

# TranSMEC

## Transnational Support Method for European Co-operation

Targeted Analysis

Inception Report | Version 30/09/2010



This report presents a more detailed overview of the analytical approach to be applied by the project. This Targeted Analysis is conducted within the framework of the ESPON 2013 Programme, partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

The partnership behind the ESPON Programme consists of the EU Commission and the Member States of the EU27, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Each partner is represented in the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

This report does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members of the Monitoring Committee.

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The web site provides the possibility to download and examine the most recent documents produced by finalised and ongoing ESPON projects.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. The TranSMEC project

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The current project TranSMEC – Transnational Support Method for European Co-operation - is to be carried out under ESPONs Priority 2 “Targeted Analyses” which is geared to the demand driven application of ESPON results to improve the territorial impact of regional policies and programs. In particular TranSMEC fits the sub-action 2.3., which is called “Joint actions related to other structural Funds programs”. Here, the funding programmes under ERDF (“European Regional Development Fund” hereinafter called ERDF) have a clear focus on territorial development and cohesion. The TranSMEC exercise targets the “INTERREG B North West Europe Program” in the funding period 2000 – 2006 as well as the current funding period 2007 – 2013.

It is desirable to improve the operational linkage to ESPON as a source for an improved territorial evidence for the preparation of new as well as an improved implementation of existing funding programs. Mutually, territorial data produced under ERDF funded operation can act as effective feedback circles for proving, refining and concretizing ESPON data. The TranSMEC activities focus on the INTERREG B North West Europe program and study the above mentioned interactions. Within the first phase the project executes a scoping exercise which will scan all available ESPON data. Data relevant for the defined program area will be filtered out and streamlined for the purpose of a custom-fit analysis for the NWE-Region as well as a positioning of the program area within a wider European Context. Also the influences of different EU Policies will be taken into account. On this basis, interfaces between ESPON and INTERREG can be established that help generate tools and instruments for improved project and program steering.

The TranSMEC project will make cross references between the compiled ESPON data and the performance of the projects within INTERREG NWE IIIB and IV B. It will use existing data from the program like the “INTERREG III B analysis of the 99 projects”. Case studies will be carried out in order to study specific settings more detailed. Scorecards and Surveys produced during the INTERREG III B Analysis will be used and interpreted more deeply or/and extended according to the results of the ESPON data scan.

From the results of this phase, tools and instruments can be developed that assist an improved program and project development.

## 1.2. Activities so far

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The project had to surpass several administrative barriers in order to get started. Most of the aspects to be solved were derived from the fact that the role and eligibility of private actor's activities have to be certified and certain settings remained unclear. Therefore, an intensive exchange with eligibility experts took place and constructive proposals were made in order to find administrative answers to the problems. All solutions were fixed in ANNEX III to the subsidy contract.

Furthermore, blue! proceeded with the detailed development of the action plan. Within two meetings in Esch-sur-Alzette (March) and Brussels (September), feedback was given by the steering group and the general working approach was discussed.

Due to the highly experimental character of TransMEC, the potential and possible outcomes of the exercise were subject to constructive and high-level exchange between the project group, the CU officer as well as the JTS structural funds experts.

A detailed work plan has been set up in which the following aspects were considered crucial:

- **Traceable and comprehensible logic of the working approach**
- **Production of tangible and concrete deliverables**
- **Emphasize the main objective to produce operational rather than theoretical support.**

During the meeting in Brussels on 17<sup>th</sup> of September, blue! presented a work plan that tended to be too abstract. Furthermore, a constructive discussion allowed a further planning that avoids double work. For example, the work plan foresaw an extensive reflection on socioeconomic analysis development. The steering group informed us that for the development of the NWE socioeconomic analysis has already extensively taken into account evidence base from ESPON. Consequently the work plan was revised towards more concrete, tangible outputs.

## 2. FROM ORIGINAL ACTION PLAN TO PRODUCT DRIVEN APPROACH

### 2.1. Our Working Approach

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The TranSMEC working group carried out several meetings and a workshop in order to refine the working approach. This led to a rethinking the project from the perspective of the products to be developed. While the original action plan in the approved application described the work packages more from the perspective of the different activities to be taken into account, the starting point for the concrete working steps had to respond to the following questions:

- Where are the linkages between the products/tools required and the “offers” of ESPON
- What is needed in terms of sources / data input in order to hit the right starting point for the different deliverables.
- Which methodology needs to be used in order to achieve best possible results for the different deliverables?
- Which knowledge input is required for which product?
- Where are the limitations for the quality of the deliverables?

