

**COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**  
**– DIRECTORATE E –**  
**Horizontal Policies and Networks**



**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**ASSESSMENT ON TERRITORIAL IMPACTS**

**Submitted by Michael Schneider (DE/EPP)**

**Michael Schneider** is the rapporteur for the CoR own initiative opinion on *Assessment on territorial impacts*. This opinion will discuss the European Commission's Staff Working Document on **Assessing territorial impacts: operational guidance on how to assess regional and local impacts within the Commission Impact Assessment system, SWD (2013) 3 final**. This questionnaire identifies important issues for the Committee of the Regions and is designed to assist in the drafting of the own initiative opinion on the assessment of territorial impacts.

Please complete and submit by **20 March 2013**. If you are member of the Subsidiarity Monitoring Network you can upload the completed questionnaire directly onto the Subsidiarity Monitoring Network website (<http://subsidiarity.cor.europa.eu> – remember to log in). Alternatively and in case you are not member of the Network, you can send it by email to [subsidiarity@cor.europa.eu](mailto:subsidiarity@cor.europa.eu).

<b>Name of Authority:</b>	Marshal's Office of Zachodniopomorskie region
<b>Contact person:</b>	Jacek Baraniecki
<b>Contact details (phone, email):</b>	004891 4667130
<b>Member of</b>	

*Privacy Statement: The follow-up to your contribution requires that your personal data (name, contact details, etc.) be processed in a file. All the answers to the questions are voluntary. Your replies will be kept for a period of five years after the reception of the questionnaire. Should you require further information or wish to exercise your rights under Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 (e.g. to access, rectify, or delete your data), please contact the data controller (Head of Unit E2) at [subsidiarity@cor.europa.eu](mailto:subsidiarity@cor.europa.eu).*

*If necessary, you can also contact the CoR Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@cor.europa.eu](mailto:data.protection@cor.europa.eu)). You have the right of recourse to the European Data Protection Supervisor at any time ([www.edps.europa.eu](http://www.edps.europa.eu)). Please note that the questionnaire with your contribution and your contact details will be published online. Your questionnaire might be transmitted to CoR Rapporteurs and other EU institutions for information. If you do not wish so, please inform us accordingly.*

## QUESTIONS

1. The Staff Working Document states that: *"the guidance provided here also responds to a request from the Member States, expressed in the debate following the 2008 Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion and under the Polish EU Presidency in 2011 as part of the Territorial Agenda process"*.

**a) Do you consider that the document published by the European Commission meets the expectations and the ideas expressed in the political debate raised after the publication of the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion in 2008? Do you believe there is a need for greater follow-up to this debate on territorial cohesion and if yes, could you give some concrete examples?**

The published document adequately addresses the problems outlined in the 2008 Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion. At the same time, it specifies in more detail – territorially speaking – the general guidelines for assessing the impact of the planned regulations and interventions set out in the document entitled Impact Assessment Guidelines (SEC 2009 (92)). It would appear that no further steps need to be taken at political level.

2. In order to better coordinate the territorial impact of sectoral EU policies, there needs to be a better understanding and measurement of those impacts. The Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion already focused on this point, stating that "improving territorial cohesion implies better coordination between sectoral and territorial policies and improved coherence between territorial interventions".

**b) Do you believe that the European Commission's proposal can be an effective instrument able to improve coordination between EU sectoral policies having territorial impacts? In your view what else should/could be done?**

The European Commission's proposal should be seen as a step in the right direction. At operational level, these proposals should be specified in more detail and implemented by:

- i) preparing a manual containing examples of specific, typical territorial impact assessments, along with examples of best practices;
- ii) establishing a territorial impact assessment cooperation platform, which would include regional representatives and operate mainly in an internet environment;
- iii) striving to formulate universal, quantifiable and standardised criteria for identifying highly asymmetric territorial impacts.

3. The Staff Working Document provides operational and methodological guidance on how to answer a range of questions regarding the potential territorial impact of a given proposal. Nevertheless, it underlines that assessing territorial impacts is not mandatory, and states that it is just a tool that can be helpful to enhance the policy coherence of some policy proposals.

