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**ESPON 2013**  
**(The European Observation Network on  
Territorial Development and Cohesion)**

**Annual Implementation Report 2014**

STRUCTURAL FUNDS 2007-2013  
TERRITORIAL COOPERATION OBJECTIVE

**(In accordance to article 67 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006)**  
**Approved by the ESPON Monitoring Committee on 2 June 2015**



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## Abbreviations

AA:	Audit Authority
CA:	Certifying Authority
CU:	Coordination Unit
EC:	European Commission
ECP:	ESPON Contact Point
EoI:	Expression of Interest
ERDF:	European Regional Development Fund
EU:	European Union
FLC	First Level Financial Control
GoA:	Group of Auditors
KSS:	Knowledge Support System
LP:	Lead Partner
MA:	Managing Authority
MC:	Monitoring Committee
PMSS:	Programme Monitoring Support System
SB:	Sounding Board
TA:	Technical Assistance
TIA	Territorial Impact Assessment
TNA:	Transnational Networking Activity
TPG:	Transnational Project Group

## 1. Identification

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	<b>Objective concerned:</b> European Territorial Cooperation
	<b>Eligible area concerned:</b> EU 28 as well as Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland as Partner States
	<b>Programming period:</b> 2007-2013
	<b>Programme number (CCI No):</b> CCI 2007 CB 163 PO 022
	<b>Programme title:</b> ESPON 2013 (European observation network on territorial development and cohesion)
ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	<b>Reporting year:</b> 2014
	<b>Date of approval of the annual report by the monitoring committee:</b> 2 June 2015

## 2. Overview of the implementation of the Operational Programme

### 2.1. Achievement and progress

In 2014, the ESPON Programme moved towards the end of programme implementation. Still a wide range of projects results and evidence were made available, which the ESPON Coordination Unit (CU) made strong efforts to disseminate and capitalise upon as possible. As during previous years, the aim has been to maximise the support of the ESPON 2013 Programme to target key stakeholders in better understanding territorial structures, trends, perspectives and policy impacts, seen from a European perspective.

In total, 31 countries have contributed to the ESPON 2013 Programme, 27 European Union (EU) Member States and the 4 Partner States Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. The incoming EU Member State, Croatia, has participated as an observer during the ESPON implementation process in 2014. Universities, research organisations and consultants have been broadly participating in the projects and the many events (seminars and workshops) carried out during the programme implementation and contributed to provide a link and dialogue between research and policy making.

The Work Programme 2014 for the implementation of the five Programme Priorities within the ESPON 2013 Programme was developed and set-up in close collaboration with the Monitoring Committee (MC). As it reflected that the programme is coming to an end, it had a strong emphasis on dissemination and capitalisation activities, as well as paying close attention to the spending of financial resources and to preparing for the winding-up of the programme.

Four major strategic avenues have been pursued during the implementation of the ESPON 2013 Programme in the year 2014:

- (1) **Emphasising capitalisation and communication activities and wide-spread use of ESPON territorial evidence** through a wide range of publications and events based on the results achieved within the ESPON 2013 Programme, **however with particular promotion of the new evidence becoming available during 2014.**
- (2) **Improving the ESPON toolbox** through a wide-range of actions on different elements and issues that together contributes to a consistent and coherent set of tools for territorial analyses based on ESPON results. Particular emphasis has been put on the user-friendliness of the tools.
- (3) **Guaranteeing high quality, solid and useful outputs from active projects, both applied research and tools development within Managing Authority (MA) led projects,** supported by clear executive summaries and ready-to-use applications that can make ESPON even more useful as provider of significant and useful European territorial evidence and tools
- (4) **Continuing efforts ensuring sufficient level of spending in 2014,** continuing sound financial management with finding-free audits and quality checks and preparing for the winding up of the ESPON 2013 Programme during 2015.

As in the previous years, the implementation of the programme during 2014 tried to connect as closely as possible to policy development processes related to territorial cohesion and the future of EU Cohesion Policy. In this context, a major challenge has been to provide operational support to the policy process with territorial facts and

evidence. One successful example of a new user was the support given to the Committee of the Regions related to territorial impact assessment.

Overall, the ESPON 2013 Programme delivered in 2014 additional profound knowledge on European territorial structures, trends, perspectives and policy impacts and made strong progress in terms of dissemination and capitalisation of ESPON results and findings. ESPON is today a recognised provider of comparable pan-European evidence, analyses, scenarios, data and indicators on territorial dynamics that can support policy development at all levels. By giving a European perspective on territorial development, ESPON enables regions, cities and larger territories to view and benchmark themselves in a wider European context which provide significant support to their decision-making processes.

The audits of operations performed in 2014 by the external auditor, on behalf of the Audit Authority (AA), were concluded positively, like the previous audits results from 2009 to 2013. The necessary elements and set-up procedures, complying with the rules and expectations, keep providing a sufficient procedures framework for the implementation of the Programme. Taking into account the audit results revealing a proper functioning and a low risk of the ESPON 2013 Programme procedural framework, the external auditor indicated that the management and control system of the ESPON programme remains at highest level of confidence.

As regards the other controls within the ESPON 2013 programme, the Certifying Authority (CA) launched on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 two quality checks, one on the MA-led project (Tools 2008) and one on the project SCALES, priority 4, for three partners (Lead Partner (LP): Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR), Germany; PP2: University of Luxembourg; PP4: Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning, Austria). On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014, the CA launched a third quality check on one Priority 1 Project, POLYCE, for three partners (PP3: Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava, Slovakia; PP4: University of Szeged, Hungary; PP6: University in Prague, Faculty of Science, Czech Republic). The final reports of these quality checks will be issued in the first half of 2015.

Some Member States have performed their national quality checks on their First Level Control system during the year 2014. Final reports were provided to the MA/CU for Belgium - Flemish Region, Cyprus, Estonia, Malta, Slovak Republic, and Slovenia. No issues have been identified by the Member States on their First Level Financial Control (FLC) system. In addition, France organized on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014 the final FLC-Financial managers meeting where results of national Quality checks have been presented and discussed.

As regards the MA quality checks, the ESPON CU, on behalf of the MA, has ensured in 2014 the follow-up of the quality check of the Norsk Institutt for By- og Regionforskning (NIBR), in Oslo (Norway) for which a final report was issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013. Following the implementations of corrective actions by the partner, the MA/CU confirmed that the recalculation of staff cost ended with no financial impact on the programme budget (i.e. including European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) co-funding). The total amount to recover under the Partner States budget of the programme from NIBR was 7.956,92 EUR for 3 closed projects and 595,58 EUR to be deducted on the next progress report as the project was still running, be it a total of 8.552,50 EUR. The recovery procedure was launched on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014 by the ESPON CU/MA. The amount of 7.956,92 EUR was received by the CA on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

The experiences from 2009 to 2013 showed that particular attention needed to be given to the correct and timely functioning of the FLC Systems in the different Member and Partner States. This remained a crucial task in 2014 both for the MA/CU/CA and Member and Partner States by performing their first quality check on FLC, in order to avoid any risk of de-commitment which might arise not just from a low level of programme financial commitment, but also from delayed project reporting and insufficient quality of the certification according to FLC accompanying the projects claims.

Overall it can be concluded that in 2014 the programme financial implementation has been undergoing a major effort where payments made by the CA towards beneficiaries kept rising consistently. However, the target to avoid de-commitment of funds by the end of 2015 and a smooth closing of the programme will still be top priorities in 2015.

### **2.1.1. Information on the progress of the Operational Programme**

Having the set up of the programme and the entire implementation system in place since 2010, 2014 was a year with only very few calls for proposals and tenders:

- No calls for proposals (subsidy contracts) for Applied Research (Priority 1), Targeted Analyses (Priority 2) or Scientific Platform (Priority 3) were made during 2014. However, one last Transnational Networking Activity (TNA) project (Priority 4), ESPON on the Road, was contracted and carried out during the year.
- Six calls for tenders were made for MA-led projects (service contracts) within the Scientific Platform (Priority 3 – Map updates and Tools), which were contracted and carried out with short implementation period.

Overall, in terms of finalising project activities, 2014 was a busy year. In total 31 project activities were finalised:

- 19 subsidy contracted projects: 7 Applied Research (Priority 1) projects, 3 Targeted Analyses (Priority 2), 7 Scientific Platform projects (Priority 3) and 2 TNA projects (Priority 4).
- 12 service contracted MA-led projects were finalised: Nine Scientific Platform (Priority 3) projects and three Media & Publication (Priority 4) projects

Based on the extensive deliveries of project results and findings, the ESPON CU carried out a large number of capitalisation activities in terms of publications, events, online tools, and targeted communication (ESPON Website, newsletter etc.).

- In total 19 main publications were drafted produced, whereof 14 by External Experts and 5 by the CU experts. These included Evidence Briefs, Territorial Observations, ESPON Synthesis and Scientific Reports, Territorial Vision and Scenarios 2015, and the ESPON 2013 Atlas.

Six events were carried out at European and transnational levels; Four conferences/seminars and three workshops. These events aimed at increasing the awareness of ESPON and the evidence made available on European territorial dynamics, and subsequently make stakeholders interested in using ESPON results in their practice. Altogether 761 participants attended ESPON seminars, workshops and other events during 2014. During the first half of 2014 a declining figure of attendees was registered compared to the previous half year. The declining figure might in some ways display that the programme period comes to its end and that there are less and less

projects running, involving accordingly less scientists which might participate in the numerous events. However, within the second half of 2014 the number of participants was again higher than in the previous period.

During 2014, the number of participants in ESPON events were as follows: 51 participants attended the ESPON Conference “Territorial Development in Europe: Potentials and Challenges for Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland – and for the European Union”, 68 the Conference on “Making the European Territory Open and Polycentric”, 220 the ESPON Open Seminar in Nafplion, Greece on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and the Open Seminar in Rome, Italy on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014 recorded 187 attendees. Furthermore, 12 project partners joined the last Financial Manager Seminar of this programme period. It can be mentioned that 120 participants attended the three ESPON workshops taking place. The most successful participation could be noted for the workshop “Territorial Evidence for an Urban Agenda” with 52 participants.

In addition, the monthly average of visits of the ESPON website continued to show a significant increase. This has largely been due to the interest generated among policy makers and practitioners regarding the ESPON seminars and workshops, but also the new publications of particular interest for the EU policy agenda. Equally important is the fact that the numbers of subscribers on social media tools based on Twitter followers stayed high during 2014, which has contributed to bridge the gap between beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and other interested parties.

From a more programme management point of view, the fifth series audits of operation on the ESPON 2013 Programme (“audits 2014”) to assess the efficiency of the management and control system were performed by the external auditor between February and May 2014 in accordance with the audit strategy approved on September 2008. The sampling of these audits of operations was done by the AA and approved at the Group of Auditors (GoA) meeting on 14-15 November 2013. The sampling included a random mandatory sampling and a complementary one. The two samples covered expenditures from six projects from Priorities 1, 3 and 4. The final reports were reviewed and approved by the AA and GoA members on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014 by written procedure. The external auditor presented on 27-28 November 2014 at the GoA meeting the follow-up of findings from the previous year audit and the results of the audits 2014.

As communicated in the Annual Control Report 2014, the final finding from previous audits related to a sub-system finding for a project partner of ESPON INTERSTRAT was followed-up closed in on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014 by the MA/CU/CA. For the audits 2014, eleven final findings remain open after the audit contradictory procedures: ten relate to expenditures findings and one to sub-system finding. An action plan detailing remedial actions, authority body in charge and deadlines for follow-up has been included in the report. The Annual Control Report and the opinion 2014 were approved by the GoA members on 27-28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and submitted to the European Commission (EC) by the AA on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

The sampling for the sixth series of audits of operation (“audits 2015”) was discussed and approved during the GoA meeting on 27-28 November 2014. A total of 53 operations certified expenditures in 2014 for a total of 8.892.330,67 EUR, including two recoveries (negative amounts of ESPON INTERSTRAT from audits of operation and ARTS from CA checks). The AA used a non-statistical sampling by random selection, as applied in the previous years. The stratification of the sampling population was not used due to the low number of operations in the population. During the sampling, the AA made sure that at least a minimum of 10% of operations and at least 5% of total



certified expenditures is randomly selected. A sampling size of 10% minimum led to a selection of 6 operations as mandatory sampling. The GoA members approved the sampling for audits 2015 on 27-28 November 2014.

The random sample for 2015 includes expenditures from six projects from priorities 1, 2, 4 and 5. The sample will imply the check of 14,93% of the EC-certified expenditure in 2014, compared to 8,32% by including the complementary sample (or 7,97% by excluding the complementary sample) in the previous year. One MA-Led Project and technical Assistance expenditures will be covered in the mandatory sampling. Nine countries will be concerned by the audit 2015: 8 Member States (Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden) and 1 Partner States financed under Programme budget, i.e. including ERDF co-financing (Iceland).

With regard to the payments made, the continuous extensive efforts made by the MA/CU on the implementation of the roadmap to avoid de-commitment facilitated a swift processing of progress reports and contributed again to an increasing absorption of funds at project level in 2014. As result the financial execution rate of the accumulated payments made by the CA displays a substantial increase and no de-commitment was incurred by the end of the year. Substantial progresses were also made in relation to the certification of expenditure of the Priority 5, in particular towards the end of the year. These expenditure have not yet been included in any declaration towards the EC and will be part of the first payment application made during 2015.

No quantifiable indicators have been mentioned at programme level in the Operational Programme. Quantifiable indicators have only been defined at priority levels which are presented in details under Chapter 3.

### **2.1.2. Financial information**

In the course of 2014 altogether 35 project progress reports were submitted by the LPs. Following the assessment and the quality control on FLC undertaken by the ESPON CU, all progress reports were considered as receivable and there was no need to send back reports for correction. However, the ESPON CU had to ask clarifications to all progress reports and the LPs were requested to correct errors in the forms and completing the documentations to entirely complying with the reporting requirements. Together with the 17 progress report which were submitted in 2013 but their clarification process were completed only in 2014, altogether 52 progress reports were accepted by the ESPON CU and processed towards the CA for recommending a payment in 2014.

It needs to be mentioned that in addition to the above reports, the CA has processed payments for 10 progress reports declaring expenditures of the Technical Assistance (TA) and 14 progress reports with the costs of MA-led Projects.

The amounts reported by the beneficiaries as well as accepted by the ESPON CA are detailed in the table below.

**Priority axes by source of funding (EUR) in 2014**

	Expenditure paid out by the beneficiaries included in payment claims sent to the managing authority	Corresponding public contribution	Private Expenditure*	Expenditure paid by the body responsible for making payments to the beneficiaries	Total payments received from the Commission
Priority Axis 1 – Applied Research ERDF type expenditure	16,951,266.67 €	16,951,266.67 €	0.00 €	16,359,553.94 €	14,723,727.10 €
Priority Axis 2 – Targeted Analysis ERDF type expenditure	6,126,258.62 €	6,126,258.62 €	0.00 €	5,881,954.94 €	4,705,563.95 €
Priority Axis 3 – Scientific Platform ERDF type expenditure	3,836,727.81 €	3,836,727.81 €	0.00 €	3,581,246.83 €	3,043,885.05 €
Priority Axis 4 – Capitalization ERDF type expenditure	2,673,679.26 €	2,673,679.26 €	0.00 €	2,633,583.90 €	2,080,464.89 €
Priority Axis 5 – TA, Analytical Support, Communication ERDF type expenditure	2,249,539.08 €	2,249,539.08 €	0.00 €	2,244,927.17 €	538,879.80 €
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>31,837,471.44 €</b>	<b>31,837,471.44 €</b>	<b>0.00 €</b>	<b>30,701,266.78 €</b>	<b>25,092,520.80 €</b>
Total in transitional regions in the grand total	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €
Total in non-transitional regions in the grand total	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €
ESF type expenditure in the grand total where the Operational Programme is co-financed by the ERDF	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €
ERDF type expenditure in the grand total where the Operational Programme is co-financed by the ESF	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €

\* Only applicable for operational programmes expressed in total cost.

### 2.1.3. Information about the breakdown of use of the Funds

The table below presents financial information about the certified ERDF expenditure by the end of 2014.

Combination of codes of dimensions 1 to 5 only ERDF for the whole programming period					
Code * Dimension 1 Priority theme	Code * Dimension 2 Form of finance	Code * Dimension 3 Territory	Code * Dimension 4 Economic activity	Code * Dimension 5 Location	Amount **
Code 81 Mechanisms for improving good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation					25.676.247,19€
Code 85 Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection					361.791,20€
Code 86 Evaluation and studies; information and communication					32.399,21€
Sub-Total					<b>26.070.437,60€</b>
	Code 01 Non-repayable aid				26.070.437,60€
Sub-Total					<b>26.070.437,60€</b>
		Code 00 Not applicable			0,00€
Sub-Total					<b>0,0€</b>
			Code 00 Not applicable		0,00€
Sub-Total					<b>0.00€</b>
				EU	26.070.437,60€

Sub-Total	<b>26.070.437,60€</b>
Total	<b>26.070.437,60€</b>

\* the categories should be coded for each dimension using the standard classification

\*\* allocated amount of the Community contribution for each combination of categories

The table below presents the financial information about allocated ERDF expenditure for operations selected until the end of 2014. The figures display the ERDF share of the total budget of contracted project not considering the payment forecast of these projects for a specific year.

Combination of codes of dimensions 1 to 5 only ERDF for the whole programming period					
Code * Dimension 1 Priority theme	Code * Dimension 2 Form of finance	Code * Dimension 3 Territory	Code * Dimension 4 Economic activity	Code * Dimension 5 Location	Amount **
Code 81 Mechanisms for improving good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation					32.639.372,34€
Code 85 Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection					943.537,49€
Code 86 Evaluation and studies; information and communication					84.495,89 €
Sub-Total					<b>33.667.405,73€</b>
	Code 01 Non-repayable aid				33.667.405,73 €
Sub-Total					<b>33.667.405,73€</b>
		Code 00			0,00 €

	Not applicable	
Sub-Total		<b>33.667.405,73€</b>
	Code 00 Not applicable	0,00 €
Sub-Total		<b>33.667.405,73€</b>
		EU 33.667.405,73 €
Sub-Total		<b>33.667.405,73€</b>
Total		<b>33.667.405,73€</b>

\* the categories should be coded for each dimension using the standard classification

\*\* allocated amount of the Community contribution for each combination of categories

#### 2.1.4. Assistance by target groups

Not applicable.

#### 2.1.5. Assistance repaid or re-used

In 2014, ten expenditure findings with ineligible costs resulting from audits of operations, have been closed as follows:

- Three expenditure findings concern the Project Partner, MCRIT, Spain, of the ESATDOR project for a total ineligible amount of 155,13 EUR. The amount was deducted by the MA/CU from the progress report n°6 paid by the CA. The payment was made on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014 by the CA.
- One expenditure finding concerns the LP, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden, for the SEGI project. The total ineligible amount of 7,21 EUR was deducted by the MA/CU from the progress report n°6 paid by the CA. The payment was made on 26th August 2014 by the CA.

