Metropolitan cooperation development in Brno metropolitan area (BMA) through ITI instrument

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Integration or cooperation? Czech perspective

Legislative vacuum in metropolitan level in the CZ; lack of „metropolitan thinking“

Average population: 1 600
Median: 380

6 258 municipalities in the CZ

NUTS 5 level – municipal level
NUTS 3 level – regional level

development only within administrative boundaries – given by legislation
Experience of Brno in integrated approach and metropolitan planning

1. URBACT II – Joining forces (2009-2010)
2. EUROCITIES – WG Metropolitan areas – MAIA study
3. EMA forum
5. METREX (2020+)
INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS

Starting point for metropolitan cooperation

European level

National level

Local level (Brno City Municipality)
ITI as a catalyst of metropolitan cooperation and its institutionalization in CZ

1st step: to update FUA delimitation of BMA (2013) + to establish a dialogue with municipalities in surroundings

2nd step: to create Integrated development strategy of BMA and steering structures + to sign memorandum on cooperation (2014-2015)

3rd step: to implement projects in BMA in EU 2014-2020 programming period (2016-2023) – in progress

4th step: Future of ITI and metropolitan cooperation – regardless of EU funding – in progress

Common long-term goal: learn how to think in a metropolitan way, be aware of benefits of metropolitan cooperation
Factors taken into account:
- Commuting to work, to schools
- Migration flows
- Public and Individual Transport Accessibility

Programming period 2014+
- evidence-based method (collaboration with local university)
- similar to OECD definition of FUA
- Strategy focusing on EU issues
- 167 municipalities, 625 000 inhabitants

Programming period 2021+
- new uniform delimitation on behalf of Ministry for Local Development of the CZ
  (new approach – in progress)
- Strategy focusing on all metropolitan issues
  (not just EU-financed issues)

BMA: 53% of inhabitants and 75% of GDP (est.) of South Moravian Region
Achieving cooperation

- Long-term process: 3 dimensions of cooperation (functional, cultural, institutional)
- Total allocation for ITI of BMA – cca 0,23 bil. €
- Memorandum on metropolitan Cooperation with South Moravian Region and 5 largest municipalities in surroundings (2014, 2018)
- Steering group – key stakeholders from BMA (politicians)
- Expert working groups
- Ongoing discussions with stakeholders inside and outside
- Publicity and awareness within BMA (e.g. publications, workshops, national conference, marketing campaign)

Challenges: scale imbalances among municipalities, contradictory priorities as emerging from diverse territories, conflicts among decision makers
Further analysis and surveys within BMA (in parallel to step 3)

- Sociodemographic analysis of municipalities in BMA (2014) – Census 2011 data
- Transport behavior survey of BMA inhabitants (2016-2017)
- Questionnaire among mayors of municipalities in BMO (2017) – topics, interest to join, framework for cooperation
- Metropolitan indicator system (2019)
- data.brno.cz (Metropolitan data)
Integrated approach and cooperation 2020+

- Continuing of ITI, but aiming for wider development – wide metropolitan strategy
- **Developing of three parallel dimensions of metropolitan cooperation:**
  - **Material** – metropolitan issues
  - **Cultural** – awareness, mutual trust
  - **Institutional** – forms of cooperation, planning process, conceptual documents, forms of governance, legislation etc.
- Questionnaire survey among all mayors of municipalities in BMA – 90% return rate
• Conducted in 2017 among the mayors of all 166 municipalities of BMA

• The aim of this rare survey was to determine, among other things, whether the hinterland of Brno perceives the benefits of the cooperation with neighbouring municipalities and whether it wishes to join actively even after 2020

• The return rate of the questionnaire was 88 % (146 municipalities)

• Following questionnaire survey planned for 12/2019 – possibility to compare results
Willingness to cooperate
The most important factors for establishing and maintaining a long-term metropolitan cooperation and development of BMA in future

(select up to 3 options), N=146

- Awareness of metropolitan cooperation benefits: 93
- External financial tools for project funding: 60
- Balanced representation and decision-making: 55
- Ability of consensus and compromise: 53
- Strong political leadership on a regional level: 32
- Strong political leadership on a municipal level: 31
- Strong clerical/expert leadership: 9
- Other (please specify): 7
- Strong political leadership on a national level: 3
Willingness to fund
Willingness to merge

Source: questionnaire survey
Future?

- Metropolitan spatial vision
- Metropolitan expert office/agency
- Metropolitan fund
- Metropolitan law

Cooperation on level of FUA regardless of EU funding

Common long-term goal: learn how to THINK and ACT in a metropolitan way, be aware of benefits of metropolitan cooperation
We are writing a new chapter from the perspective of understanding the term „strategic urban planning“ in the CZ – revolution of territorial self-governance.

Now, the most suitable environment is created in the CZ in its modern history for the long-term promotion of the concept of metropolitan areas and their institutionalization in regional policy.

With the declining share of EU subsidies, the willingness of the municipalities to cooperate will decrease => it is necessary to look for formalized models of cooperation – e.g. independent legal entities responsible for metropolitan development.

Professional and political consensus on the gradual enforcement of metropolitan development concept and strong leaders in metropolitan regions remain a key success factor – expert debate in CZ has just begun.
Thank you for your attention

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