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The Global, European and Mediterranean Research Network

The RSA Network on EU Cohesion Policy


## Assessing territorial impact at various spatial levels: Contributions from ESPON TIA

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**RSA WORKSHOP**  
*EU Cohesion Policy: Focus on the Territorial Dimension*

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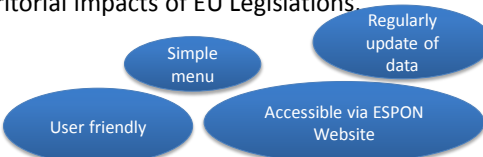
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## ESPON TIA project & Main questions

- Project duration: December 2013-October 2014
- Project tender: European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON)
- Project team: OIR, Austria & AIDICO, Spain

Main objectives:

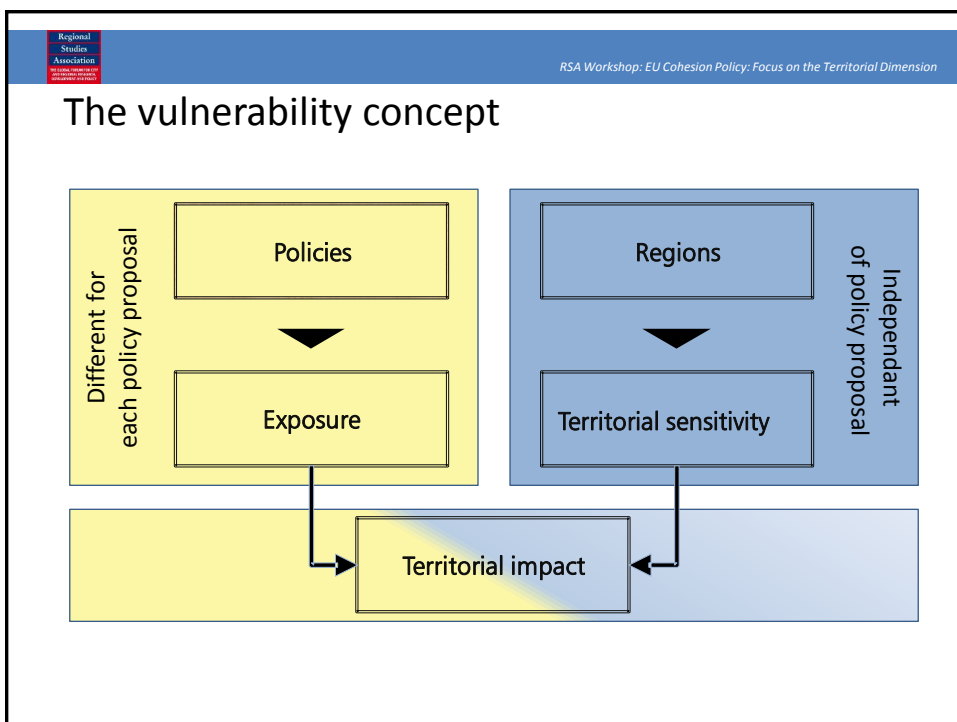
- Development of a practical and user friendly web application for territorial impact assessment (TIA)
- Tool based on the “TIA quick check” developed by the ESPON ARTS project (2010-2011)
- Possibility to identify potential territorial impacts of EU Legislations, Policies and Directives (LPD)

