



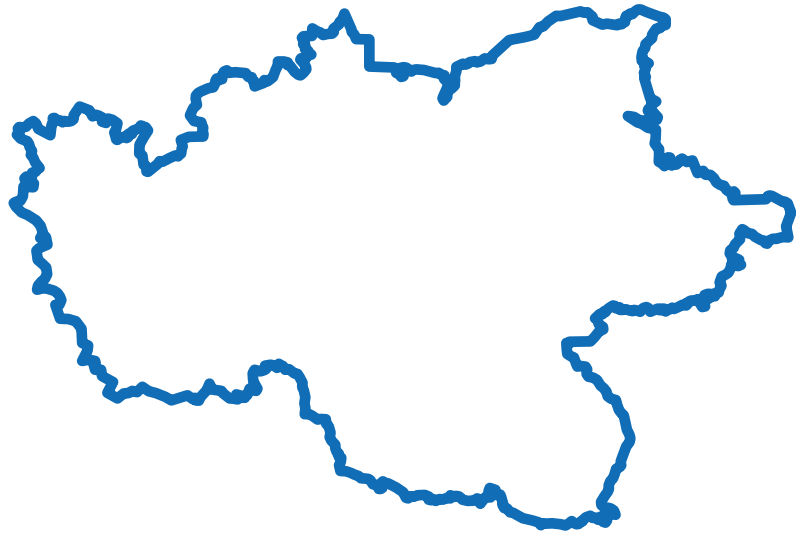
Executive Summary

D. 1.2.1.
Summary of existing
tools/best practices
at partner's MA for enhancing
metropolitan cooperation

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Upper Silesian Metropolitan Area



Official name of the main governance structure in the MA

GZM Metropolis

(Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia)

Date of creation/ start of functioning	Number of municipalities	Area (in km ²) ¹¹⁾
2017/2018	41	2.555
Population (in mln) ¹¹⁾	Population density (people/km ²) ¹¹⁾	GDP per capita (EUR) ¹²⁾
2,14	837,6	14.594

Agency (relations with the state)

The GZM Metropolis, headquartered in Katowice, is the only Polish metropolis established by Law¹³⁾ of the Polish Parliament which granted it appropriate competencies and its own budget.

Tasks

- ▶ Developing spatial order;
- ▶ Social and economic development of the metropolitan union area;
- ▶ Planning, coordinating, integrating and developing mass public transport, either by road or rail, and sustainable urban mobility;
- ▶ Metropolitan passenger transport services;
- ▶ Cooperation in determining the course of national and regional roads within the metropolitan association area.
- ▶ Promotion of the metropolitan union and its area.

Main strategic documents

- ▶ Development Strategy of GZM for 2022-2027 with an outlook until 2035: <https://strategia.metropoliagzm.pl>
- ▶ Executive Summary in English: <https://bip.metropoliagzm.pl/attachments/download/192828>

¹¹⁾ Source: *Statistical Picture of the Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolis 2020-2022 (2023)*, data for 2022. ¹²⁾ Source: Eurostat (2020). The calculation based on the Eurostat statistical unit - the Katowice metropolitan region (METROREGION).

¹³⁾ Act of 9 March 2017 on the metropolitan union in the Silesian Voivodeship (uniform text, Journal of Laws of 2022, item 2578).

Other governance structures in the MA

The Association of Municipalities and Powiats of the Central Subregion of the Silesia Region

(Związek Gmin i Powiatów Subregionu Centralnego Województwa Śląskiego)

Date of creation/ start of cooperation	Number of municipalities	Area (in km ²) ¹⁴⁾
2013	81	5.500
Population (in mln) ¹⁴⁾	Population density (people/km ²)	GDP per capita (EUR)
2,6	—	—

¹⁴⁾ Source: *Development Strategy for Central Subregion of the Silesia Region for 2021-2027, with a perspective until 2030* (2023), data for 2020.

Agency (relations with the state)

This is an independent association, although it implements a European instrument of ITI, and in this sense, it is subject to control by regional and central authorities.

Tasks

- ▶ The preparation and implementation of the Integrated Territorial Investments instrument under the European Funds Program for Silesia 2021-2027. Agreement MA-ITI 2021-2027 Agreement No. 46/RT/2023 concluded on April 18, 2023 between the Management Board of the Silesian Voivodeship and the Association of Municipalities and Counties of Central Subregion of the Silesia Region.
- ▶ Projects implemented as part of ITI cover the following areas: spatial planning, regional development, waste management, water management, energy, education, social policy / inclusion.