Six expenditure findings concern the LP, Fundacion Tecnalia Research & Innovation, Spain and one expenditure finding concern the Project Partner of the Roskilde University, Denmark, of the GREECO project. The total ineligible amount of 13.974,11 EUR was deducted by the MA/CU from the progress report n°5 paid by the CA.

#### 2.1.6. Qualitative analysis

From a programme management point of view, during 2014 the efforts were concentrated on ensuring a sufficient speed in the implementation of the different programme priorities in order to avoid any risk of de-commitment and to forward the dissemination activities.

Overall the programme implementation seems to be on a good track with a good development especially with respect to the project implementation, with an increasing focus on communication and capitalisation measures. The absorption of funds from the

operation side increased, additional efforts though are still required concerning the spending and certification of cost for MA-led projects. Thanks to the joint efforts between the ESPON MA, CU, CA and LPs and PPs the ESPON Programme did not have to face de-commitment at the end of 2014.

A significant number of projects under Priority 1 and Priority 2 were closed from a content and financial point of view during 2014 and projects have generally received a vivid interest from the practitioners and scientific communities.

The implementation of projects within the Priority 3 Scientific Platform and the related activities progressed considerably 2014. In total eight Scientific Platform projects were running during 2014 and all progressing well. Besides some necessary revisions and unforeseen delays, the projects within the Priority 3 MA-led projects are in general progressing in a satisfying way and the deliveries are of good quality.

The Priority 4 TNA projects were also in their closing phase in 2014 and their implementation supported considerably the outreach activities implemented at programme level.

## ***2.2. Information about compliance with Community law***

There were no problems encountered relating to the compliance with Community law in the implementation of the Operational Programme.

## ***2.3. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them***

Similar to previous years, the delays from the side of the beneficiaries in submitting financial progress reports remain a major problem in the financial implementation of the ESPON 2013 Programme. These delays are partly resulted by the late submission of the partner progress reports to the LPs, but in some countries the centralized first level control bodies are lacking resources to undertake the first level control and consequently, the certification procedure cannot be implemented within the given 2 months deadline.

As a result of the contentious effort of the ESPON CU in providing guidelines and targeted support to beneficiaries, it needs to be highlighted that the quality of the reports improved. All 35 progress reports submitted in the course of 2014 were declared receivable and each reports submitted by LPs could be accepted and processed towards the CA for recommending for payment.

As in the previous year, the de-commitment situation for 2014 represented a challenge considering that the level of expenditure to be certified was high in relation to the rhythm of absorption and reporting of the projects. The MA and the ESPON CU therefore followed the steps of the road map that was approved by the ESPON MC in 2010 for avoiding fund de-commitment. In the framework of this road map and based on the positive experiences and results of similar events organized previously, the ESPON CU held a ‘targeted financial manager seminar’ in April 2014 with specific focus on supporting the LPs with the submission of their pending progress reports. With the support of the ESPON CU, the invited projects managed to catch up with the delays in their financial reporting and with the submission of the pending reports many projects have been closed from the financial point of view in the course of 2014.

An additional element that creates difficulties in the project implementation is the partner drop out or partner change in a transnational project group that are mainly due to an organisational restructuring of a project partner. The procedural steps related to the changes in the partnerships of several projects required also more resources from the

ESPON CU and a very intensive effort was needed in order to complete the contractual procedures related to these changes.

The audits of operations carried out in 2014 in accordance with the audit strategy of the Operational Programme, have been presented by the external auditor at the GoA meeting in 27-28 November 2014. The audit of operations undertaken in 2014 covered expenditures from six projects from Priorities 1, 3 and 4.

From the audits 2013, one final finding remains open on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. It concerns the GEOSPECS project for an amount of 14,91 EUR corrected by the FLC on the Progress Report n°6 which is not yet received yet in original at the CU/MA to request payment including the correction.

From the audits 2014, one final finding remains open on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. It concerns a sub-system finding of the project partner of ESATDOR. An action plan detailing the remedial actions was included in the Annual Control Report 2014 submitted to the EC on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The action plan identified the authority body in charge of the remedial actions, the follow-up and the remedial actions deadlines for June 2015. Taking into account the audit 2014 results, i.e. a total error rate of 0,14%, the external auditor indicated that the management and control system remains at highest level of confidence by the end of 2014.

Three service contracts within the MA-led Project on Update of Maps 2011-2014 have been signed in 2014: 1/ESPON Harmonised Datasets on Local Units (LAU 2), with EURAC, 2/Filling in the data gap in the ESPON Database, with ÖIR GmbH and 3/Update of maps and related data on Climate Change with Plan + Risk Consult. The activities implementation period of these service contracts ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014

Within the MA-led project “3.2b Tools 2011-2014”, five service contracts have been signed in 2014: 1/ ESPON Feasibility study on Big Data with University Paris Diderot Paris 7, 2/ Functional Indicators Tool with University Paris Diderot Paris 7, 3/ Upholding of the Baltic Sea Region – Territorial Monitoring System with Nordregio, 4/Expanding the Online Map Finder with Spatial Foresight GmbH and 5/ ESPON Feasibility study on ESPON on the web with Universidad Autonomous of Barcelona (UAB). The activities implementation period of these service contracts ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.

Under priority 1 and 2 no additional significant problems have been encountered on a general level or in the implementation of the priorities. More detailed information on significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them under priority 3 and 4 is presented in chapter 3 ‘Implementation by priority’ under the respective headings.

#### ***2.4. Changes in the context of the operational programme implementation***

There were no changes stemming directly from the assistance of the Operational Programme that would have a direct impact on the programme's implementation.

#### ***2.5. Substantial modification under Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006***

There were no cases where substantial modifications under Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 were needed.

## **2.6. Complementarity with other instruments**

The ESPON 2013 Programme has no arrangements with other instruments.

## **2.7. Monitoring arrangements**

The monitoring and evaluation measures taken during the programme implementation have focused on several elements which are described below.

### **2.7.1. Monitoring of programme implementation**

According to Article 58(c) of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006, the Programme shall ensure a reliable accounting, monitoring and financial reporting system in computerised form. The monitoring and financial reporting system “Programme Monitoring Support System” (PMSS) collects data on the implementation necessary for financial management, monitoring, verifications, audit and evaluation. The structure of the PMSS has been set up following the requirements set by Article 60 (c) of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 and Annex III of Regulation (EC) 1828/2006.

Information related to the implementation of the ESPON Programme is continuously stored in the system. All programme bodies and as well First Level Financial Controller of centralised systems and representatives of Central Approbation Bodies in decentralized system as well as the GoA members have received access to the system<sup>1</sup>.

### **2.7.2. Monitoring of project implementation from a content point of view**

The monitoring of the development and progress of the projects carried out during the ESPON 2013 Programme has mainly been ensured by the provision of written feedbacks to project reports in the form of CU responses. Whenever a project report has been received by the CU, the following steps have been taken:

- The CU project expert in charge transmits the Priority 1 and 2 as well as Priority 3 project reports for commenting via email (or provides it via the ESPON Intranet) to:
  - For Priority 1: the 2 Sounding Board (SB) experts following the project for commenting on the reports.
  - For Priority 1 Draft Final Reports: the LP of an ESPON Contact Point (ECP) TNA for the implementation of the blunder checks of the report in question.
  - For Priority 2: the Lead Stakeholder that is responsible for further distribution to and consultation with the Partner Stakeholders for common feedback to the report.
- The CU Director transmits by email the report for commenting to the MC, the MA and the EC.
- In parallel, the report is also being analysed by the relevant CU project expert. The project expert analyses all quality aspects with respect to the project and pays special attention to the consistency with the ESPON 2013 Programme as a whole. Together with the MA the CU project expert has a particular look at the contractual obligations as well as the general quality and the relation to the policy context.

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<sup>1</sup> Different access rights have been defined for security reasons. One access code is foreseen per country and the Central Approbation Bodies can allow, if needed, access to the decentralized approved First Level Controllers by forwarding the Login and Password under their own responsibility.



- (For Priority 1) The SB watches in particular over the scientific quality of the research and is obliged by contract to provide up to 5/10 pages (depending on the type of report) of comments addressing those elements of the guidance paper that are considered of importance by the respective SB member.
- (For Priority 1, Draft Final Reports) The ECPs check the report in question for blunders, misinterpretations and mishaps based on national information.
- (For Priority 2) The Group of Stakeholders watches in particular over the relevance of the project for the stakeholders based on the stakeholder demands as pointed out in the Project Specification.
- The MC and EC watch over the general quality and the relation with the policy context of the research carried out.
- On the basis of the internal checklist and the comments received from the SB / Lead Stakeholder, MC, MA and EC, the project expert compiles a CU response to the LP. The comments of the SB and ECPs / Group of Stakeholders are annexed for information to the LP in original.
- In case the assessment of a project report shows that the report does not meet the requirements it should have met for the particular stage of the project's development, the LP will be asked with the CU response to provide an annex to the report in question that includes further elements complementing the original report; alternatively the LP can be asked in such a case to submit a revised report that should include further elaborations and improvements of those elements that are specifically pointed out in the CU response.
- The CU response is provided to the LP of the project by the coordinator of the cluster for project development and coordination via email. For Inception Reports, the CU response can be sent to the LP once it is ready. For Interim and Draft Final Reports, the CU response can only be provided to the LP once the MC has approved the report in question and accepted the accompanying CU response. This request for approval is normally being dealt with in the framework of a written procedure that is normally running for two weeks.

Another element of monitoring of the project development has consisted of assessing the project activity reports delivered to the CU as part of project progress reports every 6 months during the lifetime of the project. Activity reports should reflect the activities undertaken since the latest report. Activity reports are checked by the relevant project expert in charge of the project in question on the basis of a checklist.

Furthermore, during the lifetime of a project a number of meetings have been taking place in which the responsible CU project participated. This has offered an additional opportunity for monitoring the project development and for giving feedback and guidance to ensure that the project is meeting its predefined targets. Concerning Applied Research projects, the CU project experts normally participates in two meetings with the Transnational Project Group (TPG) / LP in which the SB would also be present and give feedback to the team's work. As for Targeted Analyses, the number of meetings can vary from three to four, also involving the stakeholders behind the project. For projects of the Scientific Platform the participation of project experts in meetings with the TPG may vary between one and four times depending on the character of the project and its implementation period. If there is justified reason for concern about a project's development, the CU might ask for a particular meeting with the LP/TPG and/or attend

more meetings than originally foreseen to ensure that a maximum of support from the Programme is given to the project so that it can achieve its objective.

Irrelevant of the priority, each project is started in the framework of a kick-off meeting that is attended by the LP, the CU project expert, the cluster coordinator for project development and coordination and one financial expert. The kick-off meeting serves to lay the foundations for the project by giving feedback to the LP resulting from the evaluation of the project proposal and by agreeing upon the first steps of project implementation, the timetable of the project and arranging the contracting procedure.

Finally, the CU project experts are generally always available for advice and information to their LPs if in between delivery dates of project reports support should be requested.

The Priority 3 projects are, like the Priority 1 and 2 projects, subject to call for proposals and selected based on evaluation sessions involving MC members and finally approved by the ESPON MC for implementation based on subsidy contracts. The monitoring of the project is performed by the ESPON CU, submitting the assessment of the various project reports to the MC for approval. The Priority 4 TNA projects are subject to call for proposals from the ECPs Network based on the specifications in the Operational Programme and in some cases with additional “Call Specific Criteria” decided by the ESPON MC. The proposals are evaluated by the ESPON CU for approval by the ESPON MC and implemented as subsidy contracts. The monitoring of the project is performed by the ESPON CU, submitting the assessment of the project reports (only Draft Final Report and Final Report) to the MC for approval.

In addition for Priority 3 and 4, several actions can be implemented or are implemented directly by the MA who, in this context, assumes the role of the LP. These projects are defined ‘MA-led projects’ and are approved by the MC following the presentation by the MA of a short project description which includes information relating to the objectives, activities, budget and timeframe for the implementation. Acting as ‘LP’ the MA has therefore the same duties and reporting requirements as any other LP.

The CU together with the MA implements the project according to the relevant public procurement procedure. The monitoring of the activities is managed by CU experts, who have the responsibility to receive the deliveries, to validate them and to approve them. In this process the CU expert works closely with the service providers ensuring highest quality of the deliveries and that deadlines are met.

At least once per year (for projects over €75,000 it is bi-annual) the MA will have to provide a short report to the MC on the progress with the implementation of the project, providing information on:

*For Priority 3 projects:*

- The results of the procurement procedure and the actions already contracted.
- The deliveries already received and approved.
- Brief explanation on any shortcomings and/or problems encountered that require a modification of the MA led project.
- The use of the budget.

*For Priority 4.1 projects:*

- General progress with the implementation of the overall project.
- Progress with the implementation of the ongoing work/action plan:
  - The results of the procurement procedure and the actions already contracted;
  - The deliveries already received and approved.
- Final status on the implementation of the previous work/action plan and information on any shortcomings and/or problems encountered (if not already provided).
- Brief explanation on any shortcomings and/or problems encountered that requires a modification of:
  - The ongoing work/action plan;
  - The MA led project.
- The use of the budget.

*For the Priority 4.2 project:*

- Progress with the implementation of the foreseen activities.
- Brief explanation on any shortcomings and/or problems encountered that require a modification of the MA led project.
- The use of the budget.

These reports will have to be approved by the MC.

In addition, once the final delivery of the last ongoing actions have been submitted and approved and the relevant invoices have been paid out, the MA will complete a short report to the MC summarising the implementation of all the Priority 3 and 4 MA-led projects by providing information on:

- The actions foreseen to be contracted and contracted.
- Brief information on the quality of the deliveries received.
- Brief information on shortcomings and/or problems encountered that required a modification of the project.
- Financial information on the implementation of the project.

These reports are prepared by the cluster responsible for the implementation of the MA-led project in question.

During 2014 the action plan decided at the end of 2013 to ensure that no de-commitment will occur was successfully implemented.

### **2.7.3. Monitoring of programme implementation**

According to Article 58 (c) of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006, the Programme shall ensure a reliable accounting, monitoring and financial reporting system in computerised form. The monitoring and financial reporting system PMSS collects data on the implementation that are necessary for financial management, monitoring, verifications, audit and evaluation. The structure of the PMSS has been set up following the requirements set by Article 60 (c) of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 and Annex III of Regulation (EC) 1828/2006.

Information related to the implementation of the ESPON Programme is continuously stored in the system. All programme bodies and as well First Level Financial Controller of centralised systems and representatives of Central Approbation Bodies in decentralized system as well as the GoA members have received access to the system<sup>2</sup>.

## **2.8. National performance reserve**

Not applicable.

## **3. Implementation by priority**

### **3.1. Priority 1**

#### **3.1.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress**

##### **Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority**

During 2014 there were no more calls for Expression of Interest (EoI) for the Knowledge Support System (KSS).

In 2014, seven SBs that had previously been active stopped their work as the respective projects delivered their Final Report during the year (i.e. ET2050, GREECO, TANGO, ITAN, TOWN, TiPSE, ECR2). With that, the last SBs actually finalised their activities.

The following projects were ongoing under this priority in 2014:

- **TRACC – Transport accessibility at regional/local scale and patterns in Europe (Total budget: 699.790,50 €)**

The project will provide innovative results which can support the policy development in the field of transport and accessibility improvement, territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion. It shall support policy makers in finding trade-offs between promoting accessibility for passenger and freight transport and competitiveness, sustainability, saving energy and territorial development. The FR, which was delivered with major delays on 1 December 2013, was not complete. After a request to deliver the remaining elements, the project delivered the maps of Volume 4, the datasets and two additional volumes of the Final Report on 24 May 2014 and the chapters 10-13 from Volume 1 and Volume 2 on 30 June 2014.

The LP gave presentations at the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 June 2014 in Nafplion, Greece and at the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 December 2014 in Rome, Italy. Summaries of the TRACC case study reports have been published in a specific volume of EUROPE XXI published by the Institute of Geography of the Polish Academy of Science. In addition, in a BBSR publication the project elaborated on the implications of the project results on Germany, targeting the broader public but also politicians.

- **ET2050 – Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe (Total budget: 1.199.969,94 €)**

The project will support and deliver input to the territorial vision-building process by updating, extending and refining the scenario work of ESPON. The territorial

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<sup>2</sup> Different access rights have been defined for security reasons. One access code is foreseen per country and the Central Approbation Bodies can allow, if needed, access to the decentralized approved First Level Controllers by forwarding the Login and Password under their own responsibility.

vision-building process will follow a participatory process and involve relevant stakeholders at European, national and regional level. The vision will have a strategic character that will allow giving direction to the policy debate on territorial development.

The project delivered their Draft Final Report on 28 February 2014. On 29 April 2014 a SB meeting was held to give the project feedback and some guidance towards the Final Report. The project submitted their Final Report on 30 June 2014 which was approved after a short process, in which they delivered some missing elements (data, metadata, maps and a section on future research).

The Executive Summary of the Final Report was the starting point for the ESPON publication “Making Europe Open and Polycentric - Vision and Scenarios for the European Territory towards 2050”. The LP of the project was highly involved in the drafting process and one of the PPs drafted the illustrations for this publication. The publication was published in September 2014.

During 2014 the project was in close contact with the ESPON CU, by email, telephone but also in meetings. They met with the ESPON CU on 19 February 2014 to discuss the Draft Final Report and their presentation for the COTER in the afternoon of that same day. The project also met with the ESPON CU on 26 March 2014 to brainstorm on the territorial vision and pathways: how to make them more territorial and how to visualise them.

During 2014 the project co-organised and participated in several events initiated by the ESPON CU. On 29 April 2014 the ESPON CU organised a conference on Making the European Territory Open and Polycentric, in which the project gave presentations and debated with relevant stakeholders the Territorial Vision for Europe in 2050 and the pathways that can lead Europe towards an Open and Polycentric Territory. Together with the ESPON CU the project co-organised a round table on Making Europe Open and Polycentric at the AESOP annual congress on 10 July 2014 in which the LP and one of the PPs presented and discussed the territorial vision with an MC member, a representative of DG Regio and the attendees of the workshop. Moreover, together with the ESPON CU the project also cooperated in organising a workshop on Scenarios and modelling in the framework of exploring Territorial Cohesion on 4 September 2014 to provide for dialogue and exchange of experiences between modellers involved in scenarios linked to cohesion policy.

Finally, the LP presented the project in a plenary session and in one of the parallel workshops of the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 June 2014 in Nafplion, Greece. The LP also presented the project in a parallel session at the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 December 2014 in Rome, Italy.

- **GREECO – Regional potential for a Greener Economy (Total budget: 749.780,02 €)**

The project identifies the territorial aspects and potentials related to a greener economy in order to highlight areas that have particular opportunities for contributing to a greener economy through successful territorial development and cohesion policy actions. An assessment of the impact of selected sectors on the socio-economic performance of European cities and regions is implemented. In addition the project provides a diagnosis on the conditions that drive, enable or

constrain the development and consolidation of the green economy in different types of territories.

