

Abstract

The thesis focuses on the topic of metropolitan cooperation in the Brno Metropolitan Area. It is a contribution to the current scholarly debate on metropolitan governance, especially to its branch focusing on low-institutionalised metropolitan areas. The aim of the thesis is to deepen the understanding of the processes of cooperation. Given the low institutionalisation, the emphasis is on the cooperation's so-called soft aspects. These are derived from the literature on soft spaces/soft planning. The research findings are formulated on the basis of analysis of data from semi-structured interviews and are structured into three thematic parts: Internal sources of cooperation, Across boundaries, and Actor asymmetry. The findings on the role of soft aspects are assessed in terms of possible potentials and limitations of metropolitan cooperation. Processes related to communication, flexibility, ability to coordinate, awareness of transcending boundaries, and the ability to meet actors' interests through cooperation are identified as potentials. The limitation in terms of soft aspects is mainly seen in the dependence of metropolitan cooperation on the city of Brno.

keywords: metropolitan cooperation, metropolitan governance, Brno, Brno Metropolitan Area, soft spaces, Integrated Territorial Investments