

Territorial Agenda 2030: Implementation Review



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The Territorial Agenda 2030 'A future for all places' has been adopted in 2020, by the ministers responsible for spatial planning, territorial development and/or territorial cohesion and a wide range of EU institutions.

It is the latest in a long line of documents paving the way for spatial planning and territorial cohesion in Europe. It advocates a broader and more timely understanding of cohesion to underpin policy making in Europe.

Main observations

The Territorial Agenda 2030 aims at '**reducing inequalities between people and between places**' and '**ensuring a future for all places and people in Europe**'. It defines two overarching objectives, a Just Europe and a Green Europe, which have six priorities looking to develop the European territory as a whole along with all its places (see graphic).

The study

This paper provides an introduction to the Territorial Agenda 2030 and the state of play of its application.

As its predecessors, the Territorial Agenda 2030 is **an inter-governmental declaration with no direct legal, financial or institutional implementation instrument**.

The application of the Territorial Agenda 2030 relies on informal multilevel cooperation between member states, sub-national authorities, the European

Commission, the European Parliament, the European Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Investment Bank and other relevant players.

They are asked to apply the Agenda in the context of their regular mandates. How they do this is mainly up of them.

To inspire actions across Europe, **seven pilot actions** were launched with the adoption of the Territorial Agenda 2030, a seventh was added recently:

- A future for lagging areas,

- Understanding how sector policies shape spatial (im)balances,
- Small places matter,
- Cross-border spatial planning,
- Climate action in Alpine Towns,
- Climate change adaptation and resilience through landscape transition,
- Reducing land artificialisation, urban sprawl and soil sealing in cities.



Pilot actions demonstrate how Territorial Agenda objectives can be pursued 'on the ground' at local and regional levels. This involves implementation activities, such as working with local and regional actors on how they can address opportunities and challenges linked to their thematic focus. These activities offer examples of place-based approaches, with consensus-oriented stakeholder dialogues. They implement experimental and/or innovative solutions adapted to local specificities.

To make the Territorial Agenda more visible and disseminate information about its objectives and the pilot projects, **a dedicated website has been set up:**

www.territorialagenda.eu

The Territorial Agenda 2030 envisages a stocktaking in 2024 including a review of the governance system, implementation progress and relevance of the priorities. This review will start during the Spanish EU Presidency in 2023. **The focus is expected to be on governance and implementation.** Despite the rapidly changing world as



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well as multiple unexpected events and crises since adoption of the Territorial Agenda in 2020, the priorities are more relevant than ever.

the Territorial Agenda, not least in the debate on the future of Cohesion Policy.

Conclusions and policy recommendations

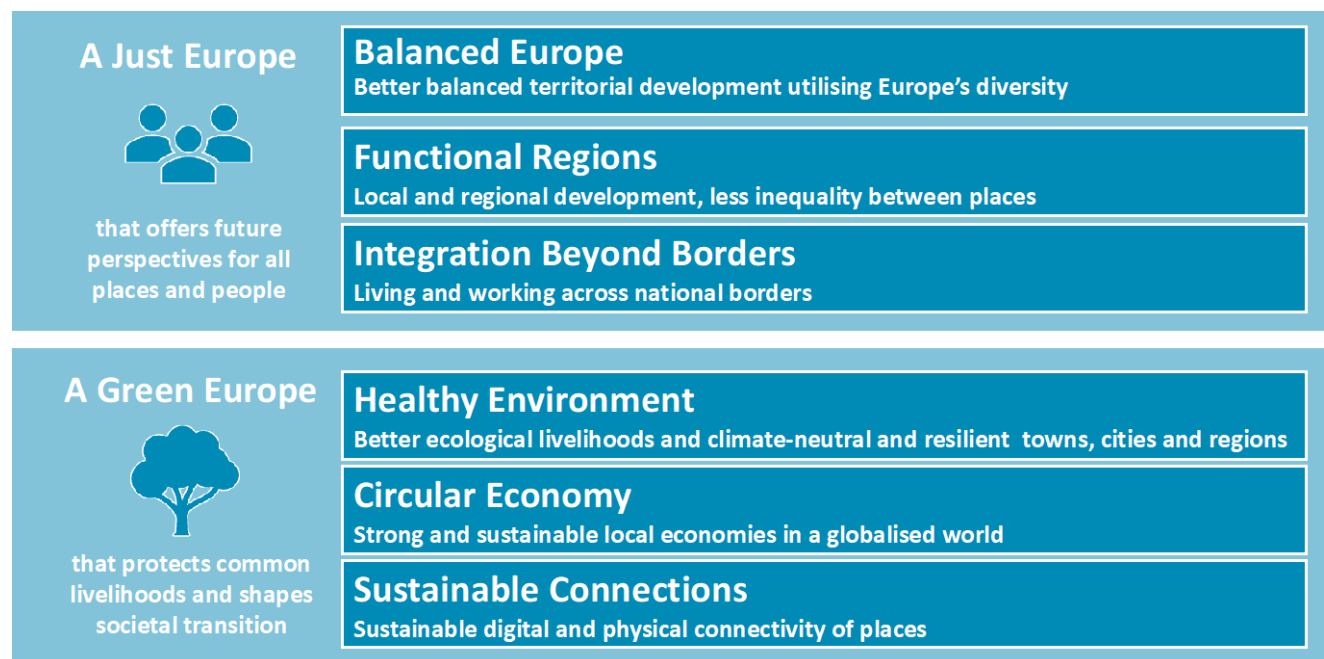
It seems that advocacy and application of the Territorial Agenda 2030 priorities remains patchy. This is despite calls upon key players and efforts to inspire action through the examples and pilot actions. The European Parliament could support application of the Territorial Agenda, contribute to its dissemination with experience of its application, as well as actively contribute to the debate about future steps.

The European Parliament can ask member states and the European Commission to pay more attention to

Territorial Agenda 2030

The Territorial Agenda 2030 'A future for all places' is the latest in a long line of intergovernmental documents paving the way for territorial cohesion in Europe. It defines two overarching objectives, a Just Europe and a Green Europe, which have six priorities for developing the European territory as a whole along with all its places.

Six priorities of the Territorial Agenda 2030



Source: Territorial Agenda 2030

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