

## ANSWER TO THE GOOD PRACTICE CALL –URBACT

### How do we bring out and realize sustainable projects with a cross border governance/ with several partners? The example of the PACA (Perimeters within the agglomeration with coordinated urban planning) in the Grand Genève

#### 1. The Grand Genève: a cross-border conurbation

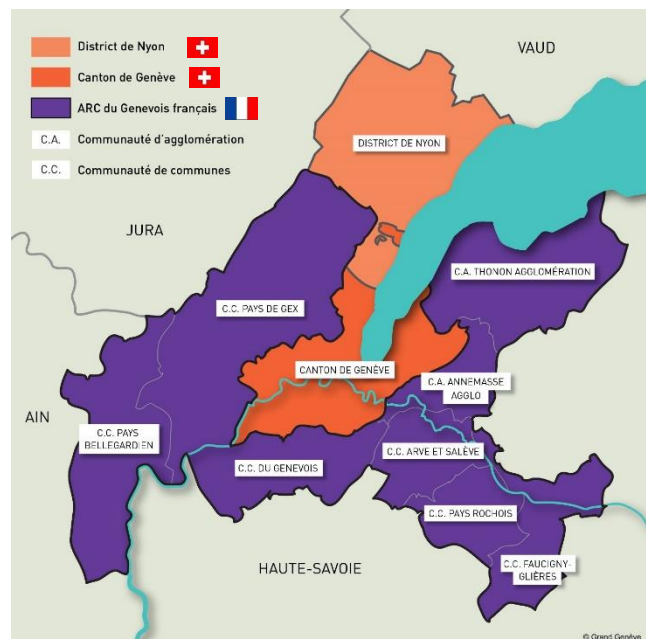
The Grand Genève is a metropolis with almost 1 million inhabitants. It is centered on the city of Geneva, but with several French and Swiss towns and villages, which make a multipolar and cross-border agglomeration. The Grand Genève has to deal with a high rate of growth and important problems of congestion and social inequalities.

In order to find solutions together, a cross-border cooperation has begun in the 1970's. It has been developed since then, and in 2012 the GLCT (Local Grouping of cross-border cooperation - LGCC) Grand Genève has been officially created.

The mission of this metropolitan authority is to bring together three main public policies: urban planning, mobility, environment. It has developed since 2007 three generations of a cross-border territorial project based on the signing of political agreements, in order to give more consistency and sustainability at the development of each country. It federates on the basis of a sustainable urban planning project, conciliating economic growth, quality of life and protection of the environment.

The project aims to collectively create a compact urban environment, with improved provision of public transport and non-motorized traffic, preserving areas for agriculture and nature, and aiming at a better balance between housing and working areas.

The implementation of the project consists in 554 measures (urban planning, mobility, environment) and is co-funded by the Swiss Confederation (nearly 400 millions CHF for the mobility infrastructures in projects 1 and 2), some of this measures are already implemented.



#### 2. How does it work?

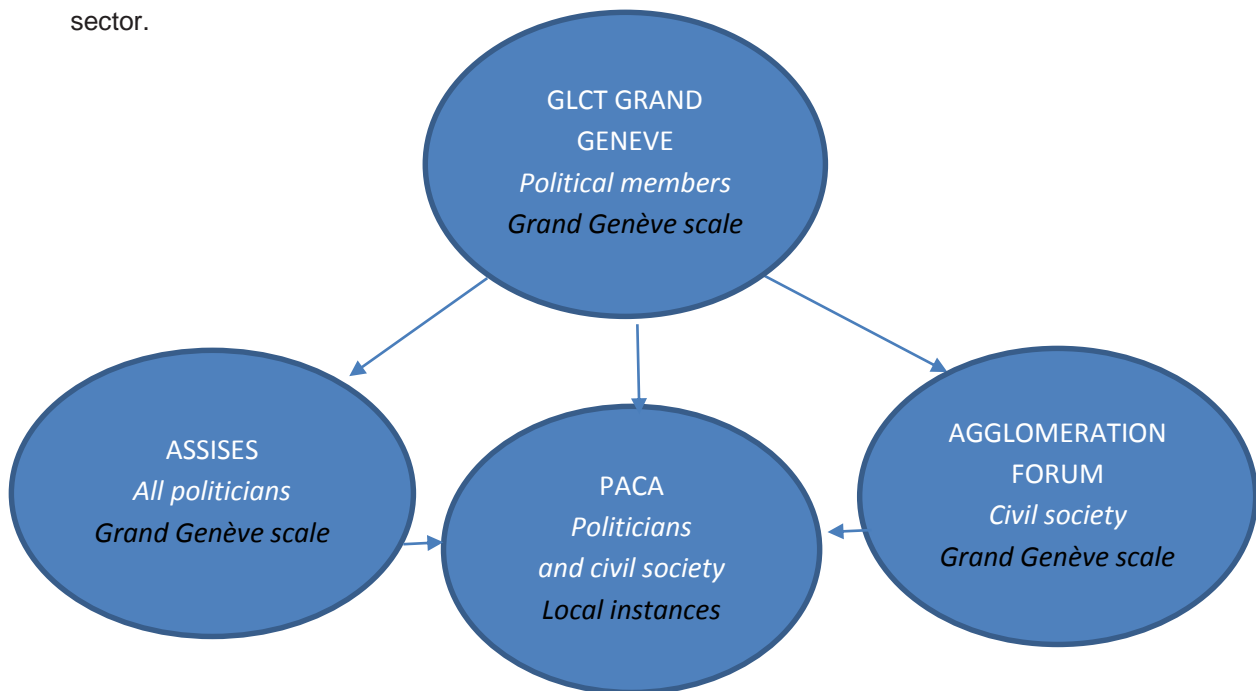
##### 2.1 Our governance: a participative approach

The Grand Genève GLCT is composed of 8 members and two associated members:

- Geneva Republic and Canton
- Geneva City
- Vaud Canton
- Nyon District
- Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes French Region

- Ain and Haute-Savoie French Departments
- French Geneva Regional Coopération Assembly
- And the Swiss Confederation and the French Republic which are associated to the GLCT.

