

Strategies for the internationalisation of metropolises

19th December 2019

CIDOB (Elisabets, 12 - Barcelona)

[Concept note](#)

Context

In an economically global context, more and more urban each time, cities, and especially big cities and metropolitan territories, have an increasingly important political and economic role, not only in their own territories, but also in the international sphere. The gradual consolidation of the international action of metropolises has been accompanied by its mainstreaming in the frame of institutional, political, and territorial goals of the metropolitan institutions themselves, that at the same time has led to it becoming a **public policy**. A policy that needs to be governed and answer to well defined strategies, oriented to address the interests and aspirations of metropolitan spaces and its citizens.

In this context, we wonder if the international action of local governments really is, or can be, an incipient public policy; if they have at hand the design, implementation and evaluation elements as any other local policy; and if they are aligned and coordinated with the rest of local policies, that is, if they have a holistic and integrated design.

Besides, if we consider metropolisation as one of the disruptive factors in the urbanisation process that the planet is living: does it have a consequence in the internationalisation strategies or, on the contrary, there is no coordination between them? Moreover, if we observe the metropolitan space as a space in which different levels of local governments take part: are we talking about a sum of local strategies disconnected between them or are we talking about a **metropolitan policy**?

In order to try to answer these questions and many more, **Metropolis** decided to address this subject in the ninth issue paper of the Metropolis Observatory, "**Internationalisation of metropolitan spaces**". In the same line, and fruit of the collaboration between **AMB** and **CIDOB**, a comparative study between five metropolises has been propelled, "**The international action of metropolises**".

Objectives

On the one hand, the public presentation of the Issue Paper “Internationalisation of metropolitan spaces” will be conducted in this session, together with an introduction to the comparative study in the author’s charge. Moreover, we will create a dialogue space that summarises the different models of strategies of internationalisation contemplated in the above-mentioned studies, and we will discuss the different experiences and examples that both issue papers underline.

Program

17h Welcome to the event by

- **Mr. Octavi de la Varga**, Metropolis Secretary-General [5’]
- **Mr. Pol Morillas**, Director of CIDOB [5’]

17h10 Presentation of:

- **Issue Paper 9 “Internationalisation of metropolitan spaces”** by **Ms. Paola Arjona**, Technical Director of AL-LAs [20’]
- **Key note on the international action of the metropolitan areas** by **Mr. Agustí Fernández de Losada**, Director of Global Cities, CIDOB [20’]
- Questions/Debate

18h Round table:

- **Mr Oriol Illa**, Head of International Relations and Cooperation of AMB
- **Ms Pilar Conesa**, founder and CEO of Anteverti consulting firm
- **Mr Felip Roca**, Head of International Relations of Barcelona
- Moderator: **Ms Eva Garcia**, scientific coordinator of the Global Cities Programme - CIDOB
- Questions/Debate

19h Closing [5’]