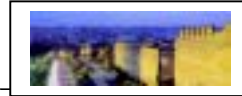


# METREX — The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas

## III METREX Biennial Conference, Thessaloniki, 15-18 May 2002



METREX  
The Network of European Metropolitan Regions  
and Areas

BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

THE SOCIAL FACE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Thessaloniki Congress Centre  
Thessaloniki Port Authority S.A.  
Congress Centre (Warehouse D)

Wednesday evening 15 May to Saturday  
lunchtime 18 May 2002

Extension programme Saturday and Sunday

### Welcome

Welcome to the III Biennial Conference of METREX, the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas, hosted by the Organisation for the Planning and Environmental Protection of Thessaloniki.

This is an international Conference for planners and policy makers to discuss current European and Metropolitan spatial planning and development issues, to share their experiences, and to participate in the activities of METREX.

METREX was founded at an inaugural Conference in Glasgow in 1996, supported by the European Commission, as a Network of authorities and organisations with a common interest in the exchange of knowledge on strategic spatial planning and development at the Metropolitan level. It includes politicians, officials and advisers.

METREX is registered as an Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif (AISBL), in Brussels. Membership is open to all European metropolitan regions and areas, including their core cities, surrounding urban areas and wider hinterlands.

The Thessaloniki Conference is organised by the

Organisation for the Planning and  
Environmental Protection of Thessaloniki  
Organisation for the Planning and  
Environmental Protection of Athens.

sponsored by the

Ministry of the Environment, Physical  
Planning and Public Works  
Ministry of Macedonia-Thrace  
Region of Central Macedonia  
Prefecture of Thessaloniki  
Municipality of Thessaloniki

and supported by the

Greek Government  
European Parliament  
European Commission  
Committee of the Regions (COR)  
Economic and Social Committee (ESC)

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### Macedonia

Macedonia is the homeland of Alexander the Great, and was the centre of his Hellenic empire. Subsequently the Roman and Byzantine era's also left a rich heritage to the region. Mount Olympos lies close to the west of Thessaloniki whilst to the east is the Chalkidiki peninsula with its famous monastery complex at Mount Athos. There is a National Park around the Préspa Lakes.

Thessaloniki Airport provides international and domestic connections and there are fast train connections to Athens and Istanbul and a good road connection to Athens. The Egnatia highway now links right across northern Greece, via Thessaloniki, to Thrace and the Turkish border.

### Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki reflects the ancient history of Macedonia and has a wealth of Byzantine churches and museums of antiquity. Thessaloniki Archaeological Museum is especially notable. One of the most famous sights is the White Tower that was once part of the city walls. It lies in the *paralia* that is a waterfront promenade and park.

Today Thessaloniki is a busy cosmopolitan city with a flourishing cultural life. In 1997 it was European City of Culture and the Congress Centre where the METREX Conference will be held was developed within the Old Custom House building during this time. It is an exceptionally interesting reuse of an important part of the city's heritage. The Megaro Mousikis is a new concert hall also on the waterfront.

The city has long been a commercial crossroads. It is now in the process of becoming the business hub for the Balkans. The city's infrastructure and port facilities are being upgraded with government and EU funding. Tourism is an important with Thessaloniki being the gateway to the Chalkidiki area with its beaches and resorts.

### The Venue and the Conference

The Conference will be held in the Congress Centre of Thessaloniki's Port Authority. The Centre has all the facilities and support services of a modern conference venue. It is situated in the heart of Thessaloniki, and is convenient to the wide range of hotels, restaurants, shops and cultural attractions in the City.

The Conference runs for two and a half days, from a Civic Reception and Dinner on the evening of Wednesday 15 May 2002, until the Closing Session and Lunch on Saturday 18 May. The full Programme is set out below.

The METREX Conference Plenary Sessions and some Workshops will be held in the theatre-style auditorium. Adjoining rooms will be used for the rest of the Workshops, and for the Exhibition and catering.

A full range of language services will be provided for Plenary and Workshop Sessions. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in French, English, Italian, Spanish, German and Portuguese (and Greek). These are the languages in which METREX currently conducts its affairs. Other languages will be considered in response to delegate needs.

Full details of the Conference rates and the booking arrangements for the event, associated programmes, and accommodation are given in this brochure. The Conference Participation rate includes all Conference Sessions, all documentation, social functions, daily mid-session refreshments, lunches, evening events, and support and assistance to delegates and partners.

An Accompanying Persons Programme will be provided if there is a demand during the Conference. There is also an Extension Programme on the Saturday afternoon and the Sunday, following the Conference, for those wishing to extend their visit to Thessaloniki and its region.

The Conference Proceedings will be published on the METREX website: <http://www.eurometrex.org>.

