IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION GOAL PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014TC16RFIR004
Title	ESPON
Version	2021.0
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	30-May-2022

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	1
KEY INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR CONCERNED, INCLUDING ON FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, WITH RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL AND INDICATOR DATA	4
3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS	7
 3.1 Overview of the implementation	7 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 15 16 17
TABLE 4: FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL. WHERE APPLICABLE, THE USE OF ANY CONTRIBUTION FROM THIRD COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMMI SHOULD BE PROVIDED (FOR EXAMPLE IPA AND ENI, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND)	E 18
TABLE 6: CUMULATIVE COST OF ALL OR PART OF AN OPERATION IMPLEMENTED OUTSIDE THE UNION PART OF THE PROGRAMME A	
(1) ERDF SUPPORT IS THE COMMISSION DECISION ON THE RESPECTIVE COOPERATION PROGRAMME.	19
4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS	20
5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN	24
(A) ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN	ESS ED,
6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)	26
7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) 1 1303/2013)	27
8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	
8.1. MAJOR PROJECTS	
TABLE 7: MAJOR PROJECTS SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING MAJOR PROJECTS AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM ANY CHANGE PLANNED IN THE LIST OF MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME 8.2. JOINT ACTION PLANS	28 28
8.2. JOINT ACTION PLANS TABLE 8: JOINT ACTION PLANS (JAP) SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM	30
9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	32
 9.1 INFORMATION IN PART A AND ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) 9.2. SPECIFIC ACTIONS TAKEN TO PROMOTE EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN AND TO PROMOTE NON-DISCRIMINATION, IN PARTICULAR ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS IMPLEMENTED TO ENSURE THE INTEGRATION OF THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATIO (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2, (D) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013))N 33
 9.3.SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2, (OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013). 9.4. REPORTING ON SUPPORT USED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OBJECTIVES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013). 	
9.5 ROLE OF PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1, (C) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013
10.1 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EVALUATION PLAN AND THE FOLLOW-UP GIVEN TO THE FINDINGS OF EVALUATIONS37 10.2 THE RESULTS OF THE INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES OF THE FUNDS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY
11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)40
11.1. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME
13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH
14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)45
DOCUMENTS46
LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS47

2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

The overall objectives for the year 2021 were:

- To complete the development of territorial evidence towards key ongoing and new policy processes at all levels;
- To capitalise on the available research outputs and ensure their contribution to key policy processes and specific target audiences at the European, national, regional and local scale.

Activities for 2021 have been built around the results of completed ESPON research aiming at delivering tailormade outreach products and activities engaging directly with stakeholders, researchers for their design and implementation.

In terms of the completion of the evidence production, by the end of 2021 19 out of the 23 Applied research projects were concluded, two of which during 2021 "Territorial impacts of natural disasters" and "Quality of life measurements and methodology " and the last one "Territorial impacts of Covid-19 and policy answers in European regions and cities" was kicked off during 2021. Also, 9 additional targeted analyses were completed by the end of the year leaving therefore only to be completed out of the 28 total that will be implemented. In relation to the tools, "SDG tool" and "ESPON REGICO" were completed and the "ESPON portal" activity was launched. In addition, 25 events were organised and 13 outreach publications released.

In order to capitalize on the available research and ensure the uptaking of the evidence two main tools have been used:

- spin-off research activities (from applied research projects and targeted analysis) to support the policy processes (e.g. additional case studies to replicate the research methodology);
- additional outreach activities (arranged on-demand) to capitalize on research findings and provide an opportunity for the transfer of good practice.

A total of 14 spin-off research activities have been launched and implemented during the year, combined with over 25 outreach activities, all in an online format, involving altogether more than 1500 participants. For their design and implementation, ESPON actively cooperated with a broad number of policy stakeholders, researchers and media. Thanks to these activities the uptake of ESPON evidence in several policy processes level was remarkable, as testified by the examples described in the section below.

- The results of the project "Territorial Impacts of Natural Disasters" ("ESPON TITAN") and the spinoff "ESPON SOPORT" served as inputs for establishing and defining the scope of the TA 2030 pilot action "Climate change adaptation and resilience through landscape transition" (led by Portugal). At the initiative of Portugal, the results of this same project were used to elaborate a questionnaire for local and regional stakeholders in order to prepare for further political exchanges at the national leve (consultation carried out by the Directorate-General for Territory (DGT), Portugal.
- The results of the ESPON CIRCTER project (on Circular Economy and territorial consequences) were presented at the internal European Commission Urbanet matrix meeting, in order to demonstrate what circular economy means in the territorial dimension. In addition, the CIRCTER final report has been incorporated in the knowledge hub of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (a joint

initiative by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee) and the guidelines developed within this same project incorporated in the Toolkit and Guidelines toolbox of that same platform.

