

Welsh Assembly Government Makes Successful Bid for European Spatial Research Support

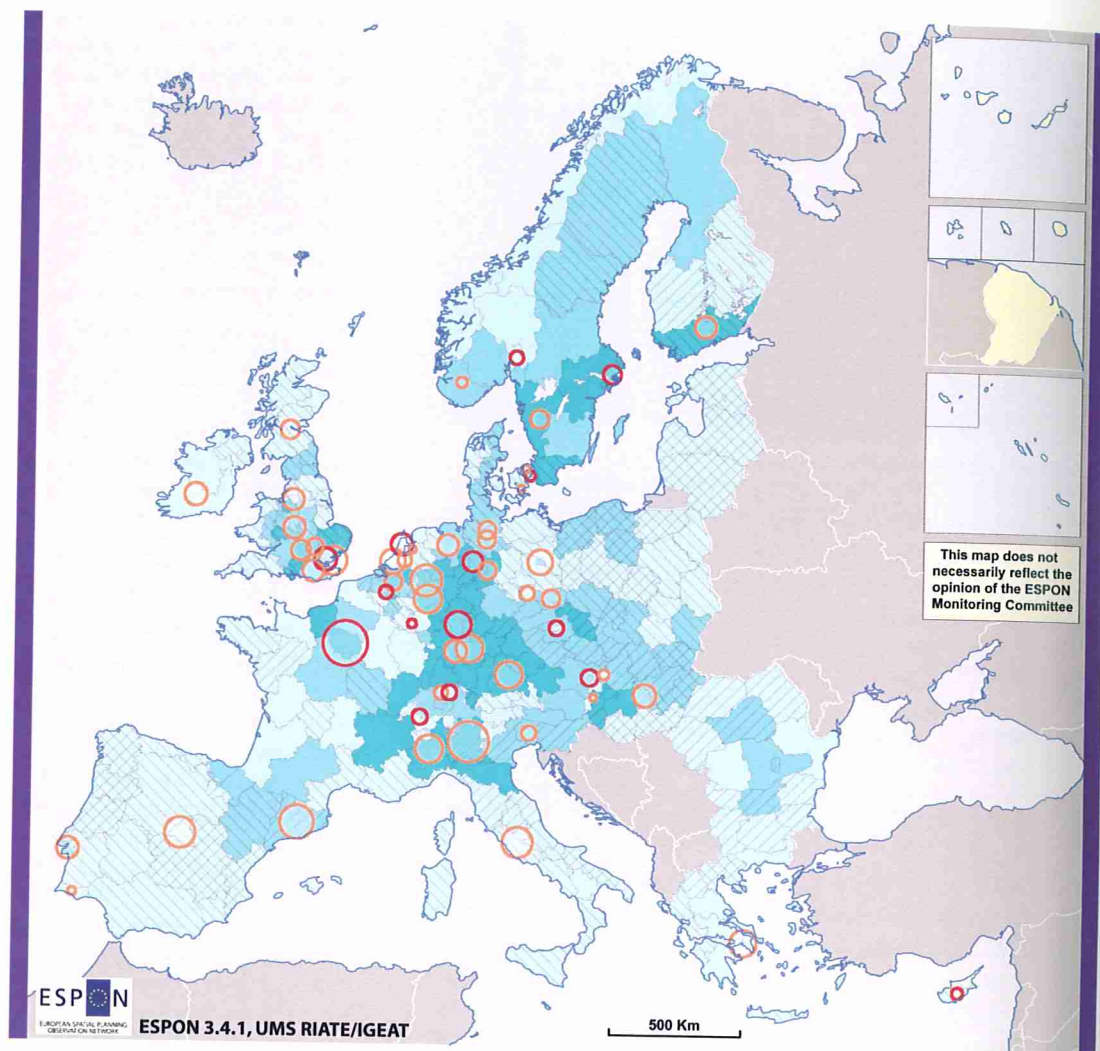
The Welsh Assembly Government, working with a consortium that includes Dumfries and Galloway Council, North Yorkshire County Council and authorities from Norway and Latvia, has successfully requested research support to be carried out through the European applied research programme ESPON 2013.

ESPON will contract researchers to develop a transferable assessment of the development potential of remote rural regions, working closely with policy-makers from the transnational group. Details of the research proposal are available at www.espon.eu and the call for bids will close on 15 October 2008.

The ESPON 2013 programme involves all of the 27 nation states of the European Union, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. It was launched in January this year and is funded by the EU and member states to commission applied research into all aspects of European territorial development.

It builds on the work of ESPON 2002-2006, with enhanced emphasis on policy development and dissemination. Transnational research groups are being commissioned to take forward data collection and analysis on a broad range of spatial development themes. A major priority for the new programme is the improvement of two-way communications between researchers and policy-makers.

The ESPON Contact Point (ECP) in the UK is managed by RTPI



Internationalisation level
(NUTS 2 regions with major urban areas)

- Low
- High

Total NUTS2 population
(thousands of inhabitants)

- 10 000
- 2 500

Structural strengths and weaknesses

High share of technological manufacturing industries

High share of personal services

Technological level

- Low
- Medium
- High
- No data

Regional level: NUTS2
Source of data: Eurostat and National Statistical Offices
Year of data: 2002

© EuroGeographics Association for administrative boundaries

Above: Structural strengths and weaknesses in Europe.

and is part of the network of national ESPON Contact Points throughout Europe. The ECP Team, based in Edinburgh, are Cliff Hague, Jenny Crawford and Kendra Gracie. Their role is to promote UK involvement in the research programme and use of data outputs. In order to enable

researchers and practitioners to share information and debate and to highlight research that can directly influence decision-making, the ECP has set up the ESPON UK Network to enable planners and researchers to exchange information, develop partnerships and take part in

Network activities over the lifetime of the programme.

Anyone with an interest in European spatial research is encouraged to join the Network. See www.espon.org.uk for further information.