

Work Plan

1. General Objectives for the Year 2020

Year

2020

General objectives

This Annual Work Plan (AWP) for the implementation of the Single Operation in 2020 has been prepared by the ESPON EGTC in the context of the approved Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) and its pre-defined schedule of activities and key milestones. The AWP 2020 will continue to build upon the progress made since the start of the implementation of the Single Operation and contribute to achieving the objectives of the MAWP through an integrated internal strategy, coordinated with key external policy processes. The strategic orientations of the AWP2020 have been developed in close collaboration with the ESPON Monitoring Committee, including ESPON member states and DG REGIO.

The key strategic objectives of the AWP for 2020 are:

- to complete the development of territorial evidence towards key ongoing and new policy processes at all levels building on the results of completed research and in relation to the research agenda of other programmes/ networks/ institutions;
- to capitalise on the available research outputs and ensure their contribution to key policy processes and specific target audiences at European, national, regional and local scale by developing a range of tailor-made outreach products and engaging more actively with stakeholders, researchers and media in the design and implementation of outreach activities.

The key strategic orientations for the AWP 2020 are identified on the basis of the following information and analysis:

- the relevant policy processes presented in the policy needs assessment that is being continuously updated by the ESPON member states,
- the second Evaluation report of the Single Operation prepared on the basis of the evaluation survey of key target groups,
- progress reports on the implementation of the Single Operation,
- mid-term evaluation results of ESPON 2020 Cooperation programme,
- assessment report of the AWP 2020 by the Monitoring Committee.

Considering the progress of implementation of the Single Operation and the foreseen research output that will be delivered by the beginning of 2020, outreach is identified as the key priority for action in the framework of this Annual work plan. The recommendations of the mid-term evaluation as well as the results of the annual evaluation of the progress of the Single Operation suggest to further strengthen the outreach strategy and its implementation on:

- further tailoring, diversification and adaptation of the research outputs according to the specific needs of target groups and different territories;
- consideration of the different contexts in which stakeholders and target groups will use evidence and tools;
- piloting new innovative outreach tools;
- providing specific attention to the needs of ESIF bodies;
- strengthening the coordination and cooperation of all actors involved in the implementation of the outreach strategy;
- increasing the attention to the scientific community and further developing the bridges between policy-makers and scientists by allowing more debate and discussion.

Accordingly, the outreach strategy in 2020 will be focused on the following principles:

- Tailor-made content- developing customised products and services, tailored to the policy needs of the target groups, e.g. through country fiches, political briefings, case studies, evidence extracts.
- Breaking silos- developing outreach formats and methodologies that allow not only to inform, but also connect stakeholders: regional and local with sectoral, national, regional and local administrations with representatives of functional bodies, experts with elected officials, as well as decision-makers with the research community.
- Stronger co-ownership- engaging researchers in collaborative activities to develop outreach content.
- Ensuring continuity- throughout the entire policy cycle, in terms of time and emerging needs and in terms of geographic coverage.
- Storytelling- developing narratives based on ESPON research results with relevant territorial contexts and inspiring messages.
- Targeting multipliers- engaging with potential "ambassadors" in umbrella organisations, associations and other networks to ensure a wider outreach towards the target audiences.

Considering the results of the mid-term evaluation of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation programme and the annual evaluation of the Single Operation the outreach activities will specifically focus on intensifying outreach towards the following target groups:

- local and regional policy-makers,
- sectoral policy-makers,
- policy-makers in functional areas,
- elected officials,
- research community.

The updated policy needs assessment allows to identify a range of horizontal (cross-sectoral) and vertical (thematic) outreach priorities that will serve policy processes and target groups at different levels in the framework of European and transnational outreach activities.

Horizontal (cross-sectoral) priorities:

1. The development of the EU Territorial Agenda post 2020. The results of the European Territorial Reference Framework activity will be continuously communicated towards the target groups, engaged in the development of future policies at all scales. The outcomes will be used by institutions engaged in the inter-governmental process on territorial cohesion for developing the Territorial Agenda post-2020. It will also be used as a basis for informing the discussions by the European Parliament, European Commission DGs, EU Member States, Committee of the Regions, Managing Authorities of cross-border and transnational cooperation programmes, macro-regional structures etc. and, on the territorial dimension of future Cohesion Policy, other EU, national and regional policies.

2. Functional areas

- Functional urban areas will be supported continuously by the results of the TA 'Spatial Dynamics and Strategic Planning in Metropolitan Areas'. The methodology to define a metropolitan development area and the taxonomy deriving from governance, municipal structures and population remains valid for the policy processes that seek support in 2020, particularly those relating to ESIF programming, ITI and urban governance and planning. The FUA tool will support policy makers in analysing, comparing and benchmarking functional urban areas, thus allowing to draft better integrated territorial development strategies in the context of the 2021 - 2027 programming period. Likewise, the FUA tool will be also helpful in framing the Territorial Agenda post-2020 in relation to functional approaches in planning. Moreover, the FUA tool will facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan of the Urban Partnership on Sustainable Use of Land and Nature-Based Solutions.

- Cross-border areas will be supported continuously by the results of the TA 'Cross-border Public Services'. Particularly cross-border areas that seek analyses of cross-border functional areas as well as support for the identification of needs for the provision of cross-border public services will benefit from the developed typology and the analysed governance structures. Moreover, Interreg A programming will be supported by ex-ante TIA sessions for investment priority setting, the TEVI indicators for the programme intervention logic as well as a new generation of TEVI.

- Macro-regions will be supported by the results of an ongoing research activity that is aimed at developing macro-regional monitoring tools and by two targeted analyses on territorial vision for the Baltic Sea region and on common spatial perspective for the Alpine Area. EUSDR and EUSAIR can also be served through a new generation of TEVI that is going to be launched in 2020. The outcomes of these activities will be used by macro-regional authorities, member states, regions and the European Commission DG REGIO to monitor the developments and progress of macro-regional strategies, and to support the discussion on their development in the future. The outcomes may also be used for monitoring purposes of European territorial cooperation

on programmes (transnational strand).

3. Governance: the results of the TA ACTAREA and ReSSI will provide useful input to policy to the post-2020 ESIF programming in all member states. 5 additional case studies proposed as spin-off of the above SO2 projects will serve the Master Programme for Spatial Planning of Luxembourg and Spatial Development Concept of the Greater Region, the Comprehensive Plan of Lithuania, the Estonian multilevel and cross-sectorial coordination mechanisms of regional policy, the implementation of the Lithuanian regional policy guidelines as well as the review of spatial plans for main urban agglomerations in Cyprus. The needs assessment identifies the development of ITI and CLLD schemes as an ESIF programming need that will benefit from the results of the above projects. The governance aspects in relation to the 3 TA projects above will be a recurring theme in policy briefs, info packs and transnational publishing formats, the measures dedicated to media relations as well as in all types of events, both European and transnational.

4. ESIF programming: by the end of 2019, the EGTC will release the State of the European Territory that structures ESPON evidence around the five CP/R policy objectives. Throughout 2020, the EGTC will continue to communicate the key messages from this publication aiming them at ESIF programming authorities, both mainstream and ETC. This will ensue through the reproduction and dissemination of the State of the European Territory at ESPON seminars, CoR briefings and transnational events. Moreover, the key findings and messages will be assimilated into info packs as well as transnational fiches and event briefs. The EGTC will, furthermore, update its catalogue 'ESPON contributions to post-2020 programming of ESIF' accordingly.