An updated version of the Draft Final Report, including corrections of maps with regard to the presentation of Cyprus and minor mishaps, has been delivered by 27 February 2014. Due to the late arrival of key contributions from one PP, which caused a delay in the preparation of the final project delivery, the LP asked for a postponement. The TPG delivered the project's Final Report on 30 May 2014, in line with the acceptance of the postponement by the ESPON MA. As the main report and some annexes of that version as well as the map delivery didn't show all improvements that the CU response to the Draft Final Report had requested, the LP agreed with the CU to revise these former deliveries. New versions were delivered within an agreed period of time. Also the data delivery was in accordance to the assessment by the M4D project.

The LP gave a presentation at the ESPON Open Seminar on 4 and 5 June 2014 in Nafplion, Greece. By the end of the same month ended the dissemination period of the project.

The final project results were used to elaborate the ESPON Evidence Brief No. 10 "Understanding Green Economy – The shift towards green solutions in European regions" and a map of the month. Furthermore, in September 2014 ESPON organised a workshop on "Green Economy in European Regions?" in Brussels, in which the LP and PPs took up a major role.

- **ITAN – European Neighbour Regions (Total budget: 750.000,00 €)**

This project provides knowledge on EU neighbour regions in order to support targeted policy development in the light of Cohesion Policy aiming (1) at improved regional competitiveness as well as sustainable and balanced growth of the European territory, (2) to promote European integration in a connecting world economy, and (3) to support evidence-based cross-border cooperation along external borders. Against this backdrop the project team elaborates an integrated territorial analysis of the neighbourhoods, providing territorial evidence for a better knowledge of these territories, their dynamics as well as flows between these regions and the ESPON territory. Furthermore it highlights topics of interest for cooperation activities with neighbouring regions and cities and builds a sustainable database.

The project team faced some difficulties that resulted in delays for the submission of the Draft Final Report. The ESPON MA accepted the postponement and the TPG submitted its delivery on 11 February 2014. This was followed by a meeting on 13 March 2014 in Paris, attended by both SB experts following the project and the project expert of the ESPON CU, to discuss their remarks on the project and their response on the Draft Final Report. An updated version of the Draft Final Report including corrections of maps with regard to the presentation of Cyprus and minor mishaps was delivered by 24 April 2014. The Final Report of this project was delivered with a minor delay by 18 July 2014. In order to correct remaining minor mishaps the LP agreed with the CU to revise the former delivery. A new version was delivered within an agreed period of time. Data and maps were delivered in line with the ESPON guidelines.

The LP gave a presentation at the ESPON Open Seminar on 4 and 5 June 2014 in Nafplion, Greece. Moreover, within the dissemination period of the project the TPG

realised two dissemination events. One took place on 12 November 2014 in Brussels and the other one on 27 November in Barcelona. Main results, policy recommendations and innovative maps of the ITAN project were presented and discussed. By the end of the same month the dissemination period of the project ended.

- **TOWN – Small and medium sized towns in their functional territorial context (Total budget: 649,804.00 €)**

The main objective of this project is to create a methodology to identify small and medium-sized towns. This methodology should be compatible with the recently revised urbanisation classification at EU scale identifying all small and medium-sized towns as places having an urban centre with a population between 5 000 and 50 000 inhabitants. In addition the project will provide evidence on the roles and functions that small and medium sized towns perform taking into account the different territorial contexts, which range from being nearby to a much larger urban centre to having a sparsely populated rural hinterland. The conditions for development and the functions that the small and medium-sized towns perform in these territorial contexts are significantly different. How can these different territorial contexts be taken into account and what is the relevant functional area of a small or medium-sized town? Finally the project will assess the different governance and cooperation arrangements used in ESPON countries to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public policies and public services. In particular, policies aimed to increase critical mass, which range from promoting cooperation between local authorities to the merger of small local authorities, should be considered in this study.

During the year, the LP presented the project in a plenary session of the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 June 2014 in Nafplion, Greece. Furthermore, the LP made a presentation during the ESPON Workshop on the “European Territorial Agenda” arranged in Brussels on 25 November 2014. Finally, the LP presented the project in a parallel session at the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 December 2014 in Rome, Italy.

The lead partner of the TOWN project submitted the Draft Final Report on 28 February 2014 and the Final Report on 30 August 2014, consisting of the Main Report and the Scientific Report. The ten case studies were delivered two days earlier. However, two revised versions of the Final Report were delivered. The first revised version on 15 September 2014, correcting the misspelling of a French region. A second revised version was delivered on 6 November 2014 upon request by the CU, to ensure the inclusion of the French Overseas territories in the maps (only in the Main Report). As this did not have any impact on the content itself, the SB members’ comments on the first version (30 August 2014) remained valid.

- **TiPSE – Territorial dimension of poverty and social exclusion in Europe (Total budget: 749 825.00 €)**

The project will provide evidence on the territorial pattern of poverty and social exclusion in European regions as well as its development over time. In this context the TPG liaises with the steering committee of the EC – World Bank project to map

poverty in the ten<sup>3</sup> Central and Eastern Member States to ensure a maximum of synergy between these two projects. The project will: (a) develop a robust, but flexible small area estimation methodology to map poverty or exclusion at the NUTS 3 level or lower; (b) create territorial poverty maps; (c) identify to what extent these areas have changed over time and where bottlenecks of growth exist; (d) analyse common characteristics of areas affected by poverty or social exclusion; (e) identify an integrated poverty or exclusion policy package that could address poverty or exclusion in these deprived areas; (f) propose methodologies and indicators that could be used to monitor poverty and social exclusion in a territorial manner on an annual basis.

The project delivered the Draft Final Report on 30 April 2014. On 2 July 2014, members of the project team met with the CU project expert and one SB expert in Aberdeen to discuss the Draft Final Report and the way forward to the Final Report. The latter was submitted on 17 October 2014. As the Executive Summary of that version didn't show all improvements that the CU response to the Draft Final Report had requested, the lead partner agreed with the CU to revise the former. A new version of the Executive Summary was delivered on 15 November 2014

Two project partners gave presentations at the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 June 2014 in Nafplion, Greece. Another project partner gave a presentation at the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 December 2014 in Rome, Italy.

- **ECR2 – Territorial impact of the financial and economic crisis (Total budget: 754 469,00 €)**

The picture of the economic situation in Europe resulting from the crisis that began in 2008 looks rather asymmetrical and diverse with regions that were not or hardly touched by the crises at all, with regions that were touched but that seem to recover rather progressively and with regions that still suffer quite a lot from the crisis. The fast and successful recovery of some particular regions strikes the eye and raises the question of what is behind this success. The economic crisis and recovery are at the core of all recent policy initiatives that set the framework for territorial development and cohesion policy. The objective of this project is to expose territorial evidence that supports policymakers at different administrative levels in making the economic structure(s) in Europe and its countries, regions and cities more resilient to economic crises and a sudden economic downturn.

Following a request for an extension of time by the LP and agreed with the MA, the project delivered the Draft Final Report on 1 April 2014 and the Final Report on 4 September 2014. In response to the CU's comments on the Draft Final Report, the Final Report was substantially rewritten from an academic report to a more user-focussed and accessible policy orientated report.

The TPG have also made significant efforts during the dissemination phase of the project through attending workshops, seminars and conference, including at the ESPON Open Seminars on 4-5 June 2014 in Nafplion, Greece and 4-5 December 2014 in Rome, Italy.

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<sup>3</sup> Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria.



Output Indicators	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of actions realised & number of small / medium / large actions	0	30 7/7/16	0	2	6	15	20	25	25	25
Number of cross-thematic / thematic analyses and trends / prospective studies realised	0	8/7/3	0	1	5	13	18	23	23	23
Number of territorial impact studies realised	0	5	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Number of experts involved in task forces / sounding boards	0	40	0	4	12	30	40	50	50	50
Results Indicators	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of themes and policies that have been deepened and widened compared to ESPON 2006 results	0	20	0	2	6	15	20	25	25	25
Number of partners, institutes involved in applied research actions	0	100	0	19	44	105	152	180	181 <sup>4</sup>	181
Number of scientists involved in applied research actions <sup>5</sup>	0	750	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NP
Impact Indicators	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Degree of usefulness of ESPON applied research results for European, national-level / regional-level policy processes	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Degree of usefulness of ESPON applied research results for transnational and cross-border co-operation	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP

**NI:** Not implemented: The indicator is implemented, but not for the specific year.

**NP:** Not applicable: The indicator does not apply and will not be implemented.

**NA:** Not available: The indicator is implemented but the values for the specific year is not known.

<sup>4</sup> This figure was updated for the Annual Implementation Report 2014 as more accurate information became available.

<sup>5</sup> This indicator was envisaged to be occasionally included. However, it turned out not to be applicable.

### **Qualitative analysis**

The implementation of Applied Research projects has generally worked smoothly and there has been a good cooperation between the LPs and the CU project experts. The same is also true for the cooperation between the CU project experts and the SB experts. The latter's feedback to the projects' reports has been highly appreciated by the TPGs, who are grateful for the sound advice and guidance they receive from the experts.

The SB experts have usually invested more time in their tasks than what they are contractually bound to do. This does not only apply to the commenting of reports which often takes more than just the one working day that is foreseen for this task. It is particularly the case for the requested participation in TPG meetings. Usually, preparing for these meetings, travelling to the location of the meeting and back again, has required more than the one working day that is contractually foreseen for this task. This has occasionally caused some frustration among SB experts and the request for reconsidering the number of working days allocated per expert.

### **3.1.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them**

No significant problems have been encountered.

## **3.2. Priority 2**

### **3.2.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress**

#### **Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority**

In 2014 the following projects were ongoing under this priority:

- **GROSEE – Growth Poles in South East Europe (Total budget: 360.000,00 €)**

This project studies the main growth poles in South East Europe – Athens, Sofia and Bucharest – and their relation to the European core development areas, their competitiveness and the role that the three capitals can have individually as well as together in the European polycentric network.

The project delivered the Final Report on 28 February 2014. That version of the Final Report didn't sufficiently meet the contractual demands and didn't sufficiently comply with the CU response to the Draft Final Report. Therefore the CU/MA couldn't accept the Final Report and asked the TPG to deliver a revised version by 31 October 2014. A revised version of the report was sent to the CU on 1 November 2014. However, the lead stakeholder then informed the CU that they wished to further improve the report together with the lead partner. This resulted in another revised version of the Final Report, which was delivered to the CU on 11 November 2014. In spite of some improvements, that version of the report still didn't fully meet the contractual demands and still didn't sufficiently comply with the CU response to the Draft Final Report. Therefore the CU requested yet another revision to be delivered by 9 December 2014. This version then showed considerable improvements compared to the previous versions. Nevertheless, a few issues had still not been taken care of in a satisfactory manner, which is why the CU asked the LP for improvements of these remaining issues. The final and complete revision was eventually delivered to the CU on 22 December 2014.

One of the project partners gave a presentation at the Open Seminar in Nafplion, Greece on 4-5 June 2014.

- **LIVELAND – Liveable landscapes: a key value for sustainable territorial development (Total budget: 378.676,14 €)**

The request from the Stakeholders comes from the consideration that EU regional policies are increasingly focused on harmonious territorial development towards sustainability and that the relation between territorial development strategies and landscape planning is a political priority still uncovered by the ESPON Programme. In addition, the European Landscape Convention (ELC, 2003) is stimulating the elaboration of landscape plans and calling for their integration within spatial planning, considering landscape as a key territorial value for future development. This Targeted Analysis aims therefore to explore good practices of landscape planning and regional territorial strategies in some ‘living landscapes’ and to benchmark the content and procedures between regions. The aim is also to identify successful measures in combining landscape management and socio-economic development and to give guidelines and recommendations. The project seeks to identify ways in which ESPON data could be used to reinforce the integration of landscape and spatial planning and to provide new evidence for future ESPON landscape targeted research.

The project submitted its Final Report on 15 March 2014. The final results of the project were presented during the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 June 2014 in Nafplion, Greece.

- **North Sea STAR – North Sea – Spreading transnational results (Total budget: 339.923,70 €)**

This project aims to assess North Sea Region project results with a view to developing the most effective regional energy responses possible in future operations. The analysis focuses on the role that territorial cooperation can play in such developments and at how new models for clustered project implementation might influence this process and promote effective multi-level governance. The combination of practitioner experience and the localisation of potentials and challenges based on existing ESPON results will provide input for decisions on future actions and programme strategies in the NSR, and should also be transferable to many other programmes and themes. Furthermore, with regards to governance the project should answer the key question of how the clustering approach can help to stimulate regional co-operation in order to provide input to policy making on how to accelerate the take-up of renewable energy technologies and supporting relevant green economic activities in the region.

The lead partner of the North Sea STAR project submitted the Final Report on the agreed extended deadline 31 March 2014. The project was presented by the lead partner in a parallel workshop session during the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 June 2014 in Nafplion, Greece.

Output Indicators	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number and types of actions realised & number of small / medium / large actions	0	30	0	0	6	8	18	22	23	23
Number of stakeholder / user consultations realised	0	3	0	1	2	2	3	3	3	3
Number of stakeholders / users contacted <sup>6</sup>	0	300	0	164	305	305	441	441	441	441
Results Indicators	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of stakeholders directly involved in the implementations of the actions <sup>7</sup>	0	50	0	0	34	40	97	116	117	117
Number of themes, topics and experiments covered by actions realised	0	30	0	0	9	13	28	33	35	35
Number of types of specific territories covered by actions realised	0	20	0	0	9	10	10	10	10	10
Impact Indicators	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Degree of analytical support provided by targeted actions to a co-operative tackling of territorial development challenges	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Extent to which the outcomes of actions producing targeted analytical deliveries are cited in strategic publications at European, national and regional level	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP

**NI:** Not implemented: The indicator is implemented, but not for the specific year.

**NP:** Not applicable: The indicator does not apply. It will never be implemented.

**NA:** Not available: The indicator is implemented but you don't know the values yet for the specific year.

### Qualitative analysis

The implementation of Targeted Analyses generally has worked smoothly and there has been good cooperation between the LPs, the CU project experts and the stakeholders behind the projects.

#### 3.2.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems have been encountered.

<sup>6</sup> The 'number of stakeholders/users' indicated in this row is referring to the number of stakeholder institutions participating in an EoI, including non-approved. In case stakeholder institutions are involved in several selected EoI, they are counted repeatedly.

<sup>7</sup> For this indicator the total number of stakeholder institutions involved in contracted Targeted Analyses projects is indicated. In case stakeholder institutions are involved in several selected EoI, they are counted repeatedly.

### 3.3. Priority 3

#### 3.3.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

##### **Priority 3 Scientific Platform projects**

These projects have, like the Priority 1 and 2 projects, been subject to call for proposals and selected based on evaluation sessions involving MC members and finally approved by the ESPON MC for implementation as subsidy contracted projects.

The following projects were ongoing and finalised under this priority during 2014:

- **ESPON Database 2013 Project Phase II (Total Budget: 1.375.000,00 €)**

The project delivered in March 2014 an updated version of the ESPON Database Portal including new resources and datasets. On 1 July 2014 the project delivered its Draft Final Report including a new version of the ESPON Database Portal (on 24 July 2014), technical reports and Annexes. The technical reports address the following topics: FUAs construction, local data, OLAP and outliers. In November 2014 the available resources of the ESPON Database Portal were updated again with new background data.

The project participated in the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 June 2014 in Nafplion, Greece where the LP of the project actively contributed to a plenary session presenting the case study interface of the Database Portal.

- **RIMAP – Design and Development of Rich Internet Online Mapping Tool (Total budget: 120.500,00 €)**

This project has developed an ESPON Online Mapping Tool, which is a highly interactive mapping tool available via the Internet where users can select, combine and overlay indicators from the ESPON database, choose the geography, make a map, diagram or even animations based on indicator time series.

On 30 December 2013, the project delivered the Final report and a final version of the Online Mapping Tool, including guidelines and a number of videos explaining specific functionalities. Following the assessment of the Final Delivery, the project carried out some editorial revisions of the User Manual, Help and Main Report. In addition, the project solved some issues with bugs in the tool and implemented at the same time some improvement regarding text and the user friendliness.

The Final version of the tool is considered a highly interactive mapping tool where users are offered in an intuitive and user friendly way the possibility to visualise and analyse ESPON data and indicators via maps, graphs and time series. The fact that the TPG managed to make a direct link to the regional data and metadata stored in the ESPON Database Portal, which means that the tool automatically remains up-to-date when data and indicators have been updated or added in the ESPON Database Portal, is highly appreciated.

- **ESPON ATLAS – Mapping European Territorial Structures and Dynamics (Total Budget: 149.992,00 €)**

The “ESPON Atlas 2014 on European Territorial Structures and Dynamics” is presenting a synoptic and comprehensive overview of key findings from all ESPON 2013 Priority 1 and Priority 2 projects, which serve as main providers of new facts, evidence and knowledge about European territorial structures, trends and perspectives

and policy impacts. Together with the indicators and datasets included in the ESPON Database, this project promotes the mission of the ESPON 2013 Programme in supporting policy development.

The Atlas does not take a particular policy defined point of departure, but aims at covering the multitude of ESPON themes in a comprehensive manner. It enables comparisons among regions and cities and helps to support the understanding of European territorial diversity of potentials and challenges.

On 24 February 2014 the TPG met with the CU at the CU premises in Luxembourg to discuss layout questions, cartography, sample chapters, data delivery problems and the way forward towards the Draft Final Report. The latter was delivered on 30 May 2014. The Final Report was delivered on 2 October 2014. The digital version of the atlas was delivered on 2 December 2014.

The LP gave presentations of the project at the ESPON open seminar in Nafplion, Greece on 5 June 2014 and at the ESPON seminar in Rome, Italy on 5 December 2014.

- **DeTeC - Detecting Territorial Potential and Challenges (Total budget: 349.546,00 €)**

This project has aimed at providing practical guidance on how to utilise ESPON knowledge to detect territorial potential and turning challenges into potential deriving from their larger territorial context. It includes concrete cases of good practices in using territorial potentials, based on benchmarking, comparison with similar regions/cities.

The target group for the project is practitioners and policy makers, first and foremost at regional and municipal level, which will be provided with an overview and guidance in their day-to-day work. The general guidance on analytical approaches and methods will also be relevant for practitioners and policy makers involved in development considerations in cross-border, national and transnational settings.

Key areas of the analysis include a review and inventory of analytical approaches as well as of both qualitative and quantitative methods supporting the detection and utilization of territorial potentials and challenges; testing and evaluation of a conceptual framework of analytical approaches and methods, set up as a guidance document, through carefully selected case studies /regional laboratories providing concrete examples on how regions and cities can detect and utilise their territorial potential and/or deal with particular challenges. The case studies will directly involve and engage practitioners and policy makers.

The methodological foundation of the project has been based on a set-up of six regional laboratories with regional and local policy-makers and practitioners. The main output of the project has been an interactive handbook in e-book format, which was launched via the iTunes platform on 26 June 2014.

The Final Report was submitted on 31 March 2014, and a requested revised version of this on the 14 April 2014. The LP gave a plenary presentation of the project during the ESPON Open Seminar in Nafplion, Greece 4-5 June 2014.

