

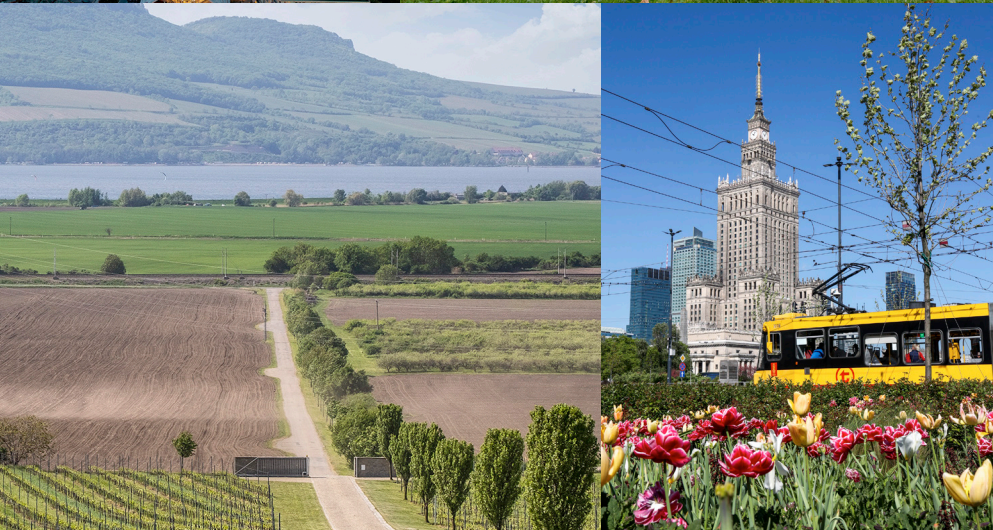


Interreg
CENTRAL EUROPE

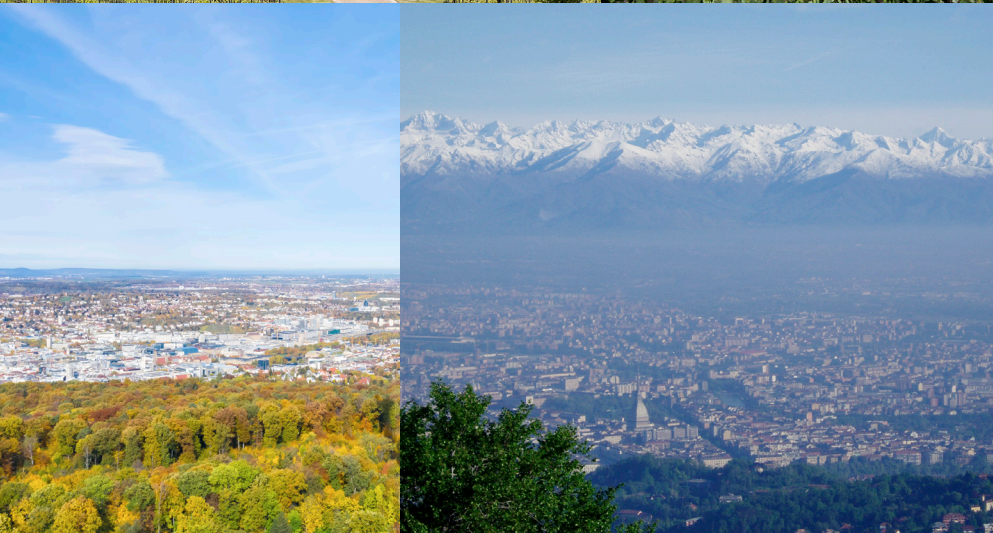


Co-funded by
the European Union

MECOG-CE



MECOG-CE Pilot Actions



This document was elaborated within the project MECOG-CE: Strengthening metropolitan cooperation and governance in Central Europe and is part of the Work Package 2: Capacity building towards pilot actions and new solutions, Activity 2.2. Joint development of pilot actions.

Authors: MECOG-CE project partners

The project MECOG-CE is co-financed by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2021-2027.

