



**Slovenian Presidency Report  
on activities in the field of  
territorial cohesion and  
urban development**

January–June 2008





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**Contents:**

- Introductory remarks
- Report on activities in the field of territorial cohesion
- Report on activities in the field of urban development
- Side events

**Annexes:**

- Interim progress report on the implementation of the First Action Programme for the implementation of the TA EU with annexes 1, 2, 3
- Interim report on the implementation of the action to improve coordination between spatial and urban development policies



## Introductory remarks

On 1 January 2008 Slovenia took over the presidency of the Council of the EU. At the end of June 2008, after concluding the presidency, reflection is needed on the actions taken and progress made. The priority issues of the Slovenian EU Presidency were the future of the Union with regard to the new Lisbon Treaty, the Western Balkans, the Lisbon Strategy, the energy-climate package and intercultural dialogue. The slogan of the Slovenian EU Presidency was "Si.energy for Europe". The intent was to incorporate the priority issues and also the slogan into every action carried out, and also into the approach taken throughout the presidency.

In the field of territorial cohesion and urban development, Slovenia continued the working process, building on the work done by the previous presidencies. Slovenia took on activities to support and stimulate the post-Rotterdam process, with the emphasis on implementing the documents agreed upon at the ministerial meeting in Leipzig – the Territorial Agenda of the EU (TA EU) and the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities (LC); and at the ministerial meeting in Ponta Delgada in the Azores – the First Action Programme for the implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU (AP1). In this process the Member States, EU institutions and respective stakeholders worked closely in performing the activities agreed upon at the ministerial meetings in Leipzig and the Azores. Emphasis was also placed on strengthening the links between territorial and urban aspects and pursuing an integrated approach as a prerequisite for sustainable spatial development and as a tool for combating climate change.

The activities regarding implementation of the TA EU and AP1 were the key tasks during the Slovenian EU Presidency. As the presiding country, Slovenia took over coordination and monitoring of the AP1 implementation process. In this regard, we performed the following activities: stimulating the commitment of the Member States and stakeholders for the actions set forth in AP1; helping coordinate the necessary cooperation among the Member States, EU institutions and stakeholders which undertook each specific action; and preparing an interim report on coordination and monitoring, to be handed over to the French Presidency.

At the end of 2007 Slovenia undertook the first action from AP1 – "Prepare and promote guidelines and policy measures to foster coordination between territorial and urban development in the light of the TA EU and the LC at the EU and Member State level" (Line of Action 1, Act 1.1). A task group for its implementation was set up (TG11). In the first half of 2008, the first activities were conducted under Action 1.1 of AP1. The time frame for this action runs until the end of 2008. Activities within this action were also coordinated with EU institutions, stakeholders and TCUM sub-groups.

In the field of urban development, the emphasis was put on questions of implementation of the Leipzig Charter, using the opportunity to facilitate discussion among the Member States, EU institutions and stakeholders. Discussion was structured around the burning issue of combating climate change, with a focus on how urban areas can contribute to adapting to climate change and mitigating its impacts. The question of integrated urban development planning was raised in relation to improving the energy efficiency in urban areas. These issues were also addressed in the framework of the European Forum for Architectural Policies conference, focusing on urban regeneration.

At the Leipzig ministerial meeting, Slovenia was asked to include the TA EU and LC when preparing the Spring 2008 European Council. Activities were undertaken to find a way to articulate and include specific messages from the TA EU and LC into the Spring European Council conclusions. The following messages were outlined for that purpose: the role of territorial diversity in implementing the Lisbon Strategy goals, and within that, the importance of the territorial dimension of sectoral policies, as well as the contribution of cities and urban areas to the competitiveness of the European territory. In the launch of the new cycle of the renewed Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs from 2008 to 2010, the Spring 2008 European Council emphasised that economic, social and territorial cohesion contribute to fulfilling the objectives of the renewed Lisbon Strategy, and welcomed the progress made in targeting cohesion funds in support of national reform programmes. It called on the Member States to ensure that in the implementation phase, the expenditures reflect the earmarking commitments made.

A report on activities to implement AP1 and the Leipzig Charter was presented at the June Environmental Council meeting.

During the Slovenian Presidency, progress in the field of territorial cohesion and urban development was supported by several meetings. In addition, several side events were co-organised. There were two meetings of the Network of Territorial Cohesion-related Contact Points (NTCCP; 6 February 2008 and 18 March 2008) and one meeting of the Urban Development Group (UDG; 19 March 2008). Directors'-general meeting on territorial cohesion and urban development was organised on 14 and 15 May 2008. Besides these meetings, the Slovenian Presidency also organised three side events: a seminar on implementation of the Alpine Convention titled "Sustainable Building in Light of Adapting to Climate Change in Alpine Space" (29–30 May 2008, Dobrovo, Slovenia); the ESPON 2013 Seminar on "Territorial Challenges in a Wider Europe" (2–3 June 2008, Portorož, Slovenia); and the European Forum for Architectural Policies on "Urban Regeneration – Adapting to Climate Change" (15–17 June 2008, Ljubljana, Slovenia).



## Report on activities in the field of territorial cohesion

Following the agreement on the **First Action Programme for the implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU (AP1)** during the Portuguese Presidency, Slovenia was the first presidency to initiate implementation. AP1 provides a framework for implementing priorities and other activities set out in the Territorial Agenda of the EU up to 2011. In it, EU Member States committed themselves to implementing the actions defined, reporting to the ministers responsible for territorial cohesion and spatial planning, and proposing additional measures necessary for implementing those actions and any changes to ways of implementing them. In the context of AP1 implementation, the Slovenian Presidency undertook three tasks, namely coordinating implementation, fostering communication and raising awareness of the substance of the Territorial Agenda of the EU and AP1, and implementing activities concerning coordination of spatial and urban development (Action 1.1 in AP1).

Two working-level meetings were organised to discuss coordination, monitoring and assessment, as well as progress in implementing the actions from AP1 taken over by the Member States. The progress made was outlined in two reports, an interim progress report on the implementation of AP1, and an interim report on the implementation of action 1.1 from AP1 concerning possibilities for improving coordination between spatial and urban development, both prepared by the Slovenian Presidency and presented to the directors-general responsible for territorial cohesion, to discuss further steps. Besides these reports, the directors-general responsible for territorial cohesion also took note of the preparation of a Green Paper on territorial cohesion and exchanged views on territorial cohesion following its inclusion in the new Treaty of Lisbon.

The Slovenian Presidency tabled an **interim progress report**, which gives an overview **of the first steps in the implementation of AP1** and outlines the content and questions which, in this regard, must be examined in more detail or resolved in the future. The directors-general took note of the Interim progress report on the implementation of AP1 for the implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU. They supported the proposal that progress reports should be proposed during each Member State's presidency in order to keep the continuity of the implementation of actions under review. Emphasis was placed on the role of the Network of Territorial Cohesion-related Contact Points (NTCCP) as a forum for exchanging questions in the area of territorial cohesion and spatial development and a body for steering the implementation process by discussing open issues arising from individual actions, setting the reference framework for coordination, monitoring and assessment, and for communication and awareness-raising.

Besides the Member States, stakeholders in the area of territorial cohesion and spatial and urban development also cooperate in the NTCCP. The cooperation of stakeholders and their active role in implementing the Territorial Agenda of the EU and AP1 was underlined in particular. Incorporating a major part of the actions from AP1 was a significant step towards implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU. For the effective implementation of AP1, individual actions need to be pursued and coordination should be increased. The directors-general supported the proposal regarding further discussion of indicators for monitoring and assessing AP1 implementation. They also emphasised the importance of establishing a Web

portal, prepared by Portugal to inform the wider public of the Territorial Agenda of the EU and to raise awareness of it and help implement AP1.

In view of the implementation of individual actions, the Slovenian Presidency presented the **Interim report on the implementation of the action to improve coordination between spatial and urban development policies**, which is being led by Slovenia (Action 1.1 of AP1, "Prepare and promote policy options to foster coordination between spatial and urban development in the light of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter, at the EU and Member State level"). The report presented the interim results of that action in order to examine and evaluate the proposals for coordination and future activities. The report sets out the first proposals for improving coordination between spatial and urban development policies, both at the EU level and at the Member State level in light of the Territorial Agenda of the EU and the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities. In addition to the proposals on coordination, the action provides an exchange of experience via case studies which represent integrated approaches to urban development in order to make urban areas and cities sustainable and competitive. Although the action was initiated in the context of implementing the Territorial Agenda, harmonisation between spatial and urban development policies is an important part of the principle of integrated development, as is emphasised by the Leipzig Charter. The objectives of sustainable and polycentric development can be achieved more effectively and the challenges arising in the field of development – demography, climate change, etc. – can be met more effectively if work is harmonised. In accordance with the principle of integrated development, this requires both vertical and horizontal harmonisation between the policies and the various levels of implementation. The final report is scheduled for November 2008 and will be presented under the French Presidency. The directors-general took note of the Interim report on Action 1.1 of AP1 and supported the draft proposals for improving coordination between spatial and urban development policies and activities for further work, and presented their viewpoints and recommendations. They highlighted the importance of vertical coordination, the role of multi-level territorial governance, the significance of mutual learning and dissemination of information on the basis of exchange of experience in implementing an integrated approach to spatial and urban development, and the role of case studies.

The directors-general also took note of the approach to implementing actions under 2.4 presented by France and Germany, which will provide a basis for the ministerial contribution to the debate on how to integrate the territorial and urban dimension into some key EU dossiers with spatial impacts, such as Lisbon and sustainable development strategies, transport and cohesion policies, and agricultural and rural development policies. The Member States which took over specific actions – Belgium, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, Germany and Luxembourg – briefly presented the state of play in implementing the actions. Participants were invited to actively contribute to implementation of the actions by filling in the questionnaires which had already been distributed through the NTCCP. Some of the Member States and stakeholders which participated in the working groups presented their expectations for the outcomes of specific actions which could be used in implementing their national policies, such as the "urban sprawl working group".

The question of the concept of territorial cohesion and its implementation arises both in the context of implementing AP1 actions, and in relation to discussions on the future of cohesion

policy and preparation of the Green Paper on territorial cohesion by the European Commission. Member States therefore also held an exchange of views at the meeting on the **importance and role of territorial cohesion**. Territorial cohesion is becoming a common European concept, which touches on the question of the spatial diversity of Europe and specific territorial resources deriving from this. With the inclusion of territorial cohesion in the new **Treaty of Lisbon**, the urban dimension is also gaining ground as an important part of territorial cohesion. It is necessary to resolve the outstanding issue of how to define and implement territorial cohesion in the framework of future cohesion policy and how to take account of it in relation to other policies. In previous discussions (e.g. during the conference on the Future of Cohesion Policy in Maribor, Slovenia, 7–8 April 2008) as well as at this very meeting, it was stressed that territorial cohesion not only concerns the issue of its incorporation into cohesion policy, but that it could also represent an important integrating framework for the preparation of other sectoral policies. The territorial cohesion as a policy objective and territorial development policies as policy tools, add an integrated and long-term approach to the process of exploiting territorial potentials which have to be addressed also through different policy levels and sectors taking into account territorial impacts. Adding a territorial dimension to cohesion and sectoral policies means a major step forward to achieving sustainable and balanced development of territories. The Member States also pointed out that a concept, rather than a definition, and objectives of the territorial cohesion have to be agreed on. The subsidiarity principle and importance of multilevel governance for implementing territorial cohesion objectives were stressed. It was highlighted that territorial cooperation is an important tool for achieving territorial cohesion, especially at the transnational level. The definition and use of the concept of territorial cohesion at the European and Member State level will be dealt with in the **Green Paper on territorial cohesion**, which the European Commission is preparing for adoption in September 2008. At the meeting, the European Commission presented an overview of replies to the questionnaires received from Member States and the preparation process of the Green Paper. The positions put forward in discussion among the Member States and the stakeholders contribute to formulating a definition of the role of territorial cohesion and its concept within cohesion policy and in relation to other policies. The European Parliament expressed its interest in continuing to take an active role in the process of defining the concept of territorial cohesion; it also stressed, among other things, that it generally requires that regional development measures affect the whole Union according to the individual needs of regions.

**At their meeting, the directors-general agreed on recommendations for conclusions regarding the Interim progress report on the implementation of AP1 for the implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU.**

**The directors-general:**

- took note of the Interim progress report prepared by the Slovenian Presidency on the implementation of the First Action Programme for the implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU;
- expressed their conviction on the one hand that it is necessary for the territorial cohesion process to proceed with the implementation of actions, while on the other they expressed their concern for establishing successful coordination of actions in order to bring results according to ministerial conclusions;
- agreed that further in-depth discussion is needed in the NTCCP in order to develop indicators for monitoring and assessing AP1 implementation and to take a decision on a proper set of indicators;
- agreed on preparation of an implementation progress report during each presidency;
- agreed on the structure of the Web portal proposed by Portugal, the name of the domain and the use of languages. They agreed on the further use of the domain [www.territorial-agenda.eu](http://www.territorial-agenda.eu) when successfully transferred from Germany to Portugal. The English language will be used in private areas of the Web portal, while the public area is foreseen to be multilingual, whereas Portugal and the acting presidency will keep the English version of the documents, and the Member States will provide translation to other languages to be inserted in the Web portal;
- agreed that fostering communication and awareness-raising activities will be provided through the Web portal, through implementation of individual actions and through activities at the national level;
- welcomed the preparedness of the stakeholders to take an active role in the implementation process of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union; and
- took note of the introduction of new AP1 actions on the basis of a French proposal, which is foreseen to be implemented by 2009.

## Report on activities in the field of urban development

Under the Slovenian Presidency, the discussion on implementation of the **Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities**, which was initiated during the Portuguese Presidency, continued. Debate focused on implementation in the Member States and activities at the EU level, as well as on the priority developmental challenges. Debate on climate change was initiated, with the emphasis on the role of urban planning and development in adapting to and mitigating climate change. The contribution to the debate on implementation of the Leipzig Charter, in the light of an integrated approach, also constituted implementation of the task of coordination between spatial and urban development, which Slovenia is carrying out as part of the implementation of the First Action Programme (AP1) for implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU.

The activities were carried out through two EU-level meetings: a working-level meeting of the Urban Development Group (UDG), and a meeting of the directors-general for urban development. The UDG meeting also served as preparation for the directors'-general meeting. The directors-general responsible for urban development examined the report on implementation of the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities and the interim report on the implementation of activities for coordinating territorial and urban development (Action 1.1 of AP1), as prepared by the Slovenian Presidency. In addition, as reflected in the Green Paper on adapting to climate change, the Slovenian Presidency opened discussion on the role and contribution of urban planning and development in light of climate change and increased energy efficiency. Besides the Member States, EU institutions and stakeholders related to this field also participated actively in the debates.

### Progress on implementation of the Leipzig Charter:

The Member States and participating stakeholders reported on how the principles of the Leipzig Charter are being adopted through their documents or their own activities. These discussions proved the important role of the Member States in implementing the Leipzig Charter through all levels of planning and in promoting an integrated approach. At the same time, the role of stakeholders, who promote the ideas of the Leipzig Charter through their networks and activities and contribute important experience from practice, is also crucial. It was also evident that inclusion of the urban dimension within operational programmes is important for implementation of an integrated approach. Experiences from the preparation and implementation of operational programmes can be a valuable resource when formulating future cohesion policy.

The directors-general discussed various measures for implementing the principles and objectives of the Leipzig Charter in individual **Member States**, and reported on many cases of good practice in implementing the principles of integrated development, with an emphasis on using operational programmes to implement sustainable urban development projects through structural funds. Various specific examples of the use of the Leipzig Charter principles were presented, thereby facilitating the exchange of experiences and information. Reports from the **stakeholders** showed the role and importance of their actions in disseminating information and furthering implementation of the Leipzig Charter through their activities, which reach different target groups. The directors-general discussed the questions and proposals presented by the Slovenian Presidency on how to proceed with implementation of the Leipzig Charter at

the EU level. In this framework, the potential of the **JESSICA** instrument to foster the implementation of integrated urban development plans in Member States was presented by Germany, which is leading the JESSICA working group. Crucially, implementation of the Leipzig Charter is also supported by European institutions. The **European Parliament** presented the main messages from the recently adopted resolution on "Follow-up of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter – Towards a European Action Programme for Spatial Development and Territorial Cohesion", which calls for measures at various levels and implementation of the objectives of the Leipzig Charter, as well as the Territorial Agenda of the EU. The **European Commission** reported on its activities in the field of urban development, inclusion of the urban dimension in operating programmes, and urban development issues in the preparation of the Green Paper on territorial cohesion.

### **Coordination of territorial and urban development:**

As a contribution to implementation of the Leipzig Charter principles, Slovenia took forward the task of implementing the action to improve coordination between spatial and urban development policies. The action, called "Prepare and promote policy options to foster coordination between territorial and urban development in the light of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter at the EU and MS levels" (Act.11), derives from the implementation of the First Action Programme for implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union. Although the action was initiated in the context of implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU, the harmonisation between spatial and urban development policies is an important part of the principle of integrated development, as emphasised by the Leipzig Charter. The objectives of sustainable and polycentric development can be achieved more effectively, and the challenges arising in the field of development – demography, climate change, etc. – can be met more effectively if work is harmonised; in accordance with the principle of integrated development, this requires both vertical and horizontal harmonisation between the policies and the various levels of implementation.

The directors-general discussed the issue of coordinating territorial and urban development and the interim report on implementation of the action. The report presented the first proposals for improving coordination between spatial and urban development policies both at the EU level and at the Member State level, deriving from assessment of the case studies contributed by participating Member States and stakeholders. In addition, the activities of this action provide an exchange of experience via the case studies, which represent integrated approaches to urban development in order to make urban areas and cities sustainable and competitive. The final report is scheduled for November 2008 and will be presented under the French Presidency.

