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## CONFIRMATION LETTER AESOP

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#### Topic

Planning, Law and Property Right: in the face of transitions

#### Keywords

Public sphere, Sustainable development, Urban Development, Governance, Global markets

#### Abstract Title

METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE: CONCEPTS AND PRACTICES

## Text

The concept of metropolitan governance involves all institutions and actions that, somehow, shape policies of metropolitan territories. It goes far beyond the jurisdictional boundaries of municipalities, it may superimpose already existing agreements and institutions, and it generally deals with broader metropolitan issues that require a better management of resources in bigger geographical units. It generally tries to solve inter-territorial problems, and to launch metropolitan productivity and competitiveness, as well as its social cohesion, safeguarding its fiscal feasibility. Despite different perspectives of metropolitan governance proposed in literature, it generally covers the management of public functions, especially as far as its conditions, restrictions and specificities are concerned. It also encompasses all kinds of institutional or voluntary cooperation forms and networks among stakeholders, governance plans, regulation strategies, local governmental capacities, and arrangements among different levels of government and organisations. During the latter twenty years, concerns have centred on the connections among competitive metropolises in global markets. The forms of metropolitan governance currently studied include public-private networks of flexible voluntary cooperation, and consider a continuum of institutional bodies. Metropolitan governance used to mainly focus on public services' cost control, but, more recently, concerns are focusing more and more on the quality and efficiency of governance, within an environment of political pressures and economic recession. Different countries adopt different forms, structures, and practices of metropolitan governance, according to their social, economic, historical, political and institutional frameworks. This article carries out an analysis of the meaning, content and macroeconomic reasons that underlie metropolitan policies, and of the strategies, interests and behaviours of stakeholders in metropolitan grounds. Thus it identifies the context of the metropolitan governance, the kinds of metropolitan structures, and the outstanding characteristics of metropolitan governance – especially in Portuguese-speaking countries – in order to better understand and explain the evolution of metropolitan governance' concepts and practices.

## Status

Accepted

## Proposed presentation

Oral

