

## **SPECIFICATION**

### **ESPON Applied Research Project 2013/1/20**

#### **Territorial Potentials for a Greener Economy (2011 - 2014)**

##### ***(o) Territorial challenges relevant for ESPON 2013 projects***

The development of the European territory is facing several ongoing mega trends and impacts of policies:

- The integration of the EU in global economic competition is accelerating, offering more options for regions and larger territories in deciding on their development path as development is no longer a zero sum game for Europe.
- Interaction is growing between the EU territory and the surrounding neighbour countries as well as the other parts of the world, becoming apparent by e.g. migration pressure on more developed countries, which are themselves confronted with population decline and by access to and investment in new markets.
- Market forces and the evolution of society in general are supporting a geographical concentration of activities.
- The ongoing demographic change with an ageing European population and migration is affecting the regions differently and boosts the competition for skilled labour.
- The occurrence of hazards is increasing due to climate change while different parts of Europe experience different types of hazards.
- Increasing energy prices and the emergence of a new energy paradigm have significant territorial impacts, some regions being more affected than others, some of which have particular potential for production of renewable energy sources.
- The enlargement of the EU to 27 Member States, and at a later stage maybe to more, presents an unprecedented challenge for the competitiveness and internal cohesion of the Union.

ESPON results have revealed that territorial capital and opportunities for development are inherent in the regional diversity that is a characteristic of Europe. Consequently, different types of territories are endowed with diverse combinations of resources, putting them into different positions for contributing to the achievement of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the policy aims of Territorial Cohesion and a balanced and polycentric European territory as expressed in the update of the Territorial Agenda as well as in the Lisbon Reform Treaty.

Territorial diversity, particularly in the economic base, implies that all regions have unique development potentials, and that strategies other than opting for a knowledge-based economy might be more appropriate and viable for some regions.

The ESPON 2006 Programme provided integrated analysis and long term spatial scenarios which enriched the European policy debate and knowledge base. The results and observations produced by ESPON on territorial structures, trends, perspectives and assessment of EU policy impacts had not been fully evident before and supported a better understanding of the European dimension of territorial dynamics. Therefore, interest is growing among policy makers and practitioners for the information, knowledge and understanding ESPON can offer.

The ESPON 2013 Programme shall bring this knowledge base one step further by carrying out applied research and targeted analysis, indicator development and data collection, capitalisation events presenting results, etc. All these actions will be related to an improved understanding of territorial structures, development trends, perspectives and policy impacts.

The European-wide evidence provided by the ESPON 2007-2013 Programme will potentially benefit stakeholders all over Europe at all levels. Policy makers dealing with territorial development require sound evidence and comparable regionalised information as well as medium and long-term development perspectives in order to draw up sustainable and efficient integrated policy responses for their territories.

All in all, the European process moves towards a more integrated approach to policy making which makes the territorial dimension important for policy makers. The aim of territorial cohesion supports this approach by taking the territory as an element in the framework for policy making. Due to its provision of evidence based on analyses of territorial units the ESPON 2013 Programme is of strategic importance for the European policy development and cooperation.

By further extending and deepening the existing knowledge and indicators, the ESPON 2013 Programme will play a strategic role in supporting the policy process of the current period 2007-2013, namely by contributing to the development of Cohesion Policy.

### ***(i) General objectives of applied research projects under Priority 1***

The general objectives of applied research projects within the ESPON 2013 Programme are the following:

- Building new evidence based on comparable information about European regions and cities, including information on dynamics and flows, and covering the entire territory of EU 27, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
- Addressing major territorial challenges and political priorities providing comparable information covering the entire European territory, its regions and cities.
- Providing comparable regionalised information on territorial potentials, and possible policy options for making use of opportunities inherent in territorial

structures; anticipating and counter balancing negative trends and structures, taking into account the diversity of the ESPON territory and considering institutional, instrumental and procedural aspects.

