

# We are the Metropolitan Areas Our Common Metropolitan Vision

MECOG-CE SOLUTIONS FOR STRONG METROPOLITAN  
COOPERATION AND GOVERNANCE  
Brno | 19 March 2026

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# Common Metropolitan Vision

- articulates the **long-term and shared position** of MECOG-CE metropolitan partners
  - strength in a diverse experience with metropolitan governance, cooperation and planning
- **promotes metropolitan dimension**
  - argues for its relevance and importance in European and national policies
  - highlights local and national benefits

## WE ARE THE METROPOLITAN AREAS OUR COMMON METROPOLITAN VISION

Adopted by MECOG-CE Metropolitan Cooperation and Governance in Central Europe Partnership of the City of Brno, Metropolitan City of Turin, Stuttgart Region Association, City of Ostrava, City of Warsaw, Joint Spatial Planning Department Berlin-Brandenburg.





Towards

Common  
Metropolitan  
Vision

# Rationale

- the **increasing importance and relevance** of the metropolitan dimension in national and European development and policy-making
- **acknowledgement of potentials and opportunities** in realizing the benefits and advantages arising from metropolitan cooperation, planning, and governance
- **needs of metropolitan areas** to enhance their institutional capabilities, enabling effective cooperation and governance for the timely and efficient delivery of public services



## Manifesto for Metropolitan Partnerships

The screenshot shows the 'About' page for 'FUNCTIONAL AREAS IN THE EU'. At the top right, it says 'Funded by the European Commission'. The main heading is 'About'. Below it, under 'THE PROJECT', there is a paragraph of text explaining the project's goals. At the bottom, there is a list of five points. To the right of the text is a map of Europe with a network of lines connecting various points, representing functional areas.

**FUNCTIONAL AREAS IN THE EU**

**THE PROJECT**

Starting from the understanding that functional area approaches in the EU need to be strengthened and the advantages that they trigger can no longer remain untapped, the European Commission and the World Bank Group signed an administration agreement to improve functional area approaches in the EU. Both institutions have as priorities to reduce poverty and social inclusion and create competitive and sustainable economies. In consequence, direct interaction is beneficial to them and to the beneficiary countries. As such, the functional areas in the EU crossing administrative boundaries for green transition and sustainable development project is of utmost importance for the future of territorial development in the EU.

Its main objective is to **enhance the capacity of participating functional areas to plan and finance investments and services across jurisdictional boundaries for sustainable development.**

Overall, this transactional exercise focuses on both urban and non-urban functional areas, with the aim to:

1. offer support in addressing key development challenges;
2. offer support in preparing for the 2021-2027 Programming Period;
3. disseminate the key lessons learned, as well as tools and approaches developed within the project to other functional areas;
4. develop a toolkit that other functional areas could use to strengthen their territorial approaches;
5. organise knowledge exchange events in order to transfer findings and workable solutions to other interested functional areas in the EU.

# Shared challenges and opportunities

- **favorable EU policies** (the New Leipzig Charter, Territorial Agenda 2030, EU Agenda for Cities) and **instruments** (ITI - Integrated Territorial Investments)
- **development and practice of metropolitan cooperation** - demonstrate the benefits of synergies between member municipalities and other metropolitan stakeholders
- **participation in networks and knowledge-sharing**
- **promotion of good practices and success stories** - the recognition of the benefits of metropolitan cooperation
- **policy advocacy for metropolitan dimension in EU**, international and national policies - Common Metropolitan Vision

### Challenges

#### Thematic Challenges

##### COMMON

- ▶ Climate change,
- ▶ Sustainable mobility,
- ▶ Suburbanization and urban sprawl,
- ▶ Population shifts,
- ▶ Energy supply.

##### DIFFERENT

- ▶ Differences in narratives of challenges are based on local and national contexts,
- ▶ Respondents from Czechia and Poland emphasize reindustrialization and economic transformation,
- ▶ Respondents from Germany and Italy highlight the need for green transition in metropolitan economies.

#### Procedural Challenges

##### COMMON

- ▶ Diversity of municipalities in metropolitan areas and its governance/organization,
- ▶ Fragmented administrative structure,
- ▶ Lack of competences and instruments for planning on the metropolitan level,
- ▶ Missing recognition of the added value of metropolitan dimension.

##### DIFFERENT

- ▶ Most of the Czech and Polish respondents mention the lack of an established top-down institutional framework, and an insufficient support from the central governments for metropolitan cooperation,
- ▶ German and Italian respondents emphasize bottom-up activities optimizing existing governance structures and practices.

### Opportunities

- ▶ Favourable setup of EU instruments and policies, like the ITI (Integrated Territorial Investments), the New Leipzig Charter, Territorial Agenda 2030,
- ▶ More cohesive narrative of metropolitan dimension in official EU and international policy documents,

- ▶ Development and practice of metropolitan cooperation itself demonstrating benefits to their member municipalities and stakeholders,
- ▶ Participation in metropolitan networks and knowledge-sharing projects,
- ▶ Promotion of good practices and success stories to increase the recognition of the benefits of metropolitan cooperation.

This is

Our  
Vision



# Vision 3 components

- **Vision for Metropolitan Areas**

Paints a **comprehensive picture of a future state** for metropolitan areas, societies, and governance that is both **aspirational and attainable**.

- **Metropolitan Strengths and Commitments**

Spotlights the **current and potential resources, capabilities, knowledge, and skills** inherent in metropolitan societies, stakeholders, and leadership. These are harnessed to **address major societal challenges, implement policy priorities, and achieve declared goals**.

- **Metropolitan Empowerment**

Tackles **organizational and procedural challenges**, proposing viable **solutions** to overcome existing limitations in metropolitan cooperation and governance. The aim is to fortify the **capacity, effectiveness, and efficiency of metropolitan policy-making**.



