

ESPON 2030 Programme

Monitoring Committee meetings

17 November 2025, 09h00-17h30

18 November 2025, 09h00 -17h00

Decision notes

Welcome by the Chair (Denmark)

The chair and the MA both welcomed the participants. The new members of the MC were introduced, and the quorum was confirmed by the MA.

Sessions without the ESPON EGTC

1. Agreement on the Agenda

The MC approved the agenda without additional points. Voting right delegations by CH to HR and LV to LT were noted.

2. General Management Provisions for the ESPON 2030 Programme

The MC took note of the MA information on management. The MA informed that the partnership agreement from Portugal had been signed. For the pending partnership agreement of Liechtenstein, a bilateral meeting would be organised on 9 December 2025 with the support of Switzerland.

1. Quality Check of the ESPON Single Operation

The MC took note of the Draft Report of the 4th Quality Check of the Single Operation. The MC welcomed the corrective actions proposed and the continued close cooperation between the MA and the EGTC-

2. ESPON 2030 Evaluation – Preliminary Results

The MC took note of the preliminary findings of the ESPON 2030 Programme evaluation. The MC discussed the results in breakout groups, focusing on strengthening the role of ESPON Contact Points (ECPs) and improving engagement of policy stakeholders in research activities. The MC agreed that the identified challenges and proposed ways forward should be further processed by the MA and the EGTC and followed up at a subsequent MC meeting.

Sessions with the ESPON EGTC

3. Single Operation: implementation status (highlights based on the MC Info Note - discussion):

- 1. Overall progress: global performance figures, the stock of activities** (MC Info Note, ppt and discussion)
- 2. Management risks** (MC Info Note, ppt and discussion)

The MC took note of the information presented by the ESPON EGTC on the overall progress of the Single Operation, including global performance figures, the stock of ongoing and completed activities, and management risks. The MC acknowledged the explanations provided regarding horizontal activities, public procurement procedures, and the pool of editors and communication tools such as podcasts. The MC encouraged continued close monitoring of n+2 targets and de-commitment risks.

4. Further implementation of the Single Operation (documents and discussion)

- 1. Global plan for evidence and knowledge activities in 2026**
- 2. Information on new evidence production activities** (ppt and discussion and scoping note/s for approval)
- 3. Upcoming developments (publications, knowledge events arranged by the EGTC and the ECPs and other transfer activities, calls for tenders, etc.) and interaction with the MC** (ppt and discussion)
- 4. Update on the nomination and contracting of ESPON Contact Points, including the status of ECP work plans** (ppt and discussion)

The MC took note of the global plan for evidence and knowledge activities in 2026. The MC agreed to return to the question of the number and scope of future TAPs at the next MC meeting, in light of emerging evidence and knowledge needs.

The MC approved the scoping note for the horizontal activity INTER-STAGE, under the condition that MC members will be invited to comment on and contribute to the drafting of the Terms of Reference. The MC also took note of additional territorial studies and forthcoming horizontal activities presented for information.

5. Workshops: discussion of each TAP in depth (document, discussion and decision)

- 1. TAP European territories in global interactions**
- 2. TAP Nature based adaptation to climate change**

3. TAP Smart connectivity

4. Living, working and travelling across borders

The MC discussed the implementation pathways of the TAPs presented. The MC endorsed the proposed directions for future evidence production and knowledge transfer activities. The MC invited the EGTC to pool ideas for new European Research Projects and data updates across TAPs and present them at a future MC meeting for strategic consideration.

6. Developments in Territorial Cohesion, Urban Policy and Cohesion policy including Presidency programmes relevant for the ESPON 2030 Programme

1. Presentation by DK, CY, IE Presidencies and inputs from EC (Q&A)

2. Update progress with the new legislative proposal (information)

The MC took note of the presentations by the Danish, Cypriot and Irish Presidencies, as well as the information provided by the European Commission on the EU Agenda for Cities, the Multiannual Financial Framework negotiations and Interreg-related developments.