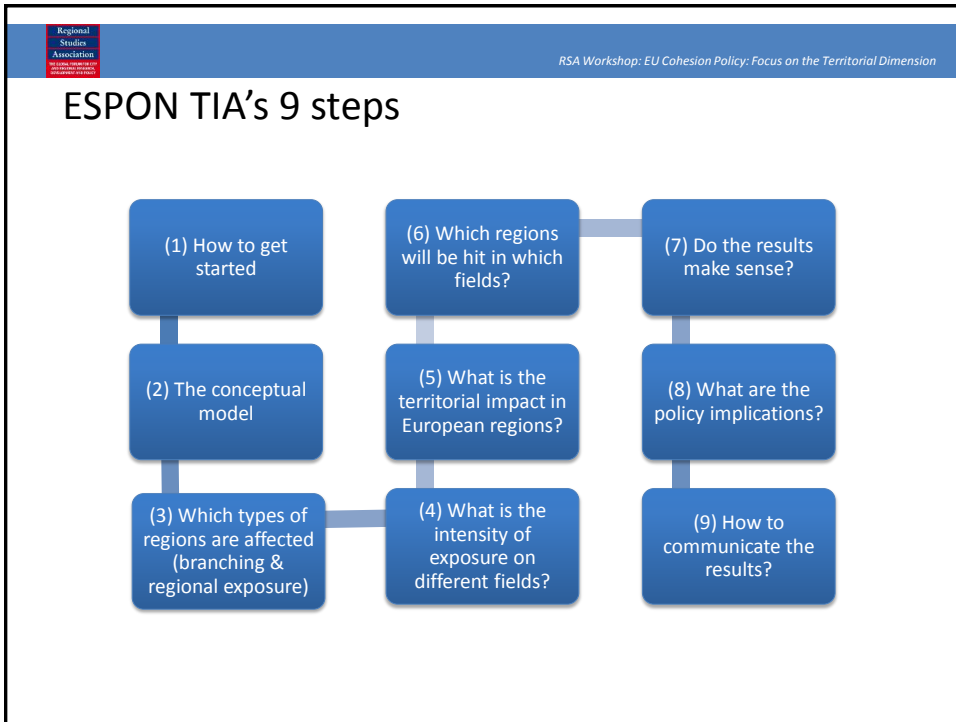


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## Background

- Impact assessment as standard procedure to prepare evidence for political decision-makers
  - Advantages and disadvantages of policy options by assessing their potential impact (see EC, 2009: 4)
- Territorial impact assessment (TIA) enriching this by showing a regional differentiation of the impact of policies
  - Including analyses of different administrative and political levels, types of regions as well as functional areas (see EC, 2013: 2)
- ESPON programme putting forward numerous projects, focusing on ex-post and ex-ante point of views: ESPON TIPTAP (2010), ESPON ARTS (2011), ESPON EATIA (2012), ESPON TIA (2014)





### Focus on step 2: The conceptual model

- Translation of the policy proposal into cause/effect relations describing the intervention logic of the directives
- Depicted as flowcharts
- Direct & indirect effects
- Broken down into thematic fields, measured by indicators

A detailed hand-drawn conceptual model flowchart on a whiteboard. It features a central box labeled 'CONCEPTS' with arrows pointing to various thematic areas: 'Land grabbing', 'Rural development', 'Education', 'Social', 'Administration', and 'Economic'. The flowchart includes numerous handwritten notes and sub-diagrams, such as 'Economic' with 'SGERS' and 'DIVERSIFICATION OF FARMERS', 'Social' with 'AGEING' and 'SOCIAL', and 'Administration' with 'Simplify rules'. It also mentions 'EU with TII/CETA?' and 'Land grabbing - in countries with high agricultural potential'.

