Guidelines for the Use of Indicators in Spatial Planning

KITCASp Final Seminar
Glasgow 16th – 18th October 2013

Phil Pinch
“Guidelines on the use of ESPON data and indicators in the preparation and monitoring of spatial strategies and territorial development policies’

.... which will identify transferable lessons and results applicable in other national contexts and indeed of relevance to stakeholders at multiple levels of governance....”
Quick start menu

1 What is KITCASP?

KITCASP is a research project sponsored by the ESPON Programme. The main aim of the project was to develop a set of key indicators for territorial cohesion that could be used to inform the development of strategic spatial policy at the national level. The five stakeholders in the project were Scotland, Ireland, Latvia, Iceland and the Basque Country. The work was undertaken by an international research team comprising the National University of Ireland, London South Bank University in the United Kingdom, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Spain, the University of Akureyri Research Centre in Iceland and the Võrumaa University of Applied Sciences in Latvia. The project started in February 2012 and ended in October 2013.

There was close cooperation between the research team and the stakeholder institutions and also significant consultation with spatial planning practitioners, policymakers and researchers within each case study nation. The process revealed interesting similarities and differences across the different case studies in terms of spatial development priorities, policy agendas and data availability. The Final Report (include link) provides useful insights into the use of indicators as a means of preparing and monitoring strategic spatial policy that will be relevant to practitioners and decision-makers throughout Europe. One of the objectives of the KITCASP project was to develop guidelines on the use of ESPON data and indicators in territorial policy development at the national level.

2 What is in this user guide?

The user guide is intended to provide user-friendly advice for spatial planning practitioners on the use of ESPON data and indicators in the preparation and monitoring of spatial planning strategies and territorial development policies. The use of ESPON data and indicators in spatial planning is first discussed before the concept and rationale for the KITCASP indicators is explained. Transferable lessons are drawn that are potentially relevant in other national contexts and at different levels of governance. Guidance is also provided on how the KITCASP indicators can be applied and how practitioners throughout Europe can develop a bespoke set of indicators appropriate to their own specific territorial context.

3 How to use this guide

One of the key preferences expressed by stakeholders during the KITCASP project was for simplicity and clarity of approach. This led to the identification of a limited number of headline indicators relevant to the spatial planning agendas in each country. The emphasis on simplicity is reflected in these guidelines. Complexity has been deliberately avoided in favour of a clear and concise focus on the most important and relevant issues.

The guidelines offer practitioners easily digested advice whether they are seeking general information about ESPON data or the use of indicators, whether they are intending to apply the KITCASP indicators or whether they are seeking to develop a set of bespoke indicators relevant for a specific territorial context. The structure of the guidelines is intended to help practitioners by being divided into easy to find sections focusing on each of these issues. Links are also provided at the end of the guidelines to useful sources of data and information.

ESPON data as a resource for spatial planning

4 Evidence informed spatial policy

The increased focus on evidence informed spatial policy has led to the generation of extensive datasets at EU and national levels. The breadth, fragmentation and compartmentalisation of much of the available data form a significant challenge if this data is to be used effectively as a foundation for evidence informed spatial policy. ESPON is the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion and is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund. The mission of the ESPON Programme is to support policy development in relation to territorial development and cohesion by the provision of a robust evidence base and identifying territorial development trends, challenges and opportunities.

There will be an increased focus on results and performance in the revised Cohesion Policy for the post 2013 programming period and there is also a need to align national strategies with the priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. These factors mean that the need for a robust evidence base for spatial policy and the demand for reliable spatial indicators will continue for the foreseeable future.

5 ESPON as a resource

Approximately 40 research projects were sponsored by the ESPON 2006 Programme.
ESPON Projects

ESPON sponsors an extensive range of research to support policy development related to territorial development and cohesion. Its ESPON 2013 programme (the European Observation Network on Territorial Development and Cohesion) was launched in January 2008. This five-year programme for applied research into European territorial development builds upon the work of the ESPON 2006 Programme (the European Spatial Planning Observation Network). ESPON involves all of the 27 nation states of the European Union, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Full details of all ESPON 2013 projects are available at:

A useful summary of its work is provided by ESPON Projects: Final Overview (December 2012):

Listed below is a sample of the projects it has sponsored:

Applied Research Projects:

**EU 2020 Strategy: SIESTA** - Spatial indicators for a Europe 2020 Strategy Territorial Analysis

**Globalisation: TIGER** - Territorial Impact of Globalization for Europe and its Regions

**Governance: TANGO** - Territorial Approaches for New Governance

**Green Economy: GREECO** - Regional Potential for a Greener Economy

**Innovation: KIT** - Knowledge, Innovation, Territory

**Land use: EU-LUPA** - European Patterns of Land Use

**Poverty and exclusion: TIPSE** - Territorial Dimension of Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe

**Rural areas: EDORA** - European Development Opportunities in Rural Areas

**Services of general interest: SeGl** - Indicators and Perspectives for Services of General Interest in Territorial Cohesion and Development