5. Spatial planning: the results of the SO1 projects 'Comparative Analysis of Territorial Governance and Spatial Planning Systems in Europe' (COMPASS) and 'Sustainable Urbanization and land-use Practices in European Regions' (SUPER) will also horizontally accompany the outreach measures in 2020. Spatial planning and land use are matters equally relevant across Europe and are expected to turn up in every discussion in the context of functional areas, governance, ESIF programming or sectoral policies. 6 additional case studies proposed as spin-off of SO1 projects SUPER and COMPASS will serve in particular the Swiss Spatial Planning Law and New Regional Policy; the Lithuanian Comprehensive Plan; the Croatian national spatial development plan; Liechtenstein's spatial and transport planning policies; the Maltese strategic plan for the environment and development as well as the new national spatial development policy of the Czech Republic. The results from COMPASS, SUPER and LinkPas will also feature in info packs as well as TNO events and publications.

Vertical (thematic) priorities- European outreach (represent high demand from the member states and/or strong supra-national relevance):

1. Entrepreneurial development and innovation: this priority will be served by the results of the SO1 projects 'The World in Europe: Global FDI Flows towards Europe', 'Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in European Regions and Cities' as well as 'Technological Transformation & Transitioning of Regional Economies'. On additional case study is foreseen under this priority as a spin-off from the SO1 project on SME in support of the review of the Hungarian support scheme for 'free entrepreneurial zones'. Further policy processes that will benefit from ESPON evidence are bridging innovation policy, economic transition and entrepreneurial development, which makes the support in this context equally relevant for the development of smart specialisation strategies throughout the EU. The outreach schemes will aim at the stakeholders involved in programming of investments under the 'smarter Europe' policy objective in general and the regional entrepreneurial discovery processes in particular.

2. Demography, services and quality of life: the results of the SO1 projects 'Inner Peripheries', 'Territories with Geographical Specificities', 'European Shrinking Rural Areas', 'Quality of Life Measurements and Methodology' and the TA 'Future Digital Health in the EU'. 'Cross-border public services', 'Urban-rural connections in non-metropolitan areas' and 'Adapting European Cities to Population Ageing: Policy Challenges and Best Practices' will be used to address long-term development strategies as well as the programming of ESIF investments, particularly under the policy objectives 'more connected Europe' and 'more social Europe'.

3. Climate, environment and energy: evidence for this priority will be sourced from the SO1 projects 'Low-Carbon Economy', 'Green infrastructure', 'Circular Economy', 'Sustainable Urbanization and land-use Practices in European Regions' and from the TA 'Linking Networks of Protected Areas to Territorial Development'. The outreach measures will be aimed at the new generation of national spatial plans across the EU as well as climate adaptation and energy transition strategies. The programming of ESIF investments under the policy objective 'greener low-carbon Europe' will be served under this outreach priority.

4. European Territorial Cooperation: This priority will be served in several different ways. First, a new TEVI project will be designed to serve ETC programming needs. The TIA for CBC programmes and notably the spin-off methodology for assessing the net impact will be valuable input for all ETC impact assessment activities. The result and output indicators of the current TEVI project will be communicated to programming authorities in cooperation with Interact, aiming at the future intervention logic of ETC programmes. Finally, the TA on cross-border public services will continue to be a relevant input, showcasing durable Interreg solutions with a high social value.

Vertical (thematic) priorities – transnational outreach (represent fractional demand from member states and/or are related to national and sub-national competences):

1. Tourism and cultural heritage: to be served by the TA 'Cultural heritage' and 'Tourism'

2. Maritime spatial planning and blue growth: to be served by the TA MSP-LSI;

3. Sustainable Development Goals: to be served by the SO3 project on SDG;

4. Migration: to be served by the SO1 project and the TA on refugee flows.

The policy processes and impact maximising measures will be explained in more detail in the TNO Annual Work Plan 2020.

Continuous efforts on outreach of available research outputs at European and transnational scale, developing closer collaboration with key stakeholders (policy-makers), as well as the research community and media to communicate the research results in a tailor-made way will contribute to the achievement of the results of the Single Operation related to the uptake and satisfaction with ESPON research.

14,951 / 15,000 characters

2. Activities proposed

2.1

European wide, comparable information and evidence on territorial potentials and challenges focusing on opportunities for success for the development of regions and cities

Activities

Number

Name and Description

2.1.a	<p style="text-align: center;">Applied Research projects</p> <p>Considering that all 22 applied research activities foreseen in the output targets of the Single Operation have been agreed and their implementation has started in the framework of the previous annual workplans, no new applied research activities are foreseen in 2020. At the same time, in order to increase the national, regional and local relevance and application of ESPON's evidence in policy processes and developments at different scales, several additional case studies will be implemented to complement ongoing or closed applied research activities.</p> <p>The selection of new case studies will be based on the following principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) results of the updated policy needs' assessment, where a) the policy processes and process owners are clearly defined; b) the type of evidence needed qualifies as a case study, c) the policy process will not end before 2021 and d) the nature of the policy process and /or its stage of development allows for an adequate level of policy penetration; 2) budget, where a) the overall budget is to be sourced from unspent resources and additional re-allocation from staff costs to external expertise and b) the budget per case study is to be estimated based on information from the ongoing and closed contracts about the average costs for developing one case study; 3) geographical coverage: the EGTC performed an analysis of the member state representation in all applied research and targeted analysis case studies known by November 2019. On average, a country is represented in eight case studies. Member and partner states represented in seven or less case studies will be prioritised in the new case study selection. These countries are subdivided in two priority groups. The first group consists of countries with a representation in three or less case studies or no representation at all, and includes CY, LI, LT, LU, IS, CH and MT. The EGTC will seek to implement 2 case studies for this priority group. The second group consists of countries having between four and seven case study occurrences and includes CZ, SK, BG, EE, LV, PT, EL, HR, HU and NO. One new case study is to be dedicated to each of these countries. 4) feasibility: additional case studies are more likely to be adequately accommodated by ongoing activities of low project maturity levels. Closed activities or ongoing activities with high project maturity are not excluded but it shall be considered that the project status and maturity level will have an impact on feasibility in terms of both administration and methodology. Following the MC approval, the EGTC will mediate between the member and partner states and the research teams in order to reach an agreement on a realistic research scope. 5) shared thematic interest: based on the economy-of-scale principle, preference will be given to projects that can serve shared interests of the member and partner states. <p>Upon final approval of the proposed case studies by the MC, the EGTC will activate the respective administrative procedures, i.e. contract addenda for ongoing research projects or new service contracts for relevant closed projects.</p> <p>In addition to case studies, in 2020 the EGTC will discuss with the research teams and identify additional outreach activities that could be implemented in the framework of the ongoing contracts to strengthen the engagement of researchers in developing the outreach products communicating the results of ESPON's studies towards the research community and policy-makers, thereby building bridges between the researchers and policy-makers.</p> <p>Output target: up to 15. The overall budget available for developing additional case studies in 2020 is 200 000 EUR.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3,677 / 15,000 characters</p>
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2.1.b	<p style="text-align: center;">Applied Research projects</p> <p>Addressing territorial dimension of the impact of Covid-19 pandemic and regional policies in Europe during the first months of the outbreak : a new study about geography of COVID-19 outbreak and the first policy answers in European regions and cities</p> <p>The starting point to develop this short term research project on Covid-19 is the lack of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pan-European overview about the geographical spread of the epidemic at regional and local levels (going beyond national representations). - Understanding of the spatial diffusion in terms of territorial characteristics, mobility patterns (including lock-down measures) or demography. - European overview of the emergency policy-responses carried out at regional and local levels (cities, metropolitan areas...). <p>This activity shall provide a more solid information base and underline commonalities and differences among European territories on the extent the Covid-19 has affected them. It will seek for evidence on responses brought in the early stages of the outbreak, in order to increase mutual learning.</p> <p>The results of this new ESPON study should be usable for the purpose of a eventual future mid-long term applied research activity in 2021 on the territorial consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for European territories.</p> <p>Main tasks foreseen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping of the geography of the outbreak at the European scale, using openly available data from national public authorities - Overview and comparisons on policy answers/responses at regional and local levels across Europe, using evidence provided by partner's organisations such as CoR, CEMR, Eurocities, Urbact... - Identification of key policy questions and proposals for future potential ESPON applied research in 2021. <p>The study will be implemented in cooperation also with the support of interested partners networks and databases (i.e. CoR, CEMR, Eurocities, Urbact).</p> <p>First results shall be ready by mid-September 2020 to be presented and discussed with ESPON MC and all partners organizations involved. Final results shall be made available to ensure common dissemination at the time of the European Week of Regions and Cities (October 2020).</p> <p>The estimated budget for this new activity is 60,000 EUR (release from underspending registered with already contracted SO1 activities).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2,286 / 15,000 characters</p>
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2.2	Targeted analyses		
Activities	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="207 1892 766 1960">Number</th> <th data-bbox="766 1892 1508 1960">Name and Description</th> </tr> </thead> </table>	Number	Name and Description
Number	Name and Description		

