

METREX AUTUMN CONFERENCE Bucharest 2024

Unlocking the metropolitan potential

Towards a European Metropolitan Agenda

23-25 October, Bucharest

From our METREX Manifesto to Linking New Challenges in Planning to Organisational Adaptation

In alignment with the METREX Manifesto for Metropolitan Partnerships, we recognize that metropolitan regions and areas are uniquely positioned to address the multifaceted challenges we face today. By understanding the bigger picture and translating it to a metropolitan scale, we can collaboratively find solutions with local partners.

Post-Manifesto Actions

Following the launch of our **Manifesto for Metropolitan Partnerships**, we continue to strengthen our preparedness by:

1. Developing Approaches to Urgent Planning Issues; Enhancing our fundamental professional capabilities to tackle pressing spatial planning challenges.
2. Organisational Adaptation; Becoming more agile, efficient, and accessible in our organizational structure.
3. Forging a Metropolitan Future for Europe; Encouraging active participation in shaping a future-oriented metropolitan vision for Europe.

Spring Conference in Brussels, May 2024

At our recent Spring Conference in Brussels, we focused on:

- New Challenges in Spatial Planning; Deliberating on current pressing issues and evaluating our readiness for the future both organizationally and in our planning approaches.

- Equipping ourselves for the future; Providing comprehensive support to staff, ensuring they have the skills, tools, and resources necessary to effectively tackle complex metropolitan challenges.

A detailed report from the Brussels conference will be available at the opening of the Bucharest event.

Bucharest Autumn Conference, October 2024

The program aims to integrate several key components to support our members in building a robust organizational framework capable of addressing new spatial planning challenges:

- 1. Introduction to the Romanian context:** Understanding regional specifics and contextual challenges.
- 2. Thematic and Parallel Workshop Sessions:** Offering opportunities for learning, mirroring, and reflection on strategies to address spatial planning issues.
- 3. Strategic Integration:** Combining these elements to ensure we are not only prepared for the future but also proactive in shaping new policy statements towards EU and national institutions.
- 4. Searching for a political steer in formulating a European Metropolitan Agenda.**

The program includes only a few plenary session presentations and many hands-on, parallel workshops delving into a wide spectrum of themes (the final Program is available at: <https://www.eurometrex.org/events/metrex-autumn-conference/>)

Making a direct link to our premises, the outcomes of the event will serve as a first outline for an updated proposal, the European Metropolitan Agenda, to Members of the European Parliament in Spring 2025, also using the Polish EU Presidency and our METREX Spring Conference

By embracing these initiatives, we aim to be proactive in addressing the challenges ahead and shaping a sustainable metropolitan future for Europe.

METREX Autumn Conference Bucharest 2024

Venue: ARCUB Gabroveni, Strada Lipscani 84 – 90, București 030037

Pre-conference Program

09:00-12:00 Nordic Baltic Network meeting

Venue: ADIZMB Office, Bulevardul Ion C. Brătianu 10, 2nd floor, București
030167

10:00-12:00 MC Meeting

Venue: Marmorosch Bucharest Hotel, Strada Doamnei 2, Bucharest

Day 1. Wednesday 23 October

Venue: ARCUB Gabroveni, Strada Lipscani 84 – 90, București 030037

11:30 **Registration & light lunch**

13:00 **Welcome**

Henk Bouwman, METREX Secretary General

- [Gianina Panatau](#), Director General ADIZMB
- [Olivia Ciobanu-Oprescu](#), Administrator ILFOV County
- [Jakub Mazur](#), President of METREX
- [Volodymyr Bondarenko](#), Deputy Mayor Kyiv (online)

The Metropolitan dimension in Romania

*Moderator: Bogdan Suditu, Head of Urbanism and Urban
Mobility Department – ADIZMB*

(The session is translated RO-EN and vice versa)

- [Adrian Crăciun](#), Executive Director, The Federation of Metropolitan Areas and Urban Agglomerations in Romania
- [Liviu Băileșteanu](#), Director, Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration
- [Ovidiu Cîmpean](#), State Secretary, Ministry of Investments and European Projects
- [Marius Cristea](#), Urban Development Consultant – World Bank
- Constantin Mitache, Director, Romanian Association of Municipalities
- [Liviu Ianăși](#), Doctor in urban planning, University of Architecture, Bucharest

- *Rapporteur: Claudia Pamfil*, Urbanism and Urban Mobility Department, ADIZMB and Vice-president of Romanian Professional Association of Urban Planners (APUR)

15:00-16:00 [Make a bridge towards the next day's sessions](#)

