

The added value of the metropolitan level to urban development

From practical experiences to a metropolitan agenda

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Why metropolitan areas?

CITIES	Admin city (million)	FUA/city
Paris	2,18	5,1
Lisbon	0,53	4,9
London	7,43	1,8
Warsaw	1,69	1,7
Bratislava	0,43	1,7
Madrid	3,26	1,6
Vienna	1,60	1,6
Budapest	1,70	1,5
Prague	1,17	1,4
Brno	0,38	1,4
Berlin	3,44	1,2
AVERAGE (40 cities)	42.63 mill	2,3

Europe has

- 21st century economy,
- 20th century governments,
- 19th century territorial systems

OECD analysis about metropolitan governance models

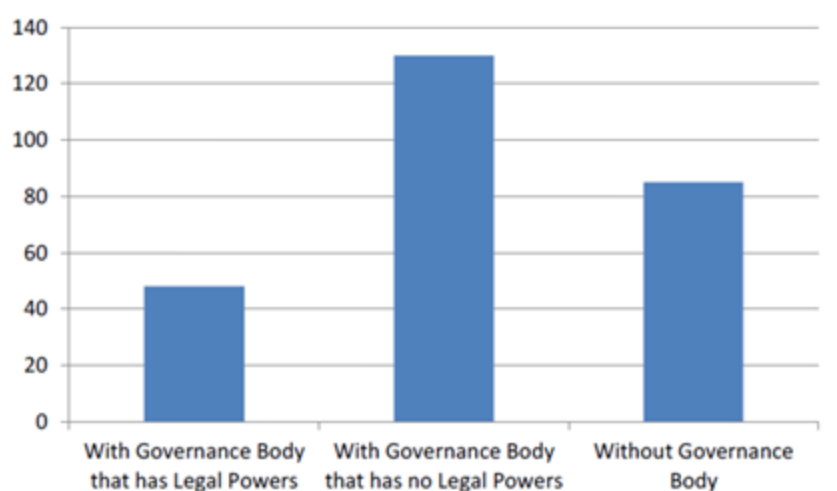


Table 1.1. Four broad categories of metropolitan governance bodies in OECD metropolitan areas

From the lightest to the most stringent in institutional terms

<p>a) Informal/soft co-ordination. Often found in instances of polycentric urban development, lightly institutionalised platforms for information sharing and consultation are relatively easy both to implement and to undo. They typically lack enforcement tools and their relationship with citizens and other levels of government tends to remain minimal.</p>	
<p>b) Inter-municipal authorities. When established for a single purpose, such authorities aim at sharing costs and responsibilities across member municipalities – sometimes with the participation of other levels of government and sectoral organisations. Multi-purpose authorities embrace a defined range of key policies for urban development such as land use, transport and infrastructure.</p>	
<p>c) Supra-municipal authorities. An additional layer above municipalities can be introduced either by creating a directly elected metropolitan government or with the upper governments setting down a non-elected metropolitan structure. The extent of municipal involvement and financial capacity often determine the effectiveness of a supra-municipal authority.</p>	
<p>d) Special status of “metropolitan cities”. Cities that exceed a legally defined population threshold can be upgraded into a special status as “metropolitan cities”, which puts them on the same footing as the next upper level of government and gives them broader competencies.</p>	

Source: OECD (2014), *OECD Regional Outlook 2014: Regions and Cities: Where Policies and People Meet*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264201415-en>.

METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE MODELS

Analysis of six European metropolitan revealed two viable approaches in the handling of metropolitan challenges:

- **Institutional**, i.e. the creation of a metropolitan organisation on a fixed territorial basis with sufficiently large range of competences (**Stuttgart, Greater Manchester**, and also **Area Metropolitana Barcelona**)
- **Procedural**, i.e. striving for mechanisms and rules which allow for coordinated activities on a sufficiently large metropolitan territory, not necessarily in fixed territorial constellations (**Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Zürich**)

These two approaches are very different, they are not mutually exclusive and also hybrid forms might exist.

Source: MRI study for AMB, Barcelona, 2018

<http://mri.hu/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/metropolitan-areas-Barcelona-MRI-study-final-1806.pdf>

Type of representation on the metropolitan level

Amsterdam	Copenhagen	Zürich	Greater Manchester	Stuttgart	Barcelona
Informal, no representation worked out	No organisation	Each municipality + 8 cantons at the <i>Metropolitan Conference</i> , 8 representatives by the cantons and 8 by the municipalities: <i>Metropolitan Council</i>	Greater Manchester Combined Authority Councillors of the 10 boroughs are the council members + directly elected mayor	Region Stuttgart Directly elected members of the Assembly (election based on party lists)	AMB Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona Metropolitan Council with 90 metropolitan councillors (weighted representation)



Polymers: spatial development helps meet competitiveness while promoting cooperation and partnership

With or without a strong metropolitan institution?

The institutional and procedural forms **can not be ranked clearly according to the efficiency** of governance coordination.

