

# Exploring metropolitan governance

## Context vs practices in Lisbon, Madrid, Barcelona and Paris

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This paper explores the relation between the main issues to improve a metropolitan governance model, regarding the institutional context and the planning practices. In particular, it explains the relevance and implementation of processes that respond to the running governance challenges in capital regions. To find arguments and justify some possible innovations, even if they are unique, twelve variables are qualitatively measured, through a comparative case study methodology, concerning the regions of Lisbon, Madrid, Barcelona and Paris.

In fact, the Portuguese capital does not seem to have a remarkable experience on the metropolitan governance, but how is it facing those challenges? What are the main differences in his currently governance and planning processes, when compared with the closer European cases?

The research concludes that there is a tendency to balance between the variables of a metropolitan governance system, which does not prevent different paths to register: for example the Paris region has developed good initiatives in “technical processes”, which then require adjustments in the context, while Madrid had in recent years less activity, in result of his institutional stability.

The Lisbon region stays in an “intermediate position”, with a dynamic evolution that is difficult to predict. But according to that argument, it’s possible to admit that his processes can gradually lead to small improvements in this governance system, with his own path, implementing actions that must respect, in particular, the geography of the territory.

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