



ESPON work

On Areas with Geographic Specificities

Overcoming Barriers to Economic Development - A Remote Island Perspective

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Inspire policy making by territorial evidence

Content

TeDi/ 2010 EUROISLANDS/ 2011 ARTS/ 2011

GEOSPECS/ 2012 ET 2050/2013

- Territorial Specificities
- Policy Recommendations
- Territorial impact assessment tool

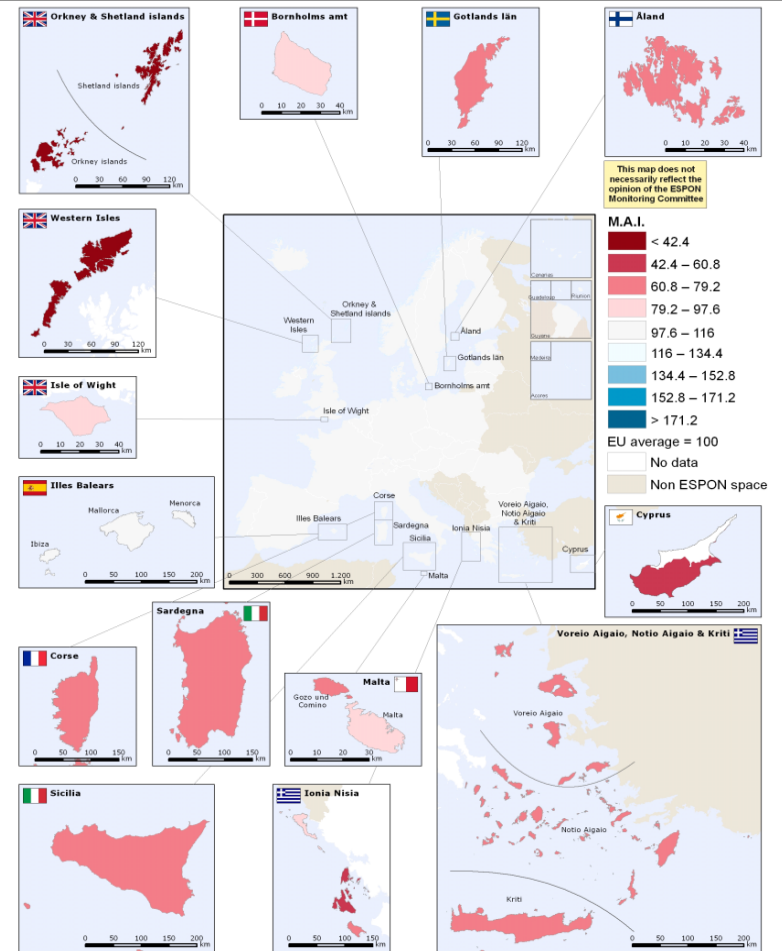
EUROISLANDS

Accessibility is very low

No island region has accessibility over the European average*

*Measured by ESPON index that is based on air accessibility but doesn't take into account goods transport and the needs of local population for access to different services

