

ESPON 2020/ESPON 2030 Programme

Monitoring Committee meetings

28-29 March 2023

Online

Decision notes

ESPON 2030 Programme

1. Agreement on the Agenda

The MA confirmed the quorum with the participation of the following MC members: PL, SE, LU, SK, IT, PT, HR, NL, ES, HU, AT, FI, FR, LV, NO, SI, IS, EE, MT, CZ, CH, BE, DK, CY, DE, RO, EL, EESC, EC.

2. General Provisions for the ESPON 2030 Programme

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

No comments were introduced by the MC related to the Info Note.

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

The MC members discussed regarding the Targeted Analysis and provided suggestion to the ESPON EGTC on how to improve the guidelines for stakeholder and the communication of the evaluation results.

Regarding the TAP process the MC discussion led also to some suggestions for the EGTC in relation to the organisational and communication aspects of the focus group meetings.

3.1 Programme Management and Control System Description update (document and decisions).

The MA shortly mentioned that the changes of the documents were just updates of the documents on decisions which have already been taken separately, and the application of the already included procurement rules on the whole programme for consistency reasons.

The MC approved the updated Operation Implementation Guidelines.
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3.2 First steps on the implementation of the Evaluation strategy (documents and discussion together with members of the Evaluation Steering Group)

The MA introduced the point by indicated that the Evaluation Steering Committee during its meeting decided to propose a slight modification of the strategy to the MC. The members of the Evaluation Steering Committee explained the reasons and rationale behind the changes.

The MC concluded that

- the new ongoing evaluation approach to cover the first four aspects as presented at the meeting
- the additional allocation of 75.000 EUR for the evaluation of the first four aspects (a revised of the TA budget for the ESPON 2030 Programme will be submitted in October 2023).

Also the MA informed that the Evaluation Plan of the ESPON 2030 Programme to reflect the discussed and approved changes and will present it for approval in WP.

Sessions with the ESPON EGTC

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

The MA briefly introduced the point referring to the examples of other Territorial Cooperation Programmes, notably INTERREG Europe and URBACT secretariats.

The MC approved the proposal of the MA to formally invite the identified candidate country as observers to the ESPON Programme.

4. Developments in Territorial Cohesion, Urban Policy and Cohesion policy including Presidency programmes relevant for the ESPON 2020 CP presentation by SE, ES, BE Presidencies and inputs from EC (Q&A)

The current and coming presidencies and the EC presented their priorities and planned events in the field of territorial cohesion, urban policy and Cohesion Policy.

5. Single Operation: implementation status (ppt, Q and A and discussion)

5.1. MC Info Note – new format and means of presenting the progress and plans (document, Q and A)

ESPON EGTC gave a short introduction of the MC Info Note – following on the concept presented in the last MC meeting in Prague.

Further, ESPON EGTC presented the evolution of content for the seven first European research projects, between the scoping papers approved by the MC and the ToR documents prepared in cooperation with voluntary MC members and their national experts.

5.2. Overview of each running TAP, incl. the ongoing and planned evidence and knowledge activities, as well as further implementation ideas (based on stakeholder interest)

The ESPON EGTC presented the status of implementing activities under each TAP, referring to how many activities are in preparation or ongoing – what type of (e.g. European research projects, transnational KD activities, etc.) and in what stage; the total budget earmarked so far; and the progress on activities in the pipeline (considered already in the TAP implementation plans adopted by the MC).

5.3. Overview of horizontal measures, incl. ongoing and planned activities as well as further implementation ideas (based on stakeholder interest)

The ESPON EGTC presented the status of horizontal activities as well as further ideas that are being considered in this category. No questions were raised by MC members.

5.4. Targeted analyses – status of processing the expressions of interest received by the first cut-off date (24 February 2023) and the evaluation procedure with the involvement of the MC observer

The ESPON EGTC presented an overview of the proposals for targeted analyses received by the first cut-off date, and provided an update on the selection process, and the geographical distribution of the applying stakeholders.

5.5. Volunteering of MC members in the evaluation of calls for tenders for European research projects (information and decision)

The ESPON EGTC explained the rationale for the possibility of MC members to participate in the evaluation of the call for tenders and invited for volunteering.

6. Scoping note for two TIA activities under Horizontal Measures (documents and decision)

ESPON EGTC presented a scoping note for the two TIA activities with the Committee of the Regions.

The MC approved the scoping note on the two TIA for the CoR presented at the meeting.

1. New TAPs (documents and discussion)

- **results of the consultation on the four new TAP themes (consultation report)**

The ESPON EGTC presented the open consultation process and its results. Then, ESPON EGTC introduced briefly each TAP description (challenges, policy context, as well as tentative research and policy questions) on which the MC members were asked to comment. For each TAP an update was given in relation to the work with the Advisory Panel, as well as of the focus groups and bilateral meetings.

- **feedback from the advisory panels**

No specific comments from members of the advisory panel were made.

The MA summarised the conclusion of the Monitoring Committee in the following way:

For 3 of the 4 TAP there is a general consensus that it has been developed in the right direction and that the further development should take into account the comments of the MC members.

In relation to the TAP – European territories in global interactions - the opinion of the MC was that it needs further reflections to towards an adapted focus that will go beyond the methodological approach presented and to include a clearer territorial dimension in the set-up of the TAP.

- **next steps and timetable**

The EGTC presented in the slides the next steps, in particular the further meetings with the advisory panels to be scheduled (indicatively) in April and May 2023.

- 2. Updated on the contracting of ESPON Contact Points (information, ppt and discussion)**

ESPON EGTC gave a short update on the contracting of ECPs.

- 3. Timetable MC/MA and EGTC (two documents, one by the MA, one by the EGTC on SO (included in the Info note of the EGTC) and decision)**

The MC approved the timetable presented by the MA.

- 4. AOB**

No further points were raised under this Agenda Point.