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Knowledge Demand for Future Calls for Proposals under the
ESPON 2013 Programme

**THEMES FOR
APPLIED TERRITORIAL RESEARCH
PROJECTS**

Results of Stakeholder Survey
(June – July 2008)



EUROPEAN UNION
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1. Introduction

From 16 June - 25 July 2008 the ESPON 2013 Programme conducted a survey among European stakeholders to identify their demand for applied research projects on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion. The survey was made publicly available via the ESPON website to all interested stakeholders being involved in territorial development at European, national, transnational, cross-border, regional and local levels.

In the context of the ESPON 2013 Programme screening the demand of stakeholders for territorial knowledge and evidence is given a high priority. The themes for and content of applied research projects under Priority 1 of the Programme could not be fully decided in advance for a seven year long period. This gives the opportunity to consult stakeholders at different stages throughout the lifecycle of the Programme, thereby including their perspectives, interests and needs in the development of applied research projects.

This paper presents the results of the survey which will be used in the process of the ESPON Monitoring Committee selecting themes for applied territorial research projects under Priority 1 of the ESPON 2013 Programme and will thereby significantly support the ESPON 2013 Programme in meeting stakeholders' demands.

Within this context, chapter one defines the purpose and specific questions of the survey. Chapter two describes the characteristics of respondents and chapter three provides condensed information about the results according to different types of the respondents and their relevant contributions. Finally, the last chapter indicates appropriate conclusions.

The present report made by the ESPON Coordination Unit is an interpretation of the responses received in the framework of the survey. They reflect the opinions of the individual respondents. The report can therefore neither be taken as a formal response from the stakeholder institutions involved nor as reflecting the opinion of the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

2. Purpose of the survey

The purpose of the survey was to map the demand for knowledge and evidence among stakeholders at European, national, transnational, cross-border, regional and local levels, involved in territorial development in different territorial contexts. The survey was made available to stakeholders from 16 June - 25 July 2008 via the ESPON web page (www.espon.eu). In addition, 35 key stakeholders were directly contacted by the ESPON Coordination Unit.

According to the ESPON 2013 Programme a regular screening of themes in demand by stakeholders under Priority 1: “Applied research on territorial development, competitiveness & cohesion; evidence on European territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts” will be carried through at least three times during the lifetime of the Programme. Indeed, involvement of stakeholders in the identification of the future themes is given a high priority and will contribute to a sound reflection on and selection of the themes and territorial issues, considered being important from stakeholders’ perspective.

The results of the current stakeholder screening, which are presented in this paper, have been processed and condensed by the ESPON Coordination Unit. The outcome of the survey will be used in the process of the ESPON Monitoring Committee selecting themes for applied territorial research projects and will significantly support the ESPON 2013 Programme in meeting stakeholders’ demands. Furthermore, the ESPON Concertation Committee will give additional guidance in this process by making the link to the respective current European political agenda.

The survey itself consisted of two closed and one open question which were the following:

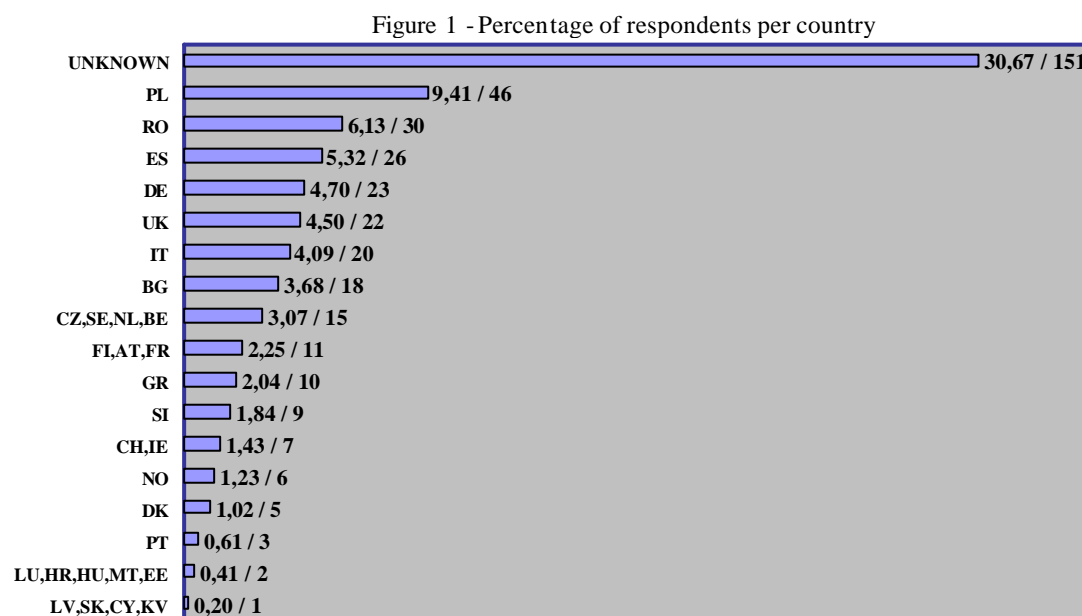
1. **Policy generated applied research themes.** In this question stakeholders were asked to indicate how important they considered the need for further applied territorial research within ten given policy orientations.
2. **Potential themes and territorial issues for applied research projects.** In this question stakeholders were asked to choose areas of applied territorial research which they considered to be particularly important to have a project on.
3. **Ideas for the future applied research themes.** In this question stakeholders could specify any other themes, in addition to those listed in the survey before, which they felt are crucial for supporting them in their work.

3. Characteristics of the respondents

The European-wide evidence provided by the ESPON 2013 Programme shall support policy development and will potentially benefit policy makers all over Europe at all levels. Policy makers dealing with the development of regions, cities and larger territories need for the design of their policies to be supported by evidence and comparable information on their territories as well as on long term evolutions and perspectives. This evidence and information should draw the attention on changing framework conditions such as ageing, globalization, climate change and rising energy prices.

In this respect the survey was mainly aimed at stakeholders working for public authorities on European, transnational, cross-border, national, regional or local levels as well as at research institutes and consultancy companies.

