

## The EU territorial agenda: policy context for spatial development activities

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### ‘Rotterdam’ agenda

- Informal cooperation EU Spatial Ministers:
  - *coherent approach to EU territory in EU policy*
- ‘Territorial cohesion’ as framework objective
- 2004-2007 → 2010?

## Background

- Territorial impact EU policy
  - ➔ Integration territorial dimension into EU policy process
- Weaknesses in EU territorial structure
  - ➔ Lisbon demands strengthening EU territorial structure (especially cross-border/transnational)
- EU Constitution
  - ➔ Shared competence for territorial cohesion

## Principles of an informal approach

- Integration of territorial dimension
  - Subsidiarity
  - Development orientation (Lisbon)
  - Use of existing EU frameworks; link to EU political process
- But also:
- Analytical basis, expertise
  - Political relevance (implementation), ownership (stakeholders), leadership

## Instruments

### Evidence

- ESPON (spatial analyses)
  - indicators, data, typologies, scenario's.. for policy use

### Implementation

- Interreg IIIB/ETC transnational cooperation
  - transnational bottlenecks in EU territorial structure

## Evidence products

- Assessment: 'Territorial state and perspectives of the Union'
- Content
  - Scope: territorial cohesion
  - State: structures, trends, impacts
  - Perspectives: priorities for territorial structure & governance
  - **Policy recommendations & annexes**
- ESPON II

## Implementation Products

- EU stakeholders dialogue:
  - information/awareness, involvement/support, input (sectors, regions, cities, EU)
  - June 28, EU stakeholders conference (Netherlands)
  - website
  - governance (multi-level, cross-sectoral)
- European Territorial Cooperation (Obj. 3) programmes

## Process/political agenda

- CPG, EU-25 High level meetings:
  - preparation of Leipzig conference
- Leipzig, May 24-25, 2007:
  - EU Min. conference territorial cohesion & urban development
- Continuation of stakeholders dialogue:
  - policy coherence, influence implementation programmes,
  - input 'megadebat' 2008
- EU political agenda