

# EUROPEAN METROPOLITAN AUTHORITIES



## WARSAW DECLARATION

Mayors, Presidents, and political representatives  
of the European Metropolitan Cities and areas  
gathered in Warsaw  
for the European Metropolitan Authorities (EMA) Forum 2017

after having discussed:

- the role of metropolitan areas in spreading development
- the role of metropolitan areas to achieve Cohesion Policy post 2020 goals
- the main challenges for metropolitan areas and their fields of activity

are committed to:

- Support the continuation of Cohesion Policy post 2020 for the whole territory of the EU
- Support a cohesion policy at the current levels of investment in relation to the overall EU budget
- Support a strong urban and metropolitan dimension within cohesion policy post-2020
- Become partners in designing, implementing and delivering results of cohesion policy post-2020

and declare that:

1. **Metropolitan areas are key drivers of development.** This fact is increasingly recognized and supported at European (EU-Cohesion policy 2014-2020, Urban Agenda of the EU, Pact of Amsterdam), international (UN-Habitat New Urban Agenda, UN-Sustainable Development Goals, OECD), and also national level.
2. **Metropolitan areas are engines of growth and development, ensuring the economic and social strength of the EU,** as shown by international research (OECD, ESPON etc), because they attract talents, capital and investments, offer a supportive environment for local and transnational innovation and job creation, and are centers of research, education and culture. They are at the forefront of smart solutions in information and service delivery, sharing and circular economy, resilience and environmental sustainability, improving energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy, air quality, and ensuring sustainable mobility. They are fighting unemployment, particularly of young people, and provide housing and social inclusion along with the integration of migrants and refugees. In all these fields, **Metropolitan areas see their particular potential to act and treat them as their priorities. In doing this, they create a real European added value.**
3. **Metropolitan Areas and big cities are a particular effective scale when trying to respond to the challenges of the digital revolution, globalization, demographic change and social inclusion, economic convergence and climate change.**
4. In particular, **wherever the EU member state's commitments to fight and adapt to climate change in the framework of COP 21 are implemented, metropolitan areas are essential stakeholders:** over 70% of climate change mitigation measures and up to 90% of adaptation measures are taken up by sub-national levels of government.
5. **Therefore, Metropolitan areas are key partners for the European Institutions in the EU actions aimed at security, economic strength, sustainability and solidarity. This is why Metropolitan Areas should be enabled to realize the metropolitan priorities with a growing support in the framework of EU Policies and funding programmes post 2020.**

6. **The Cohesion Policy 2014-2020**, but also the Urban Agenda launched by the Pact of Amsterdam, have been an important positive step towards the **recognition of the urban and metropolitan dimension of the EU. The EU Cohesion Policy gives a significant support to the development of metropolitan areas.**
7. **The future Cohesion Policy should reinforce and scale up this achievement and at least keep the current level of investment in relation to the overall EU budget.** Cities and metropolitan areas cooperating in the EMA network are ready to contribute to the work of **European institutions in order to reach this goal.**
8. **Metropolitan** Areas provide services and contribute to spreading development. They do it thanks to functional relations within their territory, but also with their closer and wider, often rural, surroundings. Therefore it is **crucial to strengthen those functional relations**, through programmes and projects. **This is the most efficient way of speeding up development, also in rural areas, realizing economic and social solidarity.**
9. The driving role of metropolitan areas is of utmost importance throughout the whole territory of the EU, but particularly in its less developed parts which have to catch up most. Everywhere – in less developed, transition and more developed regions – it remains important to improve accessibility by building and extending transport infrastructure and sustainable transport systems, energy transmission networks and high speed Internet. Such **infrastructures are a precondition for strengthening functional relations between core cities of metropolitan areas and their closer and wider surroundings.**
10. Strengthening functional relations means also to integrate or to reintegrate communities and individuals within metropolitan areas. **Lively functional relations also build human bridges between metropolitan areas, smaller towns and rural areas, and best allow to invest in people.** An increasing feeling of being left out and not belonging together is a main threat to the cohesion of European societies, the development of Europe and the existence of the EU. Programmes and projects (re-)integrating communities and individuals, including migrants and refugees, should be given priority within the framework of cohesion policy post 2020 as **an efficient sign of solidarity.**

