



INTERCOMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

C | M | A

CLUJ METROPOLITAN AREA

We grow together

Background



Known in the Middle Ages as
“The Treasure City”

The second largest city
in Romania.

The largest rural locality
in Romania, Florești:
population of 52.735. (2021
Census).

Metropolitan population:
411.130. (2021 Census).

Urban centre population:
286.598 (2021 Census).

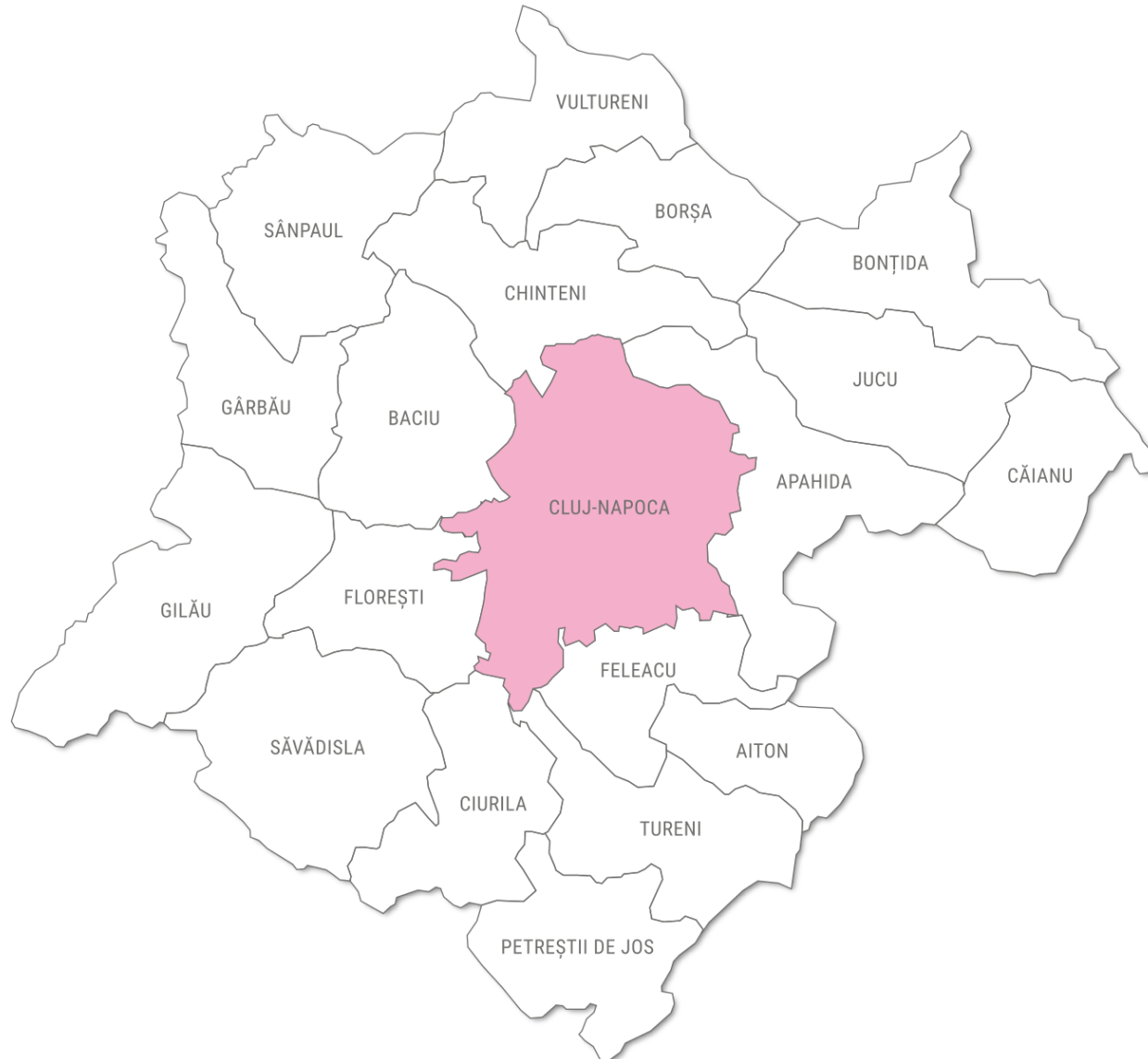
Metropolitan GDP/ capita
(PPS): EUR 30.900, equivalent
to 103% of the EU average
(Eurostat data, 2020).

