Governance in Metropolitan Regions in Germany

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Overview:

I. Challenges in Metropolitan Regions

II. Metropolitan Regions in Germany: Bases, goals and overview

III. Governance in German Metropolitan Regions
I. Challenges and Solutions in German Metropolitan Regions
Globalization - Regionalization - Metropolitan Regions

- Every Region has to compete in globalization
- Size makes a difference! Germany’s Cities are small – none has more than 3,5 Million inhabitants (Berlin)

Solution: Metropolitan Cities + surroundings = Metropolitan Regions:
- one or more urban core(s) and surrounding region
- one united economic area, one labor market, commuters, the interconnectedness between culture and context of life

But: the necessity of corporate action should not cover regional differences

Think globally – act regionally!
Metropolitan Regions
Rural – Urban: joint action

- Metropolitan Region building: join together “urban + urban/rural + rural” = one answer to globalisation

- In some areas, more can be achieved by cooperation than by oneself alone

- Political message: International competitiveness and internal regional cohesion can be combined on a rural – urban level

Think rural/urban – act regionally!
Goals of German Metropolitan Regions:

1: Strengthen the cooperation within the region
   - Facilitate the work of companies, administrations, stakeholders and the civil society. Support the cooperation of the partners in the region.

2: Enhance the competitiveness to the outside
   - At the national and international level, Metropolitan Regions compete for companies and skilled professionals. They strive to become both economically active and liveable.
Challenges of German Metropolitan Regions

- Traffic and transportation problems in urban area <-> Insufficient public transport in low density areas
- High pressure on housing market <-> depopulization of (mostly) rural areas
- Demographic change
- Attracting workforce
- Climate change

-> more can be achieved when neighbours join forces
-> working across existing administrative borders is necessary
II. Metropolitan Regions in Germany
Federal States vs. Metropolitan Regions
Origin of German Metropolitan Regions:

- Basis: regional cooperation across administrative borders in many regions since the 1950s or earlier
  - Recognition of existing cooperations by the Federal State

-> Bottom-up process based on existing cooperation structures
Metropolitan Regions in Germany

Established 1995/97*

- Berlin/Brandenburg
- Frankfurt/Rhein-Main
- Hamburg
- München
- Rhein-Ruhr
- Mitteldeutschland
- Stuttgart

Established 2005*

- Bremen-Oldenburg
- Hannover
- Braunschweig
- Göttingen
- Wolfsburg
- Nürnberg
- Rhein-Neckar

*by the Standing Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning (MKRO)
German Metropolitan Regions in numbers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Population (Mio.)</th>
<th>Land Area (km²)</th>
<th>BIP (€)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frankfurt-RheinMain</td>
<td>5,6</td>
<td>14,800</td>
<td>76,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamburg</td>
<td>5,1</td>
<td>28,300</td>
<td>70,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannover-Braunschweig-Göttingen-Wolfsburg</td>
<td>3,8</td>
<td>18,600</td>
<td>68,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hauptstadtregion Berlin-Brandenburg</td>
<td>5,9</td>
<td>30,500</td>
<td>55,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitteldeutschland</td>
<td>2,5</td>
<td></td>
<td>9,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuttgart</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>54,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. Governance in German Metropolitan Regions
Huge differences between German Metropolitan Regions

- Land area
- Number of inhabitants and density
- Economic structure
- One or multiple federal states
- Mono- or multicentric
- Portion of rural/urban space
- Areas of responsibility

Result: different Governance Models
Governance in German Metropolitan Regions

- Governance structures are not imposed by Federal State
- Governance structures reflect the special conditions of every Metropolitan Region
- Each metropolitan area uses those administrative structures that are considered appropriate / necessary
- Metropolitan Regions do not constitute additional administrative units
- They are platforms for regional cooperation
- They determine their own borders
Factors influencing choice of Governance Model

1. Nature of the regional stakeholders

2. Areas of responsibility:
   • “Hard”, sovereign tasks such as regional planning
   • “Soft”, informal tasks such as establishing cohesion between rural and urban areas
Examples of Governance Models

1. Associations performing sovereign tasks such as planning, e.g. Stuttgart
2. Cooperations based on state treaties (between federal states, regional districts, core city/cities and/or chambers of industry) (e.g. Hamburg)
3. Associations under German law (e.g. Nuremberg)
4. Or a combination of 1-3 (e.g. Rhine-Neckar)
Governance – summary I

- The governance models of the regions are completely different: No two models are the same!
- One region – Berlin-Brandenburg – has no gov. structure at all. But they have a joint spatial planning department
- Stuttgart Region: federal state parliament transferred certain responsibilities and competences to the metropolitan area
- Only five of the regions are responsible for spatial planning in their region – four of them only for parts of their region
- In one way or another, seven regions incorporate NGOs (like chambers of commerce) in their structure
Governance – summary II

- Governance is based on commitment of all stakeholders
- Allow for different kinds of intensity of commitment of stakeholders, depending on topic
- Institutionalized platforms for exchange and projects

Conclusion:
The governance structure is important, but just as important is trust and reliability between the partners through joint projects and formalized networking (e.g. working groups)
Thank you for your attention!

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