



*Ministero delle Infrastrutture
e dei Trasporti*

ESPON ITALIAN EVIDENCE IN CHANGING EUROPE

edited by
Maria Prezioso



**ESPON ITALIAN EVIDENCE
IN CHANGING EUROPE**

Edited by

Maria Prezioso

List of Authors:

B. Acreman, F. Alcozer, P. Angelini, G. Baschenis, F. Bonsinetto, V. Biot, M. Burinskienė, R. Camagni, A. Cannizzaro, R. Capello, A. Caragliu, N. Caruso, M. Coronato, G. Cotella, J. de Beer, A. D'Orazio, B. Elissalde, D. Evers, E. Falco, J. Farinós Dasi, S. Favargiotti, D. Fiorello, U. Fratesi, A. Gramillano, G. Guaragno, S. Grassi, F. Heins, F. Izzo, D. Lazauskaitė, C. Lenzi, B. Lino, E. Marques da Costa, P. Matussi, A. May, M. M. Migliaccio, G. Modica, A. Montanari, S. Occelli, C. Pacchi, Z. Piazza, L. Pedrazzini, M. Prezioso, P. Rees, M. Ricci, F. Santamaria, B. Staniscia, C. Tolomelli, G. Trupiano, U. Janin Rivolin, N. Van der Gaag, A. Valenza.

The book reflects the positions and opinions expressed by the Italian partners in the execution of projects. More information on the ESPON Programme and the projects can be found on the website www.espon.eu.

Initiative taken on occasion of the Italian Semester of Presidency of the European Union

The volume is co-funded by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport. We thank the Monitoring Committee and the Italian Directorate General for Infrastructure, General Affairs and personnel for their support and collaboration in the activities of Italian ESPON Contact Point, Prof. Maria Prezioso, as well as the Italian team ECP and in particular Isabella Carbonaro, Maria Coronato, Angela D'Orazio

Cover: Zaira Piazza "2020" Mixed media on canvas, cm. 60 x 80

Translation: Monica Martino and Authors where indicated

Layout and editing: Maria Coronato

E-book Project: Eusebio F. Giandomenico

© 2014 University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

Editor: Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata", via Orazio Raimondo, 18 - 00173 Roma

e-mail: info@ecpitalia.uniroma2.it

Web site: www.ecpitalia.uniroma2.it

Print: Print on demand, Roma



ISBN: 9788890976520

Index

<i>Presentation of Mr Maurizio Lupi, Minister of Infrastructures and Transports</i>	15
<i>Foreword</i> (M.M. Migliaccio)	17
<i>Introduction</i> (B. Acreman)	19
<i>ESPON 2020. Toward a new European Territorial Observatory</i> (Z. Piazza)	21
ITALY TROUGH ESPON EVIDENCE 2013 (M. Prezioso)	31
 PART 1	
 ITALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO APPLIED RESEARCH (PRIORITY 1)	51
1. Demographic and Migratory Flows Affecting European regions and Cities- DEMIFER (P. Rees , N. van der Gaag , J. de Beer , F. Heins)	53
2. Transport Accessibility at Regional/Local Scale and Patterns in Europe – TRACC (D. Fiorello)	61
2.1 The Project	61
2.2 The position of Italy	62
2.3 Regional case studies	62
2.4 Policy addresses	63
3. Knowledge, Innovation, Territory - KIT (R. Capello, R. Camagni, A. Caragliu, C. Lenzi)	65
3.1 Scope of the project	65
3.2 Position of the country in Innovation patterns	65
3.3 Efficiency in innovation and regional growth	68
3.4 Summary of regulatory implications	68
4. Territorial Impact of Globalisation for Europe and Its Regions- TIGER (A. Montanari, B. Staniscia)	71
4.1 Summary of the project	71
4.2 Territorial evidences	71
4.3 Policies and intervention guidelines	72
5. Spatial Indicators for a Europe 2020 Strategy Territorial Analysis – SIESTA (F. Bonsinetto, A. Cannizzaro, E. Falco, B. Lino, G. Modica)	75
5.1 Summary of the project	75
5.2 Italian Situation	75
5.3 Significant trends at the regional level	76
5.4 Policy for the country and the Regions	77
6. Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe - ET2050 (R. Camagni, R. Capello, A. Caragliu, U. Fratesi)	79

