

ESPON 2013 Programme

European observation network on territorial development and cohesion



- financed from ERDF -

Total budget 45,378,012 EURO for the programming period 2007 - 2013

Eligible area

- Entire EU territory (EU 27);
- The territory of 4 participant states: Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Lichtenstein



PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

The ESPON 2013 Programme is financing soft research projects.

Priority*/Main types of actions	Total funding 2007-2013 (FEDR + national contribution of the participant countries) EURO	Eligible direct beneficiaries	Type of call	Project budget euro**		Implementation period months**	
				Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
Priority 1 - Applied research on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion: evidence on territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts.							
The actions envisaged fall within three main categories: 1) Cross-thematic and thematic analysis (defining territorial potentials and challenges), including studies of territorial trends and prospective studies; 2) Territorial impact of EU policies;	19,241,512 90% co-financing rate (EU) + 10% national contribution of the participant countries	Public bodies or bodies governed by public law Universities and research institutions in the field of territorial development	Call for proposals Research themes are established at the moment of the launch of the calls.	350.000	1.000.000	20	30
3) Knowledge Support System		Pool of scientists (specialists in many thematic fields) who can assist the applied research actions in an advisory role, providing feed back and guidance	Expressions of interest	Budget of the service contract	Budget of the service contract	Implementation period	Implementation period

Priority 2 - Targeted analysis based on user demand: models of development of different types of territories, taking into account their situation in the European context)							
1) Integrated studies and thematic analysis; 2) Knowledge support to experimental and innovative actions; 3) Joint actions related to other Structural Fund Programmes.	6,536,250 80% co-financing rate (EU) + 20% national contribution of the participant countries	Public bodies or bodies governed by public law	Calls are developed in two phases Phase 1 – Expressions of interest – policy makers submit their proposals for themes for research	Stakeholders are not financed	Stakeholders are not financed	20	29
		Policy makers in the field of territorial development central and local administration (Stakeholders)	Phase 2 –Calls for proposals – Universities and research institutions submit their project proposals on the themes approved in Phase 1.	150.000	250.000	20	29
Priority 3 - Scientific platform and tools: territorial indicators and data, analytical tools and scientific support							
1) ESPON database and data development; 2) Territorial indicators/indexes and tools; 3) Territorial monitoring system and reports; 4) Targeted actions for update of indicators and maps.	6,148,100 85% co-financing rate (EU) + 15% national contribution of the participant countries	Public bodies or bodies governed by public law Universities and research institutions in the field of territorial development	Call for proposals	600.000	2.800.000	10	15
Priority 4 - Capitalisation, ownership and participation: capacity building, dialogue and networking (the aim is to stimulate the dialogue and to develop relationships between institutions that activate in the area of research and public authorities in charge with territorial development)							
1) Media and publications; 2) European seminars and workshops;	5,514,100 79% co-financing rate (EU) + 21% national contribution of the participant countries	Service providers contracted	Call for tenders	Budget of the service contract	Budget of the service contract		
3) Transnational networking activities.		National Contact Points nominated by the participant states and confirmed in the network by the Monitoring Committee of the ESPON 2013 Operational Programme.	Call for proposals	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available

- **Priority 5 – Technical Assistance, Analytical Support and Communication is implemented by the Managing Authority;*
- ***The numbers depend on the calls for proposals/expression of interest.*

ESPON 2013 Programme

European observation network on territorial development and cohesion

The overall aim of the ESPON 2013 Programme is to “Support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory by **(1)** providing comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on territorial dynamics and **(2)** revealing territorial capital and potential for the development of regions and larger territories contributing to the European competitiveness, territorial cooperation and sustainable and balanced development”.

Eligible bodies

→ Legal status

In order to be eligible for funding partners have to be public bodies or bodies governed by public law as defined below.

Body governed by public law according to Directive 2004/18/EC¹ means **any** body:

(a) established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character;

(b) having legal personality; and

(c) **1.** financed, for the most part, by the State, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law **or**

3. subject to management supervision by those bodies **or**

2. having an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law.

Find the text of the Directive at the following link <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/>.



In case of doubt about the legal status please contact the National Authority for the ESPON 2013 (NA ESPON) Programme from Romania and request the confirmation of the eligibility prior to the involvement in a Transnational Project Group

As stated in the Operational Programme Document on pages 35 and 36, the Managing Authority with the Member States and Partner States will during the programme implementation investigate whether calls for proposals might as well be open for private bodies within State Aid Regulations.

Should this become an option the NA ESPON shall disseminate widely to the Romanian potential beneficiaries. Information in this respect shall be available on the web sites www.mdrl.ro and www.infocooperare.ro.

¹ Directive 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts.