### **Climate change**

At the meeting, Member States also discussed the role of spatial planning and development in relation to climate change. The discussion was initiated in order to underline the important role that cities play in addressing the impacts of climate change, as well as reducing impacts of cities on the environment. Urban areas are major sources of greenhouse gas emissions, but they are also very vulnerable to climate change. Long-term impacts on urban areas due to climate change are expected in the field of water, food, energy and other supplies, but also in terms of the prospects for future development, quality of life in cities, and security. At the same time, with appropriate planning, building of facilities and architecture, we can contribute

significantly both to reducing the environmental impact and to mitigating the negative consequences of climate change. Certain cities in coastal areas and riverfronts will require considerable adjustments due to the rising sea level to protect these cities from frequent flooding or to employ innovative solutions in developing cities to adapt to new circumstances. Temperature changes also require new approaches to urban planning and construction. The rise of energy prices opens up the question of where and how to develop and build cities in the future, in order to make better use of solar and other renewable energy resources. Measures to mitigate climate change in urban areas will also have to include consideration of their possible social consequences; the poorer sections of the population will be the most affected by that process. In order to support adaptation and mitigation measures, actions are needed to change existing habits and practices regarding the sustainable use of energy in urban areas, particularly in human transport and construction.

The **United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, France** and **Denmark** presented interesting national approaches to challenges of climate change and concrete measures to tackle them. Their experiences proved that an integrated approach, including horizontal and vertical cooperation among administration, public institutions, the economy and civil society, is needed to prepare realistic and responsible responses to climate change which address both the causes and the consequences and are adapted to specific territorial circumstances. The integrated development approach to urban areas is in the spotlight in many Member States and is recognised as an important tool for creating more sustainable cities in the future. The **European Environment Agency** stressed the issue of urban sprawl, which, together with mobility patterns and increased use of cars, in its opinion represents a major challenge for urban planning in the context of climate change. In the discussion, the Member States and the stakeholders also addressed the following: using different spatial and development planning tools to steer development in respect of climate change and to stimulate the responsible use of energy and other resources; avoiding environmental problems with integrated development of transport and settlements; stimulating reuse of existing building stock and developing a quality built environment; developing capacity in skills and leadership; spreading best practices, stimulating knowledge exchange and promoting demonstration projects; improving the governance system in respect of climate change; educating for sustainable living and raising awareness to fulfil long-term objectives for sustainable urban development; using a sound evidence base for policy and programme development; supporting the contribution of urban planning to the competitiveness of cities in the changing climate by creating climate-friendly and more compact, and socially and environmentally more attractive urban areas; setting efficient measures in order to prevent the threatening loss of competitiveness in specific urban regions; supporting (technological) innovation related to the green market and climate change to potentially improve local competitiveness; and supporting investment on the basis of integrated urban development plans via a financial instrument developed by the EIB.

**The directors-general:**

- took note of the progress in implementing the Leipzig Charter and supported its further implementation, focusing on specific areas such as climate change and energy efficiency;
- stressed the role of the Urban Development Group as a forum for exchanging views on urban challenges and building a comprehensive overall understanding; it was also stressed that the group should meet regularly in order to monitor and implement the Leipzig Charter;
- highlighted the importance of fostering cooperation, partnership and dialogue among the different stakeholders, including representatives at different levels and from different sectors, with a view to the efficient and full implementation of the Leipzig Charter;
- agreed that further steps towards implementation of the Leipzig Charter could also be taken at the EU level. There is a need to assess the next steps to further the implementation of the Leipzig Charter, and to enable monitoring as well. In this regard, the directors-general welcomed the intentions stated by the subsequent presidencies (French, Czech and Swedish) for their commitment to continue activities with regard to implementing the Leipzig Charter. They also welcomed France's intention to continue to implement the Leipzig Charter on the basis of indicators for defining sustainable cities.
- took note of the interim report on Action 1.1 of AP1 and supported the draft proposals for improving coordination between spatial and urban development policies and activities for further work and upgrading;
- highlighted the importance of vertical coordination, the role of multi-level territorial governance, and the role of exchanging experience for implementing an integrated approach to spatial and urban development;
- supported the principle of learning and exchange of information on the basis of case studies;
- stressed that an integrated approach to urban development is the best way to deal with the challenge of climate change, when supported by other national and local policies and programmes;
- emphasised that discussions must continue with a view to obtaining a comprehensive overview of the extent of the consequences and threats arising from climate change in urban areas and of possible (urban) planning measures which need to be fostered and best practices spread.



## SIDE EVENTS:

### 1.

#### **Seminar on implementation of the Alpine Convention on "Sustainable Building in Light of Adapting to Climate Change in Alpine Space"<sup>1</sup>, 29–30 May 2008, Dobrovo, Slovenia**

Within its Presidency programme, Slovenia organised a seminar on implementation of the Alpine Convention, the Declaration on Population and Culture, and the Declaration on Climate Change, with a focus on the theme "Sustainable Building in Light of Adapting to Climate Change in Alpine Space". The aim of the seminar was to present the specifics of the Alpine space in regard to preventing the causes of climate change and to adapting to these changes, to present the advantages and possibilities of energy-efficient building and to emphasise the role of the population and culture in the Alpine space.

In the presented cases of good practice and in discussion, the following ideas were raised, emphasised or concluded:

- besides the natural causes of climate change, these changes are also the consequence of our comfortable way of living, which requires more and more energy for heating and cooling buildings, for transport and industry, etc.;
- climate change is not the same in all areas, which requires different approaches in tackling climate change challenges;
- the importance of "tectonic changes of our minds and behaviour" if we truly want to make a difference; the measures are expensive, but delayed action is also expensive and each day more dangerous;
- one of the most efficient ways to reduce energy consumption in the Alpine space is energy-efficient building, and carrying out energy sanitation of existing buildings;
- the importance of tax stimulation and financial support from the state and municipalities in tackling these issues;
- the importance of using renewal sources of energy, such as solar energy, and using building material of regional or local origin (wood);
- the importance of public awareness, an informed population, political responsibility, changes in behaviour and new criteria for values;
- the need for simple regulation which could be easily and efficiently implemented;
- the Alpine space represents an important economic, environmental and cultural space, and as such constitutes a European cultural phenomenon;
- the importance of respecting, preserving and supporting the cultural, linguistic, settlement and architectural variety, identity and equivalency of specific cultures;
- the Alpine space should be considered as the model European region for the introduction of proper measures to assure sustainable, energy-efficient building;
- traditional building in the Alpine space, intervention in space, cultivation and use of natural resources reflects a multi-millennial culture and unwritten rules of respecting the natural balance and the elementary co-dependence of this balance;
- the promotion of good practices as a stimulus and model for others.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.mop.gov.si/en/presidency/calendar\\_of\\_events/alpine\\_convention\\_seminar/](http://www.mop.gov.si/en/presidency/calendar_of_events/alpine_convention_seminar/)

## 2.

### **ESPON 2013 Seminar: "Territorial Challenges and Cooperation in a Wider Europe"<sup>2</sup>, 2–3 June 2008, Portorož, Slovenia**

The purpose of the seminar was to exchange knowledge and raise awareness on territorial development dynamics, as well as sustainable and balanced territorial development in the European Union and its neighbouring countries.

More than 130 participants attended the seminar, amongst them policy makers, practitioners at the EU, national, regional and local level, and scientists. It provided information on the ESPON 2013 Programme and on current results and activities from EU Member States and neighbouring countries, thus stimulating a better mutual understanding of trends, challenges and perspectives facing the EU and neighbouring territories. The use of the ESPON results in preparation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU was presented. The possible synergies among different networks, such as CEMAT (Conference of the ministers responsible for regional development), programmes of the European territorial cooperation and ESPON were discussed. At the seminar, the neighbouring countries, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Monte Negro and Serbia expressed their willingness and need to participate actively with ESPON in order to facilitate institutional capacity building as these countries are facing reforms in the field of territorial development and policies. Additional result of improved cooperation would be acquisition and harmonisation of now missing data for Western Balkan contributing towards above mentioned better understanding of territorial trends, challenges and perspectives in South Eastern Europe.

The seminar served as a platform for creating new contacts and synergies enlarging the involvement and networking around the ESPON 2013 Programme.

## 3.

### **European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP): "Urban Regeneration – Adapting to Climate Change"<sup>3</sup>; 15–17 June 2008, Ljubljana, Slovenia**

Within the presidency programme and Architecture Week in Slovenia (15–22 June 2008), Slovenia hosted an international conference of the European Forum for Architectural Policies, focusing on the theme "Urban Regeneration – Adapting to Climate Change". In this regard, the conference tackled issues related to urban development and governance, urban regeneration, intergenerational and intercultural dialogue and the relationship between old and new, and the role of architecture. As a conclusion of the conference, the Steering Committee of the European Forum for Architectural Policies supported the document "Final Declaration on Urban Regeneration and Climate Change", which emphasises the role of integrated urban planning and design and the role of architecture in combating climate change in urban areas, within the context of sustainable development and in response to the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.espon.eu/mmp/online/website/content/programme/1455/1779/index\\_EN.html](http://www.espon.eu/mmp/online/website/content/programme/1455/1779/index_EN.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.mop.gov.si/en/presidency/calendar\\_of\\_events/european\\_forum\\_for\\_architectural\\_policies/](http://www.mop.gov.si/en/presidency/calendar_of_events/european_forum_for_architectural_policies/)

The European Forum for Architectural Policies considers that in the face of inevitable climate change, appropriate solutions and responses should be incorporated in all policies, development plans and designs. Adapting cities for a changing climate requires both area-specific measures and wider European strategic policy development. Cities must continue to function effectively, economically, socially and environmentally, while retaining their individual identities and competitiveness. Adaptation to climate change requires a change in approach to the design of buildings and external spaces to ensure they provide high-quality living and working conditions in a changing environment. Architectural quality is valued by and is of significance to everyone in society, and it must play a central role in a coordinated response to climate change.

Therefore the European Forum for Architectural Policies:

- calls on the EU institutions to take account of the architectural dimension in all EU policies and measures intended to combat climate change and to incorporate this into existing policies wherever possible and appropriate;
- calls on the Commission and all Member States to draw on the positive contribution that architecture can make in the delivery of EU territorial cohesion and sustainable development to ensure that architectural quality and, more generally, the quality of the built environment, receives proper attention in the future development of these strategies;
- calls on the EU institutions to provide adequate resources for relevant research programmes; calls on the Member States and regional authorities to make full use of the current programming period of the EU Structural Funds and Cohesion Policy for the renovation of housing; and supports the action of the European Parliament in seeking to extend this to all Member States;
- urges authorities at all levels to adopt integrated and holistic approaches to sustainable urban development, particularly in the process of upgrading the existing physical environment, and to significantly reduce the eco-footprints of those urban communities within their control;
- calls on educational institutions to address both adaptation and mitigation strategies for tackling climate change in their educational, training and vocational skills programmes; and
- recognises the essential role of civil society in improving the quality of the built environment and achieving a change in individual and corporate behaviour.

## Annex

### **Interim progress report on the implementation of the First Action Programme for the implementation of the TA EU with annexes 1, 2, 3**

**Implementation of the  
First Action Programme  
for the implementation of the  
Territorial Agenda of the EU**

**Interim Progress Report**

# 1 Introduction

With the First Action Programme for the Implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union (AP1), the process in the area of territorial cohesion was shifted towards a more operational phase which is expected to provide concrete results in implementing the Territorial Agenda, and in support of the ministers in influencing policy making at European and Member State levels. This implies delivering the outcomes on time for ministerial meetings, which concerns both the acting presidency as the party responsible for coordination and monitoring of implementation of the AP1, and the Member States and stakeholders who are responsible for implementing the actions specified in AP1.

According to AP1, the acting presidency is responsible for two specific actions, namely to, "coordinate, monitor and assess the implementation of AP1" and "design and implement a communication and awareness-raising strategy on territorial cohesion and sustainable spatial development".

The report on the implementation of AP1 is foreseen to be prepared for each ministerial meeting. Although Slovenia has not organised a ministerial meeting, it was the first presidency to initiate coordination activities according to AP1. Therefore, Slovenian presidency prepared the interim progress report<sup>4</sup> on the implementation of AP1 for the Directors General meeting in the initial phase of implementation of AP1 and hand it over to the French presidency.

The First Action Programme includes an indicative list of action templates, distributed according to their contribution to the five lines of action. Implementation of the actions is intended for the following outcomes:

- To implement the Territorial Agenda in the area of competence of the ministers at EU and MS levels;
- To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies;
- To strengthen multi-level territorial governance at EU and Member State levels;
- To compare and assess the territorial state, perspectives, trends and policy impacts in the EU and Member States from the point of view of territorial cohesion and sustainable development.

For steering the implementation process, the acting presidency should coordinate, monitor and assess the implementation of AP1 and stimulate a communication and awareness-raising strategy on territorial cohesion and sustainable spatial development.

The most important task during the Slovenian presidency, after the ministers had agreed on AP1 at the Azores' ministerial meeting, was to initiate its implementation.

The objectives to support these activities were:

- to discuss the main aims, types of activities and possible indicators for coordination, monitoring and assessment within the Network of Territorial Cohesion related Contact Points (NTCCP);
- to stimulate the Member States and stakeholders entrusted with specific actions to start implementation as soon as possible;
- to stimulate the Member States and stakeholders to take over actions for which a responsible partner has not yet been entrusted;
- to facilitate discussion within the NTCCP on common issues and results of actions carried out within AP1;

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<sup>4</sup> On the basis of the discussion held at the Directors General meeting, 14 May 2008, the section "Main points outlined and indications for future steps" and the proposed recommendations have been complemented by adding the summary of the discussion and proposals for changing in the recommendations. The Table 1 in this document and all the annexes attached have been complemented with the proposals and comments from the Member States received by 10 June 2008, as well.

- to take the first steps in setting the criteria and indicators for monitoring and assessing the implementation of AP1;
- to report on the implementation process and experiences gained, and propose future steps.

This report gives an overview of the first steps in the implementation of AP1 and indicates issues which need to be further elaborated in this regard, such as the extent of coordination activities by the acting presidency, designing monitoring and assessment, developing outcomes for ministerial meetings, and the way of reporting.

## **2 Coordination, monitoring and assessment of the implementation of AP1**

Coordination, monitoring and assessment are essential for steering the process of implementation after the adoption of AP1. This action represents an ongoing activity performed by each acting presidency to enable smooth implementation of the political and technical activities foreseen by AP1 (Action 5.1).

For the coordination, monitoring and assessment of the implementation of AP1 the document suggests:

- "Take political and technical action in dialogue with the troika to ensure a timely and coordinated implementation of the actions stated in AP1;
- Stimulate those entrusted with the responsibility of carrying out specific actions or tasks to perform according to programmed schedules and keep the TA internet site updated;
- Keep the NTCCP informed on AP1 implementation and the NTCCP database updated;
- Prepare and apply in dialogue with the troika, criteria for monitoring and assessing AP1 implementation. Prepare progress reports and present them to the informal Ministerial Meetings."

The objectives set by the Slovenian presidency to support these activities were:

1. to discuss the main aims, types of activities and possible indicators for coordination, monitoring and assessment, and communication and awareness-raising within the NTCCP;
2. to stimulate the Member States and stakeholders entrusted with specific actions to start implementation as soon as possible;
3. to stimulate the Member States and stakeholders to take over actions for which a responsible partner has not yet been nominated;
4. to facilitate discussion within the NTCCP on common issues and results of actions carried out within AP1;
5. to take the first steps in setting the criteria and indicators for monitoring and assessing the implementation of AP1.

In the discussion at the NTCCP meetings on 6 February and 18 March 2008 on coordination, monitoring and assessment, a number of major points were raised:

- For ensuring smooth implementation of AP1, a transparent and efficient coordination, monitoring and assessment system which does not require extra resources from the acting presidency needs to be developed. The results of the coordination, monitoring and assessing form the basis for reporting.

- When coordinating and monitoring the implementation of actions, the time component should be taken into account in order to ensure that outcomes are delivered for each ministerial meeting.
- There are two ways of monitoring and assessing implementation of AP1:
  - o Monitoring and assessing progress in accomplishing the lines of action as well as individual actions;
  - o Monitoring and assessing ongoing actions and general trends in European territorial development in relation to the policy orientations of the Territorial Agenda; the monitoring and assessment is undertaken by the Member States holding the EU Presidency, and the part related to European territorial trends will be supported by results of Action 4.1 and 4.2 and the applied research and development indicator carried out by ESPON.
- Actions should present the link to the content, examining which aspects of the Territorial Agenda of the EU (as well as ESDP and CEMAT Guidelines) have been reflected or implemented.
- Monitoring should include a short list of simple indicators, however they should be both qualitative and quantitative. In the case of a long list, core indicators should be developed. The indicators could also be provided in such a way as to monitor individual actions. The first attempt at setting possible indicators prepared by Slovenian presidency and the list of criteria suggested by Germany are presented in **Annex 1**, including the remarks from Netherlands and Latvia. They should be further discussed and developed, taking into account the indicators for monitoring contributions of individual actions to the aims of AP1.
- There are two types of reporting on actions:
  - o The acting presidency reports on coordination, monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the AP1 including communication and awareness-raising activities;
  - o The lead partner responsible for conducting specific actions from AP1 reports on its development in relation to the line of action to which it belongs and with a view to delivering results for the ministerial meeting.
- The NTCCP plays a major role in the implementation process because it facilitates discussion on the results of actions, provides for exchange of information and for preparation of documents for high level meetings. The NTCCP is also concerned with the management issues of implementation of AP1, which should not overwhelm its major role.
- The AP1 defined many actions and sub-actions. With regard to the scarce resources of the Member States, implementation might focus on selected actions which are indispensable for ongoing support of the lines of action, such as revision of the "Territorial States and Perspectives" (Action 4.3).

### **3 State of play of the implementation of AP1**

#### **NTCCP meetings**

The NTCCP was established during the Portuguese presidency with the purpose of exchanging information regarding implementation of the Territorial Agenda and AP1, reporting on progress, discussing open issues and preparing documents for Directors-General and ministerial meetings. The members of the NTCCP are the representatives of the EU Member States, candidate and guest countries, representatives of the European institutions and respective stakeholders.

During the Slovenian presidency, two NTCCP meetings took place, first on 6 February 2008 in



Brussels and second on 18 March 2008 in Brdo in Slovenia. Slovenian presidency initiated the implementation process by facilitating the exchange of information among the NTCCP members at both meetings and discussing open issues of coordination, monitoring and reporting on the implementation. In view of fostering the stakeholders' role in implementing the Territorial Agenda of the EU, two new representatives of Europe-wide organisations expressed interest in joining the NTCCP during the Slovenian presidency, namely the European Council of Town Planners (ECTP) and EUROMONTANA, as well as their willingness to participate actively in this process.