- **ETMS - EU Territorial Monitoring and Reporting (Total Budget: 597,956,00 €)**

This ESPON project has been aimed at providing a practical and operational European Territorial Monitoring System (ETMS), which builds mainly on existing statistical information, data and tools developed (database, mapping tools) within the ESPON

Programme, and which can be the basis for a continued monitoring of European territorial trends.

The TPG delivered the Draft Final Report on 30 June 2014, including: draft final Facts Figures Report; draft Final Monitoring Report; pre-final Data Analysis in Maps tool; initial Data Analysis in Timelines tool; as well as accompanying draft final report documenting all processes and tools.

A revised “State of the Territory Report” was delivered to the ESPON CU on 12 October 2014, including updated the maps using the latest data available and corrected some errors in the data; parts of the text rewritten, to clarify the messages of the report. On 17 December the final version of the text and maps was agreed with the CU and sent for layout and printing.

An adjusted version of the Facts & Figures publication by Nordregio was sent to the ESPON CU on 16 October, which implemented and took care of the final adjustments before layout and printing. This publication was disseminated at the ESPON Seminar in Rome on 4-5 December 2014.

The Final Report was delivered on 31 October 2014, including two files: Final Report (memory of activities and tool documentation) and a ‘sustainability report’ (describing how to maintain in the short and long term monitoring system).

The TPG participated in the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 June 2014 in Nafplion, Greece where the LP of the project actively contributed to a plenary session presenting the interface of the 'EU Territorial Monitoring System, as well as in the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 December 2014 in Rome, Italy. The LP presented the European Monitoring System in a plenary session on tools.

The European Territorial Monitoring System still needs to be finalised in 2015 and ensure the integration of the data and information included in the two publications above mentioned. In addition, synergies with other existing ESPON tools such as CityBench, BSR-TeMo, RIMAP are being explored, as well as the application of ESPON design issues and the deployment of the tool to the ESPON sever (in close cooperation with Infeurope).

- **Territorial Monitoring in a European Macro Region – A test for the Baltic Sea Region – BSR-TeMo (Total budget: 340.000,00 €)**

This ESPON project has been aimed at providing evidence on territorial development trends and cohesion in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) by developing an indicator based monitoring system. This should contribute to increased knowledge and understanding of territorial cohesion processes in the BSR and at the same time allow for a comparison and benchmarking with other European regions and macro-regions. It will also support the contribution of the BSR to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in Europe as mentioned in the EU2020 Strategy.

The TPG delivered the Final Report on 14 March 2014, which included final versions of a user manual, visualisation tool and a handbook. The presentation tool and the final version of the Handbook integrating comments from the CU and VASAB were delivered on 19 March 2014. Considering the amount of work and the necessary adjustments to implement in the Russian version of the Handbook in which VASAB was actively involved, the final version was delivered to the ESPON CU on 17 October 2014.

The project participated in the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 June 2014 in Nafplion, Greece and actively contributed to a Parallel Workshop Session on Reflections on “blue” development opportunities related to European seas, coasts, islands and the mainland.

- **CityBench – CityBench for Benchmarking European Urban Zones (Total budget: 198.874,00 €)**

This webtool allows policymakers, practitioners and public and private investors to benchmark their cities against other similar cities, around issues such as demographic challenges, economic challenges, social disparities, urban sprawl and greenhouse gas emissions. The benchmarking webtool creates opportunities for the forming of innovative learning networks among cities and provide a first indication of the suitability of financial engineering instruments in place-based policymaking.

The CU closely followed the implementation of this ESPON project during 2014 and considering that the Draft Final Report needed improvement to comply with the intentions laid down for the project, as well as the web application and admin tool a revised timetable of deliveries was agreed by beginning of 2014. On 13 January 2014, the LP delivered an improved version of the CityBench web tool, which was tested by a selected group of stakeholders from ESPON and EIB between 31 March and 22 April 2014.

One steering committee meetings was organised during 2014, involving ESPON CU, EUROSTAT and EIB, aimed to discuss the webtool in relation to the objectives and expectations of the stakeholders.

The Final Report was delivered on 30 April 2014, including a final version of the CityBench webtool and admin tool. However, the deployment of the tool to the ESPON server took longer than expected (due to the technical requirements for the integration of social media data) and the implementation of the final adjustments in terms of design issues in order to ensure coherence with other ESPON tools revealed also to be a time consuming task. Furthermore, in order to ensure synergies with ongoing service contracts under P3, the LP was requested by the ESPON CU to integrate the results of the Big Data service contract, which was delivered in beginning of 2015.

The Citybench tool was presented by the ESPON CU during the ESPON Open Seminar on 4-5 June 2014 in Nafplion.

### **Priority 3 MA-led projects**

Besides the above-mentioned projects, the Operational Programme defines some actions being financed under Priority 3 as MA-led-projects. The CU has, on behalf of the MA, implemented the projects according to the relevant public procurement procedures for service contracts. This has included drafting of the Terms of References, evaluation of proposals, validation and approval of the deliveries. In this process the CU expert worked closely with the service providers ensuring highest quality of the deliveries and that deadlines are met.

The individual actions under the Priority 3 MA-led projects has been carried out within 3.2b “Territorial Indicators, Indexes and Tools” and 3.4 “Updates of Indicators and Maps”.



- **MA-led project 3.2b - Tools 2011-2014 (Total Budget: 447.660,00 €)**

The aim of this MA-led project has been to contribute to the capitalisation of the results and outcomes produced within ESPON by developing tools to support the use of ESPON results for policy, strategy and planning by different user groups.

The MC approved in a Written Procedure 4-18 March 2014 of the following request made by the CU regarding changes for planned actions within this MA-led project:

- Cancellation of the action “HyperAtlas Update II” due to withdrawal of the offer received.
- Cancellation of the action “Online training platform with sessions focused on specific topics” due to time limitations for implementation.
- Cancellation of the action “Regional Typologies at LAU2” due to time limitations.
- Expansion of the existing Online Mapfinder.
- Implementation of the additional action “Feasibility Study ESPON on the Web”.

The following actions were carried out and finalised during 2014:

TIA web application (Total budget: 65.170,00 €)

This action has aimed at developing a Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) web application using the ARTS methodology. The service provider, ÖIR, delivered a feasibility study and a prototype on 17 February 2014. On 6 June 2014 the service provider delivered a test version of the TIA Web application and a strategy for testing the test version. A test version of the tool management functionality and guidance was delivered on 9 September 2014. On 1 December 2014 the service provider delivered the final version of the tool uploaded at the ESPON server and a report describing the tool management functionality and guidance. Some final adjustments in the two reports and the tool were needed and the service provider delivered the adjustments on 19 February 2015.

The final version is considered a very attractive and logically structured web application that can be used by workshop moderators to support regional policy makers and practitioners with identifying, ex-ante, potential territorial impacts of new EU Legislations, Policies and Directives.

Feasibility study on analytical tools based on Big Data (Total budget: €26.660,00)

This action has aimed at carrying out a feasibility study on analytical tools based on Big Data to explore innovative possibilities to develop a tool that can provide latest up-to-date territorial tendencies to policy makers. The service provider, UMS Riate, was contracted in March 2014. The Delivery 1, Interim Report, was delivered by 22 May 2014. An internal coordination meeting involving the service contractor and the ESPON CU took place at the CU premises on 28 May 2014 to discuss the interim deliveries and the testing plan. The results of the testing were delivered to the ESPON CU on 15 August 2014. The Delivery 3, the Final Report, was delivered by 03 November 2014 and subsequently the Delivery 4 with the data, which was as decided directly integrated into the CityBench application.

The overall appreciation shows that it in a constructive way meets the expectations included in the service contract. It has been considered as particularly positive the well developed and clear section included in the Final Report on recommendations for future

work on this topic within ESPON, which takes into account the comments provided by the ESPON CU and the various ESPON projects (Priority 1, 2 and 3).

Functional Indicators Tool (Total budget: 53.910,00 €)

This action aims at giving users the possibility to build indicators themselves based on a limited number of core data. These indicators could be more simple ratio indicators, such as different kinds of employment and unemployment rates and GDP per capita, but also more advanced indicators related to accessibility and potentials, such as population reached within 1 hour drive, distance needed to reach 2 million inhabitants and time needed to reach 1 million inhabitants.

The project commenced in June 2014 with UMS RIATE contracted to carry through the service contract. Delivery 1, the Interim Report, was delivered on 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2014. Delivery 2, which included a prototype of the FIT interface tool, was delivered by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2014. Following the testing of the prototype with selected key stakeholders, Delivery 3 was delivered on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2014, which included a revised version of the FIT web interface. The final delivery was delivered on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and is now publicly available on the ESPON 2013 website.

Upholding the Baltic Sea Region – Territorial Monitoring System (Total budget: 64.350,00 €)

This action has aimed at developing a Baltic Sea Monitoring Tool as an integrated element of the ESPON Territorial Monitoring System to ensure the upholding, continuation and long term functionality of the Baltic Sea Monitoring System after the closure of the current project. The service provider, Nordregio, was selected in July 2014 and submitted Delivery 1, Interim Report, on 7 October 2014. The Delivery 2, the Final Report, was delivered by 19 December 2014. The overall appreciation of the Delivery 2 showed that it in a constructive way met the large majority of the expectations included in the service contract. However, the service provider was requested to provide clarification on two issues, which was delivered in January 2015.

Feasibility Study on ESPON on the Web (Total budget: 42.350,00 €)

This action has assessed the key elements of the development and implementation of a number of the ESPON tools and present options how the toolbox can be improved and better integrated. Based on this, the service provider Autonomous University of Barcelona has developed a concrete proposal for a user-friendly, coherent ESPON toolbox architecture, and the related necessary activities to implement, including recommendations and guidance.

The service provider was contracted on 7 August 2014 and the kick-off meeting took place 10 September via Skype. The Interim Report (Delivery 1) was delivered on 5 November 2014, and discussed during a meeting held at the CU premises on 10 November. It was considered particularly positive that the report is well structured and argued both from an analytical and methodological point of view. The report convincingly discusses the strengths and weaknesses of the individual web tools and provides concrete suggestions for improvements.

The Final Report (Delivery 2) was submitted on 17 December 2014 and provides concrete suggestions for strengthening of the ESPON toolbox into a coherent architecture, allowing for an “a-single-point-of-entry”. It discusses additional Web-based interactive tools that can bring added value to the ESPON Programme. Furthermore, the Final Report proposes discusses how the tools can be made as user-

friendly as possible in terms of being accessible, functional practical, hands-on, and functional, including proposals for a “Toolbox wizard” and a “Search interface”.

- **MA-led project 3.4 - Targeted Actions for Update of Indicators and Maps 2011-2014 (Total budget: 369.000 €)**

The strategic objective of this MA-led project as part of the ESPON Scientific Platform has been to contribute to the consolidation of the territorial knowledge needed for informed policy formulation and application. By updating datasets, indicators and maps when newer information is available, the ESPON programme will continue assessing territorial development trends in relation to policy objectives. The outputs of the actions developed has served key inputs for producing ESPON Territorial Observations and presenting new ESPON results for policy makers and practitioners working in the field of territorial development at different geographical scales.

During 2014 the following actions were implemented and finalised.

Matrix on accessibility data for 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2013 (Total budget: 65.000,00 €)

This service contract has aimed at producing matrices, calculation of potential accessibility indicators and elaboration of corresponding ESPON maps by: collecting and harmonising the most recent data available; calculating travel time matrices between NUTS-3 regions for passenger travel for road, rail, air and multimodal (2001, 2006, 2011, 2014) corresponding to the already existing potential accessibility indicators in ESPON; calculating accessibility potential indicators for the most recent data available for road, rail, air, and multimodal; elaboration of maps; analysing the territorial dynamics in an enlarged European territory its regions and cities on accessibility patterns and trends.

The Interim Report (Delivery 1) was timely delivered by the service provider, Spiekermann & Wegener, on 14 February 2014. However, the Draft Final Report (delivery 2) due on 8 August 2014 was substantially delayed despite several reminders from the ESPON CU, which resulted in the application of a penalty in accordance with the contract (see below) The Draft Final Report and data collected (Delivery 2 and 3) was delivered by the 17 November 2014. The Draft Final Report was discussed at a meeting (as part of the contractual obligations) between the service provider and the CU during the ESPON Seminar on 4 December 2014.

The Final Report and all related sub-deliveries (Delivery 4) were submitted on 12 December 2014. The report was considered to fulfil the contractual obligations and it was particularly emphasised that it presents new data and detailed maps with calculated travel matrices 2001-2014, displaying the current situation as well as development trends and dynamics related to varies modes of travel and transport for European regions and the Neighbouring regions with time series from 2001 to 2014.

Harmonised datasets on local units (LAU 2) (Total budget: €59.840,00)

The purpose of this map update has been to enlarge the ESPON’s knowledge base on data comparability from different years and sources. A secondary and equally important focus was on expanding the work developed by ESPON 2013 and thereby responding to the increasing demand for EU-wide harmonised analyses. The objectives of this service contract have included developing guidance to the ESPON research community on the main issues that users have to deal with when collecting and harmonising data at LAU level 2; further development of the ESPON 2013 Database at LAU level 2 with data for EU28+4 on thematically-oriented topics on the basis of the 2001 and 2011 population

and housing censuses; improving data comparability over time and across data sources at LAU level 2 by applying the methodology developed in the framework of the ESPON 2013 programme; and demonstrate that the methodology mentioned above can be replicated more broadly by the ESPON research community.

The project commenced in April 2014 with Accademia Europa Bolzano (EURAC) contracted to carry through the service contract. Delivery 1, the Interim Report, was delivered on 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2014. Delivery 2, an inventory of data available at LAU2 Level for EU28+4, was formally delivered by the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2014. The Draft Final Report (Delivery 3) was delivered on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2014. Following comments from the CU and amendments to the Draft Final Report, the Final Report was delivered on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014. A meeting was also held with the EC to discuss the research findings on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2014.

#### Filling in Data Gaps in the ESPON Database (Total budget: €64.925,00)

This action has been aimed at collecting count data and metadata, building up time series and filling in existing data gaps, related to the ESPON Database, on (1) population data, (2) employment by age group and gender as well as (3) employment by economic sector. Specific attention has been given to fill data gaps for ESPON Partner States (CH, IS, LI, NO). This update of indicators and maps is considered especially useful for future data strategies and indicator updates of the ESPON Programme.

The service provider, ÖIR, was contracted 6 May 2014 and the kick-off meeting held on 27 May 2014 in Luxembourg. The service provider delivered an Interim Delivery on time by 27 June 2014 and a Draft Final Delivery on time by 11 September 2014. A Draft Final Delivery meeting took place in Luxembourg on 25 September 2014. The Final Delivery was submitted on time by 14 November 2014. These deliveries of this action fulfil the contractual obligations as laid down in the service contract in an overall good quality.

#### Update of Maps and Related Data on Climate Change (Total budget: 63.025,00)

The activities for “Feasibility studies on selected topics in relation to the maintenance and development of the ESPON Database” were replaced by an “Update of Maps and Related Data on Climate Change”.

The main objective of this action is to carry out a service contract for updating the following indicators: (1) climate change exposure of Europe’s regions, (2) climate change sensitivity and aggregated potential impact of climate change on Europe’s regions and (3) adaptive capacity and vulnerability of European regions to climate change of the ESPON Climate project. Based on the results achieved, this service contract analyzes territorial trends of the European territory and its regions in regard to climate change. Specific attention is given to fill data gaps for ESPON Partner States (CH, IS, LI, NO).

The call for tender for this service contract was open from 1st February 2014 to 18 March 2014, according to a European open procedure. Two tenders were timely received. The final award of the service contract for the implementation of this action was given to Plan + Risk Consult from Germany and the kick-off meeting has taken place in Luxembourg on 8 July 2014.

The service provider delivered an Interim Delivery on time by 5 August 2014. A Draft Final Delivery was submitted on time by 6 October 2014 and an improved Draft Final Delivery by 18 November 2014. A Draft Final Delivery meeting was organised on 21

November 2014 in Luxembourg. The Final Delivery was delivered by 22 December 2014, which was considered to fulfil the contractual obligations laid down in the service contract in an overall good quality. On this basis the ESPON CU on behalf of the MA formally accepted the final delivery of the service contract 157/2014 by 17 February 2015.

Output Indicators	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of actions realised	0	20	0	2	6	7	10	14	17	17
Number of new, updated and improved tools, models, methodologies developed	0	15	0	3	10	14	17	21	26 <sup>8</sup>	38
Number of territorial indicators defined	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	29	29	74
Number of periodic territorial monitoring reports published	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Results Indicators <sup>9</sup>	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of downloads for support of data and tools (from the ESPON website) and geographical spread of users	0	2000	0	208.483	459.938	696.765	1.009.934	1.339.445	1.738.443	2.182.983
Number of downloads for territorial monitoring reports (from the ESPON website) and geographical spread of users	0	500	0	208.483	459.938	696.765	1.009.934	1.339.445	1.738.443	2.182.983

<sup>8</sup> In the previous Annual Implementation Report an incorrect 'Number of new, updated and improved tools, models, methodologies developed' has been identified for the year 2013. This was a calculation mistake which has been corrected.

<sup>9</sup> Since the ESPON CU does not have the specific data for the number of downloads of data and tools / territorial monitoring reports, the figure presented refers to the total number of website hits.

Impact Indicators	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Degree of usefulness (expressed for the different Scientific Platform components) in the context of ESPON applied research actions and policy development processes (with levels: high, medium, low).	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Number of ESPON-external documents making reference to ESPON data, tools or reproducing ESPON maps	0	100	0	4	13	22	27	39	53	60 <sup>10</sup>

**NI:** Not implemented: The indicator is implemented, but not for the specific year.

**NP:** Not applicable: The indicator does not apply. It will never be implemented.

**NA:** Not available: The indicator is implemented but you don't know the values yet for the specific year.

### Qualitative analysis

The implementation of the subsidy contracted projects within the *Priority 3 Scientific Platform 2011-14* was finalised during 2014 (in few cases in the early part of 2015). In total 10 projects has been carried out during the ESPON 2013 Programme. Overall, these projects have contributed the strengthening and further development of the fundamental elements of the ESPON Scientific Platform, such as territorial indicators, extension of the database, maps and different mapping facilities, and for the first time an interactive e-handbook for mobile platforms. While these projects have had a longer duration and wider objectives, the 11 service contracts carried out under the *MA-led projects 2011-2014*: “3.2b Territorial Indicators, Indexes and Tools” (6 projects) and “3.4 Updates of Indicators and Maps” (5 projects) were of short-term character and had a specific topic and in several cases an exploratory approach, e.g. as the “ESPON on the Web” which provided a concrete proposal for an integrated web-based toolbox.

