

What is ESPON about?

Since 2002 ESPON promotes and fosters a European territorial dimension in development and cooperation by providing evidence, knowledge transfer and policy learning to public authorities and other policy actors at all levels. The objective of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme is to support the reinforcement of the effectiveness of EU Cohesion Policy and other sectoral policies and programmes under the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), as well as national and regional territorial development policies, through the production, dissemination and promotion of territorial evidence covering the entire territory of the EU Member States, as well as the four Partner States of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

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ESPON 2020 primarily focuses on the support of policy making and is thus targeting the following stakeholder groups:

- European policymakers
- National policymakers and practitioners
- Authorities implementing ESIF programmes and preparing periodical reports
- Regional and local policymakers and practitioners.

However, ESPON 2020 sees also the importance to serve a wider public and in particular the following secondary target groups:

- Organizations promoting regional/urban interests at EU level
- University academics, researchers as well as students as future decision makers
- The private sector and wider European audiences.

Academics, scientists and researchers are important providers of ESPON outputs, bringing in the necessary research capacity and scientific excellence. In that way, the ESPON 2020 Programme will benefit the scientific community across Europe in the field of territorial research.



The ESPON 2020 Programme is following the logic of ESIF programmes by having established a Cooperation Programme with two Priority Axis:

Priority Axis 1: Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach

This Priority Axis covers all content-related activities and is implemented through a Single Operation to produce territorial evidence, foster the knowledge transfer, deliver on territorial observation, develop tools for measurement and observation, and provide for a broad outreach in terms of territorial evidence and results. The Single Operation is implemented by the ESPON EGTC, who is the Single Beneficiary of the ESPON 2020 Programme and who was commissioned by the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

Priority Axis 2: Technical Assistance (TA)

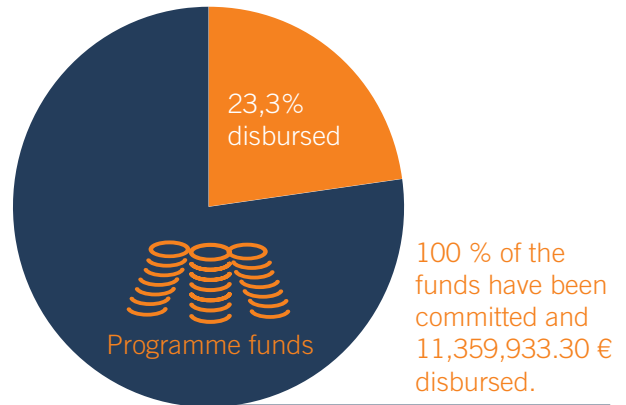
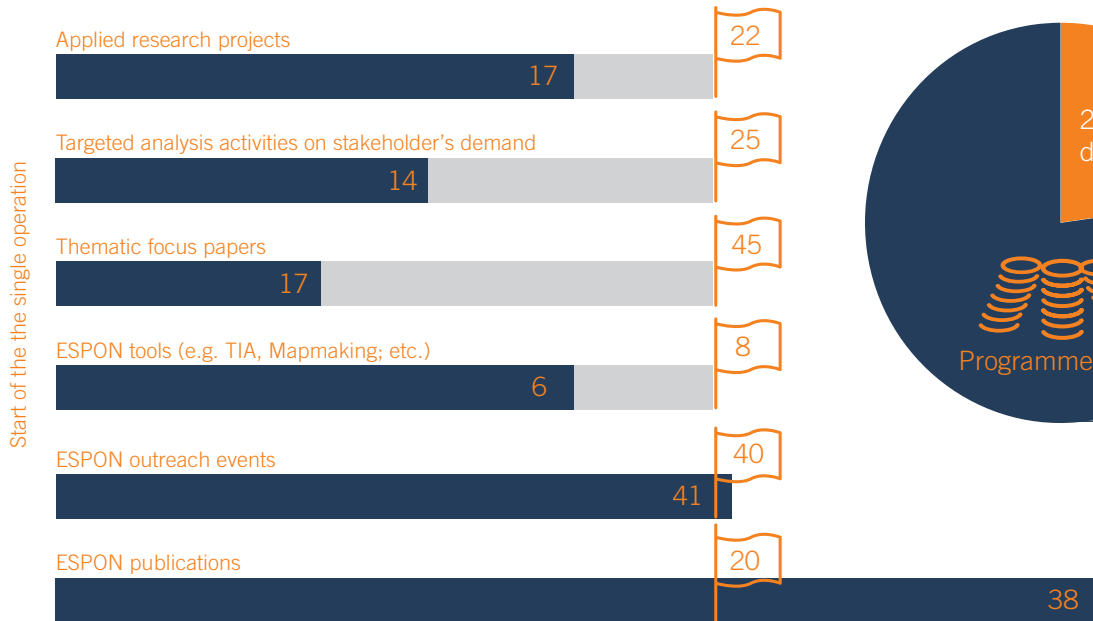
The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Department of Spatial Planning and Development in Luxembourg, in its function as Managing Authority, is ensuring a proper and efficient implementation of the Programme.



The approved total budget of the ESPON 2020 Programme for the period 2014-2020 amounts to € 50 528 851, of which the EU contributes € 41 377 019, the Member States contribute € 7 301 832 and € 1 850 000 are provided by the four Partner States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Out of the total budget an amount of € 48 032 234 is attributed to the ESPON EGTC to implement the Single Operation.

Progress during 2018

During 2018 ESPON has continued the development of territorial evidence towards key ongoing and new policy processes at all levels. ESPON has as continuously been involved in a debate with key EU, national, regional and local stakeholders for the identification of their main policy-needs. In addition, the programme has supported EU sectoral policies and the development of national policies on regional development, spatial planning, thematic areas (rural, digital, cultural heritage, industrial etc.) and regional/local/urban development strategies.



The Regional Growth Report 2018 of the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth lists 20 references to ESPON including maps and data related to Applied Research on employment dynamics in the knowledge economy, SME, FDI, Territorial Futures and youth unemployment.

<https://bit.ly/2lEssqV>

The Flemish Territorial Report 2018 uses a series of ESPON maps from COMPASS, PROFECY, LOCATE, EDORA, GREECO, ITAN.

<https://www.omgevingvlaanderen.be/ruimterapport>

“ We used ESPON evidence and expertise to identify the relevant territorial and urban challenges that could be addressed by integrated approaches in Europe and in different Member States. We also sought to identify possible indicators and methodologies to measure the effectiveness of integrated approaches as well as case studies and existing practices for integrated territorial development used at regional and local scales in Europe.

Hungarian national authority on the use of ESPON Applied Research projects PROFECY and COMPASS



“ The peer-learning workshop in Jurmala was a really important starting point to communicate the Riga metropolitan area planning initiative more widely, both locally and abroad. It was significant support for elaboration of ‘Riga Metropolitan Area Action Plan’ to help find a focus on specific solutions for our territory, especially regarding settlement structure, transport & mobility, availability of public services and natural environment issues. We are currently preparing draft version of the plan and organising similar working groups locally to define appropriate actions for implementation part of the plan. Another important issue was the possibility to get in touch with international experts which led to the ESPON Targeted Analysis MISSTA, focusing on metropolitan industrial spatial strategies. In general, I can add that after the event we received very good feedback from local stakeholders.

Rudolfs Cimdins

Head of the Spatial Planning Unit at Riga Planning Region