2.2.a	<p style="text-align: center;">Targeted Analyses Projects</p> <p>No new targeted analyses are foreseen in 2020 considering that the output target will be reached with the activities, selected and implemented in the framework of the previous annual workplans. At the same time, in order to increase the national, regional and local relevance and application of ESPON's evidence in policy processes and developments at different scales, several additional case studies will be implemented on the topics of the completed (closed) activities.</p> <p>The selection of new case studies will be based on the following principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) results of the updated policy needs' assessment, where a) the policy processes and process owners are clearly defined; b) the type of evidence needed qualifies as a case study, c) the policy process will not end before 2021 and d) the nature of the policy process and /or its stage of development allows for an adequate level of policy penetration; 2) budget, where a) the overall budget is to be sourced from unspent resources and additional re-allocation from staff costs to external expertise and b) the budget per case study is to be estimated based on information from the ongoing and closed contracts about the average costs for developing one case study; 3) geographical coverage: the EGTC performed an analysis of the member state representation in all applied research and targeted analysis case studies known by November 2019. On average, a country is represented in eight case studies. Member and partner states represented in seven or less case studies will be prioritised in the new case study selection. These countries are subdivided in two priority groups. The first group consists of countries with a representation in three or less case studies or no representation at all, and includes CY, LI, LT, LU, IS, CH and MT. The EGTC will seek to implement 2 case studies for this priority group. The second group consists of countries having between four and seven case study occurrences and includes CZ, SK, BG, EE, LV, PT, EL, HR, HU and NO. One new case study is to be dedicated to each of these countries. 4) Feasibility: only completed Targeted Analyses will qualify for spin-off case studies, in order not to compromise the stakeholder contractual commitments and integrity of ongoing Targeted Analyses. Following the MC approval, the EGTC will mediate between the member and partner states and the research teams in order to reach an agreement on a realistic research scope. 5) shared thematic interest: based on the economy-of-scale principle, preference will be given to projects that can serve shared interests of the member and partner states. <p>Upon final approval of the proposed case studies by the MC, the EGTC will activate the respective administrative procedures, i.e. new service contracts for relevant closed projects.</p> <p>In addition to case studies, in 2020 the EGTC will discuss with the research teams and identify additional outreach activities that could be implemented in the framework of the ongoing contracts to strengthen the engagement of researchers in developing the outreach products communicating the results of ESPON's studies towards the research community and policy-makers, thereby building bridges between the researchers and policy-makers.</p> <p>Output target: up to 9. The overall budget available for developing additional case studies in 2020 is 200 000 EUR.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3,364 / 15,000 characters</p>
2.2.b	<p style="text-align: center;">Targeted Evidence Support</p> <p>The EGTC will launch two new TEVI activities aimed at the governance and implementation bodies of the EUSDR and EUSAIR on the one hand and at stakeholders of ETC programmes in the outermost regions on the other hand.</p> <p>MACRO-TEVI: support for EUSDR and EUSAIR</p> <p>Stakeholders from the EUSDR and EUSAIR have communicated the need for ESPON support in the course of 2020 that goes beyond the revision of Action Plans and the selection of priority areas. First exchanges with stakeholders from both macro-regional strategies suggest the need for ESPON input on improving the functioning of priority areas, which could involve methodologies for priority area monitoring and coordination. The ESPON EGTC consulted national coordinators from EUSAIR and the Danube DSP in order to identify their needs and demands. The idea of implementing such a project was very welcome and the outputs are expected to support the activities of the governance bodies of these macro-regions in monitoring and identifying priorities for action. The terms of reference will be developed by the EGTC based on the inputs received and the implementation of this service contract will include a participatory approach involving the governance bodies of the EUSDR and EUSAIR. The outcomes of this project will be complementary and build up on the existing ESPON projects: ALPS2050; BT2050 and EMTM Tool.</p> <p>OUTERMOST-TEVI:</p> <p>This TEVI edition is dedicated to the ETC programmes of the outermost regions and is based on a need expressed by Interact. The project may entail studies on the territorial relations with continental Europe, foresight studies and/or classical programming support services. The precise scope will be agreed with Interact, DG Regio and the outermost ETC programmes. The study will be prominently communicated throughout the year by means of joint interventions in cooperation with Interact in the context of the 30th Interreg anniversary, which will culminate in a joint publication and event in the last quarter, publicly releasing the TEVI results.</p> <p>Output target: 2 activities supporting 2 macro-regions and up to 6 outermost ETC programmes. The budget available for the new targeted evidence support activities is 250,000 EUR.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2,222 / 15,000 characters</p>

2.3

Thematic papers, on specific thematic areas in response to stakeholder demand

Activities

Number	Name and Description
	<p style="text-align: center;">Thematic papers (Policy Briefs & Working Papers)</p> <p>The ESPON EGTC will develop a range of policy briefs to ensure a wide outreach and capitalise on the outputs of research activities that will deliver results by the end of 2020 and to link in to the relevant policy debates and processes as explained below. Thematic and cross-thematic papers will be built on the outcomes of previous and ongoing ESPON research activities and in close cooperation with target audiences. In general, thematic papers will be used as an important outreach tool promoting an increased uptake and satisfaction of targeted audiences with ESPON territorial evidence support and thereby contributing to the achievement of the results of the Single Operation.</p> <p>The detailed proposal of the EGTC is presented below.</p> <p>Policy briefs:</p> <p>Green infrastructure in the urban areas (1st Semester)</p> <p>The policy brief is initiated by the Croatian Presidency and addresses in particular:</p>