### **Implementation process after the adoption of AP1**

The intention of the Slovenian presidency was to start implementation immediately after the adoption of AP1 with the intention to trigger as many actions as possible, developing them in such a way that they provide the outcomes expected for the forthcoming ministerial meetings, and coordinating them to achieve effective implementation of AP1.

### **Actions from the AP1 taken over and their responsible partners**

There are now 14 actions and 17 sub-actions divided among the five lines of action. After the adoption of AP1 the number of sub-actions rose from 9 to 17, while the number of actions remained as it was after the adoption of AP1. The first reason for the increasing number of sub-actions is in fact that the TCUM thematic sub-actions represent four sub-actions, although together they should contribute to the objective of the main action (Action 2.1 in Line of Action 2, which is aimed at influencing EU key dossiers and giving a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies). The second reason is that actions focused on EU key dossiers, taken over by France and Germany, created an additional five sub-actions for each EU key dossier. Additionally, a new action on territorial strategy for integrated development and multi-level governance and a working group for its implementation was proposed by France.

The responsibility for the implementation of actions lies mainly in the hands of the Member States, except for the actions related to Line of Action 4, where for two of them responsibility was taken by the ESPON Monitoring Committee and the Luxembourg Managing Authority. The responsible partners have been nominated for 10 (out of 14) actions (see also **Table 1** on page 7 and **Annex 2**). Also, all sub-actions, except 3.2a, already have responsible partners. The acting presidency is entrusted directly by AP1 with two actions, namely 5.1 and 5.2.

### **Method of work - partnership and task groups**

The principle of implementation of individual actions is to establish the relevant partnership and work within the task group of partners who are interested in taking part in respective actions. The partners engage themselves by taking some of the implementation activities foreseen in the work programme. Task groups were established for 7 actions so far. They consist of the representatives of Member States and stakeholders.

The NTCCP is addressed in cases where the responsible partner reports on the development of the action, asks for the support of the steps foreseen or proposes to discuss the issues raised within the group that need wider consent or support.

The principles of developing the implementation of actions can be described as follows:

- The action is foreseen to be carried out within the framework of one of the EU programmes. In this case the lead partner of the action makes an application to the one of the programme's calls (i.e. ESPON or Alpine Space). Applications have already been made for Actions 1.2a and 2.3b.
- The working group prepares a questionnaire to acquire the information for specific action needed from the Member States. Actions using questionnaires as the main source of information are: 2.1 – TCUM thematic sub-groups on climate change, energy efficiency and alternative energy, urban sprawl and demography; and 2.2 on the territorial impacts of sectoral policies. So far, one questionnaire was distributed among the NTCCP members (Action 2.2) and one within the TCUM sub-committee (Action 2.1d on urban sprawl).
- Using case studies: Action 1.1 builds on examining case studies to get necessary information to fulfil the objectives of the action.

- Actions 2.4b, c, d and f (according to the French proposal) will build on the work of task groups responsible for thematic issues related to EU key dossiers accompanied by an editorial group in charge of composition of the political document.

**Work Programme, timetable and expected outcomes:** Up to now, six actions and sub-actions developed more or less detailed work programmes with relatively precise timetables. The actions will mainly produce reports to be presented during future presidencies. The manner in which their outcomes will be presented at future presidency events mainly depends on the type of the action (for example, the main outcome of all sub-actions within 2.4 is the contribution by the ministers, which represents a paper which can be submitted directly to the ministerial meeting for ministers to agree upon). Beside the final report, for some actions there might be a need for a short political note on the outcomes, which could be taken forward by the ministers in the ministerial conclusions. The preliminary check on the time when the outcomes are expected from the individual actions shows that during the French ministerial meeting in November 2008 outcomes could be expected from Actions 1.1 (coordination between territorial and urban development) and 2.4b, c, d and f (contributions by ministers to certain EU key dossiers). Initial outcomes can also be expected from 2.2 (territorial impacts of sectoral policies) and TCUM thematic sub-groups (2.1 - urban sprawl, energy efficiency, demography, climate change).

**Coordination with other actions:** The responsible partners of different actions shall agree on coordination if they determine that this provides synergies between them and avoids redundant work. The reporting on each action at NTCCP meetings is a useful tool for exchanging information and preventing overlapping among different actions.

**Communication and awareness activities:** Each action should foresee communication and awareness-raising activities. All the final reports produced will be made available on the web platform. In some cases different events will be organised (seminars, conferences, workshops) with the aim to collect the feedback needed in the course of the action (spread information, exchange of views with stakeholders, organisation on different administrative levels).

**Reporting:** After the second NTCCP meeting in March, the Member States responsible for specific actions were asked to report according to the pre-defined list of basic lines. The information gathered was compiled and is presented in **Annex 3**. In view of reporting on the implementation of AP1 by the acting presidency, regular gathering of information from the partners responsible for actions is necessary. To make this as rational and as simple as possible, the advantages of using the future web platform for reporting should be examined.

**Expected contribution of actions to the respective lines of action:** According to AP1, actions and sub-actions are distributed according to their expected contribution to one of the five lines of action. At the same time the respective line of action represents the major framework for steering their development and outcomes. For assessing the effects of individual actions for each of them, a description of the contribution to a specific line of action should be added in a report. There are 12 actions which have already outlined the expected outcomes, but it is too early to assess to what extent they contribute to the implementation of the line of action at this stage. This could be assessed later on, when the actions produce reports and when the indicators for monitoring and assessment are developed.

**Table 1** (next page): **Brief overview of the development of individual actions from AP1** (more in detail presented in the Annexes 2 and 3)

Action/sub-action		Nominatio n of responsibl e partner (Y/N)	Partner ship/TG set up (Y/N)	Work programme and timetable prepared (Y/N)	Coordination with other actions needed (Y/N)	Communication and awareness- raising foreseen (Y/N)	Application to the programme's call (ESPON, INTERREG)	Use of questio nnaires
1.1 "Coordination between territorial and urban development"		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N; case studies
	1.1a "Urban rural partnership"	Y	Not yet					
1.2 "Integration of TA in programmes and plans"		N						
	1.2a "Polycentric cross border metropolitan areas"	Y	Y	?	?	?	Y-ESPON	?
1.3 "consideration of TA in the implementations of NSRF and OP's"		N						
1.4 "Territorial cohesion and governance"		Y	Y	Y	Y	?	N	N; Cases
2.1		Define the role of the acting presidency						
	2.1a "Energy efficiency and renewable energy"	Y	Y	Y	Y	?		Y
	2.1b "Climate change"	Y	Y	Y	?	?		Y
	2.1c "Demography"	Y	Y	Y	Y	?		Y
	2.1d "Urban Sprawl"	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
2.2 "TIA"		Y	Y	Y	N	Y		Y
	2.3a "Territorial diversity"	Y	Y	?	?	Y	Y-ESPON	?
	2.3b "European Mountain areas"	Y	Y	?	?	?	Y-ESPON	?
	2.3c "European islands"	Y	Y	Y	?	Y	Y-ESPON	N
2.4		Define the role of the acting presidency						
	2.4a "Contribution to GP on climate change"	Y-done						
	2.4b "Key dossier: cohesion policy"	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	N	N
	2.4c "Key dossier: EU Rural Development Policy"	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	N	N
	2.4d "Key dossier: EU Sustainable Development Policy"	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	N	N
	2.4e "Key dossier: EU transport policy"	Y	Not yet					
	2.4f "Key dossier: Lisbon process"	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	N	N
3.1 "Transparent decision making process"		N						
3.2 "Commitment of stakeholders to implement TA"		Y	Y	?	N	?	N	N
	3.2a "Urban development priorities"	N						
	3.2b "Climate change impacts in Alps"	Y	?	?	?	?	?	?
4.1 "Knowledge platform"		Y-ESPON MC					N	N
4.2 "Development of the monitoring of territorial development"		Y- ESPON MC					N	N
4.3 "Update territorial state and perspectives"		N						
5.1 "Coordinate monitor and assess"		Acting presidenc y						
5.2 "Communication and awareness raising strategy"		Acting presidenc y						
5.3 "Review of TA"		Y	Not yet					

#### 4 Towards communication and awareness-raising strategy/actions

The communication and awareness-raising strategy is described as Action 5.2 in AP1. It is described as follows:

- "design a consistent communication and awareness-raising strategy;
- regularly provide up-dated information about the implementation of the TA and AP1 and main achievements to the NTCCP members, selected target groups and the public;
- disseminate information on the TA and AP1 through websites of the stakeholders and actors concerned by the implementation of the TA at European, national and regional / local levels;
- organize events (seminars, conferences, workshops, press conferences) on topics related to TA and AP1 and their relationships with the LC and other policy documents."

At the debate on the communication and awareness strategy at the working level meeting on 18 March 2008, the following major points were raised:

- Communication and awareness-raising is a key activity for acknowledgement of the issues of the Territorial Agenda by the wider public. With providing key information to relevant target groups it can also support the process in the area of territorial cohesion and sustainable spatial development. It also contributes to better implementation of AP1.
- Communication and awareness-raising have already taken place in the process of territorial cohesion from Rotterdam onwards. The intention of this activity is to build on those experiences, especially on the stakeholders' dialogue, use of the common web address to access information on the Territorial Agenda and Leipzig Charter, and use of the e-mail address for sending opinions.
- On the one hand, communication and awareness-raising can be designed formally as a strategy with specified targets and tasks to be performed in a strict timetable with the help of professional organisation, but on the other hand it can be defined as a less formal strategy with some major elements to be carried out by the Member States, the acting presidency and the stakeholders.
- Communication and awareness-raising could be performed at EU and Member State levels, however the targets and type of information to be communicated at each level differ. Targets at the EU level are mainly: the territorial cohesion and spatial planning ministers, and EU institutions, including different sectors and stakeholders who are acting at the European or pan-European level. Targets at the Member State level could be: institutions of the national, regional or local administration, and stakeholders acting at different national levels.
- One of the important aspects of this activity is achieving common understanding among the Member States, European institutions and stakeholders involved in the territorial cohesion process. The most important instruments for this are: the forum of the NTCCP where most of the discussion on territorial cohesion takes place, the web portal and conferences, seminars, workshops, etc. The list of events prepared by the Slovenian presidency will be included in the web portal.
- The role of the NTCCP is very important for exchange of the information on the issues arising from the actions, which is valuable for building common understanding in the area of territorial cohesion. The NTCCP is also the main actor for bringing documents and issues to higher political levels.

### **Structure of the web portal**

The web portal will be set up on the Internet site of the Portuguese Directorate-General for Spatial Planning and Urban Development. It will consist of two major segments, one intended for the wider public as support to communication and awareness-raising and the other supporting communication within the NTCCP.

The web portal will be divided into five parts:

- A part for the wider/general public where all agreed-upon documents (Territorial Agenda, Leipzig Charter, AP1), information on major events and an updated PowerPoint presentation will be accessible; the list of events and updated PowerPoint presentation were prepared for that purpose by the Slovenian presidency and were handed to Portugal;
- A part for members of the NTCCP which will serve as a communication tool and where all information related to NTCCP work will be provided (information to the NTCCP, information on the lead partners of the actions and their contacts, agendas of meetings, draft documents to be commented on, etc.);
- A part for actions from AP1 which will be accessible to the members of working groups of individual actions;
- A part for the acting presidency;
- An archive.

The decision on the name of the web portal was taken at the meeting of Directors-General on 14 May 2008 at Brdo. During June, the first experimental version of the web portal will be tested by the Member States.

## **5 Main points outlined and indications for future steps**

This section represents a summary from the discussions on the implementation of the AP1 held at two working meetings, 6 February and 18 March and at the Directors General meeting, 14 May 2008 and written comments received.

### **1. Coordination and implementation of the actions from the AP1**

The coordination will remain the most important point in the future due to the great number of started actions. The Members States presented divergent position regarding the number of actions and approach of their implementation. On the one hand a step by step approach in taking over the implementation of the actions which have relevant partnership for implementation was suggested to overcoming the problem of the lack of resources and keeping the focus on the objectives of the work. On the other hand the AP1 did not precise the time table for the step-by-step implementation which could justify the prioritization of the actions regarding their implementation. The specific line of actions, namely from Line of Actions 1 to Line of Actions 5, represents a political orientation of the implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU, an aggregate vision to which each individual action shall contribute. In order to obtain this vision through the actions a review of their consistency with the political objectives set by the ministers in Leipzig and at the Azores has been suggested.

### **2. Role of the NTCCP**

The NTCCP is an important network for steering the implementation process by discussing open issues arising from individual actions, setting the reference framework for coordination, monitoring and assessing, and for communication and awareness-raising.

### 3. Collaboration of the stakeholders

The collaboration with and of the stakeholders within the NTCCP is very important because, on the one hand the messages from the Territorial Agenda of the EU are spread and examined in the respective networks providing a relevant feed back and on the other, a valuable input from the networks can be provided for the implementation of the specific actions from the AP1 as well. The inclusion of collaboration of the regions in the implementation of individual actions has also been pointed out as a positive approach.

### 4. Communication and awareness raising

Communication and awareness raising represents a crucial activity aimed at widening the knowledge on the Territorial Agenda of the EU and the territorial cohesion among the relevant public and stakeholders. In order to achieve that, the communication should expand from the framework of the NTCCP group to the decision makers outside the circle of the spatial planning and development experts.

One of the possibilities to strengthen the communication and awareness raising activities is by presenting the Territorial Agenda of the EU and the AP1 implementation to the Interinstitutional Group on Information (IGI) which coordinates the EU information and communication strategy for the general public and defines the broad policy guidelines in this area. The IGI consists of representatives of the European Commission, European Parliament, Council and others, whereas CoR is the observer.

### 5. Web portal

The establishment of the web portal by Portugal will be of great support to the process of territorial cohesion continued through the implementation of the AP1. The web portal will also support communication and awareness-raising activities intended to address various target groups at the EU and the Member States levels. The communication among the NTCCP members and among members of the task groups is expected to be eased with the use of the web portal.

The private part of the portal intended for communication among the NTCCP members will operate in English. The documents of the public part will be provided in English while the multilingualism, helping to reach broader audience at the EU and national levels will be achieved by inserting the translated documents into national languages provided by the Member States.

The question about the name of the domain was raised at the Directors General meeting. The current name established during the German presidency [www.territorial-agenda.eu](http://www.territorial-agenda.eu) and the new name, such as [www.territorial-cohesion.eu](http://www.territorial-cohesion.eu) as a reflection of the current process have been under consideration. Germany offered the transmission of the current name to Portugal.

### 6. Indicators for monitoring and assessing

The initial discussion on indicators for monitoring and assessing the progress of implementation has been started on the basis of the first attempt to list the indicators prepared by Slovenian presidency. The prevailing general opinion is to have rather few than many indicators and both, qualitative and quantitative indicators. At the same time the purpose of the monitoring of the implementation of AP1 should not be confused with the monitoring of the territorial development of the EU and implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU priorities. The implementation of each action should be monitored through, at least one indicator per action. It will be easier to define an indicator when the individual actions will develop. On the basis of proposals outlined at the meetings and given in written it is necessary to continue with the in

depth discussion on the indicators during future presidencies.

## 7. Reporting

The responsible partner shall report on the development of a specific action during each presidency; however, the way of reporting on individual actions might become a question once many actions are being implemented at the same time. It is left to the acting presidency to decide how to organise reporting during its presidency in order to gather necessary information for its own report on implementation of AP1 and for the dissemination of the information among the interested parties.

The first report has given an interesting insight on the process of starting up with the implementation of AP1. The next reports should be more content oriented enabled by the actions already developed in order to provide an evidence based messages for the ministers to contribute to the EU wide debate on territorial cohesion.

## **6 Recommendations for the conclusions by Directors-General agreed on at the meeting on territorial cohesion, 14 May 2008**

The Directors-General:

- took note of the Interim progress report prepared by Slovenian presidency on implementation of the First Action Programme for the Implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU
- expressed their conviction on the one hand that it is necessary for the territorial cohesion process to proceed with the implementation of actions while on the other they expressed their concern for establishing successful coordination of the actions in order to bring results according to ministerial conclusions;
- agreed that further, in depth discussion is needed among NTCCP in order to develop indicators for monitoring and assessment of the implementation of AP1 and to take the decision on a proper set indicators;
- agreed on the preparation of the implementation progress report during each presidency;
- agreed on the structure of the web portal proposed by Portugal, the name of the domain and the use of the languages. They agree on the further use of the name of the domain [www.territorial-agenda.eu](http://www.territorial-agenda.eu) when successfully transmitted from Germany to Portugal. The English language will be used in private areas of the web portal while the public area is foreseen to be multilingual whereas Portugal and the acting presidency will keep the English version of the documents and the MS will provide the translation to other languages to be inserted at the web portal;
- agreed that fostering of the communication and awareness-raising activities will be provided through the web portal, through implementation of individual actions and through activities at the national level;
- welcomed the preparedness of the stakeholders to take an active role in the implementation process of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union;
- took note of introducing new actions in AP1 on the basis of the French proposal, which is foreseen to be implemented by 2009.



