

// ESPON Seminar

# The role of functional areas for territorial cohesion



**Congress Hall Palas**  
Strada Palas nr. 7A,  
Iași, Romania



19-20 June 2019 // Iași, Romania // [www.espon.eu/iasi](http://www.espon.eu/iasi)



## // Context and objectives

The ESPON seminar “The role of functional areas for territorial cohesion” is organised in cooperation with the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council in the framework of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme, which aims to support policy development for promoting territorial cohesion and harmonious development of the European territory.

People are increasingly mobile and developments don't stop at administrative borders. Moreover, policy decisions and actions reach beyond administrative borders. This means, geographies for policy making are not aligned with the geographies affected. Policy making using functional areas should overcome these challenges.

This seminar will look at how the scale of policy intervention can be matched with the scale of developments by using functional areas. What is the role of functional areas for territorial cohesion? How can areas in decline profit from policy making using functional urban areas? How can development in functional areas be measured?

Furthermore, the seminar will provide insights from the latest ESPON evidence on many of the topics related to the territorial cohesion debate including financial instruments, green infrastructure, circular economy, refugee flows, youth unemployment, geographical specificities, cultural heritage, territorial impact assessment, land-sea interactions, big data and urban rural linkages.

The seminar is aimed at policy makers, stakeholders, practitioners, scientists and experts who are interested in understanding the development challenges and potential of their territory in a wider context and implementing policies ‘on the ground’ and how ESPON evidence can support these processes.



## // Wednesday, 19 June

8:30 *Registration*

9:30 **Welcome and opening**

// Alin Virgil Chirilă, Secretary of State, Romania  
// Representative from the County Council Iași  
// Ilona Raugze, Director of ESPON EGTC

10:00 **Session A: Functional areas and territorial cohesion**

How can functional areas contribute to territorial cohesion? How can areas in decline profit from policy making using functional areas? How can a spill-over of prosperity and growth to declining areas be ensured?

**Moderator:** Terry Martin

**Keynote Speeches:**

// Saskia Sassen (tbc), Columbia University (US)  
// Tim Moonen, The Business of Cities (UK)

**Debate with audience**

12:15 *Family picture*

12:30 *Lunch*

13:30 **Session B: Functional areas and territorial cohesion at different scales**

**Session B1: Functional urban areas and links to declining areas**

How can functional urban areas contribute to territorial cohesion? What are best-practice sustainable urban development policies and territorial-administrative governance scales to reverse emigration, attract/integrate migrants and human capital and improve governance, labour migration and connectivity?

**Moderator:** Liviu Ianăși, University of Architecture and Urbanism Ion Mincu (RO)

**Speakers:**

// Zintis Hermansons, ESPON EGTC (LU), ESPON Policy Brief on Impact of labour migration on sustainable urban development  
// Roger Milego, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (ES), Functional Urban Areas and Regions in Europe – ESPON FUORE Project  
// Valeriya Angelova (tbc), EUROSTAT, Labour Market Areas  
// Jason Begley, Coventry University (UK), Urban-rural connections in non-metropolitan regions – ESPON URRUC Project



### Session B2: Macro-regions

How do macro-regions contribute to European territorial cooperation (ETC)? How to monitor territorial development and at which level? How functional areas, spatial identity and territorial organisation are understood and considered?

**Moderator:** Franziska Sielker (tbc), University of Cambridge (UK)

#### Speakers:

- // European Commission, EC DG Regio, Setting the scene
- // Efrain Larrea, Mcrit (ES), European and Macro-regional Territorial Monitoring System – ESPON EMTMS Project
- // Tobias Chilla, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (DE), Common Spatial Perspectives for the Alpine Area: Towards a Common Vision – ESPON Alps2050 Project
- // Kjell Nilsson, Nordregio (SE), Territorial Scenarios for the Baltic Sea Region – ESPON BT2050 Project
- // Mathilde Konstantopoulou, ESPON MC member (EL), EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

### Session B3: Cross-border regions

Cross-border functional areas: which role in future European Territorial Cooperation programmes?