7. Timetable MC/MA and EGTC (two documents, one by the MA on 2030, one by the EGTC on SO and decision on the MC timetable)

The timetable was presented approved.

8. AOB

Under AOB, the MC took note of information shared on ongoing surveys and upcoming events. The Managing Authority reminded the MC members to reply to the questionnaire on ESPON Contact Points in the framework of the mid-term evaluation.

Sessions with the ESPON EGTC

9. ESPON post-2030: Preparing the Setting-up of the Joint Working Group and the presentation of the road map towards the next programme (ppt and discussion)

The MC took note of the roadmap towards the preparation of the post-2030 ESPON Programme. The MC discussed the setup, timing and reimbursement arrangements for the Joint Working Group meetings in 2026. The MC agreed on earlier circulation of strategic documents and encouraged broad participation of Member and Partner States.

ESPON 2030 MONITORING COMMITTEE Meeting

17-18 November 2025, Aalborg (DK)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	Name of delegate	Please sign here
EUROPEAN COMMISSION		
	Merja HAAPAKKA	
EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS		
	Florence THOME	
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE		
	Elena-Alexandra CALISTRU	
EU MEMBER STATES		
AUSTRIA	Tom BRANDSTETTER	
	Johannes LEBESMUEHLBACHER	
BELGIUM	Anneloes VAN NOORDT	
	Renée PETERS	
	Sandrine DE MEYER	
BULGARIA	Irina RANGELOVA	
CROATIA	Zeljko SOKCEVIC	
	Kresimir RADIC	
CYPRUS	Andreas SIANTOS	
CZECHIA	Milada HRONKOVA	
DENMARK	Jeppe HOST	
ESTONIA	Eedi SEPP	

FINLAND	Satu TOLONEN	
	Sanna ANDERSSON	
FRANCE	Luc FARALDI	
GERMANY	Josiane MEIER	
GREECE	Agamemnon ANASTASIOU	
HUNGARY	Laszlo GERE	
IRELAND	Kevin TWOMEY	
	Kevin LYNCH	
ITALY	Rita ALLEGRINI	
	Zaira PIAZZA	
	Veronica LANZONI	
	Francesca AMENDOLA	
LATVIA	Diāna RASUMA	Delegate voting rights to LT
LITHUANIA	Sandra JEGLINSKE	
LUXEMBOURG	Olivier BICHEL	
MALTA	Michaela FENECH	
NETHERLANDS	Marcia VAN DER VLUGT	
POLAND	Patrycja ARTYMOWSKA	
PORTUGAL	Ana SEIXAS	
ROMANIA	Radu NECSULIU	
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Zdenka AUGUSTINICOVA	
	Martin HUDZIK	
	Nina BRATKOVA	

SLOVENIA	Blanka BARTOL	
SPAIN	Cristian Enrique GARCIA ALONSO	
SWEDEN	Annelie MARTENSSON	
	Mikael FORSBERG	
PARTNER STATES		
ICELAND	Haraldur REINHARDSSON	
LIECHTENSTEIN	-	
NORWAY	Odd GODAL	
SWITZERLAND	Silvia JOST	Delegate voting rights to HR
ESPON MA		
	Thiemo ESER	
	Sara FERRARA	
	Eva SZARAZI	
	Jozsef SZARKA	
	Akos SZABO	
	Vincent GLAESENER	
INVITED GUESTS-ESPON EGTC		
	Wiktor SZYDAROWSKI	
	Pierre-Emmanuel MALCOTTI	
	Nicolas ROSSIGNOL	
	Paola MARINOVIC	
	Andreea CHINA	
	Ivone STELCER	
	Gavin DALY	

	Zintis HERMANSONS	
	Ramona TANASA	
	Vassilen IOTZOV	
	Lorenzo GENNA	
	Nikos LAMPROPOULOS	
	Martin GAUK	
OBSERVERS		
SERBIA	Tijana Živanović Milić	
SERBIA	Andrija Planić	
INVITED GUEST		
POLIMI	Erica MELLONI	
POLIMI	Cristina VASILESCU	