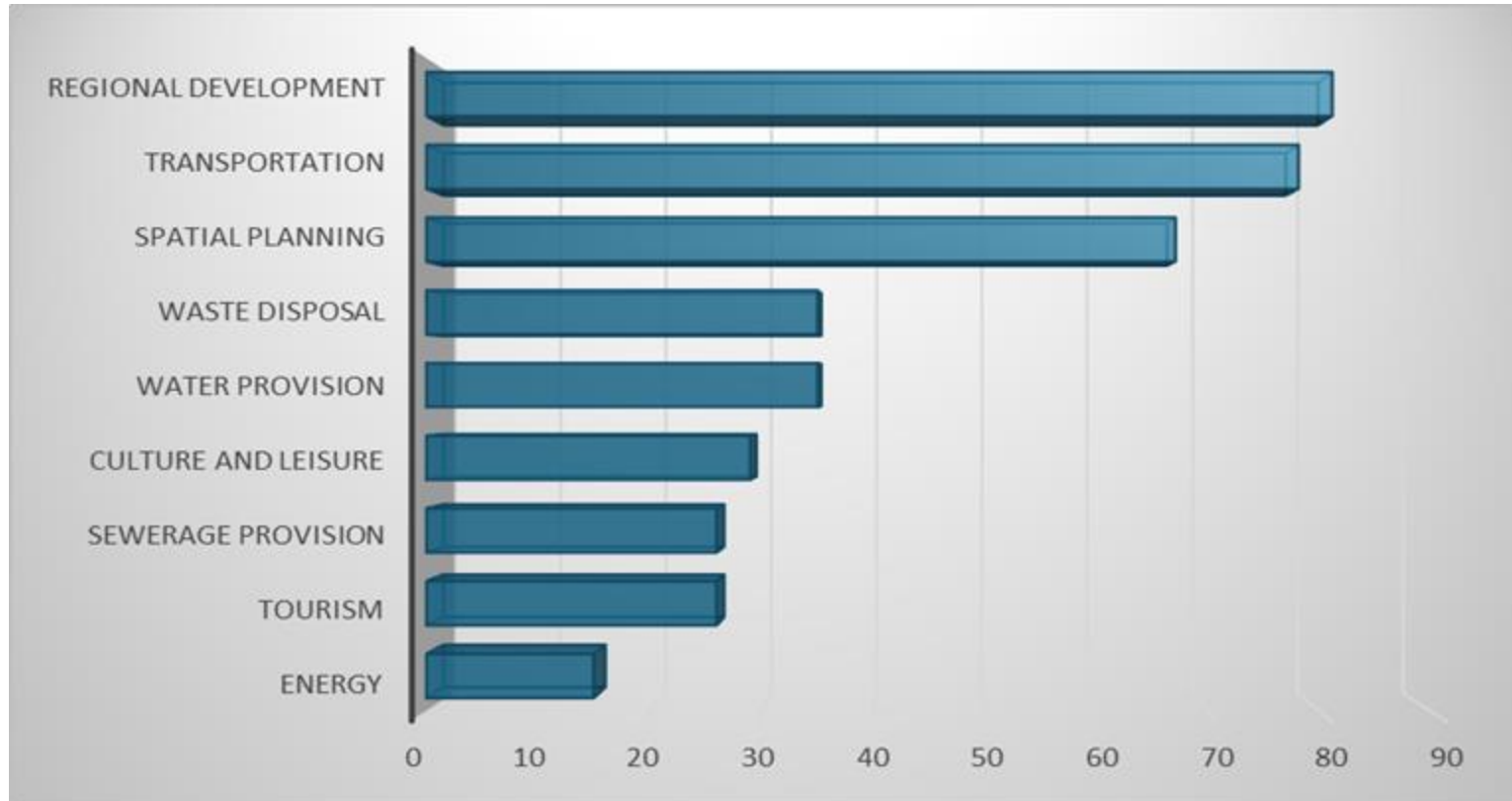
- The **institutional form** is better in handling difficult cooperation issues, but the law-based stability of the institution can become an impediment if development is dynamic and the growing functional area exceeds substantially the metropolitan territory defined by the rigid legal statute.
- The **procedural form** offers more flexible possibilities to adapt to the changing territorial realities, however, the looser connections between municipalities make decision-making more difficult (apart from handling win-win type situations).

Different financial schemes on metropolitan level

Institutional Setup	Own Budget	Funding Sources	Examples
Strong Metropolitan Authority	☑ Yes	Direct taxation, bonds, intergovernmental transfers	Business tax sharing, congestion pricing, municipal bonds
Institutionalized Cooperation (No Own Budget)	☑ No	National/regional grants, EU funding, municipal transfers	ITI funding, PPPs, voluntary municipal contributions
Informal Network with Shared Budget	☑ Yes (Voluntary)	Pooled municipal resources, EU project funding	Joint investment funds, land value capture, rotating contributions
Informal Network without Budget	☑ No	Knowledge-sharing, academic grants, crowdsourcing	Technical assistance grants, citizen crowdfunding

Thematic fields of cooperation

(in percentage of all OECD metropolitan areas, 2014. OECD)