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### The Conference Theme

"The Social Face of Sustainability"

Sustainability as a concept originated from a widespread concern about the decline of the global environment. However, it is recognised that the relationships between social, economic and environmental factors need to be considered in an integrated way if a more sustainable future is to be achieved

Urban 21 was a global conference on the urban future held in Berlin in July 1999. It considered a World Report on the urban future which characterised world cities as coping with hypergrowth (predominantly through migration from rural areas), dynamic growth (through a rapidly expanding economy) or maturity (as in many European cities). However, it was also recognised that many urban areas are experiencing several of these circumstances at the same time.

Whilst these forces for change require spatial planning and development responses they also frequently require more difficult social and economic responses. Physical renewal of the urban fabric or the development of new urban areas on a mixed use, transport related, polycentric basis is now accepted as a more sustainable approach to the urban future.

However, the social face of sustainability is less clear.

Economic change has been proceeding at a pace that has left many under or unemployed and urban poverty has been increasing. The informal economy has been growing in many urban areas. Social exclusion continues to be a major issue in urban Europe because of economic change and/or urban growth.

Social change has also seen the growth of an ageing population in Europe and of single or non family households. The formal welfare, educational and training support systems of mature Europe are coming under increasing strain in coping with social and economic change. An integrated approach is increasingly seen as essential.

In summary, what both of these recent sources of evidence reveal is that,

- Economic disparities can generate migration between the metropolitan

regions of Europe and this may increase with the enlargement of the EU.

- Economic change and decline have long generated out migration from, and within, metropolitan areas.
- However, the ageing of the European population as a whole, and of the economically active population in particular, will mean that some metropolitan areas could also generate a demand for economic in migration.
- Environmental and "quality of life" considerations, including dereliction, decay and pollution, housing opportunities, education and health provision and accessibility, can also generate internal migration within metropolitan areas.
- Such economic and social factors as these can lead to the exclusion of areas or social groups within metropolitan areas from the urban opportunities generally available to the majority.

The issue for the METREX Thessaloniki 2002 Conference is how the process of metropolitan spatial planning and development can help to alleviate such problems, promote social inclusion and cohesion and ensure greater social sustainability. Social sustainability may increasingly be seen as a contributory factor to economic competitiveness.

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### The Conference sub-themes

- 1 Urban migration and social sustainability**  
including issues of housing need and provision and community development.

In a socially sustainable metropolitan region and area population movement would be primarily for positive reasons, for example, to take advantage of new economic opportunities or meet changing household needs (larger or smaller family etc.) not in order to escape from areas of poor economic opportunity or low housing standards and quality.

- 2 Urban deprivation**  
including issues of urban renewal and regeneration priorities and action.

In a socially sustainable metropolitan region or area urban renewal and regeneration would be to improve already acceptable standards not to alleviate and remedy major shortcomings or deficiencies in the urban fabric.

- 3 Economic inclusion**  
including issues of education, skills and economic development.

In a socially sustainable metropolitan region or area education and training would be primarily to improve already acceptable standards or meet new economic opportunities not to remedy major educational deficiencies or meet skill shortages. There would be a good balance (structurally and geographically) between the labour market and the regional economic base.

- 4 Inclusive accessibility**  
including issues of urban form and public transport.

In a socially sustainable metropolitan region or area transportation management and investment would be primarily to improve already good standards of accessibility not to alleviate congestion or remedy shortcomings in access to social and economic opportunities. There would be a good balance between the distribution of urban functions and facilities, public and private transport and the carrying capacity of the environment.

These will be the sub-themes of the METREX Thessaloniki 2002 Conference, and the topics for consideration in the Workshop programme.

### The SocioMETREX project

The SocioMETREX Project is being promoted by on behalf of a partnership of 12 European metropolitan regions and areas of which 8 are from the CEE/fSU and 4 are from the EU.

The Project goal is to bring together practitioners in metropolitan spatial planning and development in a series of expert group Workshops to identify, through case study experience, the specific ways in which the strategic planning process can contribute to social sustainability and integrated urban social, economic and environmental sustainability can be achieved.

The Project aim will then be to produce a Practice Benchmark for use by the partners and by the metropolitan areas of the wider Europe of the EU and the CEE/fSU to assist them in using the process of spatial planning and development to achieve greater social sustainability.

SocioMETREX is therefore a project that is designed to produce a concrete outcome of practical use in addressing the key metropolitan issue of social sustainability. The outcome of the project will be reported to the Conference.

