the network of major European cities

Sustainable urban-rural partnerships

Warsaw 24 April 2013
Metropolitan areas working group

Set up in October 2010

Brings together 35 cities:

Co chaired by Oslo and Lille metropole, Brabantstad taking over this year

Aims at **exchanging on current practices** and **drawing common conclusions** on how to further develop metropolitan cooperation processes i.e. urban rural partnerships
RU cooperation: how to make it effective?

A few preliminary remarks:

- **Rural/urban partnership is not a new thing (esp. within MA): a number of experience are existing**

- **Not a single definition of Functional areas/regions:**
  - other ones exist alongside travel to work ones (water supply, waste management, etc.)
  - and they can evolve quite fast with time (esp. travel to work)

  ⇒ **Not a single model of RU partnerships ;**
  - different types can be developed in the same area at the same time
  - based on the recognition of different common interests, threats or opportunities

- **Hence the importance of political agreements/statements**
RU cooperation: how to make it effective?
Some basic remarks coming from experience (1):

- **Overtaking prejudices:**
  - Learning to know each other (it takes time)
  - Evidence base is required (data, mapping, etc.) at the right scale and not at administrative ones
  - Core cities should take the initiative (with possible help from national/regional authorities)

- **Building trust:**
  - Starting with win-win situations
  - but seizing all opportunities available
  - Achieving concrete projects (small can be beautiful)
  - Additional funding from upper tiers of government is welcome
  - Time and continuity are required: this has to be recognised from the beginning of the process
RU cooperation: how to make it effective?
Some basic remarks coming from experience (2):

- Hence also the need to gaining support from all relevant stakeholders:
  - no tiers and agencies in the public sector should be excluded (or feel so)
  - private and voluntary sectors partners, when relevant

- Gaining consent - if not support - from citizens is crucial

- Specific attention to cross-border situations:
  - not only between MS but also between administrative entities/ regions

- CP new instruments? Are they going to be relevant for such situations?
Some thoughts about support from the EU & nation/region levels

1. Barriers to effective RU cooperation should be identified and removed

2. Devt and part. contracts, part of the future Cohesion policy, should engage hub cities in finding cooperation agreement within functional areas

3. National /regional authorities should support the development of new OP tools (ITI, CLLD); these ones being obviously driven by the local level

4. Exchange and networking between LAs on Functional area cooperations should be encouraged

5. Further research is needed on current development in MA s and contribution to deliver 2020 targets

6. Networks of Las should be invited to work closely with OECD, the EU Commission, etc. on these issues : Eurocities are ready to do so !
the network of major European cities: www.eurocities.eu

Thank you for your attention

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