	Copenhagen	Zürich	Stuttgart	Barcelona
Population	1,876,691 (OECD 2014) 1,881,000 (ESPON 2006)	1,246,968 (OECD 2014) 1,615,000 (ESPON 2006)	1,965,942 (OECD 2014), 2,665,000 (ESPON 2006)	3,846,697 (OECD 2014) 4,251,000 (ESPON 2006)
Type of metropolitan organisation closest to FUA	No organisation	Zürich Metropolitan Area Association (2.1 million people, 110 municipalities)	<u>Verband</u> Region Stuttgart (2.8 million people, 179 municipalities)	Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona (3.2 million people, 36 municipalities)
Legal background	No organisation	Voluntary cooperation	Act on the Establishment of the <u>Verband</u> Region Stuttgart 1994 (by Land Baden-Württemberg)	Law 31/2010, of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona. (by the region of Catalonia)
Type of representation on the metropolitan level	No organisation	Each municipality + 8 cantons represented at the Metropolitan Conference. Metropolitan Council (executive): eight members from cantons, eight from municipalities.	Directly elected members of the Assembly (election based on party lists)	Metropolitan Council with 90 metropolitan councillors, the 36 municipalities are represented proportionally to their population and political representation of the municipal elections.
Functions exercised on the metropolitan level	Strong spatial plan (Finger Plan) elaborated on national level	Spatial planning Lobbying towards the central government Pilot projects with metropolitan relevance	Public transportation Spatial planning Economic development Branding	Territorial planning Urban planning (Metropolitan Urban Master Plan, land and housing policies) Services of metropolitan interest.
Annual budget	No budget	Appr. 0.9 million EUR (2017)	Appr. 350 million EUR	684 million EUR for metropolitan administration (AMB); 1,700 million EUR with all the metropolitan companies and institutions (2017)
Source of budget	No budget	Fees from the members and contribution to project costs from the members	Allocated from the county tax	Direct tax from citizens, contribution of municipalities, devolved funds of public services from the region EU funds, certain sectoral taxes on companies

National policies on metropolitan areas

FR	Municipal associations: series of laws since 1999 to initiate collaboration
FR	Regional reform (2015) and thinking about the future of départements
IT	Metropolitan cities initiative: 1990, 2000, 2012, 2014; thinking about the future of provinces
DE	Metropolitan regions initiative: from the 1990s
PL	Regional reform in 1990s. Metropolization of regional seats since 2007, based on EU resources (ITI)
RO	Municipal associations since 2004, Growth Poles to allocate EU resources since 2007
CZ	Metropolitan law since 2015

MECOG-CE: central Europe shows many models

The **EU Cohesion policy** regulation includes from **2014** initiatives towards metropolitan development (Sustainable Urban Development), although in a non-binding form, **subordinated to national policy considerations**.

In the last decade there is a **strong differentiation observable among the CE countries** regarding metropolitan development.

- **Italy** is one of the pioneers in giving extra roles to metropolitan cities.
- In **Poland** and the **Czech Republic** the planning for the EU resources brought successfully new tools for functional urban area cooperation.
- In other countries, most notably **Hungary**, centralization is strong and metropolitanization is not supported.

Flexibility and variability needed in metropolitan governance

- Metropolitan challenges vary significantly, there is no “one size fits all” solution. Instead, **multiple governance structures may be required within a single urban area** to effectively address different challenges.
 - For instance, a clearly defined **commuting area** may need a strong spatial planning and mobility governance body, while a **broader economic cooperation area** may function more effectively under a looser, planning-based framework.
- Example: Berlin
 - **Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg**, covering the whole of the two federal states.
 - **Berlin-Brandenburg Transport Association**, including Berlin, 14 counties and 4 cities
 - **Municipal Neighbourhood Forum** with voluntary membership of 51 municipalities from Brandenburg and 12 districts of Berlin.

Metropolitan cooperation frameworks and stakeholder involvement

Collaborative planning

Collaborative planning in metropolitan cooperation is a governance approach that **emphasizes partnership, inclusivity, and shared decision-making among various stakeholders.**

Data Sharing and Digital Platforms

Data sharing and digital platforms play a crucial role in strengthening metropolitan cooperation by **enabling seamless communication, efficient service delivery, and evidence-based decision-making.**

Capacity Building and Education

The aim is to equip stakeholders with the skills, knowledge and institutional framework needed for effective governance.

Stakeholder Dialogues and Forums

The direct and indirect forms of communication, with varying levels of formality.

- Direct communication often occurs through informal interactions or official meetings, such as regional assemblies, steering committees, and working groups, where representatives meet in person to discuss issues and make decisions.
- Indirect communication, by contrast, is typically formal correspondence or less personal but important.

POLY-CRISIS: INCREASING CHALLENGES, REQUIRING NEW THINKING

Potential new principles to react

- take the **planetary boundaries** into account (green growth idea to be revised)
- Make development more **resilient** (strengthening communities)
- protect the **poor**

Metropolitan/FUA cooperation as a geographical territory where externalities can be handled

The challenge: sustainable and socially just transition, taking climate change into account



Social impacts of decarbonization policies in cities vary considerably: **some initiatives are helping those most in need**, while others are **exacerbating inequality** and leaving behind communities.

Besides, **always the planetary boundaries (the limits of growth)** have to be taken into account

An emerging idea: post-growth

Growth has to be abandoned as an objective, focus instead on equity, sufficiency and human wellbeing. **It is not aggregate production what matters but what we are producing, assuring that people have access to goods they require and that incomes are more equally distributed.**

Post-growth aims for a **planned and democratic reduction of less necessary production in rich countries in a safe and just way.**

Post-growth suggestions: **decommodify public services to make them accessible to everyone: health, housing education, food, ...**

Job guarantee, living wages, improve bargaining power of labour.

Socially necessary sectors have to be improved and not necessary ones to be removed. Right to repair, extend products life.

Sufficiency: towards an eco-social economy

Towards an eco-social development model **optimise, exploit, and transform the existing infrastructure**

Cities could continue to evolve, flourish, and beautify, by

- focusing on **renewal, limited densification**,
- the **‘repair’ of certain areas** such as city entrances, commercial zones, or business districts.