- Identifying types of territories, regions and cities that share common development challenges and are affected most (positively or negatively) by the identified structures, trends, perspectives and/or policy impacts.
- Contributing to the further identification of structures within the EU territory that represent options for exploring comparative advantages and provide synergy through territorial cooperation arrangements, involving regions and/or cities.
- Contributing to the improvement of the scientific platform for European applied territorial research by refining existing concepts, methodologies, indicators, typologies, European maps and models and by defining new ones.
- Providing the knowledge and competence capabilities needed to ensure scientifically validated results of the applied territorial research with the support of Sounding Boards<sup>1</sup>.
- Supporting the use of and dissemination of results to an audience of policy makers, practitioners, scientist and experts.

This project shall contribute to these general objectives during its implementation, and in doing so make best use of existing ESPON results, new results in other ESPON projects as well as other research results and relevant studies.

## ***(ii) Relation of this project to the ESPON 2013 Programme***

The priorities describing the work-programme of the ESPON 2013 Programme are structured in four strands:

### **1. Applied research on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion: Evidence on European territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts**

The applied research projects will create information and evidence on territorial challenges and opportunities for success for the development of regions. Cross thematic applied research will be a major activity integrating existing thematic analysis and adding future analysis of new themes. Territorial impact studies of EU policies will be another focus under this priority.

### **2. Targeted analysis based on user demand: European perspective to development of different types of territories**

This priority responds to a clear demand of practitioners for user and demand driven actions within the ESPON 2013 Programme. By convening an analytical process where ESPON findings are integrated with more detailed information and practical know-how, new understanding of future development opportunities and challenges may arise, which could be transformed into projects and actions.

### **3. Scientific platform and tools: Territorial indicators and data, analytical tools and scientific support**

The scientific platform and analytical tools built up within the ESPON 2006 Programme will be maintained and further expanded. New actions shall be

---

<sup>1</sup> For each applied research project a Sounding Board will be set up, accompanying the project throughout its life cycle and giving advice to the TPG on both, scientific issues as well as relevance for policy makers. Sounding Boards will normally be made up of one scientist and one practitioner. Their task will consist of assessing project proposals, giving continuous feedback to TPGs and commenting on their reports.

undertaken to develop current achievements and make use of the indicators, data and tools.

**4. Capitalisation, ownership and participation: Capacity building, dialogue and networking**

Under this priority, actions are foreseen that will be aiming at making the evidence and knowledge developed operational through measures raising awareness and involving stakeholders in the results and their practical use.

This project belongs to the first priority and holds a key position in developing a common understanding of opportunities and perspectives deriving from a territorial dimension of the green economy. The project deepens and elaborates knowledge delivered by former and ongoing ESPON projects. Profound knowledge on the territorial dimension of the green economy is vital for targeted policy development in the light of the Europe 2020 Strategy support by Cohesion Policy aiming at improved regional competitiveness and balanced growth of the European territory in a sustainable way.

Therefore a strong coordination and linkage with other ESPON projects is crucial for achieving comprehensive results. A close cooperation with the Sounding Board set up for following and advising the project and the Coordination Unit shall as well be established as part of the project implementation.

***(iii) Thematic scope and policy context***

Europe is recovering from a financial and economic crisis looking for new development opportunities in a greener economy and technology. In parallel, it is also important to continue efforts on other policy spheres, for example, combating climate change, reducing green house gas emissions or ensuring clean, efficient energy supply. Crossing these two policy ambitions can generate ideas of policy initiatives in favour of a greener economy.

Policy actions with regard to creating a greener economy are aiming at a higher level of economic efficiency and environmental integrity. The Europe 2020 Strategy indicates that moving towards a greener economy allows for addressing environmental challenges, social inequalities as well as to create economic growth and jobs. Within the green economy approach, growth is especially expected in areas such as renewable energy, agriculture, water management and waste management. Transport, tourism and forestry are examples of other sectors that are envisaged to be positively influenced by the development of a greener economy.

However, traditional economic sectors such as agriculture, forestry and tourism are also facing challenges from climate change. The first ESPON 2013 Synthesis Report for example observes that ‘changes in biodiversity may also be expected and call for a new profiling of a region’s natural and ecological assets’. In this respect aspiration for new green economic activities, if approached in an integrated and comprehensive way, might provide new options and potentials for regional and territorial development.

