

Updated 23 August 2023

METREX AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2023

Framing Metropolitan Cohesion Policies: exploring
Urban-Rural Partnerships

22-25 October, Braga

For the latest details visit the [METREX website](#)

Sunday 22 October

Optional afternoon programme for all who will arrive early

14:30 **MC Meeting**

16:00-18:00 **City walking tour**

Visit to the historical and cultural city centre of
Braga

*Meet at: CIM Cávado – Rua do Carmo 29-33, Braga
Tour will finish at the Cathedral at 18:00*

18:00 **Informal drinks**

Optional, at own expense

*Meeting-point: Cathedral Sé De Braga
R. Dom Paio Mendes, 4700-424 Braga*

Monday 23 October

*Venue: Dom Diogo Sousa Museum – Auditorium
R. dos Bombeiros Voluntários s/n, 4700-025 Braga*

08:30-09:00 **Registration**

09:00-09:30 **Welcome**

[Jakub Mazur](#), President of METREX
and
[Ricardo Rio](#), President of CIM Cávado

09:30-10:30 **Framing the local questions and challenges**

Moderator: to be confirmed

With
[António Cunha](#), North Portugal Regional
Coordination and Development Commission
[Ana Abrunhosa](#), Portuguese Territorial Cohesion
Minister
[Elisa Ferreira](#), European Commissioner
(video address)

10:30-11:00 **Break**

11:00-12:00 **Panel EU Cohesion Policy beyond 2027**

Keynote & Moderator:
[Prof. Fernando Alexandre](#) Minho University

Debate session with political representatives:

[José Manuel Fernandes](#), Member of the European
Parliament
[Duarte Rodrigues](#), Vice-President, Portuguese Agency
for Development and Cohesion

12:00-13:00 **Panel EU perspective - The EU Rural Vision**

Keynote & Moderator: [Silvia Nanni](#), Directorate-
General for Agriculture and Rural Development, EU
Rural Pact

Debate session with political representatives:

[Isabel Carvalhais](#), Member of the European
Parliament
[Margarida Belém](#), Mayor Arouca (AMP)

- 13:00-14:30 **Lunch and opportunity to visit the Museum**
- 14:30-17:00 **Portuguese Metropolitan Regions and Areas explained**
Moderator: [Cristina Azevedo](#), observer and opinionist
- In Dialogue with
- [Filipe Ferreira](#), Metropolitan Secretary, Lisbon
Metropolitan Area
[Eduardo Vitor Rodrigues](#), President, Porto
Metropolitan Area, Mayor of Gaia
[Jorge Brito](#), Executive Secretary, Coimbra Region
Intermunicipal Community
[Júlio Pereira](#), Executive "Vogal", Managing Authority
Norte 2030
- Break**
- Reflections and debate with
[Cristina Azevedo](#), observer and opinionist
And
[Filipe Teles](#), Pro-rector Aveiro University and
President EURA
- 17:00-18:00 **Visit and Dinner at Vila Verde**
Travel by Bus
- 18:00-20:00 **Visit to Aliança Artesanal**
Co-operative that brings together craftswomen
dedicated to embroidery, namely the handkerchiefs
"Lenços dos Namorados"
Visit to Brewery "Letra"
(Artisanal brewery)
Visit to "Chocolate com Pimenta"
(Handmade chocolate)
- 20:00 **Traditional dinner (restaurant tbc)**
Welcome from Mayor of Vila Verde and
Cultural moment from Vila Verde Music School
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Tuesday 24 October

Venue: Dom Diogo Sousa Museum, Rua dos Bombeiros Voluntários

08:30-09:00 **Registration**

09:00-09:15 **METREX: The Metropolitan Manifesto Europe 2050**
Łukasz Medeksza, Deputy Director of the Strategy and
City Development Department,
Municipality of Wrocław

09:15-10:15 **From the EU vision to local strategies and practice**
Towards Stronger, Connected, Prosperous
and Resilient metropolitan regions

Moderator: **Dr. Ing- Uwe Ferber**, STADTLAND, GmbH
and Metropolitan Landscape Expert Group leader

Metropolitan Partnerships in action across Urban and Rural

This session will link the Manifesto for a Metropolitan Europe to concrete practices that are being implemented across Europe across a range of sectors.

Three case studies from the METREX network

10:15-10:40 **Break**

10:40-12:00 **Continued...Metropolitan Partnerships in action across Urban and Rural**

Three further case studies from the METREX network

12:00-13:00 Roundtable discussion with audience participation

with:

Łukasz Medeksza, Deputy Director of the Strategy and
City Development Department, Municipality of
Wrocław
and

International representatives from the study cases explored

13:00-14:30 **Lunch**

14:30-16:30 **Study Visits**

Walking Tour to some of the highlights of regional importance includes the renovated Braga Municipal Market and GRNation, a cultural hub for creation and performance of contemporary music bridging art and technologies.

18:00-19:00 **Visit and Conference Dinner**

Visit to Sameiro Sanctuary

Followed by

Visit and Conference Dinner at Bom Jesus do Monte

Wednesday 25 October

Venue: CIM Cávado – Rua do Carmo 29-33, Braga

09:00-11:00 **METREX Expert Groups' Reflect on Metropolitan Cohesion Policies**

Members are invited to reflect on the conference questions/topics. This conclusive final gathering will be dedicated to exchange on what has emerged from the three-day working sessions and openly discuss the way forward.

11:00-11:15 **Break**

11:15-13:00 **METREX General Assembly**

Members Only

13:00-14:00 **Lunch**

14:00-16:00 **Expert and Network Groups Meetings (TBC)**