

# METRO - “The role and future perspectives of Cohesion Policy in the planning of Metropolitan Areas and Cities”

Brno Metropolitan Area

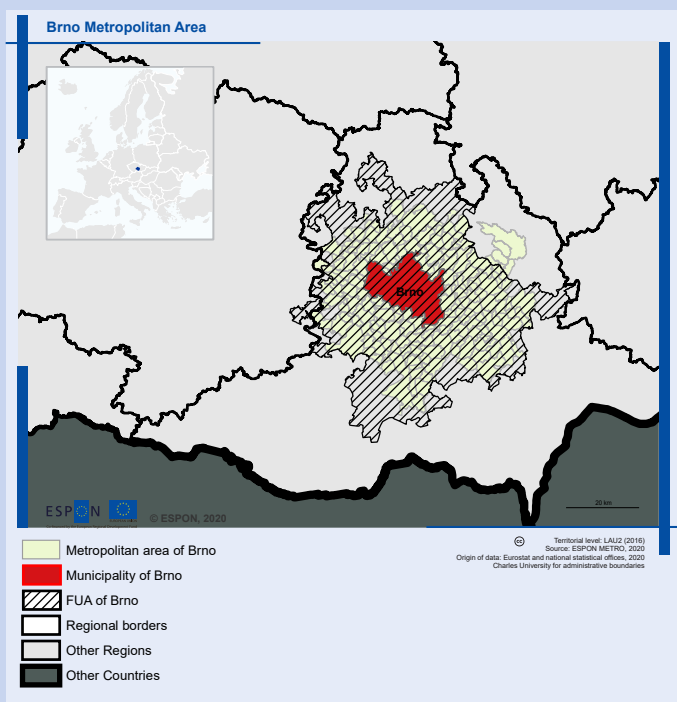
## Institutional dimension of Metropolitan Governance

Brno Metropolitan Area is composed of 184 municipalities covering area of 1,978 km<sup>2</sup>. From the total population of 700 thousand inhabitants 381 thousand concentrate in the city of Brno, which is the second largest city in country. Municipalities in the metropolitan area are diverse in terms of their population size, economy and natural environment.

Brno Metropolitan Area (BMA) is relatively new territorial entity in the Czech Republic. It has been established in 2013 for the purpose of the implementation of Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) instrument of the EU Cohesion Policy (EUCP) in 2014-2020 and with small changes continue to be used also in 2021-2027. In Czechia, 13 metropolitan and urban regions are currently used for the implementation of the ITI to utilise integrated approaches in the use of public support to enhance sustainable territorial development. These new territorial units do not have any legal status and decision-making powers in terms of territorial governance.

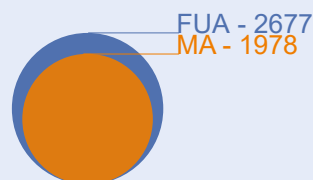
Brno Metropolitan Area covers the territory of nearly two-hundreds of municipalities, each with its own elected local governments, and is a subset of an administrative region represented by elected regional government. Without any legal status of metropolitan area in the terms of own powers and competences over territorial government, the implementation of ITI is entrusted to the municipal authority of the core city of Brno. The ITI implementation is managed by the office of the ITI manager, politically guided by the ITI Steering Committee composed of key stakeholders from metropolitan region and framed by the Integrated development strategy of the Brno Metropolitan Area.

## Brno Metropolitan Area, Czech Republic

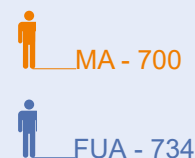


## Territorial data

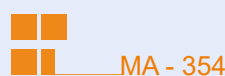
Size (sq.km)



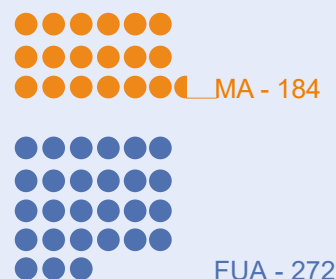
Population (x1000)



Density



Number of Municipalities





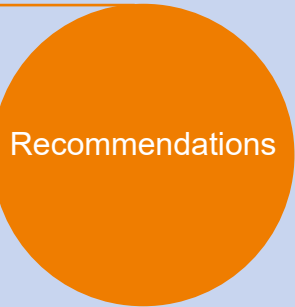
Main Metropolitan Challenges

- The position of metropolitan areas in the Czech Republic is still fragile as **they do not have any legal status and decision-making powers in terms of territorial governance**. Their reflection in national decision-making varies and is not fully appreciated as one of the key aspects of territorial dimension of public policies. Metropolitan areas and urban regions shall be commonly understood as fundamental units of territorial development of the state and as autonomous self-standing areas that sustain economic, social and cultural life and promote technological and social advancements through innovations.
- The current participation in metropolitan governance, planning and cooperation is primarily driven and motivated by the availability of the EUCP finance provided through the ITI instrument. In national policies, **there are currently no instruments and mechanisms (apart from ITI) that would encourage and frame metropolitan cooperation, planning and governance**. There is risk, that with the change in the EUCP instruments, the political support for these territorial entities may fade away. The main challenge is to learn and establish the metropolitan governance, planning and cooperation as a normal practice which does not depend only on the EUCP impulses and external frame.
- Up to now, the metropolitan governance and cooperation has been primarily top-down policy driven. **The key challenge is to strengthen and empower the institutional framework** for local bottom-up initiatives and enhance the metropolitan leadership to address key metropolitan issues, trends and challenges.

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**PQ1** How to strengthen the role of metropolitan areas in the development, management and implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy?

**Establish** and retain metropolitan areas (and urban regions of non-metropolitan cities) as the key territories for the territorial dimension of national and EU public policies. Enhance coordination of metropolitan dimension in national regional, urban and spatial planning policy.



Recommendations

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**PQ2** How to increase the added value of the EU Cohesion Policy in the planning and implementation of metropolitan policies?

**Develop** mechanisms of bottom-up metropolitan cooperation to promote complex metropolitan agenda capable to fulfil local, national and EU goals. Negotiate, define, approve and finance development objectives beyond the frame of ITI and the incentives coming from the EUCP.

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**PQ3** How to valorise the role that the EU Cohesion Policy can play in the consolidation of metropolitan governance and cooperation?

**Enhance** the metropolitan governance and cooperation as self-standing, autonomous and independent from the EUCP. Establish a new legal framework for metropolitan governance based in active involvement and responsibilities of bottom-up metropolitan actors. Articulate the role of metropolitan leadership. Find arrangements towards common metropolitan fund to fulfil the metropolitan strategic priorities by own means together with support from national and EU funds.