



# Learning from metropolitan areas across Europe

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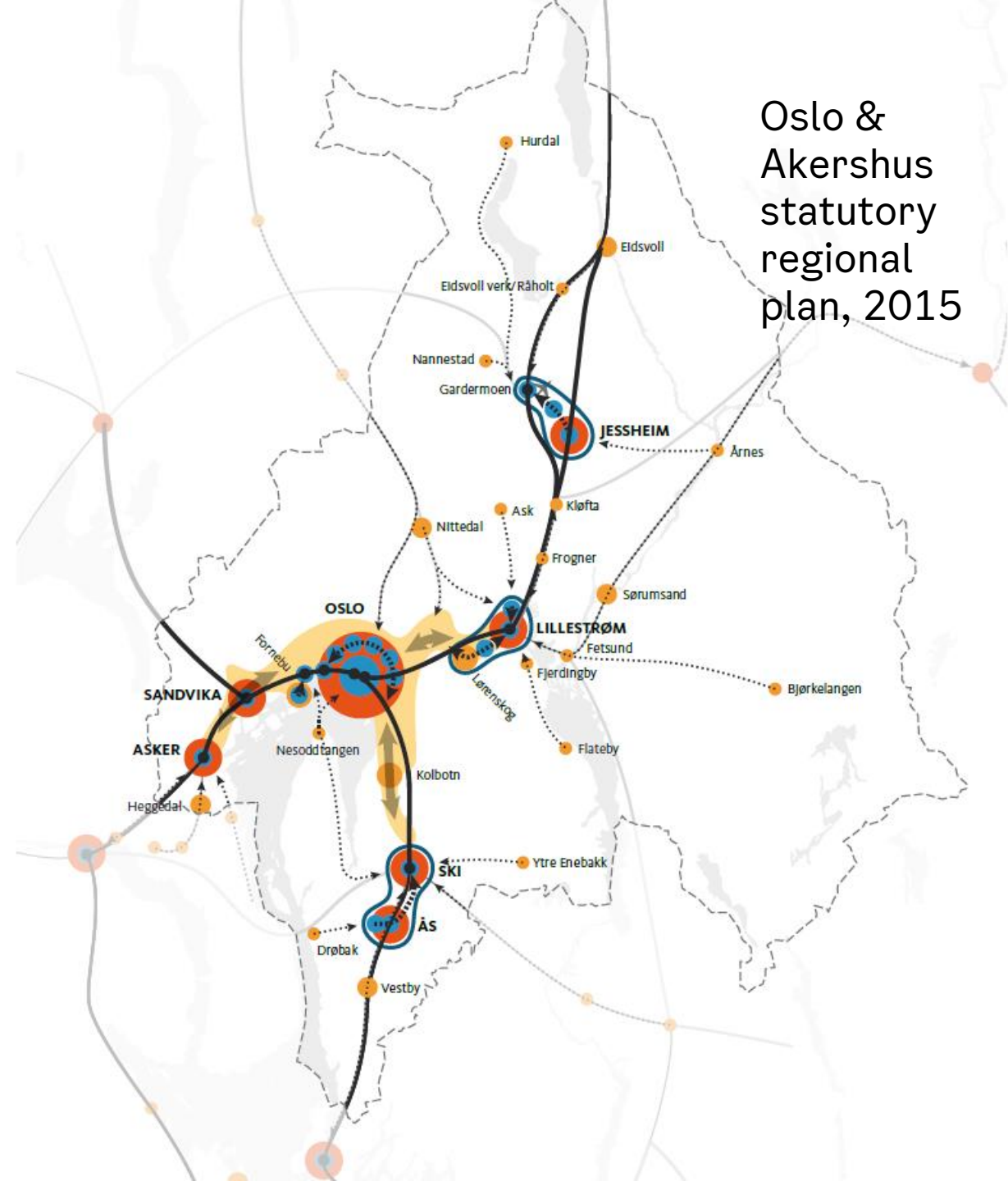
08.02.2024

Association of Irish Regions  
Limerick, Ireland



# Why Oslo?

- ▶ **Similarities:** Norway and Oslo are similar in population size to Ireland and Dublin
- ▶ **Peripheral** in Europe (IE & NO)
- ▶ **Regional policy** in Norway strongly supports the periphery
- ▶ **Norwegian cities** work closely with their neighbouring communities
- ▶ **European networks and projects** to reinforce the metropolitan approach