- The findings of the ESPON project onTerritories with Geographical Specificities (BRIDGES) provided input for the DG REGIO study on "Cohesion policy support to areas confronted to population decline in Europe".
- ESPON supported four TIA workshops to help prepare input material for formal CoR opinions on crossborder health treats, 2030 climate targets, cohesion as a value in the context of the environmental, digital and societal transformation, and on zero emission vehicles. The CoR publications "EU Regional and Local Barometer" during 2021 has also cited the results of several ESPON projects.

Research reports and thematic papers produced by ESPON were used and referenced in many policy processes pursued by intergovernmental, national and regional stakeholders across Europe:

- Developing a circular business models for the country of Luxembourg (spin-off study of ESPON CIRCTER);
- CEMR infographic "5 key facts for local implementation of the Paris Agreement to ensure a local green recovery in Europe" features ESPON TITAN results
- Comprehensive Plan for the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania (ESPON ACTAREA);
- Implementation of the 7th Protocol of the Barcelona Convention in relation to Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Cyprus (ESPON MSP LSI);
- Revitalisation of brownfields in Slovak urban areas (spin-off study of ESPON ENSURE)
- New development programme for the functional area of Julian Alps UNESCO biosphere reserve (ESPON TOURISM)
- Smart specialization strategy and a spatial policy plan for the Province of East-Flanders (ESPON ERMES)
- Integrated Regional Plan of Infrastructures, Mobility and Transports for the Liguria Region (ESPON ERMES)
- Slovenian National Spatial Development Strategy (ESPON Quality of Life project and ESPON ATLAS on the Quality of Life in Slovenia)
- 'Serra of Mochique and Silves Landscape Transition and Management Programme (PRGPSMS) (ESPON TITAN spin-off for Portugal).

In the field of data and tools, during 2021, ESPON continued to update data and map stocks of completed projects as well as integrating new data and indicators across projects and tools. This work was complemented with short analyses, interpretations and key observations for policymakers and policy development in areas suchs as employment, low-carbon economy, strategies for inner peripheries, housing dynamics and climate change. The ESPON REGICO and SDG localising tools catched the attention of public authorities and planners: the SDG localising tool data were integrated in an analysis performed by Portugal, Spain, Romania, Poland, Sweden, The Netherlands and Turkey to identify a European Evolving Cluster of Countries on Sustainable Development Goals. Also, ESPON and Interact organised together a training for representatives of Interreg programmes on the REGICO tool for the comparison of territorial areas in different settings, e.g. compared to the European Union, the national scale or administrative levels.

Additional activities were also implemented one of them targeting specifically the young scientific community. The "earlier career researchers scheme" aimed to increase the attention of the scientific community to the issue of territorial evidence in policymaking. By end of 2021, the ESPON EGTC contracted 26 young researchers to use the ESPON territorial evidence in their scientific publications and presentation at scientific conferences. Half of these young researchers were coming from universities without any former involvement in the ESPON

2020 Programme.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
P1	Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach	The 2021 year saw the launch of all remaining activities, both applied research and targeted analyses (like the TEVI2050 - Territorial Scenarios for the Danube and Adriatic Ionian Macro-regions). The vast majority are already completed and there are no challenges seen in completing the last ongoing ones. For the last eight pending thematic focus papers a drafting and production plan has been made to ensure reaching the target of 45 by mid-2022. With respect to the ESPON tools, no specific problems are expected to prevent their completion by mid-2022. The update of the ESPON 2020 database portal is ongoing while the ACTAREA tool will be rendered operational in spring 2022. The targets for outreach events and outreach publications have already been surpassed, nevertheless additional ones will be implemented until the closure of the Single Operation in mid-June based on stakeholder needs. By mid-2022 the final territorial observation report will be issued, in form of the 'Territorial Atlas of Europe'. The Atlas will constitute a digital resource for policymakers to understand the territorial distribution of trends and patterns in the topics adhering to the EU Cohesion Policy objectives and areas explored in the ESPON 2020 Programme The persistent COVID-19 pandemic situation induced some changes in the implementation of the ESPON Single Operation. Likewise in 2020, all transnational outreach events were held online. The two ESPON Week events in Portugal (Lisbon, June 2021) and in Slovenia (Bled, December 2021) were organised in a hybrid format, with some participants in the high-level panels present on site, while the other contributors and the audience connected online, including the workshops.
P2	Technical Assistance	During 2021 the efforts were concentrating mainly on the steering and monitoring of the implementation of the Single Operation whose fifth Annual Work Plan was approved in January 2021. From a management point of view, a key objective for the first months of 2021 was the successful implementation of the audits audit of operations and programming of the post-2020 ESPON programme. The the major communication event due in 2021 was again postponed due to the COVID pandemic. The cooperation and coordination with the Certifying Authority was continued to ensure the submission of the certification of expenditures to the EC submitted by the CA and for the report on irregularities due by the 31 March 2021. From a financial point of view the TA is being implemented according to the initial forecast. - to coordinate the dialogue between the MC and the Single Beneficiary on the last Annual Work Plan for 2022; - to assess and approve (together with the Monitoring Committee) the two Activity and Financial reports submitted by the Single Beneficiary within the year, - to follow up of the dialogue/cooperation between PST and Single Beneficiary.