### 3.3.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

In the final stages of both of the subsidy contracted projects and the service contracts within the *Priority 3 Scientific Platform 2011-14* delays occurred, which in most cases did not have any significant impact on the final outputs and deliveries. However, as

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<sup>10</sup> As example the following external document has been received during 2014. Many more documents are relevant, however it is impossible to ensure that the ESPON CU receives all despite asking so:

- Galjaard, R. (2014): Thematic study: Demographic change and knowledge development in the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme, Vienna.

mentioned above, the service provider contracted for the “Travel Matrices on Accessibility” was substantially delayed in delivering the Draft Final Report due on 8 August 2014 despite several reminders from the ESPON CU. In order to rectify the situation and ensure a successful completion of the project, the ESPON CU, the MA, and the service provider, Spiekermann & Wegener, came to an agreement on a penalty and subsequent reduction of the contract payment, which was stipulated in letter from the MA to the service provider, dated 7 November 2014.

### **3.4. Priority 4**

#### **3.4.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress**

##### **Priority 4 TNA projects**

The TNA projects have been subject to call for proposals from the ECP based on the specifications in the Operational Programme and in some cases with additional “Call Specific Criteria” decided by the ESPON MC. The proposals have been evaluated by the ESPON CU for approval by the ESPON MC and implemented as subsidy contracts.

During 2014 the following two TNA projects were ongoing and finalised:

- **USESPON – Use ESPON (Total budget: 498.860,00 €)**

USESPON has supported the use of work and findings from ESPON 2013 by aiming at creating awareness and a sense of ownership amongst key stakeholders regarding the use of methods and tools developed within the programme. The strategy has been to draw on and share work done in four previous TNA projects by pooling the resources developed in these projects. This has included:

- Building and further developing e-learning platforms and training materials (ESPONTrain);
- Providing learning support through interactive workshops (INTERSTRAT);
- Exploring the opportunities offered by the inter-relation of spatial scales when using ESPON methods (SCALES)
- Capitalising on key territorial concepts (CaDEC).

USESPON has primarily focused on capitalisation of a European perspective on territorial development and cohesion through giving stakeholders key methods to interpret ESPON results in their context, but also taking this further by showing how the stakeholders can use the methods. The main activities carried out by the LP of USESPON, the Royal Town Planning Institute, UK and 5 other ECPs have included:

- Identification of key potential stakeholders in the EU Member States and Partner States of the ESPON 2013 Programme represented by partners in the TPG, as well as transnational bodies concerned with geographical specificities;
- Design and delivery of support materials for each of the method chosen, including short, user-friendly, step by step guides on how to use the methods;
- Preparation of the Virtual Learning Environment based on ESPON methods, including, as well as design and delivery of four interactive workshops which were held in Germany, Luxembourg, Greece and Poland;
- Design and delivery of a final transnational conference in the UK on 15 November 2013, presenting a synthesis of the work, and promote ESPON more widely, including evaluation by participants.

The project reports were delivered according to the agreed extended deadlines: the Draft Final Report on 31 January 2014 and the Final Report until 31 March 2014.

- **ESPONontheROAD - Bringing closer ESPON evidence for decision making (Total budget: 699.123,68 €)**

The ESPONontheROAD project has been the last TNA to be carried out within the ESPON 2013 Programme. The project involved a record number of 19 ECPs in a variety of innovative activities to boost the transnational capitalisation of ESPON to ensure a “touch-down” in the North, West, South as well as East Europe, both in terms of the composition of the TPG and the activities carried out. The project has had the following main characteristics:

- Implementation of creative, interactive and innovative activities/events targeting stakeholders at national and local level (policy-makers and practitioners), as well as a wider public.
- Ensuring the highest possible exposure to ESPON project findings, publications and tools through well-designed, additional dissemination activities, involving e.g. social media, e-learning, and translations of relevant publications.
- When relevant involving professional/specialised support that can provide the necessary event-making and journalistic services to ensure high quality and innovative activities.
- Foresee translation of a number of key texts and publications, and support of “event-making and journalistic” professionals via sub-contracting.

The Kick-off meeting of the ESPONontheROAD project took place on 22 January 2014. The requested “Capitalisation and Outreach Strategy” was delivered by the LP on 25 April 2014, including templates for event report, info materials and social media manual, and a short Interim Report on 7 July 2015. The Final Report was delivered on the agreed extended deadline 3 February 2015, together with an extensive volume of annexed material. In addition, the designated project website, Facebook page and Twitter account also reflects the substantial outreach activities undertaken by the project partners. The material produced by the project team will be useful in future capitalisation activities of ESPON

The main results in terms of capitalisation were the following:

- Dissemination of ESPON results, especially the results of the most recent applied research, targeted analyses and tools.
- Increased capitalisation of ESPON results on a transnational level.
- Informed and involved local level stakeholders, policymakers and practitioners.
- Reaching “non-SPATIALists”, wider semi-professional or non-professional public with ESPON results.
- Supported discussion with territorial evidence related to current policy and political discussions.

A total of 35 events totally with 1,950 participants were held throughout Europe which targeted stakeholders at the local, regional and national level and to serve as a meeting place for scientific evidence on European territorial development and the perception of



territorial development at a local level. Journalists were also involved to support communication in some cases with a media presence in newspapers, TV, radio or blogs.

#### **Priority 4 MA-led projects**

Besides the above-mentioned TNA projects, the Operational Programme defines some actions financed under Priority 4 as MA-led projects, which are implemented directly by the MA who, in this context, assumes the role of LP and has the same duties and reporting requirements as any other LP. The MA-led projects are approved by the MC based on short project descriptions developed by the MA, which includes information relating to the objectives, activities, budget and timeframe for the implementation.

The CU together with the MA has implemented the projects according to the relevant public procurement procedure. The monitoring of the activities has been managed by CU experts, validating and approving of the project deliveries. In this process the CU experts have worked closely with the service providers ensuring highest quality of the deliveries and that deadlines have been met.

The actions under the Priority 4 MA-led projects have been carried out within 4.1a-c “Media and Publications” and 4.2 “European Seminars and Workshops”. The progress on the ongoing actions during 2013 is presented below:

- **MA-led project 4.1a. Media & Publications 2011-2014 (Total budget: 710.000,00 €)**

The publications carried out within this project peaked during 2014 and have included a wide range of products divided into three main categories:

1. ESPON Programme Publications: consist of the major publications that are mentioned in the ESPON 2013 Programme documents, namely ESPON Synthesis Report, ESPON Scientific Reports, ESPON Territorial Observations and ESPON Territorial Monitoring Reports.
2. ESPON Project-related publications: ESPON Atlas 2013, Territorial Impact Assessment, Scenarios on Territorial Development, Indicators/Atlas on EU 2020 Strategy, Territorial Evidence for Structural Fund Programming and Best Practices Handbook for Territorial Governance.
3. Supporting ESPON Publications and Collaterals: consist of a high number of various publications and printed products/collaterals related to ESPON activities and events as well as promotional material and compilations of overviews of the progress of the ESPON Programme. This category includes, for example ESPON Seminar Reports, Policy Briefs and Factsheets, ESPON Posters, Map of the Month, and articles and presentation materials.

This has been implemented based on three framework service contracts for External Expertise, Corporate ID & Layout, and Printing.

#### External Expertise 2012-2014 (Total budget 295.000,00 €)

During 2014 the following requests for drafting and finalising were made to the External Expertise service provider:

- Second ESPON 2013 Scientific Report: Science in support of European Territorial Development and Cohesion (February 2014);

- Territorial Observation 10: Potentials and Challenges for Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland - and for the European Union (February 2014);
- Evidence Brief 7: Territorial Evidence for European Structural and Investment Funds (March 2014);
- Evidence Brief 8: A territorial monitoring tool for a European macro-region: the example of the Baltic Sea Region (April 2014);
- Report: Towards Better Territorial Governance in Europe - A guide for practitioners, policy and decision makers based on contributions from the ESPON TANGO Project (May 2014);
- Evidence Brief 9: CityBench Webtool: Urban Benchmarking. A quick scan tool supporting investment decisions (May 2014);
- Territorial Observation 11: European Neighbourhoods (May 2014);
- ESPON Seminar Report (Nafplio, Greece): Opportunities and threats for territorial cohesion: Blue Growth and Urban Poverty (August 2014);
- Evidence Brief 10: Understanding Green Economy. The shift towards green solutions in European regions (September 2014);
- ESPON Synthesis Report 3: Territories finding a New Momentum: Evidence for Policy Development, Growth and Investment (September 2014);
- ESPON ATLAS 2013: Mapping European Territorial Structures and Dynamics (November 2014);
- Territorial Observation No 13: Evidence for a European Urban Agenda (November 2014);
- Evidence Brief No 11: At Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion in European Regions (November 2014);
- ESPON Scientific Report 3: Progress on a European Platform for Applied Territorial Science (December 2014).

In addition, the following publications were drafted and delivered by ESPON projects in cooperation with the CU:

- Handbook - Detecting Territorial Potential and Challenges (June 2014). This was available both in PDF version available at the ESPON website and as an interactive e-book for use on mobile platforms (the first produced by ESPON);
- Report: Making Europe Open and Polycentric – Vision and Scenarios for the European Territory” (September 2014);
- Territorial Observation No 12: Economic Crisis and the Resilience of Regions (October 2014);
- Territorial Monitoring Report: Towards the Territorial Agenda of the EU 2020 (December 2014)
- Facts and Figures: Outline of Key European Territorial Dynamics (November 2014).

Layout and Design 2012-2014 (Total budget 190.000 €)

Within the framework of this service contract layout services were delivered on the following main publications and collaterals during 2014:

- Scientific Reports 2-3
- Territorial Observations 10-13
- Evidence Briefs 7-11
- Guidance report: Governance
- ESPON Posters
- Open Seminar Report
- Synthesis Report 3
- Fact & Figures Monitoring booklet
- Territorial Monitoring Report
- Posters
- Seminar and Workshop programs

#### Printing 2012-2014 (170.000 €)

Within the framework of this service contract printing services were delivered on the following main publications and collaterals during 2014:

- Scientific Reports 2-3
- Synthesis Report 3
- Territorial Observations 9-13
- Evidence Brief 6 -11
- Handbook on Territorial Governance
- Report Vision 2050
- ESPON 2013 Atlas
- Fact & Figures Booklet: Territorial Monitoring
- Territorial Monitoring report
- Programmes for conferences, seminars and workshops
- Corporate folders
- Posters

#### Sending (20.000 €)

The sending of publications to the various beneficiaries and stakeholders of ESPON has mainly been done by the service provider for the printing service contract, while other printed material and collaterals has been taken care of by the ESPON CU.

#### • **MA-led project 4.1c. Website 2011-2014 (Total Budget: 75.000,00 €)**

This MA-led project covers a service contract for the ESPON Website, which is structured around five main elements: the ESPON 2013 website, additional internet

facilities, tools and web applications, PMSS, ESPON Intranet and the e-mail system. During 2014 the following main activities have been carried out by the service provider:

- Hosting of the five elements on one or more servers managed by the service provider;
  - Maintenance of the five elements mentioned above;
  - Update server software environment for the website;
  - Update server software environment for the tools;
  - Installing web analytics tool PiWik;
  - Preparing statistics on Database Portal;
  - Installing new Database Portal including the database content;
  - Installing the ESPON tools TIA and Functional Indicators Tool;
  - Developing CMS solution for BSR-TeMo;
  - Training session and manual on Outlook Calendar.
- **MA-led project 4.2 European Seminars & Workshops 2011-2014 (Total Budget: 394.000 €)**

The activities carried out during 2014 included the following Seminars/Conferences and Workshops:

- Conference: “Territorial Development in Europe: Potentials and Challenges for Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland – and for the European Union” in Brussels, 11 March 2014.

This conference was organised in cooperation with the Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE, Switzerland, to present and discuss ESPON evidence on the territorial development of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. The main aim of the conference was to address issues related to development potentials, challenges and possible scenarios. These included:

- Territorial development and cooperation: Additional options for Partner States and EU Member States jointly contributing to European smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;
- International, national and regional gateways: Options for jointly stimulating growth, providing services of general economic and social interest;
- Transport corridors and flows of goods, people and information: Promoting important infrastructures and sustainable connections between EU and Partner States, and to the wider world markets, such as through Arctic waters;
- Territories with specific potentials and challenges: Harvesting upon the territorial diversity of specific types of territories and supporting areas in need.

A roundtable discussion at the end of the conference allowed high-level representatives from Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and the EU to discuss and exchange on common initiatives for growth. The conference was attended by 51 participants.

- Conference: “Making the European Territory Open and Polycentric”, in Brussels 29 April 2014.

This conference focused on the ESPON project ET2050 which has had the task to support a territorial vision-building process, involving the 31 countries behind the programme in a participatory process to elaborate a Territorial Vision for Europe in 2050 and possible political pathways that can lead Europe towards this vision. During the conference the project partners presented scenarios aimed at stimulating a debate in support of adjusting the vision document by integrating ideas and wishes from the participants. The conference had three main objectives:

- To raise awareness among all relevant stakeholders on the work done and stimulate dialogue and cooperation on the final development of a Territorial Vision for Europe towards 2050.
- To create a sense of ownership of the relevant stakeholders for the Territorial Vision and a shared overall vision, basic assumptions and goals.
- To encourage policy-makers in using the Territorial Vision 2050 in relevant policy processes in need of a long-term European territorial framework.

The conference was attended by 68 participants.

- ESPON Open Seminar: “Opportunities and threats for territorial cohesion: Blue Growth and Urban Poverty”, 4-5 June 2014 in Nafplion, Greece.

This Seminar was organised in cooperation with the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU and addressed the two priorities of the Hellenic Presidency, namely blue growth and urban poverty, in the context of the current economic crisis with. The two main purposes were to: (1) Allowing policy-makers, practitioners and researchers to share concrete experiences, discuss the use of territorial evidence and identify development options relevant to the two themes; (2) Demonstrating the usefulness and capability of the ESPON knowledge base for policy-makers, practitioners and researchers alike. The seminar gathered 220 participants, including policy makers, practitioners, scientists and experts.

- ESPON Seminar: “Territories Acting for Economic Growth – Using territorial evidence to meet challenges towards 2020” in 4-5 December 2014 in Rome, Italy.

This seminar focused on ESPON 2013 Programme results in relation to thematic priorities of the Trio of EU Presidency countries, Italy, Latvia and Luxembourg. The seminar addressed themes and integrated approaches that can stimulate territories, regions and cities in providing the necessary contributions to economic growth. In doing so, it also looked towards the long term future of the European territory. The event was organised in cooperation with the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The Seminar was attended by more than 180 participants.

### **ESPON Workshops**

- Workshop: “Scenarios and modelling in the framework of exploring Territorial Cohesion” in **Brussels 4 September 2014**.

This workshop aimed at providing a dialogue and exchange of experiences between modellers involved in development of scenarios linked to cohesion policy and to discuss the reasons behind the similarities and differences between the results of the various regional models applied at EU level for assessing the impact of Cohesion Policy and to identify advantages and strengths of the models and to look into the next generation of models. The following models were presented and discussed during the workshop:

- QUEST – a global macro-economic model *DG ECFIN*
- RHOMOLO – a dynamic spatial general equilibrium model *DG JRC and DG Regio*
- MASST 3 – an econometric and macroeconomic partial equilibrium model *Politecnico di Milano*
- SASI – a recursive simulation model *Spiekermann & Wegener Urban and Regional Research*

The main target group for this workshop were researchers, experts and representatives from European Institutions and organisations active in the field of EU Cohesion Policy and territorial development and involved/interested in scenario building and modelling. The workshop was attended by 37 participants.

- Workshop: “Green Economy in European Regions” in Brussels 29 September 2014.

This workshop intended to present and discuss the recent and future relevance of the green economy in the territorial development of European regions. The workshop included territorial evidence that has been produced by the ESPON GREECO project ‘Territorial Potentials for a Greener Economy’ and the ESPON Evidence Brief No.10 on “Understanding Green Economy”. The workshop was attended by 31 participants.

- Workshop: “Territorial Evidence for an Urban Agenda” in Brussels 25 November 2014

This workshop intended to present and discuss what ESPON territorial evidence can add to the gathering, combining and exchanging knowledge to inform the debate on progressing EU urban development policies, including integrated, coherent and holistic approaches across sectors, governance levels and territories. Evidence was presented from a number of ESPON projects with an urban focus. This was supported by an ESPON Territorial Observation No.13 which was available before the workshop. The workshop was attended by 52 participants.

In addition, as made possible in the project description for Strategic MA-led Project 4.2 “European Seminars and Workshops”, ESPON has invited and in some cases funded external experts from previous and phasing-out ESPON projects and partners or other relevant person to participate at events organised by appropriate organisations. During the period in question, this was the case for:

- AESOP Annual Congress (Europeans School of Planning (9-12 July, Utrecht);
- TIA workshop at the Committee of Regions (9 September 2014, Brussels);
- Open Days: Joint Workshop for INTERREG IVC, URBACT, INTERACT and ESPON (8 October 2014 in Brussels);

- ENPARD South regional seminar “Agriculture and rural development: Sharing best practices and experience with research actors” (16 and 17 October, 2014 in Brussels);
- “TIA workshop based on ESPON quick-scan methodology. Analysing the smooth phasing out of the milk quotas in the EU” (27<sup>th</sup> November 2014, in Brussels).

Output Indicators	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of actions realised	0	30	0	3	6	8	14	16	16	17
Number of European Seminars / workshops realised	0	14	0	3	8	12	16	20	26	33
Number of TNAs realised	0	14	0	0	0	2	5	7	7	8
Number of press releases, e-newsletters	0	10	0	3	15	29	39	57	71	76
Number of larger and smaller reports / publications issued	0	12	0	8	11	18	24 <sup>11</sup>	28	42 <sup>12</sup>	65
Results Indicators	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of participants in all European Seminars / Workshops	0	150	0	205	640	1017	1434	1790	2290	2936
Average number of participants per seminar / event	0	30	0	68	80	85	90	90	88	89

<sup>11</sup> In the previous Annual Implementation Report an incorrect ‘Number of larger and smaller reports / publications issued’ has been identified for the year 2011. This was a calculation mistake which has been corrected.

<sup>12</sup> In the previous Annual Implementation Report an incorrect ‘Number of larger and smaller reports / publications issued’ has been identified for the year 2013. This was a calculation mistake which has been corrected.

Number of participants in all TNAs <sup>13</sup>	0	400	0	0	0	15	40	54	54	74
Average number of participants per action <sup>14</sup>	0	40	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	9
Number of stakeholders reached by mailing lists and by visiting the ESPON website <sup>15</sup>	0	500	0	1.864 / 208.483	2.149/ 459.938	2.848 / 696.765	3.244/ 1.009.934	3.592/ 1.339.445	3888/ 1.738.443	4163/ 2.182.983
Impact Indicators	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Degree of capitalisation and increased awareness achieved among the participants of European Seminars/ Workshops	NP	NP	NI <sup>16</sup>	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Degree of capitalisation and increased awareness achieved among the participants of TNAs	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP

**NI:** Not implemented: The indicator is implemented, but not for the specific year.

**NP:** Not applicable: The indicator does not apply. It will never be implemented.

**NA:** Not available: The indicator is implemented but you don't know the values yet for the specific year.

### Qualitative analysis

Overall, the both the subsidy and service contracts under this priority has provided important input and added value to the ESPON 2013 Programme. As the last TNA project, ESPON on the ROAD, involved a record number of 19 ECPs and over 200 partners. Together with the high number of publications and events during 2014, as well

<sup>13</sup> This result indicator presents the number of institutes involved in all TNAs.