In total 490 stakeholders from almost all 27 EU Member States (except of Lithuania), Partner States (except of Liechtenstein and Iceland) as well as from Croatia and Kosovo participated in the identification of future ESPON 2013 research themes under Priority 1. Figure 1 presents the distribution of the respondents across the different countries.



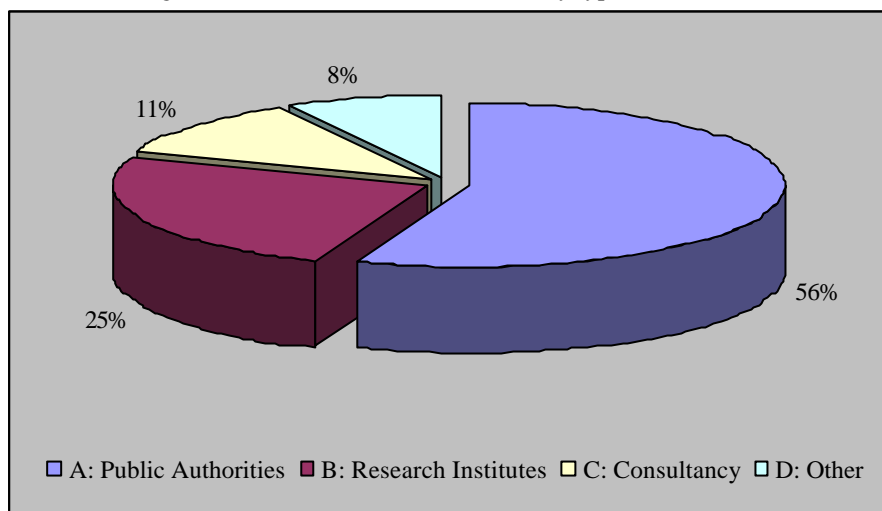
Source: ESPON CU

In those cases where there is one column including several countries, the figures are valid for each country.

As presented in Figure 2, 55,9% of the respondents indicated that they are working for public authorities, of which 17,9% are working on national, 15,7% on regional, 11,2% on local, 5,9% on European, 3,0% on cross-border, 2,2% on transnational levels.

The second biggest group of stakeholders, that actively participated in the survey, were research institutes (24,6%) followed by consultancy companies (11,4%) and other institutions (8,1%) such as universities, NGO's, public agencies and associations.

Figure 2 - Distribution of stakeholders by type of institution



Source: ESPON CU

Furthermore, 33,1% of all respondents considered themselves as researchers, 20% as policy makers, 19,8% as consultants, 18,6% as practitioners and 3,5% as students. Other respondents (5,0%) mainly consisted of university professors, civil servants or project managers.

It is worthwhile noting that even though 55,9% of the respondents work for public authorities on different levels the majority considered themselves as researchers (24,6%) rather than as policy makers (20%) or as practitioners (18,6%), as could have been expected in that case.

In addition, the ESPON CU addressed 35 key stakeholders from the institutions that are presented in Figure 3, and asked them to participate in the survey. 14 key stakeholders took part in the survey from which five indicated that they are working for a public authority on European level, one on national level, one on regional level and two for consultancy companies. Furthermore, three of the respondents indicated that they are working for other institutions and two didn't respond to this question.

Figure 3 - Institutions directly contacted by the ESPON CU

International Organisations	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
European Institutions	Council of Europe European Parliament European Economic and Social Committee Committee of the Regions European Environment Agency European Investment Bank
European Territorial Cooperation Programmes	URBACT INTERREG INTERACT
Umbrella Organisations	Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas EUROCITIES – The Network of Major European Cities Council of European Municipalities and Regions Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions Association of European Border Regions MOT (<i>Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière</i>) European Council of Spatial Planners European Association for Mountain Areas Assembly of European Regions

Source: ESPON CU.

4. Results of the survey

An efficient and modern regional policy obviously has to be based on necessary evidence and knowledge to ensure a solid policy implementation. This base of information shall in today's era of globalisation include a European dimension and the wider territorial context for policy making. The actions under the ESPON 2013 Programme shall be decided in accordance to policy demand and the cycle of the relevant policy agenda.

In this respect, the following chapters present the results of the survey which reveal the need for prospective and explorative studies under Priority 1 of the ESPON 2013 Programme seen from the users' perspective.

4.1. Policy generated applied research themes

European policy development has defined a number of territorial policy orientations in EU Cohesion Policy and in the Territorial Agenda of the European Union set up by EU Member and Partner States. In the first question of the survey stakeholders were asked to prioritise the importance of ten policy orientations for further applied territorial research.

Figure 4 reveals the opinion of all groups of stakeholders compared to key stakeholders about policy orientations considered to be of high and low importance. Within the group of all stakeholders the responses were almost equally spread across the different levels of importance. However, the highest relevance was given to "Urban drivers" (53,78%), "Balanced and polycentric territorial development" (52,66%), and "Strengthening a polycentric development by networking of cities and regions" (51,02%). Considerable low importance was given to the theme "Development in areas with demographic and/or geographical handicaps" (23,57%).

Within the group of key stakeholders the highest importance was given to "Balanced and polycentric territorial development" (78,67%) and "Rural areas development and links urban-rural" (64,28%). In addition, 35,71% of key stakeholders considered the policy orientation "Strengthening ecological structures and cultural resources" of low importance.

Figure 4 – Importance (%) of European policy orientations.

	All stakeholders		Key Stakeholders	
	High	Low	High	Low
Balanced and polycentric territorial development	52,66	10,25	78,57	0,00
Urban drivers (large European cities, small and medium sized cities)	53,78	9,20	50,00	0,00
Rural areas development and links urban-rural	50,72	10,84	64,29	7,14
Development in areas with demographic and/or geographical handicaps	38,32	23,57	50,00	14,29
Strengthening a polycentric development by networking of city regions and cities	51,02	13,93	42,86	21,43
Creating partnership and territorial governance between urban and rural areas	48,26	11,04	42,86	42,86
Promoting competitive and innovative regional clusters	47,65	14,31	28,57	14,29
Strengthening and extending the Trans-European Networks	49,49	14,52	50,00	7,14
Promoting trans-European risk management including impacts of climate change	46,42	13,91	28,57	21,43
Strengthening ecological structures and cultural resources	43,76	15,34	21,43	35,71

Source: ESPON CU.