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant
		problems and steps taken to address these problems
		- to assessment the Annual Work Plan for 2022 by the Assessment Committee.

3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	P1 - Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach
Investment	11f - Strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives through the analysis of
priority	development trends pursuant to point(3)(d) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - P1.11f

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement	Target	2021	Observations
			unit	value		
F	OI01	Number of applied research outputs produced under SO1	Number	22.00	19.00	19 Applied research projects have been finalized by end of 2021
S	OI01	Number of applied research outputs produced under SO1	Number	22.00	23.00	A total of 23 applied research projects have been so far launched since the beginning of the programme implementation by the end of 2021, 19 of which have been finalised. An additional applied research
						project related to the territorial impacts of COVID 19 was decided by the Monitoring Committee.
F	OI02	Number of targeted analysis activities undertaken under SO2	Number	25.00	26.00	26 targeted analyses have been finalized by the end of 2021.
S	OI02	Number of targeted analysis activities undertaken under SO2	Number	25.00	28.00	A total of 28 targeted analysis projects have been so far launched since the beginning of the programme implementation until the end of 2021, 26 of which have been finalised.
F	OI03	Number of thematic focus papers produced under SO2 e.g. policy briefs, working papers etc	Number	45.00	37.00	37 Thematic Papers have been published until the end of 2021. The total number of papers published by the end of 2020 has been corrected (from 24 to 25) as wrongly reported by the Single Beneficiary.
s	OI03	Number of thematic focus papers produced under SO2 e.g. policy briefs, working papers etc	Number	45.00	37.00	37 Thematic Papers have been published until the end of 2021. The total number of papers published by the end of 2020 has been corrected (from 24 to 25) as wrongly reported by the Single Beneficiary.
F	OI04	Number of ESPON tools maintained and created under S03	Number	8.00	6.00	The maintenance/creation of 6 tools has been completed by the end of 2020.
s	OI04	Number of ESPON tools maintained and created under S03	Number	8.00	8.00	No additional maintenance/creation of tools has been launched during 2021.
F	OI05	Number of ESPON outreach events held under SO4	Number	40.00	103.00	25 additional outreach events were held during 2021 the total for outreach events to 103 since the beginning of the programme implementation. The indicators has been outperformed as the events implemented by the ECPs under the transnational activities were not taken into account at the moment of setting the targets.
S	OI05	Number of ESPON outreach events held under SO4	Number	40.00	103.00	25 additional outreach events were held during 2021 the total for outreach events to 103 since the beginning of the programme implementation. The indicators has been outperformed as the events implemented by the ECPs under the transnational activities were not taken into account at the moment of setting the targets.
F	OI06	Number of ESPON outreach publications produced under SO4	Number	20.00	65.00	The target initially accounted only for the European outreach publications, The indicator has been outperformed due to the fact that the number of transnational publications was defined only at the stage of drafting the ToR for the TNO service contract and therefore was not possible to consider them at the moment of setting the target for this indicator.
S	OI06	Number of ESPON outreach publications produced under SO4	Number	20.00	65.00	The target initially accounted only for the European outreach publications, The indicator has been outperformed due to the fact that the number of transnational publications was defined only at the stage of drafting the ToR for the TNO service contract and therefore was not possible to consider them at the moment of setting the target for this indicator.
		Establishment of the ESPON EGTC implementing the single operation		1.00	1.00	The ESPON EGTC, single beneficiary of the programme, was set up in 2016.
s	OI07	Establishment of the ESPON EGTC implementing the single operation	Number	1.00	1.00	The ESPON EGTC, single beneficiary of the programme, was set up in 2016.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	OI01	Number of applied research outputs produced under SO1	17.00	13.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OI01	Number of applied research outputs produced under SO1	22.00	21.00	17.00	14.00	7.00	0.00	0.00
F	OI02	Number of targeted analysis activities undertaken under SO2	17.00	12.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OI02	Number of targeted analysis activities undertaken under SO2	28.00	24.00	17.00	14.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
F	OI03	Number of thematic focus papers produced under SO2 e.g. policy briefs, working papers etc	25.00	19.00	16.00	10.00	5.00	2.00	0.00
S	OI03	Number of thematic focus papers produced under SO2 e.g. policy briefs, working papers etc	25.00	19.00	16.00	10.00	5.00	2.00	0.00
F	OI04	Number of ESPON tools maintained and created under S03	4.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OI04	Number of ESPON tools maintained and created under S03	8.00	6.00	6.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	OI05	Number of ESPON outreach events held under SO4	78.00	67.00	41.00	12.00	5.00	1.00	0.00
S	OI05	Number of ESPON outreach events held under SO4	78.00	67.00	41.00	12.00	5.00	1.00	0.00
F	OI06	Number of ESPON outreach publications produced under SO4	48.00	47.00	38.00	23.00	18.00	5.00	0.00
S	OI06	Number of ESPON outreach publications produced under SO4	48.00	47.00	38.00	23.00	18.00	5.00	0.00
F	OI07	Establishment of the ESPON EGTC implementing the single operation	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	OI07	Establishment of the ESPON EGTC implementing the single operation	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	P1 - Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach
Investment	11f - Strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives through the analysis of
priority	development trends pursuant to point(3)(d) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)
Specific	SO1 - Enhanced European territorial evidence production through applied research and analyses.
objective	