To realign with planetary boundaries, we will have to learn to focus on, take care of, and pass on our **existing urban heritage**.

Philippe BIHOUIX, deputy CEO of the AREP Group (Paris)

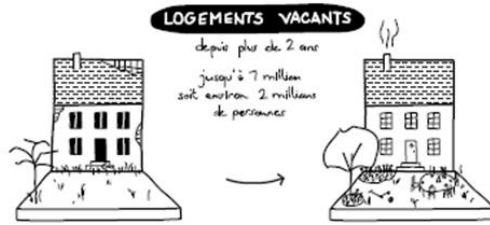
Sufficiency, as defined in [COP26: Sufficiency should be First \(external link\)](#) and included in [IPCC 2022 climate mitigation report \(external link\)](#) and [IPCC 2023 synthesis report \(external link\)](#), is articulated around 4 pillars :

1. Sufficiency is a **set of policy measures and daily practices**.
2. These policies and practices **avoid demand for energy, materials, land, water and all natural resources**.
3. These policies and practices deliver on **well-being for all** to ensure within country equity.
4. These policies and practices are designed **within planetary boundaries to deliver on north/south and intergenerational equity**.

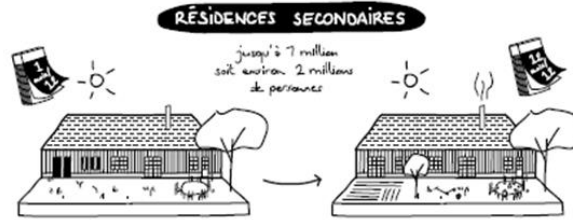
Sufficiency policies in practice

Sufficiency policies can take many forms and must be based on an **appropriate assessment of social, distributional and environmental impacts** to ensure they generate the full potential of positive impacts across the board. Pursuing sufficiency on a sectoral basis could include:

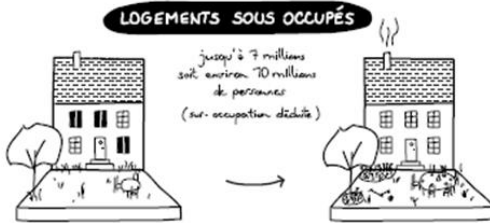
- Transport, mobility
- Energy, buildings and spatial planning
- Materials, products, food and water
- Cross-sectoral: taxation and finance, governance forms



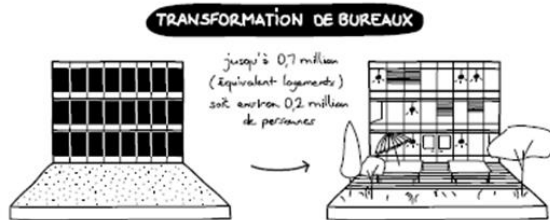
1 Million



1 Million



7 Millions



0,1 Millions

Reserves for
housing, instead of
new building,
in France

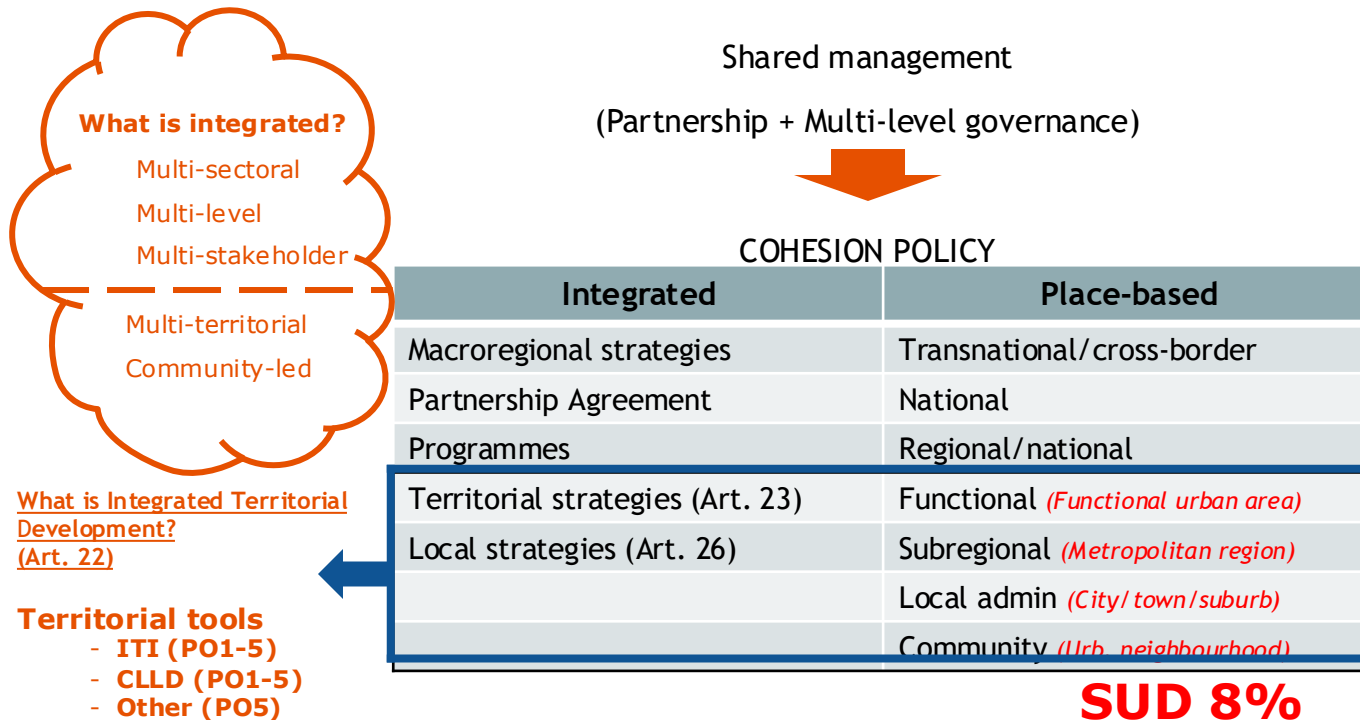
<https://bonpote.com/philippe-bihoux-pour-construire-mieux-nous-naurons-dautres-choix-que-de-construire-moins/>

