



**ECP Transnational Networking Activity**  
**“Compiling 1”: synthesis of ECP comments on ESPON first  
round of ESPON projects**

<b>Transnational ECP group implementing the activity</b>
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**ECP Lead Partner:** ECP France, UMS Riate University of Paris 7

**ECP Partners:**

- ECP Belgium,** IGEAT, Université Libre de Bruxelles
- ECP Finland,** Helsinki University of Technology, CURS
- ECP Greece,** Urban Environment and Human resources University Institute
- ECP Hungary,** VATI
- ECP Ireland,** National University of Ireland Maynooth, NIRSA
- ECP Luxembourg,** Taurus Institute, University of Trier
- ECP Poland,** Ministry of Economy and Labour
- ECP Slovenia,** Office for Spatial Development, Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy
- ECP United Kingdom,** Heriot-Watt University, School of the Built Environment

<b>Overall aims and objectives:</b>
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ECPs are supposed to represent their national scientific community: they “represent the Member States’ research capacity through their own expertise and links with and knowledge about national research institutions in all spatially relevant sectors of research” (*The ESPON 2006 Programme*, p.64).

In the architecture of ESPON, they constitute the right entity to deal with scientific matters, besides the Monitoring Committee which looks at the reports from a policy point of view, and besides the Coordination Unit which evaluates the reports from an administrative point of view.

Moreover, ECPs have to comment on all the final reports: “The results of all projects should be assessed by all ESPON Contact Points to receive a comprehensive picture of the variety of European approaches. Commenting other projects belong to the crucial network elements of the whole programme.” (*The ESPON 2006 Programme*, p.74)

In that context, the overall aim of the project is

- **to compile the comments provided by each ECPs on 10 ESPON projects final reports delivered between August 2004 and November 2004., in a “compiling of comments” report**
- **to structure and consolidate the process of report’s commenting in each national context**
- **To point out the gaps and the weaknesses (methods, concepts, field and research themes) in the final reports and of course to highlight the strengths**

The challenges of this work are:

- Providing a coherent scientific overview that synthesizes the comments given by the ECPs. Achieving this mission allows to avoid the emergence of a fuzzy situation where each ECP provides isolated comments.
- Strengthening the networking in the whole programme in general and between ECPs in particular. The project will be the first formalised attempt at working out as a real ECP network.
- Finding and listing some gaps existing in the final reports. This can be helpful as regards the assessment of progress made under ESPON 2002-2006 and the preparation of ESPON II.
- Ensuring the promotion of the ESPON programme. The compilation of ECP comments on each report will be of a great help in having an opinion on reports covering so different fields. As comments are coming from different ECPs, it will be easier to build a more objective idea on each report and consequently to explain what has been done to a wide public.

### Description of key actions, main activities, rationale of the project:

- **Elaboration of a common method for compiling the comments made by the ECPs**

The way of compiling the comments will be inferred from what has been done in the previous commenting / compiling attempts: commenting on the Second Interim Report of 111 (Polycentrism) and 112 (Urban-Rural) in April 2003, and commenting on the Third Interim Report of 131 (Natural Hazards) and 114 (Demographic trends) in May 2004.

The ECP in charge of the compilation will structure their text **following the main topics of the common format for the comments:**

- A. Strategic reflection,
- B. Methodological matters, etc.

(The common format for the comments is given in the final compiling report).

- **Opening an extranet tool**

As a large number of exchanges are expected between the ECPs, an Extranet tool is carried out. The Extranet seems very useful in this case as a place to store all the comments provided by the ECPs (around 70 comments are expected, with a means of 7 comments per report). Each ECP will be given a password to store his comments on the different reports, and will also have the possibility to read the comments made by the others, so that the procedure is always transparent.

Apart from a place to store the files, the Extranet offers a forum where to give ideas on the gaps in the projects.

- **Putting the commenting process into perspective, in the light of ESPON2**

The UK ECP posted on the Extranet a paper entitled “ECPs in an ESPON 2”, on which other ECPs gradually react by posting other papers or feeding the “forum”. This allows ECPs to give their feedback on the commenting usefulness, and suggest which role could be fulfilled by ECPs in an ESPON2.

### Listing and detailed description of envisaged concrete outputs and deliveries

- During the project, opening of an **Extranet** for all ECPs as a place where to store the comments, and as a forum for discussing the gaps in existing projects.
- At the end of the project, **10 final documents will be delivered, one per commented ESPON project Final report**. Each document is composed of around 10-15 pages for the compilation of comments, plus annexes comprising all single ECP comments on the ESPON project Final reports. **These documents will be put together in one “compiling report”** by the Lead Partner, and sent by electronic mail to the MC delegates, CU, and ECPs. A paper version of the final “compiling of comments” report will also be published in 75 copies and sent to the same target group.
- Finally, a **synthesis note on “ECPs in ESPON2”** will be delivered, after the different opinions provided by the ECPs. This note puts the commenting process into the perspective of ECP’s general role.

<b>ESPON projects or results addressed</b>
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The following Final Reports will be commented and compiled:

- 1.1.1, Polycentrism
- 1.1.2, Urban-Rural
- 1.2.1, Transport Trends
- 1.2.2, Telecom Trends
- 1.3.2, Natural Heritage
- 2.1.1, Transport Policy Impact
- 2.1.2, R&D Policy Impact
- 2.1.3, CAP impact
- 2.2.3, Urban in Structural Funds
- 3.1, Coordination.