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### The Conference Programme

#### WEDNESDAY 15 May

4.00 pm REGISTRATION  
8.00 pm CIVIC RECEPTION AND DINNER

#### THURSDAY 16 MAY

8.30 am REGISTRATION  
9.00 am **OPENING PLENARY SESSION**

##### Conference Theme and sub-themes

Conference Chair  
Prof. Mercedes BRESSO  
President, Provincia di Torino  
President of METREX

#### 9.15 am **WELCOME ADDRESSES**

Organisation for the Planning and Environmental Protection of Thessaloniki  
Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works

#### 9.30 am **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

##### Unity, solidarity, diversity for Europe, its people and its territory

European Commission,  
Directorate General for Regional Policy

Questions and discussion

10.30 am COFFEE

#### 11.00 am **PLENARY SESSION**

##### The Social Face of Sustainability

Greek Government  
European Parliament  
Committee of the Regions (COR)  
Economic and Social Committee (ESC)

12.30 pm Questions and discussion

Keynote speakers panel

1.00 pm LUNCH

2.30 pm **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

##### The Social Face of Sustainability

Professor Anne POWER, MBE, CBE  
Professor of Social Policy, The London School of Economics

3.15 am Questions and discussion

3.30 pm TEA

#### 4.00 pm **WORKSHOP SESSION 1**

##### Workshop 1

##### The SocioMETREX project

Findings and Conclusions

Thessaloniki and Athens (Lead partners)

Chair : President of METREX  
Rapporteur : Secretary General of METREX

5.30 pm WORKSHOPS END

8.00 pm OFFICIAL DINNER

#### FRIDAY 17 May

8.30 am REGISTRATION

#### 9.00 am **PLENARY ADDRESS**

##### Spatial Planning in Greece

##### Spatial Planning in Thessaloniki

10.15 am Questions and discussion

10.30 am COFFEE

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11.00 am	<b>WORKSHOP SESSION 2</b>	3.30 pm	TEA
	<b>Workshop 2</b>	<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>METREX GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b>
	<b>Urban migration and social sustainability</b> including issues of housing need and provision and community development.	6.00 pm	BUFFET APERITIF
	Marseille Venezia Sofia	6.30 pm	Meeting of Rapporteur General and the Workshop Rapporteurs team
	Chair : Thessaloniki Rapporteur : Wroclaw	7.00 pm	EVENING FREE
	<b>Workshop 3</b>	<b>SATURDAY 18 May</b>	
	<b>Urban deprivation</b> including issues of urban renewal and regeneration priorities and action.	9.00 am	REGISTRATION
	Napoli Warzawa Manchester Thessaloniki	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>CLOSING PLENARY SESSION</b>
	Chair : Rotterdam Rapporteur : Brno		<b>Conference Conclusions</b>  Rapporteur General and the Workshop Rapporteurs team
12.30 pm	LUNCH	10.30 am	COFFEE
<b>2.00 pm</b>	<b>WORKSHOP SESSION 3</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>PLENARY ADDRESS</b>
	<b>Workshop 4</b>		<b>The Way Forward</b>  Nicky GAVRON, (invited) Deputy Mayor of London Greater London Authority
	<b>Economic inclusion</b> including issues of education, skills and economic development.	11.45 am	Questions and Discussion
	Stuttgart Birmingham Bilbao	<b>12.00 am</b>	<b>CLOSING PLENARY SESSION</b>
	Chair : Budapest Rapporteur : Szczecin		<b>The view from the EU</b>  <b>The view from the CEEC/fSU</b>
	<b>Workshop 5</b>	<b>12.30 am</b>	<b>Conference Resolution</b>
	<b>Inclusive accessibility</b> including issues of urban form and public transport.		Roger READ Secretary General of METREX
	London Oslo Strasbourg Chair : Copenhagen Rapporteur : Prague		

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12.45 am      **METREX Network development**

Prof. Mercedes BRESSO  
President, Provincia di Torino  
President of METREX

1.00 pm      LUNCH

2.30 pm      **EXTENSION PROGRAMME**

Thessaloniki/Vergina

8.00 pm      DINNER

### **SUNDAY 19 May**

9.30 am      **Post Conference Excursion**

Chalkidiki

1.30 pm      LUNCH

Return and Delegates disperse

### **How to participate in the Conference**

The Conference is being promoted by the METREX Secretariat and managed by the CMD Agency, Thessaloniki, which is handling all registrations for the Conference. The enclosed Registration Form should be used. Conference Participant rates, exclusive of accommodation, are

#### **Full Conference Fee**

450 EUROS

inclusive of VAT, Conference documentation, Civic Reception, daily-mid-session refreshments, luncheons, and evening Receptions

#### **Day Conference Fee**

200 EUROS

inclusive of VAT, Conference documentation, daily-mid-session refreshments, luncheon, and evening Reception.

A discount on the Full Conference Fees is available to existing and prospective Members of METREX.

#### **Full Conference Fee 2 METREX Members**

800 EUROS, inc. VAT.

Prospective Members of METREX will qualify for the discount by signing a Declaration of Intent at the Conference to join METREX. The discount will apply retrospectively, and will be deducted from their first annual METREX subscription.