Number	Name and Description
2.3.a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators and geospatial mapping of existing urban green infrastructure related to buildings and spaces; • Best practices and policy examples according to the typology of projects in urban areas (building greens; parks and recreation; private, commercial, industrial green space/green space connected to grey infrastructure); • Challenges and risks in green infrastructure projects; • Effects of urban containment policies • Project benchmarking and innovative solutions of green infrastructure; • Participative green infrastructure projects; • Financial challenges for green infrastructure projects; • Challenges and risks during the implementation of green infrastructure projects and how to mitigate them; • Integration of green infrastructure into spatial planning and design of urban areas and best practices; • Integration of sustainable land use measures in spatial planning and urban design; • Integration of spatial efficiency in sustainable land use models; • Model of implementation of green infrastructure solutions in spatial plans of coastal cities. <p>The primary policy process to be addressed with this policy brief is the National Development Strategy 2030 of Croatia. This document is the basis for state budget planning and programming of EU funds and other international sources of financing available to Croatia after 2020. One of its strategic goals is GREEN CROATIA, under which one of the most important themes is related to the development of green infrastructure in urban areas. Other policy processes to be directly supported with this policy brief are the implementation of the Czech Climate Change Policy, the implementation of the National Planning Framework Ireland 2040, the implementation of the Portuguese Sustainable Cities 2020 Strategy - CS2020. The primary evidence source will be the SO1 projects 'Green infrastructure' and 'Sustainable Urbanization and land-use Practices in European Regions'.</p> <p>Re-use of buildings and spaces in terms of transition to a circular economy (1st Semester) The policy brief is initiated by the Croatian Presidency. The objectives are to examine in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the circular economy in practice. Models of urban areas based on circular principles; • policy examples; • case studies; • innovative solutions / innovations of the circular economy (CE) models; • instruments for integrating the circular economy concepts in spatial planning and design; • circular economy and territorial consequence in terms of re-use of buildings and spaces; • testing and monitoring CE effects in the urban areas; • circular economy in the context of territorial efficiency & tourism; • benefits of using Circular Economy models in design • re-use of buildings and spaces in terms of transition to a circular economy <p>The primary policy process to be addressed with this policy brief is the National Development Strategy 2030 of Croatia. Another strategic theme and the GREEN CROATIA goal is related to the transition to a smart, circular and climate-resistant society, in particular the development and implementation of circular economy models for the use and protection of buildings and spaces. Other policy processes to be directly supported with this policy brief are the implementation of the Regional Programme on Circular Economy 2016-2020 of the Brussels Capital Region, the Flemish Climate Policy Plan 2021 – 2030, the design of the Spanish Strategy of Circular Economy, the implementation of the Rifkin Report in Luxembourg, the development of the Dutch Strategic Knowledge and Innovation Agenda (SKIA) and new National Spatial Planning Strategy (NOVI). The primary evidence source will be the SO1 project 'Circular Economy'.</p> <p>Maritime Spatial Planning (1st Semester) The policy brief is an initiative of the EGTC based on the updated needs assessment. It will synthesize the findings from the TA 'Maritime Spatial Planning – Land-Sea Interactions'. The deadline for the establishment of maritime spatial plans according to the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive is 2021. The policy brief will address all plans, which are still to be developed throughout 2020. Moreover, it addresses the programming of relevant CBC and TN programmes. As per needs assessment, the policy brief will directly feed into the work on Integrated Maritime Policy in Bulgaria, on the design of the Maritime Spatial Plan in the Black Sea and on the Croatian Spatial Development Plan.</p> <p>Regional entrepreneurial development and smart specialisation (2nd Semester) The policy brief is an initiative of the EGTC based on the updated needs assessment. It aims to examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regional and local methods (e.g. entrepreneurial discoveries, smart specialisation, FDI strategies); • regional and local support mechanisms, notably special economic zones, incubators and accelerators, technology transfer centres and • regional and local support schemes (e.g. financial instruments) <p>for entrepreneurial development. The policy brief will address the above aspects in the context of the transformation of regional economies. It aims at the design of smart specialisation strategies throughout the EU as well as the ensuing investments and support schemes at regional level. Moreover, it will support the revision of Free Entrepreneurial Zones in Hungary, the design of innovation policy in Bulgaria, the revision of the Polish strategy for responsible development as well as the post-2020 ESIF programming in Estonia, in particular with regard to the municipal powers to implement business development schemes. The policy brief will build on insights from the SO1 projects 'SME', 'FDI', 'Technological Transformation & Transitioning of Regional Economies' and 'Financial instruments and Territorial Cohesion'.</p> <p>Quality of life in European regions (2nd Semester) The policy brief is an initiative of the EGTC based on the updated needs assessment. It will synthesize the findings from the SO1 project 'Quality of Life Measurements and Methodology'. The policy brief will support all post-2020 programming efforts, particularly under the 'Europe closer to citizens' policy objective. As per needs assessment, the policy brief will feed directly into the problem framing of a Dutch policy on areas in population decline, the design of the Slovak Vision and Strategy for Development, the evaluation of the Cyprus Spatial Plans for main Urban Agglomerations as well as the design of the Croatian Landscape Framework Basis.</p> <p>Demographic transformations in European regions (2nd Semester) The policy brief is an initiative of the EGTC based on the updated needs assessment. It will synthesize the findings from the TA 'Adapting European Cities to Population Ageing: Policy Challenges and Best Practices' and the SO1 project 'European Shrinking Rural Areas Challenges, Actions and Perspectives for Territorial Governance'. As per needs assessment, the policy brief will feed directly into the post-2020 ESIF planning in Estonia, the revision of the Austrian Spatial Development Concept, the problem framing of a Dutch policy on areas in population decline, the revision of the Polish strategy for responsible development as well as the revision of the Slovak Spatial Development Perspective.</p> <p>In addition to the above proposals, the EGTC will be continuously screening the policy needs throughout 2020 and will respond with additional policy briefs based on the ascertained demand.</p>

Number	Name and Description
	<p>Cross-border observation: building a common strategy to enhance the understanding of flows and interactions between border regions (2nd Semester)</p> <p>This policy brief is an initiative of the EGTC to contribute to raising awareness on the importance of cross-border monitoring at the European level. It will be implemented in cooperation with the German Presidency and in close coordination with related Member States and DG Regio. It is a response to the need to better and systematically capture cross-border flows and interactions, as concluded during discussions held within the ESPON seminars in Vienna and Iasi. The brief will take stock of the recent initiatives undertaken by Germany and France with their neighbouring countries (BENELUX, NL, DK, PL, CZ, CH, AU, IT, SP) with the support of different organizations (like DG Regio, NSI, ESPON and so on) and outline a path for more cooperation in cross-border monitoring at the European scale. Such initiatives include the mandate of the German-French Aachen Treaty, as well as different recent studies such as the Border Region Data collection Report released by the European Commission. The brief will also integrate relevant methodologies, case studies and findings from ESPON projects, notably related to cross-border public services, ex-post impact assessment of cross-border programmes and mobile positioning data. In order to deliver up-to-date information, the preparation of the brief will involve data and maps update of the initial findings of the TA on cross-border public services. As other initiatives and networks are currently working on cross-border data in other parts of Europe, possibilities of convergence will be explored in this brief. In particular, it will look at formulating common definition of needs in order to suggest solutions, solve legal obstacles and define concrete steps towards data harmonization and improved coordination with the European cohesion policy.</p> <p>Output target: 7 policy briefs</p> <p>Info packs: The EGTC will launch a dissemination service of on-demand info packs to deliver rapid support to policymaking. The main rationale of info packs is outreach at micro level – e.g. support / background / briefing material for working meetings, taskforce and committee meetings, consultations, preparation of speeches of local officials or meetings with employees of European institutions (DGs, CoR, etc.). The content is flexible and depends on the topic of interest but can include case studies, maps, policy recommendations, executive summaries, etc. Info packs shall be distinguished from other services as they are ad-hoc compilations of existing content (e.g. case studies, executive summaries, maps) based on the demand of stakeholders that will be developed using the in-house resources of the EGTC. As no new content will be drafted, such packages can be delivered swiftly, sourcing from available project documentation (primarily SO1 and SO2 projects). The thematic scope would embrace the entire ESPON portfolio. Target groups include MC members and ECPs, TA stakeholders and any other policy maker who was not directly involved in ESPON research previously (DGs, national and subnational administrations, funding programmes, etc.). Output target: min. 5 (5-10)</p>

11,565 / 15,000 characters

2.4 Territorial observation/ reporting

Activities

Number	Name and Description
2.4.a	<p style="text-align: center;">Territorial Observations & Reporting</p> <p>In 2020, the EGTC will launch the preparation of the Territorial Atlas of Europe. Unlike the SoET report, this Atlas edition will be based on key messages and visual elements such as maps and other data visualisations, sourced from research outputs of the ESPON 2020 programme. The Monitoring Committee will be involved in the conceptual design, which will determine the scope of key messages and visuals. The ensuing ToR will also be consulted with the Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>The presentation of messages and visuals will follow a narrative in relation to the renewed Territorial Agenda. Interactive features will ensure an easy access to and navigation between topics and visuals. The Atlas will, furthermore, allow users to customize contents and generate tailor-made extracts as well as to gain direct access to the sources including reports, tools and data.</p> <p>The EGTC will contract the service provider. The total amount of budget available for this activity is 80,000 EUR.</p> <p>Output target: 1 launched activity on developing the Territorial Atlas of Europe.</p>

