Diversity of governance in European cities: towards an indicators–based analysis.

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This mayor has a problem

**A PROBLEM**
City is the core of a metropolitan area

Metropolitan area is fragmented

**SOLUTION**
Adapting institutional arrangements

**MEAN**
A quantic leap

**QUESTION**
How to deal with this quantic leap?
A fragmented metropolitan area

Metropolitan area of Liege by statistical analysis

position of Flémalle

Central municipality (commune of Liege)
Agglomeration
Suburbs
Commuting municipalities

Commune of Flémalle

Author: C. Breuer - SEGEFA - ULg 2009
Sources: E. Van Hecke, S. Luyten, 2007
Statbel - SPF Economie, PME
Classes moyennes et Energie
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Diversity of governance in European cities: towards an indicators–based analysis of the good governance?

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A common problem to many metropolitan areas in Europe

INEFFECTIVENESS OF BOUNDARIES
city limit has exploded

LESS CONSTRAINTS ON CITIES
from states

MORE CONSTRAINTS ON CITIES
for international competition and attractiveness

CONCENTRATION OF CHALLENGES
in metropolis
Cities struggling with many problems

Cities management is becoming more complex.
Cities struggling with many problems

Cities management is becoming more COMPLEX, with more ACTORS
Cities struggling with many problems

Cities management is becoming more COMPLEX, with more ACTORS, more CHALLENGES
Cities struggling with many problems

Cities management is becoming more COMPLEX, with more ACTORS, more CHALLENGES and more RESPONSIBILITIES
A answer to complexity : the governance

Urban governance is a PROCESS of mediation, coordination of actors, institutions, stakeholders, in order to DEFINE AND IMPLEMENT strategies or address societal issues.

PROCESS more or less SPONTANEOUS
Emergence of an urban « common actor »

Is there an « urban COMMON ACTOR » defending a « shared COMMON GOOD »?

Reality is not so simple.
A lack of benchmarks: towards norms of « good urban governance »

All states don’t have legislated in order to adapt cities to this NEW CONFIGURATION

Good governance has become central in some POLITICAL DISCOURSES in the research of NORMS and BENCHMARKS
Good governance, an inherited concept

Concept **INHERETED** from international cooperation (OECD,...)

**AMBIGUOUS** concept, definition is depending on goals, actors and culture
A single model of governance seems to be illusive

http://hse.gcoe.kyoto-u.ac.jp/
A review to objectivize links between urban governance and urban development

http://www.unescap.org/
A review to objectivize links between urban governance and urban development

Efficiency in using public money
Strategic association
Adequacy between resources and needs
Efficiency of services
Public-private partnership financement
Number of networks
Simple norms and hierarchy
Etc.
First comment: few numbers of statistical researches

Due to:

Imprecise INDICATORS

Weakness and complexity of theoretical LINKS between urban governance and urban development

Lack of qualitative SURVEYS
Statistical weakness of reciprocal influences governance / development

Majority of tested links were **NOT SIGNIFICANT**.

Except for:

- **ELASTICITY** of metropolitan boundaries
- presence of **METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT**
Reason of this failure

Lack of **COMMITMENT**

Lack of **TERRITORY** and **SPATIAL** indicators

Nature of **DEPENDANT VARIABLES** to describe competitiveness and attractiveness (population, investments)
All roads go to Roma, but...

All roads go to **CITIES**, but the way to reach the ideal metropolis is not unique.

There is a huge number of **EQUILIBRIUM** which can’t be achieve with a single model of governance – even good governance.