Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning, Luxembourg
ESPON Managing Authority

Version 18 July 2026

ESPON 2030 Monitoring Committee
Decision Notes

16 June 2026, 09h00-18h00
Larnaca, Cyprus

Session with the ESPON EGTC

Welcome by the Chair (Cyprus)

The Chair welcomed the participants. The new members from IT, MT, ES and BA were introduced.

1. Agreement on the Agenda

The Monitoring Committee approved the agenda without additional points. The Managing Authority informed the Committee that NO delegated its voting rights to PL.

2. TAP Workshops: discussion of each TAP in depth (4 sessions, 2 in parallel) (document, discussion and decision)

The Monitoring Committee held in-depth thematic discussions on the implementation pathways of the four Territorial Action Plan (TAP) areas. The discussions focused on the remaining evidence production opportunities within the current programme and on identifying priorities for the available budget.

2.1. TAP Places Resilient to Crises

The MC endorsed the proposed implementation pathway and invited the EGTC to refine the workshop conclusions to better reflect territorial functional structures in responding to crises.

2.2. TAP Climate Neutral Territories

The MC endorsed the proposed implementation pathway and took note of the continued implementation of activities under this TAP.

2.3. TAP Governance of New Geographies

The MC supported further consideration of issues related to remote work, integrated coastal zone management and changing mobility patterns in future evidence production.

2.4. TAP Perspectives for all People and Places

The MC endorsed the proposed implementation pathway.

In the concluding session, the MC supported the preparation of updated TAP implementation plans reflecting the workshop discussions. The EGTC will circulate the revised implementation plans together with the draft minutes for written approval. The MC also agreed that the EGTC should prepare a survey allowing members to prioritise future research ideas and evidence production activities for the remaining programme budget.

Session without the ESPON EGTC

3. General Management Provisions for the ESPON 2030 Programme

1. **ESPON MA Info note on management (document, questions and answers)**

The MC took note of the information provided by the Managing Authority concerning programme implementation, partnership agreements, national contributions and payments to the Single Beneficiary.

2. **ESPON 2030 Evaluation: presentation and discussion of the preliminary results (document and discussion)**

The MC took note of the preliminary evaluation findings and welcomed the discussion on lessons learned for the preparation of the future ESPON Programme. The Committee acknowledged that the forthcoming impact evaluation will further assess the programme's contribution to policy making.

3. **Follow-up on the quality check and progress report**

The MC took note of the information on the follow-up to the latest quality check. It also took note of the conclusion of the reassessment process concerning Progress Report 18 and of the Managing Authority's confirmation that its assessment remained unchanged.

Session with the ESPON EGTC

4. Single Operation: implementation status & further implementation (documents and discussion/decision)

The MC took note of the implementation progress of the Single Operation, including overall performance, the portfolio of ongoing activities and the management risks presented by the ESPON EGTC. The Committee encouraged continued monitoring of implementation and budget execution.

1. **New evidence production activities for decision (scoping notes) or information (ppt) (documents and discussion or decisions)**

The MC approved the scoping note for the horizontal activity FORTYS (FOresight on the Functioning of Europe's Territorial SYStems). The Committee welcomed the preparatory work carried out jointly by the EGTC and interested MC members and noted that the Advisory Board will accompany the implementation of the activity.

The MC confirmed the strategic importance of ensuring continued ESPON support to the Territorial Futures Forum while respecting the legal and programme framework. The Committee agreed that the Managing Authority, the ESPON EGTC and the incoming Presidencies should prepare a revised proposal addressing the compliance aspects discussed during the meeting. The revised proposal will be circulated to the MC together with the draft minutes.

2. **Timetable for upcoming activities (knowledge development events, publications. Calls, and the role of MC members) (information).**

The MC took note of the timetable for knowledge development activities, publications, calls for tenders and upcoming events.

5. Developments in Territorial Cohesion, Urban Policy and Cohesion policy including Presidency programmes relevant for the ESPON 2030 Programme presentation by EU Presidencies and inputs from EC (Q&A)

The MC took note of the presentations by the Irish and Lithuanian Presidencies and of the information provided by the European Commission on current territorial policy developments, including the EU Agenda for Cities, the EU Strategy for Islands, the Right-to-Stay Strategy and preparations for the future Interreg framework.

6. Timetable MC/MA (document and decision)

The updated timetable with events planned during the Irish and Lithuanian presidencies were presented and approved by the MC members.

7. AOB

The MC took note that the next Monitoring Committee meeting will be held on 18 September 2026 in Zagreb, back-to-back with the Joint Working Group meeting on 17 September 2026.