

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)

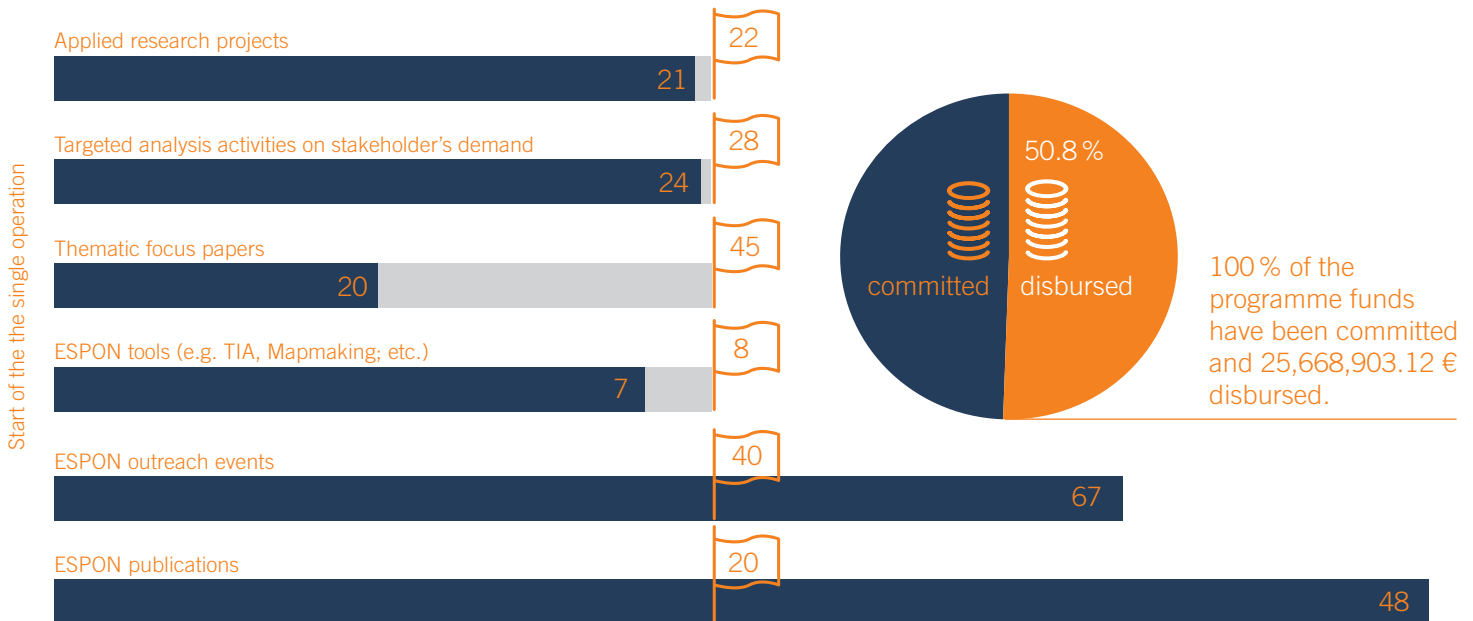
The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Department of Spatial Planning and Development in Luxembourg, in its function as Managing Authority, is ensuring a proper and efficient implementation of the Programme.



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 2019

During 2019 ESPON has continued the development of territorial evidence towards key ongoing and new policy processes at all levels. ESPON has 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 as well as national and subnational regional development policies.



ESPON use in national and sub-national policy

- Vienna Urban Development Plan
- Romanian state of national territory reports
- Spatial report Flanders
- CoR documents and events
- Warsaw's metropolitan cooperation
- Evaluation of Amsterdam's metropolitan development

ESPON use in cross-border and macro-regional policy

- Alpine Convention and EUSALP
- EUSBSR Horizontal Action Spatial Planning
- European border orientation papers
- Interreg evaluation and programming
- Cross-border work of MOT
- Update of the VASAB Long Term Perspective

ESPON use in teaching and research projects

- Studies on regional development and regional innovation systems
- Innovation policy, manufacturing and AI research
- Methodological development
- Mapping and data management
- Transport research
- Horizon 2020 applications

The Regional Territorial Plan of Piedmont region makes use of Applied Research projects including Green Infrastructure, Inner Peripheries, Territorial Governance & Spatial Planning Systems as well as Territories with geographical specificities.

<https://www.regione.piemonte.it/web/temi/ambiente-territorio/territorio/piano-territoriale-regionale-pttr>



The ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme is an excellent starting point when designing a new programme. A lot of effort has been put into producing timely and policy relevant territorial evidence. ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme has a significant role to play in providing territorial evidence and turning it into knowledge and policy recommendations that are relevant on local, regional, national and European level.

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