

# METREX - The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas

## Bernd Steinacher Fellowship 2016-2018

### Background

Bernd Steinacher was the Chief Executive Director of the Verband Region Stuttgart and the Regional Assembly, the first metropolitan Parliament of its kind to be set up in Germany.

He was also President of METREX from 2004 until 2008, having served for two terms. During this time he was instrumental in introducing most of the other new German metropolitan areas to METREX. The Network was strengthened greatly during his Presidency.

Through Bernd's leadership, Stuttgart established strong ties with the United States, principally through the partnership between the Verband Region Stuttgart and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission – the first region-to-region partnership between councils in Europe and North America. This enabled METREX to add a truly global dimension to its affairs. It also gave regional councils in the U.S. greater and more formal learning channels to counterparts in Europe.

It is for these reasons that the Bernd Steinacher Fellowship will have three general, but not exclusive, sources of support. METREX, Verband Region Stuttgart and Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

### Introduction

At the METREX Paris Managing Committee meeting in May 2009, the Secretary General of METREX presented a proposal calling for the establishment of a Bernd Steinacher Fellowship.

*"This might support the participation of a young planner from a Member region or area in the activities of METREX over the two years between biennial Conferences. Travel and subsistence might be offered up to 1% of METREX subscription income or €2500. Colleagues from Verband Region Stuttgart and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) have expressed an interest in supporting the idea of such a Fellowship. The Managing Committee supported the idea of a Bernd Steinacher Fellowship and the possibilities will be considered further at the Wroclaw Managing Committee meeting in autumn 2009."*

The Wroclaw Managing Committee meeting noted that,

*"The Terms of Reference and Selection Procedures have now been finalised and the intention is to proceed with the first Fellowship at the METREX 2010 Berlin Conference, which means beginning the application process at the Vilnius/Riga Meeting in spring 2010."*

The first Bernd Steinacher Fellowship was awarded to Judith Bornhorst at the METREX Berlin Conference in September 2010. The second Fellowship was awarded to Alexandra Delgado Jiménez at the Wien Conference in October 2012 and the third Fellowship to Nicole Kirchberger at the Brussels Conference in October 2014.

The METREX Secretary General now seeks 2016/2018 Fellowship nominations from METREX Members by Friday 22 July 2016.

The selection process will then follow as described below and the chosen Fellow will be announced at the METREX Sofia General Assembly, which will be held on Tuesday 13 September 2016.

## Terms of reference

The purpose of the Fellowship will be to sustain the values and interests brought to METREX by Bernd Steinacher.

These include,

- 1 The value of Europe as an exemplar of international cooperation for a common good.
- 2 The value of a "metropolitan dimension" to European affairs, meaning the good governance of major urban areas and their areas of influence.
- 3 The inter-related nature of many of the key issues needing consideration at the metropolitan level and the need for "joined up thinking".
- 4 The value of "networking" as a means of exchanging information, knowledge and experience for mutual benefit.
- 5 The value of strong and mutually supportive personal relationships in international, European and metropolitan affairs.

Holders of a Bernd Steinacher Fellowship will be expected to present proposals to further any of these values and interests.

## Selection procedures

Bernd Steinacher would have wanted the simplest possible procedure for the selection of a Fellow. The selection procedure will therefore be as follows.

- In the spring of a METREX Presidential electoral year METREX Members will be invited to nominate up to two candidates. The Fellow will then be selected for confirmation at the METREX autumn Conference and General Assembly to hold the Fellowship until the next biennial Conference.
- The Fellowship will support the participation of the Fellow in the activities of METREX and contact with METREX members. Candidates might, therefore, be nominated persons from METREX member region or areas, such as postgraduates, students or young professionals. They might be interested in making contact with colleagues in metropolitan areas, for example, in relation to their academic studies or to practitioner projects.
- Candidates will be asked to submit a one page CV supported by a two-page outline of their motivation, proposed activities and anticipate experiences over their two-year Fellowship.
- Depending on the number of Candidates, the selection process may or may not involve a short list and (telephone) interviews.
- The selection of the Fellow will be made by the President of METREX and nominated colleagues from the Verband Region Stuttgart and Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

- The value of the Fellowship will be €2500 per year provided by METREX and the Verband Region Stuttgart and any additional sums that might be contributed.
- For example, the Fellowship may include a U.S. dimension, depending on funding.
- A Fellow will be asked to make a presentation to the METREX General Assembly when the Fellowship ends and to make the results of his/her work available to all METREX Members.