Philippe Bihoux: "To build better, we will have no other choice but to build less"

Debates about post-growth

- In **Germany** 2 million housing units are staying empty... **people are using 50% more housing space as in 1990...** a post-growth agenda for housing should be possible under such circumstances...
- No more land take: **NRW 2008-2022**: 0.2 pop increase, 0.25% hh increase, 0.6% housing, 1.35% land use increase per year. The state created a strategy for a theoretical zero-sum situation, the regional plan designates **30 housing/ha density**, while municipalities want to deserve what we have on 10 housing/ha density level...
- It is proved that **building new housing does not lead to more affordability**
- **Post-growth as leading agenda** can only work, if not the negative vision is emphasized but health, clean water, nature, just city as center of metropolitan images

The EU framework: integrated territorial development



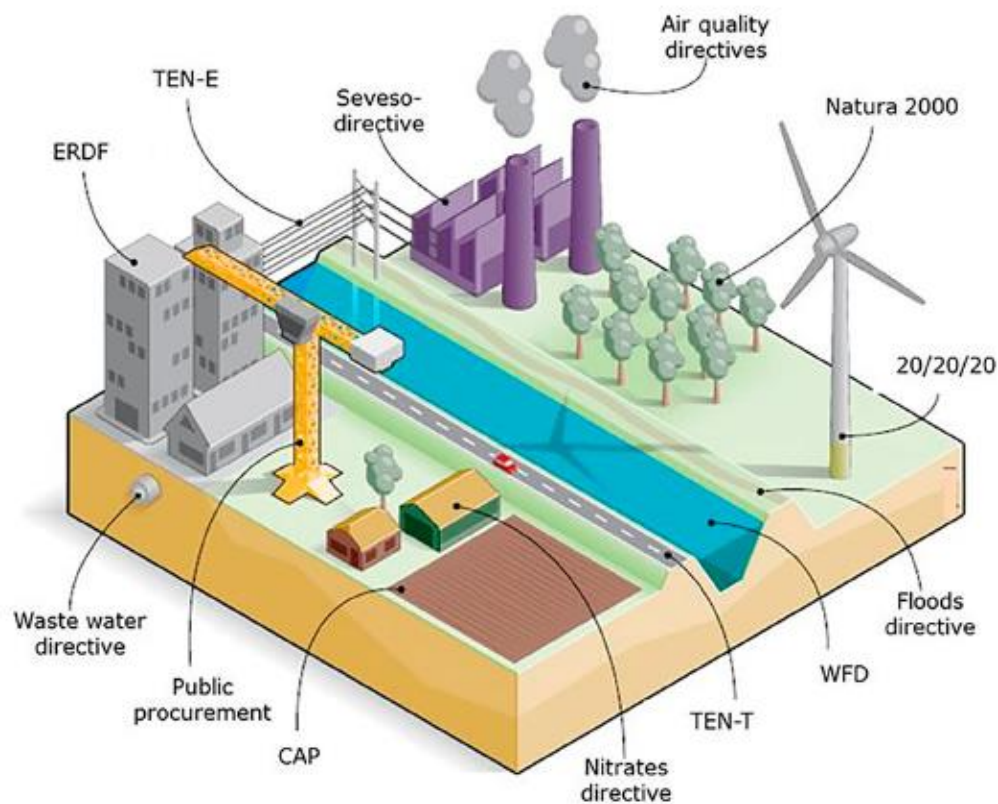


Figure 1. Hypothetical presence of EU policies relevant to planning.
Source: authors

Evers, D. & Tennekes, J. (2016) Europe exposed: mapping the impacts of EU policies on spatial planning in the Netherlands, *European Planning Studies*, 24:10, 1747-1765.

