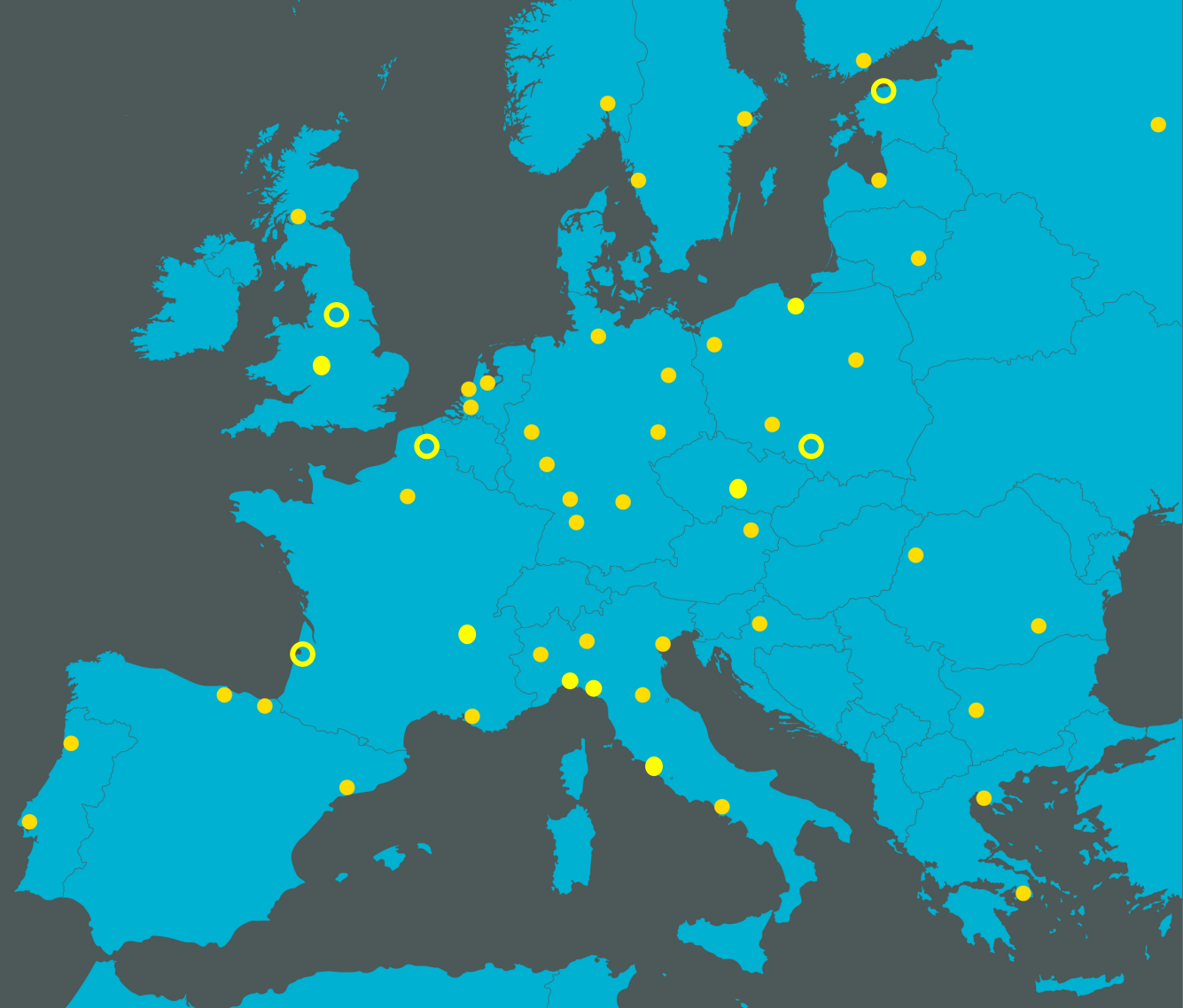


The Future of Metropolitan Areas



INTA45 congress 10 March 2023



Henk Bouwman - urbanist

Founded in 1996 at its first conference in Glasgow

- Founder Urban imPulse
- Former Board member Academy of Urbanism
- Researcher for the Independent Transport Commission (UK)
- Secretary-General of METREX since 2016



METREX

The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas



METREX

The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas

METREX Acronym for METRopolitan Exchange

- Founded in 1996 at its first conference in Glasgow
- Is an independent network funded by its members
- Is a network for 'practitioners' of public institutions

Its members are from

- Formally established regions
- Formally established collaborations between local governments
- Informally organised collaborations between local governments



METREX member territories cover 125 million Europeans

Is funded and governed by its Members

Brno, **WMCA and Birmingham**, Stockholm region, **Gothenborg ALA**, Gipuzkoa - San Sebastian, **Pais Vasco**, Glasgow, **Moscow Institute**, Bucharest MR, Iasi MR, **Oradea MAA**, AM Porto, **AM Lisboa**, Wrocław, **Lower Silesia**, West Pomerania, **Szczecin**, Mazovia region (Warsaw), **Viken-Oslo**, South-Holland, **Metropolitan Region Rotterdam-The Hague**, Amsterdam Region and City, **Riga**, Veneto region, **CMd Roma Capitale**, CMd Genova, **CMd Torino**, CMd Napoli, **CMd Milano**, Regione Lombardia, **Emilia-Romagna region**, Thessaloniki, **Athens**, Stuttgart region, **Rhein-Neckar region**, Nürnberg region, **Mitteldeutschland**, Hamburg, **Frankfurt-Rhein-Main**, Berlin-Brandenburg, **Métropole de Lyon**, Institute Paris Region, **Helsinki City and Region**, Zagreb, **Sofia**, Vienna, **ANCI Liguria**, INU Torino, **Metropolis GZM - Katowice**, **CIM Cavado**, Gdansk, tbc: **Tallin**, **CIM Coimbra**, **Strasbourg**, **Grenoble**