1,059 / 15,000 characters

2.5 Tools for territorial analyses

Activities

Number	Name and Description
2.5.a	<p style="text-align: center;">Develop Tools for Territorial Analysis</p> <p>During 2020 the ESPON EGTC will contract one or more service providers to update key data and maps from the first six SO1 activities, include the data in the ESPON Database Portal and include the maps and a related description in the ESPON MapFinder. The SO1 activities concerned are: EMPLOY, FDI, SMEs, LOCATE, PROFECY AND FUTURES. If relevant, SO2 activities will be considered as well. In addition, data will be purchased when needed.</p> <p>The total budget available for this activity in 2020 is 75,000 EUR.</p> <p>In 2020, the ESPON EGTC will continue to support TIA workshops as on-demand service for those who would like to carry out TIA workshops (this will include access to the webtool, moderation and if necessary, reporting after the workshop). The target groups, being the European Commission, the European Committee of the Regions, have shown continuing interest and demand in using the TIA tool for examining territorial impacts of policies and legal proposals. This is in line with the Commission's intentions (COM/2018/703) to ensure that its impact assessments and evaluations systematically consider territorial impacts and assess them where they are significant for local and regional authorities. ETC programmes have also shown an interest and will be encouraged to apply the ESPON TIA tool in a workshop setting in order to prepare for the 2021 – 2027 programming period.</p> <p>Output target: up to 5 TIA workshops. This activity will be implemented via an external service contract with a total contracted value of up to € 50,000.</p>

1,536 / 15,000 characters

2.6

Stimulate the use of tools

Activities

Number	Name and Description
2.6.a	<p data-bbox="821 291 1013 324" style="text-align: center;">Stimulate use of tools</p> <p data-bbox="351 336 518 369">15,000 Characters</p> <p data-bbox="351 358 1348 392">Interactive workshops and e-learning courses to provide overview and training on the use of ESPON tools and data</p> <p data-bbox="351 414 1484 481">ESPON tools are an asset that will be further exploited in 2020 as many tools will be updated and new will be delivered. The promotion of these tools will be integrated into the ESPON EGTC overall outreach strategy and different communication methods and tools will be used to address different audiences.</p> <p data-bbox="351 481 1484 638">The main target groups to be addressed are European, national, regional and local public authorities as well as authorities implementing EU funded programmes for regions, cross-border and transnational areas (including macroregions). Secondary target groups include journalists, researchers and general public. Following the positive experience of the seminar on data journalism organised in Brussels last year the EGTC will aim to support journalists providing online support/training to them and organise small workshops for journalists during the ESPON seminars in cooperation with the EU Presidencies. Online trainings will be also promoted through social media channels to attract larger audiences, beyond experts and analysts, that can have a professional or personal interest to work with our data.</p> <p data-bbox="351 638 1484 705">For the main target groups ESPON EGTC foresees during 2020 to promote the use of the ESPON tools through its participation in a number of European and transnational events, workshops and seminars and work jointly together with other organisations such as Committee of the Regions, Eurostat etc.</p> <p data-bbox="351 705 1484 784">In addition, the EGTC will develop a series of e-learning courses to increase learning opportunities and uptake of tools and data by the target audiences and provide them guidance on the use of these tools. Updated information sheets will be also available for each tool.</p> <p data-bbox="351 784 1484 884">At the same time through the website, the newsletter and the social media accounts we will further promote the tools and explain their use and added value. This is targeting both main and secondary target groups as we aim to increase awareness and inform our stakeholders about the updates of the tools. The same channels will be used to communicate the interactive workshops and the e-learnings and to showcase successful examples of stakeholders who have used the tools for their different needs.</p> <p data-bbox="351 884 1484 929">The EGTC is also planning to use the opportunity of the ESPON seminars that are organised with the European Presidencies every six months to further promote the tools.</p> <p data-bbox="351 929 1484 1019">Examples of activities that will promote the ESPON tools may include: training on how to use ESPON public MapKit to produce high quality maps in GIS environment with data from the ESPON Database; interactive workshops/trainings on how to use the upgraded ESPON TIA tool; workshops providing overview of functionalities of ESPON tools; promotion of ESPON tools during major events like European Week of Regions and Cities etc.</p> <p data-bbox="351 1041 1484 1097">Output target: at least 4 e-learning courses. This activity will be implemented using inhouse capacity combined with contracting specialist expertise and technical knowledge via public procurement with a total contracted value of up to € 30,000.</p> <p data-bbox="1268 1108 1492 1131" style="text-align: right;">3,156 / 15,000 characters</p>

2.7

Events

Activities

Number	Name and Description
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European Outreach Events

15,000 Characters

The identified priorities and policy processes will be directly served by means of European and transnational outreach events. The concepts of the European outreach events are outlined below. The budget foreseen for 2020 to implement the European outreach activities is approximately €100,000

ESPON Seminar in Croatia, 2020

- Objectives: capitalising on ESPON research in the outreach priority areas presented above and reflecting on the priorities under the Croatian Presidency, in particular on the strategic goal GREEN CROATIA of the National Development Strategy 2030, under which the most important needs from ESPON are related to the development of green infrastructure in urban areas as well as the transition to a smart, circular and climate-resistant society, in particular the development and implementation of circular economy models for the use and protection of buildings and spaces. The Seminar will address these needs with evidence primarily sourced from the SO1 projects 'Green infrastructure', 'Circular Economy and Territorial Consequences' as well as 'Sustainable Urbanization and Land-use Practices in European Regions'. The Seminar will, furthermore, contribute to facilitate the intergovernmental process towards the Territorial Agenda post-2020, which is scheduled to be adopted during the German Presidency.
- Target groups: stakeholders involved in the above processes; ESIF programming authorities, particularly those involved in programming of investments under the 'Greener and low-carbon Europe' CPR policy objective; academia, researchers, lecturers and students as future decision makers and practitioners; the media.
- Outreach methodology: the seminar will be structured around the key priorities of the Croatian EU Presidency and the strategic outreach priorities of the Single Operation for 2020 defined in the current work plan. The exact content and outreach methodology will be discussed and agreed with the Croatian Presidency.

ESPON seminar in Germany 2020

- Objectives: capitalising on ESPON research in the outreach priority areas presented above and reflecting on the priorities under the German Presidency, in particular the post-2020 Territorial Agenda on the basis of the results of the applied research activity ETRF-European Territorial Reference Framework and illustrated by the new Territorial Atlas of Europe created by the Presidency and ESPON (see 2.4a above). The Seminar will serve as an opportunity to discuss the aspects related to the implementation of the post-2020 Territorial Agenda, in particular how ESPON can contribute to the adopted objectives. One of the focus will be on defining concrete steps towards enhanced cross-border observation and monitoring.
- Target groups: Intergovernmental network on territorial cohesion and urban matters, organisations promoting different regional/urban interests at EU level; national, regional and local policy makers and practitioners responsible for territorial cohesion, ESIF programming authorities, macro-regional strategies; academia, researchers, lecturers and students as future decision makers and practitioners; the media.
- Outreach methodology: the seminar will be structured around the key priorities of the German EU Presidency and the strategic outreach priorities of the Single Operation for 2020 defined in the current work plan. The exact content and outreach methodology will be discussed and agreed with the German Presidency.

Output target: 2 Seminars

ESPON Briefing for CoR members - elected regional and local representatives, yearly around

The EGTC has successfully conducted a cross-commission trial event with the CoR in 2019 with the goal to raise awareness and generate demand. In 2020, further events are envisaged, which can assume different formats including ESPON attendance at Commission's meetings, CoR plenary sessions or events preceding decision-making or meetings with designated rapporteurs. The precise number of briefings will depend on the demand from the CoR members.