FIT-FOR-55

- Commitment by EU to become a climate neutral continent in 2050: long-term decarbonisation strategy called the '[European Green Deal](#)'
- Intermediary goal to reduce EU emissions by at least 55% by 2030 → '[Fit-for-55](#)' policy package
- Central components are to decarbonise
 - European housing stock, 36% of its greenhouse gas emissions from energy in 2020
 - European transport, 25% of its greenhouse gas emissions from energy in 2020

The Hague South West: restructuring post-WWII garden cities

Housing programme 2020-40: **1776 demolitions**, 292 renovations.
Newbuilt: 5500 units (of which 2920 social)



The dilemma of affordable housing

Netherlands needs to build another 1 million homes after 2030, even if immigration slows down significantly

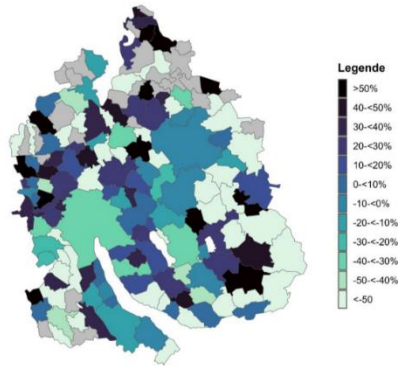
Outgoing Housing Minister Hugo de Jonge: the current housing construction goal is 981,000 new homes up to 2030, to solve the [housing shortage](#). And the work won't stop there: "We already know that the assignment could be of the same size between 2030 and 2040".

De Jonge wants to focus more on **large-scale housing construction**. As potential sites he is considering the area between Groningen and Assen, with an extension towards Emmen, the Gelderland city triangle of Apeldoorn, Zutphen, and Deventer, the Eindhoven region, Twente, and Zuid-Limburg. The fact that **there are no Randstad locations in that list** is deliberate, De Jonge said. "We can't all continue to live in a mess/huddle in the Randstad."

New housing in itself does not lead to more affordability

Who gets densified through total replacement construction?

Target municipalities for residents, which have to move after renovation or total replacement construction (2014-2020)



- Evicted residents **move to agglomeration municipalities**, e.g., Regensdorf, Buchs, Bülach, Weiningen, Dietikon, Schlieren, or Adliswil.
- **Low-income, foreigners and single parents** are affected more by eviction than the rest of the population.

Source: Kaufmann, David, Elena Lutz, Fiona Kauer, Malte Wehr, und Michael Wicki. 2023. Erkenntnisse zum aktuellen Wohnungsnotstand: Bautätigkeit, Verdrängung und Akzeptanz. Bericht ETH Zürich. DOI: 10.3929/ethz-b-000603229

Soft versus hard urban densification

- **Soft densification** typically proceeds incrementally through continuous, small-scale adjustments of the urban fabric (Moudon 1986). It is basically a form of urban expansion, still proceeding in the direct continuity of existing buildings.
- By contrast, **hard densification** proceeds through large-scale policy-driven developments, involving the redevelopment of existing urban structures. These pre-existing urban structures may be unused places, such as brownfields, or densely occupied areas, for example, resulting from slum resettlement policies. Hard densification is usually conceived as a state-driven policy.

TAMA38 Nava Persov and **Naomi Carmon**, co-authors of [Densifying and Upgrading the Existing Housing Stock: An Evaluation Study of an Innovative Program](https://n9.cl/k9bvr) <https://n9.cl/k9bvr>

Soft,
incremental
I



Plate 12: A condominium renovation project under National Outline Plan 38 (Tama 38) in Israel before (left) and after (right) renovation (Source; Hanani, 2015).

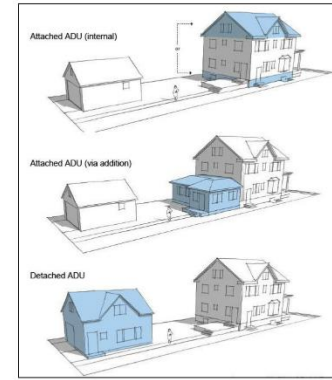


Figure 9: Examples of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) provided by the City of St. Paul, Minnesota (ADUs in blue; main residence in white) that help increase the city's Plot Coverage (Source: City of St. Paul, 2019).

Hard,
radical



Israel: pinui-binui



Moscow: eliminating Khrushchevskis



Taken from a PPT presentation of Naomi Carmon, May 2021

Making inner cities attractive to maximize tax incomes („revanchist regeneration”)





Integrating housing on MA level

Greater London Authority (UK)

- ✗ The **London Plan** serves as a strategic spatial development framework, **integrating housing, transport, and land-use planning** at the metropolitan level.
- ✗ The plan ensures **coordinated development between neighbourhoods and sets affordable housing targets, regeneration priorities, and sustainability benchmarks**. The Mayor's office leads the strategy but works in partnership with neighbourhoods and housing associations.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/planning/london-plan>



Urban food systems and metropolitan food sovereignty

Why it matters at Metropolitan Level

Climate resilience: Local food systems reduce transport emissions and buffer supply chains.

Health equity: Food deserts and nutritional inequality are metropolitan challenges.

Circular economy: Food waste valorization, composting, and urban-rural biocycles are key NBS.

Land use policy: Peri-urban agriculture competes with housing expansion—thus, it's a **planning issue**.



✓ **Develop a Metropolitan Food Strategy**, including protection of peri-urban farmland, urban agriculture zones, food access mapping, and food waste reduction.

Metropolitan food and soil strategy

✅ **Recommendation:** Support **peri-urban agriculture**, urban food production zones, and short food supply chains. Protect fertile land from urban sprawl.

✅ **Actionable via voluntary zoning coordination:**

Municipalities can adopt land-use clauses protecting soil and zoning areas for local farming or food forests.

📌 **Example Lyon Métropole:**

The innovativeness of the Metropolitan Food Strategy lies in **adopting the perspective of metropolitan metabolism**. Its crucial element is the food system that encompasses various dimensions, including social, health, economic, and environmental aspects (integrated approach). The creation of the food governance system involves various stakeholders, i.e., institutions and officials, food producers, processors, the food industry, the gastronomic sector and consumers. (Source: Metropolis of Lyon Interreg MECOG-CE D.1.2. P.17)

📌 **Example:**

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and regional land-use planning around food sustainability.

