



On behalf of the European Commission, DG Regional Policy
(2005 CE 16 0 AT 017)

**Study on “territorial cohesion, lessons learned from the ESPON
programme projects and strategy for the future**

**Appendix E – Synthesis of the ESPON
User survey**

June 2006

This document indicated in a quantitative manner the responses obtained over the course of the User-survey that has been conducted in the framework of the study on “territorial cohesion – lessons learned from the ESPON programme projects and strategy for the future”.

The survey has been conducted online using the specialized survey-tool SurveyXAct (www.surveyXAct.com).

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Question 1: In which country do you currently work?

| | Count | Column N % |
|----------------|------------|---------------|
| Belgium | 34 | 9,4% |
| Bulgaria | 2 | 0,6% |
| Denmark | 12 | 3,3% |
| Croatia | 3 | 0,8% |
| Germany | 18 | 5,0% |
| Estonia | 2 | 0,6% |
| Finland | 16 | 4,4% |
| France | 32 | 8,8% |
| Greece | 7 | 1,9% |
| Ireland | 5 | 1,4% |
| Italy | 19 | 5,2% |
| Latvia | 2 | 0,6% |
| Lithuania | 3 | 0,8% |
| Luxembourg | 8 | 2,2% |
| Malta | 1 | 0,3% |
| Netherlands | 24 | 6,6% |
| Poland | 7 | 1,9% |
| Austria | 12 | 3,3% |
| Portugal | 4 | 1,1% |
| Sweden | 11 | 3,0% |
| Slovenia | 9 | 2,5% |
| Spain | 14 | 3,9% |
| Czech Republic | 4 | 1,1% |
| Hungary | 6 | 1,7% |
| UK | 24 | 6,6% |
| Cyprus | 4 | 1,1% |
| Romania | 5 | 1,4% |
| Andorra | 1 | 0,3% |
| Norway | 5 | 1,4% |
| Switzerland | 2 | 0,6% |
| Other | 5 | 1,4% |
| no answer | 61 | 16,9% |
| Total | 362 | 100,0% |

Question 2: Sex

| | Count | Column N % |
|--------------|------------|---------------|
| male | 202 | 55,8% |
| female | 118 | 32,6% |
| no answer | 42 | 11,6% |
| Total | 362 | 100,0% |

Question 3: To which of the following groups do you belong?

| | Count | Column N % |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Policy maker | 84 | 21,8% |
| Territorial developer | 40 | 9,9% |
| Scientist | 78 | 19,6% |
| Research Student and adequate | 31 | 7,5% |
| Consultant | 46 | 12,2% |
| Other | 23 | 12,4% |
| no answer | 60 | 16,6% |
| Total | 362 | 100,0% |

Question 4: In which policy field do you work?

(multiple responses)

| | Count | Column N % |
|---|------------|---------------|
| Transport | 42 | 9,1% |
| Agriculture, Fisheries | 13 | 2,8% |
| Culture, Education and media | 18 | 3,9% |
| Environment, nature and hazards | 46 | 9,9% |
| Urban,rural, regional development | 249 | 53,8% |
| Economic and industrial development, new technologies | 46 | 9,9% |
| Social affairs, employment, health and demography | 24 | 5,2% |
| Other | 25 | 5,4% |
| Total | 463 | 100,0% |

Question 5: On which governmental level do you work?

(multiple responses)

| | Count | Column N % |
|----------------|------------|---------------|
| local | 91 | 17,7% |
| regional | 134 | 26,0% |
| national | 166 | 32,2% |
| European level | 124 | 24,1% |
| Total | 515 | 100,0% |

Question 6: Are you involved in the ESPON programme or ESPON bodies ?

| | Count | Column N % |
|---|------------|---------------|
| Yes, member of ESPON Monitoring Committee/Coordination Unit | 26 | 7,8% |
| Yes, ESPON Contact Point | 25 | 7,5% |
| Yes, Transnational Project Groups | 59 | 17,7% |
| No, but close to ESPON Contact point | 40 | 12,0% |
| No, but involved in another Network | 80 | 24,0% |
| No | 88 | 26,4% |
| Other | 15 | 4,5% |
| Total | 333 | 100,0% |

