

The Barcelona call for a “Neighbourhood Territorial Prospective Alliance”

The hereby signatories, either researchers (individuals or teams) or bodies dedicated to territorial data and analysis of the wider region Europe + Neighbourhoods, call for a long term common alliance on Neighbourhoods Territorial Prospective.

We assume that:

- the world’s regionalisation and the rising “Neighbourhoods” issue confirm that proximity matters, and that cooperation between neighbouring countries is a major economic, environmental, social, cultural and political stake
- Within this Neighbourhoods issue, the territorial approach is a way to ease functional integration between neighbours, cross-border networks and cooperation, shared action in environmental issues, decentralised cooperation and civil societies support.

But without territorial prospective analysis, no shared vision of our common region can become reality. Some projects have targeted territorial analysis of this vast world region, but methods remain various, data heterogeneous and findings scattered.

A alliance is therefore necessary. It would be a coordinating label for various projects targeting territorial analysis of the wider region, in the long run. The Alliance would meet for needs:

- SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION – Help coordinating the various projects dedicated to integrated territorial geometries and databases of the wider region
- PROSPECTIVE SCENARIOS – Set up long run shared goals, methods and tools between researchers and data providers of the region’s countries so as to produce prospective scenarios of the region’s territories
- LABEL – Ease coordinated projects’ recognition by international funders
- PUBLICATION – Produce a regular online multi-scalar “Neighbourhoods territories prospective” on perceptions and trends; enhance a “Neighbourhoods Territorial Agenda”
- RESEARCH/ACTION COOPERATION – Steer the collaborative work between experts and decision makers on shared spatial tools for decision, and build interfaces with territorial stakeholders.

An alliance’s common “Neighbourhoods Local Data Platform” would have following tasks:

- Collect and update territorial delineation at the wider region scale
- Set up metadata models and sustainable local databases
- Harmonise local data (harmonisation of data definition, of spatial geometries, of temporal discrepancies) and disseminate them according to open data principles.

The alliance would respect two principles:

- presence of research networks and national / international bodies dedicated to territorial data and analysis
- parity between EU and non-EU countries.

Signatories (proposal):

Universities or research units

- Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
- Universitat de Barcelona
- Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
- Université Libre de Bruxelles
- Moscow
- Turkey
- Tunisia
- Morocco, etc.

Research programmes

- ESPON?

Data and study centres

- Anima?
- Plan Bleu?
- Observatoire Méditerranéen de l’Energie?
- Ciheam?
- Avitem? etc.

Projects coordinators

- ITAN
- PEGASO, etc.

National or international institutions

- EEA?

National and international statistics bodies