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| **A future for lagging regions: Fostering the implementation of spatial strategies** |
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| **Lead stakeholder** | German Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community |
| **Indicative partners**  | Three German regions plus partners from other countries (ongoing discussions with France, Austria and Portugal). Additional partners from regional and sub-regional levels of other Member States are welcome to extend the partnership.  |
| **Rationale & link to Territorial Agenda** | Counties and associations of adjacent municipalities play a decisive role for the economic development and the social well-being at regional level. They create economic, social and cultural centres and hubs ensuring services of general interest and quality of life outside large cities. They fulfil elementary supply functions for their surrounding regions.  |
| **Envisaged activities**  | The pilot action focuses on sparsely populated areas with limited access to public services and to economic and social opportunities. Participating regions should ideally already have an integrated intermunicipal or supralocal development concept or a regional strategy that forms the basis for future-oriented measures. This could include CLLD-strategies or, where no sub-regional strategies exist, regional ERDF-strategies. The pilot action accompanies the implementation of measures of strategic relevance to secure services of general interest and increase the quality of life. Participating regions should be ready to implement such measures between December 2020 and October 2023. Regions should also be ready to share their experiences of creating and implementing integrated supralocal development concepts and regional strategies with other regions participating in the pilot action and beyond.  |
| **Envisaged lessons / results**  | Answers to the questions:* How can spatial strategies be effectively put into force to shape local perspectives for lagging regions?
* How can regional planning measures be effectively incorporated in sectoral planning activities and concepts in order to sustain the implementation of spatially relevant measures?
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| **Resources** | Under discussion.Please note that there is no funding available outside of Germany for regional implementation actions. Therefore, regional measures with already secured funding are welcome to participate or new measures with funding from e.g. national schemes. Travel and meeting expenses of European partner regions with regards to joint working and sharing of knowledge may however be covered by the pilot action’s coordinator. |
| **Time planning**  | The partnership shall be established until autumn 2020, so that the pilot action can start in December 2020.  |

**Further information**

https://territorialagenda.eu/actions.html

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**Lead stakeholder:**

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| **Understanding how sector policies shape spatial imbalances:Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA)** |
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| **Lead stakeholder** | The Polish Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy leads the pilot action on Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA). |
| **Indicative partners**  | The pilot action will be implemented in cooperation with: * The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia;
* the German Ministry of Internal Affairs and stakeholders in the German-Polish border region;
* European Committee of the Regions;
* other respective NTCCP members tbc.

Additional partners from different governance levels and Member States are welcome to extend the partnership.  |
| **Rationale & link to Territorial Agenda** | The Territorial Agenda 2030 aims to address inequalities between places and people and advocates for a future for all places. This pilot action contributes particularly to two Territorial Agenda 2030 priorities: i) Balanced Europe and ii) Integration beyond borders.This pilot action aims to create a better understanding of the policies’ effects on territories to better design future policies that are place sensitive and address more precisely the needs of communities and citizens for a more balanced Europe. The whole rationale aims to develop and test a (new) methodology that serves this purpose, rather than implement a number of TIAs across different territories and compare their outcomes. The pilot action builds on three innovative ideas. First, the focus of the TIA starts from the characteristics and needs of the territory and common/agreed development goals (Territorial Agenda goals/principles, instead of the policy). Different types of territories can be included, e.g. urban, rural, cross-border areas to look at effects beyond borders. Second, the TIA aims to support integrated territorial development strategies at different levels of governance. Lastly, it envisages to involve local and regional players in the implementation of the pilot action.  |
| **Envisaged activities**  | The process of the pilot action is structured along three phases. Phase 1 is about the showcases, i.e. the impact of the already existing policies on the indicated areas and types of territories and TIA approaches. During phase 2 a flexible methodology for TIA will be developed that serves the purpose of this pilot action and phase 3 is about the implementation of this methodology in pilot areas. The pilot action combines joint and individual activities of several partners involved in the pilot areas. |
| **Envisaged lessons / results**  | A few reflections on the envisaged results regard the *learning* about the territorial impacts of sector policies on specific territories; *dissemination* through cooperation with multiplier institutions for further dissemination activities; enhancing *communication* and *implementation* by means of developing a transferable methodology in the pilot action that can be applied by other regions/actors.  |
| **Resources** | There are some preliminary ideas for possible resources, but still under development.  |
| **Time planning**  | The time planning post December 2020 is still under development. |

