

NEWSLETTER



44 Examples of Good Practices within 14 Thematic Domains. Study Clusters Challenge Has Begun in Warsaw!

The MECOG-CE project, aimed at strengthening metropolitan cooperation and governance in Central Europe, recently **achieved another milestone** with its second transnational meeting held on 19 and 20 October, in Warsaw. During this meeting, the project consortium tackled two significant activities focusing on finding **best tools and practices** and formulating the **Common Metropolitan Vision**.

[See more details here](#)



Challenges and Opportunities for Metropolitan Areas in Central Europe

This article explores the **current challenges and opportunities facing Metropolitan Areas (MAs) in Central Europe**, summarizing insights from the study titled 'Identification of Challenges Specific to Central European Metropolitan Areas (MAs),' conducted by Charles University as part of the MECOG-CE project. The study examines the presence of the **metropolitan dimension in the EU and international documents** and captures the **perspectives of stakeholders from Central European MAs regarding contemporary challenges and opportunities** related to metropolitan development, governance, planning, and cooperation. These findings, derived from surveys and focus groups with project partners, are poised to guide Central European MAs in their transformation into vibrant centers of urban development, governance, and collaboration.

[See more details here](#)

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

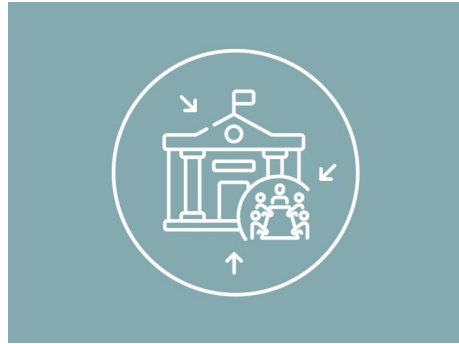
- ▶ Favourable setup of EU instruments and policies, like the ITI (Integrated Territorial Investments), the New Leipzig Charter, Territorial Agenda 2030,
- ▶ More cohesive narrative of metropolitan dimension in official EU and international policy documents,

- ▶ 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.



International Project MECOG-CE Kicks off in Brno

On 30-31 May 2023, representatives of European metropolitan areas, universities and associations met in Brno for the official launch of the MECOG-CE project (Strengthening Metropolitan Cooperation and Management in Central Europe). The project is funded via the Interreg Central Europe programme, and Brno is the first Czech city to be its leading partner.



About the MECOG-CE Project

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