<sup>14</sup> This result indicator identifies the average number of institutes involved per TNA.

<sup>15</sup> These figures present (1) the number of newsletter subscribers and (2) the number of website visits.

<sup>16</sup> This field was updated for the Annual Implementation Report 2014.



as the extensive use of the ESPON website, this has ensured a maximisation of capitalisation and dissemination activities at national and transnational level.

### 3.4.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems were encountered during this final year of implementation of Priority 4 projects.

## 4. Technical Assistance

The TA activities focused on implementing and monitoring the programme and the operations. These tasks were implemented by the CU in its role of support to the ESPON MA.

The ESPON CU focused its work on the following elements:

- Support to Member States in setting up Member States duties towards the implementation of the ESPON 2013 Programme such as following up on the set up of the FLC, appointments of MC and ECP members etc.;
- Organisation and support of MC meetings and implementation of the MC decisions;
- Setting up, adaptation and improvements of procedures for the programme management of operations and programme monitoring at different levels;
- Coordination activities with the MA and CA;
- Support to the GoA for the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Financial Control level, in particular the approval of the audits of operations and the Annual Control Report and opinion;
- Contracting of the approved operations and monitoring their progress in assessing Inception, Interim and Draft Final Reports;
- Further monitoring and assessment of ongoing operations;
- Elaboration of the new publications (see detailed overviews under 4.1a above)
- Organisation and running of ECP meetings;
- Organisation of the ESPON Internal Seminar;
- Communicate the programme results and aims at a series of events during 2014.

Output Indicators	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of MC meetings	NI	14	2	4	7	11	15	19	23	26
Number of Concertation Committee meetings organised	NI	14	2	6	7	10	11	11	11	11

Number of Internal ESPON seminars	NI	7 <sup>17</sup>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7
Number of ECP meetings	NI	14	0	3	6	8	10	12	14	16
Number of events for potential and selected beneficiaries	NI	14	0	4	8	12	16	18	21	23
Results Indicators	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of on-the-spot-checks showing no significant results <sup>18</sup>	NI	95	0	0	0	2	2	4	4	4
Number of participants in Internal ESPON seminars <sup>19</sup>	NI	2.500	0	118	279	444	649	839	1.029	1.029
Number of participants in information events for potential beneficiaries	NI	400	0	322	561	879	1.309	1.409	1.432	1.535
Number of participants in information events for selected beneficiaries	NI	100	0	41	72	168	283	330	400	412
Volume of mailing list	NI	1.000	1.442	2.894	5.731	7.467	11.016	12.266	13.390	14.453
Quality of process launching projects in the light of programme evaluations <sup>20</sup>	NI	High	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NP
Impact Indicators	Initial Baseline	Final Target	Achievements							
			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Level of importance of audit finding as reported in Annual audit report	NI	Low	NI <sup>21</sup>	NI <sup>22</sup>	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

<sup>17</sup> In the Operational Programme the target for seminars are 14. However, 7 of the seminars envisaged are implemented under Priority 4.

<sup>18</sup> This indicator presents the cumulative number of MA quality checks on the spot, the audit of operations by the external auditor is not included.

<sup>19</sup> The Internal ESPON seminars are paid under the TA budget and therefore indicated in this table. Open ESPON seminars are included in the table for the Capitalisation Strategy.

<sup>20</sup> This indicator was envisaged to be occasionally included. However, it turned out not to be applicable.

<sup>21</sup> This field was updated for the Annual Implementation Report 2014.

<sup>22</sup> This field was updated for the Annual Implementation Report 2014.

Degree of satisfaction with information, services and support provided to the MC, ECP and partners <sup>23</sup>	NI	High	NP	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NP
Degree of satisfaction of potential partners with the information given on ESPON	NI	High	NI	High <sup>24</sup>	High <sup>25</sup>	High <sup>26</sup>	High <sup>27</sup>	High <sup>28</sup>	High <sup>29</sup>	NI

**NI:** Not implemented: The indicator is implemented, but not for the specific year.

**NP:** Not applicable: The indicator does not apply. It will never be implemented.

**NA:** Not available: The indicator is implemented but you don't know the values yet for the specific year.

During 2014 most of the tasks were related to the monitoring and closing of ongoing projects, the implementation of audits of operations, follow-up on quality checks of the CA on operations and quality checks of Member States and Partner States on FLC. For further information on the audits of operations, annual control report and opinion, MA/CA quality checks and MS/PS quality checks on FLC performed in 2014, see sections 2.1 and 2.3.

Furthermore, in order to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the implementation of the Programme and also in order to avoid the financial de-commitment the following steps have been taken:

- A special Financial Managers Seminars has been organised for LPs who were facing delays with the submission of their financial progress reports. It took place on 3 April 2014 in Barcelona, Spain. The attended financial managers of Lead and Project Partners of approved ESPON 2013 projects and the first level financial controllers got targeted support from the ESPON CU with the preparation and pre-checking of their reporting documents. With the assistance of the ESPON CU the progress reports were corrected and completed. The LPs received guidance to contact their Project Partners with eventual clarification requests that facilitated the evaluation of the reporting documents after the submission of the reporting documents. At the seminars information were given also about eligibility rules, reporting and monitoring procedures, legal and practical matters of relevance concerning project coordination and management.

#### ***4.1 Financial implementation of certified TA***

The tables below provide information on the financial implementation of TA actions and represent expenditure incurred by the MA which has been certified to the EC by the CA according to Article 16 of Regulation 1080/2006 and therefore recorded as Programme expenditure.

<sup>23</sup> This indicator was envisaged to be occasionally included. However, it turned out not to be applicable.

<sup>24</sup> Based on the evaluation of the Info Day and Partner Cafe` as well as the Financial Managers Seminar (see point 5.1.3).

<sup>25</sup> Based on the evaluation of the Financial Managers Seminar.

<sup>26</sup> Based on the evaluation of the Financial Managers Seminar.

<sup>27</sup> Based on the evaluation of the Financial Managers Seminar.

<sup>28</sup> Based on the evaluation of the Financial Managers Seminar.

<sup>29</sup> No survey was organised at events during 2013. However, the CU collected positive feedback on the spot from participants during several events.

The following table shows the TA budget lines 1 to 9 for the year 2007 certified to EC as approved by the MC:

TA budget lines 1-9	Allocation 2007	Certified 2009	Certified 2014	Total cert. 2007-2014	ERDF (24%)
1 Staff	130 762,12 €	130 762,12 €	0,00 €	130 762,12 €	31 388,58 €
2 Trainees	4 960,46 €	4 960,46 €	0,00 €	4 960,46 €	1 190,73 €
3 CU and MA Travel costs	13 882,16 €	13 882,16 €	0,00 €	13 882,16 €	3 332,32 €
4 MC travel and meeting costs	11 473,43 €	8 984,63 €	2 488,80 €	11 473,43 €	2 754,12 €
5 CC meetings	2 316,68 €	2 316,68 €	0,00 €	2 316,68 €	556,10 €
6 ECP meetings	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
7 ESPON Internal Seminar	11 683,69 €	6 138,69 €	5 545,00 €	11 683,69 €	2 804,59 €
8 Rent (incl. Parking, cleaning, heating, insurances etc.)	29 958,29 €	29 958,29 €	0,00 €	29 958,29 €	7 191,29 €
9 Overheads, installation, postal services, telephone etc.	12 791,23 €	12 791,23 €	0,00 €	12 791,23 €	3 070,45 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>217 828,06 €</b>	<b>209 794,26 €</b>	<b>8 033,80 €</b>	<b>217 828,06 €</b>	<b>52 288,17 €</b>

The following table shows the TA budget lines 1 to 9 for the year 2008 certified to the EC, as approved by the MC:

TA budget lines 1-9	Allocation 2008	Certified 2009	Certified 2014	Total cert. 2007-2014	ERDF (24%)
1 Staff	508 715,77 €	373 628,02 €	135 087,75 €	508 715,77 €	122 113,83 €
2 Trainees	9 682,54 €	9 682,54 €	0,00 €	9 682,54 €	2 324,23 €
3 CU and MA Travel costs	32 704,81 €	20 354,17 €	12 303,44 €	32 657,61 €	7 839,24 €
4 MC travel and meeting costs	14 150,24 €	4 398,26 €	9 751,98 €	14 150,24 €	3 396,67 €
5 CC meetings	4 532,51 €	2 055,21 €	2 477,30 €	4 532,51 €	1 088,00 €
6 ECP meetings	21 249,04 €	13 132,43 €	8 116,61 €	21 249,04 €	5 100,69 €
7 ESPON Internal Seminar	11 334,30 €	11 033,10 €	301,20 €	11 334,30 €	2 720,72 €
8 Rent (incl. Parking, cleaning, heating, insurances etc.)	66 157,53 €	0,00 €	66 153,44 €	66 153,44 €	15 879,69 €
9 Overheads, installation, postal services, telephone etc.	15 836,37 €	12 125,26 €	3 711,11 €	15 836,37 €	3 801,42 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>684 363,11 €</b>	<b>446 408,99 €</b>	<b>237 902,83 €</b>	<b>684 311,82 €</b>	<b>164 264,49 €</b>

The following table shows the TA budget lines 1 to 9 for the year 2009 certified to the EC, as approved by the MC:

TA budget lines 1-9	Allocation 2009	Certified 2014	Total cert. 2007-2014	ERDF (24%)
1 Staff	586 346,70 €	586 346,70 €	586 346,70 €	140 748,62 €
2 Trainees	9 942,49 €	9 942,49 €	9 942,49 €	2 386,63 €
3 CU and MA Travel costs	49 339,22 €	49 136,87 €	49 136,87 €	11 794,98 €
4 MC travel and meeting costs	20 468,39 €	20 468,40 €	20 468,40 €	4 913,30 €
5 CC meetings	2 269,90 €	2 269,90 €	2 269,90 €	544,87 €
6 ECP meetings	33 666,77 €	32 520,58 €	32 520,58 €	7 806,35 €
7 ESPON Internal Seminar	19 105,29 €	19 105,29 €	19 105,29 €	4 586,10 €
8 Rent (incl. Parking, cleaning, heating, insurances etc.)	63 573,17 €	63 371,90 €	63 371,90 €	15 212,00 €
9 Overheads, installation, postal services, telephone etc.	22 193,91 €	9 613,44 €	9 613,44 €	2 307,64 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>806 905,84 €</b>	<b>792 775,57 €</b>	<b>792 775,57 €</b>	<b>190 300,49 €</b>

The following table shows the TA budget lines 1 to 9 for the year 2010 certified to the EC, as approved by the MC:

TA budget lines 1-9	Allocation 2010	Certified 2014	Total cert. 2007-2014	ERDF (24%)
1 Staff	600 860,09 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
2 Trainees	14 683,82 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
3 CU and MA Travel costs	48 001,46 €	2 962,27 €	2 962,27 €	711,07 €
4 MC travel and meeting costs	28 076,43 €	20 358,59 €	20 358,59 €	4 886,94 €
5 CC meetings	779,61 €	662,61 €	662,61 €	159,06 €
6 ECP meetings	20 187,54 €	18 817,94 €	18 817,94 €	4 517,12 €
7 ESPON Internal Seminar	19 365,40 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
8 Rent (incl. Parking, cleaning, heating, insurances etc.)	60 557,69 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
9 Overheads, installation, postal services, telephone etc.	17 144,62 €	4 808,75 €	4 808,75 €	1 154,31 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>809 656,66 €</b>	<b>47 610,16 €</b>	<b>47 610,16 €</b>	<b>11 428,50 €</b>

The following table shows the TA budget lines 1 to 9 for the year 2011 certified to the EC, as approved by the MC:

TA budget lines 1-9	Allocation 2011	Certified 2014	Total cert. 2007-2014	ERDF (24%)
1 Staff	700 602,56 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
2 Trainees	13 999,98 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
3 CU and MA Travel costs	71 398,78 €	2 471,37 €	2 471,37 €	593,24 €
4 MC travel and meeting costs	26 945,63 €	8 712,10 €	8 712,10 €	2 091,28 €
5 CC meetings	31,43 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
6 ECP meetings	25 335,84 €	8 058,46 €	8 058,46 €	1 934,38 €
7 ESPON Internal Seminar	21 662,32 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
8 Rent (incl. Parking, cleaning, heating, insurances etc.)	62 000,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
9 Overheads, installation, postal services, telephone etc.	23 060,86 €	4 839,46 €	4 839,46 €	1 161,68 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>945 037,40 €</b>	<b>24 081,39 €</b>	<b>24 081,39 €</b>	<b>5 780,58 €</b>

The following table shows the TA budget lines 10 to 14 for the period 2007-2014 certified to the EC as approved by the MC:

TA budget lines 10-14	Allocation 2007-2013	Certified 2009	Certified 2014	Total cert. 2007-2014	ERDF (24%)
10 GoA - meetings and external contract	450 000,00 €	196,50 €	162 575,32 €	162 771,82 €	39 072,29 €
11 Financial Monitoring System and maintenance	195 500,00 €	6 597,20 €	145 088,95 €	151 686,15 €	36 411,25 €
12 Programme evaluation	138 480,00 €	0,00 €	63 480,00 €	63 480,00 €	15 237,95 €
13 Experts costs (legal etc.)	35 000,00 €	0,00 €	29 598,14 €	29 598,14 €	7 104,84 €
14 Communication Plan	466 000,00 €	18 828,19 €	51 955,87 €	70 784,06 €	16 991,24 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 284 980,00 €</b>	<b>25 621,89 €</b>	<b>452 698,28 €</b>	<b>478 320,17 €</b>	<b>114 817,57 €</b>

#### **4.2 Financial implementation of not yet certified TA**

Due to the complexity of procedures, in relation to the FLC, some delay incurred in getting the TA costs certified. A special effort has been made during 2013 and 2014 in relation to the preparation of Progress Report and further certification shall be implemented during 2015.

The tables below provide information on the financial implementation of TA actions and represent expenditures incurred by the MA which have not been certified yet according to Article 16 of Regulation 1080/2006 and therefore not yet recorded as Programme expenditure. The amounts in the table below should therefore be added to the ones indicated in the table above, as expenditures already certified to the EC, to have a complete overview of the use of the TA (certified and not yet certified).

The following table shows the TA budget lines 1 to 9 expenditures not certified for the year 2009 as approved by the MC:

TA budget lines 1-9	Allocation 2009	Paid 2013	Paid 2014	Paid 2007-2014	ERDF (24%)
1 Staff	586 346,70 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
2 Trainees	9 942,49 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
3 CU and MA Travel costs	49 339,22 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
4 MC travel and meeting costs	20 468,39 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
5 CC meetings	2 269,90 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
6 ECP meetings	2 337,41 €	2 337,41 €	0,00 €	2 337,41 €	561,08 €
7 ESPON Internal Seminar	19 105,29 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
8 Rent (incl. Parking, cleaning, heating, insurances etc.)	63 573,17 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
9 Overheads, installation, postal services, telephone etc.	712,00 €	712,00 €	0,00 €	712,00 €	170,91 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>754 094,57 €</b>	<b>3 049,41 €</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>3 049,41 €</b>	<b>731,99 €</b>

The following table shows the TA budget lines 1 to 9 expenditures not certified for the year 2010 as approved by the MC:

TA budget lines 1-9	Allocation 2010	Paid 2012	Paid 2013	Paid 2014	Paid 2007-2014	ERDF (24%)
1 Staff	600 860,09 €	0,00 €	600 860,09 €	0,00 €	600 860,09 €	144 232,46 €
2 Trainees	14 683,82 €	0,00 €	14 683,82 €	0,00 €	14 683,82 €	3 524,75 €
3 CU and MA Travel costs	48 001,46 €	0,00 €	45 039,19 €	0,00 €	45 039,19 €	10 811,36 €
4 MC travel and meeting costs	28 076,43 €	6 048,64 €	1 669,20 €	0,00 €	7 717,84 €	1 852,62 €
5 CC meetings	779,61 €	117,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	117,00 €	28,09 €
6 ECP meetings	20 187,54 €	0,00 €	1 369,60 €	0,00 €	1 369,60 €	328,76 €
7 ESPON Internal Seminar	19 365,40 €	19 365,40 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	19 365,40 €	4 648,54 €
8 Rent (incl. Parking, cleaning, heating, insurances etc.)	60 557,69 €	60 557,69 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	60 557,69 €	14 536,47 €
9 Overheads, installation, postal services, telephone etc.	17 144,62 €	0,00 €	12 335,87 €	0,00 €	12 335,87 €	2 961,14 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>809 656,66 €</b>	<b>86 088,73 €</b>	<b>675 957,77 €</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>762 046,50 €</b>	<b>182 924,18 €</b>

The following table shows the TA budget lines 1 to 9 expenditures not certified for the year 2011 as approved by the MC:

TA budget lines 1-9	Allocation 2011	Paid 2012	Paid 2013	Paid 2014	Paid 2007-2014	ERDF (24%)
1 Staff	700 602,56 €	0,00 €	700 602,56 €	0,00 €	700 602,56 €	168 174,98 €
2 Trainees	13 999,98 €	13 999,98 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	13 999,98 €	3 360,60 €
3 CU and MA Travel costs	71 398,78 €	1 157,43 €	67 769,98 €	0,00 €	68 927,41 €	16 545,57 €
4 MC travel and meeting costs	26 945,63 €	15 899,73 €	2 333,80 €	0,00 €	18 233,53 €	4 376,84 €
5 CC meetings	31,43 €	31,43 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	31,43 €	7,54 €
6 ECP meetings	25 335,84 €	13 971,52 €	3 305,86 €	0,00 €	17 277,38 €	4 147,32 €
7 ESPON Internal Seminar	21 662,32 €	929,53 €	20 732,76 €	0,00 €	21 662,29 €	5 199,89 €
8 Rent (incl. Parking, cleaning, heating, insurances etc.)	62 000,00 €	0,00 €	62 000,00 €	0,00 €	62 000,00 €	14 882,69 €
9 Overheads, installation, postal services, telephone etc.	23 060,86 €	6 730,01 €	11 491,39 €	0,00 €	18 221,40 €	4 373,93 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>945 037,40 €</b>	<b>52 719,63 €</b>	<b>868 236,35 €</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>920 955,98 €</b>	<b>221 069,34 €</b>

The following table shows the TA budget lines 1 to 9 expenditures not certified for the year 2012 as approved by the MC:

