

NEWSLETTER

No.1 - October 2025

Governing metropolitan communities in a more cohesive Europe



Interreg
Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

Table of contents

Metro Case

1. Editorial
2. The project
3. The partnership
4. Interregional exchange & staff exchange sessions
5. Spotlight on the lead partner: Metropolitan City of Genova
6. Community of practice
7. Governance state of the art & SWOT analysis – setting the baseline

1. Editorial

Dear Readers,

Metro Case is off to an exciting start! Together with our partners and stakeholders across Europe, we are working to make metropolitan governance more inclusive, connected, and ready for the future.

Our goal is simple but ambitious: help metropolises plan sustainable growth by building stronger cooperation between institutions and engaging local communities in shaping strategies that truly reflect their needs.

This is just the first step in our journey – and we're looking forward to sharing stories, tools, and ideas that can inspire change well beyond our project areas.

Enjoy this first issue and stay tuned for more Metro Case news!

Metro Case

2. The project

Metro Case tackles one of today's biggest urban challenges: how to plan sustainable growth in complex metropolitan areas. These territories are rich in opportunities but demand strong, inclusive governance to balance environmental, social and economic priorities.

The project brings together European metropolitan regions to **strengthen multilevel governance** through stakeholder engagement and shared learning. By improving policy tools and decision-making processes, Metro Case ensures that strategies are not only well-designed but **co-created with local communities**.

Through peer exchanges and practical experimentation, partners will identify and apply effective methods for collaborative planning and policy innovation.

At its core, Metro Case builds on **vision, participation and shared collaboration** helping metropolitan areas become more **resilient, sustainable and connected** to the people they serve.

3. The partnership

The project brings together eight metropolitan areas from across Europe and candidate countries, and one advisory partner. Partners will develop and implement policy solutions aimed at stronger and more coordinated multilevel and multisectoral governance.

The partnership consists of:

- Metropolitan City of Genova, **Italy**
- Politecnico di Torino, **Italy**
- City of Warsaw, **Poland**
- Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association, **Romania**
- Barcelona Metropolitan Area, **Spain**
- City of Skopje, **North Macedonia**
- The Gothenburg Region Association of Local Authorities, **Sweden**
- Municipality of Tirana, **Albania**
- METREX Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas, **Belgium**.

Metro Case



PPs' locations - Total project budget - Project duration (1 May 2025 – 31 July 2029)

Metro Case

4. Interregional exchange & staff exchange sessions

Kick-off in Genova: Exchange, Learning and Inspiration

From 10 to 12 June 2025, the Metropolitan City of Genova hosted the **Kick-off Meeting of the Metro Case project**, bringing together partners from across Europe for three days of collaboration, inspiration, and exchange. The agenda featured the first **Interregional and Staff Exchange sessions**, focusing on metropolitan governance, policy coordination, and mutual learning. Partners and stakeholders explored Genova's experience through presentations from the **Liguria Region**, the **Chamber of Commerce of Genova**, and the **Metropolitan City of Genova**, highlighting ERDF programming, SME support, and innovative governance models.

Good practices from other projects – **MECOG-CE** and **UrbanCOOP** – enriched the discussions with examples of stakeholder engagement and integrated planning.

A study visit by sea offered participants a close look at Genova's major **waterfront regeneration projects**, showing how strategic planning and participatory processes are transforming the city's coastal areas.

The meeting marked an important step in **strengthening cooperation and building shared knowledge** within the Metro Case partnership.



More info about Kick-off at:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/metro-case/news-and-events/news/genoa-hosts-launch-of-metro-case-project>

Link to the video interview:

<https://youtu.be/zodbw1264DE?si=7pZuxdnKxmWCeDFP>

Metro Case

5. Spotlight on the lead partner: Metropolitan City of Genova

Interview with Cristiana Arzà - Head of Strategic Planning and Performance



Q: How does Genova's experience connect to Metro Case's goals?

We know that a good strategy is only as strong as the network behind it. Back in 2017, Genova was among the first Italian metropolitan cities to adopt a Strategic Plan with sustainability at its core – later reinforced through our Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan. This **long-term vision** has opened the door to significant national funding, but the real key is **building stable, collaborative relationships with stakeholders**. Metro Case gives us the opportunity to consolidate these connections and co-design strategies that reflect both territorial priorities and the principles of environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Q: The “Governance State of the Art” sounds technical – why is it important?

Every effective strategy starts with truly understanding the territory. Our context analysis doesn't just cover socio-economic data – it maps key administrative sectors, existing plans and programmes, and even “competitor cities” competing for the same resources and opportunities. With support from the Politecnico di Torino, we're using a unified model to create detailed city dossiers, helping us and our partners see **strengths, opportunities, and potential synergies across metropolitan areas**.

Q: How does communication fit into all this?

Communication isn't an afterthought – it's a **driver of change**. We're developing a strong visual and narrative concept for our strategies so that stakeholders can easily engage with them. Using tools like What if analysis, we can help people visualise how their city might change over time, **making the vision both tangible and inspiring**. In Metro Case, communication is how we turn strategies into shared stories – and shared commitments.

Metro Case



the Levante Waterfront project developed by RPBW and OBR – credits by RPBW

Metro Case

6. Community of practice

Community of Practices: engaging stakeholders from Day 1

A key pillar of Metro Case is the creation of Communities of Practice (CoPs) in each partner territory. These groups bring together stakeholders from different levels and sectors to **analyse governance challenges, co-design solutions, and monitor policy improvements** throughout the project.

During the first semester, all partners have been setting up their local CoPs, ensuring a **balanced representation** of public authorities, private actors, academia, and civil society's representatives. The first meetings are now taking place, **creating spaces for dialogue, knowledge-sharing and joint problem-solving**.

By involving stakeholders from the very start, the CoPs will ensure that project results are grounded in local realities and widely supported, increasing their impact and sustainability.



7. Governance state of the art & SWOT analysis – setting the baseline

One of the first activities launched in Metro Case is the “Governance State of the Art and SWOT analysis”, coordinated by Politecnico di Torino. This work **maps and assesses the current governance systems** in each partner metropolitan area, identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Using a **shared template and methodology**, partners are preparing local reports with input from their Communities of Practice to ensure stakeholder perspectives are embedded from the start. The consolidated results will provide a clear comparative picture of governance structures across the partnership and serve as the foundation for the **project's peer learning, good practice collection and policy improvement** work.



Metro Case

Follow us!

Do you want to be informed of the latest news of the Metro Case project? Follow us on our social media account on [LinkedIn!](#)

We regularly post articles, events, photos. We would be happy to have a chat with you!

To follow the project click [here](#)

Not subscribed to our newsletter yet? Click on this [link!](#)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, click [here](#).

Upcoming events

Partner meeting and Interregional Exchange Session #2, hosted by The Gothenburg Region Association of Local Authorities, **17-19 November 2025**.