



CCI 2007 CB 163 PO 022

ESPON 2013
**(The European Observation Network on
Territorial Development and Cohesion)**

Annual Report 2007

**STRUCTURAL FUNDS 2007-2013
TERRITORIAL COOPERATION OBJECTIVE**

Annual implementation report
(In accordance to article 67 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006)
Approved by the ESPON Monitoring Committee on 26 June 2008



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1. Identification

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Objective concerned: European Territorial Cooperation
	Eligible area concerned: EU 27
	Programming period: 2007-2013
	Programme number (CCI No): CCI 2007 CB 163 PO 022
	Programme title: ESPON 2013 (European observation network on territorial development and cohesion)
ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	Reporting year: 2007
	Date of approval of the annual report by the monitoring committee: 23 June 2008

2. Overview of the implementation of the Operational Programme

2.1. Achievement and analysis of the progress

During 2007, the Managing Authority and Monitoring Committee of the ESPON 2006 programme have been deeply involved in the preparation of the new ESPON programme for the programming period 2007-2013. The first version of the ESPON 2013 Programme was submitted to the European Commission for approval on 15 January 2007. Following the interservice consultation and requests for clarifications by the Commission, the fourth modified version of the Programme Document was submitted for approval 12 September 2007. This version was finally approved by the European Commission with its decision of 7 November 2007. (CCI 2007 CB 163 PO 022)

With the approval of the Operational Programme for the ESPON 2013 Programme, the Monitoring Committee, the Managing Authority, the Certifying Authority, the Coordination Unit (acting as JTS) and the Audit Authority have been formally delegated their institutional tasks by the Member and Partner States.

Following the approval of the Operational Programme the authorities and the Monitoring Committee of the ESPON 2013 Programme have released the following documents:

- Rules of Procedure of the Monitoring Committee
- Programme Manual and Project selection criteria for the operations under Priorities 1-3
- Communication Plan according to Article 2 (2) of Reg. 1828/2006 and Work implementation plan for 2008
- Preparation of the launch event of the first calls in January 2008

In addition to the above, the first drafts of the following documents have been also prepared:

- Agreement between the Member and Partner States and the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg in its role as the Managing and Certifying Authority on the implementation of the "ESPON 2013 Operational Programme"
- Description of the management and control system for the part related to the inputs on the first level control and second level audit system established by the Member and Partner States
- Setting up of the application package for the applicants: subsidy contract, partnership agreement, application forms, eligibility rules set by the Member and Partner States for the applicants

In January 2008 the launch event of the ESPON 2013 Programme took place in Brussels and marked the opening of the first calls under three priorities for potential applicants.

2.1.1 Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme

No quantifiable indicators have been mentioned at programme level in the Operational Programme. Quantifiable indicators have only been defined at priority levels which are presented in details under Chapter 3.

2.1.2 Financial information

As mentioned above the Operational Programme was approved by the European Commission on the 7th of November 2007.

Due to the shortage of time and the delay with the setting up of the internal financial procedures no payment has been released in the course of 2007.

Priority axes by source of funding (EUR) in 2007

	Expenditure paid out by the beneficiaries included in payment claims sent to the managing authority	Corresponding public contribution	Private expenditure ¹	Expenditure paid by the body responsible for making payments to the beneficiaries	Total payments received from the Commission
Priority Axis 1 – Applied Research ERDF type expenditure	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€ 0,00
Priority Axis 2 – Targeted Analysis ERDF type expenditure	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00
Priority Axis 3 – Scientific Platform ERDF type expenditure	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00
Priority Axis 4 – Capitalization ERDF type expenditure	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00
Priority Axis 5 – TA, Analytical Support, Communication ERDF type expenditure	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00
Grand Total	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00
Total in transitional regions in the grand total	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00
Total in non-transitional regions in the grand total	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00
ESF type expenditure in the grand total where the Operational Programme is co-financed by the ERDF2	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00

1 Only applicable for operational programmes expressed in total cost.

2 This field shall be completed where the operational programme is co-financed by the ERDF or the ESF where use is made of the option under Article 34 (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

ERDF type expenditure in the grand total where the Operational Programme is co-financed by the ESF	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00	€0,00
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2.1.3 Information about the breakdown of use of the Funds

Combination of codes of dimensions 1 to 5 only ERF for the whole programming period					
Code * Dimension 1 Priority theme	Code * Dimension 2 Form of finance	Code * Dimension 3 Territory	Code * Dimension 4 Economic activity	Code * Dimension 5 Location	Amount **
Code 81 Mechanisms for improving good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation					32.643.772
Code 85 Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection					1.258.356
Code 86 Evaluation and studies; information and communication					131.384
Sub-Total					34.033.512
	Code 01 Non-repayable aid				34.033.512
		Code 00 Not applicable			34.033.512
Total					34.033.512

* the categories should be coded for each dimension using the standard classification

** allocated amount of the Community contribution for each combination of categories

2.1.4 Assistance by target groups

During 2007 no grounds have been assigned under the ESPON 2013 Programme as no calls have been launched.

