Spatial Foresight

For the full story, check here.

Spatial Foresight is a private consultancy and independent think tank in the area of European territorial policies and research. The fields of activity comprise:

- Analysis and evaluation
- Process facilitation
- Strategy development
- Training and dissemination
- Territorial foresight processes
- European and comparative studies

The principle idea is to bring together territorial development and policy processes with foresight oriented approaches. Foresight encompasses a range of approaches that combine strategic analysis, prospective forward thinking and process oriented dialogical work. Using these approaches for the processes shaping our territories will facilitate a better understanding of how to best capitalise on territorial development potentials.
NEW PROJECT: Challenges and opportunities for developing entrepreneurship at the EU external borders

Spatial Foresight has been contracted by the ESPON EGTC to analyse challenges and opportunities for development of entrepreneurship and attracting investments for business development in the cross-border areas at the EU external borders of Latvia, Lithuania and Romania. The main outcome is expected to be a concrete list of recommendations and support mechanisms in each stakeholder territory on development of entrepreneurship and attracting investments in the cross-border areas at the EU external border by using this specific location and other conditions as an asset.

October 2019

NEW PROJECT: Analysis of the impact of Social business initiative

Spatial Foresight has been contracted by the DG Employment to provide a comprehensive and evidence-based analysis of the impact of Social business initiative (SBI) on the development of social enterprises/social economy and their operating environments both at national and EU level. Its impact will be measured against the key objective of the policy initiative, i.e., creating enabling conditions for the development of social enterprises/social economy. Particular emphasis will be put on system level changes, such as changes in legislation, institutions, policy design processes, networks or financing markets identifying the possible need and most pertinent scope for any future policy action in this field. The project will be conducted jointly with EURICSE (Italy) and ECSF (Germany).

October 2019
NEW PUBLICATION: Implementing a place-based approach to EU industrial policy strategy

Spatial Foresight contributed to the report 'Implementing a place-based approach to EU industrial policy strategy' for the European Committee of the Regions, on circular economy and its link to innovation and new business and employment opportunities in a regional and local context. The project was a cooperation of t33 (the lead partner), Spatial Foresight and ÖIR. The final report can be found here.

October 2019

NEW PROJECT: Possibilities for future transnational cooperation in the North-West European cooperation area post 2020

Spatial Foresight has been contracted by the Rhineland-Palatine Ministry of the Interior and Sport to analyse possibilities for future transnational cooperation in the North-West European cooperation area post 2020. The analysis will focus on the interest and potentials for Rhineland-Palatine and the regional stakeholders. The analysis will, inter alia, identify thematic priorities of particular interest of Rhineland-Palatine and develop proposals for future support of regional stakeholders for their participation in transnational cooperation. The project will be conducted jointly with TAURUS ECO.

October 2019

NEW PROJECT: State of the art and challenges ahead for Territorial Impact Assessments
Spatial Foresight has received a request from the Committee of the Regions to draft a file note on the "State of the art and challenges ahead for Territorial Impact Assessments (TIA)". The analysis will bring together different methodologies and experiences gathered with TIA for further improvements and supporting the outreach of TIA. Spatial Foresight and ÖIR will develop the file note with support by Mcrit.

October 2019

NEW PROJECT: EGTC Monitoring Report 2018-2019

Spatial Foresight has received a request from the Committee of the Regions to develop the EGTC Monitoring Report 2018-2019. For the first time, the Monitoring Report will focus around good examples and story telling of EGTCs putting less emphasis on EGTCs' formal information. Apart from presenting good EGTC practices in particular in the field of territorial cooperation, the report will analyse the implementation of the EGTC regulation in national legislation, the set-up of new EGTCs and EGTCs currently under constitution. Spatial Foresight will coordinate the project. Other partners involved in this assignment are ÖIR, t33 and Mcrit.

October 2019

NEW PUBLICATION: Future-oriented approaches - the case of territorial foresight

Current policy processes often lack a territorial and future dimension. They rather look at single sectors and are mainly based on an analysis of the past and present. Key challenges for the future of Europe however, show a clear territorial dimension, from social fragmentation to interdependencies between different places and impacts of economic and societal developments that reach beyond administrative boundaries. Tailor-made policy responses, wider geographical perspectives and territorial cooperation can address these challenges, but require a focus on territorial characteristics as well as an assessment of possible future developments.
Territorial foresight brings together the needs for both a stronger territorial and future dimension. This approach and its relevancy to enhance integrated territorial development is discussed in a paper by Spatial Foresight colleagues Frank Holstein, Kai Böhme and Christian Lüer, published in the ESPON Scientific Report: Building the next generation of research on territorial development.

The ESPON Scientific Report can be downloaded [here](#).

NEW PUBLICATION: Evaluating Interreg Programmes. The challenge of demonstrating results and value of European Territorial Cooperation

This Spatial Foresight Brief contributes to the debate around the programming of European Territorial Cooperation 2021-2027, by focusing on possible ways to measure impact and to enhance evaluability. The brief presents the challenge of demonstrating value of transnational Interreg programmes. It sheds light on different approaches to measure and evaluate the impact of Interreg, drawing upon two examples of mid-term evaluations carried out by Spatial Foresight to show how challenging this exercise is and how it can be improved in the future. The Brief can be downloaded [here](#).

NEW PUBLICATION: EU policy frameworks for SMEs

Spatial Foresight colleagues contributed to study for the European Committee of Regions (CoR) on the EU policy framework on SMEs. The key findings of the study have been published.
The study reviewed the state of play and challenges of this framework for SMEs and the role of Local and Regional Authorities in their implementation. The study analysed, inter alia, the proposals for the EU programmes post-2020 with a view to their relevance on SMEs. This included ESIF and other EU programmes such as Horizon and other centrally managed programmes relevant for SMEs. Results of this study will feed into further policy processes for the 2021-2027 programming period.

The publication can be downloaded from the CoR webpage.

September 2019