

From evidence to action: territorial trends and challenges identified in the ESPON projects.

Fostering policy coherence in the Danube Region.

4th April 2019 // Vienna, Austria

1. Outline

The Danube Region – as geographically addressed by the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the Interreg programme Danube transnational 2014-2020 – stands for a European region with specific patterns of territorial development and trends which results in specific challenges for territorial cohesion and consequent needs for macroregional / transnational cooperation. Flows, interdependencies, interlinkages and functional relations crossing national borders within and beyond the region are growing. Policy responses would have to be designed cooperatively and be strongly coordinated among Danube countries and regions, taking into account available evidence. Evidence on macroregional / transnational territorial phenomena is still rare in the Danube region. This is compounded by the challenge of how to make use of existing evidence in the design of cooperation instruments.

Both the EUSDR (since 2010/2011) and the Interreg Danube programme are cooperation instruments that engage in efforts to better utilise available territorial evidence. Moreover, there is a growing interest and pressure for national and regional authorities to identify /select their priorities for cooperation in the Danube Region as well as to monitor and evaluate their implementation upon solid evidence.

ESPON could offer support in several ways:

- Stimulating stakeholders by making aware of ESPON results specifically translated and interpreted for the Danube region (aiming particularly at stakeholders involved in the governance of EUSDR, Interreg Danube and Interreg Central Europe);
- Making aware of available ESPON tools (incl. the tailor-made tool for macro-regional monitoring) and proposing the application of these tool in particular Danube contexts;
- More specifically: being aware of the “window of opportunity”, i.e. the ongoing revision and evaluation of the EUSDR Action Plan and the kick-off of post-2020 Interreg programming, to put a specific attention on what could be done in this respect during this year.

What ESPON offers in this context is a wide range of data, indicators and tools that help to monitor territorial trends, compare regional social, economic and environmental performance and identify functional linkages beyond national borders. These insights can support the iterative process of strategy development, monitoring and evaluation. ESPON is also examining the consequences of territorialism, the cost of borders and discontinuity of cooperation, projecting the territorial developments in mid-term and long-term policy scenarios. The role of cooperation amidst the new challenges that ESPON’s European Territorial Reference Framework refers to as the ‘crisis of territorialism’ is projected to be at its greatest height over the next decade. The increasing problems of efficiency and legitimacy of governance compounded by future technological, economic, social and environmental trends necessitates common understanding and a common territorial vision. Insights from ESPON on the territorial future can help to reconcile various interests and serve as an inspiration to shape a common vision for the Danube region.

2. Programme

09:30	<i>Registration and Coffee</i>
10:00	<i>Welcome and opening</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Laurent Frideres, ESPON EGTC</i> • <i>Roland Arbter, Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism</i> • <i>Markus Seidl, Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning</i>
Part 1: Territorial trends and challenges in the Danube Region as identified by ESPON-projects	
10:30	<i>Key notes</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESPON macroregional monitoring tool: trends and challenges in the Danube region <i>Efrain Larrea, MCRIT</i> • ESPON European Territorial Reference Framework: findings and policy recommendations in the context of the Danube Region <i>Andreu Ulied, MCRIT</i> • The European Territorial Review put into the Danube context <i>Kai Böhme, Spatial Foresight</i>
12:00	<i>Open discussion (involving other ESPON experts on the Danube region)</i>
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>
Part 2: Evidence-based planning for a stronger impact	
13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence needs for the EUSDR Action Plan revision <i>Rudolf Schicker, EUSDR Strategy Point</i> • Evidence needs for the post-2020 programming of Interreg Danube <i>Imre Csalagovits, MA of Interreg Danube (tbc)</i> • Evidence needs for strengthening impacts of Interreg investments: reflections on the experimental call concept <i>Luca Ferrarese, Joint Secretariat of Interreg Central Europe (tbc)</i> • ESPON evidence for other macro-regions: Alps 2050 <i>NN, ESPON</i>
14:30	<i>Discussion and concluding statements (experts of part 1 and 2)</i>
15:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
Part 3: Evidence-based monitoring and evaluation in the EUSDR	

15:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating EU macro-regional strategies: The perspective of experimentalist governance, <i>Stefan Gänzle, University of Agder, Norway</i> • Latest activities and next steps in the evaluation and monitoring of the EUSDR <i>Jörg Mirtl</i> • Presentation and discussion of the inception report of the EUSDR's evaluation – <i>by experts and SG DANUVAL</i> • The role of monitoring in evaluation <i>ESPON EGTC</i>
<i>Ends 17:00</i>	

3. Policy processes to be addressed

In the course of the discussion between the ESPON TNO project and representatives of member states (MC and ECPs), the topic of capitalising on ESPON results towards macroregional strategies (and complement transnational programmes) has been identified as a topic of joint interest. Austria/the BMNT and ÖROK have volunteered to co-host a TNO event in Central Europe which could address this subject in an explorative way – either for the Alpine Region or the Danube region. Due to various reasons, the Danube Region has finally been selected as example target region.

The host of the event is the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK), which along with other Austrian authorities involved in the governance of both cooperation formats is supportive of the added value of evidence-based policymaking. In addition to the partnership with the ÖROK (which not only hosts the Austrian ECP but also supports national coordination towards EUSDR and Interreg Danube in Austria), the partnership with the Danube Strategy Point (DSP) and the involvement of Interreg Danube aims for an effective integration into the TNO event.

Briefly on the DSP: The City of Vienna, together with the Romanian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, is in the lead for the implementation of the Danube Strategy Point (DSP), a service institution and knowledge hub for the EUSDR which was established recently in autumn 2018.

DSP's tasks includes the development of a monitoring and evaluation concept, that should enhance the governance of the EUSDR and contribute to the revision of its Action Plan. The evaluation process of the EUSDR is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2019. DSP has initiated the steering group DANUVAL that will strategically accompany the evaluation process, which is composed of delegates from the Bulgarian, Romanian and Croatian EU Presidencies, the European Commission and JRC, other Member States and EUSDR pillars. The governance bodies of Interreg Danube will organise a first working group meeting on 12 February 2019 in Budapest in order to set the scene for the post-2020 programming processes. More detailed considerations about data collection and impact assessment are expected in the second quarter of 2019.

The ESPON workshop has been scheduled in a period that can equally serve stakeholders which are involved in both /or either in the EUSDR evaluation and the Interreg Danube programming, in an effort to show that the subsequent discussions, evaluation and programming processes as well as the ultimate decision making on both the EUSDR Action Plan and the Interreg Danube post-2020 cooperation programme can benefit from informed opinion

4. Targeted audience

- Stakeholders and experts interested in macroregional/transnational territorial analysis, monitoring and evaluation in the Danube Region / Central Europe region – with a focus on the example of the EUSDR and INTERREG DANUBE-process (incl. Members of the Steering Group DANUVAL, Members of the Interreg)
- Danube working group on post-2020 programming
- Central Europe Joint Secretariat / Managing Authority
- Other interested experts from both the public and private sector

5. What to expect from the workshop?

The first session will set the scene, introducing the goals and expectations. Keynotes introducing relevant findings from ESPON's macroregional monitoring tool, the European Territorial Reference Framework and the European Territorial Review put into the Danube context will illustrate the territorial trends and challenges in the Danube Region. The second session will revolve around the role of evidence for a high-impact planning with interventions from the Danube Strategy Point, Interreg Danube, Interreg Central Europe and ESPON Alps 2050 with examples for the use of evidence for a common spatial vision in the Alpine area. The third session is dedicated to the EUSDR evaluation process and the role of continuous monitoring.

6. Registration and contact information

Please register at www.espon.eu/danube

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7. Map of Location



8. Suggested Hotels

Ruby Lissi Hotel: <https://www.ruby-hotels.com/en/hotels-destinations/vienna/ruby-lissi>

Hotel Kaerntnerhof: <https://www.karntnerhof.com/en>

Hotel Alma Boutique: <https://www.hotel-alma.com/en>