



Executive Summary

D. 1.2.2. Summary of existing tools/best practices outside partners' regions

This document was elaborated within the project MECOG-CE: Strengthening metropolitan cooperation and governance in Central Europe and is part of the WPI: Analysis of metropolitan dimension, Activity 1.2. Analysis of existing tools/best practices for enhancing metropolitan cooperation. The content of the report is mainly based on the materials provided by the MECOG-CE partner organisations, supplemented by the Authors with desk research and interviews.

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MECOG-CE



Table of contents

- Barcelona Metropolitan Area 5
- Metropolitan City of Capital Rome 8
- Metropolis of Grenoble-Alpes 11
- Metropolis of Lyon 13
- Metropolitan Region Amsterdam 16
- Oslo Region Alliance 19
- West Midlands Combined Authority 21
- Zürich Metropolitan Area Association 23

Executive Summary



Barcelona Metropolitan Area



Barcelona Metropolitan Area

(Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona, AMB)

The Barcelona Metropolitan Area is the only officially recognised metropolitan institution in Spain, serving as a supralocal government for metropolitan policies. Established on the 27th of November 2010 by Catalan Parliament law 31/2010, it unified three organizations: the Union of Municipalities of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Metropolitan Transport Board. It is composed of 36 municipalities.

Its governance bodies include: the Metropolitan Council, the Governing Board, and the Council of Mayors. The Metropolitan Council, the main decision-making body, consists of 36 mayors and 54 municipal councillors, who also elect the President.

The AMB oversees territorial planning, urban planning, and infrastructure of metropolitan interest. Despite its institutional strength, it has yet to significantly influence the EU Cohesion Policy. Bridging this gap is crucial for realising its full potential on the European stage.

Selected best tools & practices



Waste Management Model

The PREMETS initiative aims to overhaul waste management in the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, aligning with EU goals and introducing innovative waste strategies. Projections estimate 1.44-1.75 million tons of annual waste by 2025, with a 55% selective collection rate. The Metropolitan Agreement for Zero Waste, in collaboration with municipalities, enhances collection and reduces single-use plastics.

All municipalities have plans to meet the 55% target by 2025. PREMETS includes education, communication, and engagement initiatives to involve citizens in waste reduction, with potential for global replication.

For more information:

<https://www.amb.cat/en/web/medi-ambient/residus/model>



Metropolitan Urban Master Plan (PDUM)

The Metropolitan Urban Master Plan (PDUM) sets forth guidelines for urban development in the Barcelona Metropolitan Area until 2050. It prioritizes preserving natural assets, enhancing city life, and promoting sustainable mobility. Key challenges addressed include sustainable mobility, ecological transition, and improving liveability and competitiveness.

The PDUM aims to foster solidarity, capitalize on metropolitan assets, and enhance environmental sustainability. Its formulation involved extensive stakeholder engagement, including presentations, exhibitions, publications, and the participation of over 15,000 individuals and 500 experts.

For more information: <https://urbanisme.amb.cat/home>



Metropolitan City of Capital Rome



Città metropolitana
di Roma Capitale



Metropolitan City of Capital Rome

(Città metropolitana di Roma Capitale)

The Metropolitan City of Capital Rome is a local public authority established by national Law n. 56/2014, which started functioning on the 1st of January 2015. It is composed of 121 municipalities. It performs integrated government functions in metropolitan area of Rome by absorbing the province and the capital city but leaving the municipalities to exercise all the representative and proximity functions, according to the principle of subsidiarity.

It is a highly institutionalized structure with political power and well-defined functions related to strategic development of the metropolitan area, promotion and integrated management of services, infrastructure and communication networks, institutional relations at their level, including with European cities and metropolitan areas.

The additional functions include metropolitan strategic planning, general strategic planning, public services of general interest, mobility and road network, economic and social development, information technology and digitization.

Selected best tools & practices



Metropolitan Table of Coexistence

This new governance tool fosters an open society based on cultural pluralism. Its objectives include facilitating interactions between foreigners and Italian-born citizens, ensuring representation of foreign residents, and promoting studies to monitor demographic changes. It also aims to prevent ethnic conflicts, encourage inter-religious dialogue, and promote cultural diversity in public institutions.

