

# Spatial planning

## Key functions

There are key functions that spatial planning can contribute to effective metropolitan governance.

- **Preventing** unsustainable development
- **Safeguarding** sensitive areas or resources
- **Exercising foresight** by taking a longer term view of development prospects
- **Presenting** possible futures for public consideration and debate
- **Enabling** the realisation of chosen spatial planning and development options
- **Sustaining** a chosen spatial planning and development strategy.

## Key roles

There are key roles that spatial planning can play in addressing key issues effectively.

- **Identifying and defining** functional Metropolitan Regions and Areas
- **Forecasting** social and economic change in the medium and longer term Identification of key social, economic, environmental and spatial planning issues in the medium and longer term
- **Identification** of existing and prospective problems and opportunities
- **Exploring** sectoral and geographic responses to such problems and opportunities in the form strategies, policies, programmes and projects
- **Integrating** sectoral and geographic strategies into a Metropolitan Spatial Planning Strategy
- **Production** of an overall spatial Vision to clarify and unify common purposes.

METREX  
commends recognition  
of the roles that effective  
metropolitan governance and  
spatial planning can play in realising  
sustainable metropolitan futures.

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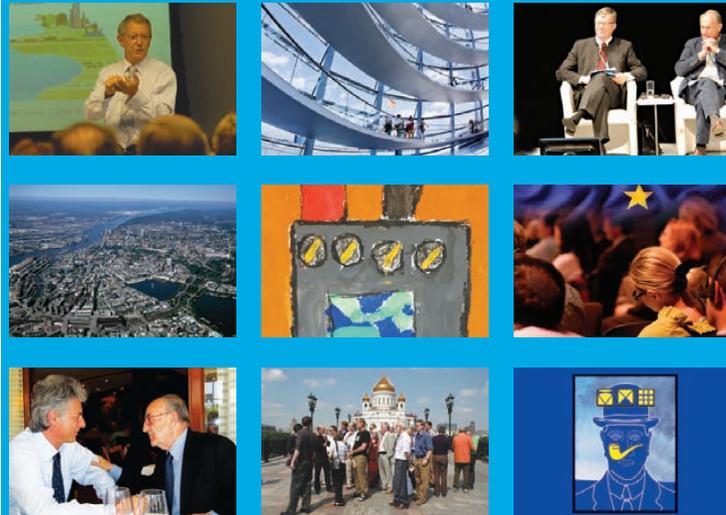
## METREX Secretariat

125 West Regent Street  
Glasgow G2 2SA  
Scotland UK

t./ f. +44 (0)1292 317074

e. [secretariat@eurometrex.org](mailto:secretariat@eurometrex.org)

[www.eurometrex.org](http://www.eurometrex.org)



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# METREX



the **network** of  
European Metropolitan Regions and Areas

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## ...an introduction

**METREX is the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas. It was founded in 1996 at the Glasgow Metropolitan Regions Conference, with the support of local authorities in the West of Scotland and the European Commission.**



**METREX is a Network of practitioners, that is, politicians, officials and their advisers, concerned with spatial planning and development at the metropolitan level.**

**Integrated strategic planning is always also concerned with socio-economic futures and environmental, transportation and infrastructure issues. Metropolitan governance is a key issue for effective planning and implementation.**

## Metropolitan Dimension

At least 200 million of Europe's population of 500 million live and work in its 100 plus major urban areas. The evidence for this is provided by the Eurostat/Urban Audit of 2006/2007 that identified 127 Larger Urban Zones with populations of over 500,000.

**These are Europe's metropolitan regions and areas. They are the major urban areas on which the future wellbeing and prosperity of Europe depends.**

**Territorial Cohesion has now become the third leg of the EU's Cohesion Policy, together with Social and Economic Cohesion. Europe 2020, the EU's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, can only be achieved in partnership with its metropolitan regions and areas.**

## Metropolitan issues and governance

### Metropolitan issues

**There is a range of key issues that can only be addressed effectively at the metropolitan level.**

- **Urban structure** and the balance to be struck between urban renewal (of land and buildings) and urban expansion
- **Urban connectivity** and the relationships between modes of transport for people and goods
- **Economic change** and the need for urban restructuring and development to cope with the consequences of growth or decline
- **Social change** and the need for urban development, facilities and services to respond to factors such as migration, demographics and consumer expenditure
- **Environmental sustainability** and the need to safeguard natural resources and balance their use and development with their capacity for regeneration
- **Climate change** and the need to mitigate urban greenhouse gas emissions, and adapt to the consequences of global warming
- **Energy futures** and the need to plan and develop for a decarbonised future.

### Governance

**Metropolitan governance can play a key role in addressing key issues effectively.**

- **Identification** of key strategic metropolitan issues will lead to the consideration of the effective responses required and the key decisions to be taken
- **Identification** of the powers needed to implement these decisions effectively
- **Powers** can be devolved (from above) or delegated (from below) but should be exercised collectively by the authorities in the metropolitan area
- **Governance** could be by direct election or delegated representation
- **Administrative strength** of the adopted governance mechanism should be proportionate to the scale and significance of the key strategic issues that have to be addressed.

