

Project MECOG-CE

Strengthening metropolitan cooperation and governance in
Central Europe

METREX Spring conference
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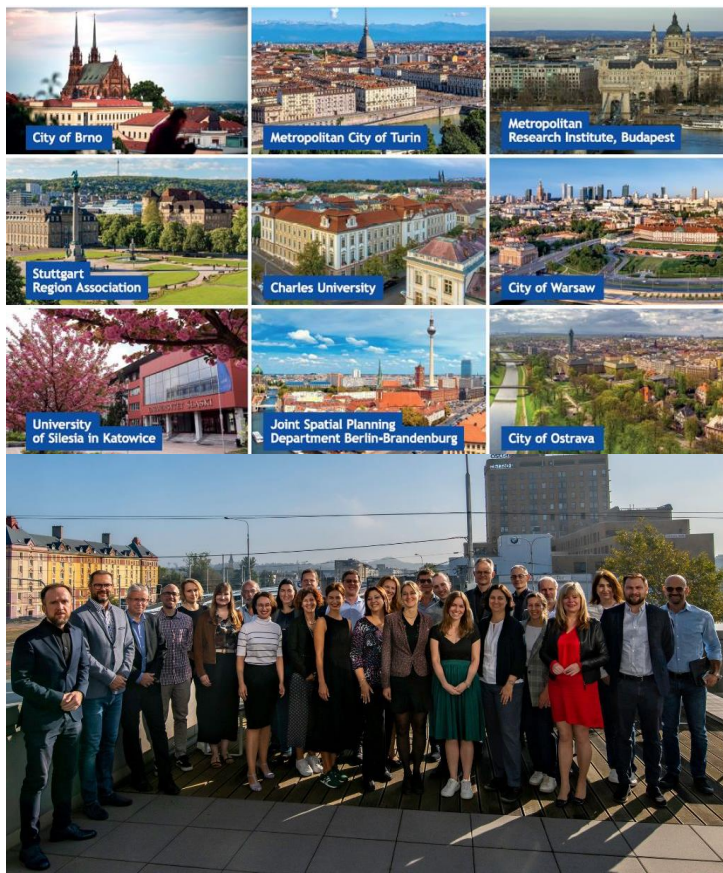
MECOG-CE =

Strengthening **ME**tropolitan **CO**operation and Governance in Central Europe

- The project aims to **identify the best tools, procedures and examples of good practices** for strengthening metropolitan cooperation and governance in Central Europe and **apply them in metropolitan areas** towards strengthening integrated metropolitan strategic and spatial development.



Project partners



2 universities



1 research institute



3 cities



3 metropolitan
cities/areas

6 associated partners

MECOG-CE

WP 1

Analysis of
metropolitan
dimension

Common Vision for
enhancing
cooperation in
Central European MAs

WP 2

Capacity
building towards
pilot actions and
new solutions

Study clusters
Pilot actions
New solutions

WP 3

Strategy and action plans
for strengthening
metropolitan cooperation
and governance

Strategy for strengthening
metropolitan cooperation and
governance in CE
Action Plans for MA

What has been already done?

First steps

Analysis of metropolitan dimension

Challenges and opportunities of Central European metropolitan areas

Challenges and Opportunities for Metropolitan Areas in Central Europe

Challenges

Thematic Challenges

COMMON

- ▶ Climate change,
- ▶ Sustainable mobility,
- ▶ Suburbanization and urban sprawl,
- ▶ Population shifts,
- ▶ Energy supply.

DIFFERENT

- ▶ Differences in narratives of challenges are based on local and national contexts,
- ▶ Respondents from Czechia and Poland emphasize reindustrialization and economic transformation,
- ▶ Respondents from Germany and Italy highlight the need for green transition in metropolitan economies.

Procedural Challenges

COMMON

- ▶ Diversity of municipalities in metropolitan areas and its governance/organization,
- ▶ Fragmented administrative structure,
- ▶ Lack of competences and instruments for planning on the metropolitan level,
- ▶ Missing recognition of the added value of metropolitan dimension.

DIFFERENT

- ▶ Most of the Czech and Polish respondents mention the lack of an established top-down institutional framework, and an insufficient support from the central governments for metropolitan cooperation,
- ▶ German and Italian respondents emphasize bottom-up activities optimizing existing governance structures and practices.

