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

 **Donato Casavola**

DIST - Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Politecnico di Torino

 **Giancarlo Cotella**

DIST - Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Politecnico di Torino

 **Umberto Janin Rivolin**

DIST - Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Politecnico di Torino

 **Elisabetta Vitale Brovarone**

DIST - Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Politecnico di Torino

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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 uses different methodologies to define and compare metropolitan areas and less-populated municipalities whose cores (Dijkstra et al., 2019). On the one hand, it discusses both the scope of and the reason for metropolitan governance. On the other, both the 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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Casavola, Giancarlo Cotella,
Umberto Janin Rivolin, Elisabetta
Vitale Brovarone



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way to guide the integration of different and private actors at different scales (Salet et al. 2017). Whereas these metropolitan municipal cooperation, which varies in stake, in a number of European countries, institutional structures aimed at metropolitan set up.

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

Aiming at shedding light on the material results of the ESPON METRO and METRO-URBAN, the paper surveys the various institutional arrangements in European Union (EU) countries to help develop a classification pivoted around (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 study of metropolitan governance in the EU, as well as to reflect on the place in the different contexts.

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