As a result, the TranSMEC work plan follows the logic of a product driven approach. All working steps are derived from both the approved action plan from the application as well as the input needed for the development of specific results. Due to the fact that each results require differentiated input from ESPON, the products/tools played a more significant role compared to the previous action plan.

## 2.2. The products and tools – An overview

The working steps of the project show the following structure:

Working steps	Activities / tasks	Deliverable
A	Project preparation phase	All working procedures and work plan elaborated
B	Project Management	Timely and correct reports and smooth co-ordination
C	Project Dissemination	Meaningful and understandable presentation of the project's objectives, approach and envisaged or achieved results
D	Starting Phase	Detailed workplan and reports of meetings
E	Internal project meetings	Minutes of meetings
F	Combined data analysis of ESPON results and INTERREG III B project and programme outputs	Written reports
G	Commenting on usability of ESPON data sources for the TransSMEC project objectives	Written reports
H	Tools for capitalization and dissemination of INTERREG III B NWE outputs	Overlay maps on NUTS 2 Level / Written reports
I	Tool to evaluate current program performance and project development under NWE IV B	Overlay maps on NUTS 2 level / Written reports
J	Case study focusing on INNOVATION	Overlay maps on NUTS 2 level / Written reports
K	Case study on region	Written report – if possible – Map on Nuts 2 Level
L	Tools for further NWE program development based on the existing NWE SWOT analysis	Written report and - if possible - Map on NUTS 2 level

### 3. TRANSMEC WORKPLAN – GENERAL ASPECTS

#### 3.1. General Description of Products

The TransMEC project has only limited capacities with regards to time and financing. Consequently, a central objective is the production of interesting and usable outputs within this time period.

This does also affect the design of the products/tools to be elaborated. Products can be maps and written documents, but not “ready-to-use” dissemination brochures, websites etc., as time and financial means are not sufficient for the latter.

The production of maps will not be executed from own data collection. The added value of TransMEC maps results from the overlay of existing data sets from ESPON and maps produced in the course of the INTERREG III B Analysis. If other maps from NWE are available, TransMEC will assess whether they can be taken into consideration, too.

Many of the outputs are written documents (reports, descriptions, statements, tables or interpretations of maps). Besides the maps as concrete visualisation tools, the written documents describe also methodologies or list up findings that are hard to visualise. Wherever possible, TransMEC will visualise the contents with the available MS –office tools PowerPoint, EXCEL or Word.

#### 3.2. TranSMEC: Management and Dissemination Deadlines

For management (reporting) as well as the dissemination of TransMEC results, a schedule has been elaborated during the meeting in Brussels on September 17th:

<b>Deadline schedule</b>	<b>Description of Meeting</b>	<b>Assigned to “Management” or “Dissemination”</b>
September 17 <sup>th</sup> , Brussels	Steering Committee	Management
September 30 <sup>th</sup> , CU	Delivery of Inception Report	Management
End of October	ESPON Mini-Group gives feedback to inception report	Management
November 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> , Liège	ESPON Event	Dissemination
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	NWE PMC	Management/Dissemination
6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> December, Manchester	NWE Annual Event	Dissemination
2 <sup>nd</sup> half of January 2011	NWE Steering Committee with Mini-Circle	Management/Dissemination

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<b>Deadline schedule</b>	<b>Description of Meeting</b>	<b>Assigned to "Management" or "Dissemination"</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> of March	Delivery of draft final report	Management
End of March 2011	ESPON PMC and CU Feedback	Management
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivery final report</li><li>• NWE PMC</li></ul>	Management/Dissemination

#### 4. TRANSMEC WORKPLAN – WORK PACKAGES WITH REFERENCE TO ACTION PLAN

The following chapters outline the working steps of Action 2 "Implementation".

##### 4.1. Combined Data Analysis ESPON – INTERREG III B

Working steps	Activities / tasks	Deliverable	Action concerned
F	<b>Combined data analysis of ESPON results and INTERREG III B project and programme outputs</b>		
F1	Development of a methodology for data processing (criteria, indicators etc)	List of questions and criteria	2.1., 2.2. , 2.3.
F2	Data processing: selection and analysis of ESPON projects that dealt with the linkage between structural funds and territorial effects of Structural Funds (ESPON project 2.2.1)" - Derivation of territorial trends of the database	Written report (table or matrix)	2.1., 2.2. , 2.3.
F3	Data processing: Selection and analysis of thematic ESPON projects referring to the different NWE priorities (see Terms of reference) - innovation - attractive and coherent system of cities, towns and regions - external and internal accessibility - sustainable management of water resources and prevention of flood - sustainable development, prudent management and protection of other natural resources and cultural heritage - promoting the maritime potential of NWE and its territorial integration across seas	Written report (table or matrix)	2.1., 2.2. , 2.3.
F4	Scanning of all relevant documents related to INTERREG NWE and European Policy Documents indicated in the Terms of Reference as well as the approved Application	List of aspects connectable with ESPON evidence base	2.1., 2.2. , 2.3.
F5	Cross-references between the results and the INTERREG III B Analysis of 99 projects as well as the existing Innovation projects in INTERREG IV B NWE	List of aspects connectable with ESPON evidence base	2.5.