Main strategic documents

- ▶ Development Strategy for Central Subregion of the Silesia Region for 2021-2027, with a perspective until 2030: <https://subregioncentralny.pl/zit-2021-2027/strategia-rozwoju-subregionu-centralnego>

Metropolitan governance system in the MA

The governance in the Upper Silesian Metropolitan Area is based on two highly institutionalized spaces of dialogue. The first is the unique in Poland Metropolitan Union (GZM Metropolis), established in 2017. This Union brings together 41 municipalities, including 13 cities with powiat status, that decide basing on a double majority vote mechanism, representing the majority of municipalities and residents in the metropolitan area.

In addition to the GZM Metropolis, the Association of Municipalities and Powiats of the Central Subregion of the Silesia Region has been operating since 2014, covering a much larger area (81 municipalities, including 41 of the GZM Metropolis) and serving as the sole entity implementing the Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) instrument in the subregion. Despite the establishment of the GZM Metropolis in 2017, no decision was made to entrust it with the implementation of the ITI instrument.

While the GZM Metropolis and the Association of the Central Subregion participate in joint bodies and actions, maintaining dialogue, there is currently no imminent perspective of their merger.

Best tools and practices

- 1. PROTOTYPING ACADEMIES** is a co-creative design thinking process for finding and testing solutions to various urban challenges, including users' needs, research and analysis, and spatial prototyping. Prototyping Academies tackle challenges related to, e.g., spatial planning, mobility, or environmental protection issues. Prototyping Academies function over a period of time including 1-2 months of conceptual works and several weeks for the implementation process. Once the prototype is introduced, the validation period lasts several months. It is then evaluated and decided whether the tested solution requires introducing changes or whether it shall be implemented as a long-term solution. (Source: GZM Metropolis)



2. PURCHASING CLUSTERS are groups of entities within the municipalities of the GZM Metropolis that organize themselves to make joint purchases, such as electricity or gas power. These clusters facilitate negotiations for more favourable purchasing rates compared to individual municipalities making independent purchases. This solution helps to mitigate the high and fluctuating costs associated with a particular resource or item being the subject of the purchase. (Source: GZM Metropolis)



3. FUND FOR FIGHTING LOW EMISSIONS is a tool for supporting the sustainable and cohesive development of the metropolitan area. Local government units within the GZM Metropolis supported each other to equalize their potential and address the social and economic development gap. In addition to levelling developmental discrepancies, the Solidarity Fund built trust and a shared identity, fostering a sense of metropolitan community among member municipalities. The Fund for Fighting Low Emissions focuses on and limits funded actions to those related to improving air quality. (Source: GZM Metropolis)



4. TRAINING OF STAFF OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS. The project aims to provide training and postgraduate studies for municipal and district employees representing local government units, including ITI specialists, strengthening their qualifications or developing competencies. The results include improving public service quality and better cooperation with external clients. In the metropolitan dimension, higher qualifications of officials and joint training can increase their social capital at the local government level (mutual trust, shared values, and norms) and develop the awareness of the importance of cooperation in the metropolitan area. (Source: Association of Central Subregion)



5. K2 NETWORK FOR CAREERS AND COMPETENCIES. The project's main objective was to enhance vocational education institutions' attractiveness, quality, and prestige in the Silesia Region. Project activities comprised acquiring equipment for practical vocational training workshops in schools and providing courses, training, and internships for students, teachers, and vocational training instructors, allowing them to gain additional qualifications. The project's implementation relied on extensive cooperation among partners, including representatives from local government units overseeing the schools, employers, and other institutions in the labour market. (Source: Association of Central Subregion)



6. METROLAB is a physical space that serves as an intermediary between the metropolis and its residents. Through participation in various activities such as lectures, workshops, meetings, and debates, residents can learn about the activities of the GZM Metropolis and how they contribute to improving their quality of life and opportunities. MetroLab is also a place for engaging in participatory actions related to the GZM Metropolis projects. This space is jointly operated by the city of Katowice and the GZM Metropolis. (Source: GZM Metropolis)







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