

ESPON 2030 Programme

Monitoring Committee meetings

23 June 2024, 09h00-17h30

24 June 2024, 09h00 -17h00

Decision notes

Welcome by the Chair (Poland)

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

Sessions with the ESPON EGTC

1. Agreement on the Agenda

The MC agreed on the Agenda, no additional points were added.

2. Presentation of the Targeted Analysis RURAPLAN (by Prof. Ulla Higdem, Inland Norway University, the service provider, with the EGTC)

The outcomes of the RURAPLAN targeted analysis were brought forward to the MC meeting. The EGTC introduced the project, informing about its policy uptake potential for the planning in shrinking regions.

3. General Management Provisions for the ESPON 2030 Programme

1. Update on the participation of candidate countries (information)

The MA informed the MC that since the last meeting there was no significant change in relation to the involvement of the candidate countries in the ESPON 2030 Programme.

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

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

In conjunction with the distributed MC Info Note no. 8, the 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 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 to staff changes.

Next, the EGTC communicated on capitalisation opportunities from the latest research findings. A number of knowledge development events were held by the EGTC and by the ECPs, while several projects are reaching the stage of completion – allowing for translating evidence to specific policy contexts.

Finally, the EGTC reiterated on steps taken to further streamline and simplify internal communication, also with due regard to the guidance offered by the voluntary MC members from DK and RO after the last MC meeting.

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

- 1. Information on new evidence production activities (scoping note/s, ppt and discussion)**
- 2. Upcoming knowledge development events (arranged by ESPON EGTC and ECPs) (ppt and discussion)**
- 3. Update on the nomination and contracting of ESPON Contact Points, including the status of ECP work plans (ppt and discussion)**
- 4. Timetable on interaction with the MC (ppt and discussion)**

In connection with the distributed MC Info Note No. 8, the EGTC shared insights into the upcoming developments, including the work on new proposals for evidence production activities (also in reference to the new cohesion policy priorities stemming from the mid-term review communication), upcoming events, and further interaction with the MC on promoting new ESPON participation opportunities. Also, the situation with the designation of ESPON Contact Points and absorption rate of funding for national knowledge development activities was presented.

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

- 1. Places Resilient to Crises**
- 2. Climate Neutral Territories**
- 3. Governance of New Geographies,**
- 4. Perspectives for all People and Places**

Part I - Joint Plenary: Introduction to the TAPs to be discussed:

- Overview of the TAP – Purpose and policy use; Target groups and peers
- Current portfolio
- Aim and expected outcome of the breakout sessions.

Following the overview of each respective TAP by the TAP coordinators from the EGTC, the MA opened the floor for MC reaction. No questions or comments were raised.

Part II: Plenum: Presentation on the conclusions all 4 TAP (discussion and common conclusions)

The TAP coordinators presented the discussion highlights, informing that – together with key points of discussion – the conclusions will be stored in the updated TAP info-packs.

The MA invited the MC members to discuss the results of the workshops and share additional comments.

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

PL, DK and CY presented the highlights of their respective Presidency semesters.

IRL indicated that the location and thematic focus of the Irish presidency will be discussed at the MC meeting in September.

The European Commission (EC) noted that the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) will be released on 16 July, with additional regulation expected in November. Following the consultation on Interreg Post-2027 with Interreg programmes, a report is now available on the interreg.eu website.

The MA indicated that the Joint Working Group to define the next ESPON Programme could be set up in November.

8. Timetable MC/MA and EGTC (two documents, one by the MA on 2030, one by the EGTC on SO (see point 10, third bullet) and decision on the MC timetable)

The timetable was presented approved.

<i>The MC decision:</i>

- The timetable was approved by the MC without modifications.

Sessions without the ESPON EGTC

Continued Point 3: General Management Provisions for the ESPON 2030 Programme

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

The MA informed that the Agreement is still to be signed with Lichtenstein.

