

Metropolitan governance in the European Union. A classification of existing institutional models

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## Metropolitan governance in the European Union: a classification of existing institutional models

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### Abstract

In the last 40 years, new territorial configurations have emerged as a consequence of the consolidation of urban centres and their suburbs. The relevance of these metropolitan phenomena and their governance is subject to debate (Zieman, 2019). This article presents methodologies to define and compare metropolitan areas, conceptualising them as characteristic of less-populated municipalities whose cores (Dijkstra et al., 2019). On the one hand, both the scope of and the reason for metropolitan governance: authorities across Europe have proposed strategic visions and plans that tackle mobility, urban planning, employment

Metropolitan governance, Institutional models, Spatial planning, European Union

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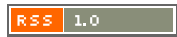
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way to guide the integration of different public and private actors at different scales (ESPON, 2017). Whereas these metropolitan municipal cooperation, which varies according to the stake, in a number of European countries, institutional structures aimed at metropolitan governance have been set up.

Various models of metropolitan governance exist, greatly in relation to their level of institutional competencies and resources, their geographical scope (Salet et al. 2015; ESPON, 2021). They are often unique, and different arrangements exist at regional governance and planning scales across the continent and their (path-dependent) evolution.

Aiming at shedding light on the matter, this paper presents the results of the ESPON METRO and METRO-PLAN projects. First, the paper surveys the various institutional arrangements in European Union (EU) countries to help develop a classification pivoted around two main criteria: (i) the degree of institutional action and the actual functional development and planning competencies, and (ii) the degree of correspondence between the types of instruments they adopt to pursue their objectives. This analysis constitutes a preliminary contribution to the EU, as well as to reflect on the place of metropolitan governance in the different contexts.

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