TA budget lines 1-9	Allocation 2012	Paid 2012	Paid 2013	Paid 2014	Paid 2007-2014	ERDF (24%)
1 Staff	722 446,68 €	0,00 €	722 446,68 €	0,00 €	722 446,68 €	173 418,51 €
2 Trainees	13 233,32 €	0,00 €	13 233,32 €	0,00 €	13 233,32 €	3 176,57 €
3 CU and MA Travel costs	72 544,22 €	2 487,30 €	70 056,92 €	0,00 €	72 544,22 €	17 413,76 €
4 MC travel and meeting costs	36 875,78 €	14 522,16 €	18 939,08 €	3 414,54 €	36 875,78 €	8 851,79 €
5 CC meetings	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
6 ECP meetings	26 895,20 €	9 394,20 €	17 116,15 €	384,85 €	26 895,20 €	6 456,01 €
7 ESPON Internal Seminar	21 638,88 €	0,00 €	21 638,88 €	0,00 €	21 638,88 €	5 194,27 €
8 Rent (incl. Parking, cleaning, heating, insurances etc.)	61 996,20 €	0,00 €	61 996,20 €	0,00 €	61 996,20 €	14 881,77 €
9 Overheads, installation, postal services, telephone etc.	19 340,37 €	4 560,62 €	14 779,75 €	0,00 €	19 340,37 €	4 642,53 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>974 970,65 €</b>	<b>30 964,28 €</b>	<b>940 206,98 €</b>	<b>3 799,39 €</b>	<b>974 970,65 €</b>	<b>234 035,21 €</b>

The following table shows the TA budget lines 1 to 9 expenditures not certified for the year 2013 as approved by the MC:

TA budget lines 1-9	Allocation 2013	Paid 2013	Paid 2014	Paid 2007-2014	ERDF (24%)
1 Staff	825 000,00 €	382 792,88 €	0,00 €	382 792,88 €	91 886,88 €
2 Trainees	16 000,00 €	3 359,15 €	0,00 €	3 359,15 €	806,34 €
3 CU and MA Travel costs	75 000,00 €	27 394,69 €	747,85 €	28 142,54 €	6 755,43 €
4 MC travel and meeting costs	33 000,00 €	10 403,56 €	8 585,93 €	18 989,49 €	4 558,30 €
5 CC meetings	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
6 ECP meetings	40 000,00 €	11 795,51 €	8 760,02 €	20 555,53 €	4 934,22 €
7 ESPON Internal Seminar	30 000,00 €	0,00 €	12 089,53 €	12 089,53 €	2 902,01 €
8 Rent (incl. Parking, cleaning, heating, insurances etc.)	62 000,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
9 Overheads, installation, postal services, telephone etc.	37 500,00 €	844,12 €	0,00 €	844,12 €	202,63 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 118 500,00 €</b>	<b>436 589,91 €</b>	<b>30 183,33 €</b>	<b>466 773,24 €</b>	<b>112 045,81 €</b>

The following table shows the TA budget lines 1 to 9 expenditures not certified for the year 2014 as approved by the MC:

TA budget lines 1-9	Allocation 2014	Paid 2014	Paid 2007-2014	ERDF (24%)
1 Staff	825 000,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
2 Trainees	16 000,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
3 CU and MA Travel costs	75 000,00 €	2 632,21 €	2 632,21 €	631,84 €
4 MC travel and meeting costs	33 000,00 €	6 867,24 €	6 867,24 €	1 648,44 €
5 CC meetings	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
6 ECP meetings	40 000,00 €	10 751,03 €	10 751,03 €	2 580,71 €
7 ESPON Internal Seminar	30 000,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
8 Rent (incl. Parking, cleaning, heating, insurances etc.)	72 000,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
9 Overheads, installation, postal services, telephone etc.	37 500,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 128 500,00 €</b>	<b>20 250,48 €</b>	<b>20 250,48 €</b>	<b>4 860,99 €</b>

The following table shows the TA budget lines 10 to 14 expenditures not certified for the period 2007-2014 as approved by the MC:

TA budget lines 10-14	Allocation 2007-2013	Paid 2013	Paid 2014	Paid 2007-2014	ERDF (24%)
10 GoA - meetings and external contract	450 000,00 €	32 343,75 €	69 461,28 €	101 805,03 €	24 437,62 €
11 Financial Monitoring System and maintenance	195 500,00 €	14 490,00 €	9 194,25 €	23 684,25 €	5 685,25 €
12 Programme evaluation	138 480,00 €	0,00 €	15 900,00 €	15 900,00 €	3 816,69 €
13 Experts costs (legal etc.)	35 000,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
14 Communication Plan	466 000,00 €	84 557,35 €	9 020,44 €	93 577,79 €	22 462,72 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 284 980,00 €</b>	<b>131 391,10 €</b>	<b>103 575,97 €</b>	<b>234 967,07 €</b>	<b>56 402,28 €</b>

## 5. Information and publicity

At the MC Meeting on 3 December 2013 in Vilnius the Communication Action Plan for 2014 was thoroughly discussed by the countries participating. The number of Member States present was not sufficient for the MC to take decision; therefore it was agreed to run a written procedure with the MC in order to formalise decisions of the meeting. The Communication Action Plan for 2014 has been approved on 9 January 2014 with a written procedure and sent to the EC for information purposes.

During 2014 the ESPON MA/CU worked in partnership with the ECPs, Member and Partner States to provide information and to promote the Programme widely. All actions had been implemented in the full respect of the information and publicity requirements of the ESPON Programme as well as of EU Requirements as stated in Articles 8 and 9 of Commission Regulation 1828/2006.

The key messages of the Communication Plan have been channelled through media and actions belonging to the Capitalisation Strategy, such as the ESPON website, newsletters, seminars and workshops targeting the Programme stakeholders.

In 2013 the ESPON MC decided to launch a new Call for Proposals for Transnational Networking Activities by the ECPs. As a result of this decision, the implementation period of ESPON's Communication Plan on Information and Publicity Measures has been prolonged to the end of 2014.



As another consequence of this decision, the final event aimed at presenting the achievement of the Programme and its major projects represented the major activity organised within the Communication Action Plan for 2014. This event, being organised at the crossroads between two programming periods, represented a good moment to analyse the lessons learnt during the implementation period.

In addition, the dialogue with beneficiaries (Lead and Project Partners), continued to be a vital feature of ESPON's work within its Communication Plan. Events and meetings, such as the Financial Managers Seminar, helped ensure that information was exchanged, in particular in terms of management and administration of projects as well as procedures related to the financial closure and winding-up of projects.

The role of beneficiaries, especially project implementers, played a powerful role in explaining ESPON and its projects. They had a significant impact on how ESPON is perceived as they faced with many kinds of opportunities with different audiences (speaking at conferences, meeting media, disseminating results from their researches etc.); therefore the CU kept supporting their dissemination activities and ensuring they were well-informed to be able to act as ambassadors for ESPON, either in their daily contacts with various people or in their role as beneficiaries of ESPON.

In this context, the role of 19 ECPs involved in the last TNA project, was of great importance to bring ESPON and its projects to a transnational audience.

The MA and CU continued to work closely with the Member and Partner States as well as the ECPs to increase the relevance and understanding of ESPON's communications amongst its key target audiences and to expand its outreach. This contributed to make ESPON better known and facilitate timely, coherent dissemination of ESPON messages in Europe.

Furthermore, ESPON promoted coherence through strengthened cooperation with relevant authorities at national, European and international levels and continued to enhance dialogue with stakeholders and increase audience interactivity. In particular, the cooperation with the pan-European Programmes URBACT, INTEREG IVC, INTERACT continued during 2014 with several activities, including the organisation of a Joint Workshop at the Committee of the Regions during the Open Days 2014.

### ***5.1. Publicity and Communications Activity undertaken to December 2014***

#### Communication-Highlights 2014

- Implementation of the Communication Plan 2007-2013 of the ESPON 2013 Programme continued.
- Final Event - ESPON Day "What European Territory Today and Tomorrow?" – for policy makers at all levels, practitioners, scientists, experts, stakeholders of ESPON Targeted Analyses, Lead and Project Partners of ESPON projects, MC Members, ESPON National Contact Points as well as the general public organised.
- One event for contracted beneficiaries (Financial Managers seminar) organised to inform them on and assist with regulations as well as guidelines for good project management in order to maximise the quality of the project implementation and closure.
- 55 ESPressON disseminated to the ESPON community, relevant stakeholders at all levels and spread at national and local level by the ECP network;

- 5 Newsletters disseminated to a list of more than 4.000 subscribers;
- 444.259 visits to the ESPON website;
- 1.069 Followers to ESPON Twitter;
- More than 761 people at the 9 events organised.

### **5.1.1. Information tools**

#### **Programme Managing Support System (PMSS)**

The Programme Management Supporting System is accessible for the main actors of the Programme, such as the MC, MA, CA, GoA and First Level Financial Controllers for their use.

The PMSS stores information about the projects and its beneficiaries, and subsequently also information about the various priorities and measures on the Programme level that is updated regularly by the ESPON CU. The database serves as the main source for both quantitative and qualitative data on projects implementation and achievement.

One of its functions, OLAP enables the users to extract and analyze the different data according to their needs. The PMSS can be considered as a reliable monitoring and financial reporting system that can support the everyday management and monitoring of the operations.

The PMSS has been updated with the proposal received in the last round of call under Priority 4 of the ESPON 2013 Programme.

#### **Programme Manual and Applicants' package**

The Applicants' Package and the Programme Manual have been updated prior the opening of the last Call for Proposals under Priority 4 (August - October 2013). The Call and the

Applicants Package is published at the ESPON website and were disseminated during the Info Day event which took place in September 2013.

In 2014, there was no need to foresee any additional application pack as there was no new calls.

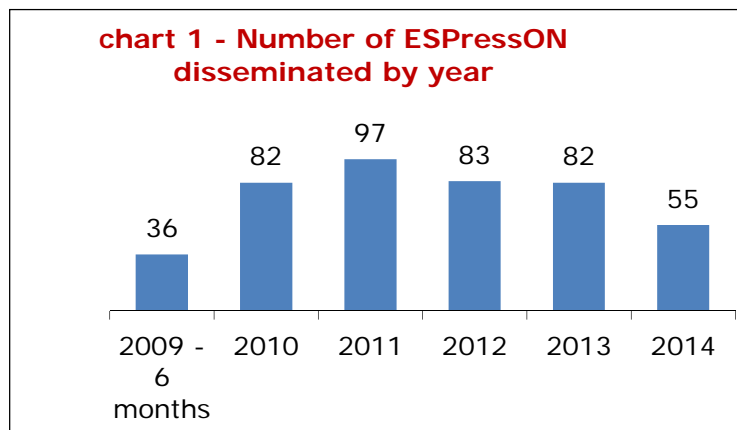
#### **Programme Bodies as Communicators**

The programme bodies - MC Members and ECP network, - have been continuously involved in reaching beneficiaries, policy makers, other stakeholders and citizens. The CU itself provided continuously information about the Programme and its activities.

In order to enable the flow of information between the various management units of the Programme, i.e. between the CU, MA, CA, AA, MC meetings / contacts between the different units and actors took place during 2014 and regular messages were sent out to keep the Programme's bodies informed.

During 2014 the CU drafted and disseminated more than 50 ESPressON with a monthly average of four messages per month (see chart 1 below) targeting the ECPs and MC Members. During the implementation period (2009-2014) the CU drafted and disseminated **435 ESPressON** which were then further disseminated by recipients and translated in national languages by the ECPs in their activities.

In spring 2014 the audience has been enlarged to other EU Institutions and stakeholders following the requests addressed at the consultation event on ESPON 2020 (i.e. AEBR, CEMR, CoR, CRPM, EUKN, EUROCITIES, EUROMONTANA, IRO, MOT).



In 2014 the ESPressON covered among others the following topics:

- ESPON events (Conference “Potentials and Challenges for Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland – and for the European Union”, Open Seminar “Opportunities and threats for territorial cohesion: Blue Growth and Urban Poverty” Nafplion - Greece, 4 and 5 June 2014, Conference "Making the European Territory Open and Polycentric" Brussels, 29 April 2014; Financial Managers Seminar in Barcelona, 3 April 2014; Workshop “Scenarios and modeling in the framework of exploring Territorial Cohesion” in Brussels, 4 September 2014; Workshop "Green Economy in European Regions?" in Brussels, 29 September 2014; ESPON Day “What European Territory Today and Tomorrow?” at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels, 10 October 2014; Seminar “Territories Acting for Economic Growth - Using territorial evidence to meet challenges towards 2020” in Rome, 4 and 5 December 2014; Workshop “Territorial Evidence for an Urban Agenda” in Brussels, 25 November 2014);
- ESPON at external events (6th European Summit of Regions and Cities 7-8 March 2014, Athens; Round Table Session “Making Europe Open and Polycentric” at AESOP 2014 Annual Congress, Utrecht - The Netherlands, 10 July 2014; Workshop at the Open Days in Brussels, 7 October 2014 “Territorial dynamics for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in EU cities and regions – Presentation of the 6th Cohesion Report and of the ESPON Synthesis Report”; Speech at the Open Days Workshop "Territorial Impact Assessment as a key instrument for promoting territorial cohesion in the European Union" in Brussels, 7 October 2014; Speech at the session 'Future research agendas for regional and urban policies in Europe' / OPEN DAYS 2014 University Master Class on EU Cohesion Policy, 7 October 2014; Workshop at the Open Days in Brussels "Getting the most out of pan-European cooperation programmes 2014-2020", 8 October 2014);
- Events organised by Lead and Project Partners to promote the ESPON funded projects (DeTeC Policy Seminar "An interactive ESPON handbook for regions. How a European perspective could help detecting territorial potentials and challenges", Brussels, 11 February 2014; ENECON Final “Challenges and opportunities for territorial development and cohesion in a North European macro-region”, Vilnius 10-11 April 2014; LP3LP Project Final Symposium “Landscape Policy for the Three Countries Park” Maastricht, 14 May 2014, ENECON third Post-graduate Workshop “Integrated Territorial Management and Governance” Aalborg, Denmark, 28 March 2014; TIPSE Policy Seminar “The Territorial Dimension of Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe”, Brussels 8 October 2014;

ITAN Event “What territorial cooperation between Europe and its Neighbourhoods?” in Brussels, 12 November 2014; ITAN Event “Further steps for territorial analysis in the wider region Europe + Neighbourhoods” in Barcelona, 27 November 2014; ESPONontheRoad Event “Bringing Closer ESPON evidence for decision making” in Vilnius, 11 November 2014; ESPONontheRoad Event “Reacting to Economic Crisis: ESPON knowledge for decision makers” in Rome, 2 December 2014; ESPONontheRoad Event “Luxembourgish small and medium-sized towns in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities” in Luxembourg, 12 December 2014; ESPONontheRoad Event "Integrated development through land-sea interaction: dimensions and perspectives of blue growth in Europe and in Greece" in Piraeus, 10, 11 and 12 November 2014);

- Publications (Territorial Observation n. 9 “Gateway Functions in Cities”, Second Scientific Report “Science in support of European Territorial Development and Cohesion”, Evidence Brief "Secondary cities as important growth poles"; Territorial Observation 10 “Potentials and Challenges for Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland - and for the European Union”, Evidence Brief " Territorial Evidence for European Structural and Investment Funds", Map of the Month - Hot Spots of Land Use Change, Evidence Brief “A territorial monitoring tool for a European macro-region: the example of the Baltic Sea Region”, Guidance “Towards Better Territorial Governance in Europe - A guide for practitioners, policy and decision makers”, Evidence Brief “CityBench Webtool: Urban Benchmarking”, Territorial Observation n. 10 “European Neighbourhoods”; Interactive Handbook 'Detecting Territorial Potential and Challenges'; Map of the Month “Availability of Urban Functions by rail and by road”; Map of the Month "Energy trades and demands in Europe and its Neighbourhoods"; Seminar Report "Opportunities and threats for territorial cohesion: Blue Growth and Urban Poverty"; Evidence Brief "Understanding Green Economy"; “Making Europe Open and Polycentric” Vision and Scenarios for the European Territory towards 2050; Map of the Month “Regional Green Economic Performance, 2010”; Territorial Observation n.12 “Economic Crisis and the Resilience of Regions”; Third ESPON 2013 Synthesis Report “Territories finding a New Momentum: Evidence for Policy Development, Growth and Investment”);
- Reports from Projects (GROSEE Draft Final Report, GREECO Draft Final Report, LIVELAND Interim Report, EDORA Structural and Performance Typologies update, EU-LUPA Final Report, TerrEvi Draft Final Report, NSS - NORTH SEA STAR Draft Final Report, ENECON Draft Final Report, LP3LP Final Report, ET2050 Draft Final Report, RIMAP Draft Final Report, CADEC Final Report, ITAN Draft Final Report, TOWN Draft Final Report, ESPON Database 2013 Phase II Second Interim Report, KITCASP Final Report; SeGI Final Report, ECR2 Draft Final Report, TIPSE Draft Final Report; TRACC Draft Final Report, SIESTA Final Report, NSS - NORTH SEA STAR Final Report, ATLAS Draft Final Report, TANGO Final Report, ENECON Final Report; LIVELAND Draft Final Report);
- Working documents at Programme level (ESPON 2013 Work Plan 2014; report on ESPON 2020 Public Consultation);
- News from other EU Funded Programmes and organisations (INTERREG IVC - EU public consultation on INTERREG EUROPE, OPEN DAYS Master Class RSA-CoR, OPEN DAYS University 2014 – 2nd Master Class on EU Cohesion Policy

EC-CoR-RSA; Book “The European Territory - From Historical Roots to Global Challenges” by Jacques Robert);

- Call for tenders (Update of Maps – Filling in Data Gaps in the ESPON Database, Update of Maps and Related Data on Climate Change, Tools– Functional indicators computation tool, Upholding of the Baltic Sea Region – Territorial Monitoring System, Expanding the Online MapFinder, Feasibility Study on ESPON on the Web; “e-MS of ESPON 2020 Programme”);
- More (ESPON 2020 – Online Public Consultation, New Project ESPON on the Road - Bringing closer ESPON evidence for decision making, Vacancies, etc.).

### 5.1.2. Communication tools

#### ESPON Newsletter

During 2014 five newsletters have been produced, published at the website and distributed to a mailing list with more than 4.000 recipients (see chart 2 below)



During the Programme’s implementation period (2007-2014) the CU drafted and disseminated **41 Newsletters** which in some cases were further disseminated and translated in national languages by the ECPs (see chart 3 below).



In 2014, for each of the newsletters disseminated in the framework of the Capitalisation Strategy, the ESPON CU elaborated short articles on events, outputs of the Programme and so on. In addition, information on the timetable of events was provided.

The first newsletter of the year, dated January, provided information on the following issues:

- Territorial Observation No. 9 - Gateway Functions in Cities

- Evidence Brief “Post-crisis migration trends: challenges and opportunities for Europe’s competitiveness”
- Evidence Brief “Services of General Interest: a European Issue”
- Evidence Brief “Territories with Geographic Specificities”
- Vacancy at the ESPON CU
- Reports from Projects (Draft Final Report of KITCASP - Key Indicators for Territorial Cohesion and Spatial Planning; Interim Report of TOWN - Small and Medium Sized Town)
- OPEN DAYS 2014 kick-off meeting.

