

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.

www.espon.eu



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)

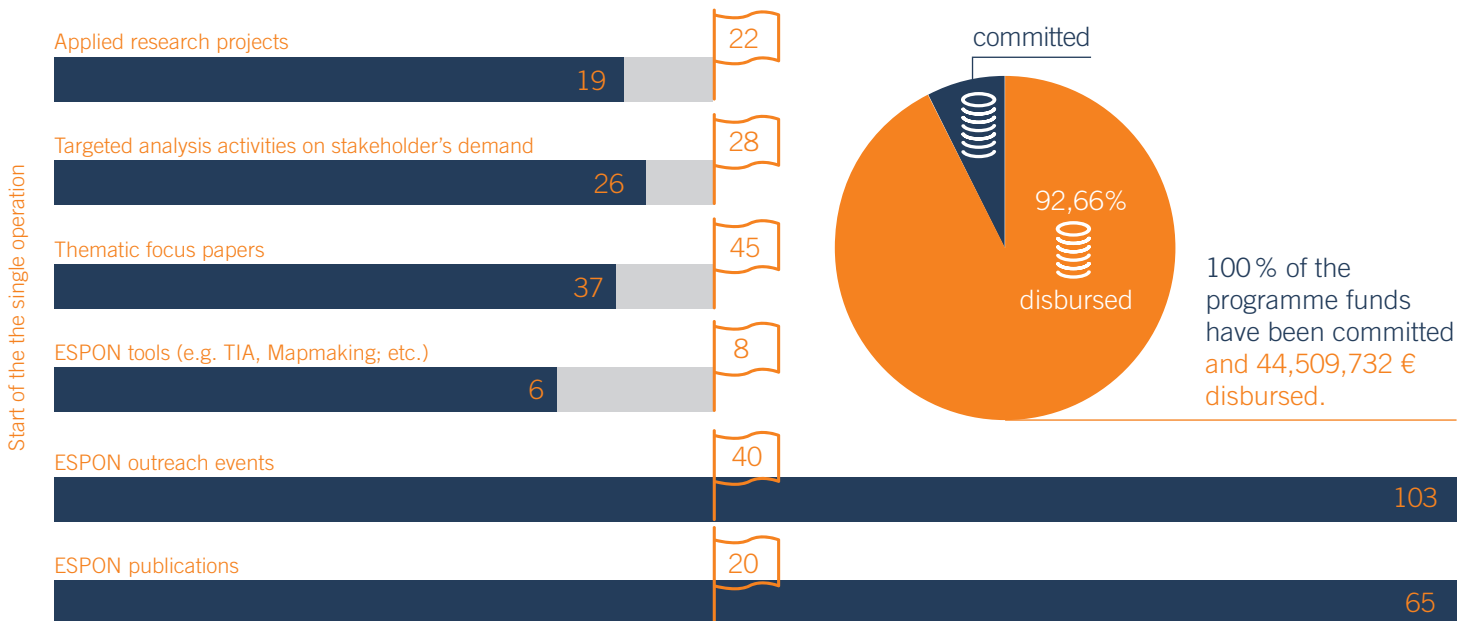
The Ministry of Energy and Spatial Planning, Department of Spatial Planning and Development in Luxembourg, in its function as Managing Authority, is ensuring a proper and efficient implementation of the Programme.



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 2021

During 2021 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.



Sampled ESPON use in territorial policies 2021

National Report on the State of Spatial Planning of Portugal;
 TA 2030 Pilot Actions with Norwegian involvement;
 Austrian Spatial Development Concept 2030;
 Greek Regional Operational Programmes;
 Rural areas policies by the Innlandet county authority;
 Maritime spatial planning in Poland;
 Circular economy policies in Luxembourg;
 Transport and urban design policies by the Cork City Council.

“Data, knowledge and visuals from ESPON have been key to building our Barometer, and they are of paramount importance in supporting, understanding and analysing the impact of cohesion policy on the ground. Reliable data are key to supporting the activities of 1 million locally elected politicians in Europe, helping them better understand the territorial needs in the EU and making cohesion policy even more efficient.”

Apostolos Tzitzikostas, President of the European Committee of the Regions

ESPON Metro was referenced in the EMA network political declaration (2021)

<http://ema.amb.cat>



Slovenian EU Presidency:

The ESPON approach to quality of life is an important achievement that will not remain at the academic level. There is increased interest among stakeholders in its further testing and use, and it will thus contribute to implementing the Territorial Agenda motto 'A future for all places' at various levels.

“ Policymakers on their experience with ESPON targeted analyses:

- Great learning and networking arena.
- Educative, enlightening, informative.
- Feeling of ownership.
- Good model for working.
- Very useful for developing regional policies.
- Well responding to local problems.
- Very productive process and level of flexibility that allows for more useful outputs.
- Proves the policy gap in sustainable transport infrastructure.