6.1 Scope of the project	79
6.2 The country's position in the trend scenario	79
6.3 The country's position in the territorial scenarios	81
6.3.1 Scenario "Megas"	81
6.3.2 Scenario "Cities"	82
6.3.3 Scenario "Rural"	82
6.4 Summary of regulatory implications	84
7. Territorial Approach for New Governance – TANGO (N. Caruso, G. Cotella, U. Janin Rivolin)	85
7.1 Summary of the project	85
7.2 Italy in ESPON TANGO research	86
7.3 Significant regional and sub-regional cases	87
7.4 Indications and addresses for national and local policies	87
ITALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO TARGET ANALYSIS (PRIORITY 2)	89
8. Success for Convergence Region's Economies – SURE Project " Structured Empirical Analysis for Convergence regions: identifying success factors for consolidated growth – SEARCH (G. Trupiano, F. Izzo)	91
8.1 Introduction	91
8.2 The position of Italy	91
8.3 Significant regional and sub-regional case studies	92
8.4 Summary of related policies and guidelines for the country and the Regions	92
9. Spatial Scenarios: New Tools for Local-Regional Territories – SPAN-3 (R. Camagni, R. Capello, U. Fratesi)	95
9.1 The project objectives	95
9.2 Alternative routes for post-crisis scenarios	96
9.2.1 The reference scenario	96
9.2.2 The proactive scenario ("green economy")	96
9.2.3 The "defensive" scenario	97
9.3 Results of scenarios	97
9.4 Policy implications	98
10. Metropolisation and Polycentric Development in Central Europe: Evidence Based Strategic Options – POLYCE (R. Camagni, R. Capello, A. Caragliu)	101
10.1 The project objectives	101
10.2 The Italian situation and individual case studies	102
10.3 Summary of regulatory implications	105
11. Institutional Capacity for Territorial Development – SMART-IST (C. Pacchi)	107
11.1 The Project	107
11.2 The Methodological Approach and Results	108
12. Transport Infrastructure for Peripheral Regions' Economic Development – TIP RED Project "ADES - Airports as Drivers of Economic Success in Peripheral Regions" (F. Alcozer, S. Favargiotti, M. Ricci)	111
12.1 Summary of the project	111
12.2 The position of Italy	112

12.3 Significant regional and sub-regional case studies	112
12.4 Summary of related policies and guidelines for the country and the Regions	113
ITALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCIENTIFIC TOOLS (PRIORITY 3)	115
13. Territorial Evidence Packs for Structural Funds Programmes – TerrEvi (A. Gramillano, A. Valenza)	117
13.1 Summary and project objectives	117
13.1.1 The methodological approach	117
13.1.2 The development of the project	118
13.2 TerrEvi presents the territorial evidences useful for Italy	118
13.3 Regional case studies	119
13.4 Lessons learned	119
14. Update of Indicators and Maps (2011-2014) Harmonised Datasets on Local Units (LAU 2) - The Relevance of Municipality Data for a Comprehensive Understanding of Small-Scale Territorial Dynamics (Elisa Ravazzoli, Thomas Streifeneder)	121
14.1 Scope of the Project	121
14.2 Methodological Approach	122
14.3 Implications for territorial analysis or policies	122
14.4 Expected Results	124
ITALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TRANSNATIONAL NETWORKING ACTIVITIES (PRIORITY 4)	125
15. The European contribution of the “Integrated Territorial Development Strategies” to territorial cohesion - ESPON INTERSTRAT (A. D’Orazio)	127
15.1 Introduction	127
15.2 Integrated Territorial Development Strategies (ITDSs)	129
15.3 ITDS characteristics	130
15.4 Scenarios in comparison	131
15.5 Transformation dynamics in administrative systems	133
15.6 The situation in partner countries	135
15.7 Some policy addresses	137
16. Capitalisation and Dissemination of ESPON Concepts – ESPON CaDEC. The Italian experience (M. Coronato)	139
16.1 The role of “concepts” in transnational cooperation experience	139
17. Establishment of a transnational ESPON Training Programme to stimulate interest to ESPON2013 Knowledge – ESPONTrain. The Italian experience (M. Coronato)	143
 PART 2	
THE ITALIAN REGIONS AND THE TERRITORIAL COOPERATION	147
18. Piedmont Region: The position of Italian Regions towards ESPON and the use made (G. Baschenis, S. Occelli)	149