Question 7: Do you generally use Internet platforms that provide information and/or studies referring to your work?

| | Count | Column N % |
|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Yes | 278 | 76,8% |
| No | 28 | 7,7% |
| no answer | 56 | 15,5% |
| Total | 362 | 100,0% |

Question 8: Have you already used the ESPON website?

| | Count | Column N % |
|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Yes | 111 | 38,0% |
| No | 80 | 27,4% |
| no answer | 101 | 34,6% |
| Total | 292 | 100,0% |

Question 9: Do you know the ESPON programme ?

| | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|--|-------|------------|------|
| Yes, I know the programme very good | 3 | 3,8% | 2,32 |
| Yes, but I know it slightly | 48 | 60,0% | |
| No, I never heard about that Programme | 28 | 35,0% | |
| no answer | 1 | 1,3% | |
| Total | 80 | 100,0% | |

Question 10: What do you think about a European level research programme?

| | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|----------------|-------|------------|------|
| Very desirable | 26 | 35,6% | 2,08 |
| 2 | 21 | 28,8% | |
| 3 | 21 | 28,8% | |
| 4 | 4 | 5,5% | |
| Not necessary | 1 | 1,4% | |
| Total | 73 | 100,0% | |

Question 11: What do you expect from such a programme?

(multiple responses)

| | Count | Column N % |
|------------------------------------|-------|------------|
| detailed scientific analysis | 24 | 16,0% |
| Data sets, material | 34 | 22,7% |
| management-oriented analysis | 28 | 18,7% |
| Policy recommendations | 34 | 22,7% |
| Guidance for policy implementation | 30 | 20,0% |
| Total | 150 | 100,0% |

Question 13: Would you actively participate in such a programme?

(single responses)

| | Count | Column N % |
|-------|-------|------------|
| Yes | 38 | 55,1% |
| No | 31 | 44,9% |
| Total | 69 | 100,0% |

Question 14:

(single responses)

| | Count | Column N % |
|---|-------|------------|
| ESPON event | 31 | 11,4% |
| Colleague | 42 | 15,4% |
| Internet | 29 | 10,6% |
| Another Network | 30 | 11,0% |
| ESPON Homepage | 29 | 10,6% |
| ESPON Contact Point | 22 | 8,1% |
| ESPON Coordination Unit/Joint Technical Secretariat | 15 | 5,5% |
| ESPON Transnational Project Group | 4 | 1,5% |
| EU Homepage | 9 | 3,3% |
| Conference | 33 | 12,1% |
| ESPON Publication | 21 | 7,7% |
| Journals/Magazines | 8 | 2,9% |
| Total | 273 | 100,0% |

| | Count | Column N % |
|--|-------|------------|
| AESOP | 1 | 3,7% |
| ECTP | 3 | 11,1% |
| eurocities, interreg, | 1 | 3,7% |
| From Various sources as it is part of my research interests in the university where I am working | 1 | 3,7% |
| INTERREG | 18 | 66,6% |
| norden.org | 1 | 3,7% |
| urbact | 1 | 3,7% |
| URBACT | 1 | 3,7% |
| Total | 27 | 100,0% |

Question 15: Do you use the outcomes of the ESPON study projects for you work?

(single responses)

| | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|-----------------|-------|------------|------|
| very often | 25 | 11,2% | 2,82 |
| often (monthly) | 52 | 23,3% | |
| once in a while | 98 | 43,9% | |
| once a year | 31 | 13,9% | |
| No | 16 | 7,2% | |
| no answer | 1 | 0,4% | |
| Total | 223 | 100,0% | |

Question 17: Why don't you use ESPON?

