

NEWSLETTER

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Governing metropolitan communities in a more cohesive Europe



Interreg
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1. Editorial

Dear Readers,

One year ago, we received the positive news that Metro Case had been approved by Interreg Europe. It has been an exciting first year and we are now starting to see the first concrete results of our joint work. The "Governance State of the Art" - our comparative overview of how metropolitan areas are organised, managed and supported by policy instruments across partner regions - is almost finished. At the same time, each partner is developing a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). This exercise helps regions reflect on their own governance systems, identify what works well, where improvements are needed, and which external trends may influence future development. In parallel, partners have started identifying and selecting Good Practices from their territories and beyond. These are concrete examples of innovative governance models, planning tools, mobility strategies, funding mechanisms or cooperation approaches that can inspire policy improvements in other regions. We are starting to getting to know each other but most importantly, we are starting to learn from each other.

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2. Partner meeting in Gothenburg

From November 17 to 19, the Gothenburg Region (GR) hosted the other project partners of Metro Case in Gothenburg. It was an inspiring few days filled with discussions, site visits and workshops.

The **Interregional session** highlighted cooperation as a key response to complex challenges from a metropolitan perspective. Climate change, national security, public health and migration exemplify such challenges facing today’s public organisations, including municipalities. Addressing these issues often requires long-term collaboration across public, private, and civil society actors and therefore calls for collaborative governance, commonly referred to as New Public Governance (NPG).

NPG emphasises network-based collaboration, participation, and the breakdown of organisational silos in order to enhance flexibility, effectiveness, and responsiveness. As no single organisation or sector has sole authority over these challenges, the ability to collaborate across sectors and levels of governance is essential. However, multiple governance logics often coexist within municipal organisations, and while collaboration is necessary, it is also resource-intensive and increases implementation complexity.

| | Progressive Public Governance (PPG) 1945 | New Public Management (NPM) 1985– | New Public Governance (NPG) 2000– |
|--|---|---|--|
| Reform idea | Rational planning | Targets-based governance and deregulation | Collaboration for the common good |
| Nature and context of public administration | Unique to public sector, stable and hierarchical conditions | Market solutions, competitive conditions | Network-based governance, volatile conditions |
| Key words / guiding principle | Objectivity, equal treatment, independence, predictability | Productivity, service, creativity, customer focus, businesslike | Coordination, collaboration, cooperation, innovation |
| Loyal to | Regulatory frameworks | The organization, budget, targets | The mission, higher values |
| Role model | The Neutral Public Official | The Manager | The Coordinator |
| Core value | Rule of law | Internal efficiency | External efficiency |
| Main problem | Rigid focus on production | Fragmentation | Informalisation |

Governance logics.

New public governance and cooperation works best for complex issues, but competing governance logics make this difficult.

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The **Staff exchange sessions** focused on GR’s model of multi-level and multi-sectoral governance in transport infrastructure planning, grounded in a well-established tradition of consensus-based decision-making. During the sessions, project partners were also invited to provide input and reflections to support the Gothenburg Region’s ongoing process related to the policy document *Policy for Transport Infrastructure Planning in the Metropolitan Region*.

Tram tour highlighting Gothenburg’s urban development

Gothenburg is undergoing one of the largest periods of urban development in its modern history. Planning and construction are underway to accommodate more than 100,000 new residents. During the visit, project participants joined a tram tour through the city, offering an overview of key urban development projects.



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Gothenburg's digital twin - Virtual Gothenburg

The City of Gothenburg has launched a digital twin called *Virtual Gothenburg*, a three-dimensional virtual model of the entire municipality covering approximately 700 km², built on the city's own geospatial data. The initiative, led by the City Planning Authority with participation from all urban planning administrations, aims to improve the way urban development is visualised, analysed and planned.

The digital twin enables a deeper understanding of the current city structure, real-time management of urban functions, and simulation of future scenarios. It supports smarter and more efficient planning by allowing detailed studies—such as traffic flows, sun/shade, noise, and air quality—and enhances dialogue with citizens about future changes.

Virtual Gothenburg is designed to address the increasing complexity of urban challenges, including climate change and segregation and to transform traditional planning processes by fostering innovation and more informed decision-making



More info about Virtual Gothenburg:
[In English - About Gothenburgs Digital twin - Göteborgs Stad](#)

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3. Spotlight on: The Gothenburg Region Association of Local Authorities

Interview with Anna Gustafsson

Project manager Metro Case, regional spatial planner



Q: What is GR's role in the Metro Case project?

GR is taking part in the project with its own case study, based on the governance document **Policy for Transport Infrastructure Planning in the Metropolitan Region**. Through this, we share our experience and knowledge about how we plan transport infrastructure, how we develop a shared strategic direction for the region and how we work together with our 13 member municipalities in a multi-level system.