As for other economic activities, the potential for green economic actions also depends on their geographical context. Location and regional characteristics might play a

decisive role in the possibilities to strengthening green economic activities in and between regions and cities.

Encouraged by the Europe 2020 Strategy, policy makers at several levels dealing with territorial development are contributing to a further reinforcement of the green economy, which is promoted as one strategic area to create smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The priority 'sustainable growth' of the Europe 2020 Strategy is promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy. It is supposed to strengthen the European territory by developing new 'green' processes as well as technologies and to raise on the consumer side the value for resource efficiency.

Furthermore, the spread of innovative technologies is highlighted as an important step in order to reach the aims of the EU flagship 'resource efficient Europe', which is aimed at maintaining Europe's global leadership in the field of green technologies. More than 30% of Cohesion Policy funds for 2007-2013 are expected to be invested in the green economy by the European Commission in order to give a significant boost for regions and cities, and contribute to social and territorial cohesion. Support for eco-innovations and new 'green' jobs, especially in small and medium enterprises, ranks high in the priority list of the European Commission as a way to strengthen the regions in Europe.

The importance of policies to foster innovation and growth of new green industries, businesses and jobs is also highlighted by the OECD in the 'Interim Report of the Green Growth Strategy'. The report states that 'a strategic vision is necessary to ensure that, during the crisis exit and beyond, the policies that governments will implement are the most appropriate from an economic efficiency, environmental integrity and social equity point of view, as well as coherent both at a national and an international level'.

In order to encourage governments to make the most of the opportunities provided by the financial and economic crises the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN sister agencies published the 'Global Green New Deal' report. The aim of this initiative is to encourage the fiscal stimulus of governments for economic and social recovery based on policies that create green jobs, reduce carbon dependency and improve the management and sustainable use of ecosystem resources. In addition the Green Economy Initiative (GEI), which is led by the UNEP, is preparing the 'Green Economy Report' outlining the core principles and concepts underlying a green economy.

The European Commission mentions in its Fifth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion (Preliminary Version, November 2010), that the green economy is an increasing focus of Cohesion Policy as it can help regions realize the potential of the green economy as a new source of growth. The green economy requires integrated frameworks for investment and the formulation of coherent policy packages.

In order to achieve the above mentioned goals, integrated actions are needed at the EU level as well as on national, regional and local level. Information on green economic opportunities can help policy makers to take resilient decisions and to create a policy mix that is tailor made for their regions.

This project shall identify the territorial aspects and potentials related to a greener economy in order to highlight areas that have particular opportunities for contributing to

a greener economy through successful territorial development and cohesion policy actions. Therefore a deeper understanding of the territorial dimension of the green economy is needed that can support potential actions supposed to strengthen the economy and competitiveness of the European territory as well as helping to move further towards an environmental sustainable society.

The project proposed ‘Territorial Potentials for a Greener Economy’ should address the following key policy questions within the framework of territorial cohesion and provide supporting knowledge and evidence:

- What potential do different European regions and cities have for contributing to a greener economy?
- What role might territorial policies play in order to support the development of a greener economy?
- Which other key policy areas including territorially relevant elements are decisive for the development of a green economy and how can these different policy areas be better territorially integrated and create synergies?

Other projects under the ESPON 2013 Programme might produce highly relevant knowledge for this project. Thus, the project is expected to establish interrelations with ongoing ESPON 2013 applied research as well as targeted analyses projects.

In the analysis and where relevant, the project is expected to make use of the nine standard ESPON Territorial Typologies: urban-rural; metropolitan regions; border regions; islands regions; sparsely populated regions; outermost regions; mountainous regions; coastal regions; regions in industrial transition. The first six were developed by DG Regio and the remaining three were proposed in the ESPON project on Typology Compilation.

#### ***(iv) Analytical framework and deliveries expected***

The project takes the scoping and policy context described above as a starting point to explore the territorial dimensions of the green economy. Specifically this project should firstly identify (1) territorial aspects of a greener economy, and (2) the territorial potentials of various types of regions that allow them to take efficient policy actions towards a green economy.

