

Position of the MOT on the EU public consultation of stakeholders on the ESPON 2020 Cooperation

April 2014



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I. Introduction

The ESPON programme has launched a stakeholder consultation about the future ESPON 2020 Cooperation.

The network of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) would like to participate in this consultation, in particular on aspects linked with cross-border cooperation.

Presentation of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT - Transfrontier Operational Mission):

The Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, created in 1997, is both an association and a French inter-ministerial structure, which has the main objective of facilitating cross-border projects. Its missions are operational assistance to leaders of cross-border projects (project development, legal structures, studies, etc.), networking, assistance in the definition of overall strategies in cross-border cooperation, and implementation of European projects. The MOT brings together within its network sub-national authorities and their groupings, associations, cross-border structures, large corporations, states, etc. involved in cross-border cooperation and situated on both sides of the border. It has more than 60 members, from 10 European countries.

To date, the MOT has concentrated its work on cross-border proximity cooperation and assistance in the definition of policies regarding cross-border territories.

Website: www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu

II. The MOT contribution – responses to the questions of the ESPON secretariat

1. Strategy for the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme

Section 1 of the draft Cooperation Programme describes the overall context and strategy of the Programme. We would like to invite you to provide your feedback with regard to the following aspects

1. Do you think the needs and challenges to be addressed by the ESPON 2020 programme as outlined in Section 1 are...?

	I agree	I partly agree	I disagree
Clear	X		
Relevant	X		
Complete		X	

Comment

We very much agree with the new focus on the territorial dimension of the Cohesion Policy and the specific place-based needs of individual regions, which is especially the case of cross-border territories. We also underline the persisting lack of systematic, comparable and reliable European territorial evidence to support policy development, in particular in a cross-border context.

2. Section 2 of the draft Cooperation Programme describes each of the specific objectives of the programme under Priority Axis 1. ESPON 2020 will strive to meet the needs and demands of policymakers.

In this context, what do you think ESPON 2020 should focus on for the 2014-2020 period:

	I agree	I partly agree	I disagree
More applied research on territorial dynamics and trends?		X	
More targeted analyses working directly with stakeholders and better knowledge transfer?	X		
More observation and monitoring tools and regular reporting of territorial dynamics and trends?	X		
More outreach events through workshops, seminars etc.?		X	

Comment

With respect to cross-border observation, it is important to put more emphasis on the targeted analyses and observation and monitoring tools. As the ESPON 2020 limited funding will not allow an in-depth applied research on all European borders, a solution would be to produce more targeted analyses on cross-border issues identified by stakeholders, that can be pilot-projects or methodology oriented. These targeted analyses could then be reappropriated by other players and on other borders. Concerning observation and monitoring tools, useful ESPON actions would be providing meta-tools for cross-border observation (at a small scale and on specific topics) and working achieving comparable data. ESPON could bring together researchers, national policy makers and statistical institutes and build common methodologies that could be then implemented on specific borders.

Concerning Specific Objective 4 we very much agree that the future ESPON programme should improve the synergies with the other network-programmes (INTERREG EUROPE which should approach the territorial dimension of the cohesion policy and not only the thematic dimension, INTERACT III and URBACT III) as well as the cross-border programmes.

2. Content

Section 2 of the draft Cooperation Programme outlines the actions and activities to be supported by ESPON 2020 for each of the specific objectives.

3. Please give your general appreciation:

	I agree	I partly agree	I disagree
The actions and activities are coherent and relevant	X		
The expected contributions are clear	X		
The main target groups are correct		X	
The specific territories targeted are relevant		X	

Comment

Concerning specific territories targeted, a higher emphasis on cross-border areas should be encouraged, especially:

- concerning Specific Objective 1, cross-border regions should be mentioned when citing Art. 174 of the Lisbon Treaty.

- concerning Specific Objective 3, a specific focus should be made on cross-border territories and cross-border observation. Cross-border territories may serve as laboratory for European territorial integration.