Q: Why this is important for GR and our region?

Being part of the project gives us the chance to learn from other metropolitan regions. We can get inspiration, gain new insights, and improve our tools and processes for creating policy documents. It also helps showcase the work of the Gothenburg Region and build connections with other metropolitan regions across Europe.

Q: How can "Governance state of the art" contribute to GR's work?

It gives us a fresh and objective perspective on our regional conditions—both physical and institutional. Having an outside view of our region and our work is always valuable. It sparks good discussions and provides useful insights.

Q: What are you taking away from this first year, and what are you looking forward to for the upcoming year?

My highlight of this past year was welcoming all of the project partners to the City of Gothenburg! Looking forward, I'm excited to learn more about the partners different good practices and get inspiration from them.

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4. Governance State of the Art

The *Governance State of the Art* (GSoA) is a central part of the exchange of experience within the Metro Case project. It provides a common analytical framework that helps partners understand the current state of metropolitan governance and compare approaches across regions using a shared methodology.

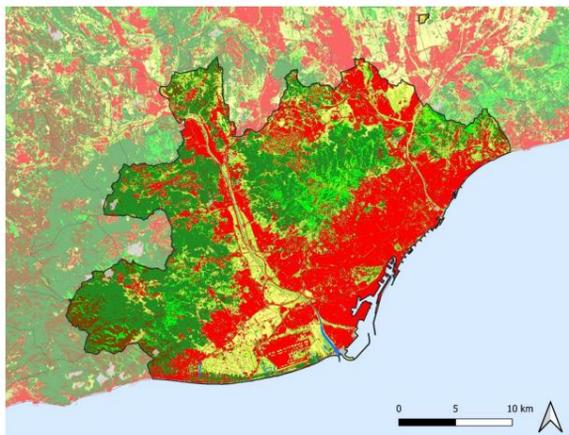
During the first reporting period, the GSoA methodology, templates, and guidelines were presented at the Project Kick-off Meeting in Genoa. Partners started collecting key data on their metropolitan areas, including institutional arrangements, territorial characteristics and spatial patterns. This work covers land use and land cover, settlement structures, and land take, highlighting how spatial form influences governance and recognising land take as an important European policy issue.

The analysis also includes transport and mobility infrastructure, such as road, rail, and port networks, sustainable mobility, and levels of motorisation. This helps assess connectivity and functional integration and shows how infrastructure supports cooperation across metropolitan areas.

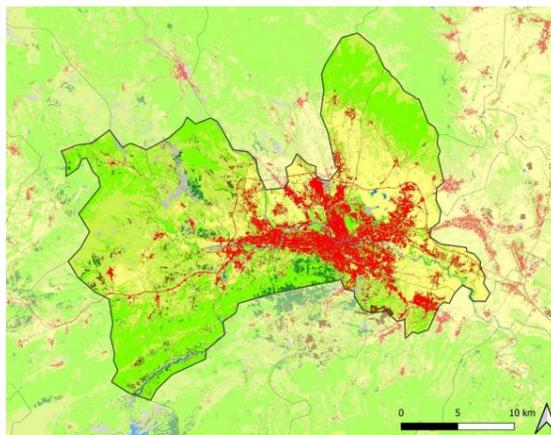
In addition, the GSoA looks at the socio-economic context of each region. Demographic and economic indicators are used to understand population structure, growth or decline and economic conditions and to reflect on how these factors influence governance and policy choices.

GSoA also describes governance models at the metropolitan level and for specific policy instruments. This includes how decisions are made, how policies are implemented and how different actors are involved. This allows partners to compare governance approaches and identify shared challenges.

Barcelona



Skopje



Metropolitan areas. Example of land use and land cover in Barcelona and Skopje (source: CLMS, CLCplus Backbone 2023 (<https://doi.org/10.2909/b0bd43c6-1fa1-4d88-9c45-98b13a95d0b2>), processed by PP2 – Politecnico di Torino).

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Next steps in the project

The project is moving forward and we are now heading into the process of collecting, and evaluating good practices. A set of common assessment criteria has been developed by Politecnico di Torino and the City of Warsaw to ensure a structured, transparent and comparable selection process across all partner regions. Based on these criteria, partners have started identifying and gathering relevant practices from their own territories as well as from other European contexts.

At the same time, partners are actively engaging their Communities of Practice, i.e. regional and local stakeholders involved in metropolitan governance and policy implementation. Through dedicated meetings and exchanges, they are jointly defining the objectives, priorities and working methods for the revision and improvement of the selected policy instruments.

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!

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Upcoming events

Partner meeting and Interregional Exchange Sessions #3, hosted by the City of Skopje, **19-21 May 2026.**