The second issue, disseminated in February, provided information on the following topics:

- Conference “Potentials and Challenges for Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland – and for the European Union”, Brussels, 11 March 2014
- ESPON Calls for Tenders (“ESPON Update of Maps (2011-2014) – Update of Maps and Related Data on Climate Change”, “ESPON Update of Maps (2011-2014) – Filling in Data Gaps in the ESPON Database”)
- ESPON Work Plan 2014
- Latest Reports from Projects (Draft Final Report of GROSEE - Growth Poles in South-East Europe)
- News from INTERREG IVC - EU public consultation on INTERREG EUROPE

The third one, dated May, included the following topics:

- ESPON 2020: Public Consultation on the draft Cooperation Programme
- ESPON Open Seminar “Opportunities and threats for territorial cohesion: Blue Growth and Urban Poverty” in Nafplion - Greece, 4 and 5 June 2014
- Final conference of ENECON - “Challenges and opportunities for territorial development and cohesion in a North European macro-region” in Vilnius 10-11 April 2014
- Territorial Observation 10 “Potentials and Challenges for Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland - and for the European Union”
- Scientific Report “Science in support of European Territorial Development and Cohesion”
- Evidence Brief " Territorial Evidence for European Structural and Investment Funds "Evidence Brief "Secondary cities as important growth poles"
- Calls for Tenders (“ESPON Tools (2011-2014) – Upholding of the Baltic Sea Region – Territorial Monitoring System”; “ESPON Tools (2011-2014) – Functional indicators computation tool”)
- Reports from Projects (Final Report of EU-LUPA - European Land Use Patterns; Draft Final Report of GREECO - Territorial Potential for a Greener Economy; Interim Report of LIVELAND - Liveable Landscapes: a Key Value for Sustainable Territorial Development

- New Project online - ESPON on the Road - Bringing closer ESPON evidence for decision making

The fourth one, disseminated in August, provided the following information:

- Map of the Month "Energy trades and demands in Europe and its Neighbourhoods"
- Workshop "Scenarios and modeling in the framework of exploring Territorial Cohesion" in Brussels, 4 September 2014
- Workshop "Green Economy in European Regions?" in Brussels, 29 September 2014
- ESPON Day "What European Territory Today and Tomorrow?" in Brussels, 10 October 2014
- ESPON at the Open Days 2014 (joint workshops and speeches in cooperation with the EC DG REGIO, the Committee of the Regions, INTERACT, INTERREG IVC and URBACT)
- Territorial Observation "European Neighbourhoods"
- Guidance "Towards Better Territorial Governance in Europe - A guide for practitioners, policy and decision makers"
- Evidence Brief "CityBench Webtool: Urban Benchmarking" A quick scan tool supporting investment decisions
- Evidence Brief "A territorial monitoring tool for a European macro-region: the example of the Baltic Sea Region"
- Interactive Handbook 'Detecting Territorial Potential and Challenges'
- Final Reports from Projects (SeGI - Indicators and Perspectives for Services of General Interest in Territorial Cohesion and Development; KITCASP - Key Indicators for Territorial Cohesion and Spatial Planning; LP3LP - Landscape Policy for the 3 Countries Park; CaDEC - Capitalisation and Dissemination of ESPON Concepts)
- Draft Final Reports from Projects (ET2050 - Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe, ITAN - Integrated Territorial Analysis of the Neighbourhood; ECR2 - Economic Crisis: Resilience of Regions, TOWN – Small and Medium-Sized Towns; TIPSE - Territorial Dimension of Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe; TRACC - TRansport ACCessibility at regional/local scale and patterns in Europe; NSS - NORTH SEA STAR, North Sea - Spreading Transnational Results.; TerrEvi – Territorial Evidence Packs for Structural Funds Programmes; RIMAP - ESPON Online Mapping Tool; ENECON - ESPON Evidence in a North European Context)

The fifth one, dated November, provided the following information:

- Third ESPON 2013 Synthesis Report "Territories finding a New Momentum: Evidence for Policy Development, Growth and Investment"
- Vision and Scenarios for the European Territory towards 2050 "Making Europe Open and Polycentric"
- Territorial Observation 12 "Economic Crisis and the Resilience of Regions"

- Evidence Brief "Understanding Green Economy"
- Map of the Month "Regional Green Economic Performance, 2010"
- Seminar Report "Opportunities and threats for territorial cohesion: Blue Growth and Urban Poverty"
- ESPON ITAN Event "What territorial cooperation between Europe and its Neighbourhoods?" in Brussels, 12 November 2014
- ESPON Workshop "Territorial Evidence for an Urban Agenda" in Brussels, 25 November 2014
- ESPON ITAN Event "Further steps for territorial analysis in the wider region Europe + Neighbourhoods" in Barcelona, 27 November 2014
- ESPON Seminar "Territories Acting for Economic Growth - Using territorial evidence to meet challenges towards 2020" in Rome, 4 and 5 December 2014
- Final Reports from Projects (TANGO - Territorial Approaches for New Governance; SIESTA - Spatial indicators for a Europe 2020 Strategy Territorial Analysis; NSS - NORTH SEA STAR, North Sea - Spreading Transnational Results; ENECON - ESPON Evidence in a North European Context)
- Draft Final Reports from Projects (LIVELAND - Liveable Landscapes: a Key Value for Sustainable Territorial Development; ESPON Atlas on European Territorial Structures and Dynamics)
- Call for Tenders "e-MS of ESPON 2020 Programme"
- Book "The European Territory - From Historical Roots to Global Challenges" by Jacques Robert

### ESPON Website

The importance of ESPON's website continued to increase in 2014, with visits increasing by more than 10% compared to 2013. In 2014 444.259 visits were counted, with the highest number of visits in October, March and November as the table below shows.

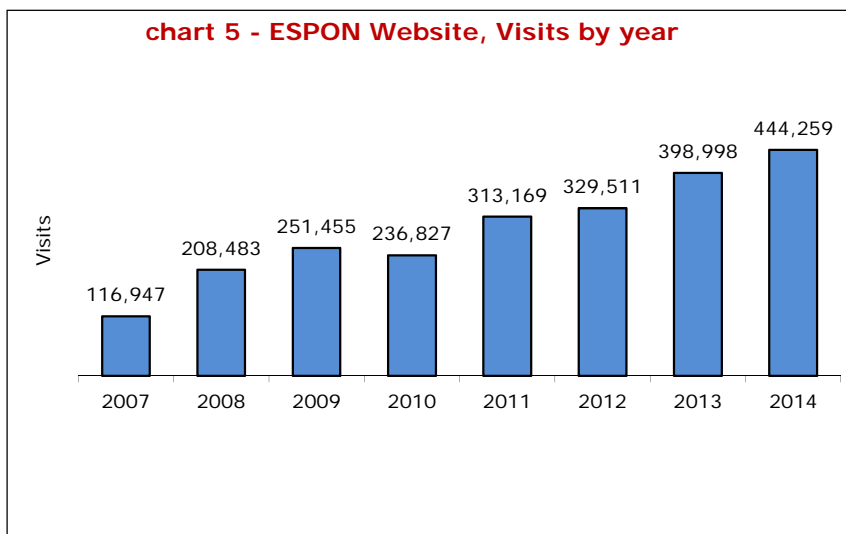




During 2014 the CU has made regular updating and improvement of the ESPON website. Also, in keeping with Commission Regulation 1828/2006 Article 7(2) (d), the list of beneficiaries, the names of the operations and the amount of public funding allocated to the operations has been updated.

Over the course of 2014, the website has been constantly filled with information, data, news on e.g. ongoing activities and calls, new publications or improved operations including publication of news items and a number of new web pages; adaptation of website about the main activities of the year, including reports from projects, events, calls for proposals, calls for tenders as well as facts and figures about the programme and its implementation.

During the Programme's implementation period (2007-2014) the ESPON Website has registered **2.299.649** visits (see chart 5 below).



### **ESPON Intranet**

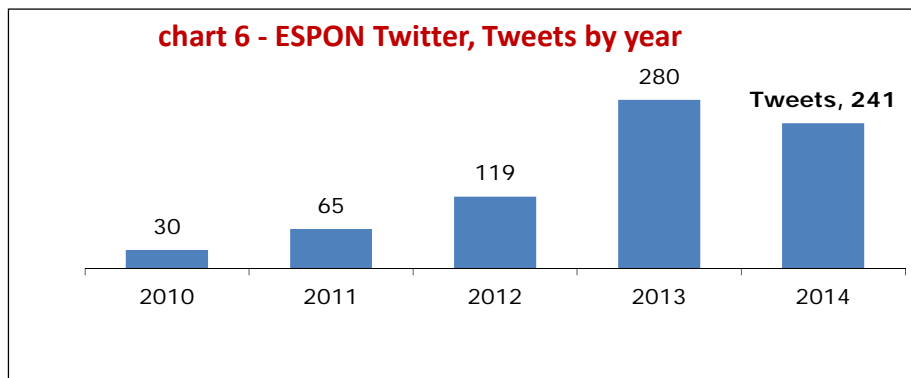
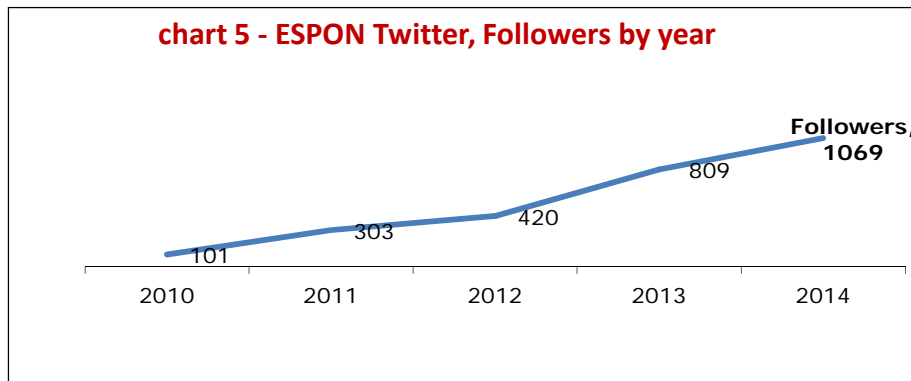
During 2014 no improvements and changes have been carried out in the ESPON Intranet.

### **Media and Social media**

In 2010, in line with the Capitalisation Strategy, the CU started the implementation of the Web 2.0 environment by making use of the social media tools Twitter, LinkedIn, RSS feed, Netvibes and Delicious.

The ESPON Twitter account released information on a regular basis via tweets. The ESPON LinkedIn page provided users with some valuable information about the programme. RSS feed, Netvibes and Delicious helped users to keep up to date with and bookmark ESPON.

As for Twitter, the accumulative figures since September 2010 are as follows:



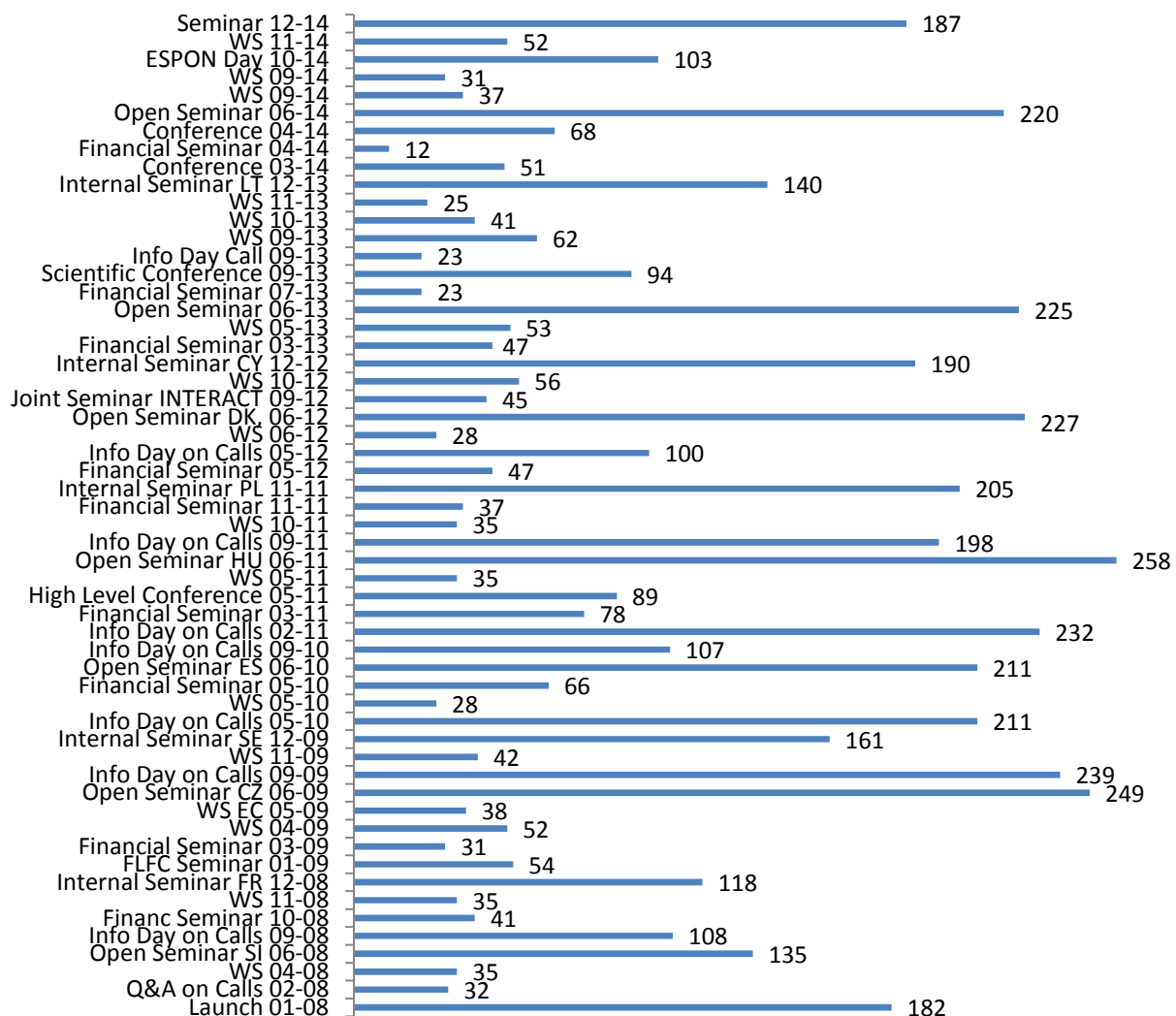
### 5.1.3. Targeted activities and actions/Events

Since the launch of the ESPON 2013 Programme, 5.529 people participated at 57 events organised by the CU with 761 people at the 9 events in 2014 as chart shows.

As for the events organised within the Communication Plan, 115 participants were counted at two events:

- 12 participants at the Financial Manager seminar in April;
- 103 participants at the ESPON 2013 Final Event in October.

**chart 6 - Participants at ESPON events  
January 2008 - December 2014**



### Financial Managers Seminar

The 10th ESPON Financial Managers Seminar on management and administration of projects took place on 3 April 2014 in Barcelona, Spain. The Seminar was organised in cooperation with ‘Diputació de Barcelona’.

Based on the positive feedbacks of a similar event held in 2013, this special, targeted Seminar aimed at supporting Lead and Project Partners with the finalization of their project progress report in order to avoid the risks of financial de-commitment.

The seminar gave practical support to Lead and Project Partners by problem solving, pre-checking existing reporting documents and finalization of delayed progress reports.

Altogether 12 people attended the event. Participants had the opportunity to network, to share experience with peers and get feedback.

ESPON Final Event



During the programming period 2007-2013 nine major information activities (so called “Info Days on Calls for Proposals and Partner Café” including a Q&A session) have been organised to present new funding opportunities and the conditions for applying to potential beneficiaries.

In 2014 the “yearly information event” aimed at presenting the achievements of the ESPON 2013 Programme including results from major projects. Lead and Project Partners, Stakeholders of Targeted Analyses, MC Members, ECPs as well as all relevant target groups were invited to the final event to learn more about the achievements and experiences of the Programme. The event was also an opportunity to inform about new priorities and new institutional arrangements of ESPON post 2013.

The ESPON Day ‘What European Territory Today and Tomorrow?’ took place on 10 October 2014 in Brussels, hosted by the Committee of the Regions.

Its purpose was three-fold:

1. To present ESPON 2013 Programme’s achievements including its major projects.
2. To communicate evidence-based policy messages that address major challenges facing cities, regions, countries and Europe.
3. To show how ESPON evidence can help improve policy development adding the European context in many policy areas at the European, national, regional and local levels.

More than 100 people attended the event, among them policy makers at all levels, practitioners, scientists, experts; stakeholders of ESPON Targeted Analyses; Lead and Project Partners of ESPON projects; ESPON MC Members; ESPON National Contact Points.

#### **Participation at external events**

The ESPON CU and the MA participated at different major conferences/events as well as at events organised by beneficiaries in order to market and present the ESPON 2013 Programme, the available opportunities and its progress in the implementation. Among others, these events can be mentioned:

- January – DeTeC Policy Seminar, Brussels – BE
- February - Cities of Tomorrow: Investing in Europe, Brussels – BE
- February - ET2050 and TIA, Brussels – BE
- February - EU-Level Consultation on Urbact III and Coter meeting, Brussels – BE
- February - GROSEE final conference, Bucharest – HU
- February – NTCCP, Athens – GR
- March - GISCO meeting at Eurostat, Luxembourg – LU
- April- EU Presidency - DG Meeting Territorial Cohesion, Athens – GR
- April – ENECON Final Conference, Vilnius – LT
- May – LP3LP Final Symposium, Maastricht – NL

- June - INSPIRE meeting, Vienna – AT
- July – EU Presidency - NTCCP - UDG meeting, Rome – IT
- July – AESOP Congress, Utrecht – NL
- July – ETC Programmes meeting, Naples – IT
- July – Meeting with LV Permanent Representation in Brussels – BE
- July – TIA Workshop, Brussels – BE
- September – 6<sup>th</sup> Cohesion Forum, Brussels – BE
- September – EG-TCUM meeting, Brussels – BE
- September – ITAN meeting with Eurostat, Luxembourg – LU
- September – EU Presidency – DG Meeting, Milan – IT
- October – Open Days, Brussels – BE
- October – TiPSE Policy Seminar, Brussels – BE
- October - German-Polish cross-border conference, Berlin – DE
- October - Regional, Urban and Rural Statistics Working Party Eurostat, Luxembourg – LU
- October – Club Meeting, Paris – FR
- November – Bioeconomic conference/Ministerial meeting/Nordregio Forum, Reykjavik, IS
- November - ITAN dissemination event, Brussels – BE
- November – IUME Meeting, Brussels – BE
- November – TIA Meeting, Brussels – BE
- December - ESPON on the Road workshop, Luxembourg – LU

### **Flying the EU flag**



For one week, starting 9th May, the MA flew the flag of the EU in front of its premises.

### **List of beneficiaries**

The list of beneficiaries has been published on the website of the Programme since 2008, together with the names of the operations and the amount of public funding allocated to each single operation. The list has been updated and published periodically after each binding decision of the MC and payment updates.

**Promotional material**

The MC decided to limit the items to pens and memory keys; two calls for tenders were launched late 2013 and in 2014 for 1.000 pens and 1.000 memory keys.

**Evaluation**

In 2014 ESPON has increased its outreach as demonstrated by some indicators such as the visits to the website, subscribers to the newsletter, social media followers, participants at events and so on.