Multilevel polycentric governance in cross-border metropolitan areas
Case: Vienna-Bratislava Area

Milan Husar
Dresden Leibniz Graduate School (www.dlgs-dresden.de)
Spectra Centre of Excellence, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava

Supervisor: prof. Ing. Arch. Maroš Finka, PhD.
Co-supervisor: Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Dr. rer. hort. habil. Dr. h. c. Bernhard Müller

Abstract

The dissertation looks into possibilities to strengthen the institutional background in cross-border metropolitan areas in order to decrease the vulnerability of the territory and improve the decision making processes in the environment of uncertain responsibilities and fuzzy territorial structures. The theory shows that by utilizing multilevel polycentric governance approach and opening up governing processes to non-state actors, the institutional background could be strengthened and would render the territory better prepared to deal with complex issues of vulnerability and uncertainty.

Taking the case study of Vienna-Bratislava metropolitan region, the research will be carried out through policy document analysis, semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders from the past and present and theoretical research on multilevel polycentric governance. This region is an example of fuzzy boundaries and unclear responsibilities where several cooperation initiatives in the past took place with arguable results.

The research will shed light on the question how the current institutional settings can be strengthened so that it can respond to the needs of fuzzy territorial structures more effectively by implementing multilevel polycentric governance concept.

It aims at contributing to the best governance practices and has an ambition provide more solid governance structure for the model area in form of policy recommendations for the future.

Keywords: polycentric governance, cross-border cooperation, Vienna-Bratislava area