

**Metro Competitiveness in the Global Economy**

***Research Prospectus***

**Overview**

Globalization, technological change, and demographic shifts are together reshaping the global economy. Cities are on the frontlines of all of these forces, creating both challenges and opportunities, and focusing political, business, and civic leaders across the world on understanding and enhancing their city-regions’ economic competitiveness. Regions are globally competitive when they can provide an environment in which firms can compete successfully in the global economy while supporting high and rising living standards for local households.

Drawing on a unique 120-metro database, the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program proposes to release a new report at the Global Cities Initiative’s global summit in September 2016 on metropolitan competitiveness and the drivers that support it. The report will help city and metro leaders around the world better understand the competitive position of their regional economies and how those economies are performing on multiple dimensions.

**Analysis**

The analysis will focus on four sets of factors that matter for metropolitan competitiveness – trade, innovation, talent, and infrastructure. Globally competitive traded sectors, innovation ecosystems, skilled labor are the fundamental drivers of productivity, employment, and income growth. Well-connected infrastructure enables people and firms to access the global marketplace. The report will introduce a global cities typology that groups metro areas with their relevant international peers based on their economic size, wealth, industrial structure, and the following competitiveness factors:

* Trade: traded sector share of output; foreign direct investment
* Innovation: patenting intensity; scientific research prowess; venture capital
* Talent: employment to population ratio; educational attainment
* Infrastructure: global aviation connectivity; broadband speed

This exercise provides the field with a new way to classify the world’s varied urban economic landscape and local leaders with a novel lens to benchmark their performance relative to useful comparators. The report also provides an ideal platform to summarize our insights about the economic “state of play” in global cities. To complement the quantitative analytics, it would draw upon our lessons from the deeper analyses in the individual profile sites, and signal to local leaders how these data can be used to perform metro-specific benchmarking exercises and inform the development of regional economic strategies.

**Deliverables**

* A glossy report including graphics, maps, and tables that provides an overview of findings
* An interactive web feature that provides metro-specific data and trends