Output target: at least 2 briefings

ESPON @ Events

In addition to the above, the ESPON EGTC will seek synergies with policy-making institutions, EU funded programmes and data providers, such as the Directorates General, the CoR, EP Committees, Interreg, OECD, JRC, Eurostat, etc. The EGTC will also aim at regional stakeholder events such as the annual fora of the macro-regional strategies and other national and subnational public debates with policymakers, practitioners and academia. Amongst the target platforms is the EWRC in 2020, the Cities Forum 2020, the European Maritime Day 2020 etc.

Output target: at least 5 external events

2.7.a

4,686 / 15,000 characters

Number	Name and Description
2.7.b	<p style="text-align: center;">Transnational Outreach Project</p> <p>15,000 Characters</p> <p>The new generation of the transnational outreach project kicked off on 6 November 2019 and will run until the end of the first quarter of 2022. The new project will continue to provide tailored support, serving national, regional and local stakeholders, which are not or not fully reachable through the European outreach. This includes policymakers and practitioners involved in macro-regional, transnational, cross-border, national and subnational policy processes.</p> <p>The new project will implement two types of activities: events and publications. The event category is subdivided in conferences and workshops, whereby the workshops can assume the form of a peer-learning, training or round table. The publications will include a series of territorial fiches (including country fiches), which synthesize relevant outputs from ESPON Applied Research, Targeted Analyses and monitoring activities. The fiches may but do not have to be linked to policy processes already addressed through events. Events which do not require a territorial fiche will be accompanied by an event brief that describes the addressed policy processes and evidence needs, linking them with relevant ESPON observations, analyses, recommendations and methodologies.</p> <p>The new TNO generation will seek to maximise demand-responsiveness and continuity of the services while retaining a balanced geographical distribution of outreach actions. Where multiple evidence needs emanating from different geographical contexts are reconcilable, the TNO team will design the outreach actions as multi-process services (e.g. events and/or publications serving evidence needs in a group of countries / territories). Events, in this context, can be designed to address multiple processes simultaneously (e.g. through a conference) or consecutively (e.g. through a roadshow). The networking process among policymakers from different localities that would link different policy frameworks will be assessed either way. In cases where policy needs cannot be reconciled in terms of time or topic, single-process services will be implemented. These can secure the transfer of policy know-how from one territory (peer-learning) and/or methodological / empirical knowledge from ESPON researchers and practitioners (round table or training). Depending on the nature of the policy demand, these actions can be accompanied by tailor-made publications (territorial fiche or event brief). Territorial fiches can also be devised as stand-alone measures aiming at (a) policy process(es) without an event. These arrangements will not require a geographical subdivision of the services but at the same time the geographical balance will be ensured: at the end of the contractual period, the project shall demonstrate that the transnational outreach services are traceable in policy processes in every member and partner state.</p> <p>The policy needs for 2020 had been mainly sourced from the updated needs assessment. These needs are clustered around four thematic priorities: 1) Tourism and cultural heritage; 2) Maritime spatial planning and blue growth; 3) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 4) Migration.</p> <p>The first thematic cluster will be served through: a) peer-learning workshop on sustainable tourism in Iceland and b) conference on cultural heritage and tourism in Italy. These events are primarily serving the tourism development policies of the Icelandic Ministry of Industries and Innovation as well as the cultural heritage and tourism development strategy of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities. Moreover, spatial planning processes that assimilate sustainable tourism are to be targeted including the spatial development perspective of the Greater Region (LU); the Croatian national spatial development plan, the Austrian Spatial Development Concept (ÖREK) as well as the Czech rural development policy.</p> <p>The second thematic cluster will be served through: a) conference on maritime spatial planning in Ireland in connection with the European Maritime Day in Cork.; b) roundtable on the impact of tourism and marine and coastal sustainability in maritime spatial planning in Croatia and c) peer-learning workshop in Bulgaria on integrated maritime spatial planning in the Black Sea area. The events will be serving the following policy processes: Ireland's Integrated Marine Plan; the Bulgarian and Romanian Maritime Spatial Plans for the Black Sea as well as the Greek blue growth strategy and the Croatian National Spatial Development Plan.</p> <p>The third thematic cluster will be served through: a) round table in Belgium on SDG 13 in relation to the adaptation to the impacts of climate change; b) workshop organised back-to-back with the RSA conference in Slovenia on SDG 6/8/10/11/12 under the tagline of 'sustainable urban Europe'; c) training event on the ESPON SDG localising tool in Lithuania. The events will be serving the following policy processes: Vizier 2030 - the Flemish translation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's); the Comprehensive Plan of Lithuania; territorial development policies in all member and partner states that seek to translate the SDGs into national targets.</p> <p>The fourth thematic cluster will be served through two peer-learning workshops, respectively in Malta and Sweden. The peer-learning in Malta is aimed at the review of Malta's strategic plan on migration. The workshop in Sweden will serve the Swedish policies aimed at the integration of immigrants.</p> <p>All events will be preceded by an event brief. The service provider will follow up either with an uptake article or with a post-event brief that captures main conclusions and projects the next steps in policy implementation or further needs from research.</p> <p>The methodology applied for serving the demand side is based on 5 annually recurring steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEP 1: The service provider examines the needs reported through the needs assessment; • STEP 2: The service provider verifies the needs via the ECP network and examines the precise policy questions, involving MC members or - where necessary - other stakeholders from the member and partner states via the ECP network; • STEP 3: The service provider investigates ad-hoc policy needs that have not been reported through the needs assessment. For 2020, this step resulted in an additional peer-learning workshop to serve the new Austrian Spatial Development Concept (ÖREK 2030). The annual work plans of the TNO project will have a reserve capacity of 1-2 events per year to respond to such ad-hoc demands. • STEP 4: Serving horizontal needs through territorial or country fiches. For 2020, such fiches will be developed for Austria, the Greater Region (LU+border regions of DE, FR and BE), Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland. The initial needs for territorial or country fiches are based on a demand list maintained by the EGTC. Further need will be determined by the service provider via the ECP network. • STEP 5: Recurring supply-driven outreach: the service provider will be actively engaging in activities to generate demand for TNO interventions throughout the year, using already planned TNO activities as well as external activities of the ECP network as a multiplier. <p>Output target: 11 events; 4 topic papers (one for each thematic cluster); 10 pre-event briefs; 5 post-event briefs; up to 8 territorial fiches.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7,408 / 15,000 characters</p>

2.8	Publications				
Activities	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="212 2011 336 2049">Number</th> <th data-bbox="336 2011 1493 2049">Name and Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="212 2049 336 2083"></td> <td data-bbox="336 2049 1493 2083"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Number	Name and Description		
Number	Name and Description				

