

Note: Please forward this invitation to other colleagues you think might be interested in attending this event.

Seminar invitation

Strategic thinking in INTERREG development: Spatial visions and scenarios

27 and 28 February 2006, ATAHOTEL Fieramilano, Milan, Italy

Dear Colleague,

With the budget for the new period now approved, programmes need to move rapidly in identifying the future actions that will make the greatest difference to their area. Transnational and cross-border programmes are already assessing the likely development of programme areas and the actions that will generate the greatest benefits from strengths and act most effectively against weaknesses. Effective planning, however, will also require that programmes understand and develop their role in a wider European context and in a fast developing environment.

Spatial vision and scenario activities carried out under the existing INTERREG programmes have provided a valuable tool for developing this strategic dimension of programme activities and stimulating project development in a range of new fields. Good working examples are now available while ESPON findings provide additional input on Europe-wide territorial development. This seminar brings together these two elements to discuss the advantages, content and implementation of the spatial vision approach.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The seminar provides a **platform for exchanging experience** on topics and processes and important success factors. Participants interested in developing new tools for programme and project development and those already working with spatial visions will benefit from attending the seminar to share ideas and practical experiences. This includes INTERREG programmes and projects, SC and MC members as well as a wider range of INTERREG stakeholders in the field of territorial development.

AN EVENT FOR ALL OF INTERREG

Previous discussions have tended to focus on the transnational IIIB programmes but spatial visions are an opportunity that can be useful for all types of programmes. A comprehensive study of the field has shown that there is already considerable experience in a number of INTERREG IIIA programmes. These cross-border activities may even go further than the better known

exercises in the field of transnational cooperation. The seminar brings together **actors and experience from across INTERREG strands** and offers the opportunity to present the work and thoughts of different strands and programmes in INTERREG.

CONTENT

- **UPDATE ON TERRITORIAL THINKING AT EUROPEAN LEVEL**

The seminar also aims to provide an update on strategic territorial thinking at European level, including the work of the European Commission in the Community Strategic Guidelines, as well as work on Community Level where the Member States are currently in the process of drafting a document on the Territorial State and Perspectives of the European Union.

- **EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL SCENARIOS**

ESPON, the European Spatial Planning Observation Network, is currently in the process of developing a series of Europe-wide territorial scenarios. These bring together knowledge from a wide range of thematic studies and integrate it to show what the future might hold for Europe. The **latest findings** of this strongly evidence-based scenario work will be presented for discussion at the seminar.

- **MUTAL LEARNING AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE**

The seminar includes presentations and discussion sessions for participants to explore practical concerns and recommendations for future work on spatial visions. The INTERACT and ESPON programmes have also commissioned a **study** which analyses and compares the various ongoing spatial vision and scenario activities in INTERREG III and ESPON in order to identify proposals for future action and stimulate synergies. The main outcomes cover content (spatial development trends and aims etc.), methodologies and approaches and the envisaged results including application strategies, “mental ownership” and reflections on value and usefulness of spatial visions. The results of the study will be presented for discussion at the seminar and an interim **report** will be made available to participants before the seminar.

It will be possible to **make a short presentation** on relevant activities and findings during the workshop sessions on day 1. If you want to make a presentation, please *remember to tick the box on the registration form* and enclose the title or topic. You will receive a confirmation together with some guidance for the presentation.

We hope to see you in Milan!

INTERACT Qualification and Transfer and ESPON

*Note: The final day to register for the seminar is **25 January 2006!***

Practical information

- Time and venue:** 9.30, Monday 27 February to 13.00, Tuesday 28 February.
ATAHOTEL Fieramilano (www.atahotels.it), Viale S. Boezio, 20 - 20145 Milan
- Language:** Provisionally the language of the event is English only to allow for direct exchange and discussion both during the joint sessions and workshop groups. However, if a significant number of participants request simultaneous translation we will do our best to provide it.
- Registration:** The last day to register for the seminar is *25 January 2006*. This is also the last date to inform us if you want to make a short presentation during the workshops. Please note that *no more than 75 participants* can take part in the seminar. If you want to be sure of a place we would urge you to sign up as soon as possible.
- Hotels:** A block booking of 30 rooms has been made at the ATAHOTEL Fieramilano and Hotel Club (50 rooms in total). Please let us know, if you need a reservation as soon as possible, using the enclosed registration form. If the hotels are already fully booked, the organisers will not be able to help you in finding accommodation.
- Project presentations:** Please indicate on the registration form if you would like to make a presentation during the workshops and include the title or topic you would like to present with the registration form. You will receive a confirmation and briefing on the outline for the presentation.
- Costs:** Seminar participation, including all meals, is free. All participants must however pay their own travel and accommodation costs. Please contact us if you have any difficulties.
- Contact:** For all questions and further information, please contact britta.ziemann@interact-eu.net or call +45 8727 1085

Organisers:

INTERACT Point for Qualification and Transfer

www.interact-eu.net/qt

The INTERACT programme has been established to support the implementation of all INTERREG programmes. INTERACT Qualification and Transfer specialises in bringing together programme and project actors to exchange experiences, develop new ideas and learn from each other. All of our activities are based on a detailed understanding of the realities of implementing INTERREG.

ESPON – The European Spatial Planning Observation Network

www.espon.lu

ESPON was set up to support policy development and to help build a European scientific community in the field of European territorial development. Its main aim is to increase the general body of knowledge on territorial structures, trends and policy impacts in an enlarged European Union. This research addresses the 25 Member States of the EU, Bulgaria, Romania, Norway and Switzerland.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Day 1 Monday 27 February - Strategic thinking in INTERREG development

8.30 – 9.30 *Registration and coffee*

9.30 – 13.00 **Input and open discussion**

‘New spaces and strategic themes for transnational and cross-border cooperation in the perspective of the future European territorial cooperation objective’ - *European Commission*

‘The Territorial State and Perspectives of the European Union’ - *Ministry of Housing, Spatial Policy and the Environment, The Netherlands*

‘Spatial Visions and Scenarios by ESPON’ - *Free University of Brussels, TERSYN, Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm*

13.00 – 14.15 *Lunch*

14.15 – 18.00 **‘Spatial Visions and Scenarios in INTERREG and ESPON’** - *EURECONSULT, TERSYN*

- Discussion

WORKSHOP SESSION I

- Topics and processes in current spatial vision activities

‘Wild cards and trends’

20.00 *Joint dinner for continued networking and exchange*

Day 2, Tuesday 28 February – From vision to action

9.00-9.50 **‘Good experience in projects’**

- From Vision to Action on Trans-national Cooperation
- From Vision to Action on Cross-Border Cooperation
- Discussion

10.00-12.00 **WORKSHOP SESSION II**

- Value, application and ownership of the visions

12.00-13.00 **Recommendations for the future**

- Panel discussion and future steps
- Feedback and discussion

13.00 *Lunch, end of seminar*