Regional Development Policy in Chile

General policy approach
Chile has developed several new strategies to support urban and rural development from the centre. Chile has been seeking to build capacity at the regional and local levels to better promote regional development. Given Chile’s geography, addressing the periphery has been one of the main concerns.

Several programmes are promoting innovation in different regional contexts. The Inter-ministerial Commission for City, Housing and Territory (COMICIVYT), chaired by the Ministry of Housing and Urbanism, is the agency that plays a co-ordinating role for the policies, plans and programmes of different state agencies.

The National Policy on Land-Use Planning and the National Urban Development Policy, which addresses a wide range of issues and is supported by the National Council for Urban Development, are considered to be fundamental pillars.

Developed in 2014 and updated in 2018, the integrated National Rural Development Policy seeks to address several development challenges.

Recent policy changes

• Decentralisation laws were approved in 2018, which strengthen regionalisation and regulate the election of regional governors. The process of developing the corresponding regulation to these laws has begun.

• The National Rural Development Policy is currently being updated and its implementation has recently begun. This process is led by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Office of Agricultural Studies and Policies (ODEPA), through the Rural Development Department.

• The Inter-ministerial Commission for City, Housing and Territory is currently elaborating the National Policy on Land-Use Planning, which runs between the years 2018 and 2019.

• Taking the National Urban Development Policy into account, urban planning proposals, indicators, urban development standards and land-use policy proposals have been developed.
Institutional arrangements to prepare for global megatrends

At the national level, Law 21,074 stipulates that Chile should have three strategic instruments, prepared and proposed to the President of the Republic by the Inter-ministerial Commission for City, Housing and Territory. These instruments are: 1) the National Policy on Land-Use Planning; 2) the National Urban Development Policy; and 3) the National Rural Development Policy. Moreover, several sector-specific strategic plans are developed by governmental organisations and ministries. For example, the Chile Transforma programme, implemented by the Production Development Corporation (CORFO), seeks to improve the economy’s competitiveness, and strengthen human capital, innovation and productivity. The Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems programme, developed by the Global Environment Facility/food and Agriculture Organization and the Ministry of Agriculture, seeks to protect and promote landscapes of outstanding beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage. The National Climate Change Action Plan, developed by the Ministry of Environment, has for objective to develop adaptation and mitigation measures related to climate change as well as capacity building.

Prospective analysis tools and future scenarios are used in the preparation and planning process of strategic documents by each ministry (for example, in the infrastructure plan of the Ministry of Public Works).

At the regional level, 15 of the 16 Chilean regions have a long-term regional strategic plan, called regional development strategies. They are developed by regional governments and have social, economic and environmental objectives. They use similar foresight mechanisms as used in the planning process at the national level.

Looking for statistical information to complement this?

Take a look at our publication Regions and Cities at a Glance:

https://oe.cd/pub/2n9

OECD Regional Outlook 2019: Leveraging Megatrends for Cities and Rural Areas

The 2019 edition of the OECD Regional Outlook examines the regional dimensions of global megatrends and their implications for the well-being of people living in different places. It discusses how place-based policies, public investment and multi-level governance reforms can respond to these megatrends to revive productivity growth, reduce inequalities, improve quality of life and increase sustainability.

Consult the full publication and the other country profiles on line: https://oe.cd/pub/2vq.