

# METREX Autumn Conference 2018

# Brussels

## Introduction

METREX will hold its Autumn Conference 2018 in Brussels on 11 and 12 October. It coincides with the EU Week of the Regions. The latter will focus on the next round of EU programmes linked to (amongst others) the Cohesion Policies and the European Regional Development Fund.

As METREX is a network for practitioners, in other words, for the people responsible for delivering solutions for the EU programmes and their often abstract aims, this moment in time seems right to show what METREX members are working on: Metropolitan Solutions.

The theme of the conference is:

### **Metropolitan Solutions - Translating policies into Actions on a Regional Level**

The conference programme will see three main parts:

- Setting the scene, about the context in which our members are working on the various EU projects and programmes. In what frame is the project done, who are the partners in the project (inside and/or outside the region), how is the level of support from and feedback to the responsible EU counterpart, etc.
- Presentations of Metropolitan Solutions, showing examples of all kinds from METREX members and beyond. Metropolitan Regions show their projects, where they stand now and/or results achieved, and we will see projects from organisations that involve (regional) authorities.
- Reflecting on what is heard, sharing the experiences and how the network can support its members. This reflection is part of the Friday programme when we look forward into the next five years of METREX.

Metropolitan Solutions are presented by METREX members as well as partnered organisations like Eurocities, Urban M and other Metropolitan Regions and Cities. The presentations will be in small groups that will offer the opportunity to discuss, ask questions and draw principles that can be taken home.

We hope to welcome you and learn all about the Metropolitan Solutions from our members and partners!



Mission of Norway  
to the European Union

The conference is  
kindly hosted by the  
City of Oslo together  
with the Akershus  
County Council in the  
Norway House.

The venue is opposite  
the Berlaymont  
Building:

Norway House, Rue  
Archimède 17, 1000  
Brussels.



## Programme

### **Thursday 11 October 2018 The Metropolitan Solution**

*Venue: the Norway House, Rue Archimède 17, B-1000 Brussels*

- 08:30 Registration  
*(for security reasons: to enter the Norway House you have to show an ID)*
- 09:00 Opening of Conference by **Nicola Schelling**, President METREX
- 09:15 Opening Keynote on Metropolitan Regions and Areas and their capacity to translate abstract ambitions into working policies, << representative >>, City of Oslo
- 10:00 3 METREX members, The Hague, Vienna and Brno, each do a brief presentation (15 min each) on translating Cohesion Policies and explaining
  - their role and contribution,
  - their actions to address the challenges and needs,
  - their concrete examples from their region.
- 10:45 Break
- 11:15 3 METREX members, Amsterdam, Stuttgart, Helsinki, each do a brief presentation (15 min each) on their involvement in EU projects and programmes, explaining
  - their role and contribution,
  - their actions to address the challenges and needs,
  - their concrete examples from their region.
- 12:00 A debate on results, challenges and the way forward concerning the policies touched upon.
- 12:30 Lunch

#### **Parallel Sessions**

- 14:00 8 parallel sessions with METREX members presenting their approaches and solutions on concrete EU policies, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund. The sessions are structured according to the "Common output and Result Indicators for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund". Listed are the confirmed contributions. The content will be fine-tuned over the coming weeks.



## PARALLEL SESSIONS 1ST ROUND

### ***1. A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation***

- Città Metropolitana di Milano: New Skills and new jobs in the future metropolitan cities.
- Brno MA: Metropolitan Cooperation Development Brno Metropolitan Area (BMA) through ITI instrument.

### ***2. A greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management***

- Amsterdam: A Dutch approach for bottom-up energy strategies at the regional level. It fits into the frame of addressing the binding targets of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and collaboration for decarbonising strategies at the metropolitan level. MRA is preparing a regional energy strategy at the metropolitan level.

