

Report and visual memory 1st Video Conference Meeting on 17 April 2020 from home *Urbanization Strategies in the Strategic Urban Region Eurodelta*

Participants: Thierry Petit from [Paris Region](#), Edouard Fleury from [Metropole Lille](#), Alfredo Corbalan and Sven de Bruycker from [Perspective Brussels](#), Kris Berendonck from [City Antwerp](#), Brigitte De Deyne from [City Liège](#), Cecilia Braun in [Region Cologne/Bonn](#), Dmitri Domanski from [Business Metropole Ruhr](#), Erik Pasveer, Dagmar Keim, Martijn Veenstra, Johan van Zoest from [City Amsterdam](#), Nils Markink from [City Rotterdam](#), Marcel Wijermans, Peter Pol, Emma de Wijs from [City the Hague](#), Frenk Bekkers from [Province South-Holland](#), David Dooghe from [Association Deltametropolis](#), Bob van der Zande from [Holland Metropole](#), Stephen Gallagher from [METREX](#).

Not present: Frank van Swol from [City Eindhoven](#), Henk Bouwman from [METREX](#).

The **2nd Video Conference Meeting** will be on next Friday about organization issues. The SURE Eurodelta Network is already existing 1,5 year. We will reflect a little and look forward on our identity (common past and future), governance and activities. This Video Conference Meeting will become an interactive session, in which we would like also discuss with you how we will work together. **See the program of next meeting.**

The Great Lock Down & The SURE Region

The following question have been asked in Mentimeter at the beginning of Video Conference Meeting:

- **What are your hopes and concerns regarding Corona for the SURE cooperation?**

Which topics arise	How often is mentioned	What is quoted
Cross border cooperation	Estimated count: 11 times	- model for local EU wide cooperation; - maintain good exchanges; - need for cooperation arises; - bonds within Eurodelta become stronger; - opportunities for public investment & cooperation.
Green economy	Estimated count: 4 times	- strengthen cooperation on climate and economy; - lasting change of behavior by greening economy.
Mobility / Shift Air to Rail	Estimated count: 3 times	Flows of goods and persons will be permanently affected so shift to rail and waterways will be crucial, lasting change of behavior by less unnecessary flying, summer vacation in the SURE region
Resilience	Estimated count: 3 times	More resilient territory based on more local development, fast recovery, strengthen social structures

The following questions have been asked in Mentimeter at the end of Video Conference Meeting:

- **What are our common values on the theme of urbanization?**

Values of urbanization

Which topics arise	How often is mentioned	What is quoted
Inclusiveness	Estimated count: 6 times	- inclusive; - support social growth; - social ladder; - for everyone.
Health	Estimated count: 1 time	- healthy - but also connections, humans, connected (social health)
Quality of Life	Estimated count: 5 times	- life quality - the good life - smart circular quality
Resilience and related urban topics	Estimated count:	- resilient; - justice; - public space; - compact mixed.
Sustainability	Estimated count: 4 times	- organic farming; - green neighborhood; - sustainable mobility; - improving existing city.

- **What kind of cooperation could be valuable on urbanization?**

Urbanization on the level of SURE region

Which topics arise	How often is mentioned	What is quoted
Exchange of ideas and best practices	Estimated count: 8 times	- innovation lab - exchange ideas, but also megaregion needs more than exchanging ideas - exchange of best practices when it comes to strategies, processes that we can apply in specific regions within the Eurodelta.
Workshops and site visits for sketching and mapping	Estimated count: 6 times	- site visits and workshops on location; - SURE sketching; - brainstorm with each other with every city - mapping all strategies used in the mega region and priorities from the different strategies
Thematic focus on: - transportation and mobility, - sustainable/circular economy - energy and water systems - urbanization ... (more themes)	Estimated count: 5 times	- competitive innovative economy enhance sustainability, fair share - all that's trans-regional, like transportation and mobility, water, new energy issues - cooperation on flows and goods, on flows for leisure and work purpose, on water resource system.
Informal SURE network versus Europe	Estimated count: 4 times	- unionizing cities, common position to markets, states, EU; - European project. - informal network and formalized group versus Europe - multilevel, triple helix, gradually building content, size and organization.