To sum up, all groups of stakeholders and key stakeholders gave high priority for further applied territorial research for two policy orientations: “Balanced and polycentric territorial development” and “Rural areas development and links urban-rural”. However, different policy orientations were considered of low importance by both groups. While all stakeholders were of the opinion that the policy orientation “Development in areas with demographic and/or geographical handicaps” is of low importance, key stakeholders indicated “Strengthening ecological structures and cultural resources”.

4.2. Potential themes and territorial issues for applied research projects

The ESPON 2013 Programme included in three thematic axes a range of potential themes and territorial issues for applied research that could be covered under Priority 1. In the second question of the survey stakeholders were asked to indicate up to nine (out of twenty three) areas of research and up to three relevant specifications particularly important from their point of view to have a project on. Below the areas of research are marked as 1,2,3,4 and the relevant specifications indicated often within a specific area of research are marked as a, b, c.

In general, the stakeholders expressed almost unanimous opinion about the relevant areas of research. As can be seen in Figure 5 there are four areas of research that are particularly significant for all groups of stakeholders. These are:

- 1) “Urban areas, small and medium sized cities and metropolitan urban regions”
 - a) Economic drivers
 - b) Social cohesion
 - c) Plan for urban regeneration
- 2) “Innovation and knowledge economy”
 - a) Research & technology development and innovation capacity
 - b) Research and educational institutions
 - c) Creativity and new ideas
- 3) “Environment, natural resources, hazard and risk prevention”
 - a) Public transport, particularly in urban areas
 - b) Natural and cultural heritage
 - c) Tourism
- 4) “Polycentric development”
 - a) Urban-rural links
 - b) Sustainable development

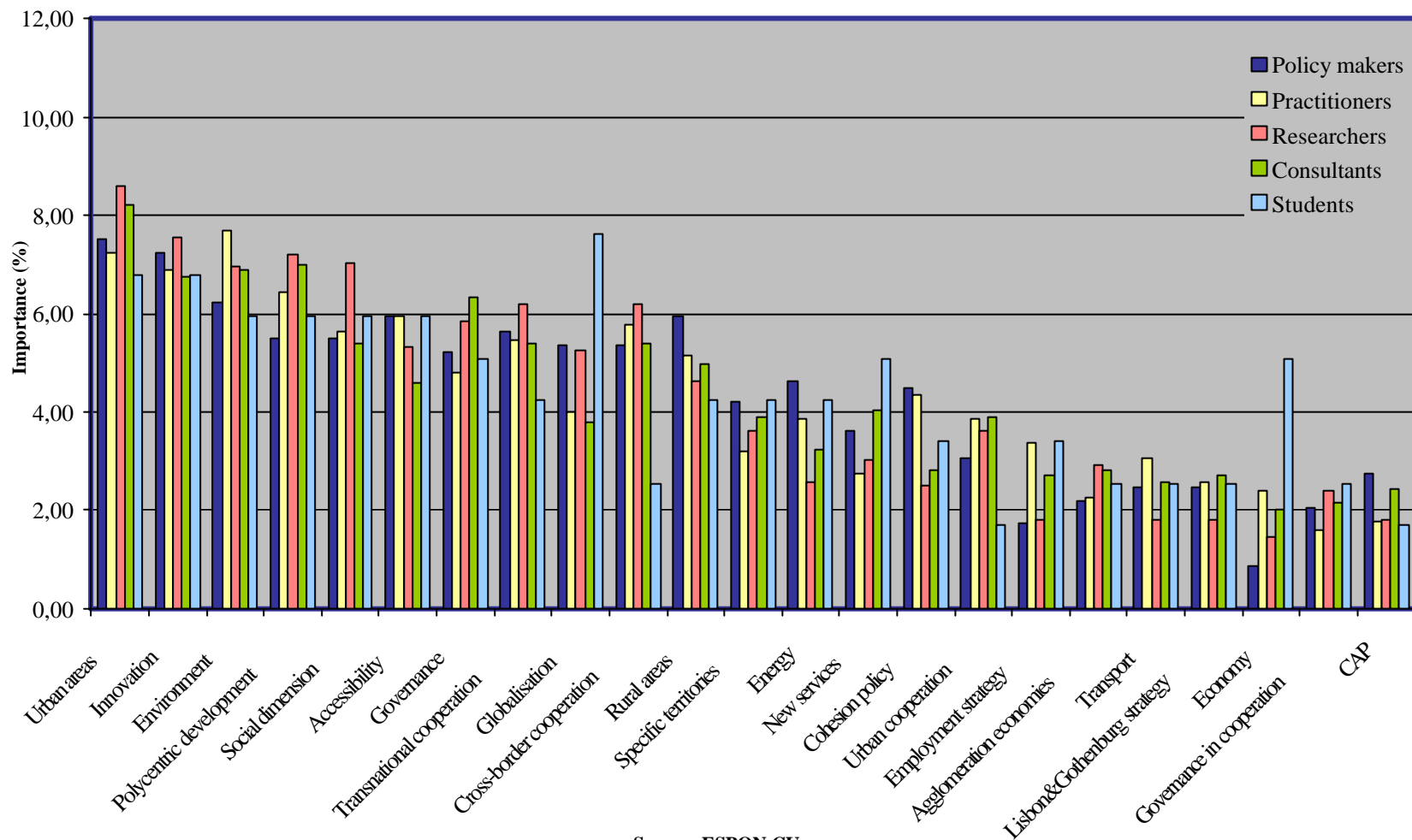
On the contrary, the lowest importance was given to the following areas of research:

- 1) “CAP”
- 2) “Governance in cooperation settings”
- 3) “Economy”
- 4) “Lisbon & Gothenburg strategy”

Figure 5 also reveals that among different groups of respondents students' priorities differ clearly from those of e.g. policy makers. Students attach greater importance to the following areas of research and specifications:

- 1) "Economy"
 - a) Trade
- 2) "Globalisation"
 - a) International division of labour
 - b) Location of economic activity
 - c) Specialisation and flows related to Europe in the World and its neighbourhood.

Figure 5 – The importance of the areas of research seen from groups of stakeholders' perspective.



Source: ESPON CU

Figure 6 presents the importance of the different areas of research according to policy makers, key stakeholders and other groups of stakeholders (practitioners, researchers, consultants, students).