##### ***General framework***

In this project, the green economy is understood as an approach to transform production and consumption processes and patterns, including economic, environmental and social values, in order to ensure a more sustainable use of natural resources with lower carbon emissions while at the same time stimulate growth based on the natural, human and economic investments. This definition needs to be further qualified by adding a territorial dimension that shall be identified and further elaborated within the research work, in support of detecting territorial strong and weaker points as well as territorial potentials of cities and regions regarding the green economy. The project should apply two dimensions:

1. In order not to receive unfocused results due to the multitude of economic sectors that are part of and being impacted by the green economy concept, but rather aiming for an initial comprehensive picture of the territorial dimension of the green economy, this study shall focus on the following 6 sectors, to which a large part of the cohesion policy investment in environment is allocated:
  - Agriculture and Food
  - Forestry
  - Manufacturing
  - Renewable Energy
  - Tourism
  - Transport
2. Furthermore, integrated green economic activities that are cross-cutting the above mentioned economic areas, and at the same time include a territorial aspect shall be considered, e.g. water and waste management, building/construction, ‘green’ research activities or the implementation of clean technologies such as carbon capture technologies.

The main objective of this research will be to establish a comprehensive, comparative and holistic picture of the European regions from a territorial perspective of a green economy. Existing data and indicators should be complemented with new indicators based on a thorough discussion on the proper measurements of green economic activities and potentials.

#### *Key research questions*

The project is expected to answer the following key research questions:

- **What is the territorial dimension of the green economy?**
  - How can the green economy be defined from a territorial point of view?
  - What are key areas of green economic activities seen from a territorial point of view?
  - Which key policy areas need to be considered from a territorial point of view when dealing with the green economy?
  - What scope is there for specifically territorial interventions (e.g. economic restructuring, land use changes, new network connections, urban-rural relations, corridor development etc) to help create and sustain a greener economy?
- **What is the state and perspective of the green economy within European regions?**
  - What territorially relevant quantitative economic, environmental as well as social data and indicators are available? How can green economic activities be measured from a territorial point of view (e.g. share of green economy of total economy, share in GDP, share of jobs, share of the workforce)?
  - Which (types of) regions and cities attract a high amount of green economic activities and possess potential to stimulate the development of the green economy? What factors have promoted or held back green economy development in those regions?
  - In which economic, environmental and social areas territorial conflicts might arise due to the development of the green economy?

- **How can regional / local territorial policy strategies and actions contribute to a greener economy?**

- What are policy relevant components of the green economy? How can territorial development and territorial cohesion help the green economic sector, and vice versa?
- Which policy instruments (financial, regulatory, communicative) within territorial cohesion and development policies are useful to support green growth?
- What good practices of territorial development strategies supporting the green economy can be found at multiple levels, i.e. local, regional, national and European?
- Into which direction should territorial development be guided in order to create favorable preconditions for the development of a greener economy?

*Elements of the research process*

The project shall start off with a further elaboration of the above definition of green economic activities and its territorial dimensions according to the project objectives. An in-depth literature review shall be conducted in order to identify green economic activities that include territorial aspects. The literature review shall cover previous development, actors involved and investments made to stimulate the development of the green economy. In addition, the literature review shall highlight the role of governance for creating favourable conditions for the green economy.

In case the literature review points to the importance of additional economic sectors with strong territorial dimensions, besides the above-mentioned, the TPG can include up to 3 additional economic sectors for the study as for example services/administration. The selection shall be supported by a clear description why specific sectors have been taken into account.

Furthermore, integrated green economic activities that are cross-cutting the identified economic sectors shall be analysed and reflected in the project. The TPG is asked to consider that it is envisaged by European policy makers to focus on eco-innovations and new green jobs. Also for this selection a sound justification shall be provided. In this respect the topic of carbon capture technologies shall be discussed.

The project is asked to make use of and eventually complement the existing indicators included in the ESPON Database and identify available relevant data on the green economy. The indicators used by the European Commission to measure the progress towards the aim of the Europe 2020 strategy shall also be addressed regarding their potential to provide evidence on the territorial dimension of the green economy. In addition, the literature review shall contribute to the identification of the indicators needed to measure the development of the green economy.

