

Regional cooperation

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Zug is part of a larger economic region centred on Zurich and extending to Lucerne, Schwyz and Aargau. Many of its employees live in these cantons, while many of its residents work in Zurich. The region shares infrastructure, labour markets and housing markets. The canton's problems of housing and transport cannot be solved within its borders alone. Regional cooperation on planning, transport and housing is therefore essential for its future.

The Greater Zurich Area, the regional marketing organisation, already coordinates the promotion of the region to international companies. The cantons cooperate in the metropolitan conference of Zurich and in the central Swiss conferences.¹ The canton could strengthen this cooperation, for example by co-financing housing and transport projects in neighbouring cantons that benefit its economy, or by coordinating its tax and location policies with those of its neighbours. Such cooperation would require the canton to see itself as part of a region, a perspective that its history of autonomy and competition has not always encouraged.

1 Notes

1. Metropolitankonferenz Zürich, "Über uns", metopolitanraum-zuerich.ch: members are the eight cantons Zurich, Aargau, Thurgau, Schaffhausen, Schwyz, St. Gallen, Zug and Lucerne with about 110 towns and municipalities; Zentralschweizer Regierungskonferenz, zrk.ch: founded 1966 by Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden, Nidwalden and Zug for the joint fulfilment of public tasks. ↩

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