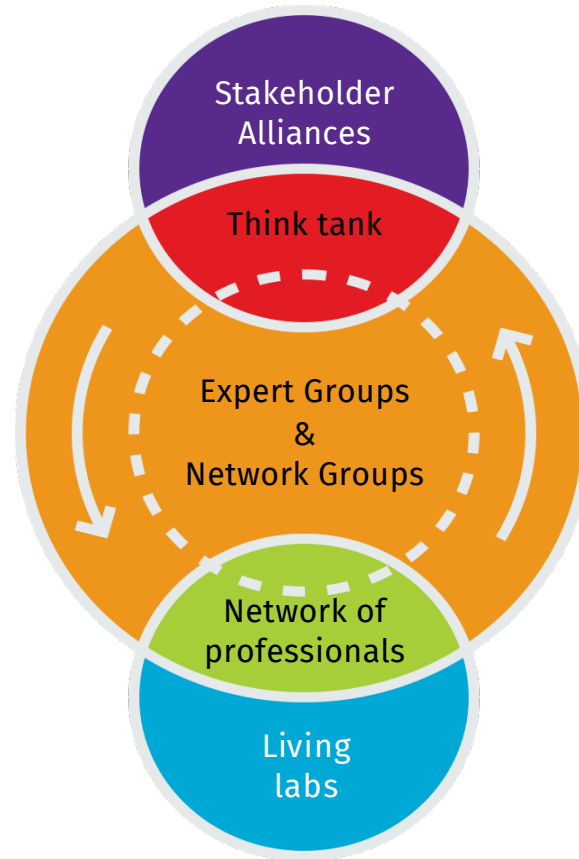


METREX mission statement 2021

Contributing
to next
practices

Finding best
practices

Designing
tailored
practices



Europe

METRE
X

Metropolita
n
Regions

METREX

The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas

Growing Metropolisation

- People still live in a *place* but they use the wider regional, urban and rural economy
- We need our neighbours to solve our urban and rural issues
- Changing the historical political boundaries is often not an option

- So, we see a growth in Territorial Partnerships : the Metropolitan Dimension

- Better join forces in a globalized world



INTA45 From City to Civitas

Taking care of the city and giving it back to its inhabitants

Two things on that title:

1. The city is arguably one of mankind's greatest innovations.

A focus for creativity and exchange, its identity is defined by its places of connections: Places of arrival and departure, places of collection, worship, exchange and distribution.

In my view Cities cannot exist without Civitas

2. ... giving it back to its inhabitants....

Actually, the city is already of its inhabitants (but...)



INTA45 From City to Civitas

Local Government is still best in place to

- Best know their needs
- Be close to their citizens and civil society, to people
- Develop tailored solutions for their needs

- But they need to upscale:

I share with you experiences from our network, from studies that are undertaken by members (with ESPON, Horizon, Interreg, etc) etc.



What is the matter?

Only **some** issues

- Our core European cities are at least 150 years old. They need heavy maintenance, especially on infrastructure (sewer, water, etc)
- Our city extensions have used a lot of land, often at a considerable distance from the core(s), with transport issues as a consequence.
- Our economy globalized, with even bigger transport issues, not to mention our vulnerability.
- We still know little from climate issues, especially the interlinkages between phenomenon and the, often, accelerating characteristics.
- New media has completely changed our way of living and we are only at the start of it.
- A firm basis of regional economy are SME-s (emphasis on S), we often neglected them and they disappeared.

Most issues have serious environmental impact

*These, and many more, are seen as **risks** that influence the price of financing future, necessary (urban) intervention (EIB)*



What is the matter?

For a lot of individual issues, we can develop **frameworks for solutions**, together with the scientific community, to have local communities tailor them to their taste

But

On top of that, we have to deal with an Increasing complexity, of our society, of our institutions and regulations etc.

We have to deal with very complicated matters, for which 'integrated thinking' or linking them to each other, is extremely important but also very difficult.

All of this on top of our daily business

Our subnetwork group SURE is looking into circularity and what it means for planning, for policies. You cannot imagine.



INTA45 From City to Civitas

Have cities grown out of control?

- For many issues **yes**, at least municipalities have.
 - The main challenges cross borders into neighboring authorities
 - The increasing complexity asks for a different approach in many things
 - They are growing short of resources
- Without taking away the closest representative level, we believe upscaling of governance and operational services is the way forward
- And that upscaling of local government can help them level with the ‘big players’ in the regions
- Are we capable for such actions?



What actions are needed within ?

Integrated Thinking

But we need to learn that, so

Capacity Building, especially for medium and small size cities, and urban AND rural areas

Invest in people

De-Silo-isation, also in government institutions

This could be done by working with thematic programmes

like the Green Deal

Local Governments (including their rural areas) should be better equipped to translate often abstract national and EU policies in action

After all, they are the ones that can develop concrete and place-based solutions



Are we capable for actions?

YES, but

We need to re-position our institutions

We need to re-think our policies

e.g. work much more in programmes (like the EU Green Deal or Rural Pact) instead of rigid plans and policies

Cities have shown, over the centuries, the ability to adapt and re-develop

Make much better use of metropolitan regions and cities, closer to its people and businesses

And therefore

Develop EU and national programmes (cross silos) with funds that are directly accessible for Metro regions and cities.



METREX is developing a Metropolitan Vision for Europe 2050

It gives our view on the role that local government can play in addressing the current and future challenges we all face.

The vision will be ready at our METREX Spring Conference in Wrocław, 23-26 April

The vision will be launched in Brussels at the European Parliamentary Urban Intergroup in June 2023.



WE ARE METREX

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