Within the group of key stakeholders the following two areas of research and relevant specifications were given the highest importance:

- 1) “Environment, natural resources, hazard and risk prevention” (11,54%)
 - a) Biodiversity and NATURA 2000 sites
 - b) Public transport, particularly in urban areas
 - c) Natural and cultural heritage
- 2) “Accessibility” (11,54%)
 - a) Transport
 - b) Telecommunication and energy
 - c) Information technology roll-out

Indeed, policy makers and other groups of stakeholders considered the above mentioned issues to be of less importance. Moreover, “Urban cooperation in networks and clusters of neighbouring cities”, “Employment strategy” and “Economy” were not considered important by the key stakeholders at all and were neither often indicated by the policy makers and the other stakeholders. This means that different areas of research are attached high importance by key stakeholders on the one side and policy makers and other stakeholders on the other hand. However, all groups of stakeholders agree upon the areas of research they consider to be of less importance.

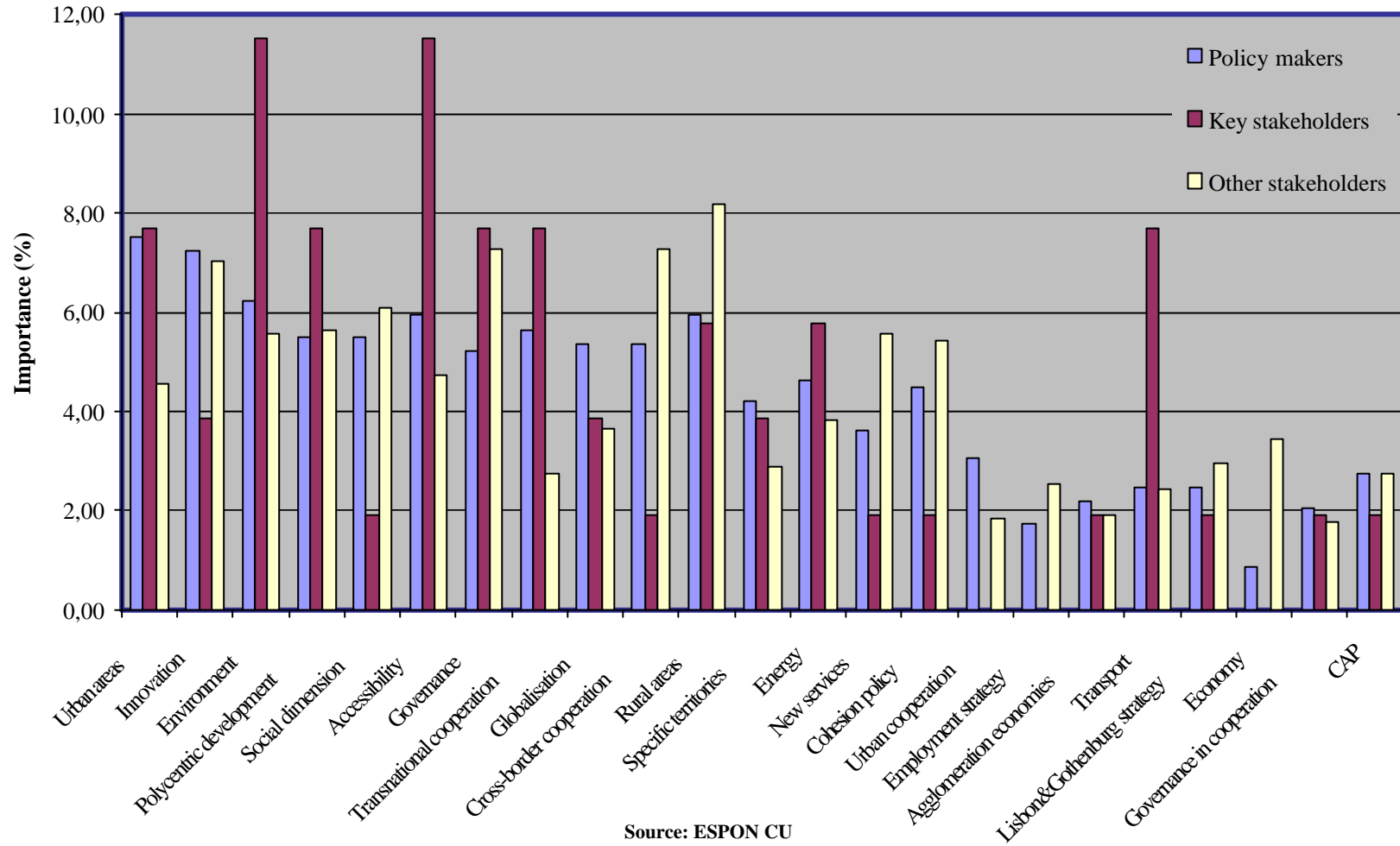
From the policy makers’ point of view the following issues were particularly significant to have a project on:

- 1) “Urban areas, small and medium sized cities and metropolitan urban regions” (7,54%)
 - a) Economic drivers
 - b) Social cohesion
- 2) “Innovation and knowledge economy” (7,25%)
 - a) Research & technology development and innovation capacity
 - b) Entrepreneurship and SME
 - c) Research and educational institutions
- 3) “Environment, natural resources, hazard and risk prevention” (6,23%)
 - a) Natural and cultural heritage

The other groups of stakeholders were of the opinion that projects on “Rural areas” (8,17%), “Cross-border cooperation” (7,27%), “Governance” (7,27%), and “Innovation and knowledge economy” (7,04%) would contribute to supporting them in their work.

The relevant figures, calculation of the percentages as well as explanation of the methodology used in the creation of both Figures 5 and 6 are included in the Annex (Table 1).

Figure 6 - Policy makers, key and other stakeholders opinion about the different areas of research.



Source: ESPON CU

4.3 Ideas for the future applied research themes

The identification of stakeholders' needs is of high importance for the user-oriented selection of future themes for applied research projects under Priority 1 of the ESPON 2013 Programme. In the third question of the survey stakeholders were asked to specify additional themes to those listed in the first and second question, which they feel are significant in supporting them in their work.

This part of the report aims to provide an overview of the contributions received from stakeholders (223 out of 490) on future themes for applied research projects. The responses given by key stakeholders were not considered here due to the limited input provided.