ID	Indicator	Measurement	Baseline value	Baseline	Target value (2023) Total	2021	2021	Observations
		unit		year		Total	Qualitative	
RI01	Number of potential users within selected target groups affirming use of ESPON applied research outputs and results in policy and programming processes.	% Change	59% of potential users within selected target groups affirming use of ESPON outputs and results	2015	Increase by 15-25 % (to increase up to between 70% and 75%.)		76%	The 2017 annual value represents a 36% increase from the baseline value. The 2018 annual value represents a 31% increase from the baseline value. The 2019 annual value represents a 44% increase from the baseline value. The 2020 annual value represents a 36% increase from the baseline value. The 2021 annual value represents a 29% increase from the baseline value.

ID	Indicator	2020	2020	2019	2019	2018	2018	2017	2017
		Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative
RI01	Number of potential users within selected target groups affirming use of ESPON applied research outputs		80%		85%		77%		80%
	and results in policy and programming processes.								

ID	Indicator	2016	2016	2015	2015	2014	2014
		Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative
RI01	Number of potential users within selected target groups affirming use of ESPON applied research outputs and results in policy and		n.a		59%		n.a
	programming processes.						

Priority axis	P1 - Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach
Investment	11f - Strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives through the analysis of
priority	development trends pursuant to point(3)(d) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)
Specific	SO2 - Upgraded knowledge transfer and analytical user support.
objective	

ID	Indicator	Measurement	Baseline value	Baseline	Target value (2023) Total	2021	2021	Observations
		unit		year		Total	Qualitative	
RI02	Number of potential users in selected target groups affirming they are satisfied with ESPON knowledge transfer and analytical user support.	% Change	83% of potential users in selected target groups affirming being satisfied	2015	Increase by 15-25 % (to increase to at least to 95% of potential users affirming being satisfied)		96%	The 2017 annual value represents a 10% increase from the baseline value. The 2018 annual value represents a 13% increase from the baseline value. The 2019 annual value represents a 11% increase from the baseline value. The 2020 annual value represents a 12% increase from the baseline value The 2021 annual value represents a 15% increase from thee baseline value

ID	Indicator	2020	2020	2019	2019	2018	2018	2017	2017
		Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative
RI02	Number of potential users in selected target groups affirming they are satisfied with ESPON knowledge		93%		92%		94%		83%
	transfer and analytical user support.								

ID	Indicator	2016	2016	2015	2015	2014	2014
		Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative
RI02	Number of potential users in selected target groups affirming they are satisfied with ESPON knowledge transfer and analytical user		n.a		83%		n.a
	support.						

Priority axis	P1 - Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach
Investment	11f - Strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives through the analysis of
priority	development trends pursuant to point(3)(d) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)
Specific	SO3 - Improved territorial observation and tools for territorial analyses.
objective	

ID	Indicator	Measurement	Baseline value	Baseline	Target value (2023) Total	2021	2021	Observations
		unit		year		Total	Qualitative	
RI03	Number of potential users in selected target groups affirming use of ESPON territorial observations and tools for territorial analyses in policy and programming processes.	% Change	40% of potential users affirming using of ESPON territorial observations and tools	2015	Increase by 15-25 % (To increase up to between 45% and 50%)		88%	The 2017 annual value represents a 98% increase from the baseline value. The 2018 annual value represents a 110% increase from the baseline value. The 2019 annual value represents a 117% increase from the baseline value. The 2020 annual value represents a 118% increase from the baseline value. The 2021 annual value represents a 120% increase from the baseline value.

ID	Indicator	2020	2020	2019	2019	2018	2018	2017	2017
		Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative
RI03	Number of potential users in selected target groups affirming use of ESPON territorial observations and tools		82%		87%		84%		79%
	for territorial analyses in policy and programming processes.								

ID	Indicator	2016	2016	2015	2015	2014	2014
		Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative
RI03	Number of potential users in selected target groups affirming use of ESPON territorial observations and tools for territorial analyses in		n.a		40%		n.a
	policy and programming processes.						