Oslo

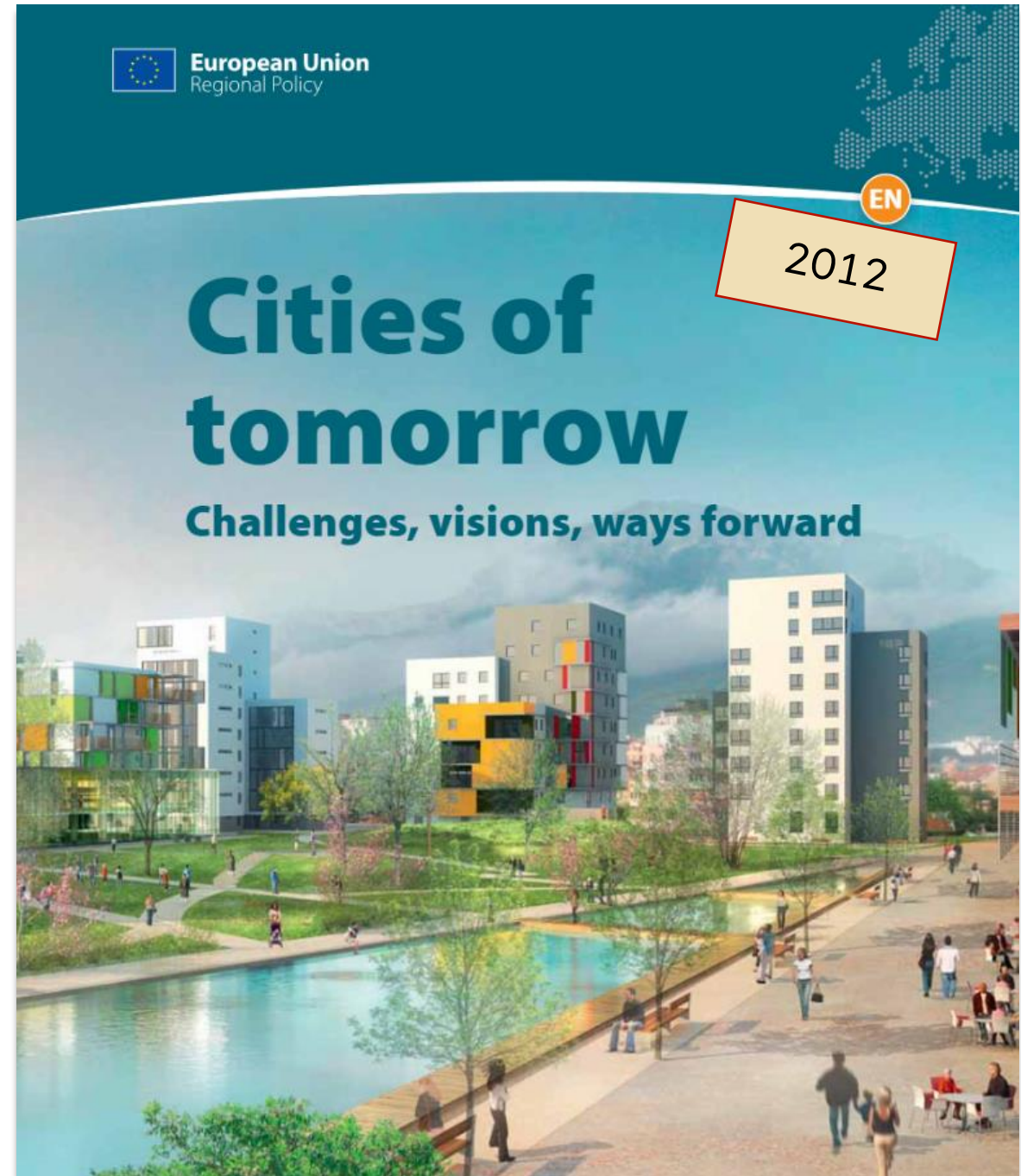
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# European support for cities and regions over decades

- ▶ Key to sustainable development of EU
- ▶ Sustainable development model under threat
- ▶ Some threats can be transformed into positive challenges
- ▶ New forms of governance are essential
  - Holistic model of SUD
  - Adapt to evolving circumstances
  - Work across sectors and borders
  - Empowerment and participation
  - Social innovation and foresight