Major investments in work:
Metro system, metropolitan
bypass, metropolitan train,
regional emergency hospital.

Shortlisted for the
European Capital
of Innovation Award 2020.

Among the first 10 cities to
receive the EU Mission Label –
Climate Neutral & Smart Cities.

Background



The Cluj Metropolitan Area is established as an Intercommunity Development Association (IDA) made up of the following administrative-territorial units:

Cluj-Napoca municipality and the communes:

Aiton
Apahida
Băciu
Bonțida
Borșa
Căianu
Chinteni
Ciurila
Feleacu
Florești
Gilău
Gârbău
Jucu
Petreștii de Jos
Săvădisla
Sânpaul
Tureni
Vultureni.

Fundamentals



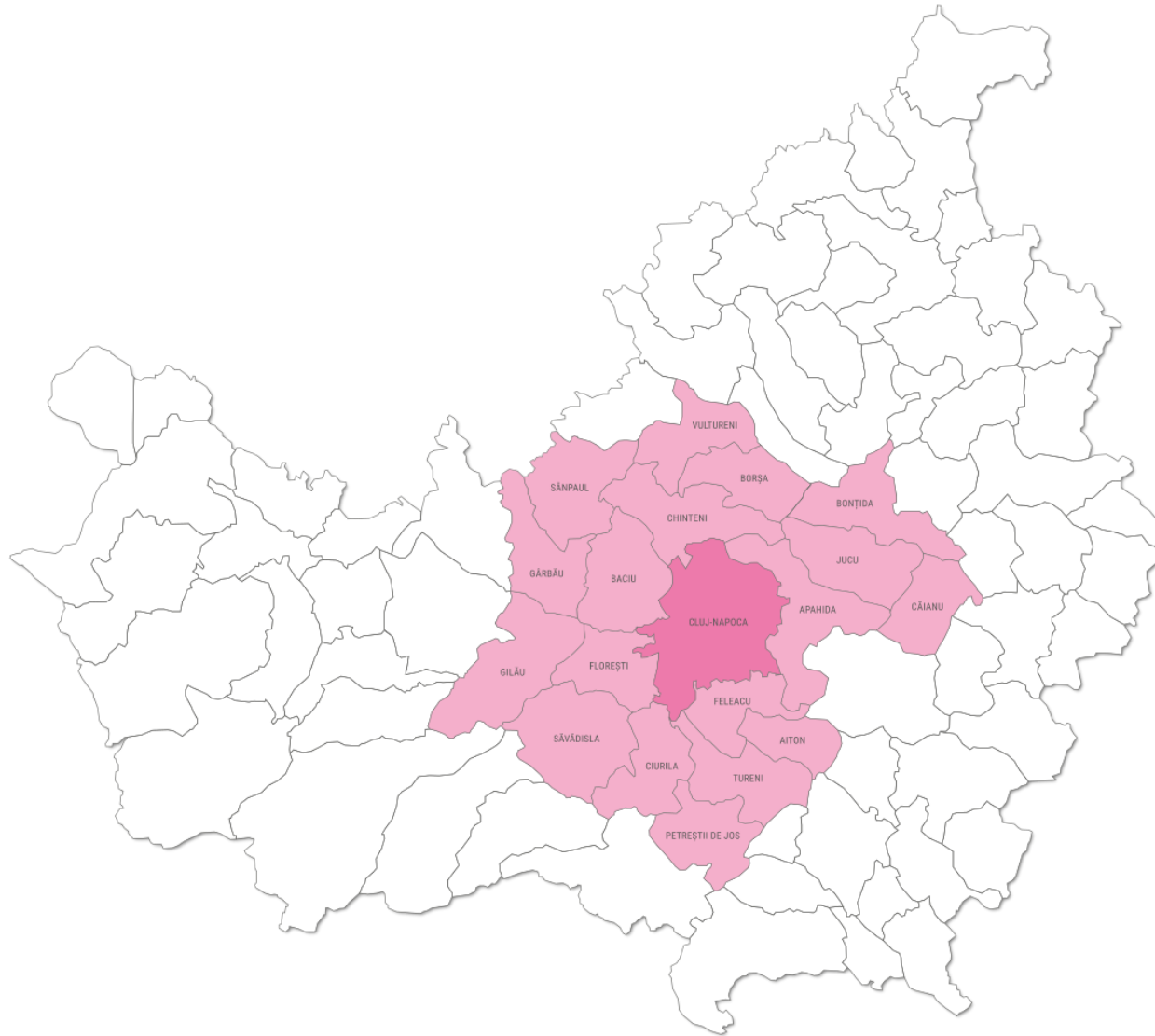
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No region in the European Union should be left behind! Without massive European investment in infrastructure, health, transport, digitalisation and education (Cohesion Policy) countries in Eastern Europe will not catch up with the Western European countries.

