



## **ESPON Open Seminar Prague 3-4 June 2009**

### **SESSION 4 - Workshop B – TIA in Urban Regions Main conclusions**

This workshop aimed to explore how EU policies are influencing Urban Regions and the sensitivities of Urban Regions that need to be explicitly assessed through TIA.

The context is the overall objective of improving the application of EU policies to diverse regions and demonstrating the added value of these policies.

#### National experiences with TIA

- In DE the regular TIA for spatially relevant projects on local or regional level integrates an environmental assessment by law. There are political tendencies to exclude or to separate environmental aspects from regular TIA.
- In NL policies with potential territorial impact have been identified including a rough indication of their urgency/severity and a possible request for a more detailed TIA.
- In NL a TIA on Territorial Cohesion policy was carried out. The study showed little direct impact in the Netherlands in the short-term, but it does provide opportunities for new funding, better regulations at the EU level, and more flexibility for spatial development in the long term.
- Success stories in urban planning from North European countries are taken over in South European countries. By matching urban functions and urban form many achievements could be reached.
- In IT a SEA is often obligatory and a TIA not. Therefore a TIA for a sectoral policy is often skipped.
- In DE, the EU policies and directives that may counteract an urban policy of restructuring the inner cities and containing urban sprawl include directives on noise, air quality and the habitat directive (Natura 2000).

#### Consequences of the crisis for urban regions

- In the short term metropolitan areas could suffer relatively more than others, particularly industrial cities specialized in low/medium level technologies.
- In the long term the creative and knowledge potential contained in metropolitan areas could help these areas recover from the crisis.
- Metropolitan areas in the global network have an advantage but also a disadvantage.
- In CH social cohesion in metropolitan areas is falling and investments in building areas are declining.
- Due to the financial crisis, large amounts of money are being redirected from the state to banks in metropolitan areas. This may cause metropolitan areas being less impacted than expected.



### Functions of TIA

- TIA should have the specific objectives to assess the impacts for specific functional areas such as urban areas. Only then can the impact on phenomena such as urban sprawl or urban-rural relationships can be assessed.
- However, the fact that functional areas do not correspond with their jurisdictional/-administrative areas is problematic.
- TIA is performed to give input beyond sectoral goals. TIA should not only assess the intended impacts, but also the unintended impacts of projects, programs and measures.
- TIA should not only assess policies and programs that are intended to be implemented, but also existing and already implemented policies and programs in order to justify their right to exist.
- Important aspects of urban regions to be considered by TIA are: urban sprawl, urban-rural relationships, multilevel governance, the 'European city' as a cultural asset and social integrator, driving force of the economy and energy efficient organism.
- Indicators that could measure the recovery of urban regions from the crisis are:
  - Sectoral structure
  - Participation of the region in global networks
  - The integration of commanding functions
  - Type of development: endogenous versus exogenous (headquarters, share of independents, cities position in the networks, ...)
  - Knowledge functions (level of education, participation to knowledge networks...)

### TIA and the Leipzig Charter

- The Leipzig Charter is one of the most concrete EU policy documents on cities, but it is not very explicit in what it actually wants concerning measures on regional and local level.
- Strong political messages that are included in the Leipzig Charter are: multilevel governance, containing urban sprawl, strengthening the "European city" as a cultural asset, associating private partners in urban regeneration, with strong emphasis on provision of public spaces, social housing and general quality of the urban built environment as the public counterpart of private profitabilities.