



20 April 2009

## **ESPON 2013 Programme**

**Press Release No 03/2009**

### **Territorial Development Opportunities in times of Global Economic Recession**

**In cooperation with the Czech EU Presidency, the ESPON Programme is organising an Open Seminar addressing Territorial Development Opportunities during the Global Economic Recession for regions, cities and larger territories. The event will take place in Prague on 3 – 4 June 2009.**

The World is facing the major challenge of responding to the financial crisis and economic recession in more and more countries. *“This challenge is as well a major one for European countries, their regions and cities that need to maximise their contribution to reversing the unfortunate current situation for enterprises and people”* - Peter Mehlbye, Director of the ESPON Coordination Unit, said. *“The ESPON 2013 Programme wants to contribute to facing this challenge by creating better understanding of current territorial dynamics and the necessary more global perspective in finding new development opportunities. Therefore ESPON invites for a two days Open Seminar on Territorial Development Opportunities in the Global Economic Recession”* – he added.

The purpose of the Seminar is three-fold:

- In the light of the global economic challenges to debate territorial development opportunities based on ideas and evidence from ESPON projects, joining together policy-makers, stakeholders, scientists and practitioners involved in European territorial development.
- To present and to share experiences in building territorial strategies supporting European competitiveness and fostering development of European regions by setting up common visions and coordinating efforts of various actors.
- To discuss approaches and tools for Territorial Impact Assessments of EU Policies in support of territorial objectives related to Territorial Cohesion.

The seminar is open for all interested participants and will in particular welcome a mix of policy makers and scientists from Europe and neighbouring countries. The registration is open until 15 May 2009 at 15h00 via the ESPON Website [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu).

#### **Interested in ESPON?**

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 the Interior and for Spatial Development of Luxembourg**. More information: [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)



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