Indicators & the Evidence Base

The Reform of EU Cohesion Policy and the New Role of Spatial Indicators

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What is ESPON?

• ESPON is a transnational research programme which seeks to inform a better understanding of spatial planning and territorial cohesion policies at local, regional, national and transnational levels in Europe.

• Provide comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on territorial dynamics. The applied research is conducted by transnational groups of researchers and experts.

• Network of 30 ECPs. 4 Key Activities
  1. Targeted Analyses – stakeholder driven
  3. Capitalisation - Seminars and Workshops
  4. Technical Assistance - Analytical Support

ESPON Research Projects

• TIGER - Territorial Impact of Globalization for Europe and its Regions

• SIESTA - Spatial indicators for a Europe 2020 Strategy Territorial Analysis

• ESPON CLIMATE - Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies in Europe

• ET2050 - Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe

• EATIA - ESPON and Territorial Impact Assessment
Indicators translate complex relationships about phenomena in a simple way and in a manner which can be easily understood by policy-makers to provide usable and reliable signals of important trends.

• Recognised that the outcomes from strategic spatial planning in Ireland have been sub-optimal.
  - Unbalanced development
  - Development oversupply
  - Spatial and Urbanistic Service Provision
  - Poor integration with Capital Investment Programmes
  - Poor environmental outcomes

• Renewed Focus on reform and a new emphasis on integrated and ‘Evidence Based’ planning
  - Planning Reform; Greater Oversight
  - Reform of Local Government; Regional structures
  - Regional Spatial & Economic Strategies
  - A new Collaborative NSS/RDS

If You Don't Measure, You Can't Manage
EU Cohesion Policy accounts for one-third of the EU budget and is undergoing significant reform.

Future Cohesion funding will concentrate on a limited number of policy priorities, closely linked to the Europe 2020 strategy

Conditional on verified progress towards targets with greater monitoring and conditionalities/incentives

Points to an important new role for spatial data and indicators in implementing EU Cohesion Policy and maximising funding opportunities.

Cross-Border Context - Cohesion Policy Post 2014

Europe 2020 Targets

- Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth
- Partnership for “an integrated approach for territorial development supported by all CFSP Funds”
- Eleven CSF Themes
  - Strengthening R&D, innovation
  - Access & Quality of ICT
  - Enhance competiveness of SMES, agriculture, fisheries and aquacultures
  - Support shift towards low carbon economy
  - Promoting climate change adaptation
  - Protecting the environment
  - Sustainable transport
  - Social inclusion and combat poverty
- Operational Programmes

Europe 2020 Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Priority</th>
<th>EU Target</th>
<th>Ireland Target</th>
<th>Northern Ireland PFG (2011-2015)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>75% of 20-64 year olds to be employed</td>
<td>69-71% of 20-64 year olds to be employed</td>
<td>Contribute to rising levels of employment by supporting the promotion of over 25,000 new jobs</td>
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<td>R&amp;D</td>
<td>3% of the EU's GDP to be invested in R&amp;D</td>
<td>Approximately 2% of GDP to be invested in R&amp;D (2.5% GNP)</td>
<td>Support £300 million investment by businesses in R&amp;D, with at least 20% coming from Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate Change / Energy</td>
<td>Greenhouse Gas Emissions 20% (or even 30%, if the conditions are right) lower than 1990</td>
<td>20% of energy from renewables</td>
<td>Continue to work towards a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by at least 35% on 1990 levels by 2025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Reducing school drop-out rates below 10%</td>
<td>At least 40% of 30-34 year olds completing third level education</td>
<td>8% early school leaving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty / social exclusion</td>
<td>At least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion</td>
<td>At least 186,000 people out of the risk of poverty and exclusion by 2016</td>
<td>Deliver a range of measures to tackle poverty and social exclusion through the ‘Delivering Social Change’ framework</td>
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The main conclusion of this joint statement is that the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Territorial Agenda should cross-fertilise.

