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"Government or Governance? Dilemmas for Management of Metropolitan Areas in Poland"

Without any official definition of a "metropolitan area", forms of metropolitan government is an increasingly hot issue in Poland. The Union of Metropolitan Cities is strongly lobbying for "metropolitan county" structures and there is a growing demand for reform in this respect that arises both from under bounded administrative jurisdictions, which do not reflect catchment areas of many services, and from necessity of co-ordination of functions such as strategic and physical planning, network infrastructure and waste management. The paper analysis current practice of inter-municipal and multi-level co-ordination indicating sources of weaknesses of such co-operation. Then it turns to discussion of practical applicability to Polish situation discussed alternative solutions, including annexation, voluntary co-operation, and possible forms of two-tier government. It also discusses to what extent ideas of local governance/ new regionalism may help in solving co-ordination problems in metropolitan areas.