- **What kind of actions are needed?**

Looking ahead

Which topics arise	How often is mentioned	What is quoted
Cooperation	Estimated count: 5 times	- include national governments; - formal organization; - more meetings; - work in macro region; - schedule day working together.
Mapping	Estimated count: 3 times	- new maps on SURE level; - mapping SURE region's economic geography; - overview / table / map illustrating diverse strategies / processes / concepts
Meetings and potential site visits	Estimated count: 2 times	- areas of interaction for the future (potential site visits)
STISE	Estimated count: 1 time	- built on the research project findings and recommendations.

Conclusions and actions

- Organization SURE Eurodelta Network will work out some options of shared priorities and common interests. The organizational issues will be the main subject of the next Video Conference Meeting.
- Transportation and mobility remains one of main topics with high interest from the SURE Eurodelta Network. The flows of goods and persons is a topical issue in which we really need each other.
- Urbanization strategies could be explored more in planning ateliers and by mapping the urbanization on different scales and with different actors for increasing shared knowledge about urbanization in the SURE. This could be used to find processes within cross border region or the Eurodelta (use of own region).
- Webpage will be created and provided as platform for learning on urbanization strategies and for uploading best practices.
- Brussels's suggestion of EU territorial agenda could be a first step towards stronger position in Europe.
- Flemish region is relevant to involve on metropolitan level of the SURE region (opportunity).

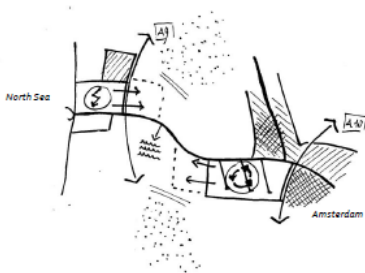
Appendix: Brief summaries of all presentations

Presentation Urbanization Strategy in Metropolitan Area Amsterdam by Martijn Veenstra

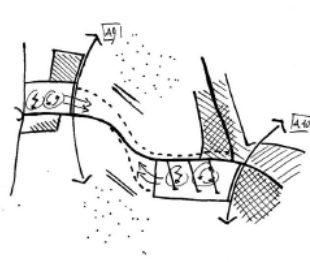
Some memorable parts of the presentation are featured below:

Sustainable urban development is a topical issue for the Region Amsterdam. City Amsterdam deals with autonomous urban development, because most people would like to choose and live in Amsterdam. People will now also choose and live in small cities. Municipalities in Metropolitan Area Amsterdam cooperate with the Dutch Central Government. This is related to the National Environmental Plan and the Regional Agendas.

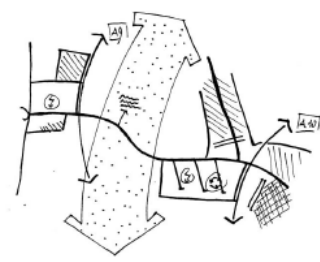
The project group applies design thinking on landscape structures and solution onto how the future could look like. Also the project group keeps quality and long-term thinking in mind by distinguishing timespans short and (middle)long term. A list of principles are applied to the Region Amsterdam: the polycentric base of big and small cities, the open landscape, the live ability and diversity of housing, development in existing city, mobility system (towards multi-modality), circular economy and efficient energy network.



Concept 1:
Concentrate and specialize



Concept 2:
Mixed



Concept 3:
Small clusters and intensify

Presentation Urbanization Strategy in Brussels Capital Region by Alfredo Corbalan

Some memorable parts of the presentation are featured below:

Urbanization Strategy

Perspective Brussels is young institution, established in 2016 as a public special agency for strategic spatial planning. Several expertise is combined on strategic planning (such as architecture), to better understand the city today. The strategy for Brussels Capital Region is developed within regional borders.