## Annex 1

First attempt at establishing possible indicators prepared by Slovenia, followed by the list of criteria suggested by Germany and the comments from the Netherlands and Latvia

Criteria	Possible indicators
<b>Criteria for monitoring and assessing progress in accomplishing actions and sub-actions</b>	
Actions and sub-actions taken over by the MS or stakeholders	Number of actions and sub-actions taken over by the MS and stakeholders
Detailed work programmes prepared for actions and sub-actions	Number of actions and sub-actions with detailed work programmes
Creating common understanding in the NTCCP: presentation of individual actions/sub-actions and discussion	Individual actions discussed at the NTCCP at least once per year
Communication and awareness raising activities during implementation of actions	Activities by type and targets addressed
Results of actions/sub-actions to be presented at ministerial meetings	Number of actions/sub-actions which brings results to ministerial meetings
<b>Criteria for monitoring and assessing communication and awareness raising activities</b>	
Communicating and awareness raising concerning the TA EU and AP1 among stakeholders at the EU level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepared/updated list of events and circulated to the NTCCP</li> <li>- Prepared/updated PowerPoint presentation and passed to the MS and stakeholders</li> <li>- Setting up the web page/regularly updated</li> <li>- Setting up e-mail</li> </ul>	Communication of the TA, AP1, LC to stakeholders (+/- using pre-prepared .ppt)
	Visits to the web page
	Opinions sent to the e-mail address
Communicating and awareness raising at the national level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TA EU, AP1, LC accessible on the national web page in the national language(s)</li> <li>- National events (conferences, workshops, seminars)</li> <li>- Other activities (regional conferences, workshops, seminars, published documents)</li> </ul>	Number of MS to have documents accessible on web pages in national languages
	Number of national events promoting the principles and priorities of the TA, AP1, LC

Contribution of actions to the aims of implementation of the AP1 (AP1, page 14)			
Aims of implementation	List of actions that can contribute to the aims described	Foreseen outcomes by action	Possible indicator to monitor and assess the contribution to the aims of implementation of the AP1 by action (should be defined in parallel with the action development)
Better coordination between the spatial policies of the Member States by introducing a European dimension, and defining and implementing common priorities	<b>LA 1: To implement the TA in the areas of competence of the ministers at EU and MS levels</b>		
	<u>Act 1.1</u> : Prepare and promote policy options to foster coordination between spatial and urban development in the light of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter, at EU and MS levels	Included in the final report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- policy options for coordination btw. territorial and urban development</li> <li>- proposal for further activities to strengthen the coordination btw. territorial and urban development</li> <li>- exchange of knowledge</li> </ul>	<i>Number of coordination activities set according to the results of 1.1 at the EU level</i>
	<u>Act 1.1a</u> : Urban-rural relationship	To be defined later	

	<u>Act 1.2:</u> Report on the integration of territorial priorities and challenges of the TA in spatial development policies, programmes and plans at MS, cross-border and transnational levels	To be defined when the responsible partner is nominated	
	<u>Act 1.3:</u> Assess how the territorial priorities and challenges of the TA are being taken into consideration in the implementation of the NSRF and operational programmes	To be defined when the responsible partner is nominated	<i>Number of NSRF, OP taking into account territorial priorities and challenges of the TA EU</i>
Improved coherence between EU policies and spatial development policies within the Member States by influencing EU policies from a territorial cohesion point of view	<b>LA 2: To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies</b>		
	<u>Act 2.1:</u> Cooperate with the EC to use the activities of the TCUM thematic working groups to analyse key dossiers, policies and legislation at MS and EU levels, in the light of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter	To be defined when the responsible partner is nominated	
	<u>Act 2.2:</u> Scope of territorial impacts of selected sectoral policies together with sectoral policy-makers and joint analysis of the introduction of territorial impact assessment in the policy process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- overview of MS experiences with territorial impacts of sectoral policies</li> <li>- experiences using TIA at EU and MS levels</li> <li>- good practices</li> <li>- recommendations on including the territorial dimension in the impact assessment system of the EC</li> </ul>	<i>Improved impact assessment procedure taking into account territorial impacts (TI) at the EU level</i>
	<u>Act 2.3:</u> Analyse key dossiers, policies and legislation from the point of view of the regions with specific territorial constraints	To be defined when the responsible partner is nominated	
	<u>Act 2.4:</u> Prepare and promote contributions of ministers to the debate on the most relevant EU key dossiers from the point of view of sustainable spatial development and territorial cohesion	Contribution by ministers to the EU key dossier on different EU key dossiers (cohesion policy, CAP and rural development, sustainable development, Lisbon Strategy, transport policy)	<i>Including territorial concerns in the EU key dossiers</i>
	<b>LA 3: To strengthen multi-level territorial governance at EU and MS levels</b>		
Improved vertical and horizontal coordination and participation of private and public sectors to more responsive territorial governance	<u>Act 3.1:</u> Design and implement a strategy to promote transparent decision-making processes in the administration and with public and private stakeholders as well as non-governmental organisations on territorial policies at EU and MS levels	To be defined when the responsible partner is nominated	

	<u>Act 3.2:</u> Convene with selected stakeholders on their commitment to implement TA territorial priorities in their own action programmes and initiatives	Agreement on the commitment of stakeholders to implement TA territorial priorities	<i>Activities taken by stakeholders in view of the aim</i>
	<u>Act. 3.2a:</u> Urban development priorities	To be defined when the responsible partner is nominated	
	<u>Act. 3.2b</u> Potential impacts of climate change on spatial development and key economic sectors in the Alpine space	To be defined when the responsible partner is nominated	<i>Number of cooperation projects under the Alpine space programme implementing TA priority 5</i>
Better understanding of the spatial system and territorial trends at the European Union level	<b>LA 4: To compare and assess the territorial state, perspectives, trends and policy impacts in the EU and MS from the point of view of territorial cohesion and sustainable spatial development</b>		
	<u>Act 4.1:</u> Use, within its institutional framework and on the basis of its management arrangements, the ESPON 2013 Programme to develop a robust platform of knowledge on territorial state, perspectives, trends and policy impacts in the EU and MS from the point of view of territorial cohesion and sustainable spatial development	- <i>Applied territorial research and targeted analysis and progress on scientific work on data and indicators connected to priority 1 and 2</i>	<i>Establishment of a platform of knowledge on territorial state, perspectives, trends and policy impacts under ESPON</i>  <i>New knowledge of European territorial dynamics</i>
	<u>Act 4.2:</u> Use, within its institutional framework and on the basis of its management arrangements, the ESPON 2013 Programme and the other European international territorial and urban networks and <i>fora</i> including the OECD Territorial Development Policy Committee to support monitoring and assessment of territorial development and cohesion from 2008 onwards	- <i>applied territorial research and targeted analysis and progress on scientific work on data, indicators and monitoring connected to priority 3</i>	<i>Territorial Monitoring reports under ESPON completed (according to AP1: one every second year, starting in 2009)</i>
	<u>Act 4.3:</u> Update the Territorial State and Perspectives of the EU (TSP) before the TA mid-term review in 2011	To be defined when the responsible partner is nominated	

## Proposals and comments by the Member States

### 1 Proposal by Germany (9 April 2008)

List of the "implementation of AP 1" criteria

- **Political framework at the European level**
  - Contributions to EU key dossiers by ministers
  - Political support by stakeholder, which stakeholder, and what is the territorial component of this support?
- **Legal framework**
  - Changing or adding legal framework in the Member States
    - What act or regulation?
    - What is changed or added?
  - Changing or adding legal framework at the European level
    - What act or regulation?
    - What is changed or added?
- **Fiscal framework**
  - Are there any public programmes in the Member States to implement the actions of the TAEU?
    - What programmes (grants or tax privileges), what is the special contribution of this programme to the objectives of the TAEU?
    - What is the special territorial component of this programme?
  - Are there any programmes at the European level to implement the actions of the TAEU?
    - What programmes, what is the special contribution of this programme to the objectives of the TAEU?
    - What is the special territorial component of this programme?
  - NSRF and OP: how does this document take the territorial priorities and challenges of the TA EU into account?
- **Scientific framework**
  - Are special scientific projects being launched by the ministers responsible for territorial cohesion (title, aim, time schedule, budget, expected results)?
  - Are special scientific projects being launched by the Commission (title, aim, time schedule, budget, expected results)?
  - ESPON: Are special scientific projects being launched by ESPON (title, aim, time schedule, budget, expected results)?
  - Are scientific networks being established in order to give advice to implement the actions of the TAEU (what persons, what professions, aim, time schedule, budget, expected results)?
- **Publicity and campaigns**
  - Communicating and awareness raising at the national level:
    - TA EU, AP1, LC accessible on national web pages in the national language(s)
    - National events (conferences, workshops, seminars, press articles)
  - Other activities (regional conferences, workshops, seminars, published documents)
  - Communicating and awareness raising concerning the TA EU and AP1 among stakeholders at the EU level:
    - Prepared/updated list of events and circulated to the NTCCP
    - Prepared/updated Power Point presentation and passed to the MS and stakeholders
    - Setting up the web page/regularly updated
    - Setting up e-mail

## 2 Comments and proposals from the Netherlands

The German proposal was **commented** by **the Netherlands** (30 May 2008). They suggested using only "publicity and campaign" criterion and skipping all the others. They supported the idea to look at the way how the goals of the TA are taken into account in policies in the MS.

## 3 Opinion of Latvia on the monitoring indicators regarding implementation of First Action Programme for the implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU

Latvia acknowledges the active engagement of the Slovenian Presidency in the work on the implementation of First Action Programme for the implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU. We understand that the establishment of a monitoring mechanism is not an easy task, taking into account that identification of an optimal number of criteria to be evaluated impartially and the indicators which reflect implementation progress of the AP1. Furthermore, it is essential to identify such criteria and their indicators of which the Member States have information available.

In order to foster a high-quality monitoring process Latvia has evaluated the proposal prepared by the Slovenian Presidency on the monitoring criteria and indicators regarding implementation of the AP1 and would like to provide the following comments and recommendations for their improvement:

	Indicator	Comments from Latvia
1.	<b><i>Number of coordination activities set according to the results of 1.1</i></b>	Taking into account the information rendered in the NTCCP meeting on 18 March 2008 that implementation of the action 1.1 is planned to be completed no sooner than at the end of 2008, EU Member States will only be able to submit information regarding fulfilment of the indicator after getting exanimate with the implementation results of action 1.1.
2.	<b><i>Improved impact assessment procedure taking into account TIA on EU level</i></b>	It is not clear what kind of information would have to be submitted by the Member States in order to impartially evaluate implementation of the indicators. We think that the criteria in the current wording allow the Member States to interpret very broadly the information to be submitted which can hinder collection of information and evaluation of the fulfilment of indicators.  Thus, we recommend either to clarify more precisely what kind of information has to be submitted by the Member States regarding evaluation of fulfilment of the said criteria or to define quantitatively measurable monitoring indicators.
3.	<b><i>Number of analysis from the actions analysing EU key-dossiers from the view of regions with specific territorial constraints</i></b>	
4.	<b><i>Establishment of a platform of knowledge on territorial state, perspectives, trends and policy impacts under ESPON</i></b>	
5.	<b><i>Number of results on state, perspectives, trends and policy impacts under ESPON</i></b>	

6.	<b><i>Number of calls of proposals for applied research and targeted analysis under ESPON</i></b>	<p>We believe that better understanding about the system would be characterized, if the indicator would be expressed in the following wording: "<b>Number of proposals submitted</b> for applied research and targeted analysis under ESPON".</p> <p>We think that the higher is the level of understanding about the spatial system and territorial trends, the greater will be the number of proposals and initiatives, thus it is important to see whether calls have reached the target.</p>
7.	<b><i>Implementation of the strategy</i></b>	<p>We would like to point out that implementation of the strategy is a process and cannot be regarded as a performance indicator; therefore we suggest to edit the indicator by expressing it in the following wording: "<b>Implementation of the strategy's result indicators</b>"</p>
8.	<b><i>Number of national events by type</i></b>	<p>It is not clear from the given description what the difference between those indicators is. Thus, a clarification would be required regarding about which kind of events the information has to be submitted in order to evaluate fulfilment of each of the said indicators.</p>
9.	<b><i>Number of other events by the MS</i></b>	

Additionally, we suggest to clarify regarding which identified indicators will report the Member States and which Presidency. As well as point out whether only those Member States which have indicated themselves as the responsible and co-responsible for implementation of separate actions/sub-actions from AP1 will have to report on indicators or it shall be done by all EU Member States.

We draw your attention to the fact that at the moment Latvia has not applied as the responsible or co-responsible country for implementation of any actions/sub-actions from the AP1. Although at the same time several priorities<sup>5</sup> have been put forward which will be carried out to promote implementation of priorities of the TA in Latvia. In addition, Latvia is planning to actively participate in the implementation of such actions/sub-actions from AP1 as 1.1.a; 1.2.a; 2.4.a; 2.4.b; 2.4.d.; 2.4.f; 3.2.a.

<sup>5</sup> Priorities in Latvia: integration of priorities of the TA in the territorial development policies of Latvia; drafting opinion of Latvia on the connection of EU policies with territorial development; research issues within the framework of ESPON; communication activities to improve awareness-raising regarding territorial cohesion in the EU and promotion of TA



No	No of action	Action	Responsible partner	Partners in implementation	Timeframe - outcomes expected <b>during</b> the EU presidency of:						
					SI 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2008	FR 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2008	CZ 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2009	SE 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2009	SP 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2010	BE 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2010	HU 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2011
		implementation of the NSRF and operational programmes									
<i>Proposal for new action</i>	1.4	Create a common understanding on the concept of integrated territorial development linked with territorial governance and make concrete proposals to implement it	France			Contribution to the ministerial meeting in November					
<b>Line of Action 2: To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies</b>											
6	2.1	Cooperate with the EC to use the activities of the TCUM thematic working groups to analyse key dossiers, policies and legislation at MS and EU levels in the light of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter	Lead partners of the TCUM thematic sub-groups				4 reports including: 1. identification of major challenges 2. benchmarking how the MS deal with them (organisation and institutions involved, financial and human resources available) 3. identification of good practices				
	2.1a	Energy Efficiency and Renewable energy	Greece	-Italy -Slovenia -Germany -Sweden -Latvia	The draft questionnaire circulated 23 April 2008 among the MS	First report on the basis of the questionnaire to be presented	Report (see above)				



No	No of action	Action	Responsible partner	Partners in implementation	Timeframe - outcomes expected <b>during</b> the EU presidency of:						
					SI 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2008	FR 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2008	CZ 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2009	SE 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2009	SP 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2010	BE 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2010	HU 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2011
				-Luxembourg -Hungary -Czech Republic -Lithuania -France -Poland	for comments. The final questionnaire is anticipated to be distributed to the MS in June						
	2.1b	Climate change	Germany Netherlands Spain	-UK -Italy -Latvia -Finland -Romania -Lithuania -France -Malta	Questionnaire to be distributed among the MS	First reports on the basis of the questionnaires to be presented	Report (see above)				
	2.1c	Demography	Italy	-Germany -Latvia -Luxembourg -Czech Republic -Poland -Lithuania	Questionnaire to be distributed among the MS	First reports on the basis of the questionnaires to be presented	Report (see above)				
	2.1d	Urban sprawl	Belgium	-Netherlands -Germany -Italy -Romania -Slovenia -Latvia -Luxembourg -Finland -Czech Republic -Lithuania -France -Cyprus	Questionnaire to be distributed among the MS	First reports on the basis of the questionnaires to be presented	Report (see above)				
7	2.2	Scope of territorial impacts of selected sectoral policies together with sectoral policy-makers and joint analysis of the introduction of territorial impact assessment in the policy process	Netherlands	-Slovenia -Portugal -France -Poland -Austria -UK -European	Questionnaire to be distributed among the MS	Interim report on the basis of questionnaires and inputs from EU institutions and stakeholders	- Seminar - Final report: 1. overview of MS experiences with territorial				

No	No of action	Action	Responsible partner	Partners in implementation	Timeframe - outcomes expected <b>during</b> the EU presidency of:						
					SI 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2008	FR 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2008	CZ 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2009	SE 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2009	SP 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2010	BE 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2010	HU 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2011
				Commission			impacts of sectoral policies experiences using TIA at EU and MS levels 2. good practices recommendations on including the territorial dimension in the impact assessment system of the EC 5. Seminar for knowledge exchange on TI and instruments to assess the territorial impacts				
8	2.3a	Valorisation of territorial diversity	Norway								
9	2.3b	European mountain areas	Switzerland								
10	2.3c	European islands	Greece	-Malta -Cyprus -Sweden	Proposal for a respective study under						

No	No of action	Action	Responsible partner	Partners in implementation	Timeframe - outcomes expected <b>during</b> the EU presidency of:						
					SI 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2008	FR 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2008	CZ 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2009	SE 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2009	SP 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2010	BE 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2010	HU 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2011
				-Italy -Spain -Denmark -Finland -Estonia	Priority 2 already submitted in ESPON						
11	2.4	Prepare and promote contributions of the ministers to the debate on the most relevant EU key dossiers from the point of view of sustainable spatial development and territorial cohesion	Acting presidency								
12	2.4a	Contribution by the ministers responsible for spatial planning and development to on-going public discussion on the Green Paper "Adapting to climate change in Europe – options for the EU"	Portugal	MS EU 27	Action completed, contribution by the ministers forwarded to the European Commission at the time of public consultation on the Green Paper "Adapting to climate change in Europe – options for the EU"						
13	2.4b	Key dossier: debate on the future of EU Cohesion Policy	France			Contribution by the ministers to the EU key dossier on Cohesion Policy					
	2.4c	Key dossier: debate on EU Rural Development Policy	France			Contribution by the ministers to the EU key dossier on CAP and EU Rural Development Policy					
	2.4d	Key dossier: debate on EU Sustainable Development Strategy	France			Contribution by the ministers to the EU key dossier on Sustainable Development Strategy					
	2.4e	Key dossier: debate on EU Transport Policy post 2010	Germany								
	2.4f	Key dossier: debate on the	France			Contribution by					

Timeframe - outcomes expected <b>during</b> the EU presidency of:											
No	No of action	Action	Responsible partner	Partners in implementation	SI 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2008	FR 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2008	CZ 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2009	SE 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2009	SP 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2010	BE 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2010	HU 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2011
		Lisbon Process post 2010				the ministers to the EU key dossier on the Lisbon Strategy					
<b>Line of Action 3: To strengthen multi-level territorial governance at EU and MS levels</b>											
14	3.1	Design and implement a strategy to promote transparent decision-making processes in the administration and with public and private stakeholders as well as non-governmental organisations on territorial policies at EU and MS levels									
15	3.2	Convene with selected stakeholders on their commitment to implement TA territorial priorities in their own action programmes and initiatives	Portugal	EUROCITIES CPMR ECTP CEMR	Initial talks have been performed and elements of the agreement defined	Agreement to be signed with selected stakeholders on their commitment to implement TA territorial priorities					
16	3.2a	Urban development priorities	URBACT SC								
17	3.2b	Potential impacts of climate change on spatial development and key economic sectors in the Alpine space	PC Alpine Space								
<b>Line of Action 4: To compare and assess the territorial state, perspectives, trends and policy impacts in the EU and MS from the point of view of territorial cohesion and sustainable spatial development</b>											
18	4.1	Use, within its institutional framework and on the basis of its management arrangements, the ESPON 2013 programme to develop a robust platform of knowledge on territorial state, perspectives, trends and policy impacts in the EU and MS from the point of	ESPON MC, Luxembourg MA								

[illegible]

## Annex 3

### Report on the development of individual actions of AP1

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#### *Line of Action 1:*

*To implement the TA in the areas of competence of the ministers at EU and MS levels*

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*1.1 Prepare and promote policy options to foster coordination between spatial and urban development in the light of the Territorial Agenda and Leipzig Charter at EU and MS levels*

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**Responsible partner:** Slovenia

**Partners in implementation:** France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, European Commission, EUROCITIES

**Work Programme:** The detailed work plan was formulated for the first half of 2008 while the detailed work programme for the second half will be defined after confirmation of the interim report at the meeting of Directors-General on 14 May 2008.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** The interim report is to be presented at the DG meeting on 14 May 2008, whereas among other things the first proposals for improved coordination between territorial and urban development will be outlined. The final report is foreseen to be presented at the DG meeting during the French presidency. It will consist of policy options for coordination between territorial and urban development, proposals for further activities to strengthen territorial and urban coordination, and exchange of knowledge.