Number	Name and Description
2.8.a	<p style="text-align: center;">Publication Printing, Layout and Digital Publishing</p> <p>15,000 Characters Publications and other communication material will continue to be tailored and focused on the impact of ESPON's work on the following topics (for more detail on the foreseen content and policy-relevance please see section "Thematic Papers (Policy Briefs and Working Papers)":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green infrastructure in the urban areas (1st Semester) • Re-use of buildings and spaces in terms of transition to a circular economy (1st Semester) • Maritime Spatial Planning (1st Semester) • Regional entrepreneurial development (2nd Semester) • Quality of life in European regions (2nd Semester) • Demographic transformations in European regions (2nd Semester) • Cross-border observation: building a common strategy to enhance the understanding of flows and interactions between border regions (2nd Semester) <p>Output target: 7 publications In addition to the EGTC publications outlined above, the TNO project will deliver a series of territorial fiches and event briefs (for further details please see section on transnational outreach project). Moreover, on-demand info packs will accommodate ad-hoc needs, respecting the identified outreach priorities.</p> <p>Support scheme for early career researchers The results of the mid-term evaluation of the ESPON Cooperation programme advise to increase the attention to the scientific community in the implementation of the programme. In order to implement this recommendation, in 2020 the EGTC will introduce/ test a new support scheme for early career researchers with an aim to support their involvement in ensuring a wider outreach of ESPON's evidence. Funding will be offered to early career researchers, aiming at their efforts to draft and present papers at scientific events and/or to publish in scientific journals or books, capitalising on ESPON research. The EGTC will publish an open invitation during the first trimester 2020. Early career researchers will be invited to submit a proposal, which contains an abstract for a scientific article, as well as information on the links to ESPON and the targeted scientific event and/or journal (or other publishing format). Proposals will be assessed by the EGTC in close cooperation with the scientific advisory forum and academic organisations such as RSA. The decision on acceptance or rejection of proposals will be based on several criteria, including the academic background of the applicants in relation to the ESPON applied research fields, the use of ESPON research and the relevance of the topic in addressing current and future territorial policies, as well as a reasonable geographical balance. Regarding the latter, the ESPON EGTC will promote the dissemination and publishing of the call on the websites of academic organisations, as well as communicate to the national universities. The selection will also include a criterion to ensure a reasonable geographical coverage, i.e. a certain number of early career researchers per university and per country. The EGTC will offer up to a maximum amount of 8,000 EUR to one early career researcher. The overall budget allocated to this activity is 150,000 EUR. Output target: ca. 20 Cooperation with media Media is one of the most important multipliers as they address simultaneously the policymakers, the research community and the general audience. The working session with journalists and ESPON community members in the last seminar agreed that ESPON has interesting stories to offer to journalists that highlight the territorial dimension of the development policies and bring forward successful cooperation efforts. The same session proposed a number of activities to bring the media closer to ESPON and engage media more actively to support the outreach efforts of the EGTC. Following the example of other EU Institutions (i.e. DG Regio, DG Agri, the European Parliament) the EGTC aims to procure small contracts for continuous (1 year) media services to allow media to cover stories related to the territorial dimension of the EU policies. The overall budget foreseen for these contracts is 100.000 with a maximum of 30.000 per proposal and about 3-6 contracts will be awarded. The proposals will be selected based on a set of criteria that will be established by the EGTC related to the quality of the proposals, their geographical coverage and their outreach. EGTC will assess their understanding of ESPON aims and results, their experience in writing about EU funded programmes, EU development policies (especially Cohesion) and how they are implemented at the national and local level. Experienced will be proved with links to relevant content and/or CVs of the journalists. The EGTC will also assess their geographical coverage aiming for media or media partnerships that can ensure broader European audience beyond national ones. Geographical coverage is considered in terms of broader areas and it will be also assessed in parallel with their readership. This is also due to budget constraints that do not allow us to assign more than 4-5 contracts. Another selection criterion will be the number of articles offered by each media/partnership. Regular articles will be favoured. The outputs should include (but not limited to) elements of data journalism (maps, infographics etc). Other forms can be opinion articles, standard reporting, video reportage etc. Stories should be original and the funding of ESPON should be visible on the website/medium hosting these stories. Output target: up to 6 media contracts More translations In order to further promote the uptake of ESPON's evidence among national, regional and local stakeholders (experts and politicians) the EGTC will offer additional opportunities to communicate ESPON's evidence in national languages. Each member state of ESPON programme will be allocated a certain number of pages that can be translated in their national language(s). Member states will be invited to request the translation of written material, justifying their requests by specific policy needs in their countries, regions, cities and choosing one or several products from the list that will be established by the EGTC. The indicative list of products is presented below: - executive summaries of applied research and target analyses; - case studies; - policy briefs; - working papers; - info packs; - handbooks etc. In addition, the next generation of the TNO project will also accommodate demands for translation and interpretation services. The total budget available for this activity in 2020 is 120,000 EUR and it will include both translation and basic proofreading services. Accordingly, each member state will be allocated a quota of 20,000 words that can be requested for translations of the aforementioned products. In case the budget allows and upon agreement of the ESPON Monitoring Committee more translations could be envisaged at a later stage.</p>

Number	Name and Description
	<p>Output target: up to 32 translated publications with up to 20,000 words each (ca. 40 text pages).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6,966 / 15,000 characters</p>
2.8.b	<p style="text-align: center;">Digital Tools</p> <p>CPS finder: new outreach tool, capitalising on the TA 'Cross-border public services' The Targeted Analysis on cross-border public services has been increasingly rewarded with requests from numerous local authorities and cooperation programmes to access specific thematic or territorial data. The CPS finder will respond to such needs by means of a user-friendly online tool that is able to extract and present relevant data, case studies or analyses based on territorial and/or thematic queries. The tool will significantly improve the accessibility and use of the project outputs. It will be made available in the online toolbox on ESPON's website and potentially integrated in other relevant open data sources, e.g. the European open data portal, KEEP, etc. Output target: 1 new outreach tool</p> <p>The ESPON EGTC will keep publishing and sharing content of European and Transnational outreach activities via the new website, social media, media activities, direct mailing etc.</p> <p>Continued improvements to the ESPON website will support efforts to improve the visibility and impact of ESPON's work both at European and transnational level with the valuable contribution of ECPs / MC Members in feeding the national webpages. As the programme is now on the peak of delivering results, emphasis will be given into bringing this content to the light. The content of the website will focus towards a more journalistic editorial approach that creates narratives using simplifying language, to make ESPON's work more accessible and comprehensible to different audiences. Multimedia tools, such as videos, animation and gifs will be also used to enhance ESPON's messages. A number of videos is also expected to be delivered under the new contract that was awarded in 2019.</p> <p>Communications will build on the progress made up in the area of multimedia, using relevant tools, such as interactive infographics and videos, along with new tools, such as apps and data visualisations.</p> <p>The implementation of a structured social media approach increases ESPON's visibility and influence on social media channels and enables ESPON to better communicate and engage with its stakeholders. After expanding ESPON's presence also to Facebook, the EGTC aims to further increase its reach via the corporate accounts. Strong relation with followers will facilitate engagement and discussion with stakeholders and peers, especially within scientific communities and policy makers. It will also support EGTC's effort to reach journalists and the general public. Finally, thematic accounts or groups on social platforms will continue to be developed to target specific audiences.</p> <p>The principles of smart goals will continue to be used regarding the use of social media channels to create a holistic approach on all communication channels ESPON is using, from Social Media, to Press Releases and Newsletters. Under this approach focus has been given to establishing authority in the new created Facebook account and further increase ESPON's presence on Twitter and LinkedIn to increase engagement and link with relevant institutional and scientific accounts. A strong community of followers ensures increased exposure of ESPON's messages to a wider audience that includes opinion leaders, policymakers but also the general public. Concerning specific social media channels, Twitter and Facebook (depending on the country) has been identified as the most direct way of daily communication and interaction, whereas LinkedIn is helping to build a more solid and interactive community. YouTube is currently used as video repository. ESPON's social media posts are based on an editorial calendar for Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn focusing on one of ESPON's thematic areas each week. Another important element of ESPON's strategy is the coverage of events, through live tweeting and Facebook posting which increases the visibility of our content and the engagement of our community. The social media accounts are managed by the EGTC staff responsible for European Outreach.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4,042 / 15,000 characters</p>

3. Foreseen outputs achievement (completed activities)

Output Indicator	Quantification
OI01 Absorption of Priority Axis 1 Programme Budget (Unit: Euro)	39,937,378
OI01 Number of applied research outputs (Unit: Number)	16
OI02 Number of targeted analysis (Unit: Number)	20
OI03 Number of thematic focus papers (Unit: Number)	28
OI04 Number of ESPON tools maintained and created (Unit: Number)	6
OI05 Number of ESPON outreach events (Unit: Number)	83
OI06 Number of ESPON outreach publications (Unit: Number)	71

Output Indicator	Quantification
OI07 Number of Territorial Observations/Reports (Unit: Number)	2

4. Management and Implementation

Management and implementation

The EGTC has managed to achieve the following progress in the implementation of activities approved in the Annual work plan 2019. The public procurement procedures for the new applied research Digital transition of government and public services activities is ongoing will be launched in September 2019 kicked-off, with the exception of Interregional relations in Europe and Cultural heritage as a source of societal well-being for which a competitive dialogue is ongoing (foreseen to be closed in Q1 2020). Four new targeted analyses have been selected and the respective public procurement procedures launched. The selection of the last four targeted analyses has been finalised and it is expected that the public procurement procedures will be launched at latest in Q1 2020. Two thematic focus papers have been produced on impact of labour migration on sustainable urban development and cross-border e-health services. A further 3 papers were completed by the end of 2019. The thematic paper on transition to green regional economies will be replaced, at the request of future Croatian Presidency with a paper on 'Reuse of buildings and spaces in terms of transition to a circular economy' to be finalised in 2020. During the drafting of terms of reference of respectively the update of the Database project and the RIMAP tool, it revealed that some synergies could be achieved by combining the two activities. The total budget originally estimated at 150,000 (for both activities) has been slightly consequently increased at 200,000€ using underspending of previous years activities. The activity on SDG localizing tool has been kicked off. The terms of reference for the activities related to ESPON tools foreseen in 2019 AWP have been drafted and the related procurements will be launched shortly. Until September 2019, the Single operation had a record of 52 outreach events and 41 outreach publications.