Multimodal Accessibility Index

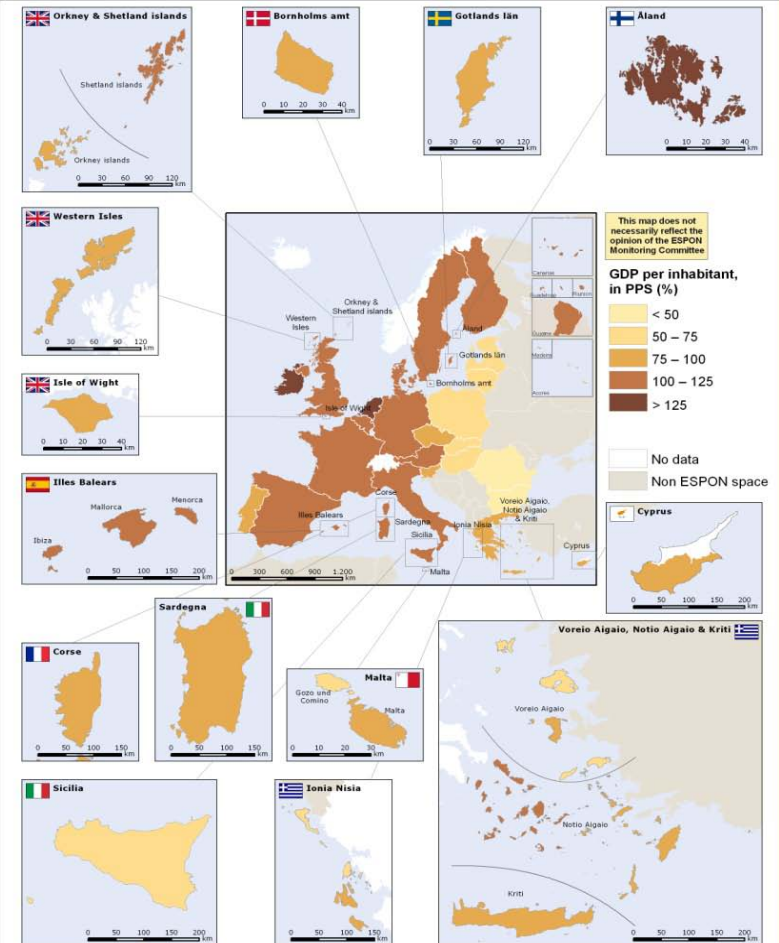


EUROISLANDS


GDP per inhabitant in PPS

- Islands have an average GDP/capita lower than the EU 27 average
- A few of them perform better (Aland, Illes Balears, Shetland and Kyklades)
- In general the economic convergence process is slower than for the rest of the EU regions

GDP per inhabitant, in PPS, 2006
 In percentage of EU-27 = 100



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Regional level: NUTS 0/2/3 2006

Source: EUROSTAT

Origin of data: EUROSTAT

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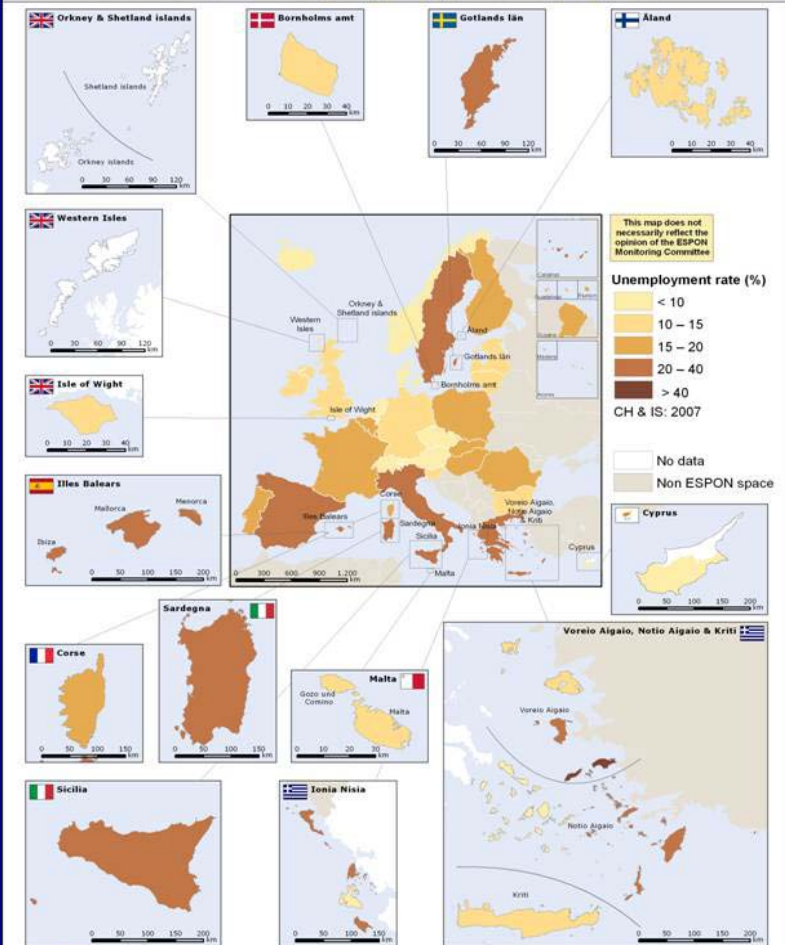
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EUROISLANDS