**c) Do you consider that territorial impact assessments should be made compulsory for those sectoral policies having a territorial impact? If yes, in your opinion for which sectoral policies should the assessment of territorial impacts be made mandatory?**

It is reasonable to make territorial impact assessments compulsory for all sectoral policies, however, the scope and detail of each assessment should be dependent on the nature of the given issue and the availability of data. The algorithm set out in the above-mentioned Commission document entitled *Assessing territorial impacts* represents a good example of how to proceed.

4. The Staff Working Document states that a territorial impact assessment should be carried out when the proposal explicitly focuses on specific territories or when the proposal risks of having a large asymmetric territorial impact (outlier impact). It also highlights different methods that can be used to assess territorial impacts. In particular, it mentions qualitative and quantitative analysis. These tools and methodologies should be used by the different Directorates-General at the European Commission when preparing territorial impact assessments for proposals they are responsible for.

**d) Do you consider the data, methodology and tools proposed for supporting territorial impact assessments (such as ESPON ARTS<sup>1</sup> or QUICKScan) are sufficient to measure the potential territorial impacts a given proposal could have in your region? Would you propose any other type of tools/methodology?**

**e) Do you believe the complexity of territorial impact assessments require them to be carried out by a single specialised entity (one-stop shop) or do you prefer the idea of a decentralised system as proposed in the Staff Working Document?**

d) The methodology outlined in the annex to the document represents a value in itself as far as the document is concerned and will certainly be able to help regions assess territorial impact. It should not, however, be considered to be a closed chapter. The regions need to be able to develop and apply their own tools and to make use of other e.g. local sources of data depending on the context of the given issue.

e) A decentralised system is by far the best approach as only this type of approach will make it possible to:

- i) stimulate regional activity and initiatives which can often lead to the development of new solutions in this area;

<sup>1</sup>

[http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_AppliedResearch/arts.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/arts.html).

- |  |
|--|
| ii) identify and take account of problems specific to a given locality;<br>iii) ensure that the territorial impact assessment process is time efficient. |
|--|

5. Multilevel Governance and partnerships are key factors in the implementation of territorial cohesion, focussing on strengthening a place-based approach. The Committee of the Regions has already asked for the assessment of specific territorial impacts and recalls the potential role<sup>2</sup> of the CoR in assisting the European Commission in the process of Impact Assessment as well as to be associated to some of the EC's initiatives towards improvements in the capacity building of regional and local authorities<sup>3</sup>.

<b>f) What should the specific measures providing for the involvement of local and regional authorities be in these exercises?</b>
--

<b>g) What role do you see for the Committee of the Regions in this context?</b>
--

f) + g) The Committee of the Regions' work should ensure the involvement at political and legislative level of local and regional authorities in processes increasing the role of territorial impact.
---

6. The Committee of the Regions has already asked for territorial cohesion to be strengthened in relation to the EU2020 Strategy. One possibility for this could be not to confine the assessment of territorial impacts to legislative proposals and to extend them to other documents, such as key planning documents, such as the Annual Growth Survey.

<b>h) Do you think there should be a territorial dimension of the EU2020 policy cycle?</b>
--

<b>i) Do you consider the Annual Growth Survey (as a key planning document for the launch of the annual EU2020 policy cycle) should contain a territorial impact assessment?</b>
--

<b>j) In your opinion, should Territorial Impact Assessments also be carried out at Member State level?</b>
---

h) Without a doubt - YES.
---------------------------

i) The territorial dimension is absolutely vital for these types of surveys. We suggest, however, including the territorial dimension based on two-three yearly cycles rather than on an annual cycle.
--

j) It would be advisable to carry out territorial impact assessments at Member State level in light of the harmonisation between EU and national level policies.
--

---

<sup>2</sup> See section 5.5 of the EC's Staff Working Document: "Under the Protocol on Cooperation between the Commission and the Committee of the Regions (2012) the Commission services may ask for support from the Committee in preparing its assessment.

<sup>3</sup> CdR 353/2010, CoR Opinion on Smart Regulation.