*Territorial dimension*

The territorial development of the green economy shall be analysed in terms of the specific structures that characterises the regions identified to display a high level of green economic activities based on the above-mentioned economic sectors and integrated activities. This analysis should be carried out within the framework of existing territorial typologies and available indicators.



In addition, the territorial dimension of the green economy shall be illustrated by the use of 10 targeted case studies that need to have a geographical distribution reflecting the European regional diversity. The aim of the case studies is to identify good practices at regional level to develop a greener economy. The case studies should describe the processes and actions taken, including the involvement of key policy areas, to achieve the positive outcomes, environmental, economic as well as social.

Against this background also financial investments (public and/or private) shall be identified, that have been realised in the case study areas highlighting the different forms of financial instruments (e.g. tax incentives, subsidies) that have been used.

As the green economy develops, potential territorial conflicts between “old” and “new” economic sectors and actors can be expected to emerge. The impact of the development of renewable energy sources, e.g. the impact of biofuels on the food industry and food security, is one such area. The project shall take these potential territorial conflicts into account within the case studies.

#### *Policy dimension*

Finally the project is expected to identify innovative policy instruments for different territorial levels that can facilitate green growth and a positive development of the green economy sector. For this purpose, the results of the literature review, for example regarding good governance, and the results of the case studies regarding integrated approaches to key policy areas, should be drawn upon. Failure of policy actions shall also be identified and described in this part of the study.

The policy relevant findings should be presented in such a way that policy makers can use them in their considerations on territorial development strategies and policies. Although green growth is relevant to all countries, the recommended policy actions for regions will have to be tailored to the specific circumstances of the respective country within the ESPON territory taking into account local, regional, national and European governance levels.

#### *Methodology*

The TPG is expected to present an appropriate methodology and research approach that allows the project to answer the key policy and research questions mentioned above. The methodology should take into account possible limitations in data availability.

The design of the methodological approach and selection of indicators relevant for measuring and ascertaining the level of development of the green economy and its potentials is a main research issue in itself. Synergies between ecological and economic indicators shall be highlighted in order to identify possible win-win situations in developing the green economy. Environmental as well as economic and eventually composite indicators need to be identified which can facilitate the comparison of best practices.

#### *Use of existing ESPON Data*

The project builds further on and elaborates results of existing and ongoing ESPON projects as well as other useful existing knowledge.

Data, indicators and maps of the ESPON 2006 and 2013 Programme are important sources for this project. The project shall in particular be informed and make use of results from the following projects:

- ESPON 2013 Applied Research Project “Future Orientations for Cities” (FOCI)
- ESPON 2013 Applied Research Project “Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies in Europe” (ESPON CLIMATE)
- ESPON 2013 Applied Research Project “Regions at Risk of Energy Poverty” (ReRisk)
- ESPON 2013 Applied Research Project “Knowledge, Innovation, Territory” (KIT)
- ESPON 2013 Applied Research Project “The Attractiveness of European Cities and Regions and Cities for Residents and Visitors” (ATTREG)
- ESPON 2006 Applied Research Project “Energy services, networks and territorial impact EU energy policy (2.1.4)
- ESPON 2006 Applied Research Project “EU economic policies and location of economic activities” (3.4.2)
- ESPON 2013 Targeted Analysis Project “The Case for Agglomeration Economies” (CAEE)
- ESPON 2013 Targeted Analysis Project “Success for Convergence Region’s Economies (SURE)

Also the projects that will start in parallel to this one should be considered, namely the project dealing with the Europe 2020 Strategy and the project ‘Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe’.

#### *Research output*

The project should strive for a comprehensive and integrated research approach, taking into account social, environmental and economic aspects. In addition a five-level analytical approach (global/European neighbourhood, European, macro-regional (transnational), national, regional/local), commonly used by all ESPON applied research projects, should be applied in order to support a clear presentation of results.