| | | Count | Column N % |
|----------------|--|-------|------------|
| local level | Too scientific | 1 | 4,8% |
| | Lack of confidence in the scientific validation of the studies | 1 | 4,8% |
| | Too complex | 1 | 4,8% |
| | Too general in terms of geography | 4 | 19,0% |
| | Too general in terms of topics | 4 | 19,0% |
| | relevant but no Value-Added | 1 | 4,8% |
| | Not sufficient integration of topics | 0 | 0,0% |
| | Not relevant for me | 7 | 33,3% |
| | Other | 2 | 9,5% |
| | Total | 21 | 100,0% |
| regional level | Too scientific | 1 | 3,2% |
| | Lack of confidence in scientific validation of the studies | 1 | 3,2% |
| | Too complex | 2 | 6,5% |
| | Too general in terms of geography | 8 | 25,8% |
| | Too general in terms of topics | 5 | 16,1% |
| | relevant but no Value-Added | 1 | 3,2% |
| | Not sufficient integration of topics | 0 | 0,0% |
| | Not relevant for me | 5 | 16,1% |
| | Other | 8 | 25,8% |
| | Total | 31 | 100,0% |
| national level | Too scientific | 2 | 5,7% |
| | Lack of confidence in the scientific validation of the studies | 2 | 5,7% |
| | Too complex | 3 | 8,6% |
| | Too general in terms of geography | 9 | 25,7% |
| | Too general in terms of topics | 5 | 14,3% |
| | relevant but no Value-Added | 2 | 5,7% |
| | Not sufficient integration of topics | 2 | 5,7% |
| | Not relevant for me | 6 | 17,1% |
| | Other | 4 | 11,4% |
| | Total | 35 | 100,0% |
| european level | Too complex | 4 | 14,8% |
| | Too general in terms of geography | 3 | 11,1% |
| | Too general in terms of topics | 3 | 11,1% |
| | relevant but no Value-Added | 1 | 3,7% |
| | Not sufficient integration of topics | 4 | 14,8% |
| | Not relevant for me | 4 | 14,8% |
| | Other | 8 | 29,6% |
| | Total | 27 | 100,0% |

Question 16: Is it easy to find the required information you are looking for?

| | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|----------------|-------|------------|------|
| Very easy | 13 | 7,4% | 2,59 |
| 2 | 70 | 40,0% | |
| 3 | 68 | 38,9% | |
| 4 | 22 | 12,6% | |
| Very difficult | 1 | 0,6% | |
| no answer | 1 | 0,6% | |
| Total | 175 | 100,0% | |

Question 18: Which ESPON study project did you use?

(multiple responses)

| | Count | Column N % |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| Project 1.1.1 – Polycentrism (Final) | 131 | 9,9% |
| Project 1.3.3 – Cultural Heritage (Interim) | 35 | 2,6% |
| Project 2.1.1 – Transport Policy Impact (Final) | 56 | 4,2% |
| Project 2.1.2 – R&D Policy Impact (Final) | 39 | 2,9% |
| Project 2.1.3 – Common Agricultural Policy Impact (Final) | 39 | 2,9% |
| Project 2.1.4 – Energy (Final) | 20 | 1,5% |
| Project 2.1.5 – Fisheries (Interim) | 12 | 0,9% |
| Project 2.2.1 – Structural Funds Impact (Final) | 66 | 5,0% |
| Project 2.2.2 – Enlargement, Acquis, Pre-Aid, Phare/Tacis (Final) | 19 | 1,4% |
| Project 2.2.3 – Urban in Structural Funds (Final) | 38 | 2,9% |
| Project 2.3.1 – ESDP Impact (Interim) | 55 | 4,2% |
| Project 1.1.2 – Urban-Rural (Final) | 102 | 7,7% |
| Project 2.3.2 – Governance (Interim) | 42 | 3,2% |
| Project 2.4.1 – Environment (ToR) | 23 | 1,7% |
| Project 2.4.2 – Zoom In (Interim) | 37 | 2,8% |
| Project 3.1 – Coordination (Final) | 44 | 3,3% |
| Project 3.2 – Scenarios (Interim) | 55 | 4,2% |
| Project 3.3 – Lisbon Strategy (Interim) | 52 | 3,9% |
| Project 3.4.1 – Europe in the World (Interim) | 31 | 2,3% |
| Project 3.4.2 – Economy (Interim) | 11 | 0,8% |
| Project 3.4.3- Small and medium sized towns (Interim) | 35 | 2,6% |
| Project 3.4.4- Modifiable areas unit problem (ToR) | 8 | 0,6% |
| Project 1.1.3 – Enlargement & Polycentrism (Interim) | 64 | 4,8% |
| Project 4.1– Data Navigator (Final) | 33 | 2,5% |
| Other | 6 | 0,5% |
| Project 1.1.4 – Demographic Trends (Final) | 67 | 5,1% |
| Project 1.2.1 – Transport Trends (Final) | 68 | 5,1% |
| Project 1.2.2 – Telecom Trends (Final) | 30 | 2,3% |
| Project 1.2.3 – Information Society (Interim) | 33 | 2,5% |
| Project 1.3.1 – Natural Hazards (Final) | 42 | 3,2% |
| Project 1.3.2 – Natural Heritage (Final) | 32 | 2,4% |
| Total | 1.325 | 100,0% |

