

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**
Walking visit around the historical and cultural city centre of Braga
Meet at: Arco da Porta Nova (starting point)
R. Dom Diogo de Sousa 127, 4700-424 Braga
Tour will finish at Praça da República (known as “Arcada”) at around 18:00
Praça da República, 4700-328 Braga
- 18:00 **Informal drinks**
Optional, at own expense

Meet at: Café Vianna, Praça da República (known as “Arcada”)
Praça da República, 4700-328 Braga
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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, Deputy Mayor of Wrocław
and
Ricardo Rio, President of CIM Cávado, Mayor of Braga

09:30-10:30 **Opening session**

António Cunha, President, North Portugal
Regional Coordination and Development
Commission

Ana Abrunhosa, Minister of Territorial Cohesion,
Portugal

Elisa Ferreira, European Commissioner for
Cohesion and Reforms
(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 (video address)

Duarte Rodrigues, Vice-President, Agency for
Development and Cohesion, Portugal

Jakub Mazur, 1st Deputy Mayor of Wroclaw, Poland

Ricardo Rio, Mayor of Braga, Portugal

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 of Arouca (AMP)

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

14:30-16:30 **Portuguese Metropolitan Regions and
Areas explained**

Moderator: **Cristina Azevedo**, political analyst and
Cohesion Funds consultant

In Dialogue with

Filipe Ferreira, Metropolitan Secretary, Lisbon
Metropolitan Area

Ariana Pinho, Metropolitan Secretary, Porto
Metropolitan Area

Jorge Brito, Executive Secretary, Coimbra Region
Intermunicipal Community

Júlio Pereira, Executive Board member, Managing
Authority Norte 2030

Marta Coutada, Executive secretary, Ave
Intermunicipal Community

Reflections and debate

Cristina Azevedo, political analyst and Cohesion
Funds consultant

And

Filipe Teles, Pro-rector Aveiro University and
President EURA

16:45 Board bus

17:00- **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 at Restaurante Churrasqueira
Barros**
Welcome from Mayor of Vila Verde

23:00- Return bus

Tuesday 24 October

Venue: *Dom Diogo Sousa Museum, Rua dos Bombeiros Voluntários*

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

09:00-10:30 **METREX: The Metropolitan Manifesto Europe 2050**
Łukasz Medeksza, Deputy Director of the Strategy and
City Development Department,
Municipality of Wrocław

From the EU vision to local strategies and practice

Towards stronger, connected, prosperous
and resilient metropolitan regions.

Moderator: **Dr. Ing- Uwe Ferber**, BMBF Network
Urban-Rural-Partnerships, METREX 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.

Lisbon Metropolitan area Metropolitan Food Strategies

Filipe Ferreira, Metropolitan Secretary of Lisbon
Metropolitan Area

AML considers food transition as a strategic policy area for the development of the region and therefore one privileged link between several sectoral areas as climate action, biodiversity, spatial planning and economic development. Food policy transition towards a circular economy through enhanced urban and rural partnerships.

Città Metropolitana di Milano Sustainable Freight Transport Plan for the wider region: solutions for the last mile

Marco Griguolo, Deputy Mayor of the Città
Metropolitana di Milano, Italy

The Logistics Region of Milan goes far beyond the borders of the metropolitan area embracing the nearest Provinces and interregional logistic hotspots

in Piedmont, Emilia-Romagna and Veneto. Today, the high concentration of logistics infrastructures and distribution centers within the metropolitan territory has urged the Metropolitan City of Milan to engage a collaborative process of exchange with European metropolitan representatives and key stakeholders of the logistics sectors with the aim to identify specific planning strategies to facilitate the territorial logistics system: the PULS, Sustainable Urban Logistics Plan of the Metropolitan City of Milan.

Eurométropole de Strasbourg Mobility on Demand

Pia Imbs, President, Eurométropole de Strasbourg, France

It was 1989 when Strasbourg initiated its ecological transition, tackling the issue of mobility. This awareness allowed the city to reduce the use of the car in the center and create an alternative transport system. Thus since 1995, the image of Strasbourg, in addition to the cathedral and its UNESCO architectural heritage, includes its tram and 650km of cycle paths. Today the Eurométropole works to achieve another goal: the “Mobility Revolution”, a new model which will allow each territorial scale to adopt solutions that are most suited. This requires building a wide spectrum of mobility services for all.

