

THE STATE OF PRACTICE - THE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

A CONVERSATION - LOOKING BACK - LOOKING FORWARD



## METREX SZCZECIN 10TH ANNIVERSARY 1996-2006 CONFERENCE INVITATION AND PROGRAMME

Promoted by METREX - the network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas, kindly hosted by the Municipality of Szczecin and supported by the European Commission, DG REGIO.  
To be held in the Radisson SAS Hotel in Szczecin from Wednesday 27 September to Saturday 30 September 2006.  
See [www.eurometrex.org](http://www.eurometrex.org) for online registration details and hotel reservation.

# AN INVITATION

METREX and the Municipality of Szczecin, in association with the European Commission, DG REGIO, are pleased to invite practitioners in European spatial planning and development (politicians, officials and their advisers) to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of METREX through a review of the State of Practice - the body of knowledge - Looking back - Looking forward.



A particularly warm invitation is extended to those many colleagues who have helped to establish METREX as an effective forum for the exchange of knowledge and an acknowledged voice in Europe since its foundation at the Glasgow Metropolitan Regions Conference in 1996.

Delegates are invited to provisionally reserve Wednesday 27 September to Saturday 30 September in their diaries. There will be two major Keynote addresses, three contributions on the Metropolitan Dimension to European affairs and two innovative Open Space sessions on the Thursday and Friday afternoons (see Conference form and content).



## Objective of the Conference

To exchange experience, information, knowledge, expertise and understanding on the key issues facing European metropolitan regions and areas today and in the future. The Conference will draw on the body of knowledge within METREX and reflect on the achievements of the Network over the past decade – looking back – and the challenges for the coming decade – looking forward. The objective will be to provide a milestone event at which practitioners can draw on the wider European State of Practice to improve the effectiveness of practice in their own metropolitan regions and areas. The Conference will also enable METREX to formulate its programme for the coming decade on a well-informed basis.

## Szczecin

Szczecin is a former Hanseatic port with a population of approximately 420.000. There is a population of 650.000 within the metropolitan area. It is the city with a thousand years of tradition and turbulent history, presently serving as the capital of the Province of Western Pomerania. It stands at a strategically important point between Poland and Germany and is a hub location with commercial ties with the EU. Its road, rail and sea links have made Szczecin the largest seaport in Poland, with

shipbuilding as one of major industries. Berlin, with a population of ca. 5 million is 90 minutes drive time away.

The recent transformation has lasted more than 15 years as the City has contended with the typical CEE city problems of obsolete infrastructure and the loss of industries, all the while searching for a new role.

Key strategic issues for Szczecin are its Baltic relationships, its border location and vibrant

relationships with Berlin, major transport infrastructure including the port and regional airport, urban renewal and regeneration of the urban environment in distressed communities, including waterfronts and the city centre, the environmental resources of the water and woodland, and rapid urbanization of the neighbouring towns. These and related issues will feature in the Orientation Tour on the Friday.



## **METREX**

METREX was founded in 1996, at the Glasgow Metropolitan Regions Conference, with the support of the European Commission (DG XVI). It now has Members from 43 of Europe's 120 recognised metropolitan regions and areas.

The twin purposes of the Network are the exchange of knowledge on metropolitan spatial planning and development issues between practitioners (politicians, officials and their advisers) and the contribution of the metropolitan dimension to European affairs. Over the past decade the metropolitan dimension has increased in significance within Europe and METREX now contributes on the wider issues of metropolitan governance and integrated metropolitan strategies.

For details see [www.eurometrex.org](http://www.eurometrex.org).



## Venue

The Conference will be held in the Radisson SAS Hotel, which is in heart of Szczecin and part of the modern PAZIM complex, a city landmark. The hotel was the first international hotel chain in the region when it opened in 1992 and offers excellent Conference facilities.

For details see  
[www.szczecin.radissonsas.com](http://www.szczecin.radissonsas.com)

## Conference registration and hotel reservation

There will be a fixed Conference fee, which will include 3 nights bed and breakfast at the Radisson SAS Hotel and all Conference lunches and refreshments.

Interpretation will be provided in DE|EN|ES|FR|IT|PL. There will also be residential and non-residential daily rates for visiting delegates.



### Per person rates:

**€500.00 METREX and other full Conference delegates**

Full Conference fee for Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning, including 3 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation at the Radisson SAS Hotel.

Delegates can register for the Conference and make their hotel reservations through the METREX web site at [www.eurometrex.org/szczecin](http://www.eurometrex.org/szczecin)

**€200.00 METREX and other Conference day delegates**

Conference fee for any single Conference day – Thursday, Friday or Saturday – including 1 night's bed and breakfast accommodation at the Radisson SAS Hotel.

