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Special Session (SS08) on:

Metropolitan Governance in a conflict, competition and cooperation contexts

Organiser:

Jorge Gonçalves (Chair) - CERIS, IST-University of Lisbon, Portugal. E-mail: jorgemgoncalves@tecnico.ulisboa.pt

The aim and scope of the special session:

Metropolitan governance seems to be a lost case to many academics and politicians (Storper, 2013) but it is also true that the awareness that inefficiency, sometimes of effectiveness and often of justice and fairness, requires renovated efforts towards new models of institutional governance, formal or informal, sectoral or territorialized, more appropriate to current challenges (Ahrend et al., 2014).

Governance is a concept that gained meaning even in the 1980s when traditional forms of power lose effectiveness and political legitimacy. In the case of spatial planning, Gonçalves and Ferreira (2015) state that "there would seem to be no doubt that land use management is once derived from rationalist, technocratic and regulatory planning is today subject to enormous pressure as a result of Diminished role of the state in relation to the power of employment and competitiveness that is only guaranteed, in the Neoliberal view of things, by the market and the private sector "(p.87). The urban places increasingly interconnected by flows of goods, services, financial and people need to establish new links of articulation even in a context of intense competitiveness. Thus, metropolitan regions are re-configuring their institutional design (Vogel, 2010) in order to respond more effectively and efficiently to the requirements of the financial ecosystem and, on the other hand, to increase competitiveness and socio-territorial cohesion through the qualification and densification of infrastructures, facilities, services and public policies. Both territory and politics seem to be undergoing a downsizing from the national to the regional and metropolitan scale (Brenner, 1999).

It is therefore fundamental to coordinate these efforts in this context of continuous and accelerated change in metropolitan areas, which means transforming traditional urban governance into a much wider range of institutional forms, regulatory strategies and governance projects (Brenner, 2002).

As has become consistently evident, a rethinking of this metropolitan issue made even more urgent by the formation of new constellations of actors and the emergence of new global challenges.

Because this reality continues to deepen with the process of globalization and financializing still in progress and because there isn't a proportionate attention of the Regional Science it is considered useful this session where we can discuss, among many other aspects, the following research questions:

I. What are the biggest obstacles to the implementation of successive proposals and models of metropolitan governance?

- ii. What consequences and losses have resulted from the difficulty of putting together a less top-down and more cooperative governance model?
- iii. How can sectoral, territorial and cross-cutting best practices be replicated on a metropolitan scale?
- iv. What challenges do metropolitan governance pose to the political, social and economic transformations that are under way or are already being announced?
- v. How to organize a model of agile and cooperative governance that does not collide with the current competitive context?

References

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