All photographs in this document were supplied by the partners of the MECOG-CE project.

Introduction

The pilot actions were a major part of the MECOG-CE project, aimed at **testing the possibilities of transferring the best practices** studied within the study clusters. These actions introduced innovative approaches to metropolitan cooperation and governance in the project metropolitan areas. All five pilot actions enabled partners to explore and implement actions that strengthen cooperation at the metropolitan level.

The pilot actions **contribute to fulfilling of the Common Metropolitan Vision** through the steps taken during their development and their potential for future implementation. They highlight the value of knowledge sharing and exchange, reinforcing metropolitan cooperation. By addressing specific challenges and opportunities identified in Central European metropolitan areas, the pilot actions support the goal of establishing sustainable and resilient metropolitan areas.

This document, titled „MECOG-CE Pilot Actions,“ summarizes the pilot actions executed by the project partners. By testing the adaptability of selected tools, the **pilot actions explored innovative approaches to metropolitan governance**. Their findings informed the next phase of the project, focusing on refining and improving best practices to enhance long-term metropolitan cooperation.

The full report on MECOG-CE pilot actions can be found:



bit.ly/41RWexG

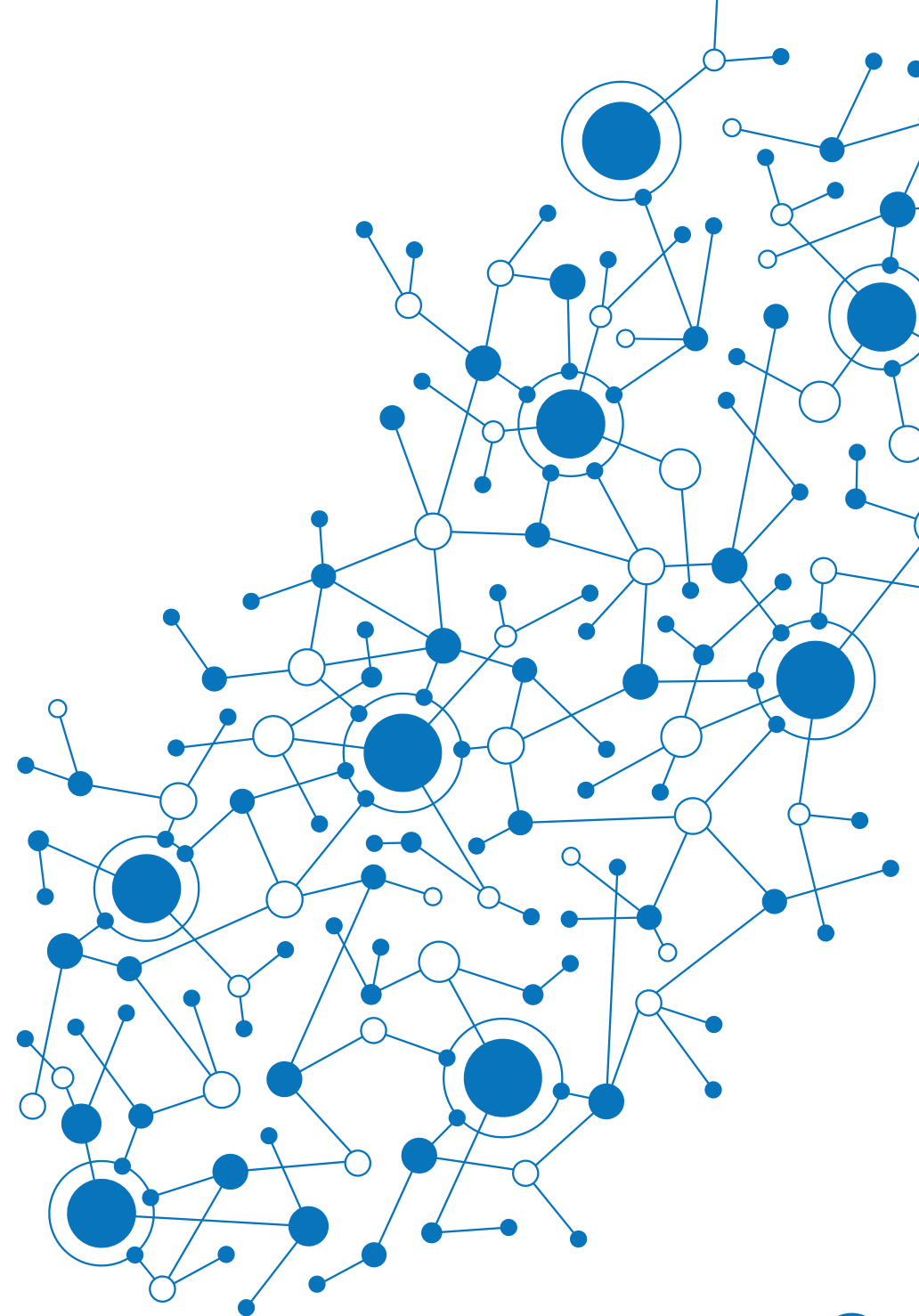
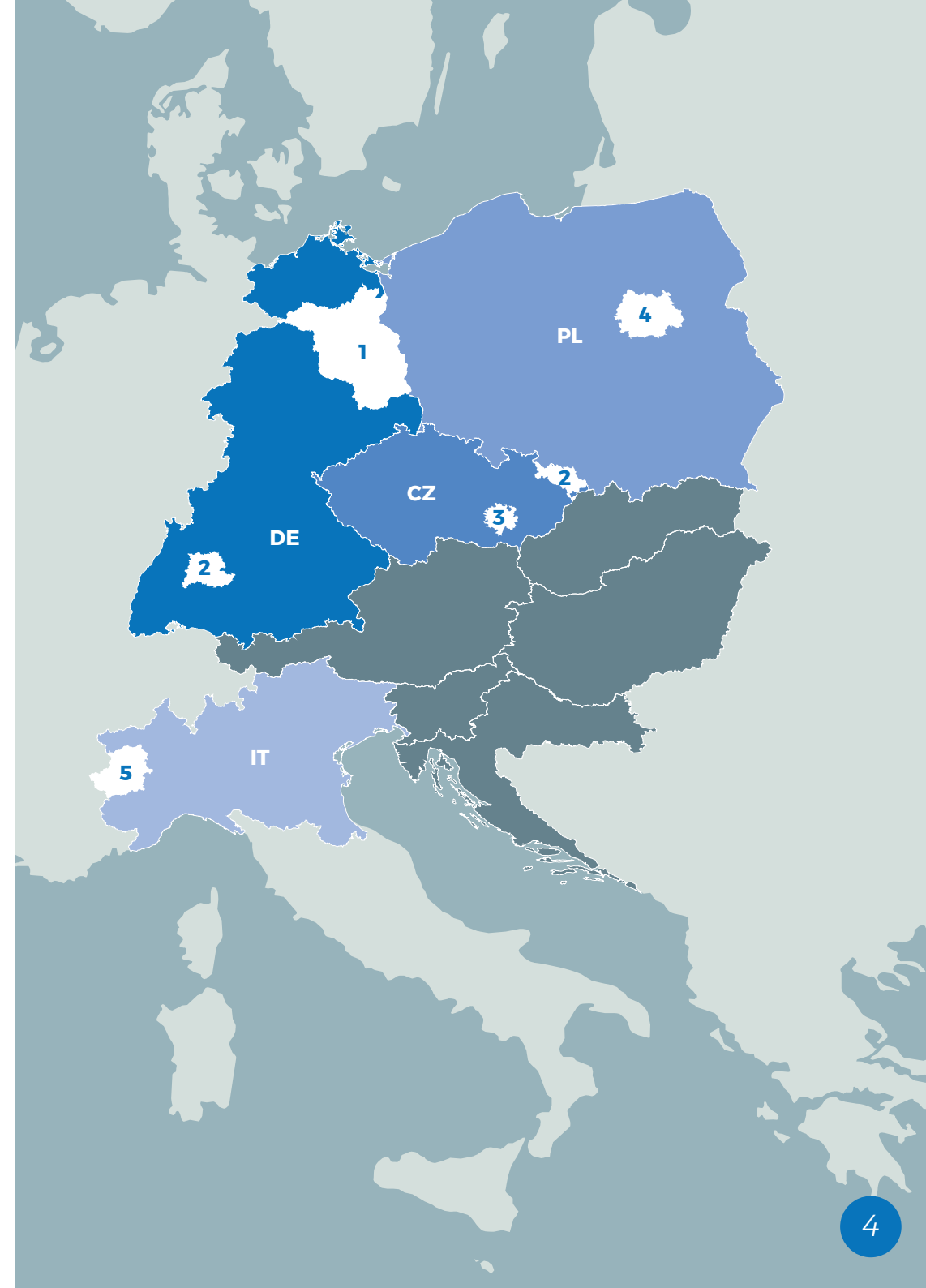


