

PREFACE

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This publication issued by the University of Santiago de Compostela is building upon the results of the ESPON applied research project “Spatial Indicators for a ‘Europe 2020 Strategy’ Territorial Analysis” (SIESTA). The project was carried through between June 2011 and April 2013.

The aim of the ESPON SIESTA Project was to provide evidence on the territorial dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy (EU2020S) by identifying opportunities for different types of regions in relation to the targets and flagship initiatives set out in the Strategy.

The SIESTA Project revealed that the EU2020S has an important territorial dimension that should be considered as part of concrete policy actions at EU, national and regional levels to make the EU2020S a success. Europe shall not only recover from the current economic crisis but as well create conditions and exploit territorial opportunities for a smarter, more sustainable and more inclusive growth and creation of jobs.

Using ESPON territorial evidence in policy making will allow policy-makers and stakeholders to learn more about their country, region and city in relation to the policy aims set in the EU2020S. Benchmarking and comparing the situation in relation to other European regions and cities will open an additional perspective that can inspire new ideas for policy decision.

An active engagement on the part of local, regional and national authorities will be essential for the success of the EU2020S. It is the hope that this publication by the University of Santiago de Compostela may contribute to better informed policy development at different geographical levels in Spain as well as across Europe.