**Coordination with other actions:** Coordination and exchange of information has been foreseen with the actions from LA1 and LA2. Exchange of information between the TCUM subgroup on urban sprawl in the phase of preparing the structure of the action has been secured.

**Communication and awareness activities:** The action was presented and discussed at two NTCCP and one UDG meetings. It is foreseen to put the final report on the web portal in autumn 2008 and to disseminate the results at conferences and seminars.

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#### *Line of Action 1:*

*To implement the TA in the areas of competence of the ministers at EU and MS levels*

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*1.1a Prepare and promote policy options to foster coordination between spatial and urban development in the light of the Territorial Agenda and Leipzig Charter at EU and MS levels*

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#### ***Urban-rural relations***

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**Responsible partner:** Czech Republic

**Partners in implementation:**

**Work Programme:**

**Timetable and expected outcomes:**

**Coordination with other actions:** Especially with Action 1.1

**Communication and awareness activities:**

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*Line of Action 1:*

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*To implement the TA in the areas of competence of the ministers at EU and MS level*

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*1.2 Report on the integration of the territorial priorities and challenges of the TA in spatial development policies, programmes and plans at MS, cross-border and transnational levels*

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**Responsible partner:** not yet assigned

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*Line of Action 1:*

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*To implement the TA in the areas of competence of the Ministers at EU and MS levels*

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*1.2a Report on the integration of the territorial priorities and challenges of the TA in spatial development policies, programmes and plans at MS, cross-border and transnational levels*

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***Polycentric cross-border metropolitan areas***

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**Responsible partner:** Luxembourg**Partners in implementation:** Switzerland, Belgium, France, Germany**Work Programme/Development of the action:** An Expression of Interest for an innovative action under Priority 2 of the ESPON 2013 Programme was jointly developed and submitted by the Swiss partner as lead stakeholder. The proposal focuses on the potentials and strategies for Polycentric Cross-border Metropolitan Regions. Common features of these regions should be identified as well as strategies for cooperation in particular sectors.**Timetable and expected outcomes:** The ESPON Monitoring is supposed to decide on the Expression of Interests under Priority 2 at the Monitoring Committee of 29/30 April 2008.*If the proposal is successful, the following steps might follow (timing is still to be decided by the ESPON Monitoring Committee):*

- *The ESPON Coordination Unit in collaboration with the stakeholders would elaborate a project specification and launch a call for proposals in July.*
- *Contracting a project group might be possible after the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee (planned for mid-October 2008).*

**Coordination with other actions:** Coordination would be part of the 1.2 report.**Communication and awareness activities:** Communication and awareness activities will be further elaborated if the proposal is successful.

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*Line of Action 1*

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*1.3 Report on the integration of the territorial priorities and challenges of the TA in spatial development policies, programmes and plans at MS, cross-border and transnational levels*

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**Responsible partner:** not yet assigned

*Line of Action 1:*

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*To implement the TA in the areas of competence of the ministers at EU and MS levels*

*Action 1.4: To create a common understanding on the concept of integrated territorial development linked with territorial governance and make concrete proposals to implement it.*

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**Responsible partner:** France

**Partners in implementation:** not yet defined

**Work Programme:** Defined partly in the "Working Note on Territorial Cohesion and the Regional Policy of the European Union", circulated by France for the NTCCP meeting in Brdo on 18 March 2008.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** Contributions to feed the debate of the ministers on territorial cohesion during the informal ministerial meeting in November 2008

**Coordination with other actions:** with the Action 1.3, the actions in LA 2, especially with Actions 2.4, and Line of Action 3

**Communication and awareness activities:** Debate with the stakeholders (regions, metropolitan areas and European networks) during the conference "Territorial Cohesion and the Future of Cohesion Policy" to be held in Paris on 30 and 31 October 2008.

*Line of Action 2*

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*2.1 Cooperate with the EC to use the activities of the TCUM thematic working groups to analyse key dossiers, policies and legislation at MS and EU levels in the light of the Territorial Agenda and Leipzig Charter*

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Working principles agreed among the members of the TCUM at the end of 2007: to identify the major challenges, to benchmark the tools and level used in the MS to deal with those challenges, and to identify good practices. The methodology is to prepare a background document on the issue, to prepare a questionnaire to be answered by the MS and to make a report on the outcomes.

*Line of Action 2:*

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*To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies*

*Action 2.1c*

*Cooperate with the EC to use the activities of the TCUM thematic working groups to analyse key dossiers, policies and legislation at MS and EU levels in the light of the Territorial Agenda and Leipzig Charter*

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***Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy***

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**Responsible partner:** Greece

**Partners in implementation:** Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Sweden, Poland

**Work Programme:** The work is based on the agreed principles (see 2.1 above). The draft questionnaire and an accompanying document on the questionnaire rationale has been



distributed among the partners in implementation and the TCUM delegations in the end of April for comments. The final questionnaire will be distributed to all MS by beginning of June 2008. A coordination meeting of the sub-group is expected to take place. In addition, a coordination meeting with the responsible partners of the other thematic groups is being proposed to take place during this period.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** The first report on the findings from the questionnaires is foreseen during the French presidency. The analysis of the findings from the questionnaire is scheduled to begin in September 2008.

**Coordination with other actions:** Coordination and exchange of information has been foreseen among all sub-actions of 2.1., as well as other actions of LA2 and LA3, especially the actions 2.4.a, 2.4.d and 3.2a.

**Communication and awareness activities:** It is anticipated to disseminate the results of the final report of this sub-group. Collaboration with the other sub-groups on this matter is to be expected.

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*Line of Action 2:*

*To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies*

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*Action 2.1b*

*Cooperate with the EC to use the activities of the TCUM thematic working groups to analyse key dossiers, policies and legislation at MS and EU levels in the light of the Territorial Agenda and Leipzig Charter*

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**Climate Change**

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**Responsible partner:** Co-chaired by Germany, The Netherlands and Spain; Germany is coordinating the action

**Partners in implementation:** Finland, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, UK

**Work Programme:** The work is based on the agreed principles (see 2.1 above). The first step is preparation of the background document, which needs to be agreed among three co-chairs and within the sub-group. On the basis of the document the questionnaire will be prepared by June.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:**

**Coordination with other actions:** Coordination with other sub-group is needed, as well as with Action 2.4 on influencing the EU key dossiers, namely Sustainable Development Strategy.

**Communication and awareness activities:**

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*Line of Action 2:*

*To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies*

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*Action 2.1c*

*Cooperate with the EC to use the activities of the TCUM thematic working groups to analyse key dossiers, policies and legislation at MS and EU levels in the light of the Territorial Agenda and Leipzig Charter*

## **Demography**

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**Responsible partner:** Italy

**Partners in implementation:** Czech Republic, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland

**Work Programme:** The work is based on the agreed principles (see 2.1 above). The background document is in preparation and will be sent out to the members of the sub-group during April. The final version of the document and the questionnaire are foreseen to be prepared by June.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:**

**Coordination with other actions:**

**Communication and awareness activities:**

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### *Line of Action 2:*

*To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies*

#### *Action 2.1c*

*Cooperate with the EC to use the activities of the TCUM thematic working groups to analyse key dossiers, policies and legislation at MS and EU levels in the light of the Territorial Agenda and Leipzig Charter*

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## **Urban sprawl**

**Responsible partner:** Belgium

**Partners in implementation:** Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia

**Work Programme:** The work is based on the agreed principles (see 2.1 above). The background paper and the questionnaire have been prepared and commented upon by the members of the sub-group and will be circulated to the MS in the beginning of April. Answers expected by mid-June.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** The final report will be delivered in one year's time, while the contribution on the findings will be prepared for the ministerial meeting during the French presidency in November 2008.

**Coordination with other actions:** Link with Action 1.1

**Communication and awareness activities:** The main target is TCUM, and the major event for dissemination is the ministerial meeting under the French presidency in November 2008.

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### *Line of Action 2:*

*To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies*

#### *Action 2.2*

*Scope out the territorial impacts of selected sectoral policies together with sectoral policy-makers and jointly analyse the introduction of territorial impact assessment in the policy process*

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**Responsible partner:** The Netherlands

**Partners in implementation:** Austria, France, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, UK, European Commission

**Work Programme:** A detailed work programme for the implementation has been prepared. Based on this working paper, a questionnaire has been formulated and distributed to the Member States.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:**

Major milestones:

- Questionnaire and analysis of this questionnaire (June-August 2008)
- Contribution of several stakeholders with experiences of territorial impact among their members (July-December 2008)
- Seminar to be organised in 2009 (January-June 2009)
- Final report during the Czech presidency in the first half of 2009 including:
  - o an overview of the way the Member States experience territorial impact of sectoral policies;
  - o the process of assessment of territorial impact at the level of the European Union and individual Member States (including regions and local communities);
  - o good practices from the Member States to assess territorial impact and gain insight into useful principles for such an assessment;
  - o information and advice for the Commission on the integration of territorial notions into its policy development and impact assessment system.

**Coordination with other actions:** not relevant

**Communication and awareness activities:** A seminar will be organised by The Netherlands at the end of this action to present the outcomes of this action and to raise awareness. The seminar will be open to all interested parties.

*Line of Action 2:*

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*To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies*

*Action 2.3a*

*Analyse key dossiers, policies and legislation from the point of view of the regions with specific territorial constraints*

***Valorisation of territorial diversity***

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**Responsible partner:** Norway

**Partners in implementation:** Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Romania, Cyprus and Malta. In addition Euromontana and The North Sea Commission of the CPMR will be involved.

**Work Programme:** An Expression of Interest for an integrated study under the Priority 2 of the ESPON 2013 Programme was jointly developed and submitted.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** A decision on which Expressions of Interest for ESPON priority 2 projects to support will be taken by the monitoring committee of the ESPON programme at the beginning of June.

The aim of this project looks at how regions outside the metropolitan and major urban areas can contribute to the Lisbon/Gothenburg strategy, so as to promote differentiated spatial and regional development policies. It is foreseen that the action/project should try to address the

following themes (1) the present performance of the regions in question with regard to performance to central/overall policy goals like Lisbon strategy and Gothenburg strategy, (2) Potentials and challenges for the regions in question to contribute to central/overall policy goals like Lisbon and Gothenburg strategy and (3) A discussion of future policy options. The proposal should be of interest for ongoing and future policy discussions on EU-level.

**Coordination with other actions:** Coordination with other actions addressing similar issues like development of islands or mountains would be an advantage.

**Communication and awareness activities:** A seminar will be organised at the end of this action to present the outcomes of this action and to raise awareness. The seminar will be open to all interested parties. Euromontana and The North Sea Commission will play a key role in disseminating and getting feedback on the results of the study through their networks.

#### *Line of Action 2:*

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*To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies*

#### *Action 2.3b*

*Analyse key dossiers, policies and legislation from the point of view of the regions with specific territorial constraints*

#### **Europe mountain areas**

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**Responsible partner:** Switzerland

**Partners in implementation:** Norway, Austria, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Sweden, Rumania, Wales, Basque Region, EUROMONTANA, the Alpine Convention, the Carpathian Convention, the Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development

**Work Programme:** Executive summary of the proposal which was submitted under Priority 2 of the ESPON 2013 Programme: "European mountain areas face numerous challenges which are widely known and include economic competitiveness, climate change, demographic change, energy supply, and accessibility. Governments, institutions, businesses, and other stakeholders concerned with mountain areas must therefore react to those challenges. In order to be able to react, the potentials of mountain areas need to be identified. They vary from mountain area to mountain area. The proposed study will deliver a new typology of mountain areas based on their potentials. The study will lead to a more refined delimitation of mountain areas on European level. It will thus contribute to ongoing policy processes such as the territorial agenda, the green book on territorial cohesion and the eventual green book on mountain areas."

The proposal is therefore of high relevance for actual and upcoming policy discussions on EU-level. Due to the analysis carried out on NUTS 5 level, the results can equally be of relevance for national policy making.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** An Expression of Interest for an integrated study under Priority 2 of the ESPON 2013 Programme was jointly developed and submitted. Due to a minor incompleteness of the application the proposal was declared ineligible. The proposal will be resubmitted either as an ESPON priority 1 or again as a priority 2 project. Bilateral contacts and other cooperation possibilities are ongoing.

**Coordination with other actions:**

**Communication and awareness activities:**

*Line of Action 2:**To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies*

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*Action 2.3c**Analyse key dossiers, policies and legislation from the point of view of the regions with specific territorial constraints – European islands****"The development of the Islands – European Islands and Cohesion Policy"***

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**Responsible partner:** Greece**Partners in implementation:** Malta, Cyprus, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Finland, Estonia**Work Programme:** The implementation of the action includes consultation with the stakeholders and the relevant European Organisations and the elaboration of the corresponding ESPON study. The terms of reference for the preparation of the study will be drawn in June 2008, while the call for proposals for the study will take place during July and August 2008. The study will be assigned in October – November 2008. The European Organisations (CoR, EESC) and the participating stakeholders (CPMR, ESIF, Insuleur) will further ensure the collaboration of all parties involved for the preparation and implementation of the initiative.**Timetable and expected outcomes:** The study is expected to provide a description of the current situation of the islands, an insight to the islands' particularities, handicaps and constraints, as well as their potentials and their challenges. The aim is to make policy recommendations, in order to strengthen the economic and social role of the islands within the European Union.**Coordination with other actions:** Coordination and exchange of information is foreseen among relevant actions under LA2 (especially the action 2.4.b) and LA3. In addition, LA4 and the ESPON 2013 programme will provide further information for the completion of the action.**Communication and awareness activities:** Information on the study's status will be disseminated among the stakeholders. Meetings, transnational seminars and fore will be organized and will involve actively all the stakeholders and parties interested in this initiative and its implementation after the completion of the study. A respective website will also strengthen the dissemination activities for the "Euroislands" initiative. The first conference for the presentation of the "Euroislands" initiative along with workshops and round table discussion on this issue will be organised in Greece, on the island Kos, 28 June 2008.*Line of Action 2:**To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies*

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*Action 2.4a**Prepare and promote contributions of the ministers to the debate on the most relevant EU key dossiers from the point of view of sustainable spatial development and territorial cohesion****Contribution by the ministers responsible for spatial planning and development to the ongoing public discussion on the Green Paper "Adapting to climate change in Europe – options for the EU"***

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**Action had been completed: After the agreement on the Contribution at the Azores ministerial meeting, the document was sent to the European Commission.**

*Line of Action 2:*

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*To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies*

*Action 2.4b*

*Prepare and promote contributions of the ministers to the debate on the most relevant EU key dossiers from the point of view of sustainable spatial development and territorial cohesion*

***Key dossier: debate on the future of EU Cohesion Policy***

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**Responsible partner:** France

**Partners in implementation:** not yet defined

**Work Programme:** Defined partly in the "Working Note on Territorial Cohesion and the Regional Policy of the European Union", circulated by France for the NTCCP meeting in Brdo on 18 March 2008.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** Contributions by the ministers to the debate on the future of EU cohesion policy to be agreed upon at the informal ministerial meeting in November 2008.

**Coordination with other actions:** Coordination will take place with the other actions in LA2, especially with Action 2.4, and the proposed new Action 1.4.

**Communication and awareness activities:** Debate with the stakeholders (Regions, Metropolitan areas and European networks) during the conference "Territorial Cohesion and the Future of Cohesion Policy" to be held in Paris on 30 and 31 October 2008.

*Line of Action 2:*

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*To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies*

*Action 2.4c*

*Prepare and promote contributions of the ministers to the debate on the most relevant EU key dossiers from the point of view of sustainable spatial development and territorial cohesion*

***Key dossier: debate on EU Rural Development Policy***

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**Responsible partner:** France

**Partners in implementation:** not yet defined

**Work Programme:** Defined partly in the "Working Note on Territorial Cohesion and the Regional Policy of the European Union", circulated by France for the NTCCP meeting in Brdo on 18 March 2008.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** Contributions by the ministers to the debate on the future of EU agricultural and rural development policy to be agreed upon at the informal ministerial meeting in November 2008.

**Coordination with other actions:** Coordination will take place with the other actions in LA2,

especially with Action 2.4.

**Communication and awareness activities:** Debate with the stakeholders (Regions, Metropolitan areas and European networks) during the conference "Territorial Cohesion and the Future of Cohesion Policy" to be held in Paris on 30 and 31 October 2008.

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*Line of Action 2:*

*To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies*

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*Action 2.4d*

*Prepare and promote contributions of the ministers to the debate on the most relevant EU key dossiers from the point of view of sustainable spatial development and territorial cohesion*

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**Key dossier: debate on EU Sustainable Development Strategy**

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**Responsible partner: France**

**Partners in implementation: not yet defined**

**Work Programme:** Defined partly in the "Working Note on Territorial Cohesion and the Regional Policy of the European Union", circulated by France for the NTCCP meeting in Brdo on 18 March 2008.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** Contributions by the ministers to the debate on the future of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy to be agreed upon at the informal ministerial meeting in November 2008.

**Coordination with other actions:** Collaboration with the TCUM thematic sub-group on climate change and with the other actions in LA2, especially with Action 2.4.

**Communication and awareness activities:** Debate with the stakeholders (Regions, Metropolitan areas and European networks) during the conference "Territorial Cohesion and the Future of Cohesion Policy" to be held in Paris on 30 and 31 October 2008.

