

European Territorial Scenarios and Visions for 2050

- Introduction -

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Action 1 – *Assessing the implementation of the Territorial Cohesion objective and the Territorial Agenda 2020*

- **Action 2** - Territorial Scenarios and Visions of Europe for 2050
- **Action 3** - Specific legal provisions for border areas
- **Action 4** - Systematic and structured political debate on Cohesion (General Affairs Council)
- **Action 5** - Small and medium cities: cross-border polycentric regions

- Recognition of ongoing policy debates which may benefit from European Territorial Scenarios and Visions for 2050:
 - territorial cohesion is linked to the revision of the Europe 2020 Strategy,
 - the preparation for the future Cohesion Policy post 2020, and the implementation of Cohesion Policy underway at the national/regional/local level.
 - that discussion also has a strong link with the debate on reviewing the implementation of the Territorial Cohesion objective as well as the Territorial Agenda 2020.
 - Analysing the impacts of specific sector policies can create interest and a base for dialogue;
- Scenarios and visions would be useful tools to support this type of debates.

➤ Features of a scenario or vision process

- Any scenario and visioning process should be participatory and transparent;
- Involvement of stakeholders, including the regions, European institutions and experts to motivate the ownership of the scenarios and visions;
- The development of a vision would function as a tool for dialogue and interaction, which itself requires information and communication;
- The added value of a visioning process: creation of a common understanding;
- The importance of a multi- and cross-sectoral approach for creating ownership;
- Maps as a powerful tool for dialogue and communication (“Say it with a map.”) to enrich a political debate;
- The role of leadership in keeping a scenario and visioning process running.

	Scenarios	Visions
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largely on expert knowledge, also allowing for the involvement of key stakeholders; • Often alternative scenarios developed; • Based on both quantitative and qualitative approaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largely participative processes; • Ensure long-term commitment of policy-makers; • Focus on one vision for a common understanding; • Timing of the initiation and conclusion of the process is crucial.
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncertainty of the future, alternative scenarios of how the future might develop • Maps are good for presentation, but can be controversial for policy-makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One - 'our' desirable future – explicit ownership • Maps are good for presentation, but can be controversial for policy-makers

	Scenarios	Visions
Awareness raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness of possible future; developments and their territorial dimension. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness of common interests/objectives and their territorial dimension.
Used for which type of discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping stakeholders to understand the potential effects of different policy options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulating a broader debate on a shared vision of where 'we' want to go and what the future territory should look like.
Added value for which type of policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The added value of territorial scenarios: the dialogue with sectoral policies on their impacts and needs (at all levels) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The added value of territorial visions: providing a common framework for a range of sector policies / initiatives (at all levels)
<p>Source: Spatial Foresight: Territorial Scenarios and Visions of Europe for 2050: Proceedings of the Workshop of the incoming Luxembourg EU Presidency on 23 April 2015</p>		

Proposals on the use of scenarios and visions in the context of territorial cohesion policy 1/3

(1) Link to sector policies and cross-sector initiatives

- territorial scenarios to actively promoted in the discussions on sector policies and cross-sector initiatives at the EU level to illustrate the likely effects of policy options on the future development of the European territory, examples:
 - European Investment Plan: territorial potentials to achieve the envisaged multiplier effect.
 - Energy Union: territorial patterns of energy production and consumption factors.
 - Digital Agenda: territorial patterns in reference to production factors, users, markets, investments in ICT infrastructure and human capital.
- The NTCCP/ DG REGIO and stakeholders: preparing short discussion papers on the basis of alternative territorial scenarios in order to deliver a targeted input at the right moment.

Proposals on the use of scenarios and visions in the context of territorial cohesion policy 2/3

(2) Review of EU 2020 Strategy

- Strengthening of the territorial dimension by alternative territorial scenarios illustrating the territorial dimension of the five headline targets up to 2020 and beyond.
- The NTCCP, DG REGIO, stakeholders and ESPON could prepare short discussion papers on the basis of alternative territorial scenarios

(3) Territorial Impact Assessments

- Eye openers / invitations for dialogue by the production of territorial scenarios for an effective and efficient policy development using best Europe's territorial diversity.
- The territorial dimension was recognised in the Better Regulation Guidelines (2015) in the European Commission's Impact Assessment process: to integrate information on expected future developments.

Proposals on the use of scenarios and visions in the context of territorial cohesion policy 3/3

(4) A Future revision of the Territorial Agenda 2020

- A revision of the TA 2020 (e.g. in the year 2021) should be informed by a territorial scenario and visioning process involving relevant stakeholders from all sectors and governmental levels.
- Involving a broad range of sectors in the development of a common vision on the long-term territorial development of Europe would foster ownership that could help to overcome the silo mentality.
- Such common vision could also function as a reference framework for strategic policies at the EU level.

Merci fir är Opmierksamkeet!
Thank you for your attention!



- What evidence do we have what issues do they address?
- What politically relevant evidence is needed, what political processes should be served?
- What could be the result of discussing scenarios in a policy context?
- Is Europe ready for a discussion of a territorial vision?
- To whom shall a vision be addressed, for which policy fields visions could be relevant?
- How to address policy makers to create ownership and uptake?
- What are experiences from other/previous processes?

- Peter Mehlbye, *ESPO* EGTC
- Lewis Dijkstra, *European Commission*
- Talis Linkaits, *VASAB Secretariat*