Progress on ESPON Toolbox

European policy orientations for the development of the European territory need data, tools and monitoring for policy makers to become informed, whether their policy aims are to be fulfilled or not. The same is the case for territorial policies and strategies at other levels.

ESPON has made progress on big data, tools for territorial impact assessment and territorial monitoring. The territorial monitoring covers the entire Europe and a first effort has been made to provide a macro-regional setting with tailor-made territorial monitoring systems, a test case being the Baltic Sea Region.

Moderator: Daniël de Groot, ESPON Monitoring Committee Member, the Netherlands

- Oriol Biosca, ESPON ETMS Project
- Gunnar Lindberg, ESPON BSR-TeMo Project
- Marta Severo, ESPON Feasibility Study on Big Data
- Bernd Schuh, ESPON TIA Web Application

#### Feedback statements from panel

- Bert Kuby, Committee of the Regions
- Frithjof Ehm, European Commission DG for Regional and Urban Policy
- Wilfried Görmar, BBSR, German representative in VASAB

#### Plenary reactions

11:00 – 11:30

#### *Networking coffee and tea*

11:30 – 13:00

### Plenary Session 4

#### Outreach and Uptake of European Territorial Evidence

The session will address achievements and experiences from capitalising on the ESPON results in the transnational and national policy context. The ESPON project “ESPON on the Road” is the last Transnational Network Activity carried through by the ESPON Contact Point Network. The project’s achievements in terms of creating interest and uptake of the ESPON territorial evidence will be presented and discussed. Good and less good experiences will be addressed in order to support future outreach activities of the ESPON 2020 Programme. Moreover, as a new tool supporting outreach activities, the upcoming ESPON Atlas will be presented.

Moderator and introduction: Peter Schön, “ESPON on the Road” Project

Presentation of the ESPON Atlas - Mapping European Territorial Structures and Dynamics:

- Volker Schmidt-Seiwert, ESPON Atlas Project

Feedback statements from panel:

- Blanka Bartol, ESPON Monitoring Committee Member, Slovenia
- Aleksandras Gordevicius, ESPON Monitoring Committee Member, Lithuania
- Valerie Biot, ECP Network Member, Belgium
- Maria Prezioso, ECP Network Member, Italy

### **Plenary reactions**

13:00 – 14:00

***Lunch***

14:00 - 15:30

**Closing Plenary Session**

### **Next Steps of ESPON and EU Presidencies**

The ESPON Programme will continue as an ESIF programme during 2014-2020 in support of European territorial cooperation and with the specific role as provider of European territorial evidence and analyses. The intention is to renew profoundly the way the programme operates to make the deliveries swifter, improve the uptake of results and have a lean administrative setting. As part of these ambitions an ESPON EGTC will be established, becoming responsible for carrying through the project activities foreseen and decided by the ESPON 2020 Monitoring Committee.

### **Latest news on the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme and the ESPON EGTC**

- Peter Mehlbye, ESPON Coordination Unit

### **Intentions of the Latvia and Luxembourg EU Presidencies**

- Inguna Urtāne, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia
- Jean Claude Sinner, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, Luxembourg

### **Farewell by the Italian EU Presidency**

- Zaira Piazza, Ministry of Infrastructures and Transports, Italy

15:30

***Farewell coffee and tea***

**End of the Seminar**



**ESPON Seminar “Territories Acting for Economic Growth: using territorial evidence to meet challenges towards 2020”**  
**4-5 December 2014**  
**Rome, Italy**

**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](http://www.espon.eu)

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