



## ESPON 2013 Programme

### Workshop

# European gateway cities and regions

## New evidence on different types of gateways and their future role

27 November 2013  
9h00 – 13h00

### Venue

Federation of Enterprises in Belgium (VBO-FEB)  
Conference Room Horta  
Rue Ravenstein 4  
B - 1000 Brussels

## Programme



## Workshop background and objectives

Europe’s gateway cities and regions have great potential for contributing to the achievement of Europe 2020’s targets. However, their potential contributions vary greatly as gateway cities and regions are as different from each other and as diverse as European regions in general. Their geographical reach and orientation may be global, national or regional. They may cover one specific or several functions, for example they may function as gateway for research, innovation, tourism, migration, etc.

Gateways are often perceived as hubs in networks of flows of goods and people. At the same time, they also stand for places where economic and social services are available and can be accessed.

Speaking about gateways has a clear territorial dimension and is at the same time a matter of scale. The flows of people, commodities and funds as well as the provision of services are highly dependent on whether the focus is on a metropolitan region, a second tier national city or a regional centre.

Moreover, the local level of economic development and national policies have over time impacted the functionality of gateways and shaped the profile in terms of what the individual gateway can offer as functionality.

Against this backdrop, the workshop intends to present and discuss different types of gateways from a European perspective considering their different geographical contexts. The workshop will include territorial evidence that has been produced by numerous ESPON projects. This will be supported by a Territorial Observation no.9 that will be available before the workshop.

The evidence on gateways and the concept used by the ESPON analyses will be discussed and tested exploring examples from national and regional territorial strategies or policies.

Concrete examples from different European countries and regions will be presented. A panel discussion ending the workshop will address the role of gateways as policy orientation in European territorial development and in national and regional strategies and policies. The round table will be nourished by stakeholders referring to regional gateway examples and statements from policy makers at national level as well as scientist involved in ESPON.

8.30-9.00 *Registration and welcome coffee / tea*

**Introduction**

9.00-9.15 *Welcome and setting the scene*

- Peter Mehlbye, ESPON Coordination Unit

**New evidence on different types of European gateway cities and regions**

Moderator: Maria José Festas, Member of the ESPON Monitoring Committee, Portugal

9.15-9.45 *Potentials to strengthen Europe's gateway cities and regions*

- Kai Böhme, Spatial Foresight GmbH, Luxembourg

9.45-10.30 **Gateways in national and regional territorial strategy and policy**

- *Measuring the performance of gateways: How are Ireland's primary urban centres developing?*  
Adrian O'Donoghue, Policy and Research Officer, Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly, Ireland

*Gateway cities and regions – how do they work in practice?*

- *The Regiopol Initiative and Rostock as hub in its Regiopol Region*  
Andreas Schubert, Department of Urban Development, Urban Planning and Economy, Hanseatic City of Rostock, Germany
- *Logistic Valley - Gateway-subregion concept*  
Ryszard Toczek, Head of City Development Office, Municipality of Gdynia, Poland

10.30-10.45 Open discussion and questions

10.45-11.15 *Networking coffee and tea*

**Panel discussions: The role of gateways as policy orientation in European territorial development?**

11.15-12.45 Moderator: Kai Böhme, Spatial Foresight GmbH, Luxembourg

Stakeholder statements based on gateway examples:

- Teofil Gherca, Lead stakeholder ESPON GROSEE project, Ministry for Regional Development and Public Administration, Romania
- Adriana May, Lombardia Region, Italy

Responses from MC members and scientists:

- Silvia Jost, Member of the ESPON Monitoring Committee, Switzerland
- Maria José Festas, Member of the ESPON Monitoring Committee, Portugal
- Gilles van Hamme, Lead Partner ESPON TIGER project, Free University of Brussels / IGEAT, Belgium
- Johannes Suitner, Lead Partner ESPON POLYCE project, Vienna University of Technology, Austria

Open discussion

12.45 **Conclusions and closure**

- Peter Mehlbye, ESPON Coordination Unit

13.00-14.00 *Buffet lunch*

**ESPON Workshop**  
**“European gateway cities and regions – New evidence on different types of gateways and their future role”**  
27 November 2013  
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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