### ***3. A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity***

- Vienna: Within the frame of Interreg III, the Centrope is a trans-national programme in which INAT is part: Infrastructure Needs Assessment Tools.
- Helsinki: How do future developments, like the Helsinki's Airport Rail corridor and the Helsinki-Tallinn Tunnel project, fit into the long-term goals of TEN-T's cohesion policies? In turn, it is anticipated that these mega-projects offer significant agglomeration benefits and development potential, not only to Finland and the Helsinki city-region, but to the wider macro-region of the Baltic Space, including the capital regions along Rail Baltica. It will be highlighted that the future city-region local public rail transport infrastructure investment will be equally significant in a multi-billion euro programme to upgrade the city-region's radial and transversal rail network. Together, Helsinki's new regional and transnational mobility measures represent an important sustainable contribution to the EU and supports its spatial cohesion policy to create a future of polycentric city-regions across Europe.

### ***4. A more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights***

### ***5. A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives***

- Region Verband Stuttgart: Regional Landscape parks: The region funds projects within the master plans developed by the municipalities. Region Verband Stuttgart is in the EU Urban Agenda partnership on sustainable land-use and nature-based solutions.



## PARALLEL SESSIONS 2ND ROUND

### **1. A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation**

- The Hague: Exploring opportunities of a supra regional collaboration, case ABC Region (Amsterdam – Brussels – Cologne), based on a common cultural-economic background
- Urban M (Interreg) on bringing education and labour markets together.

### **2. A greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management**

- tbc

### **3. A better-connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity**

Region Verband Stuttgart: A focus on EU funded projects improving Regional mobility: regional mobility hubs, Mobility Points and Mobility Platform.

### **4. A more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights**

- tbc

### **5. A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives**

- Vienna: The work on an Action Plan the Province of Vienna and Vösendorf (Lower Austria) is preparing within the frame of URBACT III “urban-suburban”. LOS\_DAMA!, the Transalpine within the frame of Interreg: LOS\_DAMA! Tries to unleash the potential of peri-urban green infrastructure for sustainable development by improving governance and planning. The project will boost the skilled use of advanced tools for negotiation, mediation, and action.

16:00   **The Creative Bureaucracy & Its Radical Common Sense**  
Final keynote by **Charles Landry**



## **Friday 12 October METREX day**

*Venue: the Norway House, Rue Archimède 17, B-1000 Brussels*

08:30 Registration

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08:50 Opening

09:00 Keynote METREX president **Nicola Schelling**

09:20 Keynote: A Practitioner's View, **Esther Agricola**, Director of Urban Planning and Sustainability, City of Amsterdam

09:40 Presentations from METREX Expert Groups and Sub Network groups: Where do they stand and a look into the future

- Econometrex
- Expert Group on Governance
- Nordic Network
- tbc

11:00 Break

11:30 Presentation Final Report **Viviana Rubbo**, Bernd Steinacher Fellowship

12:00 Final Keynote An Academic View - Europe as Metropolitan Network, **Eric Corijn**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel tbc

12:30 Announcements and close of Conference

12:45 Lunch

13:30 General Assembly & Announcements

- METREX Strategy Plan
- Programme and Budget
- New Managing Committee

15:30 Close of the conference



## **METREX business, sub networks & expert groups**

For the Expert Groups and the Nordic Network/Baltic Space, we have the following arrangements made, with kind support of the Representation of the Lombardia Region, Rue Champs de Mars 2, B-1040 Bruxelles.:

10:00 - 12:00 Nordic Network

10:00 - 12:00 Econometrex

12:30 - 15:30 Expert group on Governance

12:30 - 15:30 Baltic Space

16:00 - 18:00 MC meeting

For others who would like to meet outside the conference we can offer the Friday afternoon, after 15:30 at the Norway House. For any further arrangements, please contact Tim Page or Henk Bouwman.

The **Managing Committee** meeting is planned Wednesday afternoon from 16:00 – 18:00 hrs. The venue is the Representation of the Lombardia Region, Rue Champs de Mars 2, B-1040 Bruxelles.