The Metropolitan Table of Coexistence impacts various life domains for foreign residents: healthcare access, inclusive education, simplified public services, vocational training, housing rights, sports activities, and unbiased media representation. It addresses issues faced by women, minors, and LGBTIAQ+ communities, ensuring their protection and social inclusion. It also promotes civic engagement and voting rights for non-EU residents, enhancing their sense of community.

A consultation process with various organisations ensures that the activities are co-designed, avoiding top-down solutions and considering the needs of those involved in social integration.



Metropolitan Strategic Plan

The plan promotes the development of the metropolitan area, aiming to rebalance the territory and improve community quality of life through strategic planning. It focuses on three Priority Axes: Innovation, Sustainability, and Inclusion, and includes 12 Strategic Directives for Sustainable Urban Development Objectives. Aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda, the plan addresses problems and opportunities through integrated long-term planning with specific goals for 2026, 2027, and 2030. It involves collaboration with local authorities, universities, research centers, and stakeholders from public, private, and third sectors.

For more information:

<https://pianostrategico.cittametropolitanaroma.it/>



Metropolis of Grenoble- Alpes



**GRENOBLEALPES
MÉTROPOLE**



Metropolis of Grenoble-Alpes

(Grenoble-Alpes Métropole)

The Metropolis of Grenoble-Alpes is a self-governing metropolitan unit. Established by the law MAPTAM of 27th January 2014, it started functioning on the 1st of January 2015. It weaved together 49 municipalities.

It is a highly institutionalized structure as it operates as a metropolitan government with decision-making powers and responsibilities over various aspects of local governance within its jurisdiction. It has its own governing bodies, such as the Metropolitan Council and the Metropolitan Executive Committee, which are responsible for making decisions and implementing policies at the metropolitan level.

These leaders are not directly elected and, the Metropolitan President, elected by the members of the Metropolitan Council, serves as the head of the metropolitan government.

The metropolis has a set of compulsory powers exercised in place of the municipalities in spatial planning, environment protection, economic development, housing, energy, tourism, culture, and social policies.

Selected best tools & practices



Inter-territorial food project (PAiT) - Building food distribution networks

The initiative transforms agricultural lands into local production hubs, prioritising short supply chains and organic agriculture. Key impacts include establishing the “IsHere” brand, reinforcing local production and distribution, developing a local agri-food cluster, establishing city-owned grocery shops featuring local produce, and promoting local and organic products in schools and elderly care facilities.

The project, involving the active participation of local farmers within the metropolitan area, fosters robust urban-rural linkages. This collaborative effort demonstrates the capacity for cooperation across diverse territories, spanning from urban plains to mountain ranges, through valleys and foothills within a shared framework. Apart from farmers, it involves local authorities and regional entities, serving as a model for other metropolitan areas.

For more information:

<https://www.grenoblealpesmetropole.fr/219-le-projet-alimentaire-inter-territorial-pait.htm>

Metropolis of Lyon

MÉTROPOLE

GRAND LYON



Metropolis of Lyon

(Métropole de Lyon)

The Lyon Metropolis was established by the law MAPTAM of 27th January 2014 and began functioning on the 1st of January 2015. It is a unique metropolis in France with the status of a full-right self-government unit and directly elected metropolitan authorities, created by merging the Urban Community of Lyon and the Rhône Department, covering the 58 municipalities in the Greater Lyon area. Despite the creation of a powerful metropolis, the municipalities have not been dissolved and continue to carry out their tasks related to the local level. The Metropolis of Lyon combines the competencies of the former Urban Community and Rhône General Council.

The Lyon Metropolis wields significant political power, with metropolitan authorities directly elected by residents since 2020. It manages compulsory powers that it exercises in place of the municipalities in the following fields: spatial planning, environment, economic development, housing, energy, tourism, culture, and social policies. This model of governance aims to streamline operations and improve the quality of life for its inhabitants.