Priority axis	P1 - Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach
Investment	11f - Strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives through the analysis of
priority	development trends pursuant to point(3)(d) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)
Specific	SO4 - Wider outreach and uptake of territorial evidence.
objective	

ID	Indicator	Measurement	Baseline value	Baseline	Target value (2023) Total	2021	2021	Observations
		unit		year		Total	Qualitative	
RI04	Total number of potential users within selected	% Change	50%* of stakeholder respondents currently	2015	Increase by 15-25 % (To		75%	The 2017 annual value represents a
	target groups participating at ESPON events.		attend and/or participate at ESPON events.		increase to between 58% and			40% increase from the baseline value.
					63%.)			The 2018 annual value represents a
								24% increase from the baseline value.
								The 2019 annual value represents a
								30% increase from the baseline value.
								The 2020 annual value represents a
								16% increase from the baseline value.
								The 2021 annual value represents a
								50% increase from the baseline value.
RI05	Total number of potential users within selected	% Change	62%* of stakeholder respondents currently	2015	Increase by 15-25 % (To		96%	The 2017 annual value represents a
	target groups making use of ESPON		making use of ESPON publications.		increase to between 71% and			45% increase from the baseline value.
	publications.				78%.)			The 2018 annual value represents a
								47% increase from the baseline value.
								The 2019 annual value represents a
								47% increase from the baseline value.
								The 2020 annual value represents a
								39% increase from the baseline value
								The 2021 annual value represents a
								51% increase from the baseline value.

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
RI04	Total number of potential users within selected target groups participating at ESPON events.		58%		65%		62%		70%
RI05	Total number of potential users within selected target groups making use of ESPON publications.		86%		92%		92%		90%

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI04	Total number of potential users within selected target groups participating at ESPON events.		n.a		50%		n.a
RI05	Total number of potential users within selected target groups making use of ESPON publications.		n.a		62%		n.a

Priority axis	P1 - Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach
Investment	11f - Strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives through the analysis of
priority	development trends pursuant to point(3)(d) of Article 2 (ETC-IR)
Specific	SO5 - Leaner, and more effective and efficient implementation provisions and more proficient programme assistance.
objective	

ID	Indicator	Measurement	Baseline value	Baseline	Target value	2021	2021	Observations
		unit		year	(2023) Total	Total	Qualitative	
RI06	Total number of potential users within selected target groups affirming dissatisfaction with the implementation provisions of ESPON 2020 Programme	% Change	32%* of respondents currently affirm they are 'very dissatisfied' (14%) or 'somewhat dissatisfied'	2015	Reduce by 35- 50% (To reduce to between 16% and 20%.)		7,4%	In terms of the overall efficiency of the ESPON 2020 programme architecture, the opinion of stakeholders was split generally regarding whether it was moderately or largely efficient. Compared to the previous programming period the stakeholders leaned towards the view that efficiency gains had been made during ESPON 2020. When asked regarding 'to what extent is participation in the ESPON 2020 procedures not burdensome', the moderate to large extent responses were selected most frequently. Moreover, compared to ESPON 2013, the results indicated that some gains had been made in ensuring that the procedures were less-burdensome under ESPON 2020. The rate of stakeholders declaring dissatisfaction with the implementing provisions of the ESPON 2020 Programme has considerably decreased. Only 7,4% of respondents indicated some dissatisfaction.

ID	Indicator	2020	2020	2019	2019	2018	2018	2017	2017
		Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative	Total	Qualitative
RI06	Total number of potential users within selected target groups affirming dissatisfaction with the		7.5%		n.a.		18%		n.a
	implementation provisions of ESPON 2020 Programme								

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI06	Total number of potential users within selected target groups affirming dissatisfaction with the implementation provisions of ESPON 2020 Programme		n.a		32%		n.a

Priority axes for technical assistance

Filolity axis F2 - Technical Assistance	Priority axis	P2 - Technical Assistance
---	---------------	---------------------------

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - P2.Technical Assistance

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2021	Observations
F	OI08	Guidance documents elaborated for the Single Beneficiary	Number	1.00	1.00	
S	OI08	Guidance documents elaborated for the Single Beneficiary	Number	1.00	1.00	
F	OI09	Computerised system set	Number	1.00	1.00	
S	OI09	Computerised system set	Number	1.00	1.00	
F	OI10	Communication strategies elaborated	Number	1.00	1.00	
S	OI10	Communication strategies elaborated	Number	1.00	1.00	
F	OI11	Evaluations carried out	Number	2.00	2.00	
S	OI11	Evaluations carried out	Number	2.00	2.00	Ongoing evaluation exercises and external mid-term evaluation.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	OI08	Guidance documents elaborated for the Single Beneficiary	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
S	OI08	Guidance documents elaborated for the Single Beneficiary	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
F	OI09	Computerised system set	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	OI09	Computerised system set	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
F	OI10	Communication strategies elaborated	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
S	OI10	Communication strategies elaborated	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
F	OI11	Evaluations carried out	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OI11	Evaluations carried out	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority	Ind	ID	Indicator	Measurement	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023)	2021	Observations
axis	type			unit		total		
P1	F	FI01	Absorption of Priority Axis 1 Programme Budget	Euros	5,600,000	45,758,109.00	37,314,040.49	
P1	Ι	OI01	Number of applied research outputs produced under SO1	Number	0	22.00	19.00	
P1	Ι	OI02	Number of targeted analysis activities undertaken under SO2	Number	0	25.00	26.00	
P1	0	OI03	Number of thematic focus papers produced under SO2 e.g. policy briefs, working	Number	15 thematic focus papers	45.00	37.00	
			papers etc		produced			