18.1 Summary of our ESPON experience	149
18.2 An overview to our region.	151
18.3 Significant aspects	151
18.4 Summary of related policies and guidelines for the regions	152
19. The Lombardia Region (A. May, L. Pedrazzini)	155
20. The Emilia Romagna Region (P. Matussi, G. Guaragno)	159
20.1 Synthesis of ESPON experience	159
20.2 The overlook of the Region	160
20.3 Significant aspects	160
20.4 Summary of related policies and guidelines for the regions	161
20.4.1 The territorial capital	161
20.4.2 The actual cities	161
20.4.3 The integrated system for wide area network	162
21. The Convention for the protection of the Alps, beyond the Alps (P. Angelini)	163
21.1.The Alpine Convention: an innovative approach to the mountain	163
21.2 Synergies between the Alpine Convention and the ESPON Programme	164
21.3 Final remarks	165
22. Collaboration between ESPON and METREX (A. Tolomelli, S. Grassi)	167
22.1 The growing role of metropolitan regions in the European landscape	167
22.2 The project ET 2050 Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe	167
22.3 The response of the Emilia-Romagna region in the consultation on “Territorial Vision 2050”	168
23. Territorial cohesion, regional competitiveness and sustainability: a comparison between the results of ESPON projects and addresses of European policy for the transnational cooperation (M. Coronato)	171
23.1 Integrated guidelines for Cohesion, competitiveness, sustainability	174
24. Cohesion policy in perspective 2014-2020. The framework for the relaunch of European territorial cooperation and the role of macro-regions (A. D’Orazio)	177
24.1 Introduction	177
24.2 In search of a new paradigm for European regional policy	178
24.3 The territorial dimension in the new Cohesion Policy 2014-2020	180
24.4 The new challenges of territorial cooperation: the role of macro-regional strategies	182
24.5 Conclusions	184
25. Italy in transnational cooperation: ESPON Contact Points	187
25.1 Portugal (E. Marques da Costa)	187
25.2 France (B. Elissalde, F. Santamaria)	188
25.3 Belgium (V. Biot)	189
25.4 Spain (J. Farinós Dasi)	190
25.5 The Netherlands (D. Evers)	191
25.5 Lithuania (M. Burinskienė, D. Lazauskaitė)	193

26. A new Territorial Agenda for Italy. The identification of the territorial capital in support of the Country guidelines in the 2020 Perspective. (M. Prezioso)	195
<i>Afterword</i> The future for ESPON Programme (P. Mehlbye)	201
REFERENCES	205
CREDITS	217

Maps

Map 1	Employment rate, 20-64, in 2010. Distance to National 2020 Target, SIESTA	44
Map 2	Total expenditure on R%D, 2008, Distance to National 2020 target, SIESTA	45
Map 3	Population aged 30-34 with a tertiary education – Average 2007/10. Distance to National 2020 target, SIESTA	46
Map 4	Population growth in urban and peripheral regions, DATABASE, 2010	48
Map 5	Net Migration by main components 2000-07	55
Map 6	Impact of migration on Population in 2050, DEMIFER	57
Map 7	Examples of accessibility maps produced in the TRACC project	61
Map 8	Territorial patterns of innovation in Europe	67
Map 9	Index of Europe 2020 Strategy	76
Map 10	Annual average GDP growth rate in the baseline scenario, KIT	80
Map 11	Annual average GDP growth rate: difference between the MEGAs scenario and the baseline, ET2050	81
Map 12	Annual average GDP growth rate: difference between the Cities scenario and the baseline, ET2050	82
Map 13	Annual average GDP growth rate: difference between the Rural scenario and the baseline, ET2050	83
Map 14	Annual average GDP growth rates 2005-2025 in the Reference scenario, SPAN-3	98
Map 15	Demifer scenarios of change in labour force in 2005-2050 in Molise region and in Italy	118
Map 16	Population aged 30-34 with a tertiary education. Average 2007/10, SIESTA	197
Map 17	Population aged 30-34 with tertiary education. Average 2007/2010 - Distance to National 2020 Target, SIESTA	197