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*Line of Action 2:*

*To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies*

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*Action 2.4e*

*Prepare and promote contributions of the ministers to the debate on the most relevant EU key dossiers from the point of view of sustainable spatial development and territorial cohesion*

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**Key dossier: debate on EU Transport Policy post 2010**

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**Responsible partner: Germany**

**Partners in implementation: not yet defined**

**Work Programme:** The work programme and timetable will be prepared later. It is proposed not to address all aspects of transport policy post 2010 but to concentrate on the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). In the beginning the focus of the Group should be the Green Book of the European Commission concerning proposals for development and financing of TEN-T, which will be presented in autumn 2008. Also, territorial criteria should be looked at.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** Common contributions of the ministers responsible for spatial planning and development on the EU key dossier: debate on EU Transport Policy post 2010.

**Coordination with other actions:** Coordination will take place with the other actions in LA 2, especially with Action 2.4.

**Communication and awareness activities:** not yet decided

*Line of Action 2:*

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*To influence EU key dossiers and to give a territorial/urban dimension to sectoral policies*

*Action 2.4f*

*Prepare and promote contributions of the ministers to the debate on the most relevant EU key dossiers from the point of view of sustainable spatial development and territorial cohesion*

***Key dossier: debate on the Lisbon Process post 2010***

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**Responsible partner:** France

**Partners in implementation:** not yet defined

**Work Programme:** Defined partly in the "Working Note on Territorial Cohesion and the Regional Policy of the European Union", circulated by France for the NTCCP meeting in Brdo on 18 March 2008.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** Contributions by the ministers to the debate on the Lisbon Process post 2010 to be agreed upon at the informal ministerial meeting in November 2008

**Coordination with other actions:** Coordination will take place with the other actions in LA2, especially with Action 2.4.

**Communication and awareness activities:** Debate with the stakeholders (Regions, Metropolitan areas and European networks) during the conference "Territorial Cohesion and the Future of Cohesion Policy" to be held in Paris on 30 and 31 October 2008.

*Line of Action 3:*

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*To strengthen multi-level territorial governance at EU and MS levels*

*Action 3.1*

*Design and implement a strategy to promote transparent decision-making processes in the administration and with public and private stakeholders as well as non-governmental organisations on territorial policies at EU and MS levels*

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**Responsible partner:** not yet assigned

**Partners in implementation:**

**Work Programme:**

**Timetable and expected outcomes:**



**Coordination with other actions:**

**Communication and awareness activities:**

*Line of Action 3:*

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*To strengthen multi-level territorial governance at EU and MS levels*

*Action 3.2*

*Convene with selected stakeholders on their commitment to implement TA territorial priorities in their own action programmes and initiatives*

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**Responsible partner:** Portugal

**Partners in implementation:** CPMR, EUROCITIES, ECTP

**Work Programme:** Preparation of the agreements by Portugal to be negotiated and signed with selected stakeholders.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** Signed agreements by June 2008.

**Coordination with other actions:**

**Communication and awareness activities:**

*Line of Action 3:*

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*To strengthen multi-level territorial governance at EU and MS levels*

*Action 3.2a*

*Convene with selected stakeholders on their commitment to implement TA territorial priorities in their own action programmes and initiatives*

***Urban development priorities***

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**Responsible partner:** not yet assigned

The purpose of this action is to link urban matters with territorial cohesion discussion, possibly by reporting on the projects undertaken by the Member States within the URBACT Programme.

**Partners in implementation:** all the EU Member States and Norway and Switzerland

**Work Programme:**

**Timetable and expected outcomes:**

**Coordination with other actions:**

**Communication and awareness activities:**

*Line of Action 3:*

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*To strengthen multi-level territorial governance at EU and MS levels*

*Action 3.2b*

*Convene with selected stakeholders on their commitment to implement TA territorial priorities in their own action programmes and initiatives*

***Potential impacts of climate change on spatial development and key economic sectors in the Alpine space***

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**Responsible partner:** not yet assigned

**Partners in implementation:**

**Work Programme:**

**Timetable and expected outcomes:**

Process until now (prepared by Switzerland, a member of the MC):

The application procedure and the assessment of the submitted proposals is taking place according to the management procedures of the Alpine Space Programme. More information could be attained on the basis of the decisions of the Monitoring Committee in June 2008.

**Coordination with other actions:**

**Communication and awareness activities:**

*Line of Action 4:*

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*To compare and assess the territorial state, perspectives, trends and policy impacts in the EU and MS from the point of view of territorial cohesion and sustainable spatial development*

*Action 4.1*

*Use, within its institutional framework and on the basis of its management arrangements, the ESPON 2013 Programme to develop a robust platform of knowledge on territorial state, perspectives, trends and policy impacts in the EU and MS from the point of view of territorial cohesion and sustainable spatial development*

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**Responsible partner:** ESPON MC, Luxembourg MA

**Partners in implementation:** ESPON MC member countries

**Work Programme:** The ESPON 2013 Operational Programme adopted by the European Commission on 7 November 2008 provides the framework for activities related to applied territorial research and targeted analysis as well as progress on scientific work on data and indicators, etc. A yearly work programme decided by the ESPON Monitoring Committee will decide the actions to be launched and the themes to be addressed. In particular, actions under Priority 1 and 2 will contribute to the knowledge of European territorial dynamics.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** Projects under the ESPON 2013 Programme will deliver a diversity of results relevant for the understanding of territorial structures, trends, perspectives and policy impacts. The timing of concrete outputs depends on the timing of the launch and specification of projects, which will be decided by the MC and depends on policy demand.

**Coordination with other actions:** 4.2 and 4.3

**Communication and awareness activities:** All ESPON projects will include dissemination of results. In addition, the ESPON Programme will implement a capitalisation strategy which will include synthesis reports and shorter material communicating main issues and key results.

*Line of Action 4:*


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*To compare and assess the territorial state, perspectives, trends and policy impacts in the EU and MS from the point of view of territorial cohesion and sustainable spatial development*

*Action 4.2*

*Use, within its institutional framework and on the basis of its management arrangements, the ESPON 2013 Programme and the other European international territorial and urban networks and forums including the OECD territorial development policy committee to support monitoring and assessment of territorial development and cohesion from 2008 onwards*

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**Responsible partner:** ESPON MC, Luxembourg MA

**Partners in implementation:** ESPON MC member countries

**Working Programme:** The ESPON 2013 Operational Programme adopted by the European Commission on 7 November 2008 provides the framework for activities related to applied territorial research and targeted analysis as well as progress on scientific work on data, indicators and monitoring. The yearly work programme decided by the ESPON Monitoring Committee will decide the actions to be launched, including activities related to monitoring European territorial development. Particular emphasis on the need for territorial monitoring is part of Priority 3 of the Operational Programme.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** Projects under the ESPON 2013 Programme will deliver a diversity of results relevant for the understanding of territorial structures, trends, perspectives and policy impacts. The timing of the concrete project on a territorial monitoring system is envisaged to imply the start of the project in 2009-2010, depending on the decision of the ESPON MC. During the ESPON 2013 Programme, 2–3 Monitoring Reports are envisaged.

**Coordination with other actions:** 4.1 and 4.3 [OECD by others]

**Communication and awareness activities:** All ESPON projects will include dissemination of results. In addition, the ESPON Programme will implement a capitalisation strategy which will include arranging and participating in events as well as the publication and dissemination of Monitoring Reports.

*Line of Action 4:*


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*To compare and assess the territorial state, perspectives, trends and policy impacts in the EU and MS from the point of view of territorial cohesion and sustainable spatial development*

*Action 4.3*

*Update the Territorial State and Perspectives of the EU (TSP) before the TA mid-term review in 2011*

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**Responsible partner:** not yet assigned

**Partners in implementation:** ESPON MC

**Work Programme:** The ESPON MC could be asked to offer inputs to the TSP on the base of ESPON synthesis reports.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** The action should be completed in the first half of 2010 in order to support the preparation of the TA review.

**Coordination with other actions:**

**Communication and awareness activities:**

*Line of Action 5:*

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*To coordinate and monitor AP1 implementation, assess and review the TA and AP1 and to develop a communication and awareness-raising strategy on territorial cohesion and sustainable development*

*Action 5.1*

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*Coordinate, monitor and assess the implementation of AP1*

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**Responsible partner:** the acting presidency

**Partners in implementation:** NTCCP

**Work Programme:** Action included in the presidency programme.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** Ongoing work. First half of 2008: Presentation of the interim progress report on the implementation of the AP1 at the DG meeting on 14 May 2008

**Coordination with other actions:**

**Communication and awareness activities:** The interim progress report will be put on the web portal.

*Line of Action 5:*

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*To coordinate and monitor AP1 implementation, assess and review the TA and AP1 and to develop a communication and awareness-raising strategy on territorial cohesion and sustainable development*

*Action 5.2*

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*Design and implement a communication and awareness-raising strategy on territorial cohesion and sustainable spatial development*

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**Responsible partner:** the acting presidency

**Partners in implementation:** Portugal, NTCCP

**Work Programme:** Ongoing work. Action included in the presidency programme.

**Timetable and expected outcomes:** First half of 2008: Preparation of the web portal, updated PowerPoint presentation, collection of the information to be put on the web side; communication and awareness activities were included in the interim progress report on the implementation of the AP1 at the DG meeting on 14 May 2008

**Coordination with other actions:**

**Communication and awareness activities:**

*Line of Action 5:*

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*To coordinate and monitor AP1 implementation, assess and review the TA and AP1 and to develop a communication and awareness-raising strategy on territorial cohesion and sustainable development*

*Action 5.3*

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*Evaluate and review the Territorial Agenda in 2011*

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**Responsible partner:** Hungary

**Partnership for implementing action:**

All Member States, EU institutions and stakeholders should take part in this action.

A core task group will be set up not earlier than 2010 in order to elaborate the draft documents to be discussed by all the partners at the NTCCP meetings and DG meeting. A close cooperation with Spain and Belgium will be necessary.

The core task group is to be composed of no more than 10 participants. Spain and Belgium will be invited to take part as members of the 18-month Presidency group together with Hungary, Germany whose experience in the preparation of the Territorial Agenda could be of a great help, as well as the European Commission as territorial cohesion will have been the shared competence between EC and the Member States by that time.

Hungary invites the interested partners to indicate their intentions of taking part in the core task group.

**Working programme and time table:** Working programme will be prepared later on.

**Expected outcomes:** Revised Territorial Agenda

**Coordination with other actions of AP1:** Action 5.3. cannot be started until Action 4.3. is not finished or close to being finished.

Coordination is necessary with act 4.1., 4.2., 5.1., 5.2.

Communication and awareness raising, dissemination of the results: Not decided yet

## Annex

### **Interim report on the implementation of the action to improve coordination between spatial and urban development policies**

# **Coordination between Territorial and Urban Development**

## **Interim Report**

***On the implementation of Action 1.1 of the First Action Programme for the  
Implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU:***

***"Prepare and promote policy options to foster coordination between  
territorial and urban development in the light of the Territorial Agenda and  
the Leipzig Charter at EU and MS levels"***

May 2008

*Action 1.1: "Prepare and promote policy options to foster coordination between territorial and urban development in the light of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter at EU and MS levels" began in January 2008 and is foreseen to last until the end of 2008. This report presents the interim results of this action and is to be presented at the Directors General meeting on urban development and territorial cohesion at Brdo on 14 and 15 May 2008, with the purpose of reviewing the proposals for fostering coordination and proposals for future activities. The final report is foreseen for November 2008 and will be presented in coordination with the French Presidency. This interim report describes the working process in the course of the activities of this action, the subject of the action and the approach taken, and the interim results for policy options to foster coordination between territorial and urban development in the light of the Territorial Agenda and Leipzig Charter at EU and MS levels.*



## Executive Summary

Territorial and urban development are often considered as "two sides of the same coin", and the complementarities between both are widely acknowledged. The need for integrating policies dealing with territorial and urban development was specifically emphasised in the conclusions of the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion in Leipzig in May 2007, where the ministers expressed "their firm conviction that *an integrated urban and spatial planning and development policy is needed ...*"

The aim of this action is thus to find ways for enhancing the effectiveness of policies dealing with territorial and urban development at Member State and EU levels through coordinated action. Action 1.1 is being carried out within the framework of the First Action Programme for the Implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU (AP1) with the line of action for implementing the TA in the areas of competence of the ministers at EU and MS levels (LA1). Partners in the implementation of the action are: Slovenia, which took on the responsibility for the implementation of the action, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, EUROCITIES and the European Commission. Besides the mentioned partners, Malta, Spain and the United Kingdom also contributed to the action with case studies. The partners of the action formed the Task Group for the implementation of Action 1.1 (TG11).

Taking into account the diverse institutional frameworks and governance cultures of the Member States, the *proposals for improving territorial-urban coordination* at the level of the Member States can only be formulated as an open set of possible policy options. For the purposes of this action these were based on case studies and their assessments from the point of view of territorial-urban coordination, and complemented with *proposals for further activities at the EU level* for strengthening territorial-urban coordination, also deriving from the overview of existing proposals for territorial-urban coordination.

Summary of proposals for fostering coordination between territorial and urban development:

1. New governance tools can further the implementation of integrated planning approaches across levels and beyond established institutional frameworks. New forms of partnership with clearly defined organisational structures can be set up, also linking the planning and implementation phases.

*Proposal for further activity at the EU level: Establish a platform for examples of territorial-urban coordination*

2. Strategic, flexible planning approaches can be applied for tackling the dynamics of spatial phenomena at all levels, complementing more rigid land-use planning approaches. Planning processes could be used for the creation of a common understanding of key challenges and development priorities at different levels.

*Proposal for further activity at the EU level: Devise guidelines for setting up collaborative development strategies*

3. Capacity building, including generic skills for sustainable communities, is needed for successful functioning of new forms of partnership. Strong leadership is a key ingredient of successful coordination across levels.
4. Cooperation between relevant actors and different planning levels should be based on

compatible interests, also taking into account the potentially divergent interests of different actors.

5. Participative, bottom-up approaches in general have better chances for producing successful strategies and plans, as they can secure wider ownership of results and better public acceptance. However, top-down initiatives are crucial for stimulating coordination and setting up appropriate framework conditions.
6. Innovative cross-scale concepts can be very valuable in fostering coordination between levels when considered in planning tools.

*Proposal for further activity at the EU level: Devise a new common development concept.*

7. Regular updating on the progress of the common objectives by utilising a commonly agreed system of indicators should help in maintaining the partnerships.

*Proposal for further activity at the EU level: Increase activities toward developing a common data platform in the future*

8. Documents at the European Union level could explicitly recognise the importance of themes of territorial-urban coordination.

*Proposal for further activity at the EU level: Interlinking between the objectives of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter*

Besides proposals for fostering coordination, a key outcome of Action 1.1 is also the case studies themselves, as they enabled the exchange of experience and the creation of common understanding with regard to territorial-urban coordination. The partners in TG11, as well as Malta, Spain and the United Kingdom, have so far presented 16 case study themes addressing all six territorial priorities of the Territorial Agenda and several strategies for action promoted in the Leipzig Charter.

## **Action 1.1 of the First Action Programme for the Implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU: Prepare and promote policy options to foster coordination between territorial and urban development in the light of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter at EU and MS levels**

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### **1. Background**

The First Action Programme marked one further step in the process which was, building on the ESDP and the CEMAT experience, initiated in Rotterdam in 2004, where a territorial development policy to better assess the perspectives of the EU was agreed. In 2005 in Luxembourg, the territorial priorities and formulation of an expert report on "The Territorial State and Perspectives of the European Union" were accepted, which provided the basis for the Territorial Agenda of the European Union agreed at the informal ministerial meeting in Leipzig in May 2007 under the German Presidency. For the implementation of the Territorial Agenda, the First Action Programme for the Implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU (AP1) was adopted at the informal ministerial meeting in the Azores under the Portuguese Presidency.

This action is being carried out within the framework of AP1. It constitutes part of Line of Action 1 within AP1, which is aimed at implementing the Territorial Agenda in the areas of competence of the ministers at European Union and Member State level and directly addresses the territorial priorities stated in Part III of the Territorial Agenda.

### **2. Aim and objectives**

The Territorial Agenda of the EU and the First Action Programme both acknowledge that integrated urban development policy and territorial cohesion policy each make complementary contributions to implementing the aims of sustainable development. Improved coordination between both policies could in this sense contribute to greater synergies and better implementation of common goals.

The aim of this action is thus to find ways for enhancing the effectiveness of policies dealing with territorial and urban development at Member State and EU levels through coordinated action. Achieving the goals of sustainable and polycentric development as well as dealing with development challenges such as demographics, climate change and others, as also acknowledged in the TA, can be more effective through coordinated action.

The objective of this action is to propose options for coordination between territorial and urban development at Member State and EU levels.

### **3. Working process**

#### **- Partnership**

Slovenia took responsibility for implementation of the action. Partners in the implementation of the action are also France, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, EUROCITIES and the European Commission. The mentioned partners formed the Task Group of Action 1.1 (TG11).

Slovenia is carrying on the task by preparing documents for discussion at the meetings of TG11 and at NTCCP and UDG meetings, and coordinating activities among the partners in the action. All partners contributed to the work of TG11 with participation at the working meetings as well as with suggestions and comments to the working documents, while most partners also contributed to the action with case studies. Malta, Spain and the United Kingdom also contributed to implementation of the action with case studies, although they are not partners in TG11.

The Slovenian Presidency enabled the discussion about the working results of the action within the two NTCCP meetings and one UDG meeting. The first steps have also been taken to ensure coordination with other actions of AP1, work on which has already started.

#### **- Working process**

Work within TG11 has so far involved participation in two working meetings of the group, commenting on rounds of documents for discussion as well as documents prepared for NTCCP and UGD meetings.

Four Discussion Papers have been discussed within TG11 so far. On the basis of the Discussion Papers and the work of TG11, two Working Papers (WP1 and WP2) were prepared for presentation and discussion within the NTCCP and UDG. An additional Discussion Paper was prepared for the UDG meeting in March with the intention of introducing the issue of coordination between territorial and urban development deriving from the First Action Programme for implementation of the TA EU.