Opportunities

- ▶ Favourable setup of EU instruments and policies, like the ITI (Integrated Territorial Investments), the New Leipzig Charter, Territorial Agenda 2030,
- ▶ More cohesive narrative of metropolitan dimension in official EU and international policy documents,

- ▶ Development and practice of metropolitan cooperation itself demonstrating benefits to their member municipalities and stakeholders,
- ▶ Participation in metropolitan networks and knowledge-sharing projects,
- ▶ Promotion of good practices and success stories to increase the recognition of the benefits of metropolitan cooperation.

First steps

Analysis of
metropolitan
dimension

Common
Metropolitan
Vision

WE ARE
THE METROPOLITAN
AREAS

OUR COMMON
METROPOLITAN
VISION

Adopted by MECOG-CE Metropolitan Cooperation and Governance in Central Europe Partnership of the City of Brno, Metropolitan City of Turin, Stuttgart Region Association, City of Ostrava, City of Warsaw, Joint Spatial Planning Department Berlin-Brandenburg.



A photograph of a crowded train platform. A green train is stopped at the platform, and a large number of people are waiting. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down the length of the train. The platform is covered by a glass and steel roof. The train has multiple doors open, and people are visible inside. The overall atmosphere is one of a busy, public transit hub.

METROPOLITAN EMPOWERMENT

Empowering metropolitan governance is crucial for unlocking the full potential of metropolitan areas as engines of innovation, economic growth, and social development.



RECOGNITION AND IDENTITY

Collaboration strengthens metropolitan identity, with national governments and the EU increasingly recognizing metropolitan areas as key policy partners.



INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Stronger legal frameworks, collaborative networks, and adequate resources are essential for effective metropolitan governance.

First steps

Analysis of metropolitan dimension

76

Best practices

Best tools and practices



1. **LANDSCAPE PARK STUTTGART REGION** is a combination of joint planning in masterplans with municipalities + providing co-funding (50%) to implement the projects in order to not only protect, but upgrade the landscape. In a high-density place like Stuttgart Region, the natural environment and landscape are an essential basis for recreation, agriculture and forestry as well as ecological and climatic balance. Green and blue infrastructure are also crucial soft location factors in order to attract a qualified workforce. (VRS)



Questionnaire among mayors of the Brno ...

The goal of the questionnaire is to regularly identify the opinions, needs and problems of all municipalities in th...



Developing opinions and adopting statements...

The Association promotes self-government and civil society and provides expert assistance on issues of...



Implementation of Integrated Territorial Inv...

Brno MA, Ostrava MA and Warsaw MA are implementing joint projects with metropolitan impact financed by EU...



Workshops/trainings delivered to members...

The Association provides trainings for local authorities, supports activities related to European education, e.g. b...



Dolní Vitkovice area: using principle of part...

This project serves as an example of revitalization based on multilateral metropolitan partnership. The former...



Municipal Neighbourhood Forum

It is a common platform of cooperation between Berlin districts and adjacent municipalities in Brandenburg. It...



Prototyping Academies of the GZM Metrop...

It is a co-creative design thinking process for finding and testing solutions to various urban challenges, including...



2. **S-BAHN STUTTGART** is the commuter rail service, acting as the backbone of the regional public transport. Every 15 minutes, an S-Bahn departs from each station in the Region. It is crucial for the Region's outskirts that 4 S-Bahn trains depart from their stations every hour. Meanwhile, in the Region's denser and more urban areas, an S-Bahn departs every 2 minutes. It is a unique situation that the Region is responsible for the S-Bahn, as it is most commonly within the competence of the state (Länder). (VRS)



From best practices to learning

Study clusters



Food Districts (good practice example of the Metropolitan City of Turin)



Prototyping Academies (example of good practice of the GZM Metropolis)



Mobility and Planning/Transport Association (good practice example from Stuttgart Region and Berlin-Brandenburg)



Warsaw Metropolitan Association (elaboration of joint opinions and workshops/trainings)



Semi-structures and dialogues to strengthen cooperation (Municipal Neighbourhood Forum and Questionnaire among mayors - examples of good practice from Berlin-Brandenburg and the City of Brno)

From learning to testing

Pilot actions



Potential for **food cooperation** and its governance network in the Brno Metropolitan Area



Participatory approach to transforming metropolitan territories in the Ostrava Metropolitan Area and the Stuttgart Region