Job & carrier opportunities are low

- Consequences: departure of young qualified people
- Activity rate - especially for women - is lower than on mainland
- Female and young unemployment are higher on islands than on mainland

Unemployment Rate (%), 2008
 for the 15 - 24 age group, total population



EUROISLANDS

General Conclusions (1):

- The **performance of the islands is generally lagging behind EU-27** considering most of the key development indicators; this low performance may be attributed to the **low attractiveness** of the islands
- **Islands' attractiveness is directly influenced by insularity**: low accessibility, low quality and high cost of public services, low external economies
- **Vulnerability** is a characteristic of islands' economy (monoactivity/tourism)
- Attractiveness and performance is even lower for **small islands and archipelagos** and vulnerability is higher
- **Natural and cultural assets** constitute a prominent potential for a significant number of islands

EUROISLANDS

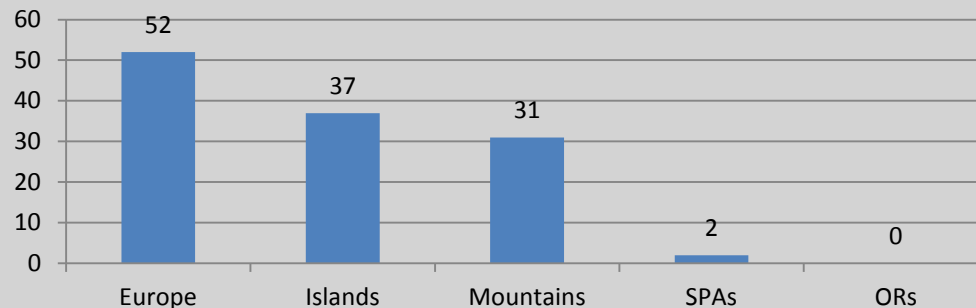
General Conclusions (2):

- **Insularity has to be considered as a permanent, natural feature** that affects negatively, directly and indirectly, islands' attractiveness and subsequently places obstacles to their performance in terms of sustainable development
- **Insularity creates unequal opportunities** between these territories and the rest of the European Union
- **EU should stress on attractiveness parameters** in order to address the different characteristics and costs of insularity by a differentiated policy

GEOSPECS

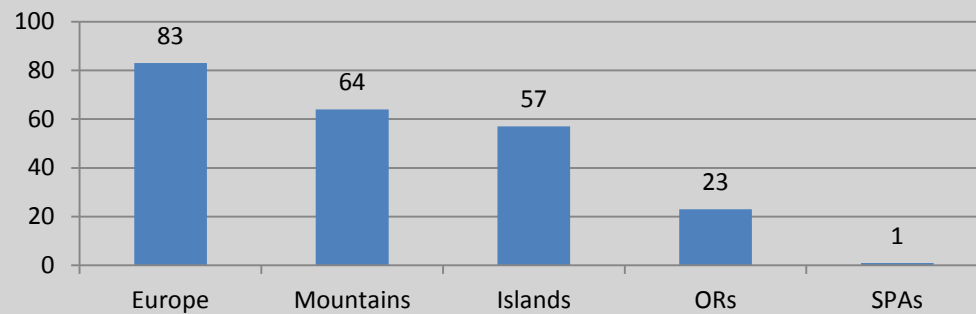
General accessibility

(measured by access to an airport)



Access to many different services

(measured by presence of urban agglomerations)



GEOSPECS

General characteristics of territories with geographic specificities (I)

- Demographic challenges:
 - negative natural growth rates
 - out-migration of young people
 - ageing
- Limited accessibility, high transport costs
- Weak broadband and mobile phone connections (some pilots on telemedicine, home-working, e-democracy)
- No one typical economic structure of labour market:
 - high share of employment in the public sector
 - low diversification of economic activity
 - specialisations based on natural resources (primary products with low added value)

