

METRO - “The role and future perspectives of Cohesion Policy in the planning of Metropolitan Areas and Cities”

Lisbon Metropolitan Area

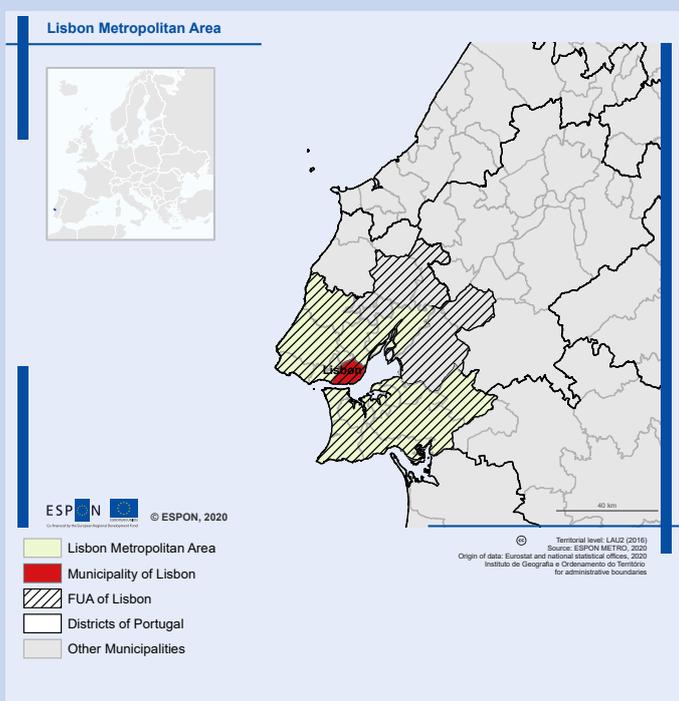
Institutional dimension of Metropolitan Governance

The Lisbon Metropolitan Area (LMA) is the largest metropolitan area in Portugal, bringing together 18 municipalities, which are split by the Tagus River, with 9 municipalities located on each the north and south banks. The LMA coincides with Lisbon region NUTS2 level and is slightly smaller than the correspondent Functional Urban Area (FUA). Almost 3 million people live in the Lisbon FUA (ca. 30% of Portugal’s population). The Lisbon metropolitan area’s specialization in advanced services as part of its economic base stands out from the other Portuguese regions.

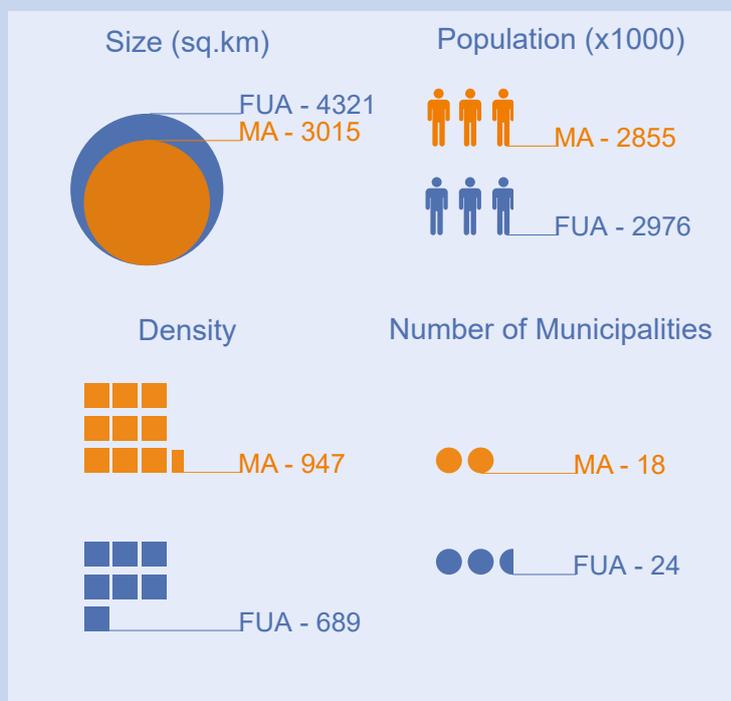
Local authorities are the cornerstone of administrative decentralization in the country. Recently, a new legal framework (Law 75/2013) strengthens the institutionalization process of the metropolitan areas in the country as inter-municipal bodies. The constitutive bodies of the LMA are the Metropolitan Council, the Metropolitan Executive Committee, and the Strategic Council for Metropolitan Development. All mayors from each of the 18 municipalities sit on the Council and elect the President and two Vice-Presidents among them. LMA mission is to contribute to the promotion of sustainable development, territorial and socio-economic cohesion, and the improvement of quality of life. Recently, LMA became the Transport Metropolitan Authority, coordinating mobility in the metropolitan area.

The LMA works in a fragmented governance structure with a multitude of actors intervening in the metropolitan area. LMA manages an Integrated Territorial Investment, a key instrument for the EUCP decentralization process and has the status of Intermediate body in the Lisbon’s Regional Operational Programme, although the national and regional levels are the EUCP main actors.

Lisbon Metropolitan Area, Portugal



Territorial data





Main Metropolitan Challenges

- The Lisbon Metropolitan Area operates in a fragmented institutional environment. Despite its institutional competences and involvement in the ITI management, **LMA has a subsidiary role in the EU cohesion policy governance and its intervention is limited to a few thematic priorities.**
- Metropolitan areas face complex social and economic problems and often lack the necessary powers, human and financial resources to efficiently address them. At the same time, their scale and density make them an ideal scale for cohesion policy intervention. Acknowledging EUCP crucial role for the metropolitan area, **the challenge is to broaden the scope of metropolitan intervention in articulation with EUCP** to efficiently respond to increasing complexity of metropolitan problems.
- EU cohesion policy is the umbrella for metropolitan governance and cooperation in Lisbon. It is also the main mechanism by which local authorities through LMA participate in the EUCP. Nevertheless, **many obstacles restrain an effective and broad intervention of metropolitan areas, so as LMA participation is bounded by strict EU regulations**, which hinders a more active and coherent governance structure and cooperation in the metropolitan area.

PQ1 How to strengthen the role of metropolitan areas in the development, management and implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy?

Consolidate institutional capacity by enlarging and upskilling human resources of LMA to effectively respond to the demanding procedures of the EUCP.

Increase participation in national and international policy networks aiming at exchange ideas and improve mutual learning in the management and implementation of EU Cohesion Policy at the metropolitan level.

Improve participation of civil society, business sector, academia, and other sectoral organizations at the metropolitan scale.



Recommendations

PQ2 How to increase the added value of the EU Cohesion Policy in the planning and implementation of metropolitan policies?

Strengthen the network character of LMA to effectively act at FUA level and overcoming the constrains of formal territorial administrative institutions.

Establish comprehensive metropolitan goals in accordance with EUCP and other national policy instruments, seeking to articulate the interventions at the metropolitan level.

Explore new policy areas with potential metropolitan-wide impact and EUCP relevance (e.g. transports and climate change; housing and social inclusion; environment and health, innovation, firms and universities...).

PQ3 How to valorise the role that the EU Cohesion Policy can play in the consolidation of metropolitan governance and cooperation?

Launch cooperation initiatives with potential beneficiaries of EUCP in the metropolitan area - namely civil society, business sector, academia, and other sectoral organizations - aiming at articulating policy agendas.

Intensify Cohesion Policy discussion with and among local authorities of the metropolitan area aiming at improving coordination of EU funding actions at the metropolitan scale.