

# EMI

European  
Metropolitan  
network Institute



## *COST Exploratory workshop: Towards a sustainable urban environment and mobility*

*A Network for Metropolitan Areas, Centres of Excellence, and National and European Governance. Closing the gap between urban practice, research and capacity building*

November 24, 2010



A Network for Metropolitan Areas, Centres of Excellence, and National and European Governance

# Points of departure

- Initiative of the city of The Hague and Nicis Institute
- Adding value to existing networks, institutes, programmes and instruments
- Aim is to strengthen urban policies by:
  - Synergising knowledge processes
  - Connecting policy fields, academic disciplines and urban practices
  - Including all urban professionals

## EMI mission & vision

EMI is a hub for knowledge and innovation management of European metropolitan areas, with a mission to enhance the social and economic strength of European cities and metropolitan areas through innovative knowledge

*EMI Exploratory Committee (December 2009)*

## EMI mission & vision

- Strengthening European metropolitan areas: integrated, coordinated and overarching knowledge
- More cross-border cooperation and learning processes focused on urban issues
- Scientific research driving modernisation
- Network of people and knowledge

# EMI is a network organisation

The collaborative structure will involve three categories of partners:

- Scientific centres of excellence
- Network organisations
- Public partners
- Basic values: excellence, flexibility, partnership

# Bridging the gap

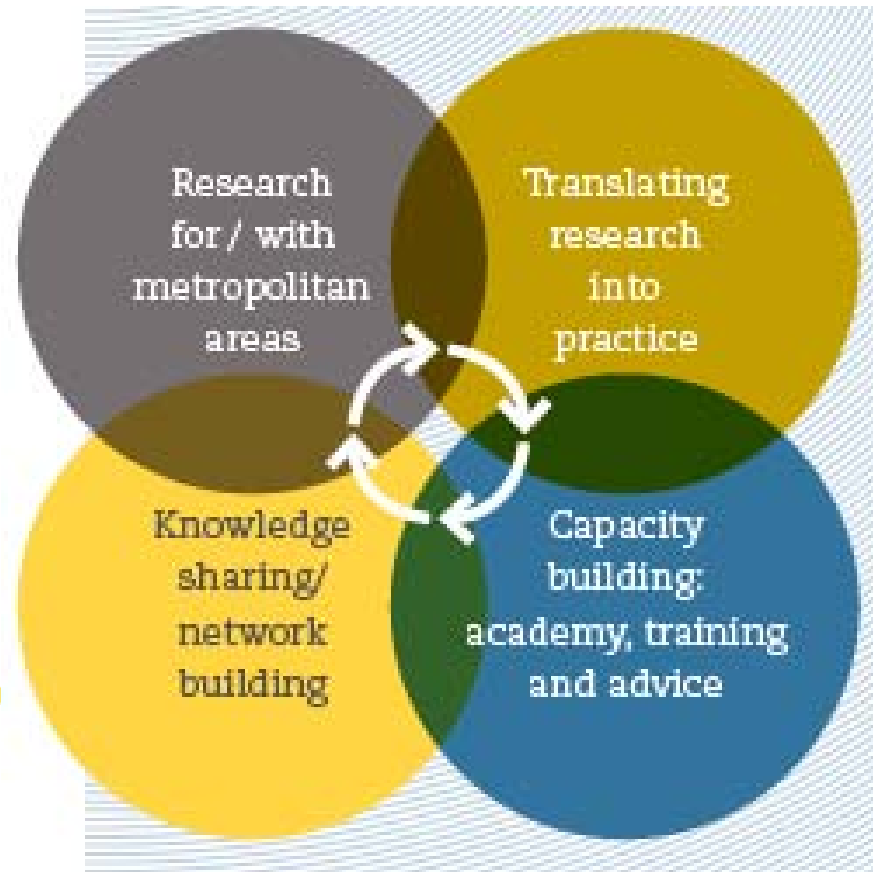


**Practitioners**



**Scholars**

# EMI instruments



## EMI's knowledge and research agendas

Five umbrella themes:

- Economic strength and competitiveness
- Social cohesion and social dropout
- Urban sustainability
- Accessibility, connectivity and mobility
- Future of the polycentric metropolitan area

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## **Provide input to EMI's first research agenda:** *Economic Vitality of European Metropolitan Regions*

### Main themes:

- Importance of metropolitan regions for economic recovery;
- Position of metropolitan regions in a global network economy;
- Productivity of the labour market in relation to education;
- Economic sector structure (clusters);
- Entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Regional development: cooperation or competition.

## Future challenges to metropolitan areas

- A shift in focus from mono-centric cities to polycentric cities and regions;
- An improvement in the quality of life and health of people is equivalent to investments in the development of the city or areas;
- A shift in focus from the short-term gains to long-term considerations;
- A shift in focus from large-scale, “one-size-fits-all” to individual diversity.

## Recommendations

- Invest in the principle of “research based, practice led”
- Invest in the core role of cities and regions
- Promote collaboration and knowledge exchange
- Connecting the dots: mix and match the segmented and the integrated approach

## Join our network!

*Cities are perhaps one of humanity's most complex creations, never finished, never definitive. They are like a journey that never ends. They are the past, the present and the future. The 21st century is the Century of the City.*

*(UN-report "State of the World cities 2008-2009)*

→ Join our network at [www.emi-network.eu](http://www.emi-network.eu) or contact us at [info@emi-network.eu](mailto:info@emi-network.eu).