3. Internal evaluation of the ECPs: information about progress and presentation of the survey (document, question and answers)

The MA presented the questionnaire on the ECPs that is part of the evaluation of the ESPON 2030 Programme. The questionnaire addresses the nomination process, the funding availability and the framework for the implementation of the activities. The MC were asked to submit comments during the meeting or later, in writing, by the 11th of July. The answers will be analysed by the MA, shared with the evaluators and presented at the MC meeting in November.

4. Audit of the Single Operation (information)

The MA informed that the first audit of the Single Operation was carried out successfully and that no irregularities with financial impacts have been detected.

9. AOB

No other points were raised and the MA closed the meeting thanking the participants for the fruitful meeting and the Polish Presidency for their support and organisation.

ESPON 2030 MONITORING COMMITTEE Meeting

23-24 June 2025, Gdansk (PL)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	Name of delegate	Please sign here
EUROPEAN COMMISSION		
	Merja HAAPAKKA	
EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS		
	Florence THOME	
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE		
	Elena Alexandra CALISTRU	
EU MEMBER STATES		
AUSTRIA	Roland ARBTER	
	Johannes LEBESMUEHLBACHER	
BELGIUM	Anneloes VAN NOORDT	
	Renée PETERS	
	Sandrine DE MEYER	
BULGARIA	Irina RANGELOVA	
CROATIA	Zeljko SOKCEVIC	
	Kresimir RADIC	
CYPRUS	Andreas SIANTOS	
CZECHIA	Milada HRONKOVA	
DENMARK	Jeppe HOST	
ESTONIA	Kadri JUSHKIN	
FINLAND	Satu TOLONEN	
	Sanna ANDERSSON	

FRANCE	Valerie LAPENNE	
GERMANY	Josiane MEIER	
GREECE	Mathilde KONSTANTOPOULOU	
HUNGARY	Laszlo GERE	
	Esilla SZALOKY-HOFFMANN	
	Zsuzsanna DRAHOS	
IRELAND	Kevin LYNCH	
	Kevin TWOMEY	
ITALY	Rita ALLEGRINI	
	Zaira PIAZZA	
	Veronica LANZONI	
	Margherita CORRIAS	
LATVIA	Diāna RASUMA	Delegating voting rights to LT
LITHUANIA	Sandra JEGLINSKE	
LUXEMBOURG	Olivier BICHEL	
MALTA	Sarah BORG	
NETHERLANDS	Marcia VAN DER VLUGT	
POLAND	Patrycja ARTYMOWSKA	
PORTUGAL	Ana SEIXAS	
ROMANIA	Radu NECSULIU	
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Zdenka AUGUSTINICOVA	
	Lucia POSPISOVA	
	Nina BRATKOVA	

SLOVENIA	Blanka BARTOL	
SPAIN	Cristian Enrique GARCIA ALONSO	
SWEDEN	Mikael FORSBERG	
	Gunnar LINDBERG	
PARTNER STATES		
ICELAND	Haraldur REINHARDSSON	
LIECHTENSTEIN	-	
NORWAY	Odd GODAL	
SWITZERLAND	Silvia JOST	
	Sebastien RIEBEN	
ESPON MA		
	Thiemo ESER	
	Sara FERRARA	
	Eva SZARAZI	
	Jozsef SZARKA	
	Akos SZABO	
	Vincent GLAESENER	
INVITED GUESTS-ESPON EGTC		
	Wiktor SZYDAROWSKI	
	Pierre-Emmanuel MALCOTTI	
	Nicolas ROSSIGNOL	
	Marjan VAN HERWIJNEN	
	Andreea CHINA	
	Sandra DI BAGGIO	

	Gavin DALY	
	Laura DIMITRIU	
	Ramona TANASA	
	Vassilen IOTZOV	
	Nikos LAMPROPOULOS	
OBSERVERS		
EVALUATOR	Cristina VASILESCU	
INVITED GUEST		
RURALPLAN	Ulla HIGDEM	