Table of Contents

Pilot Actions

DE ¹	Informal and participatory planning approach to the vision process for the Metropolitan Area Berlin-Brandenburg	6
CZ ²	Participatory approach to transforming metropolitan territories in the Ostrava Metropolitan Area and the Stuttgart Region	9
DE ²		
CZ ³	Potential for food cooperation and its governance network in the Brno Metropolitan Area	13
PL ⁴	Possibilities of integrating bus transport in the Warsaw Metropolis	16
IT ⁵	Structured dialogue for evaluating the strategic planning process in the Metropolitan City of Turin	19



Pilot Actions



Informal and participatory planning approach to the vision process for the Metropolitan Area Berlin-Brandenburg



Metropolitan area executing
the pilot action

Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg represented by the Joint Spatial Planning Department Berlin- Brandenburg (JSPD)

Tool chosen and adapted
to the context of partner

Workshops/trainings delivered
to members of the Warsaw
Metropolis Association,
developed by the City of Warsaw



About the pilot action

Through interactive workshops the pilot action sought to bridge the gaps identified in previous participation processes and strengthen metropolitan cooperation shaping the region's strategic future. The workshops focus on two key themes:

1. WORKSHOP "WHITE SPOTS"

The workshop is designed to identify overlooked cooperation opportunities (called "white spots") and develop a structured plan to address them. Participants will first engage in an open brainstorming session to identify missing topics for upcoming cooperation. Once these gaps are identified, the focus will shift to selecting and prioritizing the key issues. Finally, the workshop will conclude with action planning, where participants will develop concrete actions to bridge these gaps and create a clear roadmap for future cooperation.

The process uses methods based on design thinking (world café discussions and breakout sessions). Participants include representatives from science, businesses, ministries, regional and local administration. The workshop aims to foster a well-founded collaborative environment, enhance strategic engagement, and broaden the range of potential cooperation topics.

2. WORKSHOP "GOVERNANCE"

While joint governance structures exist in the Berlin-Brandenburg Metropolitan Area, they remain primarily political and lack key stakeholders from civil society, business, and research. This workshop aims to explore potential governance models that foster broader participation and more effective decision-making process. The session will combine informal talks with structured discussions, insights from case studies of other metropolitan regions, SWOT analysis, and expert interviews.

Participants include political and administrative representatives from Berlin-Brandenburg and other metropolitan areas in Germany and Europe. The workshop is expected to produce concrete governance models with clearly defined structures, business plans, and assigned tasks.

Significance, innovativeness and transferability

The Berlin-Brandenburg pilot action aimed at broadening the stakeholder involvement beyond government bodies and incorporating new topics that had not been previously considered. The pilot action successfully demonstrated the transferability of Warsaw's model to Berlin-Brandenburg.

Strengthening metropolitan cooperation

The tool strengthens metropolitan governance and cooperation by approaching new topics with joined forces of all sectors and the enhancement of the governance structure. Informal and formal processes will be more closely interlinked and seen as an ongoing process.