#### 4.2. Commenting on Usability of ESPON DATA

Working steps	Activities / tasks	Deliverable	Action concerned
<b>G</b>	<b>Commenting on usability of ESPON data sources for the TranSMEC project objectives</b>		
G1	General reflection on the construction and suitability of ESPON territorial data: existing framework conditions, data quality, connectivity	Written report	2.1. - 2.12
G2	General reflection on construction and usability of the ESPON database	Written statement	2.1. - 2.12
G3	Reflection on the use of targeted analyses for the further development of ESPON with regards to the TranSMEC example	Written statement	2.1. - 2.12

#### 4.3. Tools for Capitalization and Dissemination of INTERREG III B NWE outputs

Working steps	Activities / tasks	Deliverable	Action concerned
<b>H</b>	<b>Tools for capitalization and dissemination of INTERREG III B NWE outputs</b>		
H1	Development of a general methodology for visualisation of results of the combined analysis under F	Written report	2.8., 2.9.
H2	Development of Overlay maps by combining ESPON data as background maps resulting from the INTERREG IIIB Analysis for the priorities mentioned above and for the NWE area for the topic of attractive and coherent systems of cities, towns and regions	Maps in NUTS 2	2.8., 2.9.
H3	Development of Overlay maps by combining ESPON data as background maps resulting from the INTERREG IIIB Analysis for the priorities mentioned above and for the NWE area for the topic of internal and external accessibility	Maps in NUTS 2	2.8., 2.9.
H4	Development of Overlay maps by combining ESPON data as background maps resulting from the INTERREG IIIB Analysis for the priorities mentioned above and for the NWE area for the topic of sustainable management of water resources and prevention of flood	Maps in NUTS 2	2.8., 2.9.

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Working steps	Activities / tasks	Deliverable	Action concerned
H5	Development of Overlay maps by combining ESPON data as background maps resulting from the INTERREG IIIB Analysis for the priorities mentioned above and for the NWE area for the topic of sustainable development, prudent management and protection of other natural resources and cultural heritage	Maps in NUTS 2	2.8., 2.9.
H6	Development of Overlay maps by combining ESPON data as background maps resulting from the INTERREG IIIB Analysis for the priorities mentioned above and for the NWE area for the topic of promoting the maritime potential of NWE and its territorial integration across seas	Maps in NUTS 2	2.8., 2.9.
H7	Commenting and interpretation of the results of the visualisation	Written report	2.8., 2.9.
H8	Summary of the methodology how to produce these capitalization and dissemination tools	Written report	2.8., 2.9.
H9	Selection of 5 significant and meaningful ESPON maps to visualise the positioning of NWE in a wider European Context	Selection of existing maps (no new production)	2.8., 2.9.
H10	Reflection on the potential to visualise the European Added Value of European Co-operation	Written Report	2.8., 2.9.
H11	Contribution to TransMEC reporting procedures	Written report	

## 4.4. Tool to evaluate current program performance and project development under NWE IV B

Working steps	Activities / tasks	Deliverable	Action concerned
I	<b>Tool to evaluate current program performance and project development under NWE IV B</b>		
I1	Analysis of relevant documents at program level (not of individual projects) to define current thematic and territorial gaps in the program performance - It is not possible to perform an analysis of the ongoing projects within TransMEC!	Summary of key-aspects from existing documents of the NWE program	2.10, 2.11.
I2	Mapping of key-players and key regions for the priorities of INTERREG IV B NWE in NUTS 2	Maps in NUTS 2	2.10, 2.11.
I3	Consideration of INTERREG III B Analysis Recommendations and KEEP initiative	Summary of key-aspects to be considered from the KEEP Initiative	2.10, 2.11., 2.4., 2.5.
I4	Description of a methodology how to combine ESPON data for evaluation of current programme performance – no new maps, but a written document	Written report visualised in a chart	2.10, 2.11.
I5	Framework input for demarcation of thematically targeted call	Written statements	2.10, 2.11.
I6	Contribution to TransMEC reporting procedures		

