The OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

2020
About the OECD

The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.

The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. We work with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change. We measure productivity and global flows of trade and investment. We analyse and compare data to predict future trends. We set international standards on a wide range of things, from agriculture and tax to the safety of chemicals.

We also look at issues that directly affect everyone’s daily life, like how much people pay in taxes and social security, and how much leisure time they can take. We compare how different countries’ school systems are readying their young people for modern life, and how different countries’ pension systems will look after their citizens in old age.

About the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies.

Find out more

Web: www.oecd.org/cfe
Twitter: @OECD_local
The OECD Trento Centre

The OECD Trento Centre for Local Development was established by the OECD, the Italian Government and the Autonomous Province of Trento (Italy) in 2003. It is an integral part of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities.

The mission of the Trento Centre is to build capacities for local development in OECD member and non-member countries.

The objectives of the Trento Centre are:

- To improve the quality of public policies implemented at the local level through continuous monitoring and assessment of current practices and by using the results of comparative research in developing policy recommendations and action plans.

- To build capacity in the design, implementation and evaluation of local economic and employment development strategies to help grow local economies in OECD member and non-member countries.

- To promote innovation in local economic and employment development across the globe.

- To strengthen the relationship between policy makers, local development practitioners and the scientific community and to facilitate expertise transfer and exchange of experience between OECD member and non-member countries.

About the Centre

The Trento Centre’s work is structured around the following two dimensions:

Capacity building

The Centre provides capacity building for people, places and institutions on issues related to local development (p.4).

Spatial Productivity Lab

The Centre is developing a Policy Lab on issues related to spatial productivity in cooperation with national institutions in Italy and interested OECD countries (p. 6).

Did you know?

In 2015 a new satellite office was established in Venice to increase capacity building offer. The Venice Office produces evidence and advice on ways to maximise the impact of culture and creative industries as levers for growth, job creation and social inclusion at the local level.
What’s capacity building?

Creating, developing and strengthening the abilities of organisations, communities and individuals to confront challenges and achieve goals, work collectively across institutional lines and policy silos and develop synergies.

Capacity building includes institutional development and emphasises functioning of the overall system, environment and context within which individuals, organisations and societies operate and interact. The work carried out by the Trento Centre aims to develop the capacity and abilities of those working in the field of local economic and employment development, in both OECD member and non-member countries. The Centre helps formulate and evaluate policy options and modes of implementation that tap local potential and are tailored to existing needs, resources and constraints.

Fulfilling local development objectives often requires working across different policy areas to achieve effective local strategies.

Taking an integrated approach to design, implementation and evaluation of local economic and employment development strategies and policies requires high-level skills and abilities. It implies a long-term, on-going partnership process in which local development actors (including ministries, local authorities, the social economy, professional and business organisations, academics and civil society) actively participate.

At the time when human resources are at the heart of economic growth, an enhanced capacity and better understanding of both local and global economic conditions are necessary prerequisites for effective responses to shifting economic, social and political conditions. Localities can capitalise on opportunities and mitigate threats of a knowledge-based economy by establishing common strategic objectives, co-ordinating labour market, employment and social policies with economic development objectives and taking informed steps in order to avoid skill gaps and deficiencies in local productive systems.

Did you know?

From 2003-2019, the Trento Centre organised over 260 capacity building events (specialised seminars, conferences, and workshops), study visits, policy reviews and studies. Thousands of regional development policy makers and practitioners from 78 countries have benefited from the Trento Centre capacity building programme.
People, places and institutions

Enabling institutions, people and places to identify and build the knowledge and skills needed to improve their collective outcomes is essential to capacity building.

The Trento Centre analyses the impact of policies at the local level along with developing training curricula by connecting with wider CFE work. It presents consolidated methods for capacity gap assessment and develops partnerships with national and international institutions.

The new enhanced offer includes:

- **A focus on people:** the Trento Centre offers capacity building activities for local development policy makers and practitioners, enhancing their knowledge and understanding of the ways to successfully design and implement local economic development strategies.

