

Metropolitan Cities in Implementation of EU Cohesion Policies in 2007–2013 Convergence Regions: the Role of City Actors in Regional Policy-Making Networks

- Germany – Hannover in Lower Saxony and Dresden in Saxony (by Hubert Heinelt and Achim Lang, Darmstadt Technical University)
- Hungary – Pecs in South-Danubian region (by Andrew Cartwright, Central European University, Budapest)
- Poland – Wrocław in Lower Silesia (Dolnośląski) and Kraków in Małopolski regions (by Pawel Swianiewicz and Marta Lackowska, Warsaw University)

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Panel presentation includes three papers focused on the same topic but presenting different cases.

ABSTRACT

Structural Funds which support development of Objective 1 and 2 regions (in 2000–2006 perspective) or ‘convergence’ and ‘competitiveness and employment’ regions (in 2007–2013 perspective) are allocated on NUTS–2 level. The allocation for individual projects (and consequently among individual sub-regions) is made by member states or regional governments. In many countries it is a hot issue to maintain the balance between support for more rural periphery and metropolitan core of respective territories. The process of metropolization of global economic growth suggests treating core urban regions as potential engines of regional development, and concentrating considerable of development policies there. On the other hand, cohesion character of EU regional policies suggests a special attention for rural areas, which are usually lagging behind. This dilemma is often reflected in regional debates (or even conflicts) between actors involved in regional policy making.

Papers in the panel will have two parts which will include:

- general information on the national debate on the role of metropolitan areas in absorbing structural funds. This will be illustrated by data showing flows of funds to metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas;

- results of empirical study performed with the usage of SNA (Social Network Analysis), analyzing the role of the core-city actors in the regional network of actors involved in relevant areas of policy making. Is central city central in the regional network? Is it marginalized by more numerous representatives of the “countryside”? What are sources of specific role (if any) played by actors from the central city?

All three papers will be using the same methodology (arising from the FP6 Research Project “SOCCOH”) of empirical study and presentation of the results, so it will allow full comparability of the conclusions. Applied methods are both quantitative (mainly SNA related) and qualitative (based on in-depth interviews with regional stakeholders).

Key Words: metropolitan governance, European funds, regional policy making, social network