**Further information**

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| **Small Places Matter** |
| **Lead stakeholder** | Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Norway  |
| **Indicative partners**  | In a first phase of the pilot, within Norway, the partners will be selected, mainly from projects and partners that are/have been engaged in a number of project actions in the Baltic Sea Programme, Urbact, ESPON and Interreg VC. These partners span a number of programmes and programme periods, with the aim of capitalising on the results of projects working in the related fields of depopulation and demographic change in small town and villages and, in particular, boosting the attractiveness of small places for young people. This approach highlights how carrying forward project ‘legacy’ is an important development resource, and the potential for beneficial synergies between programmes and programme periods in addressing territorial development issues. A second phase of the pilot will to explore extending the network following up early expressions of interest from, e.g. Portugal and Ireland. Additional partners from different governance levels and countries are welcome to the partnership. |
| **Rationale & link to Territorial Agenda** | The pilot action directly engages with a number of priorities set out in the draft Territorial Agenda, including balanced Europe and functional regions. More specific links are with the aims: to encourage all area types to cooperate on improving conditions in all areas, recognise the potential in areas with specific geographies (in this case more remote areas), and support dialogue with decision makers in towns of all sizes to apply an integrated multilevel governance approach. The pilot also addresses relevant concerns in relation to crossborder activities, and Green Europe. The pilot also addresses key challenges set out in the Territorial Agenda, in particular demographic and societal imbalances and quality of life. The pilot’s focus on the vital role of small towns and villages in the development of integrated territorial development process also strengthens territorial coordination of policies, cooperation between territories, which are key elements of putting the Territorial Agenda into Action. Of particular importance to the pilot is finding new ways to link the valuable insights and momentum that can come from bottom-up initiatives into top-down planning processes.  |
| **Envisaged activities**  | The envisaged activities include: an initial phase to ‘harvest’ projects, identifying existing areas of relevant activity, followed by opportunities to showcase examples and network building activities (see also below). As experienced in one of the selected projects, there could be an opportunity to build a ‘cavalcade network’, which would be dynamic and evolving rather than fixed.  |
| **Envisaged lessons / results**  | Key lessons/results from the pilot actions include, the following. First, the pilot will identify practical tools and approaches to address specific issues linked to demographic change in small place and boosting their attractiveness to younger people either staying in the area or moving into it. Second, the pilot will highlight the importance of recognising and capitalising on existing activities and interactions in mobilising the Territorial Agenda. For example, Interreg programmes have already supported relevant projects. Their value and impact could be amplified through opportunities for wider exchange and support for capitalisation of their activities. Third, the pilot will support better policy making, better linking the value in bottom-up, locally-oriented initiatives with regional and national level policy/strategy development. It would also address an identified development gap which is not being addressed successfully either through market interventions or traditional regional policy interventions and demands new thinking, solutions and activities. Finally, the pilot offers the scope to look to the future and consider how the current crisis could inform thinking on small places responding to change, the desirability of more balanced development and the role of small places.  |
| **Resources** | The resource question is still under discussion. |
| **Time planning**  | The time planning post December 2020 is still under development. |

**Further information** https://territorialagenda.eu/actions.html

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| **A territorial vision and measures** **for a decarbonised and resilient cross-border functional region in 2050** |
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| **Lead stakeholder** | Ministry of Energy and Spatial Planning (Luxembourg) |
| **Indicative partners**  | Interested partners from other countries are welcome to join the partnership. |
| **Rationale & link to Territorial Agenda** | In mid-2020, the Ministry of Energy and Spatial Planning of Luxembourg will launch a competitive process in which a number of international teams composed of researchers and experts will develop different territorial visions and implementation strategies with concrete measures for a decarbonised and resilient cross-border functional region of Luxembourg in 2050.Currently, the Ministry is preparing the tendering documents. The teams are supposed to start working in October 2020 for a period of one year.One of the central questions will be how to translate a cross-border territorial vision into concrete objectives, policy processes and strategies, and measures.The pilot action would contribute to achieving the TA2030 objectives of “Integration beyond borders” and “Healthy environment”. |
| **Envisaged activities**  | Envisaged activities would include a number of meetings (physical or virtual) to exchange and potentially a site visit in Luxembourg to meet the international teams. |
| **Envisaged lessons / results**  | The idea of this Pilot Action is involve interested Member States or regions (including cross-border regions) in the process to exchange about the experience of Luxembourg and potentially transfer the experience in order to replicate the process. This would translate into a learning process for both sides. |
| **Resources** | The resource question is still under discussion. Costs would be kept to a minimum for partners. |
| **Time planning**  | The competitive process is supposed to conclude in October 2021, but the Pilot Action could go on after that if a partner is interested in transferring the experience in order to replicate the process. |

**Further information**

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