ESPON

ESPON Round Table Session
at AESOP annual congress 2014

Making Europe Open and Polycentric

Guidance Document

Date: Thursday 10 July 2014, 13:45 – 15:15
Venue: De Uithof / Utrecht Science Park, University of Utrecht, Utrecht - Netherlands

Chair: Peter Mehlbye, Director ESPON Coordination Unit, Luxembourg

Presenters: Michael Wegener, S&W, Germany
Andreu Ulied, MCRIT, Spain

Additional panel members:
Daniel de Groot, Ministry of Infrastructures and the Environment, Netherlands
Martijn de Bruijn, DG Regio, Belgium

The aim of this document is to give guidance to the presenters and panel members in the round table session. The document starts with a section on general guidance including a summary of the instructions from the project specification for the Territorial Vision and Pathways and an overview of documentation provided by the project that could serve as background documentation to read before the session. This section is followed by a guidance section for the presenters and the additional panel members.

In case you have any queries or comments concerning this round table session, please do not hesitate to contact the ESPON CU (marjan.vanherwijnen@espon.eu).

General guidance

In general the aims of the Round Table are:

1. To create awareness and stimulate a dialogue on the Territorial Vision for Europe towards 2050.
2. To promote a sense of ownership for the Territorial Vision and a shared understanding of basic assumptions, territorial strategies, vision statements and pathways towards 2050.

Aim for the Territorial Vision 2050 as indicated in the Project Specification
Keywords: proactive, policy driven, creative, realistic, qualitative

"It is important to create a territorial vision of the future and not to territorialise a vision created. To do this, it is essential to think in terms of economic, social and territorial cohesion, meaning that the vision should integrate, from the beginning, territorial aspects such as territorial structure, balanced and sustainable development, territorial capital and potential, vulnerability etc.

The Territorial Vision should be developed as a long term vision (2050) in order to include the long-term impacts of regional policy as well as other relevant sector policies etc. which in general only show their impacts in a longer perspective. The vision should also be integrated in the global level and trying to answer the question how the European territory should be linked into the world. The Territorial

Vision will be the result of a more qualitative exercise and can be presented in a way using more creative and artistic means of communication and cartography."

Aim for the Pathways as indicated in the Project Specification
Keywords: analytical policy support

"A territorially differentiated pathway (now-2030) should be defined and mapped which is to be followed in order to reach the midterm targets and grow away from the Baseline scenario. Possible policy actions and interventions that are necessary to make this move forward should be formulated at different administrative levels. The policy recommendations are expected to follow a territorial logic and have a specific eye for policy actions within the framework of European Cohesion Policy, ERDF Funding in the period 2014-2020 and territorial policies within ESPON Member States."

Relevant ET2050 project results
The Executive Summary of the ET2050 project should provide sufficient information for the panel members to prepare a statement. If needed, additional information can be found in the Main Report of the project and/or in one or more of the 15 Volumes that further elaborate on specific issues.

The Executive Summary can be found attached to the email sending this document. The other documents can be downloaded from the project page at the ESPON website:
http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/ET2050.html

Specific guidance

The round table session takes 90 minutes. It will be divided in 50 minutes presentations and statements and 40 minutes discussion.

- **Presentation by Michael Wegener (15 minutes)**

Michael will briefly present the history of spatial development perspectives and policy orientations for Europe. In addition he would show the need for a common territorial vision and give examples of fields where European planning already works (e.g. transport) and of fields where European spatial planning is hindered by institutional deficits.

- **Presentation by Andreu Ulied (25 minutes)**

Andreu will shortly present the project overview, present those project results that show the need to further develop the European Cohesion policy establishing explicit territorial targets for Cohesion and Structural funds as well as enhancing the territorial dimension of other policies. He will then describe the strategies and pathways of the ET2050 Territorial Vision to make Europe more open and polycentric.

- **Statements by Daniel de Groot and Martijn de Bruijn (two times 5 minutes)**

According to the project results, an Open and Polycentric Europe appears to be the most appropriate territorial strategy to support European competitiveness, cohesion and sustainability goals. The two panel members, both representing policy makers, are asked to give a statement on the strategies and pathways developed by the project by addressing one or more of the questions below. Please address those issues that you feel most comfortable with.

a. To what extent you (your organisation) consider the proposed Vision and its territorial strategies attractive and desirable for Europe? Is something missing?
b. Do you think that the proposed Vision and its territorial strategies meet the challenges lying ahead for Europe (e.g. resources, energy, climate, ageing, immigration, job creation, growth)?
c. If the Territorial Vision and the territorial strategies give you (and your organisation) some new orientations and guidance to shape the future policies for the Netherlands and for Europe?
d. To what extent you (your organisation) consider the proposed Vision as a realistic long term policy framework for the year 2050?
e. What could/should be changed to make the vision more relevant/attractive/realistic/achievable for members of your organisation?

f. What possibilities do you see for using the presented Pathways in your work and helping moving Europe, your country or region/city towards the Territorial Vision?
g. Do you consider the Pathways for the Territorial Strategies sufficient, realistic and achievable? Do you have proposals for adjustments/changes/additions?
h. Do you consider the proposed New Generation of Cohesion Policies desirable? And realistic? Do you have proposals to make the next generation of Cohesion Policies more useful?
i. Do you consider the suggestions for overcoming the fragmentation of territorial concepts in Europe desirable, sufficient and realistic?

Daniel de Groot is asked to address these questions from a national point of view and Martijn de Bruijn from a European point of view.

- **Discussion with the audience (40 minutes)**

The chair is asked to focus in the discussion with the audience on the following issues:

a. Whether there is general support to the vision as a long term territorial policy framework making Europe open and polycentric.
b. Whether the territorial strategies and vision statements proposed are generally acceptable and/or if something is missing and should be considered changed?
c. Whether the Territorial Vision 2050 is considered sufficiently territorial. How could this be improved?
d. Whether there is general support:
    a. for the territorial pathways proposed;
    b. for the proposed New Generation of Cohesion Policies;
    c. for the suggestions made for the territorial strategies; and
    d. for the suggestions made for overcoming the fragmentation of territorial concepts.
e. Whether the proposed pathways provide the necessary steps in direction of the vision, its territorial strategies and vision statements towards 2050.