**Territorial Cooperation: TERC0** - European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life

**Town: TOWN** - Small and Medium-Sized Towns

**Transport: TRACC** - Transport

**Targeted Analyses Projects:**

**Agglomeration economies: CAEFE** - The Case for Agglomeration Economies in Europe

**Airports: ADES** - Airports as Drivers of Economic Success in Peripheral Regions

**Growth poles: GROSEEE** - Growth Poles in South-East Europe

**Indicators for Territorial Cohesion:**

**KITCASP** - Key Indicators for Territorial Cohesion and Spatial Planning

**Landscape: LP3LP** - Landscape Policy for the 3 Countries Park

**Rural regions: PURR** - Potential of Rural Regions

**Scenarios: SS-LR** - Spatial Scenarios: New Tools for Local-Regional Territories

**Territorial governance: SMART-JST** - Smart Institutions for Territorial Development

**Territorial impact assessment:**

**EATIA** - ESPON and Territorial Impact Assessment

**Territorial performance: TPM** - Territorial Performance Monitoring

**Scientific Platform**


**Territorial Evidence: TerrLux** - Territorial Evidence Packs for Structural Funds Programmes

**Territorial indicators: INTERCO** - Indicators of Territorial Cohesion

**Territorial monitoring: BSR-TelMo** - Territorial Monitoring for the Baltic Sea Region

**Territorial monitoring: ETMS** - EU Territorial Monitoring System

**Territorial potential: DeTeC** - Detecting Territorial Potentials and Challenges

**Urban benchmarking: CityBench** - ESPON CityBench for benchmarking European Urban Zones

**Transnational Networking Activities:**

**Capitalisation and dissemination: CaDEEC** - Capitalisation and Dissemination of ESPON Concepts

**e-learning: ESPONTrain** - Establishment of a transnational ESPON training programme to stimulate interest to ESPON 2013 knowledge

**Territorial scales: SCALES** - Breakdown and capitalisation of ESPON results on different scales

**Territorial strategies: INTERSTRAT** - ESPON in Integrated Territorial Strategies
# Useful websites

Ireland’s *All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO)* has produced interactive core data indicator dashboards for the five stakeholder countries that participated in the KITCASP project. Details and maps can be found on their website at:

- [http://airo.ie/spatial-indicators](http://airo.ie/spatial-indicators)

Other websites and data sources used during the KITCASP project include the following:

## General relevance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OECD Better Life Index</td>
<td>Worldwide index of well-being based on 11 topics in the areas of material living conditions and quality of life</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org">http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Download Index</td>
<td>Global broadband statistics</td>
<td><a href="http://www.netindex.com">www.netindex.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Trend Commission New Media Trend Watch</td>
<td>Trends in internet usage by tourism consumers across the world</td>
<td><a href="http://www.newmediatrendwatch.com">www.newmediatrendwatch.com</a>; <a href="http://etc-digital.org">http://etc-digital.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Ireland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Link</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My Plan</td>
<td>Public accessible guide to local and development plans in Ireland</td>
<td><a href="http://www.myplan.ie">www.myplan.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Ireland Research Observatory</td>
<td>Management and dissemination of publicly available datasets</td>
<td><a href="http://www.airo.ie/spatial-indicators">http://www.airo.ie/spatial-indicators</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pobal</td>
<td>Datasets on social inclusion</td>
<td>[<a href="https://www.poballe">https://www.poballe</a> Pages/](<a href="https://www.poballe">https://www.poballe</a> Pages/)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Communication and planning
Wow, jus read ESPON Kitcasp Spatial Planning Guidelines! Listen up cohesion really matters #spreadtheword

Really tasty full well written review
10:15 AM Nov 15th via web

9:49 AM Nov 15th via web

You have to balance ignorance with intellect! Can't have school with out recess! #Greatesttweetoffalltime
9:12 PM Nov 14th via web

Messy_Marv What people don't realize is that @kanyewest just wants to change the world with his music, so I can see why he ... http://tmi.me/3c9DO
Hey kids - Bob says make sure you read Kitcasp Spatial Planning Guidelines!
CLIFF HAGUE
WORLD VIEW
A blog on global planning issues

Latest Posts

A World View timeline of planning over the past century – Part 1

Posted October 6, 2013 by clifhague & filed under Uncategorized.

With the RTPI centenary coming up next year I have been helping them construct a timeline to tell the story of planning 1914-2014. Inevitably the focus is on the institute itself and events in the UK. However, it set me wondering what a “World View” of planning over that 100 years might look like?