- **A focus on places:** the Trento Centre supports places undergoing transformations in order to increase capacities for: i) effective policy implementation through improved governance, and ii) inclusive local growth through comprehensive strategy development and implementation.

- **A focus on institutions:** the Trento Centre supports national and sub-national authorities in improving policy implementation mechanisms in ways that improve policy outcomes.

### People in the spotlight: Summer School

International Summer School for Community and Local Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Find out more

[oe.cd/summerschool](http://oe.cd/summerschool)

### Places in the spotlight: Local Development

Inner areas project: support local development strategy design in several remote areas in Italy

Find out more

[oe.cd/innerareas](http://oe.cd/innerareas)

### Institutions in the spotlight: Summer Academy

International Summer Academy for Cultural and Creative Industries and Local Development

Find out more

[oe.cd/sacci](http://oe.cd/sacci)
Why spatial productivity?

As today’s main macroeconomic challenges are faltering productivity and increasing inequality, how can regional, rural and urban policy help achieve more inclusive and dynamic growth?

Recently, a prevailing perspective on regional policy has changed. The new regional policy paradigm focuses on growth, competitiveness and well-being and connects regional dimensions to macro outcomes more directly. The approach has shifted from compensating regions for undesirable local effects of macro policies to promoting each region’s potential to contribute to aggregate performance.

As part of broader CFE work on productivity and in co-ordination with the OECD Global Forum on Productivity, the Trento Centre will specialise in and help develop OECD analysis on spatial productivity, examining to what extent aggregate productivity depends on the economies of agglomeration generated in cities and the mechanisms of regional productivity catching-up.

This activity will be implemented in cooperation with national institutions in Italy and other interested OECD countries; as well as with regional authorities of Trentino Alto Adige South Tyrol and other regions within OECD members.

The research teams will include economists from the OECD and a number of research centres and Universities worldwide.

CFE work on productivity

Productivity and Jobs in a Globalised World (How) Can All Regions Benefit?

Access report
http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264293137-en

OECD Regional Outlook 2016 Productive Regions for Inclusive Societies

Access report
http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264260245-en

Did you know?

The task of designing place-based policies is too complex to be centralised. A central government cannot have as many policies as different types of cities and regions. However, decentralisation needs to be organised as a partnership and not only as a process of autonomy and devolution of competencies. Decentralisation works better when processes allow for experimentation at the local level (learning-by-doing).
Engage with the Trento Centre

Partners can participate in Trento Centre activities by requesting national or local case study assessments and guidance and/or capacity building activities.

Interested countries, regions and cities can join **capacity building activities** as participants, provide their expertise, host events and study visits, and seek support in analysing the impact of policies at the local level.

In particular, Trento Centre capacity building activities include:

- **Local development capacity reviews** to identify the needs and priorities for policy improvement as well as capacity and skill gaps of participating countries and localities. Outputs include: (i) analysis of strengths and weaknesses of current policy approaches; (ii) comparison with international good practice; (iii) the identification of learning models; (iv) policy recommendations; and (v) action plans to implement the recommendations.

- **Capacity building seminars** organised at the Trento Centre, or in the sponsoring country. These usually last from one to five days (maximum 15) and bring together between 20 and 60 delegates selected by specific criteria. The seminars rely on a wide range of methods centered around peer-to-peer learning process that addresses the working needs of delegates and seeks to meet their expectations.

The methods deployed include theoretical courses, discussions and group work built on real cases (including those brought by participants), partnership and network facilitation, study visits and dedicated meetings with selected socio-economic and governmental actors.

- **Workshops and conferences** organised in co-operation with local and international partners to discuss policy issues, promote the exchange of best practices and formulate shared suggestions for cohesion and economic development strategies.

Interested countries, regions and cities can join the **Spatial Productivity Lab** and suggest relevant research centres and universities in their countries to lead specific topics.

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**Find out more**

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