The “agglomeration forum” represents the civil society, and includes both associations and private sector.



## 2.2 Grand Genève’s missions

Since December 2007 and the first political agreements, our urban cross-border project has involved both thematic and spatial thorough investigations.

**The thematic studies** examine key issues for the whole metropolis. Each theme then becomes the basis for a cross-border shared vision and coordinated actions. The studies focus on:

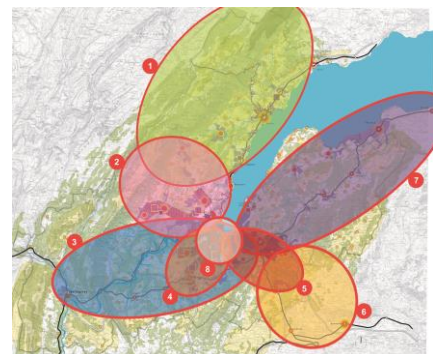
- Land, housing, economic development hubs, social cohesion ;
- Agriculture, countryside and landscapes ;
- Efficient public transports, alternative travel modes, intermodal transport systems
- Nature, energy, air, environment.

**The spatial investigations** focuses on eight radial coordinated urban planning areas. All the themes mentioned above are included in this spatial investigations, in order to guarantee an integrated urban development.

## 3. The specific case of the ‘PACA’ (coordinated urban planning areas within the conurbation): a basis for cross-border unity

### 3.1 Since 2008, a participative method at local scale

In order to involve every mayor and elected representative of the Grand Genève in the global project, 8 perimeters, named PACA, established around radial cross-border axes, have been defined to develop local projects and foster local discussions between Swiss and French local authorities, and civil society.



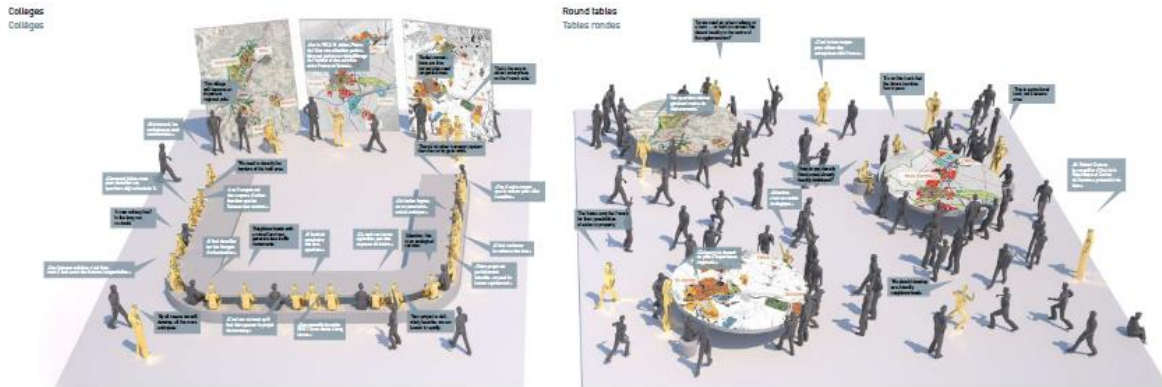
From 2008 to 2012, each PACA was concerned by "test studies" or "main lines". They aimed at exploring various development hypothesis and nurturing the projects collectively. They were carried out by three multidisciplinary teams of urbanists, transports engineers, landscapers, etc. At each step of the studies, dialogue with civil society and politicians have been

performed. It took the form of:

- “colleges”: the three teams had to present and to exchange ideas between them and with a college of politicians and civil society representatives.
- “round tables”: all the politicians and civil society partners had advanced discussions about the project in order to build together the projects and bring new ideas to the three teams.

These studies have concluded on a presentation and an exhibition opened to a large public.

This creative approach got the European urban planning awards in 2010.



### The results of the PACA's round tables:

- A tool for dialog between politicians, civil society and urban planning professionals.
- An appropriate scale between the Grand Genève as a whole and individual municipalities.
- Intellectual emulation, better understanding between Swiss and French actors of the territory.
- Projects with sustainable urban living, mixing every themes: social, environmental, economical...

This kind of discussions have enhanced the problems which were in common and allowed to find solutions together (for example to create a swimming pool for French and Swiss scholars).

### 3.2 PACA today

As the experience has been really successful, the "GLCT" decided to keep the PACA's scale to carry on working together. Today PACA's aim is:

- To follow the implementation of the cross border infrastructures and the urban projects with a common vision.
- To promote urban quality with a specific attention to public areas.
- To study and carry out regional landscapes projects (Urban Arve Valley...) and environmental projects (renewable energy...).
- To improve the agglomeration overview of urban and mobility planning by bringing local concerns.
- To share good practices across the border.