2.1.5 Assistance repaid or re-used

Due to the early stage of the Programme this point is not yet relevant.

2.1.6 Qualitative analysis

At this stage of the implementation of the Programme it is not possible to analyse the achievements and the progress in relation to the targets.

2.2. Information about compliance with Community law

There were no problems relating to the compliance with Community law in the implementation of the Operational Programme.

2.3 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

The main problem to be mentioned is the late delivery of the formal documents requested from the Member and Partner States. Due to the late approval of the Programme Document in November 2007, the Member and Partner States did not have sufficient time to submit all the necessary documents by the end of last year. As a consequence, the Programme will not be fully functional until the delivery of all documents from all Member and Partner States in the first half of 2008.

2.4 Changes in the context of the operational programme implementation

There were no changes stemming directly from the assistance of the Operational Programme that would have a direct impact on the programme's implementation.

2.5. Substantial modification under Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006

There were no cases where substantial modifications under Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 were needed.

2.6 Complementarity with other instruments

The ESPON 2013 Programme has no arrangements with other instruments.

2.7 Monitoring arrangements

During 2007, the monitoring arrangements focused on the framework of implementation of the ESPON 2013 Programme regarding the involvement of the Member and Partner States and the drafting and preparation of monitoring guidance.

The Managing Authority has taken steps towards the Member States participating in the Programme regarding the implementation provisions for:

- The Agreement of Member and Partner States with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on the implementation of the ESPON 2013 programme;
- The establishment of the Monitoring Committee of the programme;
- The national inputs required regarding the Management and Control Description of the Programme and the set up of first level financial control systems in accordance to the Article 16(1) of Regulation (EC) 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- The set up of the Group of Auditors in support of the Audit Authority

Besides, with the support of the Coordination Unit, the Managing Authority has developed:

- A first version of the ESPON Programme Manual in order to support the implementation of proper monitoring guidance towards the potential beneficiaries from the first call;

- The application forms for the submission of proposals by potentials beneficiaries;
- The evaluation forms related to the selection and evaluation of the proposals for project both on content and financial aspects;
- The reporting forms for ongoing projects both on content and financial aspects;
- The first provisions towards the implementation of a digital Programme Monitoring System for the recording and storage of data for financial management and monitoring of the operations;
- The Communication Plan for the ESPON 2013 Programme.

3. Implementation by priority

3.1 Priority 1

3.1.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority

Since no projects have been running during 2007, nothing can be reported in this respect under this point apart from the targets set out in the Operational Programme.

Indicators		2007	Total
1. Number of actions realised & number of small / medium / large actions	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	30
		-	7/7/16
2. Number of cross-thematic / thematic analyses and trends / prospective studies realised	Baseline		
	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	8/7/3
3. Number of territorial impact studies realised	Baseline		
	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	5
4. Number of experts involved in task forces / sounding boards	Baseline		
	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	40
5. Number of themes and policies that have been deepened and widened compared to ESPON 2006 results	Baseline		
	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	20
6. Number of partners, institutes and scientists involved in applied research actions	Baseline		
	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	100/750
	Baseline		

Qualitative analysis

As mentioned above no projects have been running during 2007. Due to that nothing can be reported here.

3.1.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Taking into account that there were no running projects in 2007, nothing can be reported here.

3.2 Priority 2

3.2.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority

Since no projects have been running during 2007, nothing can be reported in this respect under this point apart from the targets set out in the Operational Programme.

Indicators		2007	Total
1. Number and types of actions realised & number of small / medium / large actions	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	30
	Baseline	-	10/10/10
2. Number of stakeholder / user consultations realised and number of stakeholders / users contacted	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	3
	Baseline	-	300
3. Number of stakeholders directly involved in the implementations of the actions	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	50
	Baseline		
4. Number of themes, topics and experiments covered by actions realised	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	30
	Baseline		
5. Number of types of specific territories covered by actions realised	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	20
	Baseline		

Qualitative analysis

As mentioned above no projects have been running during 2007. Due to that nothing can be reported here.

3.2.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Taking into account that there were no running projects in 2007, nothing can be reported here.

3.3 Priority 3

3.3.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority

Since no projects have been running during 2007, nothing can be reported in this respect under this point apart from the targets set out in the Operational Programme.

Indicators		2007	Total
1. Number of actions realised	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	20
	Baseline		
2. Number of new, updated and improved tools, models, methodologies developed	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	15
	Baseline		
3. Number of territorial indicators defined	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	10
	Baseline		
4. Number of periodic territorial monitoring reports published	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	3
	Baseline		
	Achievement	0	0

5. Number of downloads for support of data and tools (from the ESPON website) and geographical spread of users	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	2000
	Baseline		
6. Number of downloads for territorial monitoring reports (from the ESPON website) and geographical spread of users	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	500
	Baseline		
7. Number of ESPON-external documents making reference to ESPON data, tools or reproducing ESPON maps	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	100
	Baseline		

Qualitative analysis

As mentioned above no projects have been running during 2007. Due to that nothing can be reported here.

