

//ESPON 2030 Knowledge development activity, Kraków, Poland, 29 January 2025

**Territorial Impact Assessment – strengthening cohesion,
resilience, and competitiveness!**



ICE Kraków Congress Centre
Marii Konopnickiej 17
30-302 Kraków, Poland





Programme version: 13 January, 2025

// Context

The [Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union together with the ESPON EGTC](#) are organizing a workshop, "Territorial Impact Assessment – Strengthening Cohesion, resilience, and Competitiveness!" on the 29th of January 2025 in Krakow, Poland. The workshop will be held in English and limited to a maximum of 40 people.

The workshop is part of side events preceding the Conference [“The European way of growth: A growth policy for a secure, resilient and globally competitive European Union”](#) which is organized by the Polish Presidency on 30- 31 January in Krakow as one of the key events on the future of the Cohesion Policy.

It is known that legislation and policies may often have unintended impacts at different spatial levels. The aim of carrying out a Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) is to identify whether a draft policy or legislation may have an asymmetric territorial impact. For this reason, the TIA, for instance, is one of the cornerstones of the “Do no harm to Cohesion” principle. However, how to make the TIA work in practice effectively and without being just a “tick-box” exercise? How to demystify the concept of the TIA, so from a buzzword it becomes a real tool which can strengthen cohesion, resilience, and competitiveness?

// Objective

The objective of the workshop is to present Territorial Impact Assessment and inform interested stakeholders and policy makers on how various TIA methodologies can be applied in practice with an aim to strengthen cohesion, resilience, and competitiveness of territories via improved policies and legislation. In addition, the event will provide an opportunity to learn more about how different TIA methodologies complement each other and what the main differences of their application are at different levels of governance.

The one day workshop on TIA will be divided in two main parts. The morning session will feature a broad overview of different applications of territorial impact assessment from both theoretical and practical perspective. [The ESPON EGTC](#) and the European Commission’s Joint Research Center will inform on the latest developments concerning TIA methodologies and support being offered to European and national/regional authorities. In addition, the Polish Presidency will present results of the application of TIA in subnational settings in the context of the finalized Territorial Agenda 2030 Pilot Action [“Understanding how sector policies shape spatial \(im\)balances. Region-focused Territorial Impact Assessment”](#). The Dutch colleagues will present the ongoing efforts on how to develop a clear framework of bringing in a territorial perspective in regulatory impact assessment (Territorial Agenda 2030 Pilot Action [“Regulatory TIA: exploring the varied impacts of regulations across different territories”](#)). Lastly, the [European Committee of the Regions](#) will showcase real examples and behind the scenes insights on what it takes to do a TIA concerning the potential impact of draft EU directives and regulations.

In turn, the afternoon session will provide an opportunity to get acquainted in more detail with ESPON’s Quick check approach and the application of the [ESPON TIA web tool](#). In a highly interactive session the audience will experience – a mock TIA and will get a taste of how ESPON TIA works in practice, via maps, illustrations and participatory approach. The session will conclude with the discussion on the commonalities and differences of different TIA methods and what works when. It will explore current challenges and provide insights on the way forward.

The target group of this event is primarily policymakers and practitioners at different territorial and sectoral governance levels; researchers and consultants likewise.



Agenda

29 January 2025

09:30 *Registration & Coffee*

10:00 **Welcome and introduction** (#slido)

// **Renata Calak**, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy (Poland)

// **Wiktor Szydarowski**, ESPON EGTC (Luxembourg)

10:15 **Overview of current TIA practices**

This plenary-style session will provide overview of the state of play regarding different ongoing activities which aim at developing and promoting TIA practices, based on expressed needs of the stakeholders.

Moderation: **Eleftherios Stavropoulos**, DG Joint Research Centre, Policy Officer

// **Patrycja Artymowska**, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy (PL), Counsellor
Understanding how sector policies shape spatial (im)balances – why do we need TIA – results of the Territorial Agenda 2030 pilot action

// **Florence Thomé**, European Committee of the Regions, Policy Officer - Territorial Impact Assessment

Territorial Impact Assessment at EU level: checking the effects of draft EU policies and legislation

// **Zintis Hermansons**, ESPON EGTC, Research and Policy Manager

Territorial Impact Assessment – ESPON Programme's contribution in better understanding territorial effects of public policies

// **Marcia van der Vlugt**, Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning (NL), Programme Manager
Spatial Planning International

Results of the ongoing Territorial Agenda 2030 Pilot Action on Regulatory TIA

// **Eleftherios Stavropoulos**, DG Joint Research Centre, Policy Officer

TIA activities at the JRC – an overview

12:30 **Lunch break**

13:30 **Practical TIA exercise with the ESPON TIA tool**

This interactive session will provide in depth explanation of the ESPON TIA methodology and with the involvement of the audience will run a mock-up TIA to showcase how the methodology works in practice. The session will conclude with the discussion on the commonalities and differences of different TIA methods and provide a clear understanding on the advantages and limitations of the ESPON TIA approach.

Moderation: **Eleftherios Stavropoulos**, DG Joint Research Centre, Policy Officer

// **Erich Dallhammer**, Austrian Institute for Spatial Planning (OIR), Managing Director

// **Roland Gaugitsch**, Austrian Institute for Spatial Planning (OIR), Senior policy analyst



15:30 Coffee break and continuation of the session

16:30 **Wrap-up & Closing** (#slido)

This session will provide main takeaways and explore how the use of TIA can be further facilitated among policy makers.

Moderation: **Eleftherios Stavropoulos**, DG Joint Research Centre, Policy Officer

17:00 **Networking and informal dinner with the participants of all three Conference side events (location: ICE Congress centre)**