Selected best tools & practices



Metropolitan meetings

The Lyon metropolitan area comprises 58 municipalities, 150 councillors, and 9,600 officials with 250 professions. Residents often lack awareness of the role of the Metropolis in their lives. The new two-day metropolitan meetings aim to deepen officials' integration post-2014 reform, build organizational solidarity, and enhance residents' understanding of Metropolis services.

Officials from the former Urban Community and Rhône Department collaborated to connect with residents. Over 400 officials volunteered, underwent training, and engaged in discussions with inhabitants about waste collection, social assistance, urban development, and more. Held in public spaces and homes, the event saw 1,700 meetings across 28 locations, gathering nearly 2,000 surveys. This initiative aimed to foster trust, build a metropolitan identity, and prepare for future direct elections.

The innovation of this approach lies in metropolitan officials leaving their offices to engage directly with residents, reversing the traditional scenario where residents must seek out officials. The extensive involvement of officials, politicians, and ordinary residents surpasses typical consultations and participatory meetings, creating a dynamic and inclusive dialogue that builds stronger community ties and trust in the Metropolis.



Food project for the Lyon territory

From the 2007 report “Lyon, the World Capital of Gastronomy” to the 2015 “Milan Urban Food Policy Pact” and participation in URBACT II, the Lyon metropolis has embraced food challenges. The pandemic highlighted food dependency, with only 4.6% of consumed products locally sourced.

To boost self-sufficiency to 15% by 2030, the “Metropolitan Food Strategy” was adopted on June 17, 2019. It aims to enhance local production, ensure healthy food access, foster responsible eating, and transform agricultural “natural capital” into a metropolitan common good.

Public sector involvement and minimizing food waste are key. The strategy's innovation lies in its integrated approach to food systems, engaging various stakeholders from producers to consumers.

For more information:

<https://www.grandlyon.com/actions/projet-alimentaire-du-territoire-lyonnais>



Inter-Scot and Common Chapter

In France, the Territorial Cohesion Schemes (Scot) have coordinated spatial planning since 2000. The metropolises of Lyon and Saint-Etienne, historically autonomous, each had separate Scots but recognised their interdependence.

In 2004, they created the first Inter-Scot in France, linking 12 Scots around Lyon. This initiative fosters common land-use orientations and aligns public policies across the metropolitan region.

The “Common Chapter” is a key outcome, containing shared guidelines and objectives implemented in all member Scots’ documents. Inter-Scot enables mayors to discuss and develop shared beliefs, contributing to balanced development and urban-rural cooperation. It promotes a common vision, enhancing its effective implementation across the metropolitan region.

For more information:

<https://www.inter-scot.fr/>

Metropolitan Region Amsterdam

metropool
regio **amsterdam**



Metropolitan Region Amsterdam

(Metropoolregio Amsterdam, MRA)

The Metropolitan Region Amsterdam (MRA), established on the 1st of January 2017, is a form of inter-communal cooperation and a collaborative platform for municipalities in the Amsterdam metropolitan area.

It focuses on the coordination of issues such as spatial planning, transportation, and economic development. It includes a single Transport Authority, which oversees and coordinates transportation infrastructure and services across the region. Operating within the legal framework set forth by the Dutch government, the MRA tackles shared challenges with resilience and innovation.

The Metropolitan Region Amsterdam encompasses two provinces: North Holland and Flevoland. Within these provinces, there are a total of 30 municipalities. It is considered a less institutionalized structure lacking direct political powers.

Selected best tools & practices



Planning of work-locations

The project strategically determines optimal work locations in the Metropolitan Region Amsterdam (MRA), aligning with its goals of economic development, spatial planning, and enhancing quality of life.

Utilizing advanced mapping tech and data analysis, stakeholders collaborate to identify areas based on accessibility, infrastructure, and environmental impact.

This proactive approach ensures efficient land use, fosters sustainable growth, and creates vibrant, connected communities. The innovation lies in collaborative planning among municipalities, a departure from previous isolated planning.

Urbanization concept

The project tackles major spatial-economic challenges in the region. It introduces new priorities and determines the direction of future development, also responding to uncertainties, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Its ambitions include equitable growth, diverse economy, balanced living, healthy environment, and sustainable transport. Concrete measures range from housing construction to infrastructure improvements.

