



ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme

Annual Implementation Report 2015

Citizen's Summary

The ESPON Cooperation Programme was approved by the European Commission on the 12 February 2015. Its Monitoring Committee was set up by written procedure on the 25 April 2015 with the approval of the Rules of Procedure and the nomination of the members representing the participating countries.

In June 2015 the Managing Authority organized in Latvia a launch event for the Cooperation Programme with the participation of around 120 stakeholders' representatives from all over Europe. An invitation was sent to all stakeholders of the programme and the information of the event was published on the ESPON website and on the website of the Managing Authority.

The Managing Authority, on behalf of the Monitoring Committee, invited on 29 June 2015 the ESPON EGTC (Single Beneficiary of the programme) to submit an Operation Proposal by the 28 July 2015 via the online platform set up for the implementation and management of the Cooperation Programme. In the framework of the same invitation the Managing Authority also asked the Single Beneficiary to present the first Annual Work Plan for the period covering June 2015-December 2016. The proposal was approved by the Monitoring Committee on 7 December 2015.

In relation to Priority 1, according to the conditions set in the Operation Specification and the implementation Guidelines, the implementation of the Single Operation could already start in July 2015. Therefore, the Single Beneficiary in the period July-December 2015 launched the first 7 call for tenders related to the applied research projects. The outcome of the calls will contribute to enhancing the European territorial evidence production through applied research and analysis. The selected themes for the first calls are the following:

- The Geography of New Employment Dynamics in Europe
- The World in Europe, global FDI flows towards Europe
- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in European Regions and Cities
- Territories and low-carbon economy

- Inner Peripheries: national territories facing challenges of access to basic services of general interest
- Possible European Territorial Futures
- Comparative Analysis of Territorial Governance and Spatial Planning Systems in Europe

In addition, on 23 December 2015 the Single Beneficiary opened the invitation to submit proposals for targeted analysis. The cut-off date for evaluation of proposal received and the selection of the first three proposals has been set on the 9 March 2016.

Finally, at its meeting in October 2015 the MC approved some modification to the Cooperation Programme. The two main modifications relates to the inclusion in the document of the quantification of the baseline value for the set of programme indicators (according to the action plan approved by the EC) and a minor modification of the programme budget with the transfer of some funds from the Technical Assistance to Priority 1. The revised Cooperation Programme was submitted to the EC on 4 December 2015.