

## ***Making the case for participatory Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) – fostering regional and local involvement in the drafting process of EU directives***

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### **Abstract**

Public policies in a range of sectors can have direct and indirect impacts which extend beyond the field and issues that they are primarily designed to address. These impacts can include intentional or unintentional spatial or territorial impacts that may be perceived as having a positive or negative effect on particular places. Anticipated or unanticipated territorial impacts of public policy can occur at a variety of geographical scales, including the global, continental, national, regional and local levels. In Europe, for example, such effects have been observed in relation to EU Directives and policies. This paper explores this issue and reports on ongoing work on devising and testing a participative territorial impact assessment (TIA) methodology. This is being conducted as part of a European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON) project and it is hoped may result in a tool that can facilitate the contribution of sub-national levels (regional and local) to the drafting process of EU Directives. The project is being conducted by the universities of Liverpool, Ljubljana, Porto and Delft, with the ESPON coordination unit and the national ministries responsible for spatial planning in the UK, Slovenia and Portugal being involved as stakeholders.

**Keywords:** European Spatial planning; Territorial Impact Assessment; Multi-level governance