The project shall also strive for delivering results and conclusions which can support the policy development in the field of territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion. It should demonstrate an innovative approach with regard to the scientific answers to the policy questions and should aim at showing new development opportunities for the European territory. There should be a combination and interrelation of various sectors and territorial insights on the development in order to contribute to the creation of new development paths and visions.

The literature review shall provide an overview of green economic activities including a territorial dimension, key policy areas that can play a role in the development of these activities and the respective territorial level to approach.

The identification of available and required data as well as the territorial representation of data and the development of territorial indicators on the green economy form an important part of this applied research project. The teams of experts interested in this project are asked to give a clear indication already in their proposal on the quantitative data they will use and how this data will be obtained. It is stated in the Europe 2020 Strategy, for instance, that the European Commission will monitor annually the

situation on the basis of a set of indicators showing overall progress towards the objective of green economy. It is foreseen that a yearly report will be issued focusing on the progress towards meeting the agreed targets of smart, green and inclusive growth.

The use of the territorial typologies shall allow mapping potentials for green economic activities of different types of regions. When answering the presented policy questions the TPG is asked to go beyond the NUTS standard and rather putting focus on the territorial classification. In order to create coherence with project findings of other ESPON applied research projects, the project should present the main final results in relation to different types of regions and cities, using, where applicable, existing typologies for the urban system, rural areas, mountain areas, islands, coastal areas and outermost regions. The final results should also be presented for transnational cooperation areas under Structural Funds, and - where appropriate and possible - also for cross-border cooperation area and inter-regional cooperation areas.

Against this background it is also important to look at the connectivity between territories, e.g. in relation to energy networks or to accessibility to tourist destinations, taking into consideration the current situation as well as the future opportunities.

The 10 geographically distributed case studies on good practices, mentioned before, shall consider the linkage with integrated green economic activities. The usage of territorial capabilities to strengthen green economic development is supposed to be highlighted. Hence within the case studies the TPG shall analyse in depth both the territorial elements behind the spatial green economic patterns and the impact of the green economy on regional growth. This step should help understanding the territorial successful elements of the green economy and their impact on regional growth.

The case studies shall take into account integrated approaches of different key policy areas, the legal framework as well as types of financial investments and instruments. In addition, the various options for the development of the green economy arising from these elements should be analysed, highlighting the specific potentials of different types of territories. Conclusions from the case studies should be elaborated and where appropriate discern patterns of similarities, e.g. whether particular types of territories display similar approaches to the application of financial investments and instruments.

In order to qualify the outcome a comparison of the literature review and the results from the case studies shall be carried out.

Finally, the project shall outline potential spatial development strategies and propose next steps in order to further develop the understanding of the territorial dimension of green economic activities and their potentials. Additionally ideas shall be provided for future Targeted Analyses that could be implemented on this topic.

The geographical coverage of the project should encompass all the countries participating in the ESPON 2013 Programme. Furthermore, the TPG should assess the data situation within their field of research in the EU Candidate Countries (i.e. Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey) and/or the other countries of the Western Balkans (i.e. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244), and report their findings in the Inception

report (see below chapter (v)). Depending on the respective data situation these countries would then be included in the analysis.

The deliveries of the project should make use of and complement the existing scientific platform and tools of ESPON, which are accessible on the ESPON website. The project is expected to enhance the scientific platform of ESPON through the following deliveries:

- Overview of green economic activities including a territorial dimension, key policy areas that can play a role in the development of these activities and the respective territorial level to approach, based on the literature review.
- Data input to the development, update and extension of the ESPON database by additional data on green economic activities (preferably NUTS 2/3 level) gathered within the project. Indicators need to offer compatibility with a map-making facility, to provide a consistent, homogenous, reliable and up-datable database.
- Indicators offering additional information on green economic activities in general and their territorial potentials for regions and urban/rural areas, and new indicators measuring key aspects of green economy.
- 10 geographically distributed case studies on good practices for the process of moving towards a greener economy.
- European maps revealing (1) the territorial structure of the green economy, (2) typologies of regions, (3) potentials for regional development.

Regarding the development of new data and maps and/or the use of existing data, the TPG is expected to cooperate closely with the TPG being in charge of the development of the ESPON 2013 Database.