# Metropolitan Areas in Action – a checklist?

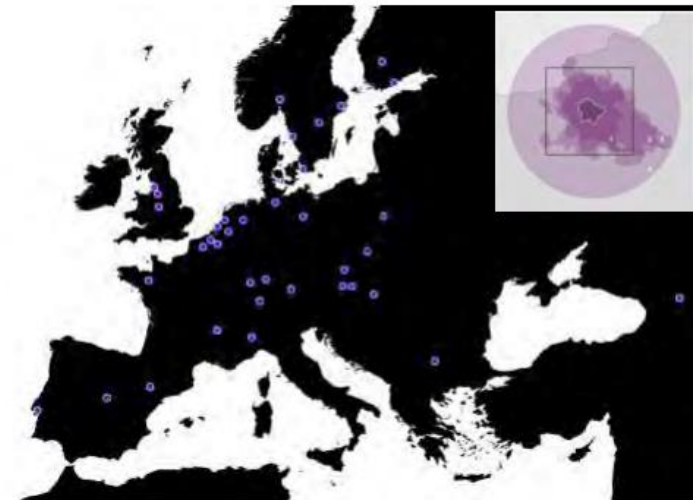
- ▶ Strong political will and long-term trust
- ▶ Recognise and address boundaries and resource issues
- ▶ Balanced governance
- ▶ Broad involvement and participation
- ▶ Join forces rather than change boundaries
- ▶ Recognition and support: national and EU
- ▶ Invest in relationships
- ▶ Aim to match the level of FUA



Oslo



Metropolitan areas in action  
Concluding report



EUROCITIES

EUROCITIES is the political platform for major European cities towards the EU institutions. We network the local governments of over 130 of Europe's largest cities and 40 partner cities that between them govern some 130 million citizens across 35 countries.

[www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)

# Urbact website on Functional Urban Areas

- ▶ The **Agglomeration** (=built up area) and the **wider metropolitan region** (=economic space) hardly ever fit the administrative boundaries
- ▶ Needed:
  - **Joint organisation**
  - **Flexibility** to take account of changing circumstances (including political)
- ▶ Four main approaches:
  - **Structured**, pre-defined boundaries (e.g. Stuttgart, Barcelona, Stockholm, Oslo), elected or non-elected, financing, top-down is possible
  - **Flexible**, only bottom-up, voluntary agreements and actions based on shared interests
  - **Strategic planning-based** (only) with strong institutional framework
  - **Collaboration projects-based**, e.g. major infrastructure investments



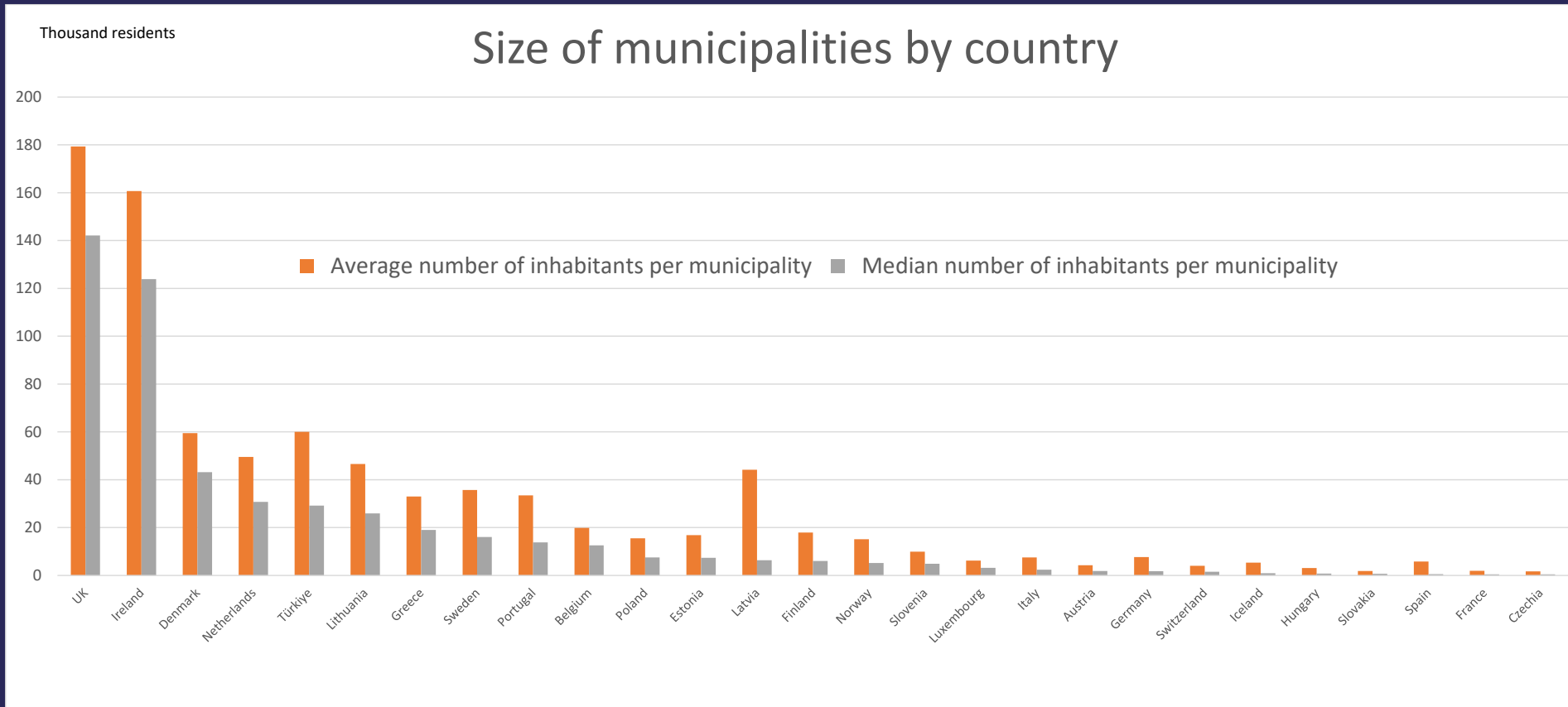
# Some statistics...