120 rooms have been reserved for delegates, and registrations and hotel bookings should be made by MONDAY 7 August 2006. METREX and other delegates are strongly advised to register and book by this date.

**€100.00 Local Conference day delegates**

Non-residential Conference fee for any single Conference day – Thursday or Friday.

After this date only 80 rooms will be retained until THURSDAY 31 AUGUST. After this date delegates will have to book their own hotels and pay the daily delegate rate.

**€80.00 Additional night's bed and breakfast accommodation at the Radisson SAS Hotel.**



## Form and content of the Conference

This METREX 10th Anniversary Conference will be something of an experiment, with two Open Space sessions on the Thursday and Friday afternoons. Open Space is a means of enabling productive conversations between colleagues to explore and develop collective thinking about issues of common interest. The Conference venue lends itself to sub-division, after Plenary sessions, into four Open Spaces. The METREX Secretariat will provide Open Space Primer Powerpoints and Papers. The METREX Interpretariat will provide language services in DE|EN|ES|FR|IT|PL.

Open Space sessions in Szczecin will be managed in the following way.

## Thursday morning - Looking forward to the wider Context for METREX activities in the coming decade.

Food for thought will be provided by speakers from the European Commission Directorate General for Regional Policy (DG REGIO), the European Spatial Planning Observatory Network (ESPON), contributors on the metropolitan dimension to European affairs and the findings and conclusions of the Madrid International Congress (promoted by the Comunidad de Madrid in association with METREX (3-6 May 2006) on the State of the Art – Regional and metropolitan spatial planning for sustainability).

At the morning Coffee and Lunch breaks delegates will be invited to propose issues for exploration and discussion in the afternoon Open Space sessions. Proposals will be written on display boards and, during the Lunch break, delegates will be asked to sign up for those they would like to attend. The eight top issues will then be confirmed as the Open Spaces. Four parallel Open Space discussions will run in each of two sessions during the afternoon. The METREX Interpretariat will then allocate their resources based on appropriate language needs.





After lunch delegates will attend their chosen Open Space, although they are then free to migrate to other Open Spaces, depending on their interest and contribution. It is anticipated that each Open Space will have some 15-25 participants, a Moderator (who will have proposed the issue for discussion) and a Rapporteur provided by the METREX Secretariat. Each Open Space session will last 60 minutes, and the second round of Open Spaces will begin after a 15-minute break. Coffees and refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon, and delegates will be asked to manage their own break times. After a further 15-minute break, the Moderators will then report the outcomes of all eight sessions to a concluding Plenary session, and findings and conclusions will be drawn as a Context for METREX activities in the coming decade

### **Friday morning – Looking forward to the Content of the METREX programme of activities in the coming decade**

Food for thought will be provided by the METREX Membership of 43 European metropolitan regions and areas each providing 10 minute Powerpoint (20+ slide) summaries Looking back over the key issues of the past decade and Looking forward to the key issues that they anticipate being on their agendas in the coming decade. These will be published and circulated on CD in advance and displayed on screen at the Conference.

The Friday afternoon Open Space arrangements will be as for the Thursday afternoon sessions. Moderators will report the outcomes of all eight sessions to a concluding Plenary session and findings and conclusions drawn on the Content of the METREX programme of activities in the coming decade.

# METREX SZCZECIN 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE PROGRAMME 27-30 SEPTEMBER 2006

## WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

Delegates arrive

INTERREG IIIC project meetings  
Norwid II in the Radisson SAS hotel

14.00 - 16.00 PolyMETREXplus Steering Committee meeting

16.00 - 18.00 InterMETREXplus project meeting

**19.00 - 20.00** **Conference Reception**  
Copernicus in the Radisson SAS hotel



THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER//

**09.00 - 09.25 Welcome and opening**

Marian JURCZYK, Mayor of the Municipality of Szczecin.  
Zygmunt MEYER, Marshall of the Province of Western Pomerania.  
Dr. Bernd STEINACHER, President of METREX.

**9.25 - 9.30 Open Space arrangements**

Alastair WYLLIE, Head of Secretariat, METREX.

**Keynote addresses**

**09.30 - 10.00 Looking back/Looking forward from the European Union**

Marco ORANI, Head of Urban Affairs Unit, DG REGIO.

**10.00 - 10.30 Polycentricity and connectivity**

Peter MEHLBYE, Director of ESPON.

**10.30 - 11.00 Coffee**

Delegates should propose issues for Open Space discussions on the Context for METREX activities in the coming decade.

NORTH SOUTH EAST WEST  
A 360-degree view of Climate Change. (DVD)

**11.00 - 12.30 Metropolitan dimensions**

Jan OLBRYCHT, Member of the European Parliament for the Silesian Voivodship, and Vice-Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development.  
Dr. Jacek ZAUCHA, Chief Planner, VASAB Secretariat, Gdansk.  
Piotr KOWALSKI, Chief Planner, West Pomeranian Regional Authority.

