



ESPON
EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING
OBSERVATION NETWORK



ESPON Seminar

NIRSA, NUI Maynooth, 26 January 2007

The ESPON programmes:
Driving Evidence-Informed Spatial Planning

Brendan Bartley (ESPON ECP Ireland),
Caroline Creamer (ICLRD/NIRSA),
ESPON Coordination Unit



ESPON
EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING
OBSERVATION NETWORK

ESPON Programmes I & II

- ESPON Programme I
 - 2002-2006 (€17 million)
 - Interreg III Community Initiative
 - Programme on the spatial development of an enlarging European Union
- ESPON Programme II
 - 2007-2013 (€50 million)
 - Structural Funds Programme
 - Major elaboration of ESPON I; evidence informed policy and action; client need focus



Connecting
European regions



ESPON
EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING
OBSERVATION NETWORK

ESPON Concept

- ESPON I (2002-2006)
 - Programme launched in 2002 after preparation of the 1999 European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)
- Knowledge gap revealed by ESDP:
 - Spatial development trends
 - Spatial effects of sectoral policies
 - Need for integrated approach
 - Territorial effects on an enlarged EU





ESPON
EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING
OBSERVATION NETWORK

ESPON I Programme (2002-06)

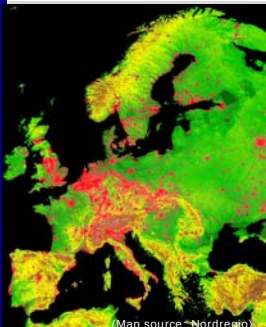
"Spatial development of an enlarging European Union"

- Programme under Interreg III (Small Budget)
- Expectations
 - New knowledge and evidence on European territorial trends and impact of EU policies
 - Integrated territorial analysis, tools and scenarios
- Purposes
 - Support to policy development
 - A scientific network and platform for applied European territorial research
- 34 applied research projects in total
 - Reports prepared by transnational teams



ESPON
EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING
OBSERVATION NETWORK

ESPON I Objectives



(Map source: Nordregio)

- Complement national research with European and trans-national focus
- Provide tools for better application of ESDP
- Improve understanding of EU policies: Structural Funds, territorial cohesion etc.
- Better coordination of Community, national, regional and local territorial decisions
- Bridge gap between policy makers, administrators and researchers/scientists
- Create European scientific / research community in spatial development & planning



ESPON
EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING
OBSERVATION NETWORK

ESPON Network

- EU Commission / Monitoring Unit
 - Member states, observer states
- Coordination Unit: Luxembourg (CU)
- European Contact Points (ECPs)
- Transnational Project Groups
 - Lead Partners
 - Project Partners



Connecting
European regions

ESPON

Lead Partners and Project Partners

34 ESPON Projects

Transnational Project Groups with more than 280 partners involved

Covering 29 countries

Applied research - 3 levels approach (macro, meso, micro)



Key

- Lead Partners
- Project Partners

ESPON

ESPON PROJECTS to 2006

Spatial Development of an Enlarging European Union

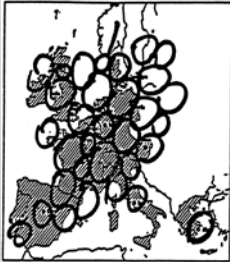


- **Thematic trends projects**
- **Policy Impact Projects (TIAs)**
- **Co-ordinating cross-theme projects**
- **Scientific projects** (briefing, network, support)
- **Scientific tools**
 - Database / navigator
 - Indicators (basic project based)
 - HyperAtlas & web-GIS
- **Publications**
 - Briefing reports
 - Scientific reports
 - Synthesis reports

ESPON

Trend Analysis

- Urban system and polycentric development
- Urban-rural relations
- Small and medium-sized cities
- Accessibility & transport networks
- Telecommunications
- Demography and migration
- Enlargement (and spatial tissue)
- Natural and technological hazards
- Natural heritage
- Application of ESDP in Member States (MS)
- Governance related to urban & territorial policies
- Cultural heritage
- Information society



The "Bunch of Grapes" (Kunzmann & Wegener, 1991)

ESPON

Policy Impact Studies

Territorial Impact Analysis (TIA)

- Structural Funds
- Pre-accession aid
- EU Infrastructure Policy
- EU R&D Policy
- EU Agricultural Policy
- EU Energy Trends & Policy
- EU Fisheries Policies
- Structural Funds in urban areas

ESPON

Coordinating Cross Theme Analysis

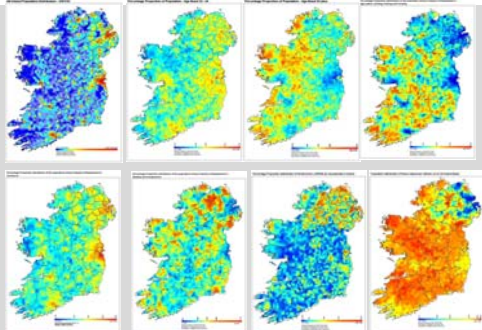
- Spatial **scenarios** and orientations
- Territorial dimension of the **Lisbon** process
- Europe in the **World**
- Integrated analysis of transnational and national territories ("**Zooming-in**")
- **Economic** dimension in territorial development
- **Environment** policy
- **Social** dimension
- Mix of **scales** (Nuts 2&3) in territorial analysis
- **Integrated tools** for spatial development

ESPON

Policy Processes and ESPON

- **European policy** development needs territorial knowledge and evidence
 - Economic, social and territorial cohesion
 - Community Strategic Guidelines
 - Territorial state and perspectives for the EU
- **National policies** and spatial strategies
- **Territorial cooperation** (strategy and project development) at transnational, cross-border, regional/local scale
- **Challenge:** Translating scientific / research results into clear messages for policy making

Regional Research Observatory (RRO)



More Information!

All synthesis documents and
final results
are available for free at:

www.espon.eu

Thank you for your attention