# Vision for Metropolitan Areas

- Centers of Everyday Life and Creativity
- Balanced, Inclusive and Sustainable
- Diverse and Complex Community
- Metropolitan Partnership and Identity
- Recognition and Appreciation

Metropolitan agendas, initiatives, long-term policies, and everyday practices are **carefully crafted**, driven by a common vision of a future state that is both **desirable** and **realistic**. This vision encompasses the **holistic development, governance, planning, and cooperation** within metropolitan areas, all framed by **the key values of democracy, participation, and equality**. The overarching goal of these efforts is to establish **sustainable and resilient** metropolitan areas (MAs) committed to **societal leadership and social responsibilities**.



# Vision for Metropolitan Areas

- Centers of Everyday Life and Creativity
- Balanced, Inclusive and Sustainable
- Diverse and Complex Community
- **Metropolitan Partnership and Identity**
- Recognition and Appreciation

**Governments** engage in **cooperative efforts**, while **citizens and businesses actively participate** in metropolitan policies centered around shared and **intersecting common interest** goals. The cultivation of a widely shared **metropolitan identity** serves to **overshadow urban-rural dichotomies**, fostering a sense of unity between local communities. Additionally, the pursuit of **integrated territorial development** serves as a crucial **bridge, connecting and harmonizing both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.**



# Metropolitan Strengths and Commitments

- Metropolitan Hubs
- Metropolitan Ecosystems
- Metropolitan Societies
- Metropolitan Co-operations
- Metropolitan Solutions

Metropolitan areas and societies possess vital **resources, capabilities, knowledge, and skills** crucial for building a common future. The metropolitan dimension, encompassing organization, development, planning, and governance, offers **benefits for all, from local communities to the planetary environment**. Metropolitan areas are key **players on the global stage**, contributing significantly to international **performance and competitiveness**, thereby shaping the process of **European integration**.



# Metropolitan Strengths and Commitments

- Metropolitan Hubs
- Metropolitan Ecosystems
- Metropolitan Societies
- Metropolitan Co-operations
- **Metropolitan Solutions**

Metropolitan cities and regions often stand as **key contributors to emissions**. Simultaneously, they **experience the consequences** of climate change. Research and development initiatives within these metropolitan areas not only **help to mitigate the impacts of climate change** but also position them as **proactive agents** in this global challenge. Application of **integrated approach** at the metropolitan scale yields **better results with fewer resources**. Metropolitan solutions serve as the **flagship at the forefront of societal advancements**.



# Metropolitan Empowerment

- Emancipation and Recognition
- Metropolitan Institutionalization
- Metropolitan Expertise and Capacity

... their full potential is **not always recognized and utilized**. Metropolitan strategies, policies and instruments **play a crucial role** in identifying, evaluating, and addressing key challenges and thematic development priorities. They are **dedicated to building green, inclusive, and productive metropolitan communities**. However, organizational and procedural arrangements currently **hinder the effectiveness and efficiency** of their fulfillment.



# Metropolitan Empowerment

- Emancipation and Recognition
- Metropolitan Institutionalization
- **Metropolitan Expertise and Capacity**

**Clever and smart** metropolitan agendas, policies, and practices strike a balance between **applying universal principles and recognizing the diverse challenges**. Metropolitan expertise, guided by thorough **analysis, data-driven policies, and evaluation**, supports the **timely, flexible, and effective development**.

Metropolitan intelligence thrives on a dynamic **interplay of innovation, creativity, and diverse human capital**, enhancing the **empowerment of citizens, technological advancements, and multilateral cooperation**.



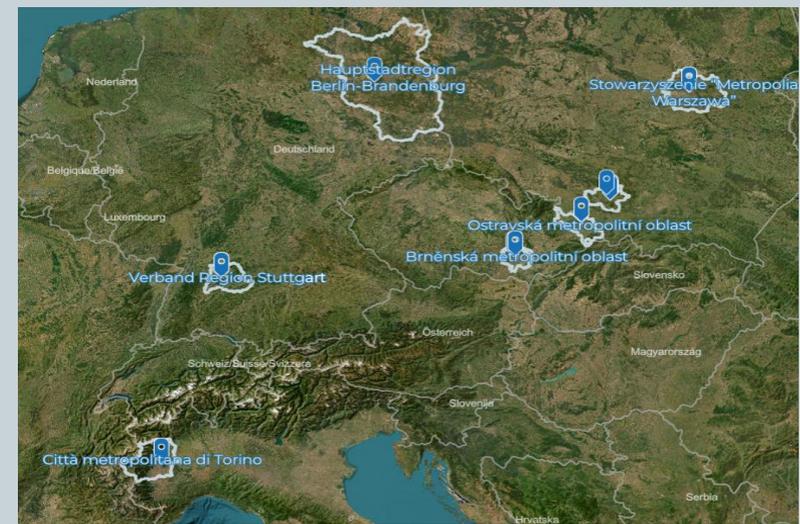
Commitment

Visionary  
Leadership



# Our commitment

- Common Metropolitan Vision is framework for a **long-term, shared, and enduring commitment** of metropolitan leaders, stakeholders, and actors to
  - **advance the development** of metropolitan societies and their areas;
  - **maximize the positive impacts** that metropolitan areas currently have and can potentially contribute **to the overall prosperity** and quality of life in Europe, its member states, regions and cities;
  - continuously **strengthen and develop the institutionalization of metropolitan governance**, emphasizing the pivotal role of the metropolitan dimension in European and national policies.



**We are the Metropolitan Areas**  
this is  
**Our Common Metropolitan Vision**

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