Besides the discussion and working papers, two reports are foreseen for this action. The interim report presents the background, the description of the approach taken and the first proposals for improved territorial-urban coordination. It is intended for presentation at the DG meeting during the Slovenian Presidency in Brdo in May 2008. The final report is foreseen to be presented at the next DG meeting in agreement with the French Presidency. A policy statement on its main outcomes is foreseen to be taken into account in the conclusions of the next Informal Ministerial Meeting in November 2008 in coordination with the French Presidency.

Action 1.1 is being pursued within the framework of implementation of AP1, but considering the content of the action, progress on Action 1.1 was also discussed at the UDG meeting and the feedback taken into account. The interim report will be presented at the DG meeting on territorial cohesion as well as at the DG meeting on urban development policy.

#### **- Coordination with other actions**

Action should be coordinated especially with other actions from LA1 and LA2. Coordination started with the exchange of information with those actions that have already been initiated. The first exchange of opinions and working materials with the responsible partners for the implementation of Actions 1.1a and 2.2 has already taken place. The first thoughts on possible

coordination with some of the sub-actions of Action 2.4 have also been exchanged with representatives of the responsible partner. The main constraint in coordination with related actions so far is differences in timetables, since some actions are just starting or have not started yet. Further coordination is foreseen for the second half of 2008.

#### - **Communication**

Communication activities have so far been restricted to the policy community within the territorial cohesion and urban development fields at Member State and EU levels, in particular the Network of Territorial Cohesion Contact Points (NTCCP) and the Urban Development Group (UDG). Two working papers have been presented and discussed at the NTCCP meetings in February and March 2008, and a special discussion paper on territorial-urban coordination has been presented and discussed at the UDG meeting in March 2008.

An Internet link<sup>6</sup> to the main documents of Action 1.1 was established, which can be accessed through the Slovenian EU Presidency on the site of Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. All the case studies, which are currently in draft versions, are also posted on this site.

Within the activities of Action 1.1, a workshop will be organised by Slovenia in early autumn 2008, open to the NTCCP and UDG networks. The purpose of the workshop will be to offer opportunity for discussion of the outcomes of the case study assessments and in this way exchange experience and explore further needs for coordination and related activities at the EU level. The outcomes of the workshop will also serve as input for the preparation of the final report of the action. The publishing of the results of the action and case studies is also foreseen.

## **4. Introduction of the issue and description of the approach**

#### - **The need for territorial-urban coordination**

Territorial and urban development pursues the same general objectives but at different planning levels, and the complementarities between both are widely acknowledged. This has already been stressed in the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), which promotes complementarities and cooperation between cities and regions. Much of its first spatial development guidelines, devoted to polycentric spatial development and new urban-rural partnership, is thus about how to ensure these complementarities.

The need for integrating policies dealing with territorial and urban development was later most notably emphasised in the conclusions of the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion in Leipzig in May 2007, where the ministers expressed "their firm conviction that *an integrated urban and spatial planning and development policy is needed* in order to make an important contribution to improving the situation of European citizens and businesses in their immediate social, cultural, environmental and economic surroundings". In addition, the ministers also "agreed to *initiate a political debate in their*

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.mop.gov.si/en/presidency/territorial\\_cohesion\\_and\\_urban\\_development/territorial\\_cohesion/ap1\\_la1\\_action\\_11/](http://www.mop.gov.si/en/presidency/territorial_cohesion_and_urban_development/territorial_cohesion/ap1_la1_action_11/)

*states on how to find synergies between the priorities of the Territorial Agenda of the EU and the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities as well as on how to integrate the urban and territorial aspects of the Community Strategic Guidelines into national, regional and local development policies". Further on, they also "emphasised the need to intensify ... the exchange of experience for the purpose of an integrated policy for cities and regions".*

The Territorial Agenda of the EU and the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities already take the first steps towards coordination between territorial cohesion and urban development policy by referring to each other. The Territorial Agenda refers to the Leipzig Charter as being a document "complementing the concern of the Territorial Agenda, as it raises integrated urban development policy as a task with a European dimension". It then concludes that by complementing each other the two policies (integrated urban development policy and territorial cohesion policy) therefore "make complementary contributions to implementing the aims of sustainable development". In the Leipzig Charter, the ministers declared that they "...welcome the statements and recommendations set out in the Territorial Agenda of the European Union and the work of the European Institutions which promotes an integrated view of urban issues".

Later, the issue of coordination was taken up through implementation of the Territorial Agenda by the First Action Programme for the Implementation of the TA EU, which initiated an action on providing proposals for better coordination of territorial and urban development in the light of both documents – Action 1.1. In the conclusions of the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Territorial Cohesion and Regional Policy in Ponta Delgada, Azores, in November 2007, the ministers responsible for territorial cohesion again reaffirmed "the importance of cooperating, within their means and competences, with the ministers responsible for urban development in order to better integrate spatial and urban development, taking into account territorial diversity and the subsidiarity principle, to improve the social, economical, cultural and environmental conditions in the European Union and in the Member States".

A similar message was forwarded in February 2008 by the European Parliament in its "Resolution on the follow-up of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter: Towards a European Action Programme for Spatial Development and Territorial Cohesion". The resolution explicitly stresses the *"importance of improving coordination between the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter"* and welcomes the initiative to prepare and promote measures "seeking to enhance coordination between spatial and urban development with a view to further interlinking between the objectives of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter".

In line with the intentions of the First Action Programme, the scope of territorial development for the purposes of this action relates to the scope of the Territorial Agenda of the EU, while the scope of urban development is likewise related to the scope of the Leipzig Charter for Sustainable European Cities.

#### **- Key issues of the Territorial Agenda and Leipzig Charter related to addressing the coordination between territorial and urban development**

The Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter both acknowledge sustainable development as a key overall objective and stress the importance of the cultural dimension and identity in territorial and urban settings. They both also reaffirm the common goal of a balanced and polycentric urban system. But there are also notable differences between both documents, defining the current state of territorial and urban development policies in the EU.

As summarised in the study for the European Parliament's committee on Regional Development,<sup>7</sup> the Leipzig Charter builds on a number of documents and actions starting with the European Commission's Green Paper on the Urban Environment from 1990. The Leipzig Charter emphasises the importance of cities in the formulation of future EU policies. It gains its importance primarily from the commitment of the ministers to initiate discussion in their own countries on how the urban dimension can be integrated in different levels of policy. It calls for greater use of integrated urban development policy approaches.

The Territorial Agenda also builds on earlier political documents, of which the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), adopted in 1999, was the most influential. Looking at the political process, it becomes evident that the Territorial Agenda is rooted in the ESDP, although it is also clear that the former has evolved to incorporate themes from the Lisbon Strategy and other challenges such as climate change. As observed in the study for the European Parliament, most noticeable is the shift from "soft" concerns to the pursuit of competitiveness. It is a paradigm shift in European regional policy from the traditional strategy that focused on structurally weak or disadvantaged regions to a focus on the development of opportunities and potentials of a region.<sup>8</sup>

The terms of territorial and urban development can be understood according to the subjects of both documents. The Territorial Agenda deals with all types of regions and concentrates on the interrelation between them and the role of certain types of areas (e.g. coastal zones, mountainous areas, etc.) within them. It therefore focuses on wider aspects of spatial development, covering the whole territory of the EU. It also addresses the challenge of coordinating the policies of the EU and the Member States with respect to their spatial impacts.

The Leipzig Charter is, in contrast, concerned with one specific yet very important type of territory – cities and urban areas – and concentrates on issues relating to this type. The question of subsidiarity is crucial with regard to EU policies in relation to cities. It is also recognised that territorial policies are particularly visible in urban areas. However, as noted in the study for the European Parliament, there are significant differences of opinion regarding if and in what way the EU should "interfere" in this policy area.

Within the wider territorial focus of the Territorial Agenda, cities are considered to play a key role in the balanced spatial development of the EU. Many aspects mentioned for urban areas are also relevant for other types of areas, such as rural areas or regions. Nevertheless, the specific focus on cities is necessary considering that the majority of the EU population inhabits urban areas and that these areas face severe problems, such as urban decay, industrial decline, overpopulation, unsustainable transport systems, poor quality of housing, deteriorating unsafe buildings and contaminated land, and uncontrollable urban sprawl.

The *key issues of the Territorial Agenda* could be identified in better exploitation of the specific territorial potentials of Europe's regions and more effective trans-European territorial integration, while we could consider better integrated urban development policy and addressing specific problems in declining urban areas as *key issues of the Leipzig Charter*.

The common goals of both documents could be summarised in three major points:

- Increasing the effectiveness of the territorial and urban development policies
- Implementing the goals of polycentric sustainable development

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<sup>7</sup> Follow-up of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter: Towards a European Action Programme for Spatial Development and Territorial Cohesion, Ad-hoc note, European Parliament, Brussels, 2007

<sup>8</sup> *ibid*

## - Addressing development challenges

The priorities from the Territorial Agenda and the strategies from the Leipzig Charter need to be taken in account in addressing the coordination between territorial and urban development.

### **The 6 priorities of the Territorial Agenda:**

1. Strengthen Polycentric Development and Innovation through Networking of City Regions and Cities
2. New Forms of Partnership and Territorial Governance between Rural and Urban Areas
3. Promotion of Regional Clusters of Competition and Innovation in Europe
4. Strengthening and Extension of Trans-European Networks
5. Trans-European Risk Management including the Impacts of Climate Change
6. Strengthening of Ecological Structures and Cultural Resources as the Added Value for Development

### **Outline of the Leipzig Charter strategies for action:**

#### *I. Making greater use of integrated urban development policy approaches*

- Creating and ensuring high-quality public spaces
- Modernising infrastructure networks and improving energy efficiency
- Proactive innovation and educational policies

#### *II. Special attention paid to deprived neighbourhoods within the context of the city as a whole*

- Pursuing strategies for upgrading the physical environment
- Strengthening the local economy and local labour market policy
- Proactive education and training policies for children and young people
- Promotion of efficient and affordable urban transport

Last but not least, it is important to mention that both documents address issues which have an important *role in achieving Lisbon Strategy* goals. The Territorial Agenda describes its contribution to the Lisbon and Gothenburg goals by its role in "sustainable economic growth and job creation as well as social and ecological development". This contribution can be summed up with exploiting the endogenous potentials of an area (including natural and cultural values), promoting an area's integration and connectivity to other areas that are important for its development, and territorial governance (promoting horizontal and vertical policy coherence). The Leipzig Charter underlines the key role that cities play in achieving the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy and in this, the importance of social balance, cultural diversity and high quality of the living environment.

## - Approach taken

The coordination between territorial and urban development is a multi-layer issue which addresses at least the *policy* and *governance* levels, the latter including also *planning processes* and *instruments for implementation*. Throughout the course of the action the question of coordination has been redefined to some extent, addressing more generally the issue of coordinating development between different spatial levels.

Taking into account diverse institutional frameworks and governance cultures of the Member States, the *proposals for improving territorial-urban coordination* at the level of Member States



can only be formulated as an open set of possible policy options. For the purposes of this action these derive primarily from the case studies and their assessment from the point of view of territorial-urban coordination.

Complementing these proposals are also the *proposals for further activities at the EU level* for strengthening territorial-urban coordination. They also derive, on the one hand, from the assessment of the case studies, but on the other hand are complemented with several other sources needed to add the EU policy dimension to the proposals. These include policy documents at the EU level, such as the conclusions of the informal ministerial meetings or EP resolutions, as well as relevant studies covering the whole of the EU, such as ESPON projects. In addition, the progress of this action also enabled an important learning experience that could have an impact on the proposals for improved territorial-urban coordination.

## **I. CASE STUDIES**

As a first step towards pinning down the possibilities for improvement of coordination between territorial and urban development, case studies were elaborated representing examples of such coordination. The purpose of the case studies is to show concrete examples of territorial and urban development and assess them from the point of view of territorial-urban coordination. A set of criteria was specified first to select the cases and then to assess them. The analysis of the case studies was the *main source for the proposals for improving territorial-urban coordination*.

Taking into account the purpose of Line of Action 1 of AP1, directly addressing the territorial priorities of the Territorial Agenda, the decision was to link the themes of the case studies *to the six priorities of the Territorial Agenda*. This consideration added a key criterion for the selection of case studies and narrowed the field of possible themes. Different case studies address different priorities, so that all six territorial priorities are eventually considered. At the same time, reference to the priorities or strategies for action of the Leipzig Charter was also made in each of the case studies. This is particularly important from the point of view of territorial-urban coordination, because a link between both policy documents would thus be established.

The themes of the case studies can either be issues of common interest to territorial and urban development, or specific areas or scales where territorial and urban development overlap. Issues of common interest might include, for instance, adaptation to climate change, effects of demographic change and migrations, and efficient transport networks. Specific areas where territorial and urban development levels overlap could be areas of high population density and many natural qualities at the same time (such as coastal areas or valleys in mountain areas). Overlapping can also occur at a specific scale which goes beyond the individual city but does not encircle a whole region; examples might include functional urban areas, commuting areas and city-regions.

In addition, the case studies had to present pre-existing examples of coordination between territorial and urban development, so that some lessons can already be drawn from them and also for reasons of the limited timeframe for the action.

The criteria for the selection of case studies were the following:

- *The case study themes of are tied to the territorial priorities of the Territorial Agenda of the EU.*

The six priorities of the TA represent the most relevant thematic framework for the case studies. Each case study is tied to a different set of priorities, so that all six priorities are addressed and minimum overlapping between case study themes ensured. A reference to one or more strategies for action from the Leipzig Charter is also pointed out in each case study.

- *The case study themes address territorial-urban coordination.*

As mentioned in the beginning, the selected themes of the case studies should represent examples of coordination between territorial and urban development. The examples address development issues that are common to territorial and urban development levels, such as adaptation to climate change, effects of demographic change and migrations, or efficient transport networks.

- *Case studies should present existing examples from territorial and urban development.*

The emphasis on existing examples is on the one hand pragmatic, as it should make possible the assessment of case studies without too much additional work. But on the other hand it is only possible to assess something that already exists, so the analysis of implementation is only possible where some formal (or informal) plan, strategy, policy or instrument is already in place. At the core of any case study theme is therefore such a plan, strategy, policy or other instrument.

## **II. ASSESSMENT OF THE CASE STUDIES**

Taking into account the broad scope of possibilities to address territorial-urban coordination, one way is to build upon certain common issues of continuously reappearing policies and plans at both development levels. These are characterised in particular by an *integrated approach* which addresses different sectors and administrative levels, involving a range of diverse stakeholders, when tackling development challenges. Two main stages can typically be identified when pursue an integrated approach to development. While the first serves for the elaboration of a strategy, policy, plan or other instrument, the second structures the process of implementation of such a strategy, policy or plan. The first is concerned mostly with the planning process and the second is concerned primarily with instruments for implementation.

Thus, the assessment of the themes for coordination between territorial and urban development presented in the case studies is based on:

- *the planning process*: the planning process striving for an integrated approach is the most obvious common attribute of policies and plans addressing both territorial and urban development levels. It is also strongly promoted by the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter, being a comprehensive and open process offering many possibilities for coordination. The assessment focused on the types of processes, the stakeholders involved, the timing within the processes and in relation to wider processes and on the appropriate tools for facilitating various processes;
- *instruments for implementation*: these instruments are essential for the implementation of territorial and urban development. The assessment focused on the types and roles of diverse instruments, the stakeholders involved in implementation and on the relations to

implementation instruments at other levels.

A total of 16 case study themes were proposed by 11 countries and other stakeholders, of which 12 case study assessments were finalised for the preparation of this report. These include:

- Urban dimension of international accessibility – EUROCITIES
- Cluster support policies in Lyon, France – EUROCITIES
- Rennes-Metropole: the "archipelago city" – France
- European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg – Germany
- Cottonera Action Plan – Malta
- Rotterdam Climate Initiative – Netherlands
- Leidsche Rijn, Utrecht – Netherlands
- "Nisjelandet" – Norway
- Distributed incubators – Norway
- Coastal Area Management Programme – Slovenia
- Asturias Central Area – Spain.
- Northern Way – United Kingdom

The case studies highlighted the importance of multi-level governance for territorial-urban coordination, and the ways of enabling efficient coordination between different development levels, which could be either between local and less local levels, between intra-urban and metropolitan levels or between local and European levels. It is becoming ever clearer that the functional level, instead of administrative, more and more gains significance as an action area for informal planning.

### **III. OVERVIEW OF EXISTING PROPOSALS FOR TERRITORIAL-URBAN COORDINATION**

To add the EU policy dimension to the proposals deriving from the case studies, an overview of existing proposals for territorial-urban coordination from the policy documents at the EU level and relevant EU-wide studies was also formulated. The conclusions from the informal ministerial meetings in Leipzig and the Azores represent two key policy documents relevant for territorial-urban coordination, emphasising the need for territorial-urban coordination. Besides these, the European Parliament resolution on the follow-up of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter has also been a valuable source. Among the relevant EU-wide studies, the ESPON projects 1.1.1 (Polycentricity), 1.2.1 (Urban-rural), 1.4.1 (SMESTOs), 1.4.3 (Urban functions) and 2.3.2 (Governance) as well as the Urban Audit State of European Cities Report also served as important sources for this overview. The main points coming out of this overview are summarised below:

- Important emphasis in several proposals is placed on the interlinking of the objectives of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter. A political debate in the Member States on this subject is considered necessary. Also recurring is the proposal for integrating spatial and urban development policies, taking into account territorial diversity and the subsidiarity principle.
- Another commonly recurring proposal is the promotion of collaborative development strategies, supporting the linkages between cities as well as between urban and rural areas

and inter-city governance and cooperation. The EU territorial cooperation instruments are seen as tools for the promotion of networking, the development of common strategies covering several cities (also cross-border) and for the dissemination of "good practice" themes between city regions that are at the forefront of the polycentric development concept.

- Another important issue is also the lack of a pan-European definition of functional or travel-to-work areas. The proposal is that this definition should be developed and data at this territorial level collected. Relevant data can in this sense provide a good basis for shifting the reference framework for cities from the regional and national levels to the transnational and European levels.
- It is emphasised that there is a need to facilitate the exchange of methods and achievements of local governance. The proposal is to document concrete examples of the advantages as well as bottlenecks of cooperation at regional and sub-regional levels as well as inter-city cooperation. Exchange of experience is also mentioned as one of the tools for integrating spatial and urban development policies.