Bucharest Metropolitan Association Upgrading the road system infrastructure to balance inner and outer territories

Gianina Panatau, Director, Bucharest Metropolitan Association

Bucharest, the capital city of Romania, surrounded by the Ilfov County, forms the Bucharest Metropolitan Area: a dense urban core surrounded by many smaller and less developed realities (8 cities, 32 communes and 91 villages). The main challenge for the region remains the need for investments in upgrading the infrastructure road system to increase accessibility and cohesive territorial development at the metropolitan level. To tackle this challenge, the Bucharest Metropolitan Area is implementing the Integrated Infrastructure Network for the Bucharest Metropolitan Area – “Orbital Bucharest” project, which

proposes the development of ten radial roads connecting the city center with the metropolitan area.

10:30-10:50 **Break**

10:50-12:10 **Metropolitan Partnerships across Urban and Rural: Case Studies Continued**

**Città Metropolitana di Torino
Governance & Strategic tools**

Alessandro Bertello, Senior Expert, Water resources and protection of the atmosphere to all extremities of the metropolitan area, Italy

The main instrument used by the Metropolitan City of Torino to enhance cohesive and coherent territorial development is the Strategic Metropolitan Plan (SMP). It establishes a new alliance between the urban agglomeration and the wider territory, based on integration and complementarity unleashing the potential of both to build equity, well-being and sustainability. No specific funds are foreseen for the SMP, slowing down an efficient and systematic implementation of the plan.

**West-Pomeranian Region
Meaning and perception of the urban-rural partnerships**

Julita Miłosz-Augustowska, Regional Office for Spatial Planning, Poland.

Szczecin metropolitan area is home to 680,000 people and is organized into an association comprising the core city of Szczecin and the surrounding urban and rural communes. Since its establishment in 2005, this association has proven to be an effective platform for negotiations and co-decision-making regarding investment directions within the entire functional area.

**GrandLyon & Beyond
Spatial planning and coordination in the wider metropolitan area**

Karen McCormick, Senior Urbanist UrbaLyon

Strategies and territorial resilience in a governance setting where a core city establishes a form of

*cooperation with the neighbouring municipalities
(legacy of the *communautés de communes*).*

CIM Cávado / ATAHCA – urban-rural partnerships implementation

Rafael Amorim, executive secretary CIM Cávado

The territory of CIM Cávado, formed by 6 municipalities and 170 parishes, is characterized by territorial asymmetries: on the one hand urban pressure, especially in Esposende (on the Atlantic coast) and Braga, while on the other hand, rural villages witness a process of demographic, social-economic decay and “territorial desertification”. Today, this geographic variety of rural and non-rural communities also corresponds to different territorial opportunities. For this reason, the local case becomes a laboratory to experiment with new paradigms: it is a small context, an intermunicipal community, not a metropolitan region, and therefore is confronted with concrete issues of being eligible for EU and National fundings. What kind of actions have been undertaken to address these challenges?

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| 12:10-12:15 | Break |
| 12:15-13:00 | Roundtable discussion with audience participation
with:
Łukasz Medeksza , Deputy Director of the Strategy and City Development Department, Municipality of Wrocław
Iván Tosics , Metropolitan Research Institute, Budapest |
| 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. |
| 17:40 | Meet outside the Municipal Market (Praça do Comércio, 4700-370 Braga, Portugal) to board the bus to Dinner.
The bus departs at 18:00 sharp |

- 18:00- **Visit and Conference Dinner**
Visit to Sameiro Sanctuary
Followed by
Visit and Conference Dinner at Bom Jesus do Monte
- Brief update by Kyiv and Lviv
Final words, closing from
Jakub Mazur, METREX President
and **Ricardo Rio**, President CIM Cávado
- 23:00- Return bus
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Wednesday 25 October

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

- 08:30-09:30 **Nordic Baltic Network Group meeting**
Venue: Library room, Rua do Carmo 29
- 09:00-11:00 **State of the Art: METREX activities**
Venue: Auditorium, Rua do Carmo, 31

Presentation on METREX 2023-25

Vision from the President and Vice Presidents
Jakub Mazur, **Gianina Panatau**, **Sandeep Shingadia**

Serving Members

Discussion and consultation on shaping activities –
Expert Groups, Conference, Ateliers – and how they
are shaped to serve our members best.

Connecting Territories: the best of urban-rural cooperation

Insights from the Eurocities Working Group
Metropolitan Areas
Soňa Raszková, Brno City Municipality

Member Mapping

Exploring an exercise to map member territory by
Provincie Zuid Holland
Mariana Faver, **Frenk Bekkers**

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

- 11:15-12:30 **METREX General Assembly**
Members Only
- 12:30-13:30 **Lunch**
- 13:00-15:00 **Climate Challenge Expert Group meeting**
Venue: Library room, Rua do Carmo 29