

ESPON 2030 Programme

Monitoring Committee meetings

12 -13 June 2023

Kulturens Hus

Address: Skeppsbrogatan 17, 972 31 Luleå, Sweden

Decision notes

1. Agreement on the Agenda

No additional points were recommended by the MC so the Agenda was agreed by the MC.

2. General Provisions for the ESPON 2030 Programme

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

No remarks.

3. State of affairs after the last MC meeting and next steps of the Programme

1. Update of the Operation Implementation Guidelines (document and decision)

The modified Operation Implementation Guidelines have been approved by the MC provided that the MA includes the corrections suggested by GR and SK.

2. State on setting up the audit work (information)

The MA informed the MC members that the process to finalise the Audit Strategy is ongoing as the final guidance documents from the EC have been issued.

3. Progress on the implementation of the Evaluation strategy (information and discussion together with members of the Evaluation Steering Group)

The MA and the members of the Evaluation Steering Committee informed about the progress made with the implementation of the evaluation of the ESPON 2030

Programme and will inform MC Members as soon as the procurement has been published.

Sessions with the ESPON EGTC

4. Participation of third countries with the ESPON 2030 Programme (document and discussion)

The Monitoring Committee:

- Confirmed the decision already taken at the MC meeting in March 2023 to invite all IPA countries as observers, except Turkey;
- Decided to invite two NDICI countries, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, as observers;

Furthermore, the Monitoring Committee decided that, in case Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova indicate their impossibility to cover their travel costs:

- the MA, after having verified the availability of funds, should inform the MC and run a written procedure asking the MC approval to cover the travel costs of the two countries (from the technical assistance budget) for a period of one year.

Finally, if any of the observer countries express the interest in becoming full member of the ESPON Programme, the MC will have to discuss this issue and the MA will have to provide all the necessary detailed information regarding the financial and administrative decision of the Monitoring Committee is needed.

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

The incoming EU Presidencies and the EC representative provided information about their programme and future meetings.

5. Single Operation: implementation status (MC Info Note and discussion):

1. General overview of the implementation process
2. Overview of each running TAP, incl. the ongoing and planned evidence and knowledge activities, as well as further implementation ideas (based on stakeholder interest)
3. Overview of horizontal measures, incl. ongoing and planned activities as well as further implementation ideas (based on stakeholder interest)
4. Budget and output performance to date
5. Upcoming events (arranged by ESPON EGTC and ECPs)

ESPON EGTC gave an introduction on each of the items.

6. Horizontal Measures

1. Strategic Paper on Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) in the framework of the Single Operation (document and discussion)

The EGTC gave short introduction on the content of the paper, with four various intervention areas for ESPON TIAs.

2. Scoping note for TA2030 performance review (document, discussion and decision)

The EGTC gave short introduction on the scoping note.

The MC adopted the scoping note.

7. New TAPs – Discussion TAP-by TAP (documents, discussion, decision)

7.1. TAP Adapting to the impact to climate change

7.2. TAP European territories in global interactions

7.3. Smart connectivity

7.4. TAP Living, working und travelling across borders

CONCLUSIONS

In relation to the 4 TAPs presented and their scoping note the MC decided the following:

TAP Living, working und travelling across borders:

The TAP is approved, however MC comments will have to be reflected in the document.

The advisory board supported by the MA will verify that comments are reflected. No further involvement of the MC. MC interested can be included in addition (for all).

The scoping note is approved, however MC comments will have to be reflected in the document.

The advisory board supported by the MA will verify that comments are reflected. No further involvement of the MC.

TAP Smart connectivity

The TAP is approved, however MC comments will have to be reflected in the document.

The advisory board supported by the MA will verify that comments are reflected. No further involvement of the MC.

The scoping notes are approved under the condition that the comments of the MC members are reflected in the scoping note.

The EGTC will involve the advisory board in the revision. Revisions will be checked by the advisory board supported by the MA (additional members to the advisory board are accepted)

TAP Adapting to the impact to climate change

The TAP is approved. No modifications are needed.

The EGTC will present scoping note on this TAP to be discussed at the extraordinary online MC meeting in September.

TAP Global Interactions

No consensus was found in the MC for the approval of this TAP.

The advisory board will be re-open. The EGTC will involve the advisory board in the revision. The revised TAP will be submitted for MC approval (in written procedure or discussed at the extraordinary online MC meeting in September)

The approval of the scoping note is postponed until the approval of the TAPs.

8. Update on the nomination and contracting of ESPON Contact Points, including the status of ECP work plans (information, ppt and discussion)

The EGTC gave a short update on the contracting (partnership agreements), the exchanges started with the respective ECPs, and on the work plans.

9. 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 MA informed that the additional MC meeting in the second half of September.

The MC approved the timetable.

10. AOB

No further points mentioned.