Question 19: In which context to you use the ESPON studies?

(multiple responses)

| | | Count | Column N % |
|---------------------------|---|------------|---------------|
| As regard to work purpose | Public Administration | 33 | 10,0% |
| | Policy Development | 61 | 18,5% |
| | Policy Implementation/Territorial Planning | 58 | 18,1% |
| | Scientific Analysis | 92 | 28,8% |
| | Monitoring and Evaluation | 25 | 7,8% |
| | Consultancy and Policy advisory services | 41 | 12,8% |
| | Other | 10 | 3,1% |
| | Total | 320 | 100,0% |
| As regard to policy field | Transport | 40 | 12,2% |
| | Agriculture, Fisheries | 14 | 4,3% |
| | Culture, Education and media | 14 | 4,3% |
| | Environment, nature and hazards | 40 | 12,2% |
| | Urban, rural and regional development | 155 | 47,1% |
| | Economic and industrial development, new technologies | 36 | 10,9% |
| | Social affairs, employment, health and demography | 24 | 7,3% |
| | Private business purpose | 2 | 0,6% |
| | Other | 4 | 1,2% |
| | Total | 329 | 100,0% |

Question 22: Please assess your satisfaction concerning the following topics of the ESPON studies.

(multiple responses)

| | | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------|------------|------|
| Public Administration | Very satisfied | 11 | 7,9% | 2,65 |
| | 2 | 29 | 20,7% | |
| | 3 | 30 | 21,4% | |
| | 4 | 11 | 7,9% | |
| | Not satisfied | 5 | 3,6% | |
| | Do not know | 54 | 38,6% | |
| | Total | 140 | 100,0% | |

| | | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|------------|----------------|-------|------------|------|
| Management | Very satisfied | 11 | 7,9% | 2,74 |
| | 2 | 17 | 12,2% | |
| | 3 | 32 | 23,0% | |
| | 4 | 13 | 9,4% | |
| | Not satisfied | 3 | 2,2% | |
| | Do not know | 63 | 45,3% | |
| | Total | 139 | 100,0% | |

| | | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|--------------------|----------------|-------|------------|------|
| Policy Development | Very satisfied | 23 | 16,2% | 2,50 |
| | 2 | 41 | 28,9% | |
| | 3 | 42 | 29,6% | |
| | 4 | 16 | 11,3% | |
| | Not satisfied | 4 | 2,8% | |
| | Do not know | 16 | 11,3% | |
| | Total | 142 | 100,0% | |

| | | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------|------------|------|
| Territorial Development | Very satisfied | 38 | 26,2% | 2,08 |
| | 2 | 58 | 40,0% | |
| | 3 | 31 | 21,4% | |
| | 4 | 6 | 4,1% | |
| | Not satisfied | 2 | 1,4% | |
| | Do not know | 10 | 6,9% | |
| | Total | 145 | 100,0% | |

| | | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|------------------|----------------|-------|------------|------|
| Structural funds | Very satisfied | 25 | 17,7% | 2,39 |
| | 2 | 43 | 30,5% | |
| | 3 | 33 | 23,4% | |
| | 4 | 13 | 9,2% | |
| | Not satisfied | 4 | 2,8% | |
| | Do not know | 23 | 16,3% | |
| | Total | 141 | 100,0% | |

| | | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|-------------------|----------------|-------|------------|------|
| Thematic coverage | Very satisfied | 32 | 22,2% | 2,09 |
| | 2 | 60 | 41,7% | |
| | 3 | 28 | 19,4% | |
| | 4 | 8 | 5,6% | |
| | Not satisfied | 0 | 0,0% | |
| | Do not know | 16 | 11,1% | |
| | Total | 144 | 100,0% | |

| | | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------|------------|------|
| Integration in /link to other topics | Very satisfied | 16 | 11,5% | 2,65 |
| | 2 | 41 | 29,5% | |
| | 3 | 35 | 25,2% | |
| | 4 | 23 | 16,5% | |
| | Not satisfied | 4 | 2,9% | |
| | Do not know | 20 | 14,4% | |
| | Total | 139 | 100,0% | |

Question 23: How in your opinion should be the main beneficiaries of the ESPON programme?

| | Count | Column N % |
|--------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Policy makers | 86 | 49,1% |
| Territorial developers | 41 | 23,4% |
| Scientists | 11 | 6,3% |
| Research Students and adequate | 8 | 4,6% |
| Consultants | 6 | 3,4% |
| Other | 7 | 4,0% |
| no answer | 16 | 9,1% |
| Total | 175 | 100,0% |

Question 24: on which governmental level should these main beneficiaries be located?

(multiple response)

| | | |
|----------------|-----|--------|
| local level | 43 | 11,3% |
| regional level | 115 | 30,2% |
| national level | 112 | 29,4% |
| European level | 104 | 27,3% |
| Other | 7 | 1,8% |
| Total | 381 | 100,0% |

Other, please specify

| | Count | Column N % |
|--|-------|------------|
| all | 1 | 11,1% |
| all levels | 1 | 11,1% |
| each level | 1 | 11,1% |
| Macro regional level like Baltic Sea Region | 1 | 11,1% |
| National levels depending on spatial powers allocation | 1 | 11,1% |
| network interest groups | 1 | 11,1% |
| international | 1 | 11,1% |
| Transnational | 1 | 11,1% |
| World scale (neighbouring countries) | 1 | 11,1% |
| Total | 9 | 100,0% |

Question 25: Do you think ESPON substantially encourages territorial cohesion policy?

(single answer)

| | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|-----------------|-------|------------|------|
| Yes, absolutely | 49 | 28,0% | 2,11 |
| 2 | 57 | 32,6% | |
| 3 | 29 | 16,6% | |
| 4 | 14 | 8,0% | |
| No, not at all | 3 | 1,7% | |
| Do not know | 7 | 4,0% | |
| no answer | 16 | 9,1% | |
| Total | 175 | 100,0% | |

Question 26a: Are you satisfied with the thematic coverage of the ESPON programme?

| | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|----------------|-------|------------|------|
| Very satisfied | 24 | 13,7% | 2,23 |
| 2 | 85 | 48,6% | |
| 3 | 44 | 25,1% | |
| 4 | 7 | 4,0% | |
| Not satisfied | 1 | 0,6% | |
| no answer | 14 | 8,0% | |
| Total | 175 | 100,0% | |

Question 26b: Which thematic issues to you miss?

| | Count | Column N % |
|--|-------|------------|
| Environment related issues | 1 | 14,3% |
| fewer themes, more in depth | 1 | 14,3% |
| Interaction economic-social-environmental => (impact) spatial | 1 | 14,3% |
| Maritime dimension and insular regions / islands | 1 | 14,3% |
| much more on natural and cultural aspects | 1 | 14,3% |
| social, governance, land management, risk prevention | 1 | 14,3% |
| There was less emphasis on: e.g. environment, social exclusion, normative-political issues, conceptual-theoretical grounding | 1 | 14,3% |
| Total | 7 | 100,0% |