Introduction by the moderators of the Workshops' sessions

- **Overall programme**, [Henk Bouwman](#), METREX Secretary General
- **Workshop 1: Bankability of Green Policies**
[Filipe Ferreira](#), Metropolitan Secretary, Lisbon Metropolitan Area, PT
- **Workshop 2: Mobility - strengthen metropolitan cooperation** [Sandeep Shingadia](#), Transport for West-Midlands, Director, UK
- **Workshop 3: No New Land Take**
[Alfredo Corbalan](#), Brussels Planning Agency, BE
- **Workshop 4 Metropolitan Economic Development**
- [Gratian Mihailescu](#), UrbanizeHub, RO
- **Foresight session**, [Łukasz Medeksza](#), Wrocław City Strategist

- 16:00** **Break**
Transfer to meeting point for Tour
Meeting point: opposite to Marmorosch hotel, Strada
Doamnei 2, Bucureşti 030053, Romania
- 16:30-18:00** **Tour to the Palace of Parliament**
(mandatory registration via our website)
Bus to Palace of Parliament
- 19:30** **Dinner at Le Dôme Restaurant**
Address: Strada Ion Ghica 4, Bucureşti 030044

Day 2. Thursday 24 October

Venue: ARCUB Gabroveni, Strada Lipscani 84 – 90, București 030037

08:30 **Registration**

09:00 **Opening and Welcome**

Setting: main room

- **Jakub Mazur**, METREX President
- **Nicușor Dan**, Mayor of Bucharest

09:15 **Introduction to the Conference Program**

Towards a metropolitan strategy for Europe

- **Henk Bouwman**, METREX Secretary General

Foresighting METREX 2049

- **Łukasz Medeksza**, Wrocław City Strategist

09:30-11:00 **Parallel Workshops**

Setting: 4 different rooms

Keeping in mind that the ultimate goal of the conference is to formulate input that will serve as a first step towards a new proposal to Members of the European Parliament in Spring 2025, a Metropolitan Agenda for Europe, the aim of each workshop is to collect a number of ideas/statements that will serve to this purpose.

For this reason, each workshop includes:

- an **introduction panel** where invited speakers present their experience and critical views around the topic.
- a **group discussion** leading to a few ideas/statements to be transferred to the plenary discussions of the Friday.

The **moderator** will introduce the speakers and animate the debate with the participants.

The rapporteur will receive the takeaways that emerged

from the discussion and elaborate them in the form of statements to be presented in the conclusive sessions.

Workshop 1 - Bankability of Green Policies

Moderator: Filipe Ferreira, Metropolitan Secretary, Lisbon Metropolitan Area, PT

Invited participants:

- [Alpo Tani](#), Climate Mitigation Specialist, City of Helsinki, Finland
- [Jeroen Rijsdijk](#), Arcadis
- [Wojciech Deska](#), EIB Senior Urban Sector Specialist
- [Ana-Maria MITROI-CIOBICA](#), JASPERS
- Conference participants

Rapporteur: Vera Marin, President, ATU Association for Urban Transition

Workshop 2 - Mobility: strengthen metropolitan cooperation

Moderator: Sandeep Shingadia, Transport for West-Midlands, Director UK

Invited participants:

- [Adrian Foghis](#), Secretary of State, Ministry of Transport, Romania
- [Claudiu Staicu](#), Deputy General Director, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Romania
- [Geanina Suditu](#) – Director of Development, The Bucharest-Ilfov Public Transport Intercommunity Development Association (TPBI)
- [Chuck Bean](#), NARC representative
- [Alexandre Santacreu](#), Secretary-General European Metropolitan Transport Association (EMTA)
- Conference participants

Rapporteur: Rafael Amorim, CIM Cávado, PT

Workshop 3 No New Land Take

Moderator: Alfredo Corbalan, perspective.brussels, Brussels Planning Agency, BE

Invited participants:

- [Jean-Marie Halleux](#), Professor of Economic Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Liege, Belgium
- [Sylvain Chapu](#), Toulouse Metropolitan Area, FR
- [Dagmar Keim](#), gemeente Amsterdam, projectleader Interreg ASSET group (SURE Eurodelta)
- [Sabina Reichert](#), urban planner specialised in metropolitan development, Deputy Director, Urbasofia
- Conference participants

Rapporteur: Simone Jung, Verband Region Stuttgart, DE

Workshop 4 Metropolitan Economic Development

Moderator: Gratian Mihailescu, UrbanizeHub, RO

Invited participants

- [Mihai Precup](#) Secretary of State at the Prime Minister's Office, President of the Interministerial Council for the Implementation of [State Aid Policy](#), RO
- [Corina Cretu](#), former EU Commissioner
- [Sebastian Burduja](#), Minister of Energy (online)
- [Masha Smirnova](#), Eurocities - Industrial Deal and Competitiveness
- [John Austin Stokes](#), representative National Association of Development Organisations (NADO), USA
- [Marcel Ionescu Heroiu](#), World Bank, RO

Rapporteur: Peter Pol, City of The Hague, NL

11:00 [break](#)

11:30 [Metropolitan Regions and Areas, what are they?](#)

Towards a Metropolitan Observatory

Setting: main room

While defining metropolitan areas in an absolute sense may be elusive, it's crucial for us to better understand the composition and structure of our member regions. A deeper knowledge will enhance our collaboration and effectiveness.