3.3.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Taking into account that there were no running projects in 2007, nothing can be reported here.

3.4 Priority 4

3.4.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority

Since no projects have been running during 2007, nothing can be reported in this respect under this point apart from the targets set out in the Operational Programme.

Indicators		2007	Total
1. Number of actions realised	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	30
	Baseline		
2. Number of European Seminars/workshops realised	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	14
	Baseline		
3. Number of Transnational Networking Activities realised	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	14
	Baseline		
4. Number of press releases and larger and smaller reports / publications issued	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	10/12
	Baseline		
5. Number of participants in all European Seminars / Workshops and average number of participants per seminar/event	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	150/30
	Baseline		
6. Number of participants in all Transnational Networking Activities and average number of participants per action	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	400/40
	Baseline		
7. Number of stakeholders reached by mailing lists and by visiting the ESPON website	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	500
	Baseline		

Qualitative analysis

As mentioned above no projects have been running during 2007. Due to that nothing can be reported here.

3.4.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Taking into account that there were no running projects in 2007, nothing can be reported here.

3.5 Priority 5

3.5.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority

Indicators	Progress	2007	Total
1. Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	Achievement	1	1
	Target	2	14
	Baseline		
2. Number of CC meetings organised	Achievement	0	0
	Target	2	14
	Baseline		
3. Number of Internal ESPON seminars	Achievement	1	1
	Target	1	14
	Baseline		
4. Number of ECP meetings	Achievement	0	0
	Target	2	14
	Baseline		
5. Number of events for potential and selected beneficiaries	Achievement	1	1
	Target	-	14
	Baseline		
6. Number of on-the-spot-checks showing no significant results	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	95
	Baseline		
7. Number of participants in Internal ESPON seminars	Achievement	100	100
	Target	-	2500
	Baseline		

Qualitative analysis

As the ESPON 2013 Programme was approved in November 2007, the physical and financial progress of the priority is not yet visible from the indicators point of view.

However, during 2007, the ESPON Managing Authority together with the support of the ESPON Coordination Unit has conducted 1 preparatory Monitoring Committee meeting and 2 preparatory Concertation Committee meetings.

Information on the total share of the priority allocation used seems not to be relevant at this early stage of the programme implementation.

3.5.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Taking into account that there were no running projects in 2007, nothing can be reported here.

4. Technical Assistance

The budget for Technical Assistance for 2007, approved at the beginning of the year by the Monitoring Committee, amounted at €660.000,00.

The reason for not having incurred any expenditures at programme level is due to the fact that in 2007 the new procedures were in the process of being set up and not yet operational.

The technical assistance expenditure has been solely born by the hosting institution of the ESPON Coordination Unit, which anticipates all the TA running costs (including staff costs). These costs are reimbursed by the Managing Authority at a later stage.

By the end of December 2007, the level of expenditure on the budget line for Priority 5 was €162.515,34.

5. Information and publicity

In 2007, due to the approval of the Programme Document in November 2007, only a few implementation measures could be taken to provide information and publicity on the Operational Programme.

The ESPON Coordination Unit in support of the Managing Authority has produced the Communication Plan for the ESPON 2013 Programme which was approved by the ESPON Monitoring Committee on 13th November 2007.

The current ESPON website was adapted and used to disseminate widely the first information about the ESPON 2013 Programme; were already made available online for public access in November 2007 (1) the Operational Programme just after its approval by the European Commission and (2) the Communication Plan after its approval by the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

Information mentioning the approval of the Operational Programme, the Pre-announcement of the first calls for proposals and the major launch event of the programme was disseminated through a newsletter distributed by e-mail addressed to policy makers, stakeholders, and other parties who expressed interest in the ESPON Programme by subscribing through the public ESPON website.

The pre-announcement of the first round of calls to be launched in January 2008 was done via the ESPON website. Future pre-announcements of ESPON calls will include announcement in the EU Official Journal.

Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority

Since only a few measures could be taken during 2007, only few indicators can be reported in this respect under this point apart from the targets set out in the Operational Programme.

Indicators		2007	Total
1. Major event launching the programme towards the potential beneficiaries	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	1
	Baseline		
2. Major event per year presenting the implementation progress of the ESPON Programme to be combined with events targeting potential beneficiaries in connection to the launching of the selection procedures	Achievement	0	0
	Target	1	7
	Baseline		
3. Lead Partner seminar, including a workshop with financial officers and appointed controllers per round of selection procedure**	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	**
	Baseline		
4. Elaboration of a set of guidelines on the ESPON 2013 Programmes procedures for participation and implementation	Achievement	1	1
	Target	-	1
	Baseline		
5. At least two seminars during 2007-2013 involving financial controllers at national level	Achievement	0	0
	Target	-	2
	Baseline		

***No specific target was set in relation to the number of round of selection; however the Monitoring Committee has decided on an average of two rounds of selection per year on which the number of calls for proposal may vary.*