## OECD data from URBACT report

European OECD Countries	Large metro (1,5 mill -)	Metropolit. area (0,5 mill-1,5 m)	Medium urban (200 th-500 th)	Small urban (50 th-200 th)	SUMM	Share of pop in FUAs (%)
Ireland	-	1	1	3	5	50,3
Norway	-	1	3	2	6	44,5



# More statistics...





# Four broad categories for metropolitan areas

## ▶ Statutory frameworks

- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Portugal
- Scotland
  
- *Stuttgart*
- *Stockholm*
- *Malmö (Skåna)*
- *Barcelona*

## ▶ Variable frameworks

- Netherlands
- Switzerland
- Norway
- Finland
- Slovakia
  
- *Gr Manchester*
- *W Midlands*

## ▶ Challenging frameworks

- Austria
- Belgium
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Lithuania
- Latvia
- Slovenia
- Bulgaria
- England

## ▶ Inspired by EU funding (post 2013) Integrated territorial investments

- Czechia
- Poland
- Romania
- Riga

# «Stronger collaboration is the only option» (WEF)

FIGURE C

## Global risks ranked by severity over the short and long term

"Please estimate the likely impact (severity) of the following risks over a 2-year and 10-year period."

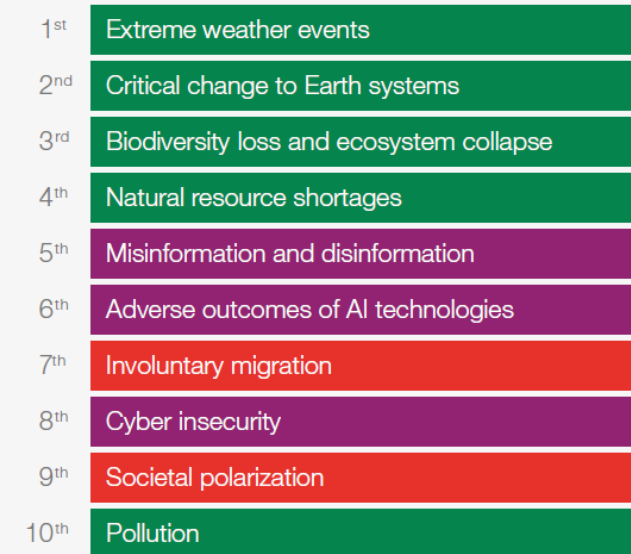
### Risk categories

- Economic
- Environmental
- Geopolitical
- Societal
- Technological

### 2 years



### 10 years



### Source

World Economic Forum Global Risks  
Perception Survey 2023-2024.



# How does YOUR region work?



- ▶ Strong political will and long-term trust
- ▶ Recognise and address boundaries and resource issues
- ▶ Balanced governance
- ▶ Broad involvement and participation
- ▶ Join forces rather than change boundaries
- ▶ Recognition and support: national and EU
- ▶ Invest in relationships
- ▶ Aim to match the level of functional area