Staffing and staff competences
Throughout 2019, the ESPON EGTC has recruited a temporary lawyer (contract for 2 years) to complement the permanent lawyer, currently in parental leave and working only half time. Also, an Administrative Officer (contract for 2 years) has been recruited to support the activities related to administrative tasks.

Internal management tools
In 2019 the EGTC has introduced several online tools from MS Office 365 suite that allow to plan and monitor the implementation of the different activities of the Single Operation and improve internal communication among the staff members thereby increasing the overall productivity in the EGTC.

Public procurement
In 2020 the EGTC will continue to employ and test different types of public procurement procedures including the competitive dialogue and prior market consultation, will assess the experiences of using these procedures and assess their usefulness for the implementation of the different activities of the Single Operation. The feedback will be discussed with the Monitoring Committee.

Senior scientific quality management
In 2020 the EGTC will change the approach to ensuring senior scientific support in the implementation of the Single Operation. Considering the very positive experience with the Strategic Advisory forum that supported the development of the European Territorial Reference Framework activity, the EGTC will establish a Scientific Advisory forum comprising senior scientists with competences in the specific fields that will be required in the coming years to support the foreseen range of activities. The forum composition will be guided by the principles of gender and geographical balance. In order to set up the forum, the EGTC will publish an open invitation inviting senior scientists to apply. Received applications will be assessed on the basis of the presented academic experience and scientific fields of work. The contribution of the members of the Scientific Advisory forum will be remunerated on the basis of their written feedback and participation in meetings. Members will be invited to provide their feedback and/ or participate in meetings (individually or in groups, depending on the required fields of competence) on the scientific aspects of the activities under implementation. The Scientific Advisory forum will be involved in the implementation of the support scheme for early career researchers, the assessment of the deliveries of research activities that will be kicked-off at the beginning of 2020 (in particular, applied research projects on digital transformation of public services, interregional relations and cultural heritage), as well as draft publications prepared by the EGTC and research teams. A total amount of 175 000 EUR will be allocated to support the functioning of the forum in this period.

Outreach
The EGTC will further strengthen its outreach efforts by engaging directly with researchers and media in developing and communicating outreach content. Furthermore, the EGTC will engage its own internal capacities to produce outreach products and organise events tailored to the needs of different stakeholders (using cross-thematic and territorial approach). The new contract on transnational outreach will also provide opportunities to tailor the outreach activities to the specific policy needs of the national, regional and local stakeholder groups and directly engage the capacities of the ECP network in the design and implementation of the different activities.

Geographical balance
The EGTC endeavors ESPON visibility in all member and partner states. TNO activities, for example, shall aim at a distribution pattern that makes the TNO traceable in every member and partner state by the end of its lifetime, regardless of the type of measure and level of governance (a principle stipulated in the ToR). The geographical distribution of case studies is based on an extensive analysis of country involvement in case studies. Underrepresented member and partner states have been prioritized in the proposal for additional case studies as spin-off from SO1 and SO2 activities. In relation to the scheme supporting early-career researchers, the principle of geographical balance is incorporated in the selection criteria (see 2.8a). The geographical coverage of media outlets will also be considered as a selection criteria in the media partnership measure, seeking to engage with outlets that can ensure broader European audience beyond national coverage (loc. cit.). While the seminars are aligned with the Presidencies of the Council of the EU, other European outreach measures on demand such as info packs are open to stakeholders from all member and partner states. The same applies to SO3 service measures, in particular to TIA workshops. Demand generation measures using the ECP network and other multipliers (e.g. EGTC staff communication with CoR, AEBR, CEMR, Eurocities, Urban Partnerships, etc.) are being implemented in order to counterbalance low-demand areas by raising awareness and generating interest. Policy briefs are designed to retain relevance in different geographical context by studying the policy needs declared through the needs assessment.

Budget
Reallocation from staff costs to external expertise in value of 450,000 EUR and 50,000 EUR from administration cost to external expertise (for SO2 and SO4 activities). Within the external expertise budget line intend to reallocate 138,000 EUR from SOX to SO4 activities.

7,420 / 7,500 characters

5. Evaluation

Evaluation

The ESPON EGTC has established a monitoring and evaluation methodology to monitor the usefulness and satisfaction with the key ESPON results amongst target groups in accordance with the Evaluation Plan produced by the ESPON MA. The primary means by which to gather feedback from target groups is an annual ESPON survey. This survey is launched in October each year and remains open until December. The ESPON EGTC will simultaneously utilise multiple outreach channels in order to seek to maximise the response rate amongst targeted stakeholders. As advised in the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation, the EGTC will organise focus groups to gather more qualitative information complementing the survey results on the performance indicators. Focus groups will also be useful in verifying and discussing the results of the target group survey. The evaluation process will also be integrated into outreach activities, including events. The data gathered during the annual survey is analysed during January/February and a report included in the annual Activity Report. This information can be subsequently used by the ESPON MA for the Annual Implementation Report at programme level and by the EGTC in the process of developing and discussing the next annual work plans.

The annual survey comprises an online form which is distributed to stakeholders in order to record their feedback. The use of an online survey method permits the ESPON EGTC to efficiently collect, process and display the feedback received. The surveys are aimed at Targeted Analyses stakeholders and their wider networks as well as at end-users of other ESPON outputs, notably applied research, policy briefs, working papers and tools. The latter target group will be reached through the distribution platforms for ESPON outputs, including the European and transnational outreach activities and the online outreach tools.

The surveys designed to assess the usability of applied research, policy briefs, working papers and tools will be amalgamated with outreach events revolving around the respective ESPON outputs (i.e. seminars, trainings, webinars, transnational outreach events). In addition, online and social media statistics and user behaviour will be continuously examined in order to look for usage patterns, which in turn can provide valuable insights for an efficient online and social media (sample) surveying.

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6.1 Budget for the Annual Work Plan

Budget line	Total (EUR)
Staff	1,990,000.00
Administration	158,010.00
Travel	140,000.00
External expertise	865,029.00
Equipment	0.00
Total	3,153,039.00

6.2 Detailed budget for External Expertise for the Annual Work Plan

Specific Objective	Total (EUR)	TOT in % of total budget
SO1: Enhanced production of territorial evidence through applied research and analyses	0.00	0.00 %
SO2: Upgraded knowledge transfer and use of analytical user support	350,000.00	40.46 %
SO3: Improved territorial observation and tools for territorial analyses	122,410.00	14.15 %
SO4: Wider outreach and uptake of territorial evidence	344,387.00	39.81 %
SO5: Other external expertise	48,232.00	5.58 %
Total	865,029.00	

CPS finder: new outreach tool, capitalising on the TA 'Cross-border public services'
 The Targeted Analysis on cross-border public services has been increasingly rewarded with requests from numerous local