

# Counteracting Urban Sprawl Phenomenon by Cooperation

**Optimising existing regional Cooperation**

**Building up metropolitan Cooperation**

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Urban Sprawl as a Threat  
to sustainable Development

Conference Sopot, 2 June 2011



# Overview

- Swiss Frame Conditions
- Zurich Strategies
- Challenges and Needs
- Study on Cooperation on regional Level
- Cooperation on metropolitan Level
- Lessons learnt: general, metropolitan, regional



# Zurich Frame Conditions: keeping Quality of Life

- The Canton of Zurich is changing in spatial, economic and societal terms, **without having changed its political resp. territorial structures.**
- **Autonomy** of the municipalities in the Canton of Zurich is strong.
- **Quality of life** is an imminent factor of the economical success of the City and the region of Zurich.
- **Avoiding urban sprawl** – together with other imminent issues as political security, health and school system and many others – is a crucial point for keeping quality of life in your city in general.



# Urban Sprawl and Quality of Life



I wake up happy every morning. I live in a great city and the quality of life is fantastic.

In New York, I commuted for three hours every day.

Here, I get up at five, take a short walk, have breakfast, look at the lake and I'm still in the office before seven.

James Schiro,  
ex-CEO Zurich Financial Services

# Cooperation as a political Aim of the City of Zurich

## Strategies Zurich 2025 (update 2011)

- enforcing destination Zurich
- support of a sophisticated and international attitude
- cooperation partner-like and over the borders



## Building Alliances – Politics over the Borders

(milestone of the period 2006-2010)

- enforced cooperation with the neighbouring municipalities
- seeking common problems and interests and developing solutions
- creating panels for coping with regional tasks

# Our Challenges and Needs

- Analysing, how the City of Zurich cooperates with its hinterland: **how does the network work?**
- Discussing where cooperation **makes sense** and where not
- Searching for **conclusions and recommendations** on regional level
- Building-up of **common functional spaces** such as identity, culture, mobility, quality of life, education and economy on metropolitan level



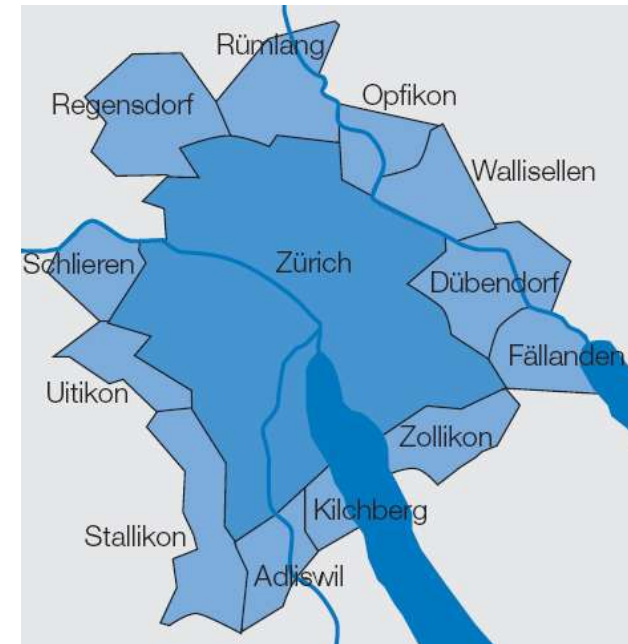
# Study on regional Cooperation

## Study on regional Cooperation

- small, arbitrary perimeter with the aim to get answers efficiently on the way of a study

## Partners

- 12 of 14 asked neighbouring municipalities took part and co-financed the study
- political support: the Mayors of the 13 municipalities (incl. Zurich) formed the project management group (strategy)



# General Result and Interventions

- General result
  - Cooperation is not intense, but where it exists, it is efficient and of a high benefit
- Interventions
  - List of possible services of the City of Zurich for surrounding cities / municipalities
  - Installation of thematic platforms
  - Meetings of City Council with groups of municipalities (district level)
  - Conventions and treaties