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
P1	F	FI01	Absorption of Priority Axis 1 Programme Budget	Euros	31,136,144.41	23,584,300.88	10,816,719.40	3,864,157.44	1,229,099.62
P1	Ι	OI01	Number of applied research outputs produced under SO1	Number	17.00	13.00	6.00	0.00	0.00
P1	Ι	OI02	Number of targeted analysis activities undertaken under SO2	Number	17.00	12.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
P1	0	OI03	Number of thematic focus papers produced under SO2 e.g. policy briefs, working papers etc	Number	25.00	20.00	17.00	10.00	7.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2015	2014
P1	F	FI01	Absorption of Priority Axis 1 Programme Budget	Euros	0.00	0.00
P1	Ι	OI01	Number of applied research outputs produced under SO1	Number	0.00	0.00
P1	Ι	OI02	Number of targeted analysis activities undertaken under SO2	Number	0.00	0.00
P1	0	OI03	Number of thematic focus papers produced under SO2 e.g. policy briefs, working papers etc	Number	2.00	0.00

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co- financing	Total eligible cost of operations selected for	Proportion of the total allocation covered with	Public eligible cost of operations selected for	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure	Number of operations
				rate	support	selected operations	support	managing authority	declared by beneficiaries	selected
P1	ERDF	Total	46,207,234.00	85.00	46,207,234.00	100.00%	46,207,234.00	37,314,040.49	80.75%	1
P2	ERDF	Total	2,471,617.00	85.00	2,471,617.00	100.00%	2,471,617.00	1,136,262.31	45.97%	1
Total	ERDF		48,678,851.00	85.00	48,678,851.00	100.00%	48,678,851.00	38,450,302.80	78.99%	2
Grand			48,678,851.00	85.00	48,678,851.00	100.00%	48,678,851.00	38,450,302.80	78.99%	2
total										

Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1.	2. The amount of ERDF	3. Share of the total financial	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF	5. Share of the total financial
Operation	support(1) envisaged to be	allocation to all or part of an	support incurred in all or part	allocation to all or part of an
(2)	used for all or part of an	operation located outside the	of an operation implemented	operation located outside the
	operation implemented	Union part of the programme	outside the Union part of the	Union part of the programme
	outside the Union part of the	area (%) (column 2/total amount	programme area declared by	area (%) (column 4/total amount
	programme area based on	allocated to the support from the	the beneficiary to the managing	allocated to the support from the
	selected operations	ERDF at programme level *100)	authority	ERDF at programme level *100)

(1) ERDF support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

The evaluation undertaken by the Single Beneficiary of the ESPON 2020 Programme summarised in the current section, covers the activities included in the AWP 2021 and implemented within this specific reference year.

The primary method implemented for the collection and analysis of data related to the five specific objectives results indicators (RI) was an annual online survey. The survey was launched on 30 November 2021 and remained open until 28 February 2021. The goal of the online survey was to collect feedback and opinions on ESPON outputs and activities from a wide range of potential and actual users, with reference to:

- the degree to which target groups make use of ESPON outputs in their practical activities;
- the perceived usefulness of the knowledge acquired.

The survey specifically aimed at collecting information from different categories of stakeholders to ensure the specific target groups for each of the four content-orientated Specific Objectives of the Single Operation (SO1-4) as well as organisations involved in the implementation of the Single Operation were reached. Stakeholders were requested to complete a range of predetermined multiple-choice questions. In addition, they were offered the opportunity to provide qualitative feedback on their experiences in the use of ESPON evidence.

The ESPON EGTC's email distribution list, website, direct emailing, ESPON events and social media channels were used to reach potential respondents. In total, 179 stakeholders responded to the survey, representing 26 countries of the ESPON space and Albania. Of the respondents, 51 percent indicated 'Policy / Administration / Governance' (mostly and national and regional levels) and 28 percent 'Research' (patial planning, geography, economics, environment, political sciences, statistics and sociology) as their primary field of work.

The survey used cross-sectional data and compared results with cross-sectional data from the baseline year 2015 as well as with values observed in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. The fact that the observations do not stem from the same individuals over time implies possible bias. Nevertheless, repeated cross-sectional data provide insightful information for examining changes in ESPON perception over time at aggregated level. Certainly, the primary purpose of the annual survey is the cross-sectional analysis for a given year. Using the same set of questions in separate cross-sectional surveys once a year, however, allows for additional insights about the aggregate change over time.