To reserve your Conference Participation simply complete and return the enclosed Registration Form with a copy of your Bank Transfer or Credit Card details. All prices are inclusive of Greek VAT. Your registration will be confirmed by CMD Agency on receipt of payment.

Accompanying Persons should also complete and return the enclosed Registration Form.

#### **Accompanying Person Fee**

80 EUROS

inclusive of VAT, Civic Reception, morning coffees, evening events, and luncheon on Saturday 18 May.

CMD Agency has been appointed to arrange a programme of activities and excursions during the Conference depending on demand.

Accompanying Persons who want to participate in any activities or excursions should also complete the enclosed Accompanying Persons and

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Extension Programme Registration Form, and return it to CMD Agency with a copy of your Bank Transfer or Credit Card details.

The optional post Conference Extension Programme allows Conference Participants and Accompanying Persons to continue their visit to the Thessaloniki area on Saturday 18 May and Sunday 19 May.

### **Extension Programme, Saturday 18 May**

40 EUROS

inclusive of VAT and Dinner

### **Extension Programme, Sunday 19 May**

50 EUROS

inclusive of VAT and Lunch.

Extension Programme rates are exclusive of any additional Hotel accommodation on Saturday 18 May. Conference Delegates and Accompanying Persons who want to participate in the Extension Programme should complete and return to CMD Agency the enclosed Accompanying Persons & Extension Programme Registration Form. Your reservation will be confirmed by CMD Agency on receipt of payment.

### **Accommodation at the Conference**

All Conference participants are advised to reserve overnight accommodation in Thessaloniki as soon as possible and before the deadline of Friday 19 April.

Favourable rates have been negotiated with a range of convenient Hotels in central Thessaloniki. To reserve your accommodation simply complete and return to CMD Agency the enclosed Accommodation Reservation Form with a copy of your Bank Transfer or Credit Card details.

All Conference Participation, Accompanying Persons and Extension Programme Communications should be addressed to

CMD Agency,  
Vas Irakliou 40,  
54623 Thessaloniki,  
Greece.

Tel : +30 310 240 109

Fax : +30 310 257 282

E mail : information @cmd.gr

### **How to contribute to the Conference**

Delegates can contribute to the Conference by

exhibiting material within the framework of the Conference and Workshop theme and sub themes

bringing documentation for reference display, distribution to Conference Delegates, or for sale through the Conference Bookshop.

### **The METREX Network**

METREX is registered as an Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif (AISBL) in Brussels. The Network is run by a Managing Committee drawn from the membership. This includes representatives from Metropolitan Regions and Areas in all EU and many non-EU European countries. Politicians, officials and advisers participate.

At the METREX 2002 Thessaloniki Conference all Delegates wishing to become Members, and signing a Declaration of Intent to do so (included in all Delegate Conference Packs), are invited to the METREX General Assembly on the afternoon of Friday 17 May.

METREX Information Packs, giving details of the Statutes, Subscription Rates, Activities and Initiatives, will be available at the Thessaloniki Conference Management Office. METREX leaflets will be included in Delegate Conference Packs giving some of these details.

Information on the METREX Network and the METREX Thessaloniki 2002 conference can be obtained from

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Secretary General, METREX

for Plenary and Workshop speakers and Rapporteurs

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339 9703 private office  
secretariat@eurometrex.org

The METREX website :  
<http://www.eurometrex.org>

### Acknowledgements

The Conference could not take place without the support and funding of the core sponsors

Organisation for the Planning and  
Environmental Protection of Thessaloniki  
Organisation for the Planning and  
Environmental Protection of Athens

and help from the

Greek Government  
Prefecture of Macedonia  
European Parliament  
European Commission  
Committee of the Regions (COR)  
Economic and Social Committee (ESC)

This support is gratefully acknowledged by the  
METREX Managing Committee.

### Useful Information

THESSALONIKI AIRPORT  
flight information  
Tel: +30 310 473 042, +30 310 473 720

A continuous coach service operates from the  
Airport to the City.

GREEK RAILWAYS  
national train information  
Tel: +30 310 517517 (-8), +30 310 538 367

TAXIS  
Tel: +30 310 550 500, +30 310 214 900, +30310  
511855

METREX CONFERENCE OFFICE  
(Monday 13 May to Wednesday 15 May 2002)  
Tel: +30 310 59129

THESSALONIKI CONGRESS CENTRE  
Thessaloniki Port Authority S.A.  
Warehouse D (Thessaloniki Harbour)

(Wednesday 15 May to Saturday 18 May 2002)  
Tel.: +30 310 59129

TOURIST INFORMATION  
<http://www.eot.gr>

Tel: +30 310 271 888

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