Emil Boc, mayor of Cluj-Napoca and president of the Cluj Metropolitan Area.

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Vision and Mission



CMA's mission is to stimulate and support the growth of the wealth of the area and the well-being of its citizens, through the sustainable development of the Cluj metropolitan area.

Simply said, an Intercommunity Development Association (IDA) is an institutional framework for collaboration between several administrative units (communes or cities) to jointly provide public services. From a legal point of view, an IDA is a non-governmental organization of public utility.

The area of competence of an IDA is given by the field of collaboration agreed upon by the local councils. In the case of the Cluj Metropolitan Area, these are:

Spatial planning; Sectoral policies and programmes on economic development, social development, mobility, housing, utilities and public services; Financing and/or co-financing priority programmes and projects of common interest; Property taxation and real estate management; Environment; Policies and programmes in the fields of health, education, housing, social services, employment, culture, sport and tourism; Institutional organisation and human resources development; Other aspects that define the local specificities of the area.

Fundamentals



In fulfilling our mission, we are guided by the principles set out in the European Charter of Local Self-Government:

Sustainable development: promoting the concept of conciliation between economic and social progress, without jeopardising the natural balance;

Economic and social cohesion: the member administrative-territorial units will support the promotion of a general harmonious development of the area, in order to form a cohesive and competitive unitary territory;

Specialisation: the member administrative-territorial units may transfer to the association some specific activities falling within their competence, with the agreement of the deliberative council of the respective unit.

Non-discrimination and equal treatment: respect for the right of all human beings to be equal in dignity, to be treated with respect and consideration and to participate on an equal footing in any aspect of economic, social, political, cultural or civil life, irrespective of ethnic origin, sex, religion, age, disability or sexual orientation.

Highlights



New
European
Bauhaus
Prizes 2024

Reconnecting with nature
Champions WINNER

**Făget Forest Park;
Cluj's Green Lung**
Romania



The development of Cluj's first forest-park won the New European Bauhaus Prize 2024, awarded by the European Commission. Later the same year, it was also awarded a URBACT Good Practice Label.

The World Bank regards the desegregation projects from Pata 2 as national best practices. The same projects were showcased as promising practices at the World Family Summit 2022 and the European Summit of Regions and Cities 2024.

We operate the first licensed centre for tackling gender-based violence set up at a metropolitan level, not an urban one. It was acknowledged as a national best practice.

We drafted the first public policy in Romania to regulate and enhance urban gardening in a participative manner.

We coordinate the participative process to establish a Green Metropolitan Ring – a set of connected green spaces in and around the city.