In terms of results, the survey indicated an achievement or overachievement of the results targets for all the considered indicators, each one related to different specific objectives:

- SO1 RI1 Number of potential users within selected target groups affirming use of ESPON applied research outputs and results in policy and programming process (applied research projects)
- SO2 RI2 Number of potential users in selected target groups affirming they are satisfied with ESPON knowledge transfer and analytical user support (targeted analysis)
- SO3 RI3 Number of potential users in selected target groups affirming use of ESPON territorial

observations and tools for territorial analyses in policy and programming processes (Tools, databases, maps used)

- SO4 RI4 Total number of potential users within selected target groups participating at ESPON events
- SO4 RI5 Total number of potential users within selected target groups making use of ESPON publications
- SO5 RI6 Total number of potential users within selected target groups affirming dissatisfaction with the implementation provisions of ESPON 2020 Programme.

The use of Applied Research observed in 2021 reveals a slightly downward-sloping trend, as compared to 2020 approximating the performance measured in 2018.

The satisfaction with ESPON Targeted Analyses registers a steep upward slope since 2019. In 2021, the indicator remains above the value observed in 2017. With 96 per cent satisfaction declared by surveyed stakeholders, the performance of SO2 has clearly improved as compared with the baseline value of 83 per cent.

The share of surveyed stakeholders using ESPON territorial observation and tools has more than doubled as compared with the baseline value and for this specific indicator the highest performance level was observed since 2017 with a considerable overperformance relative to the baseline value.

The external effects induced by the COVID-19 pandemic and assumed to be the reason for a decrease of satisfaction in relation to the participation to events in 2020 appear to have worn off, as stakeholders grow accustomed to online formats. The indicator regains 17 percentage points and exhibits the best estimated result since the launch of the evaluation survey.

Overall, it can be concluded that the overall use of ESPON is resistant to a decrease in the use of Applied Research. This can be explained by new outputs of Targeted Analyses in 2021 but dedicated tool events and new publications, which capitalize on previous ESPON research. SO1, SO2 and SO4 outputs are reportedly mostly useful for the stage of problem framing or design of polices. Policy briefs as outreach derivatives of project reports but also the project reports themselves outweigh other types of SO4 publications in their impact on policymaking.

The most frequently named project themes in connection to their usefulness in policymaking are crossregional matters (e.g. cross-border, interregional, macro-regional, migration, ETC programming), followed by economic transitions (e.g. circular, low-carbon, collaborative, technological, maritime), places (e.g. Inner Peripheries, rural, urban-rural, geographic specificities, metropolitan areas, port cities, regional strategies), land and ecosystems (e.g. sustainable land use, Green infrastructure, protected areas, lakes) and the Territorial Agenda (e.g. European Territorial Reference Framework). Other frequent themes, where policymakers resort to ESPON evidence are economic structures (e.g. SME, FDI, unemployment, financial instruments, population ageing, special economic zones), Terrestrial, Maritime and Digital Spatial Planning, cultural heritage and tourism as well as transport and accessibility.

The decreasing overall trend of ESPON use as well as the decreasing intensity of use observed until 2020 appears to have changed in 2021. This may be explained among others by an increasing number of

outreach events, new targeted analyses outputs and a series of on-demand services offered to the member and partner states, which strongly capitalise on existing ESPON research, and reinvigorate the overall use of ESPON.

Name Fund From month From year To month To year Type of evaluation Thematic objection	ve Topic Findings

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

The persistent COVID-19 pandemic situation induced substantial challenges in the implementation of the Single Operation due to the forces re-organisation of the work.

Likewise in 2020, all transnational outreach events scheduled in 2021 were held online, following the mitigation measures implemented with service providers and also the TNO team. The two ESPON Week events held in Portugal (Lisbon, June 2021) and in Slovenia (Bled, December 2021) were organised in a hybrid format, with some participants in the high-level panels present on site, while the other contributors and the audience connected online, including the workshops.

The hybrid/online format of the ESPON events proved to be advantageous in an effort to extend the outreach to new users of territorial evidence, allowing the programme target groups to connect to the events irrespective of their geographical focus. This, for the purpose of absorbing lessons learned from the specific thematic activities for the potential use in other geographical areas of similar development characteristics.

In that connection, the fully digital TerritoriALL magazine also served the purpose of communicating the programme substance to a wide group of stakeholders.

Bearing in mind the possible operational disturbances because of COVID-19 outbreak, all ESPON service providers were requested to communicate all delays or service delivery problems in order to find suitable arrangements in continuing the service contracts. Also, the publication period for all ongoing procurement procedures was extended to allow all interested economic operators to submit offers.

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

The 2021 year saw the launch of all remaining applied research activities as well as the final targeted analyses (like the TEVI2050 - Territorial Scenarios for the Danube and Adriatic Ionian Macro-regions). The vast majority of the above mentioned activities are already completed and no challenges are foreseen that would prevent their completion by the end of June 2022.

For the last eight pending thematic focus papers the ESPON EGTC developed a drafting and production plan, to ensure reaching the target of 45 by mid-2022. No difficulties in that respect are foreseen.