The concept guides the Urbanization Strategy, underpinned by joint national and regional efforts. While context-specific, its integrated approach offers transferable lessons in priority-setting and cooperation.

For more information:

https://www.metropoolregioamsterdam.nl/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/MRA-Urbanisation-Concept_ENG.pdf



Oslo Region Alliance



Osloregionen



Oslo Region Alliance

(Osloregionen)

The Oslo Region Alliance was established on the 1st of January 2005 and consists of 65 municipalities, including the City of Oslo.

It is a collaborative, political membership organization aimed at strengthening the Oslo region's international competitiveness and sustainability. This regional collaboration addresses the increasing demands for national growth and the rising competition among global cities and regions.

Based on voluntary strategic agreements and formalized cooperation in transport, the Alliance operates as a less institutionalized structure. It has three main bodies: the Council, as the highest political body comprising mayors from the municipalities and the governing mayor of Oslo; the Board, which is the executive body consisting of 18 members, including municipal mayors and the governing mayor, who serves as the current chairman; the Secretariat, responsible for coordinating the administrative work and supporting the political bodies of the Alliance.

This structure facilitates effective regional collaboration and governance, promoting sustainable development and international competitiveness.

Selected best tools & practices



Long-term cooperation on energy with surrounding municipalities

The Oslo Region Alliance has long-term energy cooperation with surrounding municipalities, particularly in electricity. This collaboration began over a century ago with the construction of dams and turbines along Oslo's main river and the Glomma River, harnessing high rainfall and snowfall for hydroelectric power.

The cooperation is built on trust, legal frameworks, and balanced stakeholder interests, benefiting rural areas with property tax revenues and long-term employment. Municipal and county ownership of production companies provides direct revenue from profits for local administrations. This urban-rural cooperation model redistributes resources and supports climate innovation.

Key outcomes of the cooperation include:

- 15% of Norway's hydroelectric power,
- Service to nearly a million customers,
- 70 million NOK in property tax revenue,
- Profits reinvested in municipalities and counties,
- Stable employment for hundreds,
- Support for climate transition projects,
- Development of the regional electricity grid and Oslo's district heating system.

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)



West Midlands
Combined Authority



West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

The WMCA is a legal partnership established on the 17th of June 2016 between 18 local authorities and other bodies. It functions as a highly institutionalized structure with the directly elected Mayor of the West Midlands, providing strategic leadership. The primary decision-making body, the WMCA Board, includes leaders of the seven constituent local authorities: Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, and Walsall.

The leadership also includes the chairs of the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) which are business-led organisations that help build relationships between businesses and local authorities. Other bodies which include the LEPs and ten local councils from across the wider West Midlands region, have reduced voting rights but play a crucial role at Board level, helping to inform policy and drive forward the Authority agenda.

The WMCA oversees economic development, transport, skills, housing, health, environment, and public services, as well as advocates for regional needs to secure resources and powers, working to create a prosperous, well-connected, and sustainable region. The WMCA cooperates with local councils, businesses, and other organizations to achieve these goals, aiming to create a prosperous, well-connected, and sustainable region.

Selected best tools & practices

Energy Capital

It is a regional energy partnership for the West Midlands, which unites public and private sectors to deliver energy solutions. It acts as a focal point for stakeholders, aiming to foster energy innovation and position the region as a global leader in the transition to net zero. By strategically guiding the sector and applying collaborative approaches, Energy Capital enhances policy, governance, and investment decisions to create a smarter energy system. Its work attracts partners, including energy providers and academic experts, to make the West Midlands a fairer, greener, and healthier place.

Led by the Mayor and local authorities, Energy Capital secures government backing and drives innovation through initiatives, such as the Energy Innovation Zones. The adoption of the Regional Energy Strategy and securing innovation funding mark significant achievements, positioning the region as a Net Zero Pathfinder and advocating for devolution of energy responsibilities. This partnership, supported by the WMCA, combines expertise and fosters transferability, focusing on collaboration across sectors.