Figures

Figure 1	Future trends of regional disparities (Theil Index), ET 2050	80
Figure 2	The Theil index in the four scenarios	83
Figure 3	Predicted urban 'equilibrium' size (in % on actual size).	103
Figure 4	Predicted equilibrium population for different levels of high-level urban functions, POLYCE	104
Figure 5	Predicted equilibrium population for different levels of city networking, POLYCE	104
Figure 6	Institutional Thickness's Paradigm, SMART-IST	108

Figure 7	Traffic lights with Smart Growth indicators for Umbria region compared to Italy and EU27+4 area, TerrEvi	119
Figure 8	Flowchart of activities within the project	123
Figure 9	Population growth rate 2001-2011	124
Figure 10	Diagram of CaDEC project, CaDEC	142
Figure 11	ESPONTrain Project, ESPONTrain	145
Figure 12	Regional Territorial Plan – Piemonte Region	150
Figure 13	Territorial regional Plan – The regional policentric system	150
Figure 14	Regional Territorial Planning of Lombardia Region: the position of Lombardia region in Europe, opportunity of growth	156
Figure 15	PTR of Lombardy – the three macro-objectives of the plan: “Reinforcing competitiveness”, “Protect and enhance resources”, “Rebalancing the territory”.	157
Figure 16	System of urban polarities of the Padano-Alpine-Maritime area	159
Figure 17	Urban development scenarios of the European space	161
Figure 18	Integrated system for wide area	162

Tables

Table 1	Overview of the five dimensions and twelve indicators of territorial governance	85
Table 2	Europe’s socio-political macroregions and Worldwide Governance Indicators	86
Table 3	Evaluation features for Planning systems	132
Table 4	Typologies of government structures related to their centralisation degree	134
Table 5	ITDSs in INTERSTRAT countries: a summary, INTERSTRAT	135
Table 6	Example of a matrix for the assessment of the effects expected from the 2020 Strategy in support of policy choices	199

List of abbreviations

AC	Alpine Convention
ADES	ESPON Project: Airports as Drivers of Economic Success in Peripheral Regions
ARTS	ESPON Project: Assessment of Regional and Territorial Sensitivity
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India, China
CaDEC	ESPON Project: Capitalisation and Dissemination of ESPON Concepts
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CBP	Capacity Building Policies
CEC	Commission for Environmental Cooperation
CEMAT	Council of Europe - Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial/regional planning - Conférence Européenne des Ministres de l'Aménagement du Territoire
CLIMATE	ESPON Project: Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies in Europe
CSF	Common Strategic Framework
DEMIFER	ESPON Project: Demographic and Migratory Flows Affecting European Regions and Cities
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EATIA	ESPON Project: Territorial Impact Package for Transport and Agricultural Policies
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
EDORA	ESPON Project: European Development Opportunities in Rural Areas
EGTC	European grouping of territorial cooperation
ENPI-CBC-MED	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument - Cross-Border Cooperation - Mediterranean sea basin
ESI	European Structural Investment (Funds)
ESPON	European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion
ESPONTrain	ESPON Project: Establishment of a transnational ESPON training programme to stimulate interest to ESPON2013 knowledge
ET2050	ESPON Project: Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe 2050
EU2020	Europe 2020 Strategy
EUROISLAND	ESPON Project: European Islands and Cohesion Policy
EUSAIR	EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
EU-SILC	EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
FOCI	ESPON Project: Future Orientation for Cities
FUAs	Functional Urban Areas
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GERD	Gross Expenses in Research and Development
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
GIS	Geographical Information System
HDC - IRC	Human Development and Capability - International Research Centre
IC	Institutional Capacity
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INTERCO	ESPON Project: Indicators of Territorial Cohesion
INTERSTRAT	ESPON Project: ESPON in Integrated Territorial Development Strategies
IT	Institutional Thickness
ITDS	Integrated Territorial Development Strategies
JWG	Joint Working Group
KIT	ESPON Project: Knowledge, Innovation, Technology
LUA	Large Urban Area