The results and conclusions of the applied research within the project should be formulated in relation to policy orientations present at European level and make use of the new typologies – if applicable – and maps resulting from the project.

Following the logic of the Territorial Agenda of the EU, orientations for policy makers should refer to the respective territorial development opportunities and the available options to mobilise these for the benefit of the cities, urban agglomerations and surrounding regions in question. In this respect, references to future policy options should take account of European Cohesion Policy orientations, in particular expressed in the Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion 2007-2013, the Fourth and Fifth Report on Cohesion, as well as (the debate on the) Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion.

Project findings should make clear which impact the green economy could have on the competitiveness and socio-economic situation of European regions and cities as well as on the realisation of economic, social and territorial cohesion in Europe. Finally, the project should consider avenues for further applied research on the theme.

### ***(v) Outputs and timetable***

One of the main objectives of the ESPON 2013 Programme is to focus on research with policy relevance and to contribute to the development of relevant policies. Therefore, the outputs of the research project should be highly operational and coordinated in time, as far as possible, to fit into the relevant political agenda.

The proposal for the project is expected to reveal individual work packages on project coordination, research activities, and dissemination, as well as a schedule for project implementation based on the following indicative<sup>2</sup> timetable and specification of outputs:

#### **November 2011 (Inception Report):**

Twelve weeks after the kick-off meeting, a more in-depth concept should be submitted by the TPG allowing for a detailed overview, including elements on:

- a) The research approach to be applied, the methodology and hypothesis for further investigation.
- b) A review of the main literature, data sources, etc.
- c) A list of territorial indicators on the green economy that will be produced and mapped within the project.
- d) The selection of integrated green economic activities that are cross-cutting the identified economic sectors and if it is foreseen that additional economic sectors will be considered within the study these shall be presented as well.
- e) Presentation of the procedure to select the case studies and the methodology to analyse them.
- f) An overview of more detailed deliveries and outputs envisaged by the project as well as an indication of likely barriers that the project implementation might face.
- g) A clear orientation for the applied research previewed towards the Interim report.
- h) Description on the findings regarding the assessment of the data situation in EU candidate countries, the Western Balkans and Turkey and, on that basis, determination of the geographical coverage of the research.
- i) Outline on how the TPG envisages making use of existing ESPON and other results that are relevant for this project.

#### **May 2012 (Interim Report):**

The content of the Interim report shall reflect the orientations given in the Inception Report as well as the results of the discussions having taken place with the Sounding Board. The report is envisaged to include elements such as:

- a) Main results on the basis of available data, developed indicators, typologies, and European maps, including
  - An overview on concepts and methodology on assessing the territorial dimension of the green economy and possible final results.
  - Description of the technique/methodology/indicators/models to be used to detect and approach the territorial dimension of the green economy.
  - Description of green economic activities that include territorial aspects based on the literature review.
  - Presentation of the selection of geographically distributed case studies that will be analysed as well as elaboration and first preliminary results.
  - Preliminary results on the basis of available territorial indicators, including draft European maps.

---

<sup>2</sup> The final timetable for the project will depend upon the exact date of the project's Kick-off Meeting. At this meeting, the exact delivery dates for all project reports will be agreed upon with the Lead Partner.

- Data collection achieved, including an overview on statistical and geographical data collected by EUROSTAT and national Statistical Institutes etc.
  - First indications on the conclusions and policy relevant options that could be the outcome of the project.
- b) Plan for the applied research towards the draft Final Report as well as the Table of Content envisaged for the Final report.