The outcome of the consultation suggested a great variety of cross-sectoral responses that needed to be merged in similar themes to avoid overlaps and allow a further comparison. This exploratory exercise has identified 24 different themes (Figure 7).

Following this process of identifying similar typologies when different themes are interwoven a two-dimensional matrix has been created showing the interactions among themes. To further understand the intensity of the interactions, a four-dimensional colour coding system has been applied with red colours indicating a high level of interaction (= 5 responses), orange colours a medium level (3 - 4 responses) and yellow colours a low level (= 2 responses). In those themes where interactions did not appear were left blank. The themes and their respective interaction are listed in the Figure 7.

The list below includes an overview of the cross-sectoral ideas proposed by stakeholders on future themes for applied research projects and, when possible, examples of the responses given by stakeholders. Indeed, several issues have been raised during the consultation period and a consensus seems to emerge among stakeholders on the following interaction of themes:

- Adaptation to the many aspects of **climate change** (e.g. carbon emissions, flood risk, coastal erosion) and the challenges this poses to **different types of territories** (e.g. mountain areas, islands) within Europe. The implementation of a climate adaptation strategy will have effects at all levels and it will influence the delivery of different political agendas. In this context, it is important to understand the costs and benefits of such adaptation policy as well as the territorial impacts of climate change on European cities and regions.
“...climate change in rural and urban areas. Adaptation measures and scenario building”.
- The perception and understanding of bringing diverse points of view and contributions on crucial aspects of **polycentric urban development** (e.g. urban sprawl, city-regions, metropolitan areas, urban fringe development, rural-urban partnerships, land-use development, small and medium sized towns).
- Improve the relevance and appropriateness of using the concept of **polycentric urban development** when applying to different research areas, such as: **multi-level governance structures** or **gender diversity** (e.g. equal opportunities, women's empowerment). Indeed, many specific issues exist in relation to the gender perspective of polycentric urban development, and in this connection questions of education and local response to the challenges of globalisation have become an issue of very high importance that needs further analyses:

“...develop and adapt a gender mainstreaming perspective related to urban and rural development within the EU”.

“...gender diversity and urban development. The role of women and men (...) in sustainable economic development”.

“...reflect on ongoing development processes in larger urban contexts with a view towards improved guidelines, i.e. in terms of effective and efficient policies, achieve better development practices, and (...) better educate users”.

- Investigate the impact of **energy prices** on the sustainability of different transport modes. Stakeholders have revealed a growing interest on how to measure sustainability in **transport planning** (e.g. mobility, accessibility, and interconnection). It has been suggested that substantial improvements should be done by defining a set of indicators capable of identifying trends, assessing options and setting performance targets.
- A growing number of local, regional and national authorities within Europe are recognizing the need and value of incorporating sustainable tourism principles into their strategic development planning processes. Many contributions consider it crucial to improve **sustainable tourism development** guidelines and management practices that make optimal use of environmental resources and respect socio-**cultural heritage** as a tool to meet the challenge of **globalisation**.
- **Environmental concerns** play a vital role in the EU **rural development** policy. Further research should be done in this field to provide evidence to EU regions on how to enhance quality of life in rural areas and reach the right balance between environment, natural heritage and new economic and employment opportunities.
- Better explore the main drivers of the **demographic changes** in Europe, in particular the trend towards longer and healthier lives, lower fertility, and the importance of migration flows.
- Assess trends of **innovation strategies** and **knowledge-based economies** to boost **employment** and growth within European cities and regions. A milestone very much in line with the ‘regions for economic change’ initiative.

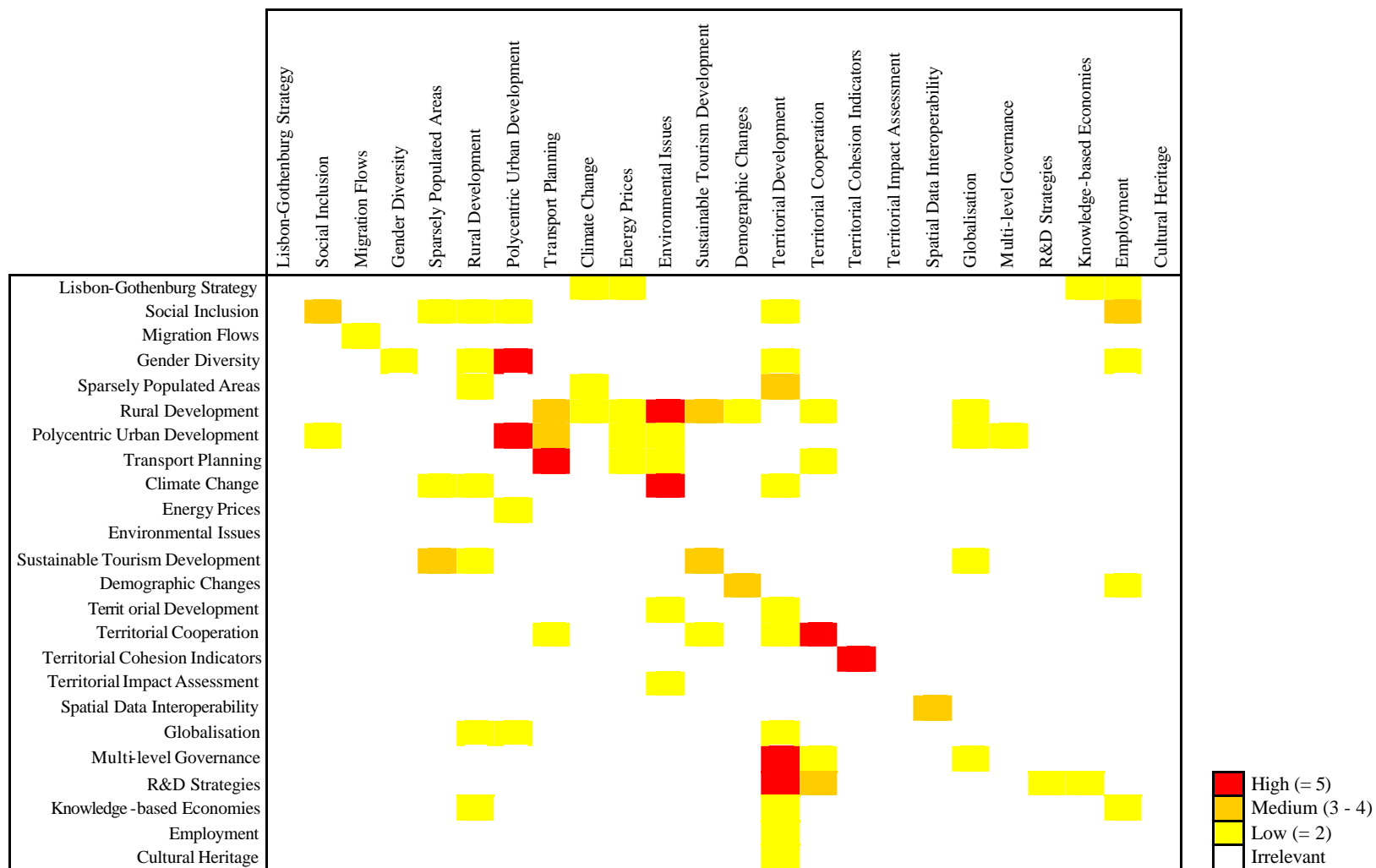
“[Investigate] cluster-based [economic] development in [European] transitional economies. Measure the level of trust between enterprises, institutions and the public sector”.