GEOSPECS

General characteristics of territories with geographic specificities (II)

- **Social capital** – “closely-knit communities”
- Preserved **history and culture**
- High value of **natural capital**:
 - Biodiversity
 - Goods and services that do not receive market pricing (air purification, hazard prevention, groundwater recharge, bioremediation of waste and pollutants, recreation)
 - Renewable energies (hydropower, offshore wind, wave, tidal energies, biomass, solar energy)
- Higher **vulnerability to climate change** (islands – sea level rise, storms, extreme temperatures, flooding)

GEOSPECS

Areas with territorial specificities are very diverse:

- **Total population** of islands vary hugely (less than 2thous. -more than 1 mio)
- Population **density** of islands:
high in southern Europe - low in northern Europe (16-106 p/km²)
- Sparsely Populated Areas:
in Spain urban centres mostly within two hours - in northern Europe urban centres mostly at long distances

Areas with territorial specificities overlap:

- Regional or local stakeholders often characterise themselves as 'belonging' to one particular specificity, but
- Many regions have **multiple specificities**

Policy Recommendations (1)

Recognising diversity in policy-making

- Performance compared to other territories is of secondary importance
- Regions should not be compared against the same benchmarks
- Different types of regional specialisation create different levels of economic return
- A more functional approach is needed recognising complementarities and interdependencies of developments among different areas
- Integrated place-based approach is needed since geographic specificity is only one of many factors influencing the performance of any given territory

Understanding specific processes to inform policy-making is more important than benchmarking

The focus should be on potentials rather than on relative performance

Policy Recommendations (2)

Recognising diversity in policy-making

- No need to develop a policy “per geographic specificity”
- Endogenous opportunities (potential) and challenges of each area should be revealed and taken into account
- European debates on cohesion and competitiveness need to focus on different models of growth and development rather than convergence or divergence of regional performance

Supporting development strategies that respect territorial potential is more valid than attaching particular funding lines to geographic conditions

Policy Recommendations (3)

Fields of action

- Seasonality in employment (tourism) to be integrated with other employment opportunities (multi-activity)
- Overcoming physical remoteness by developing new ICT solutions to ensure accessibility of services, learning opportunities, e-democracy etc.
- Investment in alternative energy sources
- Encouraging young people to return after university studies
- Branding, self-perception
- Niche products (aquaculture specialised in seed mussels)

Policy measures should be tailored to local potentials and challenges

Balance of measures to compensate for permanent handicaps and measures to promote the assets ("territorial capital")

Policy Recommendations (4)

Territorial cooperation practices

- Dealing with geographic specificities is often about creating new types of connections between areas
 - Within regions
 - Across regional and national boundaries
- Compensating for imbalances in flows
- Creating alliances through which actors can strengthen the robustness and resilience of their local communities
- Gaining greater weight (critical mass) in economic and political systems dominated by main urban areas
- Building of mutual trust and social capital

Policy Recommendations (5)

Vision for the European Territory 2050

- European visions for the future **should not be territorially blind**
- Unleash regional diversity and **endogenous development**:
 - Targeted policy steps have to be successful to tackle issues faced by areas characterised by a specific permanent geographic or demographic handicap
- A New Governance Approach:
 - **New planning and territorial cooperation initiatives** are needed attached to add-hoc geographies
- Remoteness:
 - **Accessibility** is regarded as a necessary condition for economic growth, having a direct impact on the attractiveness of regions for businesses and people

Territory matters!

Policy Recommendations (6)

Needed: an improved framework for dialogue between the European, national, regional and local levels, making it possible to reflect unique patterns of opportunity and challenges in each territory

- A general method for the assessment of local situations
- Support to the formulation of development models adapted to local conditions
- Better access to data of local development conditions
- Improved quantitative and qualitative analyses of local situations
- Alternative methods for analyses at the NUTS 2 and 3 levels
- “Smarter” indicators going beyond the current focus on GDP

TIA in EU policy making

The Policy Demand

- EU policy proposals influence development of territories, regions and cities
- Need to understand territorial effects before decision
- TIA can help law-making by offering ex-ante information on the likely impact in different regions
- Urban TIA, Cross-Border TIA ... Remote Areas TIA???

