

Presenting ESPON 2030

Interact Knowledge Fair

Gent, 25 May 2023

ESPON in a nutshell

ESPON is an EU-funded programme that supports authorities responsible for development policies with territorial evidence and data



What is ESPON?

ESPON is an EU-funded programme that bridges research with policies. We provide territorial analyses, data and maps to :



support EU development policies and, particularly the Cohesion Policy, with facts and evidence.



help public authorities to benchmark their region or city, identify new challenges and potentials, and shape successful development policies for the future.



All our content is publicly available on our website to download and use it.

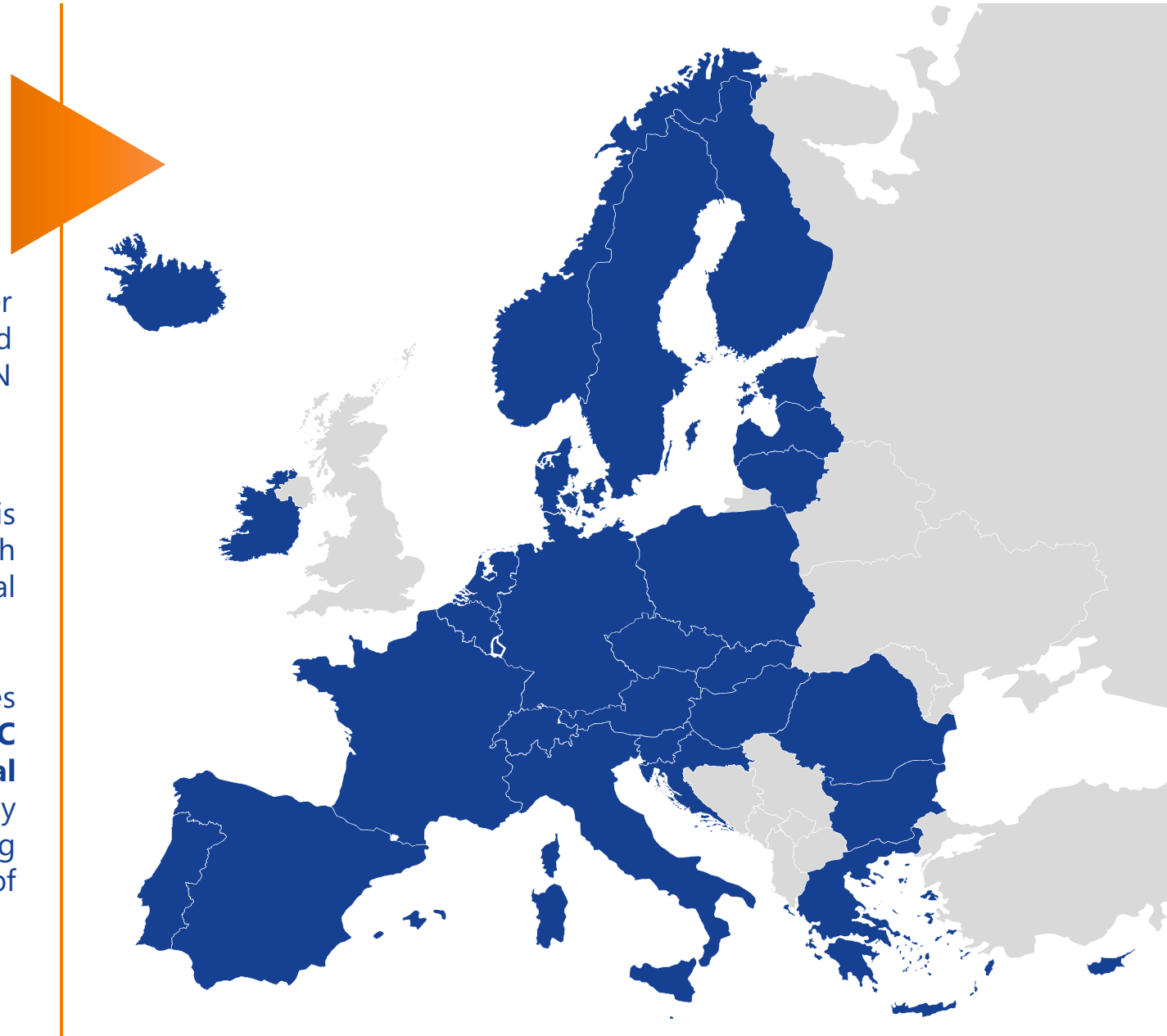
www.espon.eu

How is ESPON governed?

All 27 EU member states and 4 partner states (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) participate in ESPON programme and co-finance it.

As every EU funded programme, ESPON is managed by a Managing Authority, which is the Ministry of Energy and Spatial Planning of Luxembourg.