“[Improve] cross-border innovation strategies to establish business networks”.

- Enhance **territorial cohesion** through a set of indicators capable of evaluating and measuring the different levels of cohesion at the European level.
- Analyze the potential of European **territorial cooperation** programmes within EU regions and cities, candidate countries, potential candidate countries and ENP partner countries. Investigate scenarios and opportunities of using different instruments (Objective 3 of the EU Structural Funds, IPA, and ENPI) to deeper economic integration.

“...reinforce research on the economics of INTERREG [programmes] in a way to soundly analyze the impacts of cross-border and trans-national cooperation on the real economy in terms of market integration”

Figure 7 – Two-dimension approach of the ideas on future themes for applied research projects by using a color coding scheme.



Source: ESPON CU

In addition to the above themes a number of other issues received considerable attention from stakeholders, in particular:

- Improve knowledge and evidence based on **social inclusion** of migrant and ethnic communities and the implications for specific types of territories.
“[Promote] *entrepreneurship among migrant and ethnic communities and other disadvantaged groups in the labour market*”.
“[Promote] *social and economic integration of ethnic minorities*”.
- The **Lisbon-Gothenburg strategic objectives** and the new European Union challenges (e.g. climate change, energy prices, and demographic changes). “...*Behind and beyond the Lisbon objectives, the overall EU objectives for growth, jobs and sustainable development are mainstreaming the regional policy in all Member States. (...) To what degree the Member States [have] managed to interpret and transfer these objectives to policy and regional interventions? What is the experience in different parts of Europe? (...) What [are] the impacts [for] regional development and territorial cohesion according to national and regional stakeholders? What is beyond Lisbon?*”.
- Develop analytical tools capable of reducing the difficulties to access harmonized **interoperable spatial data**. A milestone very much in line with the goals of the INSPIRE directive.
“[Improve] *INSPIRE-ESPON collaboration*”.
“*More detailed spatial data infrastructure for applied inter-regional comparisons*”.

When assessing the relevance of other ideas the need to consider other potential themes became also clear:

- Particular attention should be paid to the added-value of **EU cohesion policy**.
“*The EU sets (...) strong policy goals but is consistently weak in achieve these goals. (...) What is the effective link between policy analysis and policy implementation? Does policy decided on the EU27 level actually fit any single country? [To what extent] real knowledge becomes a more effective force for change than political agendas?*”.
- Investigate the importance of **retail trade** and the implications to **regional competitiveness**.
“*Retail trade has assumed a more and more cross-cutting and pivotal role in the framework of economic, social and spatial processes. Retail location and format choices produce nowadays spill-over and feedback effects on spatial planning, which suggests the need for a European monitoring system. In order to observe the evolution of retail and to design properly related strategies and policies, a European methodology of gathering, exchanging and processing quantitative and qualitative data about formats and trends should be defined and applied*”.

In summary, this exercise has provided some additional information on future ideas for applied research projects. Indeed, the largest level of interaction relates to polycentric urban development and territorial cooperation, a theme already indicated in the previous chapters. The responses given by stakeholders simply confirm that these themes are among the most important ones to be

addressed in the future call for proposals. The same applies to transport planning and territorial cohesion indicators.

Regarding the high level of interaction between different themes, a number of relations become clear. For instance, climate change and rural development are among the concerns of stakeholders when interacting with environmental issues. The matrix also indicates a high level of interaction between gender diversity and polycentric urban development. This is also the case of multi-level governance and R&D strategies in connection with the process of boosting territorial development within European regions and cities.

5. Conclusions

The purpose of this report was to analyse and compare the results of the contributions received from different groups of stakeholders (policy makers, practitioners, researchers, consultants and students) taking part in the survey on future themes for applied research projects and key stakeholders directly contacted by the ESPON CU.

Within this context, the majority of the stakeholders gave high priority to two policy orientations: “Balanced and polycentric territorial development” and “Rural areas’ development and links urban-rural”. These two themes concentrate a significant demand for applied territorial research.

Another important finding of this analysis concerns the relevance given by the different groups of stakeholders on potential themes previously mentioned on the policy orientations’ chapter. Indeed, the areas of research stated by different groups of stakeholders are very much in line with the issues mentioned in chapter 3.1 and cover areas such as: “Urban areas, small and medium sized cities and metropolitan urban regions”, “Innovation and knowledge economy”, “Environment, natural resources, hazard and risk prevention” and “Polycentric development”. When focusing on key stakeholders’ replies, the emphasis is mainly on “Environment, natural resources, hazard and risk prevention” and “Accessibility”.

A breakdown analysis by group of stakeholders shows that policy makers attach a similar importance to some of the above mentioned themes (e.g. “Urban areas, small and medium sized cities and metropolitan urban regions”, “Innovation and knowledge economy”, and “Environment, natural resources, hazard and risk prevention”) but with some important distinctions in terms of specifications.