Question 27: Does the programme in general find the right balance between the depth of contents and broader coverage?

| | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|-----------------|-------|------------|------|
| Yes, absolutely | 11 | 6,3% | 2,66 |
| 2 | 60 | 34,3% | |
| 3 | 63 | 36,0% | |
| 4 | 22 | 12,6% | |
| No, not at all | 3 | 1,7% | |
| no answer | 16 | 9,1% | |
| Total | 175 | 100,0% | |

Question 28: What is more important to you, a deeper content or a broader coverage?

| | Count | Column N % |
|------------------|-------|------------|
| deeper contents | 120 | 68,6% |
| broader coverage | 32 | 18,3% |
| no answer | 23 | 13,1% |
| Total | 175 | 100,0% |

Question 29a: Are you satisfied with the geographic detail of the ESPON studies?

| | Count | Column N % | MEAN |
|----------------|-------|------------|------|
| Very satisfied | 11 | 6,3% | 2,77 |
| 2 | 63 | 36,0% | |
| 3 | 47 | 26,9% | |
| 4 | 28 | 16,0% | |
| Not satisfied | 10 | 5,7% | |
| no answer | 16 | 9,1% | |
| Total | 175 | 100,0% | |

Question 29b: Which detail do you miss?

| | Count | Column N % |
|--|-------|------------|
| actual territorial dimension | 1 | 3,6% |
| cities, rural areas, networks, NUTS III | 1 | 3,6% |
| critical perspective on geographical boundaries applied | 1 | 3,6% |
| Eastern border of the EU | 1 | 3,6% |
| In sparsely populated country: NUTS4 | 1 | 3,6% |
| LAU 1 and 2 for studies related to territorial cohesion | 1 | 3,6% |
| local (LAU1-2) analyses would be required to enrich the NUTS3 analyses | 1 | 3,6% |
| local and urban | 1 | 3,6% |
| local data on issues which have a local dimension (for instance exact rural-urban relationships); also more data is needed on flows compared with the areal approach of about all ESPON projects | 1 | 3,6% |
| macroregions (e.g. Baltic Sea region) | 1 | 3,6% |
| more detailed data | 1 | 3,6% |
| Non administrative territorial units | 1 | 3,6% |
| None | 1 | 3,6% |
| Nuts 3 | 1 | 3,6% |
| Nuts 3 is an insufficient level for analysis. Too different from nation to nation | 1 | 3,6% |
| NUTS 3 levels are not comparable within the whole ESPON territory (i.e. Germany vs. Northern Europe) and not always the best way to show results | 1 | 3,6% |
| NUTS 4-5 | 1 | 3,6% |
| NUTS 4 | 1 | 3,6% |
| NUTS 5 | 1 | 3,6% |
| NUTS 5 and larger scales | 1 | 3,6% |
| regional level | 1 | 3,6% |
| relation EU (central) - national/regional (decentral): real subsidiarity (decentral implications for EU policy) | 1 | 3,6% |
| social geographical in all its contents | 1 | 3,6% |
| Sub NUTS II | 1 | 3,6% |
| the NUTS3 is too heterogeneous in term of size : I'd rather use a mixture of NUTS2 and NUTS 3 //// Social dimension should be analysed at NUTS 4 (LAU2) | 1 | 3,6% |
| Too much focus on NUTS 3 level per se | 1 | 3,6% |
| Trustable data on Nuts3 or lower level plus the use of common local labourmarket regions for useful comparisons between socioeconomic regions in different parts of Europe. | 1 | 3,6% |
| urban, local | 1 | 3,6% |
| Total | 28 | 100,0% |

Question 30: What is more important to you, deeper geographic detail or, more issues in general or more issues in one single study?

| | Count | Column N % |
|---|-------|------------|
| deeper geographic details of the analysis | 71 | 40,6% |
| more issues at all | 16 | 9,1% |
| integration of more issues within one study | 66 | 37,7% |
| no answer | 22 | 12,6% |
| Total | 175 | 100,0% |