11. Successful examples of policies/projects fostering metropolitan cooperation have been developed under 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy, particularly through ITIs and other instruments, such as priority axes and Sustainable Urban Development strategies. These examples show the added value of using EU instruments in order to enhance and support cooperation between municipalities and third parties within a metropolitan area for its integrated development. They are also an essential tool to trigger innovation in metropolitan governance. Thereby, they effectively help to implement the EU 2020 goals. **The instruments, fostering metropolitan cooperation, should be further developed within the framework of the EU- Cohesion Policy post 2020.**
12. **EU funds and instruments**, including ITI, **require simplification**, especially in the case of combination of funds, if they cannot be merged. A **single rulebook** for funds would be very helpful. This would increase the efficiency of the use of funds and reduce administrative burden, costs and possible sources of error. Controls should be result oriented and proportionate to project volumes and to the efficiency of local management and control systems.
13. It is crucial to **involve representatives of the metropolitan area level in the planning, management and evaluation of programmes and projects under the Cohesion Policy post 2020** for adjusting policy and programme priorities to the challenges, metropolitan areas face: any hub city (or cities), together with their partners, should be able to prepare and directly implement projects financed by Cohesion Policy funds targeting the metropolitan level.
14. **Integrated, holistic approaches** best allow to meet the needs of the inhabitants of metropolitan areas and **to invest in people**. Therefore a significant **increase of the percentage of EU funds earmarked for Integrated Urban Development** seems necessary to implement a real integrated approach at the most appropriate level.
15. **The use of instruments for integrated urban development should be supported by incentives** provided by the EU Commission. Such incentives, **supporting structural reforms**, could be offered for programmes and projects, when planned and realized at metropolitan area level, particularly if this has been done by formal metropolitan area governance

authorities, which have been created on a voluntary basis. Support should be given in order to strengthen their administrative capacity.

16. Programmes and projects aiming at the **development of existing and potential functional relations between metropolitan areas and wider areas**, lagging behind, and being in a different NUTS 2 area or different countries, should be supported particularly by the post 2020 Cohesion Policy.
17. **The topics of the partnerships**, working under the **European Urban Agenda**, address particular important challenges for urban development in Europe. **Many of them can be tackled more efficiently at metropolitan level than at city level**. Therefore metropolitan cooperation (governance across administrative boundaries and inter-municipal cooperation: urban-rural, urban-urban and cross-border cooperation) has been formulated in the Pact of Amsterdam as a horizontal, cross cutting issue for all partnerships. It is important that each partnership proposes appropriate organizational and governance solutions at metropolitan level for the topics it works on. The creation of an additional 13<sup>th</sup> partnership that focuses on metropolitan areas could be taken into consideration.
18. **Research**, as done by ESPON, **and statistical data collection at metropolitan area level**, particularly data on flows showing functional relations, should be further developed. This would allow to plan projects at metropolitan area level more accurately, and to assess their effects.
19. **European Territorial Cooperation post 2020 should be reinforced with more funding**. We support the continuation of the cross-border, transnational and interregional strands with a flexibility to adapt to specific needs. **European Territorial Cooperation including Urbact** should put a special focus on cooperation between metropolitan areas concerning appropriate governance solutions, the implementation of recommendations of the EU Urban Agenda Partnerships, and activities of metropolitan areas on a global level.
20. **Urban Innovative Actions**, financed by ERDF, have proved to be a successful instrument in fostering innovation. We encourage the European Commission to continue this work and to extend it to other ESIF funds post 2020.

*Signed in Warsaw, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

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