LUZ	Large Urban Zone
MAN-3	Mass at Nuts 3 model
MASST	Macroeconomic, Sectoral, Social, Territorial model
MED	Europe in the Mediterranean Programme
MEGAs	Metropolitan European Growth Areas
METREX	European Metropolitan Regions and Areas network
METROBORDER	ESPON Project: Cross-border polycentric metropolitan regions
MIT	Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport
NGO	Non-Governmental organization
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework
NSS	National Spatial Strategy
NUTS	Nomenclature des Unités Territoriales Statistiques
ODR	Old age Dependency Ratio
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OP	Operational Programme
P.I.G.S.	Portugal, Ireland, Greece, Spain
PIA	Polycentric Integration Area
POLYCE	ESPON Project: Metropolisation and Polycentric Development in Central Europe: Evidence Based Strategic Options
PST	Project Support Team
PTR	Territorial Regional Plan
R&D	Research & Development
ReRISK	ESPON Project: Regions at Risk of Energy Poverty
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
RSA	Report on the State of the Alps
RUICS	Regione Umbria Innovation and Competition Scoreboard
SEARCH	ESPON Project: Structured Empirical Analysis for Convergence Regions: Identifying Success Factors for Consolidated Growth
SeGI	ESPON Project: Indicators and perspectives for services of general interest in territorial cohesion and development
SGPTD	ESPON Project: Secondary growth poles in territorial development
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SIESTA	ESPON Project: Spatial indicators for a 'Europe 2020 Strategy' Territorial Analysis
SME	Small and medium size enterprises
SMART-IST	ESPON Project: Institutional capacity for territorial development
SOIA	System of Observation and Information on the Alps
SPAN-3	ESPON Project: Spatial Perspectives at NUTS 3 Level
SPESP	Study Programme on European Spatial Programme
SS-LR	ESPON Project: Spatial Scenarios: New Tools for Local-Regional Territories
SURE	ESPON Project: SUccess for convergence Regions' Economies
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
TANGO	ESPON Project: Territorial Approaches for New Governance
TeDI	ESPON Project: Territorial Diversity in Europe
TERCO	ESPON Project: European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life
TerrEvi	ESPON Project: Territorial Evidence Pack for Structural Funds Programme
TIA	Territorial Impact Assessment
TIGER	ESPON Project: Territorial Impact of Globalization for Europe and its Regions
TIP RED	ESPON Project: Transport Infrastructure for Peripheral Regions' Economic Development
TIPTAP	ESPON Project: Territorial Impact Package for Transport and Agricultural Policies

TNA	Transnational Networking Activities
TPG	Transnational Project Group
TRACC	ESPON Project: TRansport ACCessibility at regional/local scale and patterns in Europe
UERA	Urban Europe Research Alliance
UPM	Union pour la Méditerranée
VLE	Virtual Learning Environment
WGI	Worldwide Governance Indicators
WTO	World Trade Organisation

17. ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRANSNATIONAL ESPON TRAINING PROGRAMME TO STIMULATE INTEREST TO ESPON2013 KNOWLEDGE - ESPONTRAIN. THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE

Maria Coronato¹

The spread of knowledge and of the results produced by the ESPON Programme, despite the many efforts of the network and of the ECP, is still limited to a small group of academicians and professionals. In recent years it has become evident that the projects of Applied Research (Priority 1), Target Analysis (Priority 2), the tools developed in the framework of the Scientific Platform (Priority 3), appear to potential beneficiaries (Stakeholder and Shareholder) as methodological application tools that cannot be implemented on a regional or sub-regional scale, so very often discouraging Administrations and Research Centers to invest in the ESPON Programme, which is often defined as a "Programme for the few".