Also with respect to the ESPON tools, no specific problems are faced in completing their portfolio by mid-2022. The update of the ESPON 2020 database portal is under control, while the ACTAREA tool will be rendered operational in spring 2022. The ESPON Portal has been launched and will be completed by June 2022.

The targets for outreach events (IO05) and outreach publications (IO06) have already been surpassed, while the ESPON EGTC will continue delivering further ones by mid-22 based on stakeholder needs.

By mid-2022, the final territorial observation report (IO07) will be issued, in form of the 'Territorial Atlas of Europe'. The Atlas will constitute a digital resource for policymakers to understand the territorial distribution of trends and patterns in the topics adhering to the EU Cohesion Policy objectives for 2021-2027 and in the thematic areas explored in the ESPON 2020 Programme.

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Pro	ect CC	I Status	s of Tot	al	Total	Planned	Date of tacit agreement/	Planned start of	Planned	Priority Axis/	Current state of realisation - financial progress (% of	Current state of realisation — physical progress	Main	Date of signature of first Observations
		MP			eligible	notification/submission date			completion date		expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible			works contract (1)
					costs			-	-	-	cost)		-	

(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

TT: (1 6 (1	CCI Stage of implement	(* (* T) (*)	· · · · ·		(D	an l	e (D) 11 1 · · ·		e (D) 11	36		01 (
Title of the	CCI Stage of implement	ation of Total elig	ible Total	public OP contributi	on to Priority	Type	of [Planned] submission	to the [Planned] start	of [Planned]	Main outputs and	d Total eligible expenditure certified to the	Observations
				1								
JAP	JAP	costs	support	JAP	axis	JAP	Commission	implementation	completion	results	Commission	
0.11	0.11	costs	Juppon	0.11		0.11	Commission	implementation	compiction	results	Commission	

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis P1 - Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach

Priority axis

P2 - Technical Assistance

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote nondiscrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and nondiscrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

axischange objectives (EUR)operational programme (%)Total0.000.00%	Priority	Amount of support to be used for climate	Proportion of total allocation to the
Total 0.00%	axis	change objectives (EUR)	operational programme (%)
	Total	0.00	0.00%

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

Status Name Fund Year of finalizing evaluation Type of evaluation Thematic objective Topic Findings (in case of execution) Follow up (in case of execution)									
Survey Fund Fund Fund Fund Fund Fund Fund Fund	Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

2021 registered the implementation of a dedicated targeted analysis addressed the development of territorial scenarios for the Baltic Sea Region to assist the VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development in scaling main processes, factors, obstacles, drivers (economic, social, spatial, environmental, technological, political etc.) that will shape spatial development and integration of the BSR by 2030 and 2050. ESPON supported the stakeholders in understanding the long term trends and their territorial impacts, and also in discussing the possible alternative futures of the macroregion. The territorial development and spatial integration scenarios that the BSR may face by 2050 were fed into the process of developing a new Long-term Development Perspective (VASAB strategy).

The ESPON targeted analysis on Alps2050 provided a territorial vision and common spatial perspectives for the Alpine area until 2050. It offers effective solutions for a balanced sustainable development as well as help to strengthen informal and formal cooperation between actors in the macro-region. The results directly contributed to the discussions with the European Commission about the framing of the Interreg Alpine Space Programme and other Programmes (Cross-Border Cooperation, rural development, etc.) post 2020. In addition, the outcome of Alps2050 will contribute to the joint work of Alpine countries and regions towards a better implementation of the EUSALP.

In 2021, the ESPON also developed a macro-regional monitoring system to improve the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of policy making processes, monitoring and evaluation across all four EU macro-regions (Baltic Sea, Danube, Alpine and Adriatic-Ionian). The ACTAREA tool, with the final delivery scheduled for March 2022, has been designed through a participatory progress to provide territorial evidence to policymakers and practitioners on key development trends over time and on the progress, implementation and contribution of policy objectives as defined in the EU macro-regional strategies. It purpose is to help identify potential win-win situations for the purpose of enhanced well-being and prosperity and territorial cohesion.

- □ EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- □ EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- □ EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- □ EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- □ Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
ESPON 2021 AIR Citizens' summary	Citizens' summary	30-May-2022	ESPON 2021 AIR Citizens' summary	Ares(2022)4033088	ESPON 2021 AIR Citizens' summary	31-May-2022	nesereth

LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Implementation report version has been validated
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 102.50% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI05, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 104.55% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI01, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 112.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI02, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 112.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI02, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 115.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 167.50% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI05, year: 2019. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 190.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 195.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI05, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 235.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2019. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 240.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 257.50% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI05, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 325.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 102.50% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI05, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 104.00% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI02, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 115.00% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 167.50% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI05, year: 2019. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 190.00% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 195.00% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI05, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 235.00% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2019. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 240.00% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 257.50% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI05, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 325.00% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: P1, investment priority: 11f, indicator: OI06, year: 2021. Please check.