**12.30 - 13.00 Findings and conclusions from the Madrid International Congress**

Professor Sir Peter HALL, (DVD).  
Delegates have a further opportunity to propose issues for Open Space discussions on the Context for METREX activities in the coming decade.

## //THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

### 13.00 - 14.30 Lunch

During the Lunch break delegates should sign up for the Open Space discussions they want to attend. The eight most popular issues will be confirmed and will operate as four parallel Open Spaces in each of two rounds during the afternoon.

Open Space METREX Content Primer Powerpoint and Paper.

#### **Open Space – Looking forward to the coming decade – The Context for METREX activities**

14.30 - 18.00 Innovative Open Space discussions will be facilitated by Alastair Wyllie, Head of Secretariat, supported by the METREX Secretariat and Interpretariat.

The Open Space format involves exploratory discussions of four self-selected key issues, with a Moderator (who proposed the issue) and a Rapporteur from the METREX Secretariat.

### 14.30 - 15.30 **Open Space Session 1**

Four parallel Open Space discussions, on the Context for METREX activities in the coming decade.

### 15.30 - 15.45 Break

### 15.45 - 16.45 **Open Space Session 2**

Four parallel Open Space discussions, on the Context for METREX activities in the coming decade.

### 16.45 – 17.00 Break

### 17.00 - 18.00 **Reporting back on the eight Open Space METREX Context sessions**

Open Space Moderators supported by METREX Secretariat Rapporteurs.

### 18.00 Close

### 20.30 - 24.00 **METREX 10th Anniversary Celebration**

Buffet supper and entertainment  
National Museum in Szczecin, hosted by the Municipality of Szczecin.  
**Speech by METREX President Dr Bernd Steinacher.**

## FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

**9.00 - 10.00** **Szczecin presentation - Urban renewal and regeneration**  
Revitalisation of urban fabric and housing, environmental protection, nature within the urban environment, waterfront economic development and tourism development.

10.00 - 10.30 Discussion

**10.30 - 11.00** **Coffee**

Delegates should propose issues for Open Space discussions on the Content of METREX activities in the coming decade.

METREX Member Powerpoint presentations.

**11.00 - 13.00** **Szczecin orientation tour**

**13.00 - 14.30** **Lunch**

During the Lunch break delegates should sign up for the Open Space discussions they want to attend. The eight most popular issues will be confirmed and will operate as four parallel Open Spaces in each of two rounds during the afternoon.

METREX Member Powerpoint presentations  
Open Space METREX Content Primer Powerpoint and Paper.

**14.30 - 15.30** **Open Space Session 3**

Four parallel Open Space discussions, on the Content of METREX activities in the coming decade.

**15.30 - 15.45** **Break**

**15.45 - 16.45** **Open Space Session 4**

Four parallel Open Space discussions, on the Content of METREX activities in the coming decade.

**16.45 - 17.00** **Break**

**17.00 - 18.00** **Reporting back on the eight Open Space METREX Content sessions**

Open Space Moderators supported by the METREX Secretariat Rapporteurs.

Evening free

## SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

9.30 - 10.30 Review of METREX initiatives and projects, outcomes and lessons for the future including dissemination of the outcomes and outputs of the InterMETREX and PolyMETREXplus projects.

GCVSPJC and Catalunya (IET)

10.30 - 11.00 Coffee

11.00 - 13.00 **METREX General Assembly**

All delegates welcome

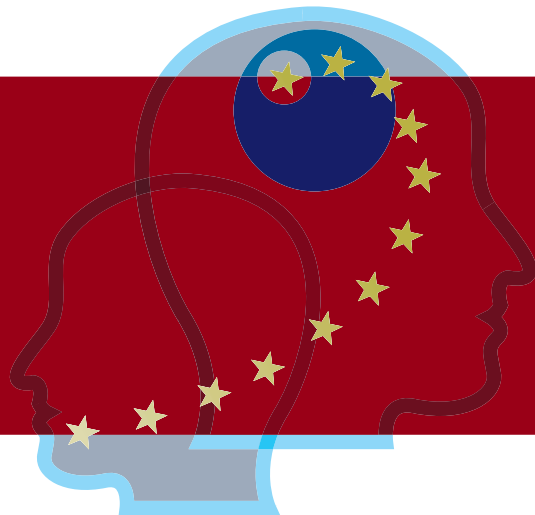
13.00 - 14.30 Lunch

14.30 - 17.00 Afternoon and evening free

## SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER

Delegates depart





METREX   
The network of  
European Metropolitan Regions and Areas