The awareness of this "shared" need and the objective of disseminating the results of high scientific value produced by the Programme, has led to launch, under Priority 4 reserved to the ECP for the development of Transnational Networking Activities, the project ESPONTrain ("Establishment of a transnational ESPON training Programme to stimulate interest to ESPON2013 knowledge", <http://espontrain.eu/>).

The activities carried out in the project have been structured in a consistent manner with the role assigned to the ECP: exchange of experiences, awareness of institutions and actors working on the national territories on the ESPON issues, empowerment and capitalization of the results of the Programme, so making the knowledge developed by the Programme 2013 practical, operational and accessible to Stakeholders, Research, and Practitioners. To this end, the project has developed the first educational platform ESPON (Virtual Learning Environment - VLE) to make the knowledge produced by the Programme more accessible and familiar, taking into account, also from a technical point of view, the economic and infrastructural needs of the final users.

The project has been developed and implemented using an open source platform Moodle2 which requires that the end user has only an internet connection at 512 kbps, audio and video driver, 512 MB of RAM, a microphone.

Under the guidance of the "Panteion" University of Social and Political Sciences of Athens (LP), the project has involved ten ESPON Contact Points, five of them (Greece, Italy, Romania, Lithuania, Estonia)² representing the Academia, and five (Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus)³ belonging to the world of the Institutions or Government. The choice of a so composed partnership proved to be strategic: to combine the rigor of methodological research to the needs of policy actions in which the Administrations are held accountable. Partners have so developed a educational product consistent with the needs of both Academia and the professional and political world, highlighting results, methodologies and guidelines for territorial policy. From the outset, it was clear to all partners the need to bridge the knowledge gap that exists in the field of European policy and found both at scientific and administrative

¹ PhD student in Economic Geography, Department of History, Human Sciences and Education, University of Sassari; Espon Contact Point Italia Staff, Department of Science, Technology, Education, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

² Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences of Athens (GR), Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata" (IT), Universitatea "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" (RO), University of Tartu (EE), Research Institute of Territorial Planning of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (LT),

³ Institute for Spatial Development (CZ), Ministry of regional development and public works (BG), Ministry of the Envi. & Spatial Planning (SL), Town Planning and Housing Department (CY), MEPA-Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MT)

level, creating a closer link between the new / young researchers, who with their knowledge can contribute to a more proper territorial planning, and the decision makers, that ' from inside ' can help to improve the performance .

The academic/institutional experience of the ECP and knowledge of the Programme gained by many through a previous participation in other ESPON projects, was the real strength of the project ESPONTrain. It is in fact made it necessary to make Programme results cross-cutting and interdisciplinary with respect to various disciplines (economic geography, politics, physics, human sciences and regional planning), involving Trainers that are at the same time experts of territorial planning and cohesion policy and with direct experience in at least one ESPON project and in e-learning, since the dissemination of summary reports occurred through precisely the VLE. In the Italian case, this role was played by the ECP.

The ECP is therefore presented as disinterested mediators between the territories and the Managing Authority; what has allowed us to appropriately select the currently most "interesting" issues for the European territories: migration, energy, climate change, cities and rural areas, territorial governance. The educational material related to the selected topics has been developed and organized in English, and submitted to the evaluation and control of the Coordination Unit and Lead Partner of the projects, selected prior to its administration

A "critical" moment in the project was to identify the Target groups that were intended to multiply the circulation and dissemination of ESPON philosophy. In the Italian case, the ECP has launched a Call for Interest addressed to young researchers and PhD students, while the stakeholders were selected from the contacts made during these years of constant and on-going work carried out in collaboration with the Monitoring Committee (Ministry of Infrastructure).

The course has been structured in ESPONTrain 6 cycles, related to the synthesized projects (DEMIFER, ReRISK, CLIMATE, FOCI, EDORA, TeDI and EUROISLAND, METROBORDER) and the contents of the virtual meetings have been organized on the basis of two different groups of Trainees:

- Students (PhD students and young Researchers/professionals in territorial planning and development) for whom there it has been adopted an academic approach to transform the methods implemented in the handled projects and the results thereof;
- Practitioners and policy makers more interested in the implementation of the strategies of territorial development and cohesion and to cases of territorial benchmarking. This second group was essential to more emphasize the role of the public sector in strategic planning, in territorial development and cohesion policy.