ESPON TIA tool

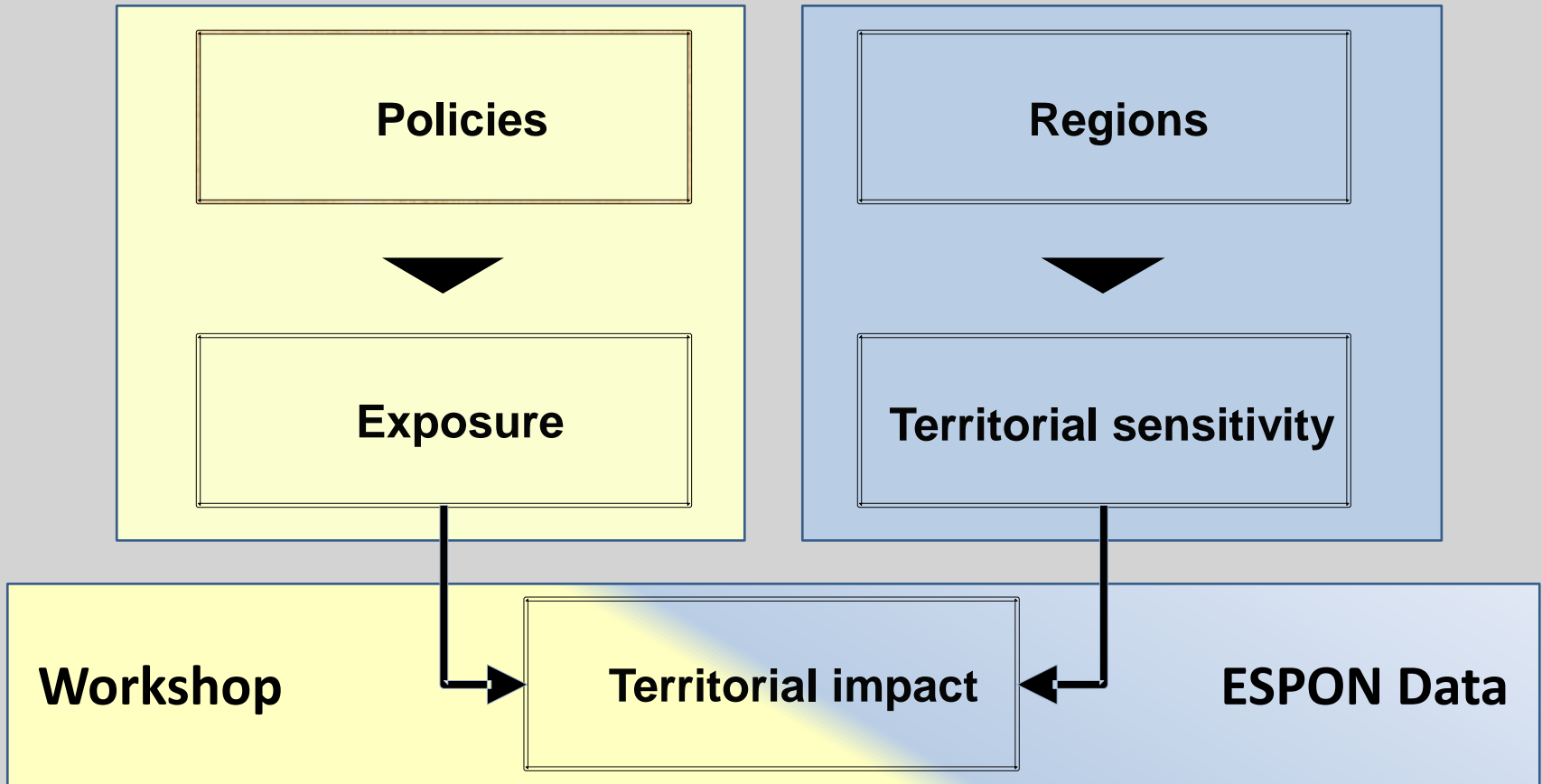
The ESPON TIA tool

- A simplified, evidence-based procedure of an ex-ante Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA)
- User-friendly methodology

The Approach

- A TIA-quick check only, not a scientific analysis
- Combining expert knowledge gathered in a workshop with an Excel tool and standardised indicators
- Showing possible impacts in maps (NUTS 2 level)

ESPON TIA: The vulnerability concept



ESPON TIA tool: How does it work?