Concerning target groups, a higher presence of stakeholders and policy makers active in the cross-border field should be sought. With regard to Specific Objective 3, target groups should moreover include statistical institutes.

4. From your perspective what are the biggest challenges Europe is facing? What themes for applied research do you think Europe needs more territorial evidence on?

Territorial evidence is needed on: cross-border integration and its impact on territories, meaningful indicators on cross-border territorial cohesion. There is still an important lack of comparable data on European borders.

5. How can the ESPON 2020 improve the role of territorial evidence informing policy? What is the most effective and practical ways to communicate and share territorial knowledge with policy makers and practitioners in regions, cities and other ESIF Programmes?

The most efficient way to share but also to further develop territorial evidence is to bring together all stakeholders concerned (meeting etc.). This is especially important concerning cross-border cooperation and territories: researchers, (national) policy makers concerned, statistical institutes, practitioners on the ground, representatives of other ESIF Programmes etc. This could be tested on one specific border.

6. How could administrations, organizations or bodies such as yours contribute to the ESPON 2020 Programme and at the same time benefit more?

The MOT could work as an interface between the ESPON programme and the network of stakeholders it represents, especially concerning French borders, and its link to the countries concerned.

The MOT can act as a facilitator in the definition of ESPON projects, as well as a project partner.

Depending on the project, the MOT could also be useful to the ESPON programme by being involved in the strategic monitoring of projects with a cross-border dimension.

Concerning cross-border observation, MOT has already engaged an important work (cf. MOT Guidebook on observation in cross-border territories). Together with its partners of the Budapest Platform, a support platform of cross-border cooperation at national level (involving at the moment France, Hungary, Portugal and the Netherlands), it could link this work with the strategic work of the ESPON programme.

Finally, the MOT could also play a role in improving the outreach of the results of ESPON projects, by communicating information to its large network of stakeholders involved in cross-border cooperation all over Europe.

3. Budget considerations

The final total budget allocation is still in discussion and is likely to result in just over 50 mill. for 2014-2020. 7. Do you agree with the indicative allocation of budget in percent between the 4 Specific Objectives?

	I agree	It should be higher	It should be lower
Specific Objective 1: 54%			X
Specific Objective 2: 19%		X	
Specific Objective 3: 12%		X	
Specific Objective 4: 15%			X

4. Future involvement in ESPON actions

8. Do you plan to be involved in an ESPON 2020 project?

	YES	NO
As policy maker, practitioner, stakeholder in targeted analyses?	X	
As researcher or expert?	X	

9. Do you intend to use ESPON 2020 evidence?

	YES	NO
In relation to policy development?	X	
In relation to research and teaching?		X

10. Do you intend to attend ESPON 2020 events?

X	YES
	NO

5. Background information

For statistical and analysis reasons and so we can best ensure that ESPON 2020 can meet its objectives, it is necessary to gather information on the stakeholders responding. Please note that the responses to the survey will be treated anonymously.

11. Organisation name : Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière

12. Type of organisation

	National public authority
	Regional public authority
	Local public authority
	Development Agency
	University, Knowledge / Research Institute, institute for higher education
	Education / Training Centre
	Business support actor / chamber of commerce
	Civil society structure (association/foundation)
	EU institution
X	International organization
	EGTC / European grouping
	Consultancy
	Other private sector
	Other (please specify)

13. Country

For European groupings, please refer to the location of the legal body acting on behalf of the whole territory.

	Austria	Italy
	Belgium	Latvia
	Bulgaria	Lithuania
	Croatia	Luxembourg
	Cyprus	Malta
	Czech Republic	Netherlands
	Denmark	Norway
	Estonia	Poland
	Finland	Portugal
X	France	Romania
	Germany	Slovak Republic
	Greece	Slovenia
	Hungary	Spain
	Ireland	UK
	Other (please specify)	

14. Email Address : adela.spulber@mot.asso.fr