## 5. Interim outcomes

### - **Proposals for improvement of territorial-urban coordination**

The case studies represent the basis for policy options resulting from the action, particularly at the level of the Member States. Through their elaboration it became evident that certain lessons in relation to territorial-urban coordination recur in several of the situations across Europe, despite the wide range of issues they deal with. Proposals for improvement of territorial-urban coordination should highlight these lessons.

Based on the lessons learned from the case studies, a set of proposals for improvement of territorial-urban coordination has been elaborated. This will represent the foundation for the final results of the action, which are policy options to foster coordination between territorial and urban development in the light of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter at EU and MS levels. These will derive from the consultation on the proposals between the Member States and other stakeholders initiated by this report. The proposals are formulated as an open set of possible options to be taken into account by the Member States in order to foster coordination between territorial and urban development.

Some of the proposals are also complemented by *proposals for further activities at the EU level*, which could strengthen the efforts for territorial-urban coordination at the level of the Member States. These also derive from the overview of existing proposals for territorial-urban coordination presented above.

The draft proposals for fostering coordination between territorial and urban development are the following:

**(1) New governance tools can further the implementation of integrated planning approaches across levels and beyond the established institutional frameworks. New forms of partnerships with clearly defined organisational structures can be set up that also link the planning and implementation phases.**

To ensure that, for instance, a variety of issues is taken into account (financing, research, cooperation with similar projects), new approaches and platforms can play a pivotal role. A project-based governance structure may in the long term also prove to be a way forward in the implementation of integrated planning beyond established institutional frameworks. Developing new forms of partnership can also help in avoiding conflicts as well as administrative burdens, and in developing a basis of joint interest. The planning process and instruments for implementation could be linked through the involvement of the same group of key actors.

*Proposal for further activity at the EU level: Establish a platform for examples of territorial-urban coordination:*

This action proved that drawing from experience is very important, especially where a common understanding of the subject has not yet been established. It allows for documenting concrete examples of the advantages as well as bottlenecks of cooperation at regional and sub-regional levels as well as inter-city cooperation. A platform for a permanent exchange of experience on the subject could be established, also enabling interpretations of the different cases collected from the point of view of territorial-urban coordination.

**(2) Strategic, flexible planning approaches can be applied for tackling the dynamics of spatial phenomena at all levels, complementing more rigid land-use planning approaches. Planning processes could be used for the creation of a common understanding about the key challenges and development priorities at different levels.**

It is important to "think big" and adopt a bold approach to strategy formulation that is not limited by the administrative boundaries within which public agencies operate. Approaches focused on land-use regulations could in this sense be complemented by strategic, flexible planning. Strategic approaches are more suitable to tackle successfully changing urban phenomena than more rigid spatial planning approaches. Also, the integration of sectoral policies, such as transport policy, on all levels into wider planning approaches, where they are seen as vital parts of a policy matrix, would also require a more strategic planning approach. Planning processes within these strategic planning approaches can then be used for the creation of a common understanding about the key challenges and development priorities at different levels.

*Proposal for further activity at the EU level: Devise guidelines for setting up collaborative development strategies:*

Common regional and sub-regional development strategies are the key tool supporting the linkages between cities as well as between urban and rural areas and inter-city governance and cooperation. Urban policies should therefore focus on the development of linkages between cities, e.g. by defining common planning strategies, determining the economic role of each node and developing common service provision facilities. Development of guidelines on how to address common regional development strategies

could help in promoting the use of such strategies and improve coordination between territorial and urban development through regional policies.

**(3) Capacity building, including generic skills for sustainable communities, is needed for the successful functioning of new forms of partnership. Strong leadership is a key ingredient of successful coordination across levels.**

The city-region approach, for instance, has demonstrated the need for analytical skills, including an understanding of the interconnections between component districts and a mixture of political and inter-organisational skills to secure buy-in from relevant partners and to build a consensual vision and set of priorities.

**(4) Cooperation between relevant actors and different planning levels should be based on compatible interests, taking into account the potentially divergent interests of different actors.**

Planning coordination becomes easier when the territorial authorities concerned, at both regional and local levels, are able to work in close partnership on the basis of common spatial interests. Similarly, with regard to the effectiveness of governance models, for instance, actors should take into account mutual interests and interests of other sectors. Either a higher or lower level can take the lead in the decision-making when interests of other actors are sufficiently taken into account.

**(5) Participative, bottom-up approaches in general have better chances for producing successful strategies and plans, as they can secure wide ownership of results and better public acceptance. However, top-down initiatives are crucial for stimulating coordination and setting up appropriate framework conditions.**

The cascading of planning regimes from the top-down approach may not be sensitive enough to the needs of the city. Instead, the application of local action plans can in turn also affect higher level planning documents through a bottom-up approach. The necessity for frequent consultation between all parties involved from the earliest stages of planning is a condition for success and can benefit all involved levels of administration.

**(6) Innovative cross-scale concepts can be very valuable in fostering coordination between levels when considered as planning tools.**

Concepts like landscape or sustainable development can be particularly valuable in fostering coordination and building links between territorial and urban levels when considered as planning tools.

*Proposal for further activity at the EU level: Devise a new common development concept:*

The circumstances of both territorial and urban development have changed a great deal in the last decade, giving way to a new development concept connecting urban and territorial domains. ESPON and Urban Audit, for instance, have already developed their own supra-urban concepts, such as Larger Urban Zones or Functional Urban Areas, but other new concepts are already emerging in scientific discussions. A new common policy concept should offer the possibility to merge existing concepts and embrace new ones, as well as enable data collection on a common basis.

**(7) Regular updating on the progress of common objectives by utilising a commonly agreed system of indicators should help in maintaining the partnerships.**

Both private and public stakeholders will find their involvement more useful and interesting if they are kept regularly informed of progress made and goals that remain unfulfilled. This can be achieved by the implementation of commonly agreed system of indicators that provides information about the achievement of the coordination objectives previously identified and the eventual adjustments needed.

*Proposal for further activity at the EU level: Increase activities toward developing a common data platform in the future:*

In connection with the new common policy concept is also a common data platform. The efforts of ESPON and Urban Audit in terms of developing relevant methodologies and collecting data could gradually also result in a common data platform which would represent the intersection of both data platforms and would allow for EU-wide analysis across levels. Relevant data can in this sense provide a good basis for shifting the reference framework from regional and national levels to transnational and European levels.

**(8) Documents at the European Union level could include territorial-urban coordination issues.**

*Proposal for further activity at the EU level: Interlinking between the objectives of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter*

The existence of common objectives in both documents is widely acknowledged, and yet further interlinking between objectives in the implementation is needed. Formulation of common objectives could enable more effective communication of key messages to other policy areas, as well as more coherent instruments in the next programming period.

The political debate in individual Member States, following the agreement by the ministers in Leipzig on how to find synergies between the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter, will be crucial in further clarifying the needs and possibilities for coordination. Due to very different institutional arrangements regarding the distribution of responsibilities in territorial and urban development policies, the point of view of the Member States will be an important indicator for further action.

**- Exchange of experience and creation of common understanding**

One key outcome of Action 1.1 is the case studies themselves, as they enable an exchange of experience and the creation of common understanding with regard to territorial-urban coordination. The partners in TG11 as well as Malta and Spain have so far presented 15 case study themes addressing all six territorial priorities of the Territorial Agenda and several strategies for action promoted in the Leipzig Charter. Most case studies in fact relate to several territorial priorities and strategies for action at the same time. In order to reveal how the cases respond to the wider development context, a relation to major territorial challenges identified in the Territorial Agenda has also been stressed in each case study. Following is a summary of case study themes, structured by the partners of TG11 who proposed them.

### *Urban dimension of International Accessibility – EUROCITIES*

The theme of the case study addresses the role of territorial-urban cooperation in developing efficient and integrated Trans-European Networks and the economic benefits they bring to cities. Transport links are a cornerstone for economic and social development, as well as for integration and environmental benefits, at both regional and city levels. In particular, the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) plays a crucial role in securing the free movement of passengers and goods in the European Union. The development of highly efficient transport infrastructure in the EU27 and its neighbourhood is an important means of improving links within the regions and Member States and of integrating the cities in this network.

### *Cluster support policies in Lyon, France – EUROCITIES*

The objective of this case study is to focus on implementation by the Greater Lyon Authority of the national French cluster policy - Competitive Clusters – as an example for recurrent issues in territorial and urban coordination. Decided by the French government in 2002, the policy of Competitive Clusters is indicative of the highly centralised French policy making. However, the cluster policy also illustrates the growing importance of the local urban level in implementing central government policy. The French government may want to stimulate economic development through territorial policies, but without effective local policy implementation the impact may falter. Territorial and urban development issues may therefore not only be a question of the initial coordination in policy definition. This case study shows that the urban dimension in territorial policies may also be assured through active involvement of local authorities in policy implementation.

### *Rennes-Metropole: the "archipelago city" – France*

The case study deals with the city of Rennes, the regional capital of Brittany in western France. Together with its conurbation it forms an inter-municipal area ("communauté d'agglomération") comprising 37 municipalities, including the city of Rennes. The objective of the partnership is the balanced development of the territory, whilst preserving the identity of each of the municipalities in the conurbation. The principle is based on the landscape, in which natural spaces form the basis of the spatial organisation of the conurbation. Since the 1980s, this principle has been reflected in planning documents, notably the conurbation's planning purpose map, which is now a reference document for the conurbation's elected representatives.

### *European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg – Germany*

The Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg bases its regional governance on a successful tradition of regional cooperation. Supported by the approval of the Ministerial Conference on Spatial Planning in Berlin, the representatives of local governments, industry, science, culture and administration signed the Charter of the Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg in May 2005. Since then, a successful model of regional governance is working on strategies and projects to assure the competitiveness of the region. Core activities are (1) development of an international brand – "Nuremberg Metropolitan Region", (2) setting up a metropolitan development model based on urban and rural partnership, (3) strengthening the knowledge society through a cluster policy and (4) promoting integration into the trans-European transport network. Three years of practice now show that the governance model works.



### *Cottonera Action Plan – Malta*

This Action Plan is an integrated and holistic approach towards launching sustainable communities in the Three Cities through better mobility and increased access. The purpose of this Action Plan was to launch a system of integrated regeneration projects moving from physical regeneration to a more holistic approach combining horizontal and vertical sectors and through subsidiarity and decentralisation developing networks with local councils on the ground. The Action Plan was also devised to develop regeneration or urban development planning beyond the Structure Plan and Local Plans, which are by definition spatial and land-use based. The Action Plan defines new boundaries beyond the legal local council boundaries or those set for land-use planning purposes to foster integration, coordination and cooperation between local councils.

### *Rotterdam Climate Initiative – Netherlands*

Rotterdam is the second largest city in the Netherlands with 600,000 inhabitants in a region of 1.2 million. It has Europe's largest seaport and a large industrial complex. To further improve the delicate balance between economic development and living environment in the urban region and the pressing need to seriously reduce greenhouse gas emissions requires a renewed and long-term effort. The Rotterdam Climate Initiative (RCI) is the answer to these challenges. The RCI calls for cooperation between the city administration, the regional Environmental Protection Agency (DCMR), the Port of Rotterdam and businesses in the port.

### *Leidsche Rijn, Utrecht – Netherlands*

The landscape is changing on Utrecht's western perimeter. Construction companies, residents and the municipality are all giving shape to a new and as yet uncompleted city district; they are at work on Utrecht's Leidsche Rijn – the largest housing and industrial development in the Netherlands. More than 30,000 houses will be built in the district of Leidsche Rijn in the coming years, housing about 80,000 people. The three main challenges that the Leidsche Rijn case address are (1) sustainable development, (2) energy management, and (3) territorial effects on housing markets, development structure and the way people live together in our cities and regions.

### *"Nisjelandet" – Norway*

Nisjelandet identifies and exposes a variety in (sub-) cultural expressions and projects made by young people in rural areas in Norway. Such expressions and projects (e.g. art exhibitions and music festivals) are often considered part of an urban culture, and young people tend to leave rural parts to exercise and experience such activity. The case study touches issues related to settlement patterns, growth and jobs, and local and regional identity. To get young people to move to or remain in small centres, there need to be employment opportunities and adequate public services. In addition, rural communities need to be attractive in a cultural and recreational sense. Originality is a starting point for developing attractive places and locally based cultural activity.

### *Distributed incubators – Norway*

The Industry Development Corporation of Norway, SIVA, has developed various business incubator models adjusted to Norwegian business conditions. The *research incubator*

*programme* aims to provide entrepreneurs with resources in the form of expertise, business experience, consultants and capital mainly from universities and R&D institutions. It also offers offices and environments for entrepreneurship. The research incubators are obliged to establish *distributed systems for incubator services*. This means developing cooperation with other innovation environments in less developed areas, for instance business gardens, with the aim of contributing to the development of business start-ups in these areas.

#### *Coastal Area Management Programme – Slovenia*

The Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) is a programme within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) under the umbrella of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It is aimed at sustainable management of coastal areas and incorporates environmental concerns into development programming. Coastal areas are often areas where high population density overlaps with many natural qualities. This is also coupled with specific functions related to the sea, in particular the gateway function of sea ports. The challenge for coastal cities and towns is therefore how to exploit their potential without damaging the natural and cultural qualities on which they rely.

#### *Ljubljana Urban Region - Slovenia*

The Ljubljana Urban Region is the name of the area in central Slovenia having the characteristics of a functional urban area with its centre in Ljubljana. Twenty-six municipalities in the region formed a partnership in 2001 to better coordinate their development. The case study deals with a new Regional Development Programme, adopted in 2006, defining development goals and priority measures for the period of the current EU programming period. One of the eight priority measures asserts planning as a tool for high-quality living space. Within its implementation the first two projects are dedicated to a regional spatial development concept and a plan for efficient public transport in the region.

#### *Asturias Central Area – Spain*

This case study aims at discussing the role of territorial and urban planning in reinforcing polycentrism at the regional level as a way to promote polycentric and balanced spatial development in Europe. Polycentrism is, therefore, considered in this paper from a double perspective: first, as a valuable concept for understanding and planning emerging functional urban areas with multiple urban poles, and second, as a tool for connecting these new nodes into the European urban network. Planning for polycentric urban areas cannot be the result of the addition of a number of local development plans, but requires a double-scope approach. On the one hand, the urban scale, which is meant to be applied in local land use planning and design, and on the other hand, the metropolitan scale, where territorial issues should be taken into account. Under this hypothesis, territorial-urban coordination arises as a prerequisite for polycentric area planning and the only effective way to consider both local and metropolitan scales.

#### *France-Vaud-Geneva Charter – Switzerland*

Planning documents usually have a clear national or regional focus. For metropolitan border regions a lack of cross-border planning somehow anticipates long-term solutions to many of today's territorial challenges. Geneva has a specific situation between two different countries:

it is the second largest urban agglomeration in Switzerland but also the second largest urban agglomeration in the French Rhône-Alpes region. To transform the border situation into an asset, an important step towards close cooperation was necessary. After a long discussion and negotiation process of more than three years, the local and regional partners of the metropolitan area of Geneva were ready to sign a common charter. This agreement declares the political commitment of the 18 French and Swiss partners and enables a new common approach to coordination and governance.

#### *Brain Gain - Brain Drain – Switzerland*

Brain drain, the loss of highly educated persons to other regions, has been a concern for national and regional planners for many years. A direct impact of a sizeable brain drain is a slow-down in the economic development of a region. For the economic development of a region, human capital assets are an important tool for growth. Human capital also influences social capital, as better educated people contribute to many social functions in NGO's, schools, sports and culture associations and local politics. An imbalance between regions in human and social capital not only influences regional socio-economic and social functions, it also relates to social problems. Within the framework of INTERREG IIIB North West Europe, three peripheral regions from the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany were cooperating in this field. The main objectives were to analyse the causes and effects of brain drain in regions, to evaluate measures that have been undertaken and to develop new measures.

#### *Northern Way – United Kingdom*

The Northern Way is a unique collaboration bringing together the cities and regions of the North of England to work together to improve the sustainable economic development of the North towards the level of the more prosperous English regions. The initiative is designed to produce an integrated approach to regional and urban development across the North of England based on two scales of policy development and delivery: the cross-regional pan-northern scale and the city-region. Formed as a partnership between the three northern Regional Development Agencies (Yorkshire Forward, Northwest Regional Development Agency and One NorthEast) the initiative complements their three Regional Economic Strategies – the key proposals to take forward the economic development in each region. The Northern Way demonstrates the potential benefits of building regional and pan-regional economic development strategies around an approach that recognises the key role played by core city-regions as drivers of regional economic growth and prosperity.

Several other case study themes have also been proposed which could highlight other issues in relation to territorial-urban coordination.

## **6. Next steps**

Possibilities are being explored within the resources, agreements with further presidencies and partners within TG11, connected to organisation of a workshop of an enlarged TG11, focusing on policy options arising from the case studies. The workshop is also linked to the implementation of proposed further activity at the EU level, namely to *"Establish a platform for examples of territorial-urban coordination"*. A further option for utilising the knowledge

collected by the case studies is being explored through possibilities of publishing the outcomes and cases, and linking the cases to other activities which could benefit from the knowledge gained.

The final report will be prepared in November 2008 and will include policy proposals for better coordination of territorial and urban development, completed on the basis of the workshop results, other consultations and additional case studies. Proposals for future activities will be elaborated on the basis of agreements with different actors.

#### - **Indicative timetable**

7 May:	Interim report on Action 1.1 prepared, including the case studies
14–15 May:	Interim report presented at the DG meeting, proposal for further action to be included in the conclusions of the DG meeting
28 May:	Final versions of the case studies to be discussed at the July meeting
July:	Next TG11 meeting, organised in coordination with the French Presidency, back-to-back with the UDG and NTCCP meetings in Paris
September-October:	Workshop for an enlarged TG11 focusing on policy options
November:	Final report presented at the Informal Ministerial Meeting

#### **Annex: Case studies**

The case studies are available also at:

[http://www.mop.gov.si/en/presidency/territorial\\_cohesion\\_and\\_urban\\_development/territorial\\_cohesion/ap1\\_la1\\_action\\_11/](http://www.mop.gov.si/en/presidency/territorial_cohesion_and_urban_development/territorial_cohesion/ap1_la1_action_11/)