The CoR planned to issue an opinion on the Aviation Strategy and organised a Territorial Impact Assessment workshop to support the drafting of this opinion.

The experts decided that the assessment will be applied to all European regions and not to some specific types of regions since it will have an impact on the EU as a whole. The conceptual model, developed by the participants of the workshop, resulted in the selection of six indicators that should be capable to measure some of the impacts. For other impacts, such as noise created by RPAS and number of accidents involving RPAS, no indicators were available. One of the indicators used was "Entrepreneurship (share of private enterprises)". The experts judged that the effects of the Aviation Strategy on this indicator should be weakly advantageous. The sensitivity of the regions showed a predominantly moderate impact on the number of private enterprises throughout the European Union, with high impact in certain regions of Sweden, the UK, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria and across the whole of Estonia.

In general, the experts recommended that the best approach would be legislation proposed by the EU, transposed into the national law, with EU certificates issued by Member States. This approach would lead to common rules and technical specifications, making it easier for producers of RPAS to sell their products in all EU states without having to adapt them for each individual MS. In addition, the rules regulating the rules of RPAS should depend on what the technology is being used for. For example, safety requirements are not the same when a RPAS flies over the sea for surveillance or in urban areas to deliver parcels.

Figure 5 Map showing the estimated impact on "Entrepreneurship (share of private enterprises)"
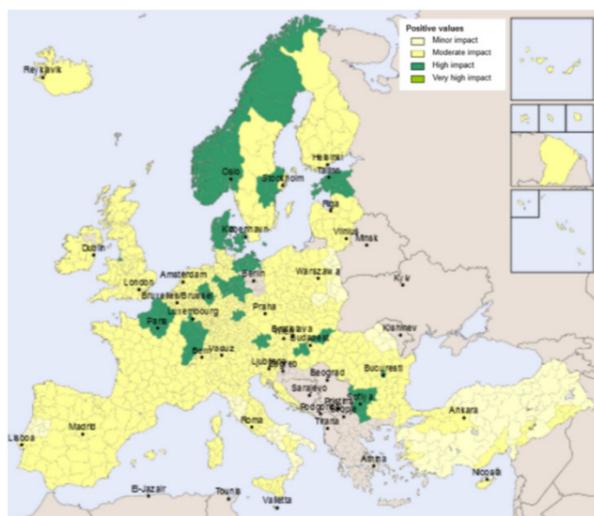

Conclusion

The ESPON TIA webtool combines expert knowledge gathered in a workshop with a set of statistical data describing the characteristics of regions. The users are guided through the different steps of the impact analysis and receive assistance and guidance for preparing a territorial impact analysis.

Interested in using the webtool in your own TIA workshop? The TIA tool provides material to prepare your workshop, such as a template for an agenda, a presentation explaining the methodology and some "rules of the game" indicating what is expected from the participants. More details on how to use the ESPON TIA tool can be found in the documents on the main page of the tool. Finally, to receive access to the tool, please contact the ESPON EGTC (info@espon.eu).

Please be aware, however, that the maps resulting from the TIA tool are the result of a one day workshop. The exposure is based on the expert judgement of the participants and the sensitivity of regions is described by proxy indicators. This means that the TIA webtool is a very general model that can help to steer the discussion but it cannot replace a thorough assessment of relevant and concrete territorial effects of a policy proposal.

The TIA Webtool is available at: http://tiatool.espon.eu

For more information watch the TIA Tool video. You can find it on the Tools' Website or the ESPON Youtube channel.

ESPON
EUROPEAN UNION
Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire policy making by territorial evidence

Territorial Impact Assessment Tool

A quick check to assess the territorial impacts of policies

Policies and legislations have impacts. These impacts can be positive or negative. They are often unintended or even unknown and they can be uneven across different territories. Not knowing these impacts and their distribution can reduce support for the policy and lead to delays in implementation.

There is a long standing demand, from policymakers and practitioners involved in territorial development to run quick, easy-to-use processes to provide a first indication of territorial impacts that might be unanticipated and undesirable. This should lead to support efforts to minimize unforeseen negative policy outcomes and maximise territorial potentials.

Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) is a method to predict the territorial effects of policies and provide useful insights for both territorial and sector policy-making. TIA is being strongly supported by the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions. The question is: How can one carry out a territorial impact assessment?

