ESPON TIA TOOL

Tool description

April 2020
Content

- Territorial Impacts
- The ESPON TIA Quick Check
- The vulnerability concept
- Upgrade of the TIA webtool
  - Steps 1-5
  - Subtools
    - Urban TIA
    - CB TIA
  - Additional functionalities
- The TIA Necessity Check
Territorial Impacts

Challenge

▪ EU policy proposals influence development of different regions differently
▪ Regions react differently to policy effects based on their properties
▪ Cohesion: Explicit goal of the Lisbon Treaty
  ▪ Reducing disparities among regions
  ▪ Promoting overall harmonious development

Solution

▪ Assessing impacts at an early stage of policy drafting
▪ Explicitly cover the territorial dimension in impact assessments
▪ React in policy proposals when undesired unbalanced development is foreseen
The ESPON TIA Quick Check

ESPON projects

- developed a simplified, evidence-based procedure of an ex ante Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA)
- From ESPON ARTS to the first and second TIA webtool

The TIA Quick Check approach

- a “quick and dirty” TIA-check
- combining expert knowledge gathered in a workshop with an Excel tool and standardised indicators
- showing results in maps (NUTS 3 level)
The Vulnerability Concept

- Different for each policy proposal
- Policies
- Exposure

- Workshop
- Territorial impact
- ESPON Data

- Regions
- Territorial sensitivity

Independent of policy proposal
Upgrade of the TIA Webtool

- Making the tool more user-friendly
- Reduce complexity of the previous 9 steps
- Improve existing functionalities
- Develop additional functionalities
  - Urban & Cross-Border TIA
  - Aggregation function
  - TIA Necessity Check
TIA Tool – Preparation

- Preliminary analysis of the policy proposal
- Identification of potential effects and related indicators
- Selection and invitation of workshop participants
- Decision on the type of TIA (General, Urban, Cross-Border)
- Setup of the tool
TIA Tool – Workshop

Creating a systemic picture linking the policy proposal with territorial effects

economy
society
environment
governance

Step 2
TIA Tool – Workshop

1. Presentation of the policy proposal to participants

2. Creation of a systemic picture of policy effects on
   a. Economy
   b. Society
   c. Environment
   d. Governance

3. Identification of suitable indicators to depict sensitivity towards policy effects
   a. Standard indicators of the tool
   b. Additional indicators integrated for a specific workshop

4. Sensitivity: the “baseline” of the region when calculating impacts. The higher the sensitivity, the higher the impact
TIA Tool – Workshop

For indicators selected according to the systemic picture: Expert judgement on the exposure caused by the policy

Economic growth (GDP/capita)
TIA Tool – Workshop

Legend
Positive Values
- Minor impact
- Moderate impact
- High impact
- Very High impact

Negative Values
- Minor impact
- Moderate impact
- High impact
- Very High impact

Source: Committee of the Regions, TIA Workshop “Work-life balance directive”, 11th October 2017, Brussels
TIA Tool – Workshop

- Interpretation of the maps:
  - Which regions will be hit in which fields?
  - Which patterns can be identified?

- Hypotheses about the consequences on territorial development of regions
  - More favoured regions?
  - Regional concentration of effects?
  - Equal results across the EU?

- Conclusions and recommendations
  - Need for deeper understanding?
  - Policy measures to reduce negative effects?
New subtools implemented

- **Urban TIA**
  - Implementation of functional urban areas
  - Allows for focus on integrated urban regions
  - Allows for specialised datasets on FUAs
  - Multi geometry TIA: NUTS and FUA geometries in one assessment

Source: ÖIR (2020)
New subtools implemented

- Cross-Border TIA
  - Allows for focus on dedicated border areas
  - Introduction of comparative indicators
  - Sensitivity based on functional relation of regions

Source: ÖIR (2020)
Additional functionalities – Aggregation

- Calculation of aggregated impact across exposure fields
- Based on vote averages
- Distinction between aggregated positive and negative impact
- Expanded tooltips for presenting detailed information
Additional functionalities – Focus on a set of regions

- Focusing on specific parts of the EU
- Predefined sets of regions
  - EU 28
  - ESPON Space
  - EU 15 …
- User defined sets of regions
  - Individual selection of NUTS3 regions
  - Highly customised analyses
Additional functionalities – Normalisation modes

- Selection of different normalisation modes (z, z in 10-90 quantile, Log)
- Adaptable according to the data distribution
- Allows for more balanced assessment when
  - Dataset contains outliers
  - Distribution is skewed

Normalization: Z(0-100)
Normalization: Z(10-90)
Normalization: Log
Additional functionalities – Interactions between indicators

- **Goal**: supporting decisions between two similar indicators and assisting in interpretation of patterns

- Linear regression calculated within the typology and set of regions selected

- Easy to read 2-tier graded scale
TIA necessity check

- Assisting commission officials in deciding if a TIA is necessary
- Targeted at the inception impact assessment phase
- Implemented as interactive, intuitive online decision tree with guiding questions
- Result: clear suggestion if a TIA is advised
- Available in a paper version with accompanying handbook
Outlook

- Outstanding functionalities are being developed
  - Implementation of the „TIA curriculum“
    - Development of a course and corresponding lectures
    - Certification for interested persons to conduct a TIA
    - Theoretical, technical and practical lessons
  - Implementation of user levels corresponding to completed course elements and display of watermarks as disclaimers for lower levels of users
- Possible future improvements of the tool and workshop
  - Electronic voting system, replacing the current paper based version
  - Further development of the aggregation functionality