The proposed educational materials encompassed, in addition to summaries of the selected projects, materials for an even more "immediate" reading (PowerPoint, maps of synthesis quizzes, etc.), while, for those who had wished to further investigate the issues discussed, audio and video files and links to national and international libraries, from which to download documents related to the issues, as well as access to thematic forums coordinated by the ECP were prepared .

At the end of each course, Trainees were asked to apply their knowledge to a known country area following the methodology of the project in order to assess and compare the results on the local scale. Also in this case the role of ECP was diriment thanks to the right mix of local knowledge and methodology. A particular emphasis was placed on Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA), a choice instrument for policy making at European, national and regional level with the aim of emphasizing the importance that the ex ante evaluation plays in the choices of territorial and cohesion policy .

The main difficulty of the project was to transform the ESPON documents products (highly technical and full-bodied reports) in educational material easily transferable in a virtual classroom in just two months

according to the e-learning protocols. The project was therefore an opportunity to "create" a first group of "ESPON teachers " ready to support national and regional needs .

The project has shown that it is possible to synthesize ESPON results by extrapolating the contents on the basis of the final user, and has proven to 200 trainees that ESPON projects are applicable to the local scale. Involving the stakeholders in the project was not easy, as well as requiring their ongoing and proactive participation. Even in this case, the reliability and professionalism of the ECP was diriment for the success of the project. Nor can we underestimate the added value obtained for the Programme ESPON2013 in terms of direct and constant feedback with respect to the demand from national territories. In the Italian case, many members of the Target Group have stated that in the past, every time they tried to approach, for work or study reasons, the reports of the Programme, they had been discouraged by their size and their strong technicality. Through the synthesis, tailored on the final user, it was possible to grasp ESPON in all its potentials (see assessment process structured by ECP Italy on the basis of the requirements of the "Bologna process"). In this regard, it has been suggested to produce new synthesis of other ESPON projects to further facilitate the dissemination of results and their capitalization also in view of the Italian Semester.

Figure 11: ESPONTrain Project



The book is part of the activities of ESPON Contact Point Italy. It includes the results of the contribution of the Italian partners in the development of projects under the ESPON 2013 Programme, which stands for European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion. The texts summarise and highlight, among other things, the relations with the regional development policies of Italy, placing them in a framework of transnational cooperation involving the 28 + 4 EU Countries.

Addressing aspects of European territorial policy, ranging from innovation and knowledge accessibility, from the polycentrism to metropolitan areas, from migration to globalization, the authors highlight the position of Italy and of regions also in relation to the objectives set by Europe 2020. A place is devoted to the regional experiences that in the ESPON found a stimulus and an opportunity for discussion, as well as to the concepts behind the vocabulary, to the principles of guidance, and new planning models in Europe, and to the training experiences aimed at the younger generations and the decision makers

The book forms part of the initiatives of the Italian Presidency of the European Union and is co-financed by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT) in charge of the national ESPON Programme. It is aimed at researchers, institutional users, policy makers, at "practitioners" and "non-specialists" including students, so that they can make use of the results of the constant and rigorous work also respectful of the territorial diversities that have characterized the experimental and applied research since 2007, so contributing to the growth of Italian society as an integral part of the European system.

The ESPON Monitoring Centre, for those who still do not know, can be a journey into the European territory, its territorial, economic, social, cultural diversities to integrate and make cohesive and sustainable, by maintaining and developing the increasing potentials of competitiveness and, at the same time, by innovating and disseminating new ways, methodologies, tools and practices to make the territory a common and shared good. Data, references and useful policy recommendations to the growth of the country are also included in the book.

Presentation by the Minister of Infrastructure, Mr. Maurizio Lupi

Afterword by the Director of the Coordination Unit ESPON Programme, Peter Mehlbye

ISBN 978-88-9097-6520