Strategic planning



Planul de Mobilitate Urbană Durabilă Cluj-Napoca 2021-2030



CMA supervised or collaborated on plans and strategies that are essential for the development of the metropolitan area:

Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan

The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) of the Metropolitan Area is an important strategic document drawn up under the coordination of the CMA. SUMP aims to enable the sustainable development of mobility throughout the entire metropolitan area, serving as a support for the preparation and implementation of projects and measures financed by European funds from 2014-2020, 2021-2027 and beyond programming periods.

All mobility projects in recent years are based on SUMP. Among these, we mention the increase in volume and quality of pedestrian spaces in Cluj-Napoca, the expansion of public transport in the metropolitan area, the increase in the number of cycle paths, the renewal of the public transport fleet, the introduction of electric buses, the increase in the number of public transport lines, the change of the parking system (without subscriptions in the centre), the construction of over- and underground parkings, and so on.

Strategic planning



CMA supervised or collaborated on plans and strategies that are essential for the development of the metropolitan area:

Integrated Urban Development Strategy

The economic success of the city and its hinterland has become well-known at the national level and has been strongly reflected in the media. The massive European-funded investments, the widespread application of international competitions for solutions for the design and execution of major works, the multiplication of smart city applications, the acceleration of the creative industries sector, the transformation into a metropolis of European-renowned festivals, the creation of a successful entrepreneurial ecosystem – all of these are based on a strategic document drawn up under the coordination of the CMA. The Integrated Urban Development Strategy for the Cluj-Napoca Growth Pole for the 2014-2020 programming period (IUDS).

We have also been directly involved in the development of the next IUDS, for the period 2021-2030, carried out by the World Bank. This document lays the foundations for the development of Cluj in this decade, with a focus on sustainability, environment-friendly policies and smart technologies, coupled with the development of mobility infrastructure through massive investment at the metropolitan level, etc.

Social projects



Since 2014, we have been involved in the desegregation of the marginalised community in Pata-Rât, an area close to the former landfill of Cluj-Napoca.

Through two projects funded by the Kingdom of Norway, we managed to move 500 people to Cluj-Napoca and the communes in the metropolitan area. All these moved to decent social housing, bought or built by CMA. We continue to work with them for a full reintegration.

Each project involved a complex intervention to prepare families for relocation, the selection of beneficiaries, the purchase/ building and furnishing of the housing, and post-relocation assistance. The second project also aims to develop a methodology for the resettlement of people from marginalised areas that can be replicated anywhere in Romania.

In total, the value of the two projects exceeds eight million euros.

In 2024-2025, we successfully implemented an innovative method to address relocation of elders from the same community. The first five families moved into the new houses in May 2025.

Social projects



**CENTRUL METROPOLITAN PENTRU
EGALITATEA
DE GEN**

Apart from desegregation projects in Pata-Rât, we have been involved in other social projects aimed at easing access to the labour market and education or combating domestic violence.

Thus, we have installed the necessary equipment to provide wireless internet in the area of Pata-Rât, as part of the Cluj Future of Work project. We pursued a twofold purpose with this initiative: on the one hand, to make it easier for citizens in the area to access online services offered by the county labour force agency and private recruitment platforms; on the other hand, we made it easier for students in Pata-Rât to access online education.

Also in the social sphere, through the 'Community Sees' project, funded through Cohesion Funds, we set up and licensed the first Metropolitan Centre for Advice and Support for Victims of Domestic Violence. After the end of the project, we committed to continue its operation as the Metropolitan Centre for Gender Equality.



0 poveste



adevărată

Starting with the 2014-2015 school year, the CMA team ensures access to education for children from the 'Rampă' community, the most disadvantaged of the Pata-Rât communities.

The activity started as part of the first desegregation project we ran in Pata-Rât. After its conclusion (2017), the activity continues from CMA's own sources.

Also, through the OUT4ALL project, with European funding, we aim to create an improved learning environment in three schools in Cluj-Napoca and the metropolitan area. Within the project, integrated outdoor education activities will take place for 325 primary school students from the three schools.