If you had to nominate just one event for each decade, what would it be? Here is my list. Do you agree with it? To keep the blog to a readable length I have confined this one to the period 1914-1963. In a couple of weeks I will do 1964-2013. In the meantime, I would welcome comments, counter-propositions and nominations for the period from the 1960s to the present.

Blog Categories:

Paris, Greenhouse Gases,...
Identifying the indicators

The KITCASP methodology followed the framework set out in the diagram below. The methodology can be applied to diverse contexts and may therefore be helpful to those seeking to develop their own set of indicators.

Figure 1: Step-by-step methodology

- **Step 1: Formulating Approach**
  - Literature review and definition of approach
  - Identify key policy priorities and objectives
  - Elaborate territorial profile

- **Step 2: Identifying Themes**
  - Host stakeholder workshop 1
  - Identify key policy drivers and spatial planning themes
  - Discuss potential data sources

- **Step 3: Provisional Indicators**
  - Identify provisional indicators and start to gather data
  - Evaluate integrity of data
  - Cross check data against EU, national and sub-national policy drivers

- **Step 4: Validating Indicators**
  - Host stakeholder workshop 2 and consult other users
  - Validate, modify and fine tune indicators
  - Identify and appraise data limitations

- **Step 5: Monitoring Systems**
  - Populate indicator tables with data
  - Address data limitations and confirm monitoring framework
  - Establish data portal
12 Choosing indicators

The choice of indicators is extremely important. The KITCASP project applied a filtering process to ensure that the chosen indicators were relevant and appropriate. This assessed the extent to which potential indicators addressed a series of key questions set out in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Key questions when filtering indicators

Addresses relevant policy objectives and agendas?

Are able to be assessed and mapped to illustrate spatial patterns, trends and linkages?

Provide information that is sensitive to change in order to make a timely contribution to decision making?

Are reliable, measurable and easy to collect?

Are easy to understand by planners and decision makers?

Are relevant and applicable to the context within which they operate?

13 Data availability and management issues

The development of Indicator sets and monitoring frameworks for spatial policy will be
Developing your own indicators

14 Checklist of key considerations

The key considerations in choosing indicators are that they are clear and easy to interpret, relevant, applicable, measurable and analytically sound. The questions in Figure 4 provide a useful checklist for the selection of indicators.

Figure 4: Checklist for indicator selection

- Does the indicator address policy objectives and priorities?
- Is the indicator already included in any institutional strategy already in place?
- Is the indicator derived from a consistent statistical framework?
- Does the indicator have a clear and rational purpose?
- Is the indicator capable of capturing change over time?
- Has the indicator been identified through efficient participation from all the relevant stakeholders?
- Is the indicator based on good quality and credible data?
- Is the indicator well-understood by planners and decision-makers?
- Can the indicator communicate the results in a concise and accessible manner?
- Is the indicator regularly measured?
- Is the indicator quantifiable and spatially-specific?
- Are there reliable monitoring arrangements in place for the chosen indicator?
**Figure 2: Spatial indicator themes**

- **Economic competitiveness and resilience**
  This theme embraces adaptability and diversification as promoters of increased economic activity and employment, paired with innovation and economic cooperation/collaboration.

- **Social cohesion and quality of life**
  This theme addresses issues of equality, choice and well-being. It encourages increased accessibility to services and green areas, and connectivity to public services in support of healthy living.

- **Integrated spatial development**
  This theme is based on the principles of balanced regional development and settlement-infrastructure alignment, entailing well-managed and effective spatial development that is tailored to local needs and territorial capacities and assets.

- **Environmental resource management**
  This theme sustains enhanced and sustainable management of environmental resources, including water, air quality, biodiversity and the landscape. It also addresses climate change issues, including flood risk and the need for a low-carbon economy.
Scotland Performs measures and reports on progress of government in Scotland in creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all to flourish through increasing sustainable economic growth.

Progress towards the Purpose is tracked by 7 Purpose Targets and is supported by 15 National Outcomes - describing the kind of Scotland we want to be - and 50 National Indicators, covering key areas of health, justice, environment, economy, and education measure progress.

Scotland Performs offers accountability based on national priorities set out in the National Performance Framework. NHSScotland is the first partner organisation to report performance through Scotland Performs.

You can judge for yourself how Scotland is progressing through 'direction of travel' arrows on the 'Performance at a Glance' page which indicate whether performance is improving, worsening or maintaining.

Assessments of progress are regularly updated from the latest reports.
Alexander Nove (1915-1994)
Damn these badgers! They're moving the goalposts!!
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User Guide
August
2013

ESPON Guidelines For Spatial Planning