Over the years, ESPON has been engaged in developing a methodology to carry out a first quick check on possible territorial impacts. To support the application of this quick check a simple and practical online tool has been developed. The TIA webtool allows the user to make a 'quick and dirty' ex-ante analysis of the potential impact of EU legislation, policies and directives on the development of regions. The tool is developed to be used in a workshop setting to help the moderator of the workshop to steer an expert discussion on discovering the territorial effects of a policy.

How the TIA Quick Check Works

The TIA quick check methodology used by the TIA webtool is based on the vulnerability concept developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). For the TIA quick check this means that the effects deriving from a particular policy measure (exposure) are combined with the characteristics of a region (territorial sensitivity) to produce potential territorial impacts.

The exposure (figure 2, on the left) describes the intensity by which EU directives and policies potentially affect European territory. The territorial sensitivity (figure 2, on the right) describes how single regions are subject to impacts due to their socio-economic and geographical characteristics. The territorial impact is the final likely effect of a given EU policy combining the exposure and regional sensitivity.
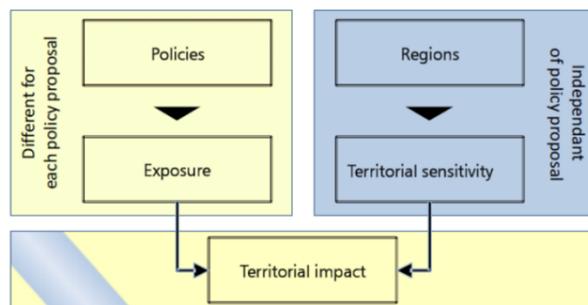
Figure 1 Screenshot TIA Tool

Committee of the Regions
"Member States and the European Union need to implement Territorial Impact Assessments as a standard practice in the policy-making process and when programming and implementing sectoral investments" (p.10)

Tools are needed "to assess these impacts in a quick, efficient and objective manner. [...] a good example of such a tool is the ESPON [TIA] Quick Scan." (p. 11)

Reference: Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions — Territorial Vision 2050: what future? OJ C 51, 10.2.2016, p. 8–13.

Figure 2 The principle of the vulnerability concept

How to use the TIA Tool

The ESPON TIA tool is developed to help steer an expert discussion in a workshop setting and calculate the likely effects of a given EU policy using the vulnerability concept. During the workshop the experts, guided by a moderator, will investigate and discuss possible territorial effects of an EU policy proposal. The moderator uses the tool to combine the expert knowledge, gathered in the workshop, with statistical data describing the characteristics and sensitivity of the regions.

To optimally assist the moderator in guiding the workshop and assessing the territorial impacts of a concrete EU policy, the webtool is structured according to the nine steps of the quick check methodology (figure 3).

Step 1 - How to get started
A moderator's guide provides several supporting hints and documents for the moderator and organizer to prepare the workshop. Important factors for a successful workshop are the design of the workshop setting and the group of experts invited to discuss the territorial impact of the EU policy.

Step 2 - The conceptual model
The participants of the workshop together create a conceptual model or systemic picture. This is done via a brainstorming exercise where everybody contributes to translating the text of the policy proposal into cause-effect relations. The participants draw as well causal links between all the effects deriving from the policy proposal (exposure in the vulnerability concept) and the receptive capacity of a region (sensitivity in the vulnerability concept).

Step 3 - Which types of regions are affected?
By analysing the systemic picture the participants can detect if different types of regions might show diverse potential effects in case the policy proposal is implemented. A policy proposal may affect only particular regions (e.g. coastal regions or regions having particular productions or facilities like nuclear power plants) or different types of regions could be affected in different ways. The webtool offers a number of

Figure 3 The nine steps of the TIA Tool

typologies, i.e. types of NUTS3 regions, from which one can choose. But it is also possible to add a new typology of regions.

Step 4 - What is the intensity of exposure on different fields?
The conceptual model is also used to translate the exposure fields identified in the systemic picture into a set of indicators. The webtool offers a large set of territorial indicators grouped in the thematic fields of economy, society, environment and governance from which one can choose. But it is also possible to upload additional indicators. After selecting the relevant indicators one has to estimate, for each type of regions and indicator, if the effect is positive or negative (advantageous or disadvantageous effect) and if the intensity of the effect is strong, weak or minor.

Step 5 - What is the territorial impact in European regions?
The webtool calculates the potential territorial impact for each region and for each indicator. This results in a diagram for each indicator and each type of region presenting the allocation of the impact: What percentage of the regions will face a high, a moderate, and a minor impact?

Step 6 - Which regions will be hit in which fields?
Maps show how the policy proposal would affect different territories, according to the group assessment. They depict the territorial impact for each type of region and for each indicator. The maps can also be shown side by side to compare according to different types of regions and/or indicators.

