



WORKSHOP ESPON INTERSTRAT

Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Spatial Planning Directorate, Dunajska 21,
Ljubljana, 15. April 2011, 10h – 13h

REPORT

The workshop was organized with the stakeholders who are responsible for preparation of integrated territorial development strategies at national, regional and local levels. Invited were Government Office for local self-government and regional policy, Government Office for development and EU affairs, Ministry for agriculture, forestry and food, Institute for macroeconomic analysis and development, University of Ljubljana, Architecture and Spatial planning chamber, 11 City municipalities, 12 public regional development agencies, the municipalities involved in the cross border project KRAS-CARSO. 15 people attended the workshop.

The invitation with a workshop programme and the draft demonstration material has been sent out in advance but was also available in a printed version at the meeting.

At the beginning an overview of the ESPON programme and ESPON INTERSTRAT project was given. The programme's web site and its structure were presented more in detail.

Draft demonstration material presentation followed. On the basis of newer ESPON studies, the broader context and specific interpretation for Slovenia has been elaborated in the field of demography, accessibility and economy. The maps were complemented by the maps using national statistic data and tools.

Generally, the participants warmly welcome the presentation and interpretation for Slovenia which already, with no additional analysis, gives good food for thoughts in relation to different policies.

The summary of the workshop

Usability of presented materials:

- The presented maps (demonstration materials) can be very useful in policy development or in monitoring the impacts of policies while the national maps proved very good complement to broader overview.

- Due to specific themes (migration, accessibility), the absence of Western Balkan countries in ESPON studies could have a misleading information on spatial implications of EU policies for Slovenia.
- The use of EU comparable methodologies which would allow analysis at lower levels was highlighted.

Usability for a regional planning level:

- One of the main missing elements is a development plan at a regional level in Slovenia; therefore the usability of ESPON results and analysis is not usable at that level.
- Specialized drafts were made for a regional planning development some years ago which were not formally approved. However, some measurements were integrated into outlines for development, where some municipalities are using them and some not for the preparation of local development plans.
- Specialized drafts for regional development which were made as a background for regional development programmes are not implemented as often political and private interests influence the decision makers.

Spatial level of analysis:

- Cohesion regions (NUTS 2) are not suitable for presenting planning content as they are too heterogenic and data can be misleading for Slovenia. Therefore NUTS3 is more usable; usable are also analysis which do not follow the administration borders.

Spatial impacts:

- The strategies are only relevant if their measurements can be implemented, therefore the ESPON results could be useful at that stage.
- When preparing policies and regulation they should be supported by maps, which would better present their spatial implications and long term potential impacts. The ESPON results could be usable in this case. Currently, Slovenian policy documents usually get label that they have no spatial effects.
- The analysis of ESPON programme could be usable for showing the spatial implications of the National reform programme.

Availability, comparability, accessibility of data:

- For the presentation at EU level it has to be guaranteed the comparability of data at EU level, which could restrain data sets. For a national level, also the specific data is needed, relevant to the specific area or level.
- More questions were raised about the data captured. The national statistic office offers good quality services, but it collects mainly information demanded for from EUROSTAT while the demand from the national institutes is lacking. Therefore, bigger effort is needed from the responsible body (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning) to take part in data collection.

Possibility to produce maps with the ESPON tools:

- It was highlighted that the similar analysis prepared at the EU level by ESPON should be performed by the country at different levels. In this exercise ESPON could offer EU comparable methodology and possibility to compare results at a European level.
- Possibilities to use different tools of ESPON were mentioned in this matter, but to use those some skills are needed. A thematic workshop might be prepared on this topic.

Some initiatives for targeted analysis, which are common to different municipalities:

- Approach to solving of PM10 particles in urban areas.
- Problems of urban sprawl in relation to mobility, energy efficiency, building on agriculture land.
- Use of ESPON analysis for showing the spatial implications of the National reform programme.

Forthcoming activities

- Accomplishment of the demonstration material.
- Organisation of the workshops: Next workshop could be assign to more precise thematic area or to preparation of selected integral territorial strategy.