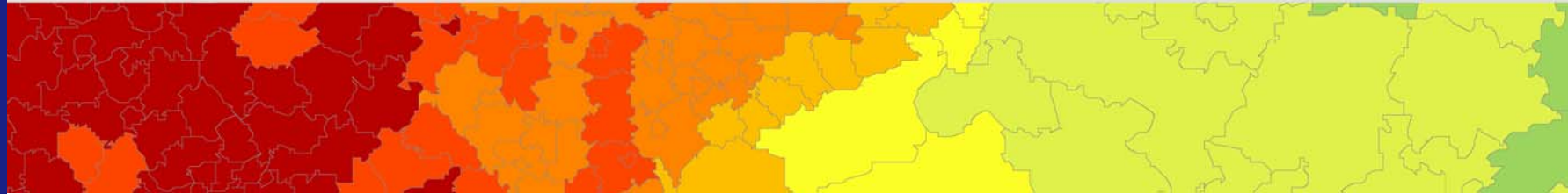


ESPON



Open ESPON Seminar
3-4 June 2009 in Prague

Introduction to Workshops:

Looking for development opportunities in
different types of European regions



EUROPEAN UNION

Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

Workshop idea

- Build on general expectations to the Economic Recession, its further development and possible effects on regions and cities
- In parallel workshops deepen the understanding of the regional/local situation in different parts of Europe, through dialogue between policy makers and scientists
- Focus on
 - Likely diversity of effects on regions, cities and larger territories
 - Territorial potentials, opportunities and new avenues for development by looking at different ongoing themes of ESPON projects
- Conclude on possible development opportunities and possible strategies that could help counterbalancing the current economic situation.

Global economic recession related to regions/cities

- The economic recession is in development
- Facts broken down to regions/cities not yet available
- Informed guesses the best possible option
- Country and sector specific impacts
- Random territorial patterns of impacts
- Policy shifts expected supported by public investments and incentives that will have territorial effects
- Territorial impact may shift rapidly over coming months (and years)

Global recession and territorial vulnerability

- Regional/urban vulnerability and contraction/lay-off seems to depend on:
 - Vulnerability of the national economy
 - Vulnerability with particular high presence of sectors, such as:
 - Finance, banking sector
 - Manufacturing sector, particular the export oriented
 - Housing related sectors
 - Automotive industry and sub-suppliers
 - Tourism sector
 - Solidity of individual businesses

Changing Driving Forces

- Intensified global economic cooperation
- Lower growth rates the years ahead
- Substantial increase in unemployment
- Macro-economic policies determinant on domestic demand and revival of growth/releasing endogenous potential
- Strong reduction of FDI in short and medium term
- Development of green economy and energy
- Lower increase in transport flows
- Strong impacts of public investments in infrastructures
- Slower progress of fertility rates (in some countries)
- Legal migrants going back home and stronger pressure of illegal migrants
- Acceleration of climate change and intensification in prevention measures limiting greenhouse gas emissions

Key Workshop Questions

- What main driving forces are emerging related to the global economic recession in the thematic field/types of territories addressed?
- What are the main challenges and territorial development opportunities that could be considered in the light of the global economic recession?
- Which considerations could be relevant for possible recovery strategies and shifts in policy priorities in order to counterbalance negative territorial patterns and development trends?

4 parallel Workshops

- Workshop A: Northern Europe
Focus: Regional responses to demographic and energy challenges
- Workshop B: Southern Europe
Focus: Economic growth factors and tools in support of regional policies
- Workshop C: Central and Eastern Europe
Focus: Cross-border regions in relation to polycentric development
- Workshop D: Western Europe
Focus: Agglomeration economies in city-regions and possible spill over effects to the wider regional economy

Flow in Workshops

- Workshop moderator opens
- Opening statement by policy makers
- Informed guesses and opinions by discussants from ESPON projects
- Small discussion groups
- Brief summary from each group on poster
- Workshop Reporter compiles the report for the plenary
- The 4 Workshops will be documented after the seminar

NB:

- Workshops presentations and discussions allow for comparison with other European regions and for including other themes
- Be flexible in case of fully booked workshops

Workshop rooms

- Workshop A: Lounge 11 (other building section)
- Workshop B: Room Moravia (ground floor)
- Workshop C: Congress Hall I (downstairs)
- Workshop D: Congress Hall III (upstairs)

Please be ready at 14h00 for the start of the Workshops!



More information

Thank you for your attention
and enjoy your lunch!