# Cooperation on metropolitan Level

## From government to multilevel governance... or how to handle the complexity of babushka

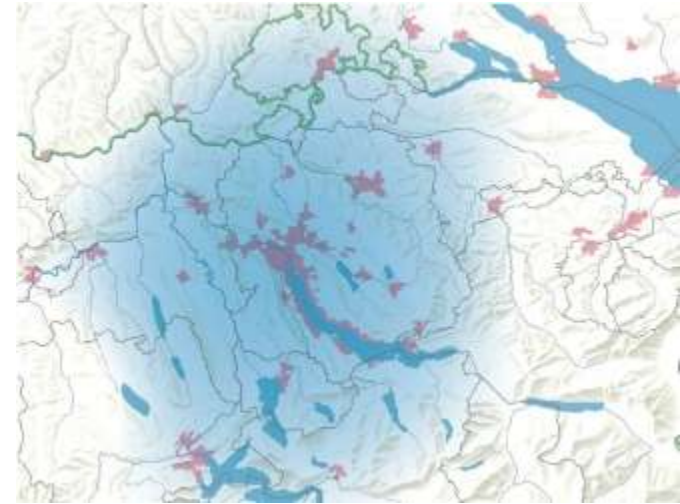
Municipalities, districts and canton cooperate increasingly in different networks on different levels in mutual interdependence

The traditional 3-level federalism turns into a multilevel governance network of networks with specific tasks and interdependencies

