



Europe in the World
Territorial evidence and visions, ESPON Project
3.4.1, results by autumn 2007

Pr. Claude Grasland

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The establishment of ESPON (European Spatial Planning Observation Network), intended to support the development of policies of scientific community in the European territorial growth field. Moreover, it aims to increase the knowledge related to territorial structures, tendencies, prospects and policy effects in the new enlarged Europe. The research concerns 29 European countries: 27 member states of the Union, Norway and Switzerland.

The book titled: 'EUROPE IN THE WORLD - Territorial Evidence and Visions' presents the results of ESPON in the fall 2007. With this, author Professor Claude Grasland, seeks to inform the European "policy planners", the professionals and researchers on the experiences that resulted from the application of ESPON.

The book underlines that internal and foreign policy of the Union, constitute independent departments of the political agenda of EU. The subjects are developed without extensive details with regard to the territorial structure and implications. It is stressed that the acceleration of globalisation and the new emerging markets, will have huge impact on cities and regions. Nevertheless, the enlargement of Union has established new adjacencies that need attention.

In the book, it is also stressed that the future decisions that will be taken from the Union, will be supposed to take into consideration the world framework that is created. The cities and the regions should be adapted continuously in the permanently changing world conditions, in order to perceive the opportunities for growth, as well as their weaknesses.

Finally, as it is also reported in the preface of book, this is the role of ESPON: Contribute in the comprehension of role and the place of Europe worldwide, focusing in the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threads of every city or region in question.

Book Review by Roido Mitoula, Harokopio University of Athens