



EUROPEAN UNION

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Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

## PRE-EVENT BRIEF

# ESPON Peer Learning Workshop: How to reach no net land take by 2050?

Virtual

9th February 2022, 09:30-13:15 (CET)



## Introduction



Managing the rate of urbanisation, its trajectories, and its consequences have a central role in achieving sustainability for the future of the planet. Rapid urbanisation generally outruns the provision of services and a decline of environmental quality ensues. One of the main objectives to reach long-term sustainability is to densify within already-built urban structures without hampering the environmental value and quality of its surroundings, and ultimately halting the further urbanisation of green areas (ESPON, 2020a).

This ESPON event will focus on how Luxembourg, as part of the Greater Region, can reach the objective of “[No net land take](#)” by 2050 (EC, 2016). The ongoing revision of their Master Programme for Spatial Planning will provide a strategic section with a horizon of 2035 and a long-term vision for 2050 (Eco-century project, 2021). At the moment, it is debated whether such a long-term objective on land take could be included and, if so, whether it could be broken down to the municipal level. Related to this, the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research is currently preparing a report on land take in Luxembourg. It will provide an analysis of the drivers of land take in Luxembourg and offer data on past and current patterns. In addition, the Department of Spatial Planning of the Ministry of Energy and Spatial Planning has launched an urban-architectural and landscape consultation called [Luxembourg in Transition](#). It aims at gathering strategic scenarios and developing pilot projects for the transition to a zero-carbon economy and society, in which the question of land take plays an important role. The results of both processes will inform the revision of the Master Programme.

The event will address the following policy questions:

- What are the experiences of other countries or regions with quantitative targets for land take?
- How does the situation in Luxembourg compare with that of other European countries?
- Which (spatial) strategies, instruments, and mechanisms (financial, fiscal and economic) could be used, at national and local level, to limit and contain land-take?
- How can a no net land take target be combined with the urgent need to build more housing (considering the demand for housing in Luxembourg and rising prices)?

## ESPON evidence

ESPON has recently finalised a study that provides evidence and recommendations on how sustainable land use can be promoted and how unsustainable urbanisation can be avoided or reduced. The ESPON SUPER project provides an overview of land-use changes in Europe since the year 2000 and land-use modelling up to 2050, as well as an overview of over 230 interventions (e.g. strategies, plans, fiscal measures, and investments) and their impacts on urbanisation. Eleven of these were examined as in-depth case studies (ESPON, 2020b). Using this project as a backdrop, this peer-learning session brings together practitioners working on the Luxembourgish spatial planning strategies and their counterparts drawn from SUPER case study areas (i.e. Belgium, Germany, and Netherlands). The intent is to exchange experiences on how to draw up and implement an effective strategy as well as provide tips on how to encourage support from stakeholders.

## Outline of the event

The ESPON Peer Learning Workshop will gather academic and public experts in spatial planning from Luxembourg but also from neighbouring countries (Belgium and France). The event is divided into three main sessions. After a welcome word and an introduction by an EGTC-representative, session 1 will present reflections and findings from recent research regarding urbanisation patterns (SUPER), the reduction of soil sealing through spatial planning, and their implications in land-take policies. The second session will take a dive into the current Luxembourgish spatial planning policy processes and trajectories at different scales of governance. The third session, prior to the conclusion, will bring together representatives from neighbouring regions Wallonia and Flanders. This session will focus on the tools and approaches used in the neighbouring regions in comparison with the Luxembourgish perspectives

## Agenda (Luxembourg Time)

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|--------------------|---|
| <b>9:30-9:45</b>   | <p><b>Welcome and Introduction</b></p> <p>Welcome word by <b>Dr. Marjan van Herwijnen</b> (senior project expert, ESPON)<br/>Introduction by <b>Marie-Josée Vidal</b> (Director-General, Department of Spatial Planning in Luxembourg)</p>  |
| <b>9:45-10:45</b>  | <p><b>Session one: Research reflections on no net land take (15 min each)</b><br/>Moderated by <b>Prof. Luuk Boelens</b> (professor, AMRP-UGhent)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>ESPON-SUPER project: main land use practices in Europe, success and failures</i> by <b>Prof. David Evers</b> (Senior Researcher at the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency)</li> <li>• <i>The ESPON-SUPER project, the NL- and BE-case-studies</i>, by <b>Tristan Claus</b> (PhD researcher, KU Leuven Department of Architecture)</li> <li>• <i>Diminishing soil sealing, a first step to no net land take?</i> by <b>Antoine Décoville</b> (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research)</li> <li>• Followed by questions and discussion</li> </ul> |
| <b>10:45-10:55</b> | <p><b>Short Break</b></p>   |
| <b>10:55-11:55</b> | <p><b>Session two: Practices and experiences at (15min each)</b><br/>Moderated by <b>Tom Goosse</b> (researcher, AMRP-UGent)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How to translate the objective of spatial planning policy to the national level?</i>, by <b>Bob Wealer</b> (Policy Advisor, Department of Spatial Planning in Luxembourg)</li> <li>• <i>The implications at the local governance level</i>, by <b>Eva Gottschalk</b> (Planner, Municipality of Dudelange) (<i>tbc</i>)</li> <li>• Followed by questions and discussion</li> </ul>  |
| <b>11:55-12:05</b> | <p><b>Short Break</b></p>   |
| <b>12:05-13:05</b> | <p><b>Session three: Roundtable with perspectives from neighbouring regions (15 min each)</b><br/>Moderated by <b>Prof. Luuk Boelens</b> (professor, AMRP-UGhent)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Michel Dachelet</b> (Inspector general, Département de l'Aménagement du territoire et de l'Urbanisme, Walloon Region)</li> </ul>  |

- **Rene van der Lecq** (Coordinator/expert Policy innovation, Departement Omgeving, Flemish Region)
- **Bob Wealer** (Policy Advisor, Department of Spatial Planning in Luxembourg)
- Followed by question and discussion

**13:05-13:15**

Conclusion by **Tom Goosse** (researcher, AMRP-UGent)

## References

EC (2016). Future Brief: No net land take by 2050? *Science for Environmental Policy. European Commission*. April 16 Issue 14. ISBN 978-92-79-45739-5

ESPON (2020a). Topic paper – Sustainable development and climate change resilience: ESPON evidences. Published in March 2020. Available online: <https://www.espon.eu/sdg-netherlands>

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Eco-century project (2021). Luxembourg in Transition – Spatial Visions for the zero-carbon and resilient future of the Luxembourg functional region. Le gouvernement du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, Ministère de l'Énergie et de l'Aménagement du territoire. Webpage: <https://luxembourgtransition.lu/en/>



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#### **ESPON 2022**

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