Possibilities of **Integrating Bus Transport** in the Warsaw Metropolis



Informal and participatory planning approach to the vision process for the Metropolitan Area Berlin-Brandenburg



Structured dialogue for evaluating the strategic planning process in the Metropolitan City of Turin

From testing to implementing

New solutions



Food cooperation for metropolitan areas



Innovative Metropolitan Prototyping



Cooperation platform for the development of metropolitan public transport



Bottom-up process-oriented stakeholder involvement

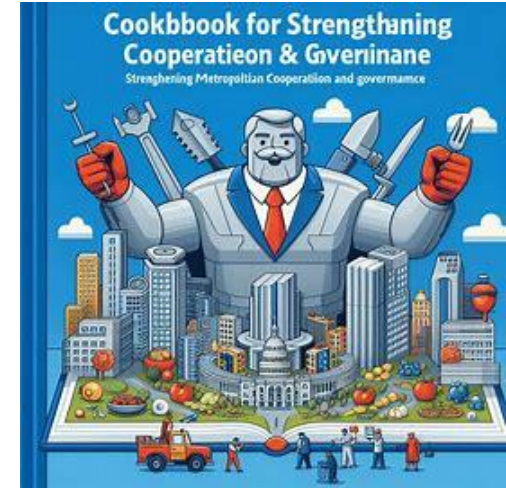


Engaging metropolitan stakeholders in strategic planning process

Final outcomes (in preparation)

Strategy for strengthening
metropolitan cooperation and
governance

Action plans for metropolitan areas
involved

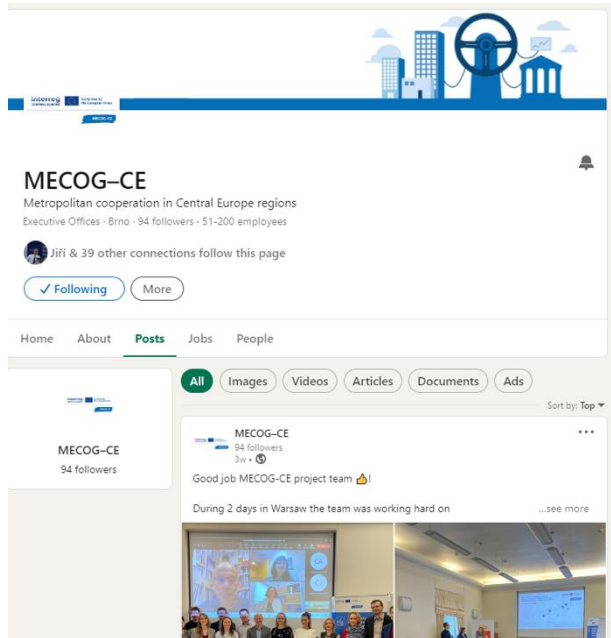


Final conference in Brno 26 March 2026

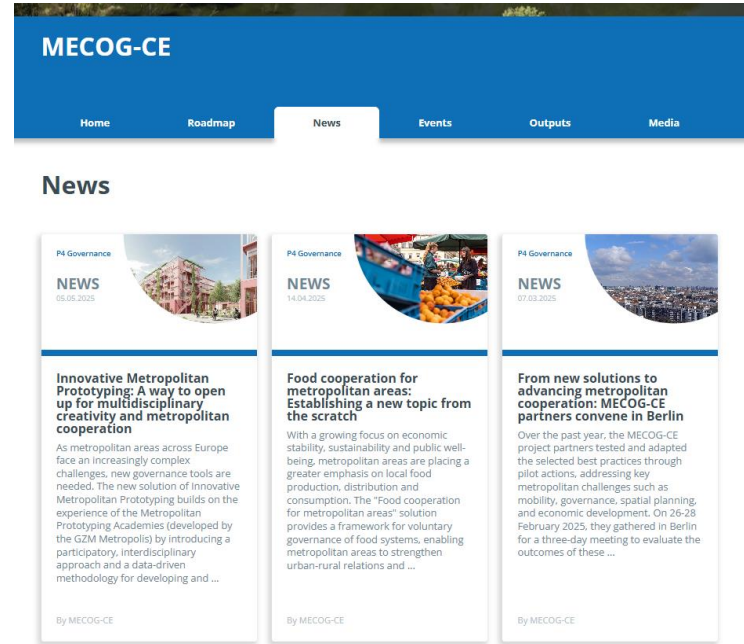


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Our website: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/mecog-ce>



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