

## **Cohesion Policy, backbone of Europe? The role of metropolitan areas**

17 Jun. 2021

17 Jun. 2021

<https://www.espon.eu/lisbon2021>

### Documents:

Three elements - magnitude of funds, level of institutionalization, management of funds - are under investigation in ESPON METRO to define the role of metropolitan areas in cohesion policy. The EU calls for further efforts towards a decentralisation of the programming, management and implementation functions to the metropolitan authorities. There is no doubt that institutionalize metropolitan cooperation will play an important role in this transformation.

Cohesion policy supports locally-led development strategies and empowers local authorities in the management of the funds. As the ESPON IMAGINE has demonstrated in the Milano-Bologna urban region, the development of territorial scenarios carried out through the active engagement of institutional and functional stakeholders can generate new visioning capacities and feed new alliances between places and societies.

At this workshop experienced policymakers and experts will explore opportunities, challenges, and objectives of the cohesion policy in metropolitan areas, and how a metropolitan dimension will contribute to the success of the policy in the future.