

## **Summary of Inception Report of ESPON project on Territorial Impact of Globalization on European Regions - TIGER**

The project will look at the impact of globalisation on European territories at different scales. It will also study the situation of Europe in the world and how can it be improved? More precisely, how can territorial policy improve European competitiveness? The project builds in particular on the ESPON 2006 project Europe in the World (3.4.1).

There are three main objectives. These are:

- to assess the territorial structures of Europe in a comparative perspective and their impacts on competitiveness, social and territorial cohesion;
- to assess how Europe, its regions and cities participate in the global flows and networks (trade, FDI, finance, knowledge, human mobility) and how the global processes impact on the territorial structures of Europe; and
- to analyse how Europe and its territories position themselves in the world through cooperation and networking with other parts of the world and how it participates in achieving the objectives of improving competitiveness as well as social and territorial cohesion.

The report reviews existing ways of categorising the world (e.g. North / South, or as continents) and concludes these are inadequate. It proposes to work to a new categorisation.

Part of the work will be an analysis of global value chains in three sectors – clothing, software and the automotive industry. The aim is to tease out the position of Europe and its regions in the international division of labour.

An interesting feature of this project, which differentiates it from others in ESPON, is that it will assess the position of Europe and its cities in global financial flows on a worldwide scale as revealed by stock-exchange and property market flow data. It will also examine the effects of the recent financial crisis both on financial centres and on the pattern of globalization.

More than any previous ESPON project this one will look at property data, in particular to analyse the relationship between the concentration of financial service centre activity and office rental movement in global cities. “Analysis of the occupation costs faced by office-based firms, the returns available for investors and the co-movement of these indicators across cities will be conducted, with data available post-credit crunch.”

The project will include a case study of London as an example of a world city. The aim of the case study is “to understand the relationship between its position

in global and Europe-wide financial networks and the internal spatial structure of the city.”

The report promises that the team will set up “an informative Emailing list... whereby interested persons can register to receive regular updates about the projects results”.