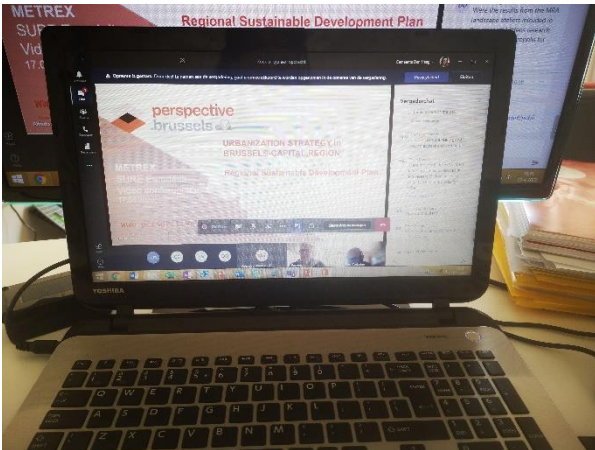
Brussels Capital Region has a population of approximately 1,5 million inhabitants and a wide commuting pattern. Half of jobs are occupied by commuters. Neighborhoods in city center have high density, districts in outskirts have less density. Brussels Capital Region has made comparison with Metropolitan Areas of Paris and Amsterdam. Brussels has much built area, likewise as Amsterdam. Brussels foresees a rapid growth of population, with a bit less speed for the upcoming period. The Strategy Regional Development Plan has been made when the Brussels Capital Region was booming at that time. Unique quality of Brussels are the international service city, which attracts people, keep social structure and diversity. Monitoring and implementation will deliver the thematic reflection on urban density.

Three topical themes for Brussels are agriculture, circular economy and security. The urbanization strategy focuses on neighborhoods for providing the public amenities, zero pollution. Priorities of Brussels Capital Region are housing, quality of life, economy and mobility. Priority on housing will develop public dwellings, needed by densification. Brussels faces a shortage of affordable housing, also for middleclass inhabitants. Priority on economy will develop productive city. Priority on mobility will reduce the place of car and leave space for pedestrians, develop transport network and promote the bicycle.

Cooperation Brussels Capital Region

The Brussels Capital Region has no metropolitan body despite the cooperation. Cross border metropolitan action is aside strongly coordinated by Brussels with Flanders and with Wallonia for the metropolitan landscape. Brussels has since last year started cooperation Metropole Lille. There is a need for collaboration with the federal state and European Institution, 19 municipalities and metropolitan scale.

Key issue is the recognition of the functional area, also in the SURE and by the EU. Priority of Brussels Capital Region for the SURE region is sustainable mobility (project STISE). On the middle term the SURE Eurodelta may be recognized as macro region. There is opportunity of funding by Interreg or related pilot project/activities to EU territorial agenda with main objectives: Just Europe and Green Europe (more focus now on implementation).



Start presentation about urbanization strategy in Brussels Capital Region

Presentation Urbanization Strategy in Region Cologne / Bonn by Cecilia Braun

Her presentation will also be shared. Some memorable parts of the presentation are featured below:

Region Cologne Bonn is a region within the Metropolitan Rheinland. The Cologne/Bonn region is high densely urbanized. It has quite history in terms of working together.

Main priority for Region Cologne/Bonn is the transport traffic and freight. Daily congestion by traffic is increasing rapidly. Infrastructure should be repaired and rebuild. There is a lack of money and capacity. But there is also a strong economic power. Challenges for Region Cologne/Bonn are high prizes of the entire city (developments) and dense urban structures. The urbanization in the borders of regions and cities is becoming a regional topic.

What is the future of Region Cologne Bonn, how will the region look like?

We have looked onto the agglomeration concept and onto new energy solutions for the brown coal areas. First phase is diagnosis. Following phase is evolvement of planning schemes. Four different concepts have been made by planning teams. Region Cologne/Bonn is the prototype for the whole region.

Brief introduction Holland Metropole by Bob van der Zande

Ten years ago Bob van der Zande has started to present cooperation of City Amsterdam and private companies. Bob van der Zande has created a voluntary strategic public-private collaboration at real estate affairs. This organization makes brochures to show the projects in the cities, mainly about spatial developments, big real estate projects and bigger picture/context.

- How can we organize a better discussion?
- How can we use the platform and have better collaboration?
- How can we influence urbanization in bigger parts of the Netherlands?

Research on the position of 5 big cities in international perspective showed the qualities, strong and weak points of Holland Metropole within the heavy global competition. The Holland Metropole was already there. We have then decided which aspects to use this collaboration and to discuss with Central Government.

Private companies are now organized in the Holland Metropole. The private sector invests almost between 8 - 9 billion euros in the Netherlands. Without their investments, the economy will not thrive in spatial developments. Interesting fact: the investment capacity within North-West Europe could be estimated between 25 and 30 billion euros.

Four big issues for Holland Metropole are the connectivity, innovation districts, quality of life, affordable housing and inclusive cities. Mobility needs much more investments than has now been made in reservation. We look onto how the private investors can invest in public transport. We built understanding onto how private investments can add the metropolitan urbanization.

See website: <https://hollandmetropole.com/>.