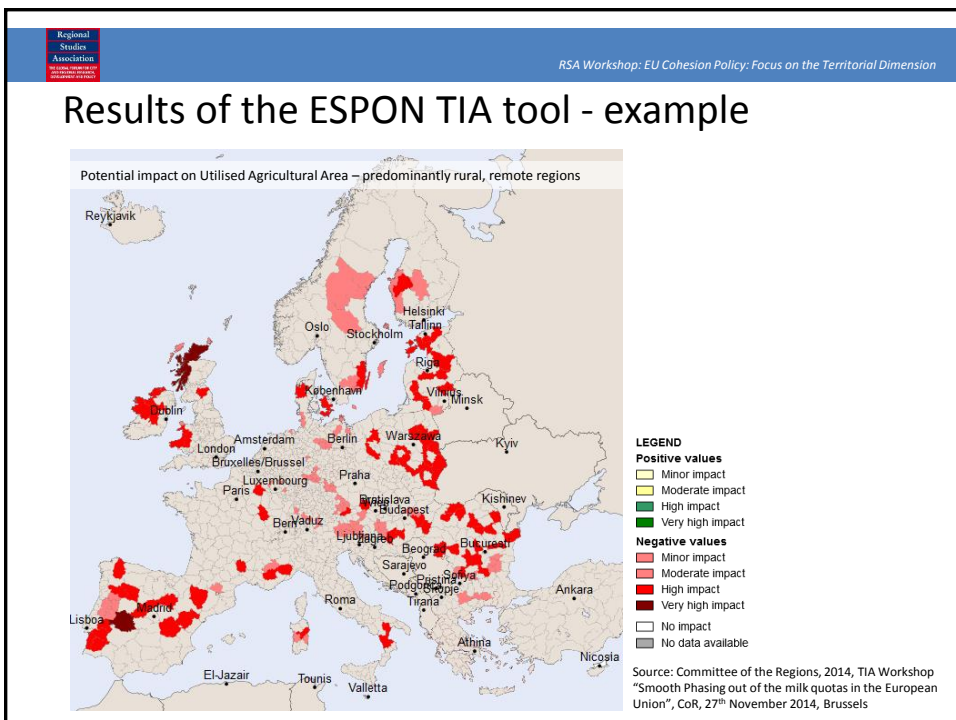
A photograph showing a group of people, likely workshop participants, gathered around a table. They appear to be engaged in a discussion or collaborative work, with some looking at documents or a screen.

Source: Committee of the Regions, 2014, TIA Workshop "Smooth Phasing out of the milk quotas in the European Union", CoR, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014, Brussels

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## Results of the ESPON TIA tool

- Judgments about the potential impact of EU policy in different thematic fields for a range of indicators → Feed into the web-based tool
- Based on the different sensitivity of regions, expert judgments are translated into maps showing the territorial impact of EU policy on NUTS3 level
- Maps can serve as starting point for further discussion on impact of EU policy on regions
- Combining statistics with interactive elements and facilitating an iterative process → fostering multi-level governance and decision making



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## Advantages of the tool

- Database with a wide range of indicators at NUTS3 level for all EU28 MS.
- Possibility to upload additional indicators and types of regions
- Assessment not only based on a statistical model but also considers the input of stakeholders as equally important
- Result of the tool is more than just one map of territorial impact; it is also a process and a discussion of data and coherences

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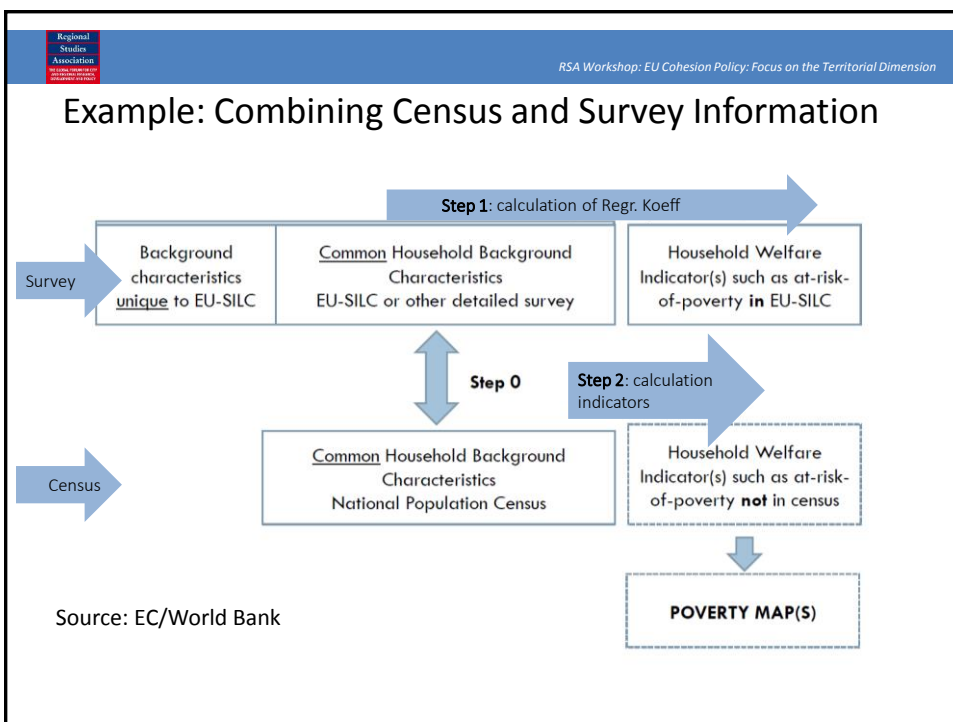
## Need to deepen the territorial dimension