More details about the pilot action can be found:



bit.ly/4j39I5E



Participatory approach to transforming metropolitan territories in the Ostrava Metropolitan Area and the Stuttgart Region



Metropolitan area executing
the pilot action

Ostrava Metropolitan Area represented by the City of Ostrava and Stuttgart Region represented by the Stuttgart Region Association

Tool chosen and adapted
to the context of partner

Prototyping Academies, developed
by the Metropolis GZM (Górnośląsko-
Zagłębiowska Metropolia)



About the pilot action

This pilot action used a participatory approach to support spatial and societal transformation in the Ostrava Metropolitan Area and the Stuttgart Region. It consisted of two phases, each addressing pressing needs within the respective territories.

PARTICIPATORY APPROACH IN THE OSTRAVA METROPOLITAN AREA

The pilot action in the Ostrava Metropolitan Area focused on analysing structural and material issues in Dubina, with the goal of revitalizing the neighbourhood and finding effective solutions. Dubina, one of Ostrava's largest housing estates, faces several challenges, including a lack of a community spirit due to anonymity, the trade of low-cost apartments rented to socially disadvantaged people or neglected corners of urban infrastructure. Some citizens even refer about drug use and the feeling of insecurity in public spaces. Using a participatory approach, the initiative involved various stakeholders to discuss key challenges, assess data, and develop potential solutions.

The core of the pilot action was a socio-demographic study, combining quantitative research with qualitative evaluation, such as interviews with local stakeholders, a survey among residents, on-site observations, and expert consultations. One of the working group meetings included a guided tour around Dubina with an urban architect, followed by a discussion on potential actions.

The pilot action results included:

- ▶ A collection of qualitative and quantitative data on Dubina's social and spatial challenges. These data provide a solid fundament for small-scale projects, strategic proposals and investment incentives in the upcoming years.
- ▶ Initiation of an Action Plan for Dubina, to be approved in 2025.
- ▶ Formation of a community of local and metropolitan stakeholders.
- ▶ Creation of a know-how for housing estates, transferable to other cities and metropolitan areas.

PARTICIPATORY APPROACH IN THE STUTTGART REGION

Stuttgart Region is undergoing an economic transformation and grappling with challenges in developing new land for commercial use – mainly due to its dense population. The pilot action in this area focused on a concept to implement the Prototyping Academies model in an existing industrial zone, testing a hypothetical participatory process for transforming a business park into a resilient and sustainable site.

The concept includes several phases. The preparation phase involves defining the scope of action, identifying local authorities to be engaged, and planning the Prototyping Academies process. The project area shall be selected through a call for tender, followed by a direct contact with local authorities and the jury setup. The project-specific preparation includes engaging key stakeholders, adapting the procedure, assigning external moderation, defining stakeholders, inviting participants, conducting site visits, and preparing a series of workshops.

The project's kick-off phase features a meeting to introduce the project goals and the Prototyping Academies process. During the problem definition phase, the local situation is analysed, external experts are brought in, and project goals are refined. Measures are then developed and defined for implementation. The implementation phase involves establishing a timeline and financing scheme, as well as executing prototyping measures. The process concludes with an evaluation phase, stakeholder recommendations, a final decision, and a public event. Eventually, the pilot will generate guidelines for transferring measures to other industrial areas.

Key outcomes of the pilot action include:

- ▶ Development of action steps for applying the Prototyping Academies tool to industrial transformation, in particular the series of workshops.
- ▶ Identification of relevant stakeholders and establishing a timeline for the process.
- ▶ Analysis of the participatory approach's advantages and challenges, emphasizing the need for a stringent moderation / process design.



Significance, innovativeness and transferability

OSTRAVA METROPOLITAN AREA

The pilot action proved to be innovative because of its broad scale of prototyping in such a large housing estate and the formalized involvement of partner cities from the Ostrava Metropolitan Area. This added a metropolitan dimension to the participatory method, going beyond local-level activities.

STUTTGART REGION

The Prototyping Academies tool has not yet been tested in Germany. The innovation of this pilot action lies in applying this tool to industrial areas, where standardized participatory methods currently do not exist. After demonstrating its effectiveness at a single industrial site, this approach could be adapted to address broader metropolitan challenges, such as mobility, housing, and regional development.

