

RT12 | TRENDS IN EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING SYSTEMS AND LINKAGES BETWEEN THEM AND EU POLICIES

Chairs

- Giancarlo Cotella

Speakers

- Eduarda Marques Costa;
- Wil Zonneveld;
- Zorica Nedovic-Budic;
- Karina Pallagst.

Description

The first comprehensive comparative analysis: the *EU Compendium of Spatial Planning Systems and Policies* was published by the European Commission in 1997. Subsequent studies have to a greater or lesser degree updated the findings of the Compendium. Since then the number of EU member states has nearly doubled, the territorial dimension of EU sector policies has deepened, and there have been many, sometimes radical, reforms of systems territorial governance and spatial planning across Europe. To some extent these reforms have been stimulated and informed by EU initiatives, notably *the European Spatial Development Perspective* the *Territorial Agenda 2020* and other EU sectoral policies, such as EU Cohesion Policy, environmental policy or the Common Agricultural Policy. Territorial governance and spatial planning systems have been changing in response to wider global trends, from the dominance of neoliberal policies, societal shifts towards individualism replacing collective action in societies; the growing awareness of climate change risks to the fallout from the financial crisis and austerity programmes unfolding since 2008. As a result of all these trends and reforms, the relationship between EU policies and territorial governance and spatial planning in the member states remains uncertain, even though there is arguably strong demand for more effective territorial governance and more place- based EU interventions in line with the specificities and needs of the different territories across the EU. In other words, there is a particular need to review the relationship between territorial governance, spatial planning and EU policies with a territorial dimension, especially EU cohesion policy. Spatial planning should help to combine actions in particular places to achieve more effective results. Is this happening in practice however? How these linkages vary across the very differentiated and changing planning contexts in Europe?

This roundtable will seek to address some of those issues. It is organised around the ESPON Applied Research project Comparative Analysis of Territorial Governance and Spatial Planning Systems in Europe (COMPASS), taking stock of the trends in territorial governance and spatial planning systems across Europe and exploring the linkages and cross-fertilisation potential between them and EU Cohesion Policy. It is the first comprehensive research on European spatial planning since 1997 when 15 countries were included in the *EU Compendium*. Compass will cover 39 countries - the 28 member states of the EU, the four EFTA countries and seven candidate and other countries.

The roundtable will revolve around three questions:

- The trends and directions in the evolution of spatial planning and territorial governance systems in Europe: towards new typologies?
- Where do the EU policies and national spatial planning and territorial governance meet: synergies or antagonisms?
- EU and spatial planning at a crossroads: towards cross-fertilisation between EU cohesion policy and spatial planning practice?

The aim of the roundtable is two-fold. First, it aims at presenting the initial findings from ESPON COMPASS project on the evolution of spatial planning systems and the linkages between them and EU policies to the AESOP community. Second, it aims at engaging the AESOP Congress participants in a critical discussion on the options for enhancing the synergies between EU cohesion policy and planning in the EU member states.