9 step process

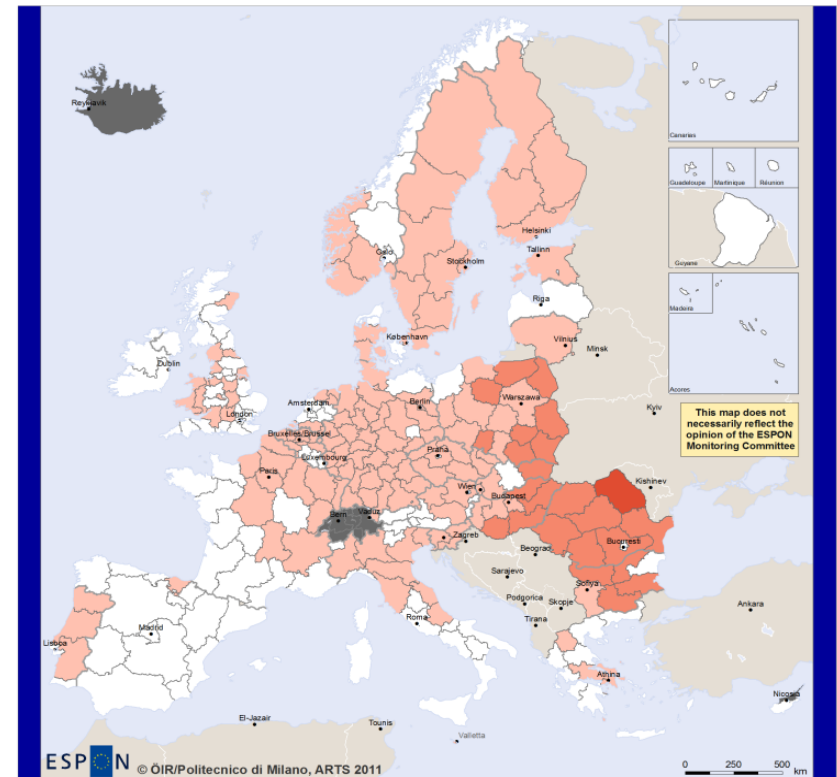
1. The conceptual model: how does a policy influence the development of regions?
2. Dealing with discrete cause/effect chains (branching)
3. Which types of regions are affected (branching & regional exposure)?
4. What is the intensity of exposure on different fields?
5. What is the territorial impact in European regions?
6. Which regions will be hit in which fields?
7. Do the results make sense?
8. What are the policy implications?
9. How to communicate the results?

ESPON TIA tool: What does it deliver?

Output

- Maps showing territorial impacts of the proposed policy on each indicator field as well as aggregated impact
- Starting point for discussion on policy implications, including adaptive capacity and governance strategies
- A report on the results of the workshop with experts can be drafted as documentation and for follow up

Regions affected by Directive on air quality branch b Economic growth (GDP/capita) (F12)



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 Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund



Regional level: NUTS 2
 Transformation and Compilation of Data based on:
 ESPON Projects, EUROSTAT, EEA Corine Land Cover,
 5th Cohesion Report, BOKU University, DG AGRI
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Experiences and Future Plans

What has been done

- ESPON TIA web application for broader use
- Test Workshops by the CoR:
 - “Towards a Circular Economy: a zero waste programme for Europe” – 9 September 2014
 - “Smooth phasing-out of the milk quotas in the EU” – 27 November 2014
 - “New Skills for Europe” – 14 March 2016

What will be done

- Concrete use upon demand
- Test of Urban Impact Assessment
- Test of Cross-border Impact Assessment
- User support from ESPON EGTC





Thank you!

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