



Inspire policy making by territorial evidence



**ESPON 2013 Programme**

**Workshop**

# **Territorial Evidence for a European Urban Agenda**

25th November 2014  
10h00 – 16h00

**Venue**

Hall 300, Square,  
Rue Ravenstein, 2, B-1000 Brussels

**Final Programme**

## Background

In Europe, 70% of citizens live in urban areas, a figure which is expected to rise to 80% by 2050. The importance of Europe's cities has led to an increasing interest in strengthening the urban development objectives of the European Union (EU). In 2011, the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling for the bolstering of the urban dimension of EU policies. Under the Lithuanian EU Presidency, Member States indicated their interest in building a new EU Urban Agenda and have committed to support this process during forthcoming presidencies. In February 2014, the Committee of the Regions also published a Draft Opinion proposing an EU-level Urban Agenda which would support the recognition of the importance of towns and cities in achieving European policy objectives. This followed the 'Cities of Tomorrow' forum organised by the European Commission to discuss how the urban dimension of EU policymaking can be strengthened and how the key role of cities in implementing policies at all governance levels can be better taken into account. The achievement of a political declaration on European cities will be a key objective of the Dutch EU Presidency in 2016.

A key policy message emerging from these initiatives is that the social, economic and environmental opportunities and challenges facing European cities such, as intra-EU migration, urban poverty and the role of small and medium sized cities, cannot be seen as independent of the larger territorial context in which urban development takes place. Following the logic of an integrated approach, cities can no longer be defined solely by their administrative boundaries but sit within larger functional areas and a broader territorial reality. The ESPON Programme has developed a wealth of knowledge and evidence relating to the territorial dimension of the European urban system. This knowledge includes applied research and targeted analysis on urban agglomerations; the role of cities in territorial development; cross-border metropolitan regions and city networks; secondary growth poles in various territorial contexts; and the functional role of small and medium sized towns.

Against this backdrop, this workshop intends to present and discuss what ESPON territorial evidence can add to the gathering, combining and exchanging of knowledge to inform the debate on progressing EU urban development policies, including integrated, coherent and holistic approaches across sectors, governance levels and territories.

Key questions for the day include:

- What are the main territorial trends and challenges facing European cities?
- What baseline territorial evidence do we need to address these trends and challenges?
- What priorities should be set in addressing these challenges? How can these priorities be tailored for differing territorial contexts?
- How can Europe's polycentric urban structure be harnessed as an asset in the global economy?
- How can territorial evidence help in shaping a new action orientated Urban Agenda?
- How can the Urban Agenda be linked to the Territorial Agenda 2020 and the proposed European Vision for 2050?

Evidence will be presented from a number of ESPON projects with an urban focus. This will be supported by an ESPON Territorial Observation No.13 which will be available before the workshop.

10.00-10.30 *Registration and welcome coffee and tea*

**Introduction**

10.30-10.45 *Welcome and setting the scene*

- Peter Mehlbye, ESPON Coordination Unit

Moderator: Michael Parkinson, University of Liverpool

10.45-12.30 **Towards a EU Urban Agenda**

*Towards a Shared Agenda for European Cities*

- Bernice den Brok, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations in the Netherlands

*The Territorial and Urban Issues in the Sixth Cohesion Report*

- Alexandros Karvounis, DG Regional & Urban Policy, European Commission

*Developing the EU Urban Agenda*

- Christian Svanfeldt, DG Regional & Urban Policy, European Commission

*Questions and answers*

12.30-13.30 *Networking buffet lunch*

13.30-15.00 **Gathering the Territorial Knowledge for a European Urban Agenda**

*Investing Beyond Capitals: Urban Development as Tool for Inclusive Growth and Cohesion*

- Michael Parkinson, ESPON SGPTD Lead Partner, University of Liverpool

*The Role of Small and Medium Sized Towns in the European Territorial Structure*

- Loris Servillo, ESPON TOWN Lead Partner, KU Leuven, Belgium.

*What Potential do Different European Cities have for Contributing to a Greener Economy?*

- Carlos Tapia, ESPON GREECO Lead Partner, Foundation Tecnalia Research, Spain

*Questions and answers*

15.00-15.45 **Interactive discussion**

**What are the Main Territorial Challenges for Building a Shared European Urban Agenda – How to Move on?**

*All participants are welcome to contribute during the interactive dialogue*

Initial statements by:

- Andreu Ulied, ESPON ET 2050 Lead Partner
- Sally Kneeshaw, URBACT Thematic Pole Manager
- Mart Grisel, EUKN

- Indra Ciuksa, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Incoming Latvian EU Presidency,
- Thiemo Eser, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, Incoming Luxembourg EU Presidency

- 15.45-16.00      **Conclusions and closure**
- Peter Mehlbye, ESPON Coordination Unit
- 16.00-16.30      *Networking coffee and tea*

## ESPON Workshop “Territorial Evidence for a European Urban Agenda”

25 November 2014  
Brussels

### 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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