



# Beyond NORBA

Conclusions, Closing remarks

ESPON NORBA final conference in Jurmala,  
Latvia

ESPON 2013 Programme, Priority 4



## Duration and activities

- Official start: February 2010
- Last event: August 30-31, 2012
- Project team: ECPs of Estonia, Finland (**Lead Partner**), Iceland, Latvia, Norway, Sweden (Denmark and Lithuania followed closely)
- Main aim: “..facilitate transnational dialogues on spatial planning between policy makers and practitioners, scientists and young academics and students in the Nordic-Baltic countries”
- Actual events:
  - Two conferences bringing together policy-makers, practitioners and researchers (Stockholm February 2011, Jurmala August 2012)
  - A seminar for researchers (Oslo March 2012 with RSA-Nordic)
  - A student seminar (Roskilde May 2011 within Nordic Geographers Meeting)

## Conclusions

- Overview of activities, highlights, experiences and main conclusions you will find in the NORBA Final Report to be submitted to ESPON (draft) September 28 this year
- One major conclusion – supported by ESPON - is that the dialogue and cooperation is worth continuing, based on the lessons learned from NORBA and other ESPON Transnational Activity projects.
- Therefore in February this years the project ENECON was launched (ESPON Evidence in a North European Context)

## ENECON: ESPON Evidence in a North European Context

The ESPON Contact Points from Norway, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Denmark:

- Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Oslo  
(Lead Partner)
- University of Eastern Finland/Karelian Institute, Joensuu
- University of Akureyri, Akureyri
- Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm
- University of Tartu, Tartu
- State Regional Development Agency, Riga
- Research Institute of Territorial Planning of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Vilnius
- Danish Centre for Spatial Planning, Aalborg

## ENECON Territorial context, aim and target groups

### Territorial context and perspective:

- A North European *macro-regional* perspective, primarily focusing the Nordic and Baltic area
- Addressing challenges and opportunities emanating from common northern location and neighbouring relations (go beyond the northern dimension)

### Project aims (interrelated):

- Make clear the significance of a European perspective on territorial development and cohesion
- Facilitate the use and capitalization of ESPON-evidence (results)
- Promote a transnational cooperation approach to territorial analysis, policies and planning in a *macro-regional* context.

### Primary target groups:

- Policy-makers, professional planners and practitioners
- Scientists and young academics and students
- Relevant actors from other northern/neighbouring countries

## ENECON Implementation strategy (threefold)

- Facilitate i) top-down transfer of European concepts/ perspectives and ESPON-evidence/insights (i.e. *downloading*)
- Facilitate ii) bottom-up transfer of national/regional concepts/perspectives and evidence/insights, including ideas and interests (i.e. *uploading*)
- Facilitate iii) horizontal transmission of national/regional concepts/perspectives and evidence/insights among nations/regions (i.e. *cross-loading*)

## ENECON Implementation strategy (measures)

- A comprehensive “challenge-based” macro-regional conference (*end-conference*) capitalizing from insights related to thematic issues and problem-areas identified during ENECON (and previous/parallel ESPON TNA) implementation
- An “*ESPON meets the Arctic*” conference focusing specific challenges related to northern/Arctic location and external/neighbouring relations
- Two sets of small-scale/flexible thematic workshops:
  - one focusing academic teaching and tutoring at postgraduate level, doctoral and master’s courses etc.
  - one focusing, respectively; a) conceptual and operational/practical challenges related to the objective of “sustainable regional development”, and b) different conditions and impacts regarding various scales of spatial governance and planning practices – targeting planning academics and practitioners)
- A series of publications based on each main event/activity, and a final publication – including a brief comparative overview of relevant national training/teaching activities
- Teaching material (thematic lectures for free distribution)
- Other/current activities: Project website, blunder-checks, feedback to the ESPON MC twice a year on national activities and national networks

## ENECON: Three upcoming events:

- Post-graduate workshop in Joensuu on ESPON knowledge, October 19 2012, open to students from all partner countries
- Thematic workshop in Stockholm, November 15-16 2012, addressing Sustainable development concept applied at regional level
- Conference on The Territorial Impact of Climate Change, Akureyri, August 22-23 2013, in cooperation with Northern Research Forum (back-to-back and partly overlapping with the PLANNORD Symposium in Reykjavik August 23-24)



# THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

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Zane Leščinska (ECP Latvia)

Annti Roose (ECP Estonia)

Special thanks to all:

Speakers

Panelists

Chairs