



ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme

Annual Implementation Report 2016

Citizen's Summary

The year 2016 was the first year of implementation of the ESPON Single Operation and first steps were taken to support relevant policy processes in accordance with the mission and objective of the ESPON Programme. The deliveries of the ESPON 2020 Programme have been organised in a way so that outputs can contribute to and support policy processes in a timely way to ensure that the content is taken up by potential users for evidence. The engagement of stakeholders from the early stages of the implementation of activities was considered and promoted in order to ensure and encourage the ultimate uptake at the level of the potential users of the results.

In relation to the applied research projects the first 7 were launched and inception deliveries received and published on the website. The first applied research deal with Geography of new employment dynamics in Europe, global FDI flows towards Europe, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in European Regions and Cities, Territories and low-carbon economy, National territories facing challenges of access to basic services of general interest, Possible European Territorial Futures and Comparative Analysis of Territorial Governance and Spatial Planning Systems in Europe. The themes have been selected in order to contribute with high-quality pan-European territorial evidence, to key policy processes. For example, the activities on inner peripheries and European Territorial Futures are expected to contribute to the debate on the EU Territorial Agenda post-2020. The activities on employment dynamics, SMEs, inner peripheries and FDI flows are expected to feed the debate on Cohesion Policy post-2020.

The first Targeted Analyses have also been launched and the analytical results shall be used by the stakeholders who submitted the proposals in their policy-making processes. Approved activities reflect a wider European perspective and the results can be taken into account also by other stakeholders to inspire regional policies and strategies in their territories. In general, the 6 targeted analysis activities selected in the course of 2016 have already reached a wide thematic and considerable geographical coverage. They cover topics such as regional and functional urban governance, integrated territorial

planning, migration and refugees, territorial scenarios for 2050 and the selected stakeholders cover 21 countries across the ESPON space.

Seven Policy Briefs on key policy relevant issues were published in response to policy demand from stakeholders and key high-level policy processes, by synthesizing key territorial trends and closely coordinated with outreach activities. For example, the policy brief on Urban Partnership Themes in a Wider Territorial Context showed examples of European-wide territorial evidence that can be used and further developed to support the work of 4 pilot partnerships of the Urban Agenda of the European Union. The Brief on polycentric territorial structures and territorial cooperation supported the discussion between Member States and EU institutions during the Slovak Presidency.

Additional activities related to the development of tools were also implemented, in particular the Database Portal, the Mapkits, the Data and Map Updates (notably to update dates related to Accessibility by Sea, Road, Rail, Air and Multimodal) and the upgrade of the ESPON Territorial Impact Assessment Tool.

In relation to the implementation of the outreach and capitalisation five European outreach events were organised including three seminars in association with EU presidencies and two workshops related to key policy processes.

Close attention has been put during this year of implementation to ensure correspondence of activities with policy demands with outputs correctly timed to policy processes in order to promote the use of territorial evidence in policy practice. This approach will be further improved with a more strategically orientated approach to be applied for the preparation of future activities.

Additional information on the ESPON Programme can be found in the programme informative leaflet downloadable [here](#) and on www.dat.public.lu/espon2020_cooperation_programme/index.html

Detailed information on the activities implemented in the framework of the ESPON 2020 programme can be found at www.espon.eu.