→ Geographical reference

The applicants can either come from **Member States** or **Partner States**:

- (1) States from EU 27;
- (2) Partner States: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.



During the Programme implementation it is the intention to consider involving further countries in the applied research and studies. Potential EU Candidate Countries and direct neighbours of the EU will be primarily considered.

10% of the programme budget can finance expenditure incurred in implementing actions (in whole or in part) in a country outside the EU, if this will benefit the regions of the Community.

→ The main types of direct beneficiaries are the **institutions in the field of territorial development**:

- **Universities;**
- **Research Institutions;**
- **Policy makers (central and local public administration, etc.);**
- **National Contact Points.**

→ Target Group

The target groups are the beneficiaries of the ESPON results:

- Public authorities at all levels of administration as well as the research community: Commission, all EU Member States and countries participating in the ESPON 2013 Programme, the corresponding national and regional/local authorities and public universities and research institutes;
- Policy makers and practitioners involved in carrying through programme and project activities with Structural Fund's programmes dealing with territorial development and cooperation.

Partnership in a Transnational Project Groups (TPG)

→ Sources for partner search

- A possibility for potential partners supporting them in the creation of Transnational Project Groups (TPGs) is available. Based on a "Partner Information Form", interested potential partners can ask for inclusion in an overview of potential partners compiled by the ESPON Coordination Unit. This option is accessible on the ESPON 2013 Programme website- www.espon.eu and below at the following link:http://www.espon.eu/mmp/online/website/content/programme/1455/1496/1871/1870/1538_EN.html;
- The web site www.infocooperare.ro – a portal for the potential beneficiaries facilitating partner search;
- NA ESPON – supports the potential beneficiaries in finding a partner. Send an e-mail at espon2013@mdlpl.ro;
- ESPON Contact Points (ECP) – contact the representatives of the ECP's by the member states participating in the Programme. The list of ECP's contact details is available on ESPON 2013 Programme website- www.espon.eu and below at the following link http://www.espon.eu/mmp/online/website/content/network/92/index_EN.html

→ Partnership requirements

General rule: ESPON projects are generally conducted in a partnership of several bodies from at least **three** EU Member States and Partner States (multidisciplinary expertise).



The requirement does not apply to projects with a budget up to 200.000 euro. Other rules concerning the minimum number of partners in a GTP are established in the Programme Manual.

→ Roles in the TPG

The principle of the Lead Partner (LP) applies – TPG is formed up from partner institutions and is conducted by LP.

The application should be developed in close cooperation with future project partners and is based on the principles of **joint development** and **joint implementation**, where **joint** refers to the whole partnership.

The **Subsidy Contract**, governing the obligations of the TPG and its relation to the ESPON 2013 Programme, will be signed between LP, as the representative of the TPG, and the ESPON Managing Authority. The contract is concluded in euro.

The **Partnership Agreement** - partner organisations in each TPG are required to sign a Partnership Agreement (in English language) laying down the division of mutual responsibilities and rights of partners and ensuring a smooth working mechanism. A copy of the signed Partnership Agreement must be submitted together with the Inception Report within twelve weeks after the approval of the project.

Eligibility of costs

→ General conditions

Costs are eligible for funding if they comply with all the following requirements:

- Are incurred (paid out);
- Are incurred by the partners;
- Are directly linked to the project implementation;
- Are incurred and accounted in compliance with Legal framework;
- Are incurred within the eligibility period;
- Are correctly reported within the approved budget lines.

→ Budget Lines

- Budget Line 1- Staff;
- Budget Line 2 – Administration;
- Budget Line 3 – Travel and accommodation;
- Budget Line 4 – Equipment;
- Linia bugetară 5 – External expertise and services.

Project financing

- Project are financed through the **reimbursement mechanism**:
 - Projects pay all expenditure;
 - Projects claim the reimbursement of the costs to the Programme.
- The eligible expenditure is reimbursed only after the first level control is performed.
- The eligible expenditure of the eligible applicants will be **100% financed**;
- **No advance payment to projects or applicants is possible.**



The working language is English.

Information on the next calls for proposals and expressions of interests will be available soon.

In order to stay updated with the financing opportunities visit periodically the official web site www.espon.eu

The Romanian implementation team of the ESPON 2013 Programme wishes you good luck in ESPON projects. Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

CONTACT

[National Authority for ESPON 2013 Programme](#)

Ministry of Regional Development and Housing
Directorate General for Territorial Development
Unit for Strategies and Territorial Cooperation

Information sources

www.espon.eu

www.mdrl.ro

www.infocooperare.ro

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! The present document contains information periodically updated. Check for the most updated version on the website: www.mdrl.ro and www.infocooperare.ro - ESPON Section.