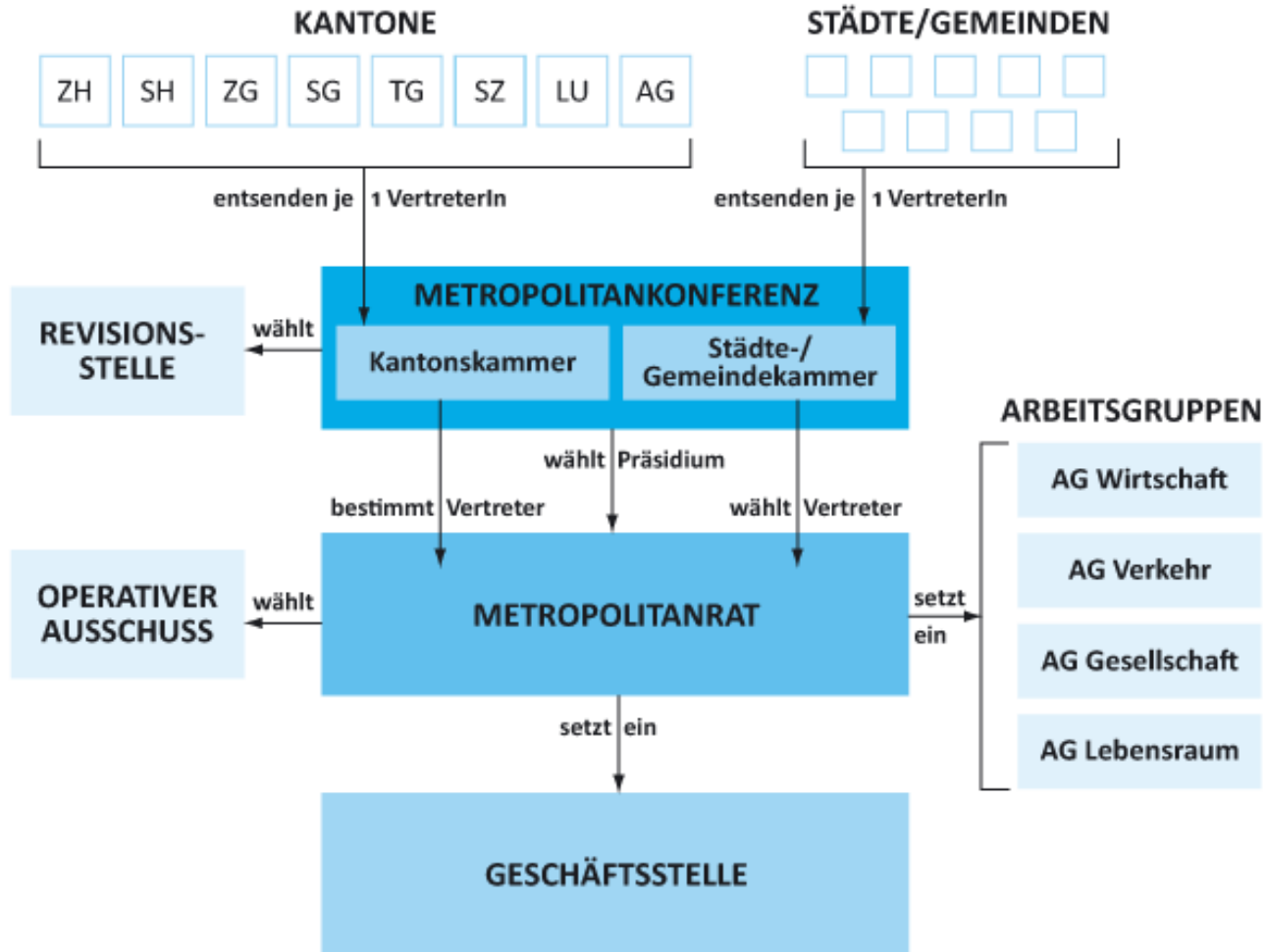


# Intervention Points on Metropolitan Level

- **Living space**
  - common development areas
  - common Metro parcs, best practices
- **Traffic and Mobility**
  - core large metropolitan projects / lobbying
  - common urban mobility measures
- **Economy**
  - Green Region (CleanTech, education, etc.)
  - Innovation Area / promotion
- **Society**
  - Open dialog between municipalities
  - “Identity harvesting”, visualisation, metro festival



# Organisation on Metropolitan Level



# Voting Rights in the metropolitan Conference

<b>Membership Cantons</b>	<b>Membership Municipalities</b>	<b>Votes Municipalities</b>	<b>Votes Cantons</b>
Zurich	46	263	292
Aargau	9	28	41
Zug	11	37	31
Schwyz	15	41	25
Luzern	4	28	27
Schaffhausen	2	14	14
Thurgau	13	25	12
St. Gallen	6	17	11
Total	106	453	453

# Financing the Metropolitan Conference

## Association budget 2011

- about 400'000 Swiss Franks (300'000 Euro)
- Membership means 420 Swiss Franks (about 320 Euro) per vote, total 910 votes
- City of Zurich has 93 votes: about 39'000 Swiss Franks (30'000 Euro per year)

## Project budget 2011

- about 400'000 Swiss Franks (300'000 Euro)
- Cantons 55%, cities 35%, larger municipalities 10%
- Binding key of payment, but “voluntary” payment

# Lessons learnt: general Summary

- **Political, fiscal and financial autonomy**, and linked with that a high **responsability** to your inhabitants, seem to be an important **competitive advantage** of Swiss cities and municipalities in the international competition, even in the question of cooperation
- Because of autonomy, **fusions** of municipalities are uncommon in the Canton of Zurich. Therefore cooperation is so important and normal.
- **It takes time**: political discussion, information and acceptance of the inhabitants is needed
- Take **existing cooperation** and make it better, don't build new structures without having a **content**
- Concrete problems need **pragmatic solutions**
- **Overcome barriers as fear and psychological distance** between municipalities and core cities on the one hand, and between cities and cantons on the other

# Lessons learnt: metropolitan Summary

- National **lobbying** and international **promotion** become more important
- Strong **willingness** to reform Swiss federalism without destroying it
- **Metropolitan cooperation** is not yet as established as in other European metropolises (under construction)



# Lessons learnt: regional Summary

- General rule: every municipality solves its own problems (Swiss principle of **subsidiarity**)
- Existing cooperation **not intense**, but good and of a high mutual benefit
- Structures of cooperation are often sufficient, but can be **optimized**
- New forms of cooperation **only if necessary and of high benefit**
- **Not every topic** is suitable for regional cooperation
- Cooperation with the core City of Zurich exists particularly in the **topics that need a certain quantity or quality** and that cannot be solved nor in the own municipality nor in the own district
- Cooperation between cities and municipalities should base on **voluntariness**. But as soon as you cooperate, you have to set and to accept rules
- **Competition** between cities and municipalities forces to optimize own services and cooperation (to attract families, taxes, public services...)



Thank you for your interest

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