For more information: <https://www.wmca.org.uk/what-we-do/environment-energy/energy-capital/>

Zürich Metropolitan Area Association

metropolitan
konferenz
zürich 



Zürich Metropolitan Area Association / Zürich Metropolitan Conference

(Verein Metropolitanraum Zürich)

The Zürich Metropolitan Area Association, also known as the Zürich Metropolitan Conference, is a regional cooperation platform established under Swiss law on the 3rd of July 2009. Originating from the Metropolitan Conferences concept, it was introduced in 2007 to strengthen the cooperation within the economic region of Zürich.

The association promotes and coordinates development across the greater Zürich metropolitan region. It consists of 126 participants, including: 8 cantons (Zürich, Aargau, Thurgau, Schaffhausen, Schwyz, St. Gallen, Zug and Lucerne), 19 cities, 90 communes, and several associate members (Region Zürcher Oberland, Regionalplanung Zürich und Umgebung RZU, Region Appenzell AR-St. Gallen-Bodensee, Stadt St. Gallen, Gemeinde Horw, Kanton Graubünden, Kanton Glarus, Stadt Konstanz, LuzernPlus).

As a platform for the information exchange between cantons and municipalities, the Association implements projects in the fields of habitat, transport, society and the economy. It also advocates for the concerns of the Zürich metropolitan area at the federal level, ensuring that regional interests are represented and addressed.

Selected best tools & practices



Innovation Sandbox

The practice enhances the region as a driver of innovation, creating value for society, the population, and the research and business sectors. It develops AI projects for public services in health, energy, mobility, and more, while mitigating AI's negative impacts.

The Sandbox provides a test environment for AI projects from companies, research institutions, and administrative units. In the edition from March 2022, 5 of 21 applications were realized, including: regulating autonomous systems: a guide for manufacturers; infrastructure maintenance by drones; automated corrections in education; smart parking: privacy-by-design; machine translation for administration.

The project fosters relationships among metropolitan stakeholders in AI technology, including public, business, and scientific sectors. It leverages AI's potential in various spheres like economy, security, education, and mobility, showcasing technological, social, and institutional innovation. The project's results have medium transfer potential, as they require specialized AI companies and scientific institutions in the metropolitan area.

For more information: <https://www.zh.ch/en/wirtschaft-arbeit/wirtschaftsstandort/innovation-sandbox.html>,
<https://innovation.zuerich/en/sandbox/>



Car Resco

The project aims to develop a “care reserve community” to reactivate nurses across institutions and offer ongoing training. It addresses the high dropout rate in nursing due to poor working conditions, lack of recognition and work-life imbalance.

The project allows retired nurses to take on temporary caregiving roles, engage in training, and manage their workloads autonomously, promoting integration into a regional community. This initiative helps mitigate the shortage of long-term care staff and enhances their recognition.

The project, involving the Winterthur Institute of Health Economics (ZHAW), the Institute of Nursing (ZHAW), and Careanesth AG, has a moderate metropolitan impact but significant social and healthcare benefits. It focuses on extending the working time of those over 60 and addressing the healthcare workforce shortage, with high transferability potential to other metropolitan areas.

For more information:

<https://www.metropolitanraum-zuerich.ch/projects/care-resco/>



Future of Single-Family Homes – Revitalising Single-Family Home Neighbourhoods

The project addresses the decline in family occupancy of single-family homes over 20-30 years, related to underuse and demographic imbalances. Currently, over 50% of these homes have only one or two residents, causing housing and energy inefficiencies. High demand and prices lead to demolitions and excessive densification, harming green spaces.

The project explores renewal options beyond status quo persistence or replacement densification. It concentrates on partnerships with homeowners and stakeholders to identify and implement sustainable social and spatial planning solutions. The project involves the Planning Association for the Region of Zürich and EBP Schweiz AG, addressing demographic problems.

For more information:

<https://www.metropolitanraum-zuerich.ch/projects/zukunft-einfamilienhaus/>

This document contains an extract from the Analysis of best practice outside partners' regions.

The full version can be found under the QR code provided below.



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