



**REGIONS
& CITIES**

**European Week
Brussels 8-11 October 2018**

ESPON BRIDGES

Balanced Regional Development in areas with Geographic Specificities

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EU close to Islands, Mountains and Sparsely populated areas
EWRC Workshop – 10th October 2018



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Territories with geographic specificities :

- are not significantly different from the rest of Europe in social or economic terms;
- generally cannot be described as ‘functional units’;
- are designated at all scales, from the transnational to the sub-municipal.



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Territories with geographic specificities :

- are recognised by all Europeans, trigger dialogues and exchanges;
- share environmental vulnerabilities;
- do not always fit into 'mainstream' models for market regulation and governance.



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9 themes:

1. Innovation
2. Sustainable tourism
3. Public service obligations in transport
4. Social innovation in SGI delivery



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9 themes (continued):

5. Flows of people, flows of workers
6. Flows of income
7. Protected areas
8. Energy production and provision
9. Climate change resilience



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First findings:

- There are limited but significant sets of shared issues;
- Geographically specific territories can function as references areas for soft territorial cooperation;
- Cohesion policy may help regions to address territorial diversity in a more effective and efficient way.