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ESPON 2013 Programme

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First Results of the ESPON 2013 DATABASE

The ESPON 2013 DATABASE is a central project in the ESPON Programme. At the same time it is a tool providing input for analyses based on territorial indicators. The project's first Interim Report gives an overview of the current state of development and the prospects for this knowledge base related to the EU Cohesion Policy.

The general objective of this project is to create, improve and manage a geo-referenced information system within the ESPON Programme, considering the ESPON themes of applied research, its aims and territory to be covered. The ESPON database will contain relevant, reliable and accurate datasets in the field of European territorial development and cohesion, which aims at consolidating and increasing the territorial knowledge base needed for policy formulation, application and evaluation.

The project has already made data exchange between the ESPON projects possible by providing all other ESPON projects with harmonized statistical data and geographical datasets on the official NUTS geometries from EUROSTAT (version 2003 and 2006) and by starting to collect and harmonize datasets produced by ESPON projects.

The ESPON 2013 Database will include data from ESPON projects as well as relevant public regional data in the field of European territorial development and cohesion, such as GDP, accessibility, population, unemployment and demography. This information is useful to position the regions within Europe and for understanding the position of Europe in the world.

The database will be accessible to researchers, policy makers and practitioners from all administrative levels as well as the general public. Its dissemination of indicators is envisaged through the ESPON website. This interface has been developed and will be tested within the ESPON community within the coming months. Publication and public access will be possible by the end of this year.

The Interim Report, as well as all background documents, is available for free downloading at the ESPON Website www.espon.eu. The second Interim Report of the ESPON Database will be available by February 2010, the Draft Final Report by December 2010 and the Final Report by February 2011.

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



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