There is the need to strengthen the urban dimension in Cohesion Policy and to establish greater coordination between territorial and urban issues, to ensure that the two policies cross-fertilise and can support the implementation of the objectives in a mutual way.

The Territorial State and Perspectives of the European Union, 2011

New Spatial Dimension to Investment

"We encourage Member States to integrate the principles of territorial cohesion into their own national sectoral and integrated development policies and spatial planning mechanisms."

TA 2020 Priorities

- Promote Polycentric and Balanced Territorial Development
- Encourage Integrated Development in Cities, Rural and Specific Regions
- Territorial Integration in Cross Border and Transnational Functional regions
- Ensure Global Competitiveness of the Regions Based on Strong Local Economies
- Improving Territorial Connectivity for Individuals, Communities and Enterprises
- Managing and Connecting Ecological, Landscape and Cultural Values of Regions

ESPON KITCASP

The identification of the most suitable core set of key indicators of significant practical use to policy-makers and practitioners at national and sub-national levels in the preparation of territorial development strategies.

- Review the current use of spatial data by government and public agencies in the case study nations (Ireland, Scotland, Basque Country, Iceland, Latvia)
- Examination of the extent to which ESPON data has informed national spatial planning strategies and territorial development policy in each case:
  - Development of guidelines on the use of indicators and ESPON data in territorial policy development at the national level;
  - Identification of a core set of key indicators of territorial cohesion, economic competitiveness and sustainable development in cross-sectoral planning at the national level, drawing on ESPON research and datasets available in the case studies;
  - Considerations on how the capacity for spatial analysis can be strengthened and harmonized at the national level, etc;
- Examination of how national analytical experience and expertise can help to inform and take forward the EU Territorial Agenda and the implications for future ESPON research.
Developing Indicators

Drawing on ESPON Research

Priority 2 – Targeted Analysis
- The use of existing results in partnership with different groups of stakeholders.
- Enhancing understanding of the larger territorial context,
- Making comparisons to other territories, regions and cities, and
- Including a European perspective to considerations on the development of their territories.

Emerging Outcomes
Regional Spatial & Economic Strategies

- TA 2020 calls for New Macro Regional Strategies (Integrated Territorial Investments)
- Broad based integrated funding instruments to draw down Cohesion Policy Co-Financing in accordance with the Additionality Principle
- Macro-Regional Strategies should be based on principles of horizontal coordination, evidence informed policy making and integrated functional area development
- An emphasis on ‘Place Based’ policy to unleash endogenous territorial potential.
Concluding Remarks

- The capacity to accurately and objectively monitor social, economic, and environmental development trends and patterns across space and time is a central feature of any spatial planning system.
- Reform of EU Cohesion policy and reorientation towards Europe 2020 underlines the current importance of developing appropriate territorial indicators and monitoring tools.
- All regions will be eligible for funding post – 2014 but will be increasingly competing for scarcer funding opportunities.
- Maximising funding opportunities, investment and development potential will require innovative and integrated approaches, clear choices in policy priorities and development of a dynamic set of indicators capable of monitoring regional specific progress towards targets.

Conclusion

- Enormous range of datasets on an ever wider series of topics has been collected at the EU and at national and regional levels. The use of these data in informing evidence-based policy making has been suboptimal, partly due to the sheer breadth, fragmentation and compartmentalisation nature of the information available.
- Strategic ‘buy-in’ from stakeholders at national, regional, cross-border and local levels is critical to ensuring the success of a monitoring framework.
- Institutional structures to support the development of spatial monitoring frameworks.
- Quality of communication between all stakeholders and clear prioritisation in a harmonised model of data capture and analysis.
- Soft structures such as the draft non-statutory collaborative framework and the three cross-border networks are likely to play a key role in facilitating cross-border working in this area.

Thank you for your attention!
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ESPON Open Seminar
“Territorial co-operation for growth and jobs”
Dublin - Ireland, 13 and 14 June 2013