<https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/>



Metropolitan climate adaptation and resilience strategy

Make environment a cross-cutting axis, not just a thematic one.

✓ Create an **open environmental data platform** with maps of green space, heat islands, emissions, etc.

- ✗ **Map** climate risks: urban heat, flood zones, air quality hotspots.
- ✗ **Prioritize** vulnerable areas and groups in adaptation measures.
- ✗ **Link** to public health and spatial equity.

✓ ***Feasible under voluntary cooperation:***
Municipalities can jointly create a risk atlas and share costs of resilience projects (e.g., flood retention areas, heat-mitigation zones).

- 📌 **Example:**
- ✗ **Paris Métropole** adopted a “Heatwave Action Plan” shared across municipalities, including tree canopy targets and green corridors.
 - ✗ **C40 Cities** and Adaptation Resource Guide (Paris case) <https://www.c40.org/>



Integration of circular economy and waste reduction into planning

✓ Recommendation:

- ✗ Adopt shared goals for **municipal waste reduction**, circular procurement, repair/reuse hubs.
- ✗ Joint policies for **construction and demolition waste** in metropolitan development.

✓ Voluntary coordination:

Standardize local regulations and promote regional reuse marketplaces.

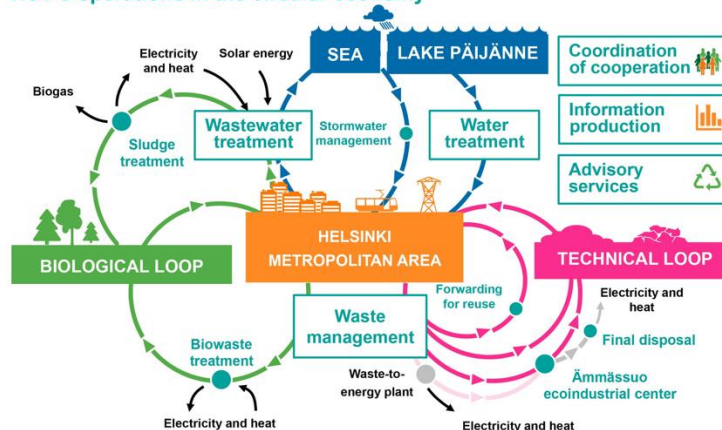


Example:

Helsinki Metropolitan Area (HSY) runs a shared recycling/reuse system, public procurement platform, and building material exchange across municipalities.

<https://www.hsy.fi/en/environmental-information/circular-economy/0>

HSY's operations in the circular economy



Embedding a “green equity” lens into environmental projects

✅ Recommendations:

- ✗ Establish a **Green Transition Platform**: municipalities + NGOs + academia + business.
- ✗ Prioritize **environmental investments in underserved or marginalized neighborhoods** (e.g., tree planting, noise barriers, safe water access).
- ✗ Combine environmental data with **social vulnerability indicators**.

✅ *Feasible via joint mapping and co-funded pilot projects.*

📌 Example:

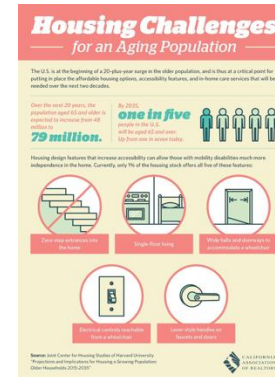
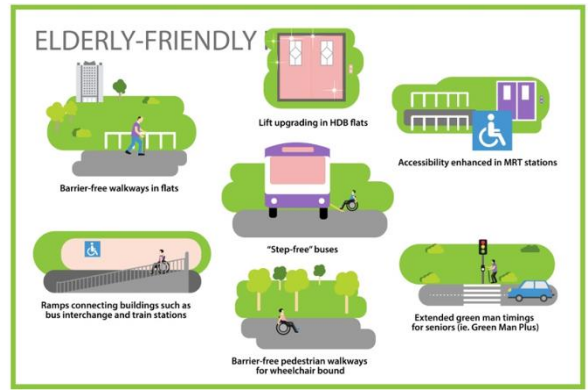
Barcelona Metropolitan Area uses an “Urban Environmental Justice Atlas” to prioritize investments in green infrastructure. <https://www.bcnuej.org/>

Global Atlas for Environmental Justice <https://ejatlas.org/>



Ageing: why the metropolitan scale matters?

- Ageing populations are **spatially uneven**—rural, suburban, and shrinking areas often age faster than urban cores.
- Solutions need to coordinate **housing, mobility, services, and digital access** across multiple municipalities.
- The metro level is optimal for scaling **preventive, inclusive and place-based ageing strategies**.



Age-Friendly Metropolitan Planning

✓ Recommendations:

- ✗ Embed age-friendliness into **metropolitan spatial and transport planning**:
- ✗ Barrier-free public space, walkability, safe crossings.
- ✗ Public transport adapted to older users (seating, visual displays, request stops).
- ✗ Inter-municipal coordination of care facilities and service accessibility.

📌 Example: Manchester's Age-Friendly City Region

Manchester was the first city to join WHO's **Age-Friendly Cities Network** and **expanded this to the Greater Manchester level**. Their strategy includes inclusive design, senior-led urban audits, and transport reform.