### **May 2013 (Draft Final Report):**

The Draft Final report will take into account feed-back on the Interim Report from an ESPON seminar and by the Sounding Board. The report is supposed to include elements such as:

- a) Report (max. 50 pages) on the main results, trends, impacts and options for policy development, including key analysis/diagnosis/findings and the most relevant indicators and maps (any additional information should be included in a scientific report). Particularly important are options for policy makers, which could provide the basis for interventions related to potentials for improving European competitiveness and cohesion. The report should include key messages on the following:
  - The operational use of the territorial dimension of the green economy in relation to EU policy development.
  - Indication of policy options that could improve the tested policies in terms of supporting European strategies and territorial policy orientations.
- b) An executive summary (max. 10 pages) summarising the main results of the applied research that can be communicated to a wider audience of stakeholders. This summary should be based on the Report mentioned above.
- c) Scientific report documenting the scientific work undertaken in the applied research including elements such as:
  - Literature and methodology/theory used.
  - Data collected and indicators used, including tables with the exact values of indicators.
  - Maps produced in support of the results, covering the territory of EU 27, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
  - Models and other tools used or developed.
  - Detailed description of the case studies.
  - Roadmap for policy implementation and on the further research avenue to follow, including further data requirements and ideas of territorial indicators, concepts and typologies as well as on further developments linked to the database and mapping facilities.
- d) Appendices to the Scientific Report including detailed results of the separate case studies

### **September 2013 (Final Report):**

- a) Revision of the Draft Final report on the basis of comments received.

### **September 2013 – February 2014 (Dissemination):**

a) Dissemination of project results by the TPG in the framework of international conferences and seminars, e.g. transnational activities of the ECP Network, events organised by the CU. These activities need to be reflected in the budget proposed by the TPG for the implementation of the project.

The ESPON 2013 Programme foresees in Priority 4 also capitalisation of project results including events, printed reports, website facility, etc. The Programme includes, in other words, substantial dissemination activities at Programme level which all projects should make use of and support. This means that the project's dissemination activities shall ensure consistency and avoid overlaps with and repetition of respective activities organised at Programme level. The project team shall refer to the objectives of Priority 4 of the ESPON 2013 Programme "Capitalisation, ownership and participation: Capacity building, dialogue and networking" when considering dissemination activities and closely coordinate these with the ESPON CU.

Irrespective of the above mentioned reports to be submitted at certain stages in the project life cycle, the TPG is expected to give presentations on the state of their research or/and the results in the framework of internal and external ESPON seminars. Therefore, when setting up the project proposal, the TPG should also allow for travel expenses for the attendance of ESPON seminars.

### ***(vi) Budget for the applied research project***

The maximum budget foreseen for this applied research project is 750.000 Euro including VAT if applicable. Proposals exceeding this value will not be considered.

All real eligible costs incurred for carrying out the approved project will be refunded 100% by the ESPON 2013 Programme.

### ***(vii) Existing access points***

The ESPON Website ([www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)) provides access to all available project results from the ESPON 2013 and 2006 Programme. Synergies and use of results from outside the ESPON regime also shall be sought.

The access points listed below can serve the purpose of providing the TPG useful information for preparing a proposal. It is by no means meant to be exhaustive, but should be considered as information that can be helpful in tracing additional useful background information:

#### European Policy related documents:

- Europe 2020 – A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth ([http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm))

- Fifth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion - “Investing in Europe’s future”  
([http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/cohesion5/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/cohesion5/index_en.cfm))
- Additional relevant Policy Documents can be found on the web-site of COPTA ‘Cooperation for Territorial Cohesion of Europe’ (<http://www.eu-territorial-agenda.eu/Pages/Default.aspx>) such as:
  - First Action Programme for the Implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union, 23 November 2007
  - Territorial Agenda of the European Union. Towards a more competitive and sustainable Europe of diverse regions, 25 May 2007
  - The Territorial State and Perspectives of the European Union, May 2007
  - ESDP European Spatial Development: Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory of the EU, May 1999

Other relevant documents:

- The Green Economy Initiative Website ([www.unep.org/greeneconomy](http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy)) provides access to several publications on green economy such as:
  - Global Green new Deal. An Update for the G20 Pittsburgh Summit, September 2009
  - Global Green New Deal, Policy Brief, March 2009
  - The Green Economy Report, to be published in 2011
- The OECD Website ([www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)) provides access to several publications and statistics on green economy such as:
  - Interim Report of the Green Growth Strategy: Implementing our commitment for a sustainable future, May 2010
  - “A Framework for Assessing Green Growth Policies”, De Serres, A, F. Murtin, and G. Nicoletti, OECD Economics Department Working Paper, OECD, June 2010