The tool can be considered transferable and serves as a valuable example for other metropolitan areas seeking to address urban challenges through participatory approaches.

Strengthening metropolitan cooperation

The pilot action demonstrated that the Prototyping Academies tool is adaptable to a range of metropolitan challenges. The participatory methodology allowed both metropolitan areas to create preconditions for the involvement of local communities and to collaboratively develop solutions.

More details about the pilot action can be found:



bit.ly/3GPWAOy



Potential for food cooperation and its governance network in the Brno Metropolitan Area



Metropolitan area executing
the pilot action

Brno Metropolitan Area represented by the City of Brno

Tool chosen and adapted
to the context of partner

Food Districts, developed by
the Metropolitan City of Turin



About the pilot action

The City of Brno explored the potential for food cooperation within the Brno Metropolitan Area (BMA). The analysis aimed to identify key stakeholders, recognise the potential benefits and impacts of food cooperation, and apply the Food Districts tool to the context of BMA. Furthermore, it proposed the creation of a governance network for food cooperation and outlined specific goals and activities for the area. The analysis yielded valuable insights into food cooperation within BMA. Key findings include:

1. ANALYSIS OF STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

A review of national, regional, and local documents revealed that while food cooperation is not explicitly mentioned, related topics such as local production, organic farming, and short supply chains are mentioned in several strategic documents.

2. BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The analysis highlights the positive impacts that food cooperation can have on various sectors, including the local economy, tourism, land use, the environment, and public health. It demonstrates that enhancing local production, distribution, and consumption has the potential to strengthen the region.

3. POTENTIAL OF BMA

The region's natural characteristics, particularly in the south-eastern part of BMA, are suitable for agriculture, with 53% of the land currently used for agricultural purposes. The analysis also identifies ideal commodities for developing short supply chains, such as fruits, vegetables, dairy products, meat, and bakery products.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

The analysis identifies a range of stakeholders in agri-food sector. The supply side includes agricultural entities (almost 7 400, many of which are large-scale companies), with a declining number of small farmers. Dozens of initiatives developed by the NGOs or Local Actions Groups were mapped, alongside a SWOT analysis of the current state identifying opportunities to enhance cooperation, especially in public catering and local distribution.

5. FOOD COOPERATION NETWORKS

Although full transfer of Food Districts to the Brno Metropolitan Area is limited by legal and structural differences, key aspect of food cooperation governance can be adapted in the form of voluntary food networks. These networks could focus on specific areas such as public catering, local distribution, and climate adaptation.

Significance, innovativeness and transferability

The food cooperation at the metropolitan level has not been previously addressed by the City of Brno and BMA. Although there are several initiatives in the area, they are limited in scope and do not involve Brno, the main centre of demand. Moreover, there is currently no coordinating body to address food cooperation in a systematic way. Therefore, the crucial step of the pilot action was to analyse the potential for food cooperation and propose a governance network, successfully adapting Turin's Food Districts tool to the local context.

Strengthening metropolitan cooperation

The pilot action aims to connect various metropolitan stakeholders, including public authorities, the private/agri-food sector, academic institutions, and NGOs. The goal is to enhance local food production, distribution, and consumption in the BMA, thereby benefiting the local economy, health, and sustainable land use. This initiative will also improve urban-rural cooperation and build trust within the region.

More details about the pilot action can be found:



bit.ly/4c34qzQ



Possibilities of integrating bus transport in the Warsaw Metropolis



Warsaw
Metropolis



Metropolitan area executing
the pilot action

Warsaw Metropolitan Area represented by the City of Warsaw

Tool chosen and adapted
to the context of partner

Integrated metropolitan
transportation system, developed
by the Stuttgart Region Association
and the Joint Spatial Planning
Department Berlin-Brandenburg



About the pilot action

The pilot action analysing the possibilities of integrating bus transport in the Warsaw Metropolitan Area (WMA) reflected efforts to create a unified and efficient metropolitan public transport system in the area. It represented a substantial advancement in improving mobility, sustainability, and metropolitan governance.