## 4.5. Case Study focusing on Innovation

Working steps	Activities / tasks	Deliverable	Action concerned
J	<b>Case study focusing on INNOVATION</b>		
J1	Data processing: Selection and analysis of ESPON key-projects on innovation	Selection of existing projects	2..7.
J2	Detailed analysis of current NWE performance in the field of Innovation	Written report	2..7.
J3	Brief summary of working approaches for innovation project development in 3 other INTERREG IV B regions	Written report	2..7.
J4	Detailed Description of current programme performance including description of methodological weaknesses in the field of innovation (e.g. handling of territorial impact of innovation)	Written report	2..7.
J5	Description of a methodology on how to develop programme indicators for innovation with a specific focus on the different sub-priorities and on the added value of transnational co-operation	Written report	2..7.
J6	Development of Overlay maps by combining ESPON data as background maps resulting from the key players and key regions of NWE IV B for the NWE area	Maps in NUTS 2	2..7., 2.8., 2.9.,
J7	Commenting and interpretation of the results of the visualisation	Written report	2..7.
J8	Contribution to TranSMEC reporting procedures		

#### 4.6. Case Study on Region – Region to be defined during upcoming results

Working steps	Activities / tasks	Deliverable	Action concerned
K	<b>Case study on region</b>		
K1	Selection of a region during the ongoing first phase of TranSMEC implementation	Identified region	2.6.
K2	Execution of a descriptive case study for a selected region – if possible, production of maps	Written report, if possible, maps on NUTS 2 level	2.6.
K3	Contribution to TranSMEC reporting procedures	Written report	

#### 4.7. Tools for further NWE program development based on the existing NWE SWOT Analysis

Working steps	Activities / tasks	Deliverable	Action concerned
L	<b>Tools for further NWE programme development based on the existing NWE SWOT analysis</b>		
L1	Assessment of the existing mechanism for using ESPON data basis for the development of the SWOT analysis	Written report	2.10., 2.11.
L2	Identification of cross-linkages between the NWE SWOT analysis and the performance of the programme area as described under ESPON	Written report	2.10., 2.11.
L3	Identification of key-issues for future transnational co-operation in the NWE area as they emerge from ESPON territorial evidence	Written report	2.10., 2.11.
L4	If possible, production of overlay maps to visualise results	If possible, Maps on NUTS 2 level, otherwise written report	2.10., 2.11.
L5	Contribution to TranSMEC reporting procedures		

## **5. INPUT FOR KEY EVENTS OF THE NWE – PROGRAMME AND THE ESPON PROGRAMME**

### **5.1. ESPON Seminar Liège 17-18 November 2010**

The ESPON Seminar in Liège will be a joint platform mainly for exchange between projects. Blue! will prepare a presentation of the contents and approaches of TransMEC. Furthermore, the potential of the meetings lies in the opportunity to meet project actors from the projects that have been selected as data sources for further work. Consequently, these valuable feedback meetings need to be carefully prepared through:

- Advance contacting of project actors
- Preparation of a compact questionnaire for the ESPON project in order to achieve valuable additional information on the data.
- Arrangement of sufficient meeting time with these experts.

### **5.2. NWE Annual Event on Innovation 6-7 December 2010**

The contribution of TransMEC during the NWE Annual Event shall be decided subsequent to the elaboration of first interim – results for Innovation. On this basis, a possible format and content of a presentation shall be discussed. The proposal has to be accepted by the NWE Annual Event steering Group. Blue! is flexible with regard to a possible contribution and could imagine both a side event as well as a presentation of the contents and approaches of TransMEC.

## **6. DELIMITATION OF THE WORKING CONTENT**

With regard to the timely and financial limitations of the project capacities, the following delimitations are proposed:

- The Input List for ESPON will be the list of documents outlined in the Terms of Reference. Further documents shall be upcoming or running ESPON projects that could not be considered during the preparation of the TransMEC call or additional projects chosen by blue! on suggestion of subcontractors. The list of projects to be considered can't be extended during the implementation after acceptance of the inception report.
- Products are either written reports or overlay maps.
- Further initiatives to be considered are the KEEP initiative.
- The analysis needed for the evaluation of the current programme performance shall be based on defined project data delivered from the JTS. It is not possible to perform a full analysis of the running IV B projects.



- The production of the tools for dissemination and capitalization of the NWE III B program shall be based on the outcomes of the analysis of the 99 projects already performed.

## 7. CONTACT DATA

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