

**ESPON 2030 Programme  
Monitoring Committee meeting  
13-14 November 2023, 09h00-17h00  
Cuenca, Spain**

**Decision note**

**1. Agreement on the Agenda**

No additional points were recommended by the MC, the agenda was approved with the three additional points.

**2. General Management Provisions for the ESPON 2030 Programme**

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

No questions were raised by the MC to this agenda point.

**2. Technical Assistance budget: reallocation, status of the spending / underspending of the programme by the end of 2023 (document and decision)**

No questions were raised by the MC members.

The Technical Assistance budget was approved.

**3. MA Quality Check of the Single Operation (document and discussion)**

The MA presented the report on the quality check recalling the scope of the quality check. On the basis of the discussion the MA provided some conclusions as follow-up for this quality check.

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

The MA informed that, following the unsuccessful open procurement procedure, 4 companies which have been previously involved in evaluations of ESPON in the past, were invited to submit an offer.

One proposal was received within the set deadline, which was considered of good quality. The kick off meeting with the service provider was scheduled for the 28 November.

**5. State on setting up the audit work (information)**

The MA informed that the AA is finalising the Audit Strategy and that a draft of the ToR for the externalisation of the audit work has been provided.

**6. Update of Operation Implementation Guidelines (OIG) (public procurement thresholds in section 8.3.1) (decision)**

The MC agreed on the new programme specific public procurement thresholds and asked the MA to inform the Single Beneficiary about the Updated Operation Implementation Guidelines.

## Sessions with the ESPON EGTC

### **7. Participation of third countries with the ESPON 2030 Programme (information)**

The MA welcomed Bosnia and Herzegovina and informed the MC members that of the invited countries Albania, Serbia, the Republic of North Macedonia and Ukraine have not yet replied to the invitation.

### **3. Developments in Territorial Cohesion, Urban Policy and Cohesion policy including Presidency programmes relevant for the ESPON 2030 Programme presentation by ES, BE, HU Presidencies and inputs from EC (Q&A)**

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

### **(4. agenda point not occupied)**

### **5. Single Operation: implementation status (MC Info note and discussion):**

- 1. General overview of the implementation process (key developments)**
- 2. Progress in implementing evidence production (European research projects, targeted analyses and other formats of on-demand services) and knowledge development activities under the four ongoing TAPs**
- 3. Overview of horizontal measures**
- 4. Budget and output performance to date**
- 5. Upcoming events (arranged by ESPON EGTC and ECPs)**

In one comprehensive presentation covering the scope of the MC Info Note, ESPON EGTC gave a general overview of the implementation process, with key developments since the last MC meeting (in June 2023), the progress in implementing evidence production and knowledge development activities under the four ongoing TAPs, the overview of horizontal measures, the budget and output performance to date, and the calendar of upcoming events.

### **6. TAP Nature-Based Adaption to Climate Change (document, discussion and decision)**

- Scoping note of the ERP
- Next steps and timetable

ESPON EGTC introduced the scoping note proposed under this TAP.

The MC approved the scoping note with the understanding that the comments made during the discussion will be taken into account during the development of the ToR.

MC members were encouraged to express their interest in joining the project steering committee after the MC meeting.

**7. TAPs: a proposal on how to discuss each TAP in depth at the MC meeting in the future** (document, and discussion)

Following up on the exchanges and decisions taken on each TAP, the MA summarised the proposed approach to the next round of discussions as the guidance for the EGTC to prepare the information.

**8. The four first TAPs: Places Resilient to Crises, Climate Neutral Territories, Governance of New Geographies, Perspectives for all People and Places** (document, discussion and decision)

- Detailed overview of the thematic portfolio to date; expected contribution of the ongoing/completed evidence and knowledge activities to the objectives of the TAPs
- Prospects of achieving the indicative 2023 milestones for each TAP
- Update of the implementation plan for each TAP (global targets, activities in the pipeline, selection of further activities, milestones for 2024)

ESPON EGTC guided the MC through the content of the first four TAPs, presenting the state of play and implementation strategy for 2024 for the four TAPs.

The MC approved the modified implementation plans of the four TAPs.

**9. Horizontal measures** (document, discussion and decision)

- Scoping note on an upgraded ESPON TIA approach (following the strategic paper adopted by the MC at the meeting in Luleå)

ESPON EGTC presented the scoping note on an upgraded ESPON TIA approach, following the strategic paper adopted by the MC at the meeting in Luleå.

The MC approved the scoping note.

**10. Further implementation steps** (information, ppt and discussion)

- Engaging with stakeholders and researchers
- Role of ESPON Contact Points
- Timetable on interaction with the MC
- Involvement of MC members in ESPON activities

ESPON EGTC gave an overview of further implementation steps for the Single Operation, linking it also to the expectations raised by the MC on approaching the programme output targets by end of 2024.

Based on the discussion, an adapted version of the MC involvement model will be provided for the next MC meeting.

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

ESPON EGTC presented the latest situation with the contracting of ESPON Contact Points, including the preparation of ECP work plans.

**12. 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 approved by the MC.

**13. AOB**

The MA informed that the EC presented the road map for the post-2027 period.