Regarding new ideas on future themes for applied research projects, stakeholders attached great importance on polycentric urban development and territorial cooperation. Similarly, a strong emphasis was given to transport planning and territorial cohesion indicators.

The outcome of this exploratory exercise contributed as well to determining the intensity of interactions between different themes. This was the case for gender diversity and polycentric urban development. Another situation indicated by the stakeholders was the increased importance given to multi-level governance and R&D strategies in connection with the process of boosting European territorial development.

To sum up, the analysis shows that policy themes already targeted by the first call for proposals under Priority 1 of the ESPON 2013 Programme have a consolidated demand. The projects that have been started, are addressing the following themes:

- Cities and Urban Agglomerations: Their functionality and development opportunities for European competitiveness and cohesion
- Development Opportunities in different types of Rural Areas
- Demography and Migratory Flows affecting European regions and cities
- Effects of Rising Energy Prices on regional competitiveness
- Territorial Impact Assessment of Policies (exploratory)

The Stakeholder Survey also confirms the interest for several of the themes already covered by the ESPON 2006 Programme. This programme actually covered a wide range of spatial issues which stakeholders continue to ascribe particular relevance to such as: “Urban areas as nodes in a polycentric development (Project 1.1.1.)”, “Urban-rural relations in Europe (Project 1.1.2)”, “Territorial trends and EU environment policy (Project 2.4.1)”, and “Territorial dimension of the Lisbon-Gothenburg process (Project 3.3)”. The results of these projects are accessible via the ESPON website (www.espon.eu).

Nevertheless, it is certain that information generated from the screening of stakeholder demand constitutes a good basis for determining future themes on applied research projects and, consequently, support their value and usefulness to increase evidence and knowledge on European territorial development.

The results of the survey have already been used by the ESPON Concertation Committee in their deliberation on advice to the ESPON Monitoring Committee concerning themes for future applied research under Priority 1 of the ESPON 2013 Programme.

6. Annex

Table 1 – Description of the index used for the assessment of the given responses by key stakeholders and different groups of stakeholders.

Areas of research	Key Stakeholders (14)		Different groups of stakeholders									
			Policy makers (98)		Practitioners (91)		Researchers (162)		Consultants (97)		Students (17)	
	Index	Nr.*	Index	Nr.*	Index	Nr.*	Index	Nr.*	Index	Nr.*	Index	Nr.*
Globalisation	3,85	2	5,36	37	4,01	25	5,24	61	3,77	28	7,63	9
Innovation	3,85	2	7,25	50	6,90	43	7,55	88	6,74	50	6,78	8
Accessibility	11,54	6	5,94	41	5,94	37	5,32	62	4,58	34	5,93	7
New services	1,92	1	3,62	25	2,73	17	3,00	35	4,04	30	5,08	6
Environment	11,54	6	6,23	43	7,71	48	6,95	81	6,87	51	5,93	7
Social dimension	1,92	1	5,51	38	5,62	35	7,04	82	5,39	40	5,93	7
Urban areas	7,69	4	7,54	52	7,22	45	8,58	100	8,22	61	6,78	8
Rural areas	5,77	3	5,94	41	5,14	32	4,63	54	4,99	37	4,24	5
Specific territories	3,85	2	4,20	29	3,21	20	3,61	42	3,91	29	4,24	5
Polycentric development	7,69	4	5,51	38	6,42	40	7,21	84	7,01	52	5,93	7
Governance	7,69	4	5,22	36	4,82	30	5,84	68	6,33	47	5,08	6
Transnational cooperation	7,69	4	5,65	39	5,46	34	6,18	72	5,39	40	4,24	5
Cross-border cooperation	1,92	1	5,36	37	5,78	36	6,18	72	5,39	40	2,54	3
Urban cooperation	0,00	0	3,04	21	3,85	24	3,61	42	3,91	29	1,69	2
Agglomeration economies	1,92	1	2,17	15	2,25	14	2,92	34	2,83	21	2,54	3
Governance in cooperation	1,92	1	2,03	14	1,61	10	2,40	28	2,16	16	2,54	3
Cohesion policy	1,92	1	4,49	31	4,33	27	2,49	29	2,83	21	3,39	4
Economy	0,00	0	0,87	6	2,41	15	1,46	17	2,02	15	5,08	6
Energy	5,77	3	4,64	32	3,85	24	2,58	30	3,23	24	4,24	5
Employment strategy	0,00	0	1,74	12	3,37	21	1,80	21	2,70	20	3,39	4
Lisbon-Gothenburg strategy	1,92	1	2,46	17	2,57	16	1,80	21	2,70	20	2,54	3
Transport	7,69	4	2,46	17	3,05	19	1,80	21	2,56	19	2,54	3
CAP	1,92	1	2,75	19	1,77	11	1,80	21	2,43	18	1,69	2
Total	100%	52	100%	690	100%	623	100%	1165	100%	742	100%	118

Source: ESPON CU

* Number of responses given by the stakeholders.

Explanatory note: Stakeholders were asked to tick up to 9 potential areas of research. Despite the utility of this exercise, it was necessary to develop an index that could be used to adjust and compare the different number of responses given by the respondents and consequently ease the understanding and the level of comparison of the results obtained for each variable (i.e. areas of research). For example, taking into consideration the results obtained for ‘Globalisation’, it became clear that policy makers gave an importance of 5,36% to this issue whereas consultants allocated less relevance (3,77%). The formula of the index looks as follows: $a = (Nr_1 * 100) / Nr_2$

Questionnaire for stakeholders

THEMES FOR APPLIED TERRITORIAL RESEARCH

KNOWLEDGE DEMAND FOR FUTURE CALLS FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE ESPON 2013 PROGRAMME

The ESPON 2013 Programme (the European Observation Network on Territorial Development and Cohesion) shall support policy development in relation to territorial development and cohesion. Applied research and analysis shall provide stakeholders at European, national, regional, urban, cross-border and transnational levels with comparable facts and evidence on territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts, seen from a European perspective. This shall help improving the awareness and understanding of development opportunities in regions, cities and larger territories as well as of challenges and problematic trends that need political attention.

The ESPON Monitoring Committee is currently discussing themes for future applied research projects within ESPON 2013 Programme. The themes selected by late 2008 will be subject of the next call for proposals under Priority 1: “Applied research on territorial development, competitiveness & cohesion; evidence on European territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts”.

