



## SUMMER SCHOOL IN GLOBAL POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY 2019

### *Big Cities and Metropolitan Areas in face of Climate Change*

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**Date:** June 19

**Time:** 10.00 am - 1.00 pm (Session 1) + 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm (Session 2)

**Room:** 24.133 Fred Halliday - Mercè Rodoreda Building 24 (Floor 1)

The world is becoming progressively urbanized. Related is the accelerated expansion of metropolitan regions (regions consisting of a densely populated urban core and less-populated surrounding territories with multiple jurisdictions), as an increasingly visible phenomenon of the 21st century. 41% of the total urban population currently live in metropolitan areas of more than 1 million inhabitants.

Basing their fast development on sustainability goals and fighting climate change are probably the biggest challenges for metropolitan areas.

While environmental degradation, impacts of climate change, pollution, social disaggregation and similar impact on large settlements of any type, metropolitan areas have particular challenges as well as opportunities for finding solutions due to their broader territories and complex governance systems.

Integrated approaches are from special importance: Cyclic resource flows, mitigation of emissions, adaptation to climate change, generation and use of clean and renewable energy, sustainable mobility systems, development of green and blue space with their

eco-system services in mind, coastal management, and similar, characterize opportunities for coordinated and horizontally and vertically integrated policies and actions.

Managing such areas in a responsible way requires sophisticated governance systems, which allow to balance local perspectives with those of a larger area.

How metropolitan areas can unfold their potentials for accelerating sustainable development will be in the center of this course, with a focus on climate change.

## **Session 1. Metropolitan Areas and their governance models**

The world is becoming increasingly urbanized; the accelerated expansion of megacities and metropolitan areas is a visible phenomenon in the 21st century. As a result, the economic, social, cultural and environmental transformations in the last decades have led to profound new territorial reorganization processes ranging from new patterns for the location of urban activity to the appearance of significant changes in the role of metropolitan areas. In this context, the challenges of cities, like the fight against climate change, are posed on a metropolitan scale and not only locally. How are metropolitan areas governed? The objective of this lecture is to analyze the models of metropolitan governance from a comparative perspective, examining their advantages and disadvantages and through concrete examples.

Metropolitan governance models can be classified according to their degree of institutionalization (from highest to lowest): metropolitan governments, sectorial agencies, vertical coordination by other levels of government and voluntary cooperation between municipalities. There are different elements that influence the models of metropolitan governance: competences (exclusive or shared, in hard policies or soft policies, with binding capacity or not), financing (own or external sources), multilevel governance (horizontal and vertical), citizen representation and participation (direct or indirect election of representatives, inclusion of other public and private actors). The combination of these elements configures the metropolitan governance model, which transforms over time and adapts to the specific institutional context.

### Required reading:

UCLG. 2016. GOLD IV Report: Co-creating the urban future. Edition 2016 (Chapter 1 on Metropolitan Areas) <http://www.gold.uclg.org/reports/other/gold-report-iv> .

Tomàs, Mariona. 2016. Metropolitan trends in the world. Issue Paper 1, Metropolis Observatory.

[https://www.metropolis.org/sites/default/files/metropolis-observatory\\_issue-paper-1\\_en](https://www.metropolis.org/sites/default/files/metropolis-observatory_issue-paper-1_en)

## Session 2. Sustainable urban development and climate change as particular challenges and tasks for metropolitan areas

The key sustainability challenges for all metropolitan areas have a global dimension, such as combatting climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adjusting resource consumption to the right and fair share within the planetary boundaries. Climate policy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have to be approached in an integrated way. Adaptation to climate change and resilience building is a relevant task for all metropolitan areas which need to find local responses to global problems.

This second part of the course will look into the opportunities and examples of metropolitan climate policy. Participants will work on questions such as

- Global trends affecting metropolitan areas.
- Key areas for metropolitan action, within close cooperation with national governments and neighborhoods: Planning, transport, buildings, green infrastructure, water, resilience.
- How can a metropolitan climate action plan look like?
- Resilience building in metropolitan areas.
- How can we deal with the complexities of integrated and multi-level activities?

### Proposed reading:

IPCC. 2018. *Global warming of 1.5°C. Chapter 1 Summary for Policymakers*. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

[https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2018/07/SR15\\_SPM\\_version\\_stand\\_alone\\_LR.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2018/07/SR15_SPM_version_stand_alone_LR.pdf)

IPCC. 2018. *Summary of the IPCC report for urban policy makers*. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

<https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2018/12/SPM-for-cities.pdf>

C40 Cities. *Staying afloat: The urban response to sea level rise*.

<https://www.c40.org/other/the-future-we-don-t-want-staying-afloat-the-urban-response-to-sea-level-rise>

Climate Action and Infrastructure for Development. 2018. *Enhancing climate resilience through urban infrastructure and metropolitan governance*. Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales.

[https://www.g20-insights.org/policy\\_briefs/enhancing-climate-resilience-through-urban-infrastructure-and-metropolitan-governance/](https://www.g20-insights.org/policy_briefs/enhancing-climate-resilience-through-urban-infrastructure-and-metropolitan-governance/)

100 Resilient Cities. 2017. *The metropolitan scale of resilience*. Issue Paper 3, Metropolis Observatory

[https://www.metropolis.org/sites/default/files/issue\\_paper\\_3-the\\_metropolitan\\_scale\\_of\\_resilience.pdf](https://www.metropolis.org/sites/default/files/issue_paper_3-the_metropolitan_scale_of_resilience.pdf)

GIZ. 2018. *Multi-Level Climate Governance Supporting Local Action. Instruments enhancing climate change mitigation and adaptation at the local level*. Bonn: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

<http://star-www.giz.de/cgi-bin/getfile/53616c7465645f5f9876f8d030247af4bdb2a5b03e9c302a12251375af23e390235e92bc950fd5387358396c87fee7e9a8c432a47cef8aea6ef21d922a56105d/giz2018-0318en-cpmud-multi-level-climate-governance.pdf>

City of Berlin. 2015. *No Regrets' Charter Principles for Climate Change Adaptation in Cities*. Metropolis.

<http://www.circlesofclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/No-Regrets-Charter-2015.pdf>