

ESPON 2030 Programmes

Monitoring Committee meeting

23 September 2025, 09h30-17h00

Online (Luxembourgish time)

Decision notes

23 September 2025, 09h30-17h00

The MA welcomed the participants and asked the new members from AT, MT to introduce themselves.

The following members attended the meeting:

SK, HR, CH, BE, NL, CZ, HU, RO, AT, LT, SE, LU (representing FR as well), IE, LV, MT, FI, EE, IT, DE, SI, CY, NO, PT, PL, DK also EC, Serbia and Moldova.

1. Agreement on the Agenda

The agenda was approved without changes.

Sessions with the ESPON EGTC

2. Single Operation: implementation status (MC Info Note, ppt and 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 ESPON EGTC presented the overall progress of the Single Operation, involving the global performance figures, the stock of completed and ongoing activities, as well as activities in scoping or procurement. Further, the EGTC shared information on the management risks in pursuing the Single Operation targets, in launching activities (potential delays), in implementing Partnership Agreements between the EGTC and the ECPs; and related with staff changes.

Next, the EGTC communicated on capitalisation opportunities for the latest research findings. A number of knowledge development events were recently organised, while several projects now

reach the stage of completion – allowing for translating evidence to specific policy contexts. Further, ESPON policy footprint examples were illustrated.

3. Single Operation: planned implementation actions

1. Updated TAP implementation plans (documents and decision)

Following the TAP info-packs presented for the MC meeting in Gdansk in June 2025, and workshop discussion on their implementation pathways, the EGTC introduced main points of the implementation plans for TAP 1-4.

The MC decision:

- *The Implementation Plans for the TAPs on Governance, Resilience and People and Places are approved.*
- *The Implementation Plan for the TAP Climate Neutral Territory is approved under the condition of rephrasing some of the descriptions as advised by the MC. The revised TAP implementation plan will be submitted for approval under Written Procedure together with the Draft Minutes.*

2. New evidence production activities (ppt, scoping notes, discussion and decision

ESPON EGTC introduced this point by sharing a general overview of the evidence production activities, both in mature scoping stage and in early preparation.

Then, scoping notes for a new projects were presented

The MC decision:

- *The scoping note should be revised to take into account the comments and inputs of the MC members. The revised scoping notes will be submitted for approval under Written Procedure together with the Draft Minutes.*
- *The EGTC can, in parallel, start drafting the ToR.*

Next, the EGTC introduced the projects in an early scoping stage that will be transformed, if relevant, to scoping notes and presented in the forthcoming MC meeting.

3. Upcoming knowledge development events (by the EGTC and the ECPs)

The EGTC shared insights into the upcoming developments and interaction with the MC. This included announcements on new publications (final reports), events and calls for tenders, as well as specific request for support concerning.

4. ESPON Seminar in Alborg – draft programme (ppt and discussions)

The EGTC presented information on the forthcoming ESPON Seminar.

5. Timetable on interaction with the MC (document and discussions)

The EGTC referred to the 3.2. in the ppt to this point (SO – further implementation) treated under 3.3. of this agenda.

6. Involvement of MC members and ECPs in ESPON activities (Information and discussion)

The EGTC referred to the 3.4. in the ppt to this point (SO – further implementation) treated under the following Agenda point 4.

4. Update on ESPON Contact Points (ppt and discussion)

1. Nomination and contracting
2. Status of ECP work plans
3. Role of ESPON Contact Points
4. Accelerating spending in knowledge development activities

In connection with the distributed MC Info Note No. 9, the EGTC presented the situation with designation of ESPON Contact Points, the status of ECP work plans, and the absorption rate of funding for national knowledge development activities. In that, the EGTC recalled speed-up measures planned for the last quarter of this year.

5. Developments in Territorial Cohesion, Urban Policy and Cohesion policy

1. Presidency programmes relevant for the ESPON 2030 Programme presentation by DK, CY and IE Presidencies and inputs from EC (Q&A).

DK, CY and IE presented the priorities for their respective Presidencies (please, refer to the ppt presentations).

The EC representative informed about the Mid-Term review and the EC housing webinar 9 October, invited delegations to access the material related to the Interact event on the new MFF that was held on the 12th of October (<https://www.interact.eu/about-interact/our-service/library/mff-post-2027-whats-published-whats-next-recording>).

The EC also informed about EUI Policy Lab on Access to funding scheduled for the 30th of September and the 1-2 of October in Rotterdam, where also ESPON was invited to present its work.

Finally, the EC indicated that the “EU Agenda for Cities” is foreseen by the end of 2025 and that the Housing Task Force established at Commission level is working on a European Affordable Housing Plan.

2. Update on the new legislative proposal and possible scenarios (information and discussion)

The MA gave an overview of what is currently available, also on the basis of information provided by the EC on different occasions.

6. Timetable MC/MA (document and decision)

The MC decision:

- *The timetable was approved by the MC without modifications.*

Sessions without the ESPON EGTC

7. General Management Provisions for the ESPON 2030 Programme

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

The MA introduced the info note on management.

8. Setting up of the Joint Working Group ESPON post-2027

The MA presented the main steps and agenda for setting up the JWG for the next programming period.

9. AOB

EC thanked for the work and wished good luck for the DK Presidency.