Working in tandem, the 'Mapping METREX' Initiative launched last year by the Province of South Holland, and the METREX Members' Survey, conceived by our Bernd Steinacher fellow, Ioana Ivanov, will nurture each other and mutually contribute to the creation of a **Metropolitan Observatory**. This observatory aims to provide comprehensive, standardised data and insights into the structure, challenges, and opportunities within metropolitan areas.

This session will be an interactive opportunity to refine the tools we are building engaging the audience in imagining the necessary future steps towards establishing a formal Metropolitan Observatory.

Moderator: Henk Bouwman

Introduction to Imagining a Metropolitan Observatory (10')

Output from the METREX Members' Survey and discussion with:

- [Ioana Ivanov](#), BS Fellowship (20')
- Results first part questionnaire
- Conclusions?
- Similarities governance models

Update on Mapping METREX (20')

- [Mariana Faver](#) Province of South Holland
- METREX Mapping

Interactive session for additional input and discussion

Rapporteur: Laura Papaleo, Città metropolitana Genova, IT

13:00 [Lunch break](#)

14:00 **METREX Foresight 2049**
“Metropolitan regions and the future of Europe”

Setting: main room

Moderators: Łukasz Medeksza & Sébastien Rolland

Europe is shaken by dark trends such as war in the East, crisis of liberal democracy in many countries, collapse of biodiversity, hyper-individualism as a new mindset. At the same time the EU is planning to re-build its global competitiveness. What are the possible scenarios for Europe’s future under such circumstances? And what role could metropolitan regions and areas play? By using the foresight method, this session will offer the opportunity to create scenarios of the future metropolitan regions and areas in 2049, reflecting on the outputs from the morning workshops and moving from the insights received by the foresight experts.

Foresight as a practice: The cases of Wrocław, Lyon, and Dutch cities will show how can foresight approach can lead local strategies:

- [Łukasz Medeksza](#), Wrocław, PL
- [Sébastien Rolland](#), Lyon, FR
- [Johan van Zoest](#), Eindhoven University of Technology, NL

Main European issues towards 2049: a roundtable with:

- [Prof. Gerry Hassan](#), University of Dundee, UK (online)
- [Karol Wasilewski](#), 4CF – The Futures Literacy Company
- [Charles Wemple](#), Director of the Houston regional Council association and an expert in foresighting (online)

15:10 **Break**

- 15:30** **Prospect'Us game**
Setting: different rooms (participants organized in small groups)
- Gameplay “Prospect’Us” towards urban metropolitan regions 2049 visions. The serious game “Prospect’Us” is a powerful tool for foresight, created by Urbalyon, from and for global foresight approach called Prospective 2040. It is an out-of-the-box thinking tool where participants are invited to project themselves in 2050. Players have to change perceptions, imagine and describe possible futures in a specific place, based on a random combination of drivers to generate original and co-created ideas.
- 16:30** **Reporting back from the groups**
Setting: main rooms
- 17:00-18:00** **Walking Tour to the City center**
With local guide, led by Bogdan Suditu
- 19:00** **Bus to Restaurant**
Meeting point: opposite to Marmorosch hotel, Strada Doamnei 2, București 030053, Romania
- 19:30** **Dinner at The Club of Diplomats**
Venue: Șos. București-Ploiești, București
- 22:30** **Bus transfer to the centre**

Day 3. Friday 25 October

Venue: ARCUB Gabroveni, Strada Lipscani 84 – 90, București 030037

08:30–9:00 *Welcome coffee*

09:00 **Wrap up and conclusions**

Moderator: Henk Bouwman

Key messages from the Thursday workshops' rapporteurs and foresight session's moderators that should feed into a European Metropolitan Agenda

10:00 **Political exchange**

Moderator: Xavi Tiana, AMBarcelona, ES

EU institutions level

- [Corina Cretu](#), former EU Commissioner
- [Marcos Ros](#), MEP

Local authority level

- [Agnès Thouvenot](#) 1re Adjoint au Maire Villeurbanne - GrandLyon
- [Marco Griguolo](#), Councillor Città Metropolitana di Milano, IT
- [Jakub Mazur](#), Deputy Mayor of Wroclaw, PL

11:30 *Break*

11:45 **Final Keynote by**

[Corina Cretu](#), former EU Commissioner RO

12:15 **Final Principal Statement**

[Jakub Mazur](#), METREX President

12:30 **Close**