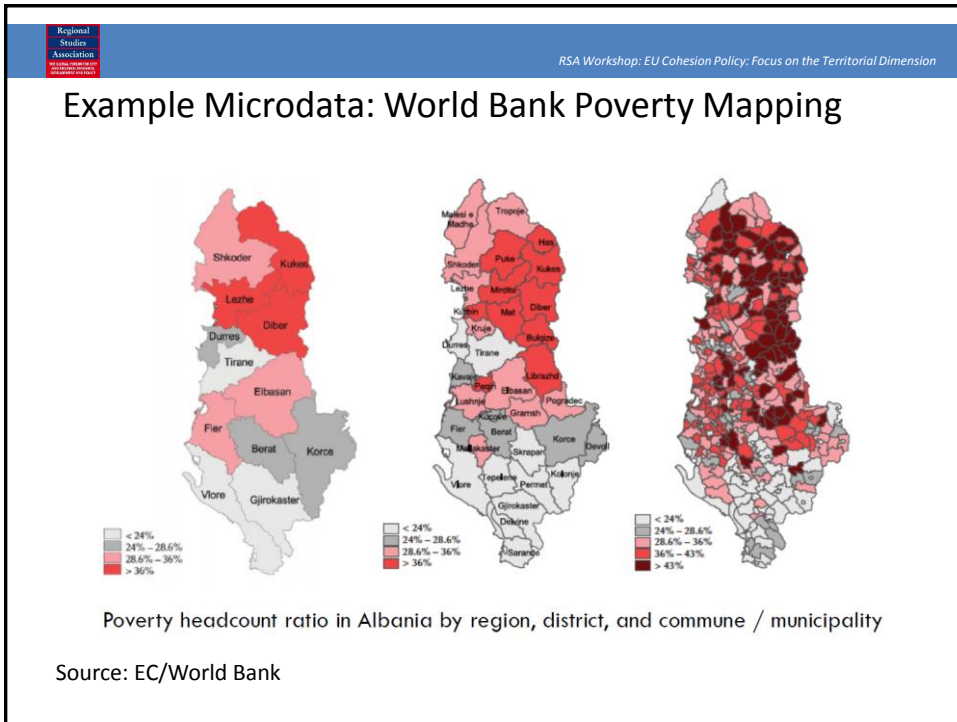
- Strategies needed for balanced regional development call for a better understanding of different geographical regions
- General trend of higher divergence within the Member States
- Regional challenges need analysis at NUTS 2, NUTS 3 or even LAU level
- Lack of disaggregated data: role of ESPON in the further development of TIA by providing the relevant disaggregated data

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## data at the subnational level

- Data available at the subnational level improved over the last few years (Eurostat, DG Regio, Joint Research Centre, ESPON, OECD)
- Need for new methods and structures for data collection and small area estimation
- ESPON TIA approach of combining and critically reviewing existing data with regional expertise can serve as positive example
- Tap on regional knowledge when “producing” datasets
- In return, TIA will benefit from a further breaking down of the analysis to lower territorial levels, which will foster integrated place-based programmes and projects.





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### Getting started ...

<http://tiatool.espon.eu/tia/>

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## Sources

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