

Cross-border Metropolitan Regions in Europe: integration, governance and rescaling

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Our research is based on two main observations.

First, in the framework of the globalization's process, the paradigm of international competitiveness has established metropolises as the main forces of economic development on national territories in the eyes of the States. Local and regional operators have joined forces with the States in order to build political projects (named 'metropolitan regions') aiming at mobilizing resources to ensure economic development and to reinforce readability on global level. Second, the fostering of cross-border integration has been facilitated by the European construction process. It is characterized by social and economic interactions as well as institutional cooperation on regional and local levels.

In this respect, our aim is to understand the process of rescaling in several Cross-Border Metropolitan Regions, that results in 5 different approaches:

- the ways the different national initiatives are articulated between themselves
- the spatial strategy and especially the cross-border dimension of the metropolitan project,
- the governance system : political leadership, representation, and relations,
- the construction of identity and citizenship,
- spatial consequences on the urban system: the cities' position in relation to the project and the rescaling of the urban systems (national, regional and cross-border).