Activities in nature will involve the use of technology, scanners and 3D printers and specialized software. Electronic microscopes will be connected to tablets, course materials will be 3D printed, and children will be encouraged to use technology for study. They will also be involved in the choice of study topics. The project is carried out at the schools in Ciurila and Apahida and the "Elf" Theoretical High School in Cluj-Napoca.



DESENEAZĂ METROPOLA DE MÂINE

Participă la revitalizarea centrelor
civice din zona metropolitană Cluj



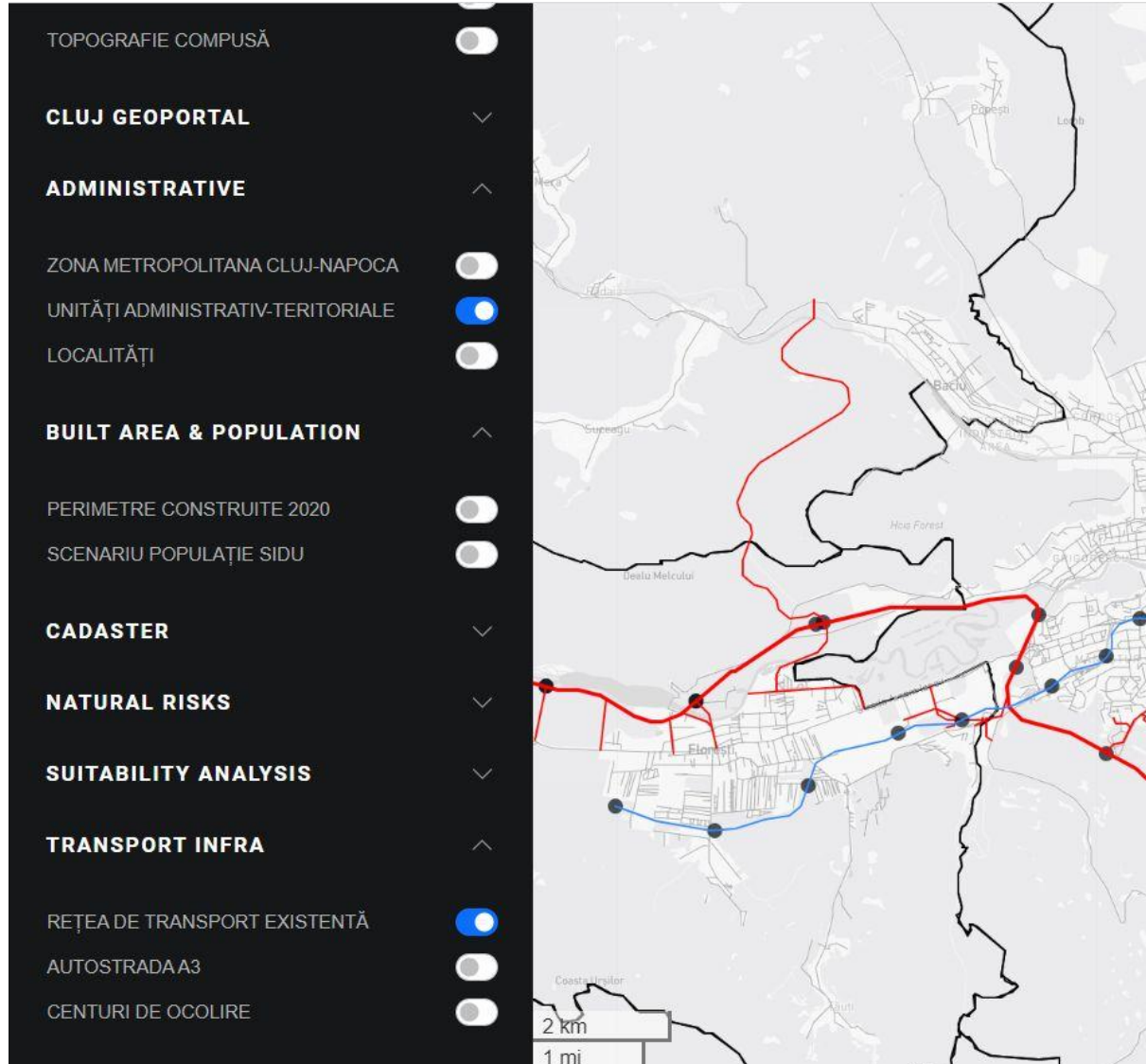
In partnership with the World Bank, we carried out the 'Sketch The Metropolis of Tomorrow' initiative, a unique project at the national level, aimed at helping regenerate public spaces in the rural areas of the metropolitan area.

