

## ON EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING OBSERVATION NETWORK

### 1st ESPON Newsletter

No 1/2006

Welcome to the first issue of the electronic ESPON Newsletter.

This newsletter, published 4 to 5 times a year, will offer information on the latest developments within ESPON. Furthermore, each newsletter will also briefly inform readers about a special feature related to latest ESPON findings.

If you also want to get future ESPON Newsletters please send a blank reply to [newsletter@espon.eu](mailto:newsletter@espon.eu). But if you do want to unsubscribe the ESPON Newsletter, please click [here](#).

#### HAVE A LOOK: NEW ESPON WEBSITE IN THE "EU DOMAIN"

ESPON has launched its new website in the ".eu domain" and will over the coming month continuously improve the user-friendliness of the website and the information available online. Please, visit [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu) to have a look. And please be aware that the email addresses of all staff in the Coordination have migrated to "@espon.eu".

#### DO YOUR OWN TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS

As often requested, large parts of the ESPON database are finally available for a wider public. If you want to dive into the world of territorial analysis and regional data on which ESPON results are based, please register for a free-of-charge access to the ESPON database [here](#). Furthermore two online analysis and mapping tools which have been developed as a part of an ESPON project are available online now. The [Hyperatlas](#) and the [WebGIS](#) allow you to do your own territorial analysis.

#### COME AND MEET ESPON

If you prefer not only to use the internet as a place to meet ESPON you are welcome to the ESPON related seminars which are currently scheduled throughout Europe:

- ESPON-INTERACT conference on cross-border cooperation, 14 June 2006 – Riga.
- ESPON transnational seminar: MONTESPON addressing the specific development challenges in the mountainous regions, 5-6 September 2006 – Lucern (info available early June).

If you want to update your knowledge on European territorial development and discuss the latest insights, register now and come and meet ESPON.

ESPON will organise a workshop within the Commissions OPEN DAYS in Bruxelles on 9-12 October 2006, the event called the European week of Regions and Cities. Consider to participate in this ESPON workshop where 4 speakers, from different angles, will approach the diversity of opportunities in regions and cities. You will register via the Commissions website and get more information by clicking [here](#).

#### LATEST ESPON SEMINAR

Members of ESPON project teams, the ESPON Monitoring Committee and the ESPON Contact Point network met for 2 intense days of discussion, 13-14 March 2006 in Salzburg. The discussions on latest policy developments, ESPON findings and reflections on ESPON in various workshops have been very fruitful. The participants also highlighted the opportunities for networking between scientific and policy communities during the seminar.

### READ MORE ON LATEST ESPON FINDINGS

Mapping regional competitiveness and cohesion is the topic of the ESPON Briefing 2 which, on 26 pages (incl. 10 maps), presents some highlights of the latest research findings on territorial development in Europe. Download your personal copy free of charge here and read more on the latest ESPON findings.

### MAP OF THE MONTH

Among the topics addressed in the ESPON Briefing 2, is the question of European regions and the Lisbon Agenda. In the ESPON analysis seven out of the 14 official indicators for measuring the progress of the Lisbon/Gothenburg agenda, agreed upon by the European Commission and the European Council, have been merged into one combined indicator showing the variety across European regions. Find out more at ESPON website where a new feature, the map of the month, offers a taste of ESPON's findings.

### LEARN MORE ABOUT NEW PROJECTS

Recently four new ESPON projects have taken up their work breaking new ground for future territorial research:

1. a study on urban functions looking into the European urban system with focus on socio-economic functions (1.4.3);
2. a study on the feasibility on flows analysis (1.4.4);
3. a study on spatially relevant aspects of tourism (1.4.5)
4. a new project on the feasibility of monitoring territorial development based on ESPON key indicators (4.1.3)

### SIGN-UP AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS

This is the first ESPON Newsletter. As for the future, the ambition is to issue 4 to 5 newsletters a year. If you find the ESPON Newsletter interesting and useful please tell your friends to sign-up by sending a blank reply to [newsletter@espon.eu](mailto:newsletter@espon.eu).