<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/ageing>



Greater Manchester Age-Friendly Strategy 2024-2034

The Greater Manchester Age-Friendly Strategy 2024-2034

Coordinated Health & Social Care at Metro Scale



Recommendation:

Coordinate **mobile care teams, memory centers, and social services** across municipalities—especially for small towns and villages.



Example:

Flanders Care (Belgium)

A region-wide aging innovation strategy that includes home care, mobility services, dementia coordination centers, and digital health pilots.

<https://www.flanderscare.be/> and <https://www.departementzorg.be/en>

Care Living Labs: These are real-life test environments where new care concepts, services, and products are co-created and evaluated. The labs bring together stakeholders from various sectors, including healthcare providers, researchers, and end-users, to ensure user-centered and effective



<https://healthcarelivinglab.cat/>

Towards stationary, resilient metropolitan areas

Urban change based on **optimising, exploiting and transforming the existing infrastructure**

- applying **new mobility strategy** across the whole urban region, based on **accessibility** instead of mobility
- linking **energy efficient renovation on housing areas** with **other resiliency goals** (eg less parking to allow more green)
- addressing **social problems innovatively**, as during the pandemic: eradicate **homelessness** (conversion of buildings) and **poverty** (minimum income)

Emerging examples: **Girona (FUA of 131,000)**. Leftist-municipalist party experiments with “**postgrowth metropolitan policy**”: integral **renaturalization**, increase of tree cover, urban gardening, wetland restoration, in terms of **environmental justice**.

Girona: a municipality as testing ground for degrowth policies

Girona City Council will become the first administration in Catalonia and in Spain as a whole to explore degrowth.

In early 2024, we signed a world-first “**post-growth memorandum of understanding**” with Girona, pledging to research and implement adjustments to the city’s economy for it prioritises planetary & human well-being, over endless economic growth.

Collaboration agreement with the Research and Degrowth International Association, linked to ICTA-UAB, and the University of Girona.

The aim of the project is: ‘We need to break through the poverty. **Degrowth is not a return to the caves**’.
(Girona's councillor for Climate Action)



What could a postgrowth Girona look like?

The new urban economy has relocalised production of many things which were being imported, focusing on biomaterials, and things that are neither detrimental nor useless.

Economic wealth is better distributed as a result of wealth taxes, achieved by joining forces with other cities around the country to "influence upwards" to change national policies.

The city administration and citizens are aware of resource flows to and from the city, its immediate hinterland, and the rest of Catalonia, and these links are valued and fostered.

Profit and work are shared more widely than before, meaning more jobs and less working hours.

Collective luxury is understood, and valued over individual accumulation.

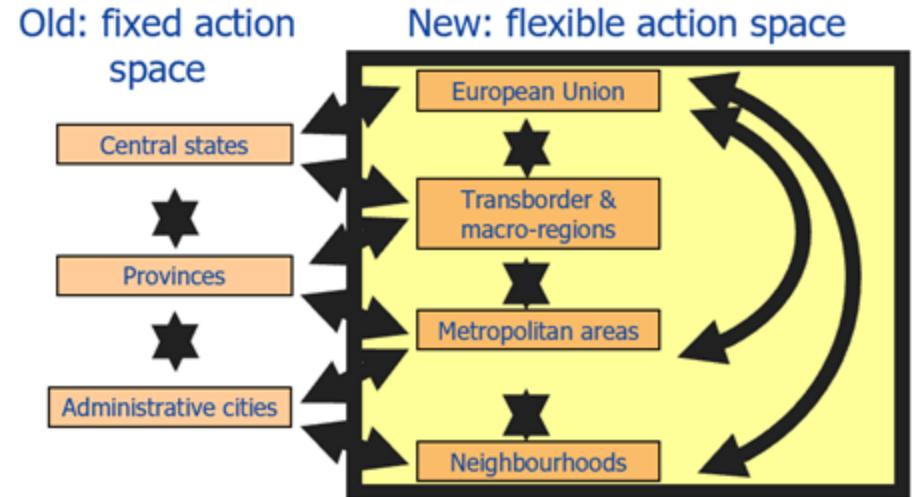
Economics is taught differently, from a young age, based on the idea that the Economy takes place inside the Environment, rather than simply using it as a free pot of resources.

The potential role of metropolitan governance

Metropolitan governance is a strategic realignment of governance structures to match the dynamic and interconnected nature of metropolitan life, allowing governments to deliver common goods at the most appropriate scale, within the planetary boundaries.

Main goals

- Ensuring inter-municipal collaboration
- Aligning local needs with broader programmes
- Providing platform for inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation
- Supporting cities in their paths to prosperity & sustainability



Adapted from Jacquier, 2010

Metropolitan areas to enable a resilient urban future

- **Cities and metropolitan areas should play key role** in the resilient, inclusive, post-growth-oriented transition, cooperating with civil society and innovative governance: **visionary strategic planning** is needed
- **Countries** can act innovatively, mobilising production capacity towards democratically decided goals, **limiting the influence of capital over the national economy.**
- **New EU wide policies** are needed: while continuing Green Deal, **strengthening the frameworks for resiliency** (no more land take, taxonomy), **environmental and social justice and democracy in general.**
- **New enabling conditions** might help to achieve **more coordinated changes** on national and metropolitan/urban area level. **The Agenda for Cities** should include a metropolitan chapter...

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



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