The pilot action included a comprehensive inventory of the bus transport services and required actions for their integration. This analysis is also foundational for legislative and planning work for the proposal of the Metropolitan Act.

The analysis focused on the integration of information and tariffs, covering the whole WMA. Key findings include:

1. INVENTORY PART

A detailed inventory of bus lines, operators, depots, routes, technical facilities, and timetables. It identified problems and mapped the area's transport characteristics.

2. PLANNING PART

Organizational, technical, and IT measures required for effective integration, including a unified fare system and a centralized passenger information database.



Significance, innovativeness and transferability

Based on the good practices of the Stuttgart Region Association and the Joint Spatial Planning Department Berlin-Brandenburg, the pilot action represented the first comprehensive analysis of bus transport across the whole WMA. It outlined a strategic plan for integrating bus transport and aligned the system with the “Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for the Warsaw Metropolitan Area 2030+.” The proposed integration will:

- ▶ simplify travel with a single-ticket system,
- ▶ enhance passenger experience through real-time information,
- ▶ promote sustainable urban development by reducing reliance on private cars.

Strengthening metropolitan cooperation

The pilot action fostered metropolitan cooperation by uniting municipalities, organizers of public transport, operators and other stakeholders to improve transport efficiency and sustainability. It created a platform for dialogue among municipal governments with fragmented transport policies, promoting shared responsibility and ensuring all stakeholders contribute to and benefit from enhanced mobility across the WMA.

More details about the pilot action can be found:



bit.ly/43hdInP



Structured dialogue for evaluating the strategic planning process in the Metropolitan City of Turin



Metropolitan area executing the pilot action

Turin Metropolitan Area represented by the Metropolitan City of Turin

Tool chosen and adapted to the context of partner

Questionnaire among mayors of the Brno Metropolitan Area, developed by the City of Brno



About the pilot action

The pilot action involved the creation of a survey concerning the 2024-2026 Metropolitan Strategic Plan (MSP). The survey fulfilled three primary objectives:

1. To gather feedback on the participatory planning process carried out to draft the MSP.
2. To evaluate progress toward the MSP's development goals.
3. To collect new input for the next update of the MSP, focusing on emerging needs.

Acknowledging the diversity of its target group, the Metropolitan City created two customized versions of the survey. One was directed at the 312 mayors of municipalities within the metropolitan area, while the other was targeted to a broad range of metropolitan stakeholders. This broader group included enterprises, trade unions, NGOs, universities, research bodies, and other key actors.

Both versions were structured into four sections, focusing on key aspects of metropolitan strategic planning:

- 1. GENERAL INFORMATION**
Collecting basic data about respondents, including their role (e.g., public official or member of the local executive body), their involvement in metropolitan governance, and the municipality/sector they represent.
- 2. THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**
Gathering feedback on the effectiveness of the participatory planning process.
- 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MSP**
Consulting stakeholders about the progress made toward achieving the MSP goals since the adoption of the plan.
- 4. UPDATING THE MSP**
Identifying new needs and issues for the next MSP revision.

These sections ensured the survey addressed strategic planning comprehensively while capturing diverse stakeholders' input. The questionnaires will be administered to approximately 500 respondents with results expected to inform the next update of the MSP.

Significance, innovativeness and transferability

The tool developed by the City of Brno was selected for its high transferability, versatility, flexibility and potential to enhance metropolitan cooperation. Originally designed to assess cooperation among municipalities, the tool was adapted by Turin to foster greater stakeholder involvement in strategic planning.

Strengthening metropolitan cooperation

The pilot action highlighted the importance of structured dialogue in fostering metropolitan cooperation. By creating a tool that facilitates feedback and cooperation, the Metropolitan City of Turin has laid the groundwork for a more effective planning process.

More details about the pilot action can be found:



bit.ly/42X2HJz



The full report can be found:



bit.ly/41RWexG