The main programme activities are implemented by the **ESPON EGTC (European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation)**, which is a structure jointly created by the state of Luxembourg together with the three Belgian regions of Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels Capital.





Who funds ESPON?

The total budget of ESPON for the programming period 2021-2027 is EUR 60M, whereof the EU contribution is 80% (EUR 48M) and the contribution of the 27 member states is 20% (EUR 12M). In addition, the ESPON 2030 Programme receives support of EUR 1,685M from the 4 Partner States (Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway, Switzerland).

What ESPON does?

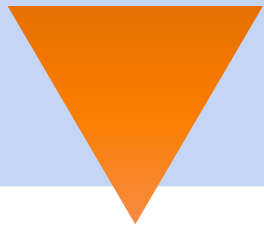


ESPON creates evidence and knowledge. We develop studies based on the needs of European public authorities at all levels. Any local, regional or national authority as well as an EU institution can inform us about policy support needs and become an ESPON stakeholder.

Our studies have a territorial focus, which means that our analyses are adjusted to the specificity and needs of the people and the places we are looking at.

For the ESPON 2030 Programme, our studies and events are clustered within the so-called **Thematic Action Plans (TAPs)**.
([more on the TAPs](#))

Thematic Action Plans



Approved – first activities to be launched in 2022

Identified – from mid-2023 onwards



**Climate
neutral
territories**



**Governance
of new
geographies**



**Places
resilient
to crises**



**Perspective
for all people
and places**



**Living, working
and travelling
across borders**



**Smart
connectivity**

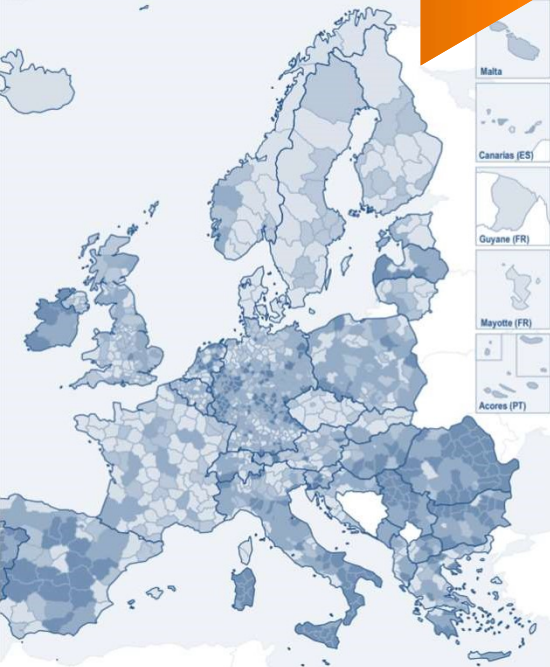


**European
territories in
global
interactions**



**Adapting to
the impacts
of climate
change**

How ESPON support is delivered?



Depending on the intended use, we deliver research results in different formats



Study reports
comprehensive presentation of research results
Publications
research conclusions via e.g. policy papers, atlases etc.



Interactive maps and dashboards
to illustrate the main findings of our research
Open Datasets
ready and available for all to download and use



Storymaps
long, but easy to read articles enhanced with interactive maps, dashboards and visuals from the ESPON portal
Blog posts
short, easy to read articles on a specific topic



Podcasts and videos



TerritoriALL magazine
magazine articles – where we present opinions of influential policymakers and researchers

How ESPON support is delivered?



Regularly, ESPON organises events to transfer the accumulated knowledge and facilitate interaction and networking.



ESPON seminars - in cooperation with the running presidency of the EU Council and focusing on its thematic priorities

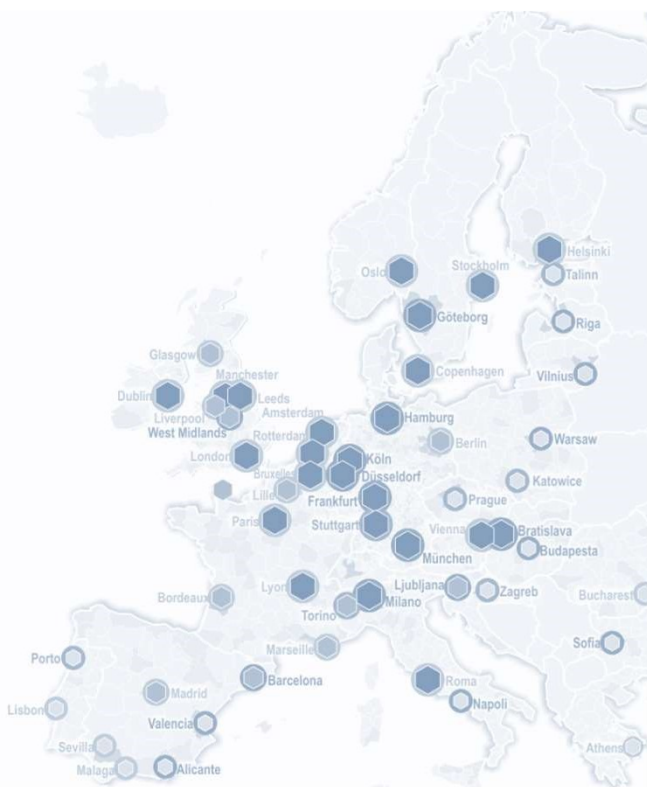


ESPON networking and policy events – to facilitate exchange of experience, knowledge sharing and discussions on the findings of our studies