**Moderator:** Nathalie Vershelde, DG Regio, Introduction and moderation

#### Speakers:

- // Renaud Le Goix, UMS RIATE (FR), Big Data for Territorial Analysis and Housing Dynamics – ESPON BDHOUSING Project
- // Bernd Schuh (tbc), OïR (AT), Territorial Impact Assessment for Cross-Border Cooperation – ESPON TIA CBC and TIA Tool Projects
- // Helka Kalliomaki, University of Turku (FI), Potentials of big data for integrated territorial policy development in the European growth corridors – ESPON BIGDATA Project
- // Alexandru Rusu, University Al. I. Cuza, Iași (RO)
- // Martin Guillermo-Ramírez, AEBR
- // Gyula Ocskay (tbc), CESCO (HU)

15:30 *Break*

### 16:00 Session C: Presentation of Selected New ESPON Research

What are new and forthcoming ESPON research projects seeking to provide a better evidence-informed understanding of the territorial dimension of future Cohesion Policy?

**Moderator:** Terry Martin

#### Speakers:

- // Carlo Sessa, ISINNOVA (IT), Quality of life measurements and methodology
- // David Evers, PBL (NL) Sustainable Urbanisation and land-use Practices in European Regions – ESPON SUPER Project
- // Petri Kahila, University of Eastern Finland (FI), The future of Europe's Shrinking Rural Regions – ESPON ESCAPE Project
- // Roberta Capello, Politecnico di Milano (IT), Technological Transformation & Transitioning of Regional Economies
- // Xavier Le Den, Ramboll (DK), European Sustainable Urbanisation through port city Regeneration – ESPON ENSURE Project
- // Erik van Ossenbruggen, Ecorys (NL), Adapting European Cities to Population Ageing – ESPON ACPA Project
- // Lucas Porsch (tbc), VVA Brussels (BE), Stocktaking and assessment of typologies of Urban Circular Collaborative Economy initiatives – ESPON SHARING Project



17:30 *End of the programme for Day 1*

19:00 *Dinner*

## // Thursday, 20 June

### 9:00 **Session D: Pitching ESPON results from recently finalised ESPON activities**

What are the key messages resulting from the latest ESPON evidence?

**Moderator:** Terry Martin

#### **Speakers:**

- // Carlos Tapia, Tecnalía (ES), Circular Economy and Territorial consequences – CIRCTER
- // Peter Varnai, Technopolis Group Eesti (EE), Future Digital Health in EU – ESPON eHEALTH Project
- // Gemma Garcia (tbc), Tecnalía (ES), Green infrastructure and ecosystem services - GRETA
- // Elisavet Lykogianni (tbc), Valdani Vicari & Associati (IT), Material Cultural Heritage as a Strategic Territorial Development Resource – ESPON HERITAGE Project
- // Hy Dao (tbc), University of Geneva (CH) – ESPON Database Portal Project
- // Andreea Pop, ICON-INSTITUT (DE), Youth unemployment – ESPON YUTRENDS Project
- // Laura Todaro (tbc), Valdani Vicari & Associati (IT-BE), Impacts of refugee flows to territorial development – ESPON MIGRARE Project
- // Jason Begley, Coventry University (UK), Urban-rural connections in non-metropolitan regions – ESPON URRUC Project
- // Renaud Le Goix, UMS RIATE (FR) – ESPON Big Data for Territorial Dynamics and Housing Project
- // Erik Gløersen, Spatial Foresight (LU), Territories with geographical specificities – ESPON BRIDGES Project
- // Sue Kidd, University of Liverpool (UK), Maritime spatial planning and land-sea interactions
- // Fiona Wishlade (tbc), European Policies Research Centre (UK), Financial instruments and territorial cohesion

11:30 *Break*

### 12:00 **ESPON moving forward**

Messages on the progress of activities and on the plans for 2019 / 2020.

- // Thimo Eser, ESPON MA
- // Ilona Raugze, ESPON EGTC

### 12:30 **Themes of the Finnish and Croatian Presidencies**

Key thematic priorities of the forthcoming Finnish and Croatian Presidencies in respect of territorial cohesion and the TA 2020+.

- // Finnish Presidency, ESPON MC Member (FI)
- // Croatian Presidency, ESPON MC Member (HR)

### 12:45 **Closure**

- // Diana Țenea, General Director of EU Presidency
- // Ilona Raugze, Director of ESPON EGTC

13:00 *Farewell lunch*