

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN RELATION TO THE OPEN INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR TARGETED ANALYSES

The present document, version 16 August 2016, includes the following additional information from the ESPON EGTC for requests received on:

Info Request #	Reception date of information requests:	Subject of information requests:
# 1	12/07/2016	Composition of steering committee
# 2	18/07/2016	Documents to submit with stakeholder proposal
# 3	01/08/2016	Managing Authorities as stakeholders
# 4	04/08/2016	NGOs as stakeholders
# 5	04/08/2016	Eligibility of EGTCs
# 6	04/08/2016	Participation of border regions from third states
# 7	04/08/2016	Participation of EGTCs whose partners are from a third country
# 8	10/08/2016	Participation of Managing Authorities of EGTCs
#9	11/08/2016	Eligibility of EGTCs

Questions and answers are detailed in sections below.

NB: the present information has been published on the ESPON website and sent by email to all interested applicants who approached the EGTC with a query.

Please find here below requests of information by email (application@espon.eu) from interested applicants and the complementary information provided by the ESPON EGTC:

Information Request # 1 of 12/07/2016

1. Additional information on the composition of steering committees

“Who can be a member or observer of a steering committee following an ESPON targeted analysis?”

- **As outlined in the “Guidance for stakeholder proposals for ESPON Targeted Analyses”, stakeholders behind a targeted analysis can involve the following as observers in the steering committee following their targeted analysis:**
 - **Representatives of European, national and regional “umbrella” organisations representing the interests of multiple sub-national (regional and/or local) authorities.**
 - **Representatives of local, regional, national or European authorities that are not involved in the stakeholder partnership.**

Information Request # 2 of 18/07/2016

1. Additional information on documents to submit with stakeholder application

“Can you please confirm that a stakeholder application for an ESPON targeted analysis should include an electronic and a scanned version of the application form, as well as Letters of Commitment?

What are the other two documents which can be downloaded from the website? Do the “Declaration of No Conflict of Interest” and “Stakeholder Cooperation agreement” also have to be submitted by the next cut-off date?”

- **A stakeholder application for an ESPON targeted analysis should, as indicated on the application form provided on the ESPON website, consist of (a) one electronic version of the completed application form (in MS Word format); (b) one scanned signed copy of the completed application form; (c) one scanned copy of each letter of commitment. The other two documents that can be downloaded from the ESPON website are the “Declaration of no conflict of interest” and the “Stakeholder cooperation agreement”. They are published for information purposes, as they are mentioned in the “Guidance for stakeholder proposals for ESPON Targeted Analyses”. These two documents don’t have to be submitted with the stakeholder application. As outlined in the guidance document, the ESPON EGTC will send these two documents together with a selection letter to the lead stakeholders behind selected applications.**

Information Request # 3 of 01/08/2016

1. Additional information on Managing Authorities as stakeholders

“Can a Managing Authority of an ERDF Operational Programme submit a stakeholder proposal individually or does this have to be done together with other stakeholders?”

- **A Managing Authority can submit a stakeholder proposal individually or together with other stakeholders.**

Information Request # 4 of 04/08/2016

1. Additional information on NGOs as stakeholders

“Can NGOs or non-profit organizations, that are also relevant to policy-making, also participate in a stakeholder proposal as stakeholders, given that they have a clear link to policy-making?”

- **Section 3 of the Guidance for stakeholders indicates who can apply:**
 - **National, regional and local bodies, and European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation in the EU member states and the ESPON partner states (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) having competence in developing and/or implementing policies with a territorial dimension;**
 - **Managing Authorities and joint secretariats in the EU member states and the ESPON partner states (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) and European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation responsible for implementing EU funded programmes for transnational, cross-border or macro-regional areas.**

Stakeholders should not necessarily be policy-makers but should have competences in policy-making or EU funds management. At the same time, stakeholders will have to demonstrate in their applications that they have sufficient competences and capacities to actually apply the outcome of the targeted analysis project in policy-making, specifying when, where and how this outcome will be practically used. This will be evaluated according to the selection criteria as described further in the guidance.

Information Request # 5 of 04/08/2016

1. Additional information on eligibility of EGTCs

“Are EGTCs inside the EU (Hungary, Slovakia) eligible for a targeted analysis?”

- **Yes, as long as they fulfill the conditions (Who can apply, Point 3 of the Guidance) on having competence in developing and/or implementing policies with a territorial dimension and/or being responsible for implementing EU funded programmes for transnational, cross-border or macro-regional areas.**

Information Request # 6 of 04/08/2016

1. Additional information on participation of border regions from third states

“Can border regions from third states (Ukraine, Switzerland, Norway) participate in a targeted analysis and under which conditions?”

- **Border regions from third states (like Ukraine) can participate in a targeted analysis if the scope, objectives and benefits of the activity result in a clear benefit and added value for the EU member states or the ESPON partner states and if they participate as:**

- **Either participating stakeholders but not lead stakeholders;**
 - **Or as observers in the Steering Committee.**
- **Border regions from EU ESPON partner states (like Switzerland or Norway) can participate in a targeted analysis.**

Information Request # 7 of 04/08/2016

1. Additional information on participation of EGTCs whose partners are from a third country
“How is an EGTC, established in a member state (Hungary, Ukraine), but with a partner from a third country to be treated?”

- **An EGTC established in a member state but with a partner from a third country can apply. Indeed, the EGTC mentioned above can participate as it is subject to the application of the law of an EU member state, according to the EU Regulations on EGTCs:**
- **REGULATION (EC) No 1082/2006 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 5 July 2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) – article 2 (Applicable law).**
 - **REGULATION (EU) No 1302/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 17 December 2013 amending Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) as regards the clarification, simplification and improvement of the establishment and functioning of such groupings.**

Information Request # 8 of 10/08/2016

1. Additional information on the participation of Managing Authorities of EGTCs
“If there is only one managing authority responsible for 6 programmes, shall the managing authority count itself as one stakeholder or as six participating stakeholders in the project?”

- **Section 3 of the Guidance for stakeholders indicates who can apply:**
- **(...)**
 - **Managing Authorities and joint secretariats in the EU member states and the ESPON partner states (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) (...) responsible for implementing EU funded programmes for transnational, cross-border or macro-regional areas.**

As Managing Authority responsible for several programmes, you should participate as one stakeholder (the managing authority).



Information Request # 9 of 11/08/2016

1. Eligibility of EGTCs

“Could you still be so kind to confirm that also EGTCs for this invitation (19th August 2016) will be accepted as stakeholders?”

- **EGTCs are eligible as stakeholders as long as they fulfill the conditions laid down in Section “Who can apply” (Point 3 of the Guidance), that is: Having competence in developing and/or implementing policies with a territorial dimension and/or being responsible for implementing EU funded programmes for transnational, cross-border or macro-regional areas.**