Step 7 - Do the results make sense?
The resulting maps showing the territorial impact of a certain policy are among other things based on the

judgement of the experts participating in the workshop. This expert judgement is not an objective fact but an inter-subjective judgement. Therefore the webtool offers the possibility to compare different scenarios of the expert judgement by offering the possibility to add the information to another session and to make adjustments.

Step 8 - What are the policy recommendations?
Using the results of the TIA quick check one can develop policy recommendations. These policy recommendations should take into account all relevant steps, from the conceptual model, the expert judgements and the estimated territorial impact as shown in the maps. Policy recommendations could address a possible disproportionately large impact on certain areas, regions or Member State and explain what these impacts are and why they are expected to occur. In addition, they could give suggestions for adjusting the policy for the entire Union or for some parts, or for exempting some parts of the Union from this policy.

Step 9 - How to communicate the results?
A report including all relevant results such as graphs, maps and notes can support communicating the results of the TIA to the relevant audience. The webtool offers a template for structuring such a report.

Practical examples in which the TIA tool has been used

Assessing the territorial impacts of the New Skills Agenda for Europe
The European Commission is preparing to launch the New Skills Agenda for Europe to invite all Member States and stakeholders to combine their efforts and focus action on three main priorities: 1. higher and more relevant skills; 2. better use of existing skills and qualifications; and 3. more sound understanding of skills needs and trends.

The Committee of the Regions organised an Urban Impact Assessment workshop to gather cities` views and to assess the potential effects of the New Skills Agenda on the EU's urban areas. In this case urban regions at NUTS3 level were already identified as those regions that will be most affected by this agenda (step 3). As a consequence, a representative sample of cities were invited representing different types of cities, including as well second tier metro regions and smaller metro regions and from different European member states.

Based on the conceptual model, developed by the participants of the workshop, nine indicators were discussed and selected as being able to measure possible impacts. One of these indicators was "young people not in employment, education or training from 15 to 24 years of age". The experts have judged that the effects of the New Skills Agenda for Europe on this indicator should be very positive. The sensitivity of the urban regions showed that there would be a wide range of effects on EU urban areas, from a minor decrease in young people not in training or employment in cities in Germany, to a very significant decrease in some urban regions in Spain, Croatia, Italy, Romania and Bulgaria.

In addition, city representatives emphasised that cities have direct knowledge and experience and they should be consulted on this and they should be able to share good practices and tools for developing local partnerships. Therefore the New Skills Agenda should reach the local level and not remain at Member State level as happened with the Youth Guarantee.

Figure 4 Map showing the estimated impact on "Young people not in employment, education or training from 15 to 24 years of age"

Assessing the territorial impacts of the Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems
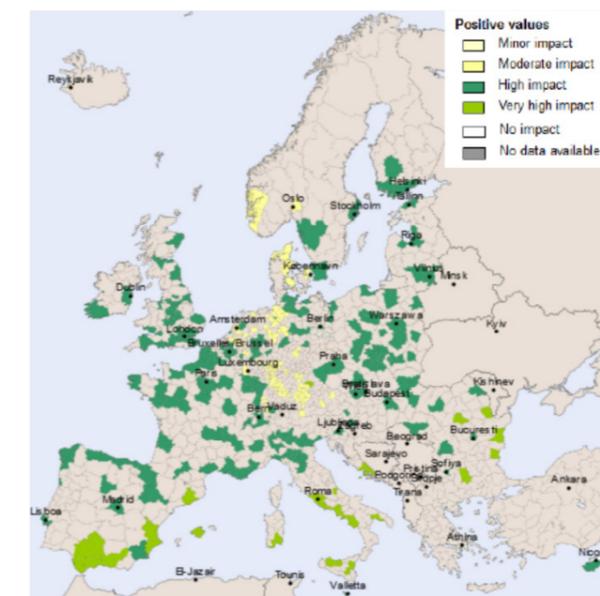Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) are entering the civil market, opening up a promising new chapter in the history of aviation. Civil drones offer huge potential for developing innovative applications in a wide variety of sectors that benefit European society, creating jobs and carrying out useful tasks. But the increase of civil drones also poses many challenges for local and regional authorities, particularly with regard to the safety of air traffic, security, personal privacy, and the licensing of their use. The European Commission has developed a strategy to support the progressive development of the RPAS market in Europe, and in addition to address concerns about safety, security, privacy, liability and/or public acceptance.