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Italy 	Tuscany Region Lombardia Region
Spain 	Department for Town Planning and Regional Strategies, Madrid
Netherlands 	Municipality Borne
Bulgaria 	Pleven Regional Administration

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

City of Amsterdam (Netherlands)
The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas (METREX)

About the INTERREG IVC Programme:

The Interregional Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVC, financed by the European Union's Regional Development Fund, helps Regions of Europe work together to share experience and good practice in the areas of innovation, the knowledge economy, the environment and risk prevention. EUR 302 million is available for project funding but, more than that, a wealth of knowledge and potential solutions are also on hand for regional policy-makers.

For further information please visit:

<http://www.interreg4c.eu/>

Further information about the project:

www.urma-project.eu

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URBAN-RURAL PARTNERSHIPS IN METROPOLITAN AREAS

URMA



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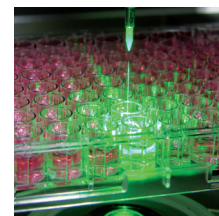
Why urban-rural partnerships?

Metropolises and metropolitan regions as **nodes of innovation and economic development** have become a hot topic in European development in recent years. Now the question arises how to interrelate them with their neighbouring rural areas.

- In which sectors could both benefit from a closer co-operation?
- What is necessary to stimulate a more intensive relationship?
- And how could such a supra-regional co-operation contribute to new forms of shared spatial responsibility, solidarity and territorial cohesion?

At the EU-level the first document to address the need of urban-rural cooperation was the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) in 1999. It stressed the importance of **polycentric spatial development** and a new partnership between urban and rural areas. The emergence of a relatively decentralized urban structure would enable the potential of rural areas to be developed and so also **reduce regional disparities**. Moreover, it would involve overcoming the outdated dualism between urban and rural areas.

According to the ESDP, city and countryside should be treated as a functional and mutually responsible spatial entity with diverse relationships and interdependencies. Finally the Territorial Agenda 2007 and Territorial Agenda 2020 build upon the aim of the ESDP and highlight the importance of developing a balanced, polycentric urban system and new urban-rural partnerships. In this context, URMA will raise the awareness for the **need and potential of large-scale partnerships**.



URMA - Improving urban-rural co-operation and contributing to territorial cohesion

Whereas relations or interactions between urban and rural areas are common due to commuter flows, provision of food production or leisure activities, there is a need to define, develop and test further fields of urban-rural partnerships and to **widen the territorial dimension of co-operation**. An array of conferences, workshops and study visits as well as three pilot implementations on urban-rural partnerships in Germany, Italy and the Netherlands will contribute to the exchange of experiences and help to identify and analyse good practices.

All in all, URMA creates new impulses for a concept of decentralized cohesion, enriches the European discussion on large-scale urban-rural partnerships and serves as a **laboratory and testbed for innovations in supra-regional co-operation**.

The basis for URMA was laid during the preceding project "Supra-Regional Partnership Northern Germany/Hamburg Metropolitan Region", integrated in the German Federal Government's programme "Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning". URMA is connected with the RURBAN (Partnership for sustainable urban-rural development) action - agreed by the European Parliament in 2010 and managed by the European Commission - as well as the related METREX Expert Group.



GENERAL FACTS

- Project duration: January 2012 – December 2014
- Funded by the EU's European Regional Development fund through the INTERREG IVC programme
- Regional Initiative Project, Priority 1: Innovation and the knowledge economy
Sub-theme: Innovation, research and technology development
- Nine project partners from six EU member states
- Total project budget: 1.9 Mio. €