ESPON training and learning events, e.g., to promote the use of ESPON web applications, mapping solutions, policy analysis tools or specific methodologies

Who benefits from ESPON?



Local, regional and national authorities and also EU funded Programmes are the main beneficiaries of our results. They can request our services and acquire tailor-made studies that include benchmarking, case analyses and policy guidance on the topics of their interest.



ESPON is a unique resource of information for **scientists, researchers and students**. Since 2006, ESPON has been cited more than 20.000 times in academic publications. At the same time, many European universities and research centres are contracted by ESPON to conduct studies.



As our content is free for anyone to access and download, **the private sector** is also benefiting from our work. Consultancies, SMEs, even industries can use our publications to better position themselves in certain markets and/or adjust their products and services.



ESPON is also a goldmine for **journalists**. It provides them with evidence and data to support their stories and connects them to a vast pool of experts and stakeholders.



ESPON can be equally useful to any **active citizen** interested in understanding how their city/region performs, or have an overview of main territorial trends in Europe, or simply browse our interactive maps and visuals.



As a programme, how can I benefit from ESPON? (I)

- **Benefit from our analyses.** For 20 years, ESPON has been delivering territorial studies. From environmental issues to digital transformation and from sustainable land use to the perspectives of rural areas, you can find results and policy recommendations to support your policy decisions with science-based evidence. All our studies are available on our website, and you can always contact us for more information.
- **Use our portal for more data and maps.** All our datasets and indicators – together with thousands of maps - are available to download from our portal. You can use the portal to create and store interactive content – such as dashboards and maps - to be aware how your territory performs in different areas and prospers as compared with the rest of Europe.
- **Learn from our case studies.** We offer numerous case studies that you can use to benchmark your territory, or draw experience if in a similar development situation, without the need to reinvent the wheel.
- **Ask/participate in a peer learning workshop.** Do you want to know more about the results of a specific study, how it worked for our stakeholders and in which way it can be useful for you? Apply for a peer learning workshop. It is easy and you don't need to go through complicated processes. Contact us [link] or your national ECP [link] so that we can organise this together.



As a programme, how can I benefit from ESPON? (II)

- **Glance over our policy briefs and handbooks.** It is always better to start with something easy to read. Use our policy briefs and handbooks to get a taste of what our projects can offer, read our articles on the blog and browse the TerritoriALL magazine to get inspired with policy conclusions.
- **Request the ESPON service.** If you have a specific policy support need that topically fits into one of our TAPs [link], then feel free to enquire us. We offer different types of stakeholder engagement:
 - **Calls for targeted analyses.** They are open throughout the year, and we evaluate the submitted proposals on a regular basis. You need to have a concrete policy challenge and a European partnership to apply together. Please be aware that ESPON does not disburse grants to stakeholders. We support them by directly providing studies and arranging knowledge transfer through contracted researchers and in-house staff. Check our website, social media and newsletter for updates [link].
 - **On-demand services.** If you have a specific need, that requires a more tailor-made approach, you can still ask ESPON to support you. In this case it is better to contact your national ECP to evaluate together if your policy need can be served by ESPON. We can meet them through on-demand territorial studies [link] or snapshots of territorial analyses [link], but also through dedicated events, trainings and publications, even in your language.



As a programme, how can I benefit from ESPON? (III)

- **Use ESPON Territorial Impact Analysis (TIA).** If you want to better understand the territorial impacts of the policies you are designing or evaluating, you can use the interactive web application - ESPON TIA tool. You can also explore all the other tools ESPON offers to help you benchmark your territory [link]
- **Have your say in our research projects and make the results yours.** We offer opportunities for policymakers to engage in the design and implementation of our studies. Thereby, you get immediate access to new research findings in various fields, make your territory a case study in the ESPON project to directly transfer its results to your own policy, and obtain further policy advice from top-level European researchers.
- **Expand your network through our events.** Our events on the most burning policy issues are held across Europe. Meet with peers from European institutions, ministries, regions and municipalities that seek support to improve their policies.

Can I ask more?

You can always contact us for more information at:

<https://www.espon.eu/contact/espon-egtc>

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