The ESPON 2013 Programme foresees a regular screening of themes in demand by stakeholders. The present questionnaire serves the purpose of mapping the demand for knowledge and evidence among stakeholders involved in territorial development at different territorial contexts and scales.

By answering the following questions you will contribute to a sound identification of the themes and territorial issues, considered to be important from your perspective. The results of this stakeholder screening will be used in the process of the ESPON Monitoring Committee selecting themes for applied territorial research projects and will significantly support the ESPON 2013 Programme in meeting your demands.

You should base your answers on your personal considerations keeping in mind the possible contribution of the ESPON projects in supporting you in your work.

Your contribution will be treated anonymously.

In case you have any queries do not hesitate to contact the ESPON CU (michaela.gensheimer@espon.eu or klementyna.gasienica@espon.eu).

Please take the 10 minutes needed to express your priorities.

Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation.

1. Policy generated applied research themes

European policy development has defined a number of territorial policy orientations in EU Cohesion Policy and the Territorial Agenda for the European Union set up by EU Member States. As European policy development should be evidence-based, how important do you consider the need for further applied territorial research within the following policy orientations?

	Importance			
	High	Medium	Low	Irrelevant
Balanced and polycentric territorial development				
Urban drivers (large European cities, small and medium sized cities, suburbanisation, inner city imbalances)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural areas development and links urban-rural	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development in areas with demographic and/or geographical handicaps, such as ultra-peripheral regions, northern sparsely populated areas, and islands)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strengthening a polycentric development by networking of city regions and cities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creating partnership and territorial governance between urban and rural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promoting competitive and innovative regional clusters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strengthening and extending the Trans-European Networks (including access and connectivity)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promoting trans-European risk management including impacts of climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strengthening ecological structures and cultural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Potential themes and territorial issues for applied research projects

The ESPON 2013 Programme includes in three axes of applied research, a range of potential themes and territorial issues which can be covered under Priority 1.

Which of the following areas of applied territorial research do you consider to be particularly important to have a project on? When making your choice, please keep in mind that the outcome of such a project should significantly contribute to supporting you in your work.

Please tick up to 9 areas of research (out of the 23 listed below) and up to 3 relevant specifications (a,b,c,d,...) within the areas of research chosen by you.

Area of research	Specification
1. Globalisation	a) International division of labour b) Location of economic activity c) Specialisation and flows related to Europe in the World and its neighbourhood
2. Innovation & knowledge economy	a) Research & technology development and innovation capacity b) Entrepreneurship and SME c) Science/technological networks d) Cooperation between administrations e) Research and educational institutions f) Creativity and new ideas
3. Accessibility	a) Transport b) Telecommunication and energy c) Secondary networks d) Information technology roll-out
4. New services & centres	a) Services of general interests b) ICT for SME c) ICT- enhanced education d) Health and citizen's services
5. Environment, natural resources, hazards and risk prevention	a) Physical environment b) Biodiversity and NATURA 2000 sites c) Public transport, particular in urban areas d) Natural and cultural heritage e) Tourism
6. Social dimension in territorial development	a) Employment issues b) Social capital c) Citizenship d) Housing e) Social and economic integration of migrants f) Intercultural dialogue

7. Urban areas, small and medium sized cities and metropolitan urban regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Economic drivers b) Entrepreneurship c) Local employment d) Community development e) Physical environment f) Social cohesion g) Plan for urban regeneration
8. Rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Employment b) Diversification of activities c) Accessibility d) Services of general interests e) Integrated approach f) Economic clusters
9. Specific types of territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Coastal areas & Islands b) Mountain areas c) Border areas d) Highly populated areas e) Sparsely populated areas
10. Polycentric development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Urban-rural links b) Balanced rural development c) Growth poles d) Sustainable development e) Networks
11. Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Managing skills for urban and territorial development b) Capacity building c) Public investment d) Public and private partnership e) Cultural policies
12. Transnational cooperation including cooperation with neighbouring countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Polycentric development b) River basin management c) Risk management d) Research and innovation networks e) Rural partnerships and services of general interest f) Balanced territorial development g) TEN- transport h) ICT and energy and their links to secondary networks i) Rural development poles j) Maritime cooperation
13. Cross-border cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Links between urban and rural areas b) Entrepreneurship in SME c) Tourism d) Culture and trade e) Joint use of infrastructures

	f) Clusters of competitive and innovative activities g) Maritime cooperation
14. Urban cooperation in networks and clusters of neighbouring cities	
15. Agglomeration economies through cooperation	a) Metropolitan zones of global integration b) Polycentric cities
16. Governance in cooperation settings	a) Governance models for territorial cooperation
17. Cohesion policy	
18. Economy	a) EMU b) Competition c) Trade
19. Energy	a) TEN-E b) Renewable and energy efficiency c) Dependency d) Diversification
20. Employment strategy	
21. Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies	
22. Transport	a) TEN-T b) Accessibility including connectivity to secondary networks
23. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)	

3. Your ideas for the future applied research themes

The identification of your needs is of high importance for the user-oriented selection of future themes for applied research projects.

Please specify below any other themes, in addition to those listed in this questionnaire, that you feel are crucial for supporting you in your work. If possible, please also include some key research questions related to the theme(s) that are crucial for you.

Theme for applied research	
Some key research questions related to this theme that are important for your work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
Theme for applied research	
Some key research questions related to this theme that are important for your work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
Theme for applied research	
Some key research questions related to this theme that are important for your work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
Theme for applied research	
Some key research questions related to this theme that are important for your work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
Theme for applied research	
Some key research questions related to this theme that are important for your work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •

4. Please indicate whether you are working for

- Public authority on European level
- Public authority on transnational level
- Public authority on national level
- Public authority on cross-border level
- Public authority on regional level
- Public authority on local level
- Research institute
- Consultancy
- Other (please specify):

5. Please indicate whether you consider yourself mostly as:

- Policy maker
- Practitioner
- Researcher
- Consultant
- Student
- Other (please specify):

6. Please indicate the country you come from:

Thank you for taking the time to answer this survey!

The results of this questionnaire will be published on the ESPON website at the beginning of September 2008.