

23/01/19  
DIST  
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SEMINAR

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# Taking stock of DIST engagement within the ESPON. Past, present and future

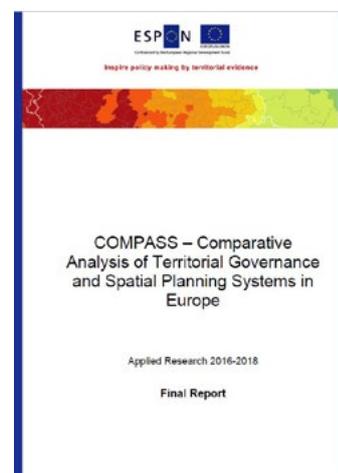
## ABSTRACT

Since 2001, the European Territorial Observation Network (ESPON – [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)) aims at reinforcing the effectiveness of EU Cohesion Policy as well as of national and regional territorial development policies, through the production, dissemination and promotion of territorial evidence covering the entire territory of the European Union. To this end, it issues competitive research calls for two categories of research projects, each characterised by its own specific aims and goals.

- Applied Research projects (AR) contribute to the development and consolidation of a joint European territorial and analytical evidence base. They focus on key priorities for territorial development, such as priority themes of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Investment Plan for Europe, the Cohesion Policy and the Territorial Agenda 2020.
- Targeted Analyses (TA) aims at transferring knowledge, sharing experience and facilitating the use of European territorial evidence rooted in real place-based policy development processes. They do so by providing a European perspective for limited groups of stakeholders and are related to their policy contexts.

DIST participates to ESPON since its inception, and its involvement has been growing constantly until today. The Seminar will give account of this activity, devoting particular attention to the present programming period (2014-2020). More in detail, the following projects will be touched upon:

- AR ESPON COMPASS (2016-2018) ([www.espon.eu/planning-systems](http://www.espon.eu/planning-systems)), providing a comparative report on the changes in the territorial governance and spatial planning systems in Europe from 2000 to 2016, unfolding the relationship between EU policies and spatial planning.
- AR ESPON SUPER (2019-2020), aiming at producing evidence and recommendations that guide policy makers to enable the promotion of sustainable land use and to show how land-take and urban sprawl can be avoided and reduced.
- TA ESPON ReSSI (2016-2017) (<https://www.espon.eu/ressi>), supporting a number of regional and local authorities in the promotion of inclusive economic development in the context of evolving landscapes of territorial governance and spatial planning.
- TA ESPON URRUC (2018-2019) (<https://www.espon.eu/URRUC>), favouring the enhancement of urban-rural connectivity across Europe and especially in a selected number of Non-metropolitan regions.



## BIOGRAPHY

Giancarlo Cotella is Associate Professor at Politecnico di Torino. His research focuses on the international comparison of territorial governance and spatial planning systems, and in particular on the mutual Europeanization influences embedding the European Union and the Member States in this field. In recent years, he took part to several international research projects on similar matters, among which ESPON SUPER, ESPON URRUC, ESPON COMPASS, ESPON ReSSI, ESPON TANGO, ESPON FOCI, ESPON Smart-Ist, ESPON 2.3.2 Governance, ESPON 2.3.1 ESDP, Milesecure-2050 and LisGo). He has been teaching at various universities and institutions in Europe and beyond, and actively participates to the activities of the Association of European Schools of Planning since 2005.

Wednesday

23/01/2019

h. 13,00 - 14,00

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