The initiative involves co-designing concepts for the rehabilitation of civic centres in the communes of CMA, in line with the good practices and recommendations for urban regeneration in the IUDS 2021-2030.

So far, the Master Plans for Florești (2021), Gilău and Apahida (2022), Aiton, Săvaldisla, Vultureni and the village of Nădășelu in the commune of Gârbău (2023) have been carried out. Once the regeneration concepts have been completed, the local municipalities will produce the necessary documentation, and then the CMA and the local administrations will look for optimal financing solutions for their implementation.

The initiative will continue as new concepts are developed for municipalities in the territory of the CMA.

Metropolitan GIS



Also, in partnership with the World Bank, we launched the first metropolitan GIS in Romania at the end of 2022. This is an interactive, high-complexity map that can be accessed at

<https://www.clujmet.ro/gis/>

Almost 100 layers of information are currently available on the Metropolitan GIS, divided into several areas, such as Environment, Infrastructure, Education, Health, Demography, etc. They are also divided into sub-domains.

Thus, for example, a map user can find out exactly how the future subway route intersects the planned metropolitan motorway, which is the closest pharmacy to him, or whether or not the land he has in the country is located in a protected area. The platform also includes Cluj's major metropolitan projects.

The initiative has been very successful with the public and has been strongly reflected in the media.

The Cluj Metropolitan GIS is a project under permanent development.

Urban/Rural Hub



As we talk of our planet as being a “Global Village”, access to the digital world must be available to everyone, and all villages need high-speed internet, just like big cities do.

To this end, CMA partnered with Prysmian Group in the framework of the Urban/Rural Hub initiative to bring an optical fibre network to the villages of Plaiuri and Livada, of the Petreștii de Jos commune. The two settlements are representative of those thousands of Romanian remote and small villages that do not present an investment opportunity for the telecom operators.

So, we pioneered a new approach, where a private company (Prysmian Group) built the high-speed internet infrastructure, as part of their CSR actions. After that, the local authorities received the new infrastructure, which will be operated by private companies, as soon as the necessary public bidding is held.

Green infrastructure



CMA has been or is involved in several EU-funded Green Infrastructure and concept projects.

In 2021, we set up a park forest – probably the first one in Romania – in the Făget area, with cycling strips and thematic tracks, information panels on the area's fauna and flora. The intervention was minimal, based on a scientific study. The project, called Urb4Dan, was funded by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme.

Through a Horizon 2020 project called Stardust, we are developing green urban technical solutions and innovative business models by integrating several areas such as buildings, mobility and energy efficiency to define a new urban concept. To this end, a consortium was formed with three lead cities, Pamplona (Spain), Tampere (Finland) and Trento (Italy), sharing best practices with four other cities: Derry (U.K.), Kozani (Greece), Litoměřice (Czechia) and Cluj-Napoca.

Under the proGIREG project, also funded through Horizon 2020, we replicate and adapt nature-based urban regeneration solutions for industrial areas, already tested by four lead cities. These cities are Dortmund (Germany), Turin (Italy), Zagreb (Croatia) and Ningbo (China), while the four following cities are Cascais (Portugal), Piraeus (Greece), Zenica (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Cluj-Napoca.

The founding vision



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The Cluj Metropolitan Area will become a magnetic pole for research, development, innovation and information technology services, the right environment for entrepreneurs, professionals and young people. The place where you develop, succeed and raise your children. (Integrated Plan for Urban Development 2007-2013).

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