

Spring 2014



Ministerial Meeting - Regions and Cities: Where Policies and People Meet

Policies for regions and cities can generate opportunities for skills development, investment and innovation, and directly contribute to improving quality of life. Such policies actively complement traditional macro and structural approaches in enhancing national performance. To discuss these issues and challenges, and upon the invitation of France, Ministers met in Marseille, on 5-6 December 2013 under the theme "Regions and Cities: Where Policy and People Meet". The meeting contributed to rich and forward looking policy debates around how cities and regions can contribute to national goals for inclusive and sustainable growth and help to restore trust in government. There was strong representation from both OECD and non-member countries – 29 ministerial-level participants from 39 delegations – highlighting the significance of these issues. [Read more ...](#)



OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers - Better Cities for Better Lives: Bridging National and Local Policies to Deliver Growth and Well-being

After Milan, Madrid, Paris and Chicago, the 5th OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers, co-hosted by the City of Marseille and the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council, provided a forum for national ministers and city mayors to discuss ways of co-ordinating national and local policies that can help cities to make the most of their potential. The Roundtable devoted particular attention to strategies for: financing investment in cities; making cities greener and smarter; fostering attractiveness and accessibility to help address the challenge of demographic change; and making urban labour markets more inclusive. [Read more ...](#)



OECD Recommendation on Effective Public Investment Across Levels of Government

The TDPC's first set of principles were adopted by the OECD Council on 12 March 2014. The purpose of the principles set out in the Recommendation is to help governments at all levels to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their public investment capacity, and set priorities for improvement. The OECD will further work towards the implementation of these Principles by developing a supporting Toolkit to guide policy-makers and practitioners. [More about the recommendation...](#)



Regions at a Glance interactive: How Regions and Cities Contribute to Inclusive Growth and Well-Being of Societies

Regions at a Glance 2013 showcases the contribution of regions to stronger, fairer and cleaner economies, drawing both on the latest comparable data and on past trends across regions in OECD countries. [Visit the website.](#)



OECD Water Governance Initiative

The 3rd meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative took place in Madrid, Spain on 28-29 April 2014. It discussed key governance issues in the global water agenda (7th World Water Forum, Sustainable Development Goals), kicked off the work on OECD Principles and Indicators on Water Governance and presented recent OECD work on the governance of water PPPs in Jordan and Tunisia. The WGI is a multi-stakeholder network of around 100 delegates from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors gathering twice a year in a Policy forum to share experience on water governance. The [Agenda](#) and [list of participants](#) are accessible online.



How's Life in Your Region? Measuring regional and local well-being

The OECD workshop on measuring regional and local well-being was held in Paris on 23 January 2014. International experts and policymakers discussed the preliminary draft of the report *How's life in your region?*, as well as the main insights from the seven case study regions and cities participating in the project. [Read more...](#)



OECD Rural Development Conference - Rural-urban Partnerships: an Integrated Approach to Economic Development

The 9th OECD Rural Development Policy Conference, 23-25 October 2013, launched the publication *Rural-Urban partnerships: an integrated approach to economic development*. It was organised in co-operation with the EC and was co-hosted by the Italian Department of Development and Economic Cohesion and *Regione Emilia Romagna*. [Read more...](#)

Additional Reports

- [OECD Territorial Reviews: The Netherlands](#) recommends the creation of a national framework for urban policy to enhance the economic performance of cities. It suggests providing a longer timeframe for the current decentralisation and territorial reforms to allow local staff to adjust and for greater involvement by citizens. It also recommends aligning the Top Sector innovation strategy with the EU regional cluster policy in order to provide more coherent local incentives.
- [Water Governance in the Netherlands: Fit for the Future?](#) This report highlights the past successes of Dutch water management, examines potential weaknesses for the future and suggests ways to put the system on a more sustainable footing.
- [OECD Territorial Reviews: Ukraine](#). This review addresses the territorial dimension of a range of policy challenges in the Ukraine, including Ukraine's productivity challenge, large inter-regional disparities, and need for decentralisation.
- [Towards more inclusive growth in the metropolitan area of Aix-Marseille](#). This report shows that the most important challenges for Aix-Marseille come from within the metropolitan area itself, rather than from competition with other major cities in Europe or elsewhere.
- [Investing Together: Working Effectively Across Levels of Government](#). This report dissects the relationships different government actors form vertically, across levels, and horizontally, across both sectors and jurisdictions.
- [OECD Regions at a Glance](#). *Regions at a Glance 2013* showcases the contribution of regions to stronger, fairer and cleaner economies, drawing both on the latest comparable data and on past trends across regions in OECD countries.
- [Regions and Innovation: Collaborating Across Borders](#). This report examines cross-border collaboration on innovation, building on case studies of cross-border areas that include the following countries: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Estonia, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, United Kingdom and Ireland.
- [Rural-Urban Partnerships: An Integrated Approach to Economic Development](#). This report provides a framework to understand the changing relationships between urban and rural areas. Specifically, it documents the characteristics of these partnerships and the factors that can hinder as well as enable rural-urban co-operation.
- [OECD Territorial Reviews: Puebla-Tlaxcala, Mexico 2013](#). A comprehensive economic review of the Puebla-Tlaxcala region of Mexico. The review examines the region's challenges and assets and makes a series of policy recommendations.
- [Assessing Polycentric Urban Systems in the OECD: Country, Regional and Metropolitan Perspectives](#). Using a harmonised definition of functional urban areas in OECD countries, this paper provides a sound definition of polycentricity at each spatial scale as well as measures of polycentricity, exploring the economic implications of different spatial structures.
- [The Contribution of Regions to Aggregate Growth in the OECD](#). This paper investigates the contribution of regions to aggregate growth in the OECD. Regional contributions to aggregate growth follow a power law revealing that smaller regions contribute around 2/3 of aggregate growth. This suggests that the possibilities for growth exist in many types of regions.
- [On City Size Distribution: Evidence from OECD Functional Urban Areas](#). This paper provides new comparative evidence on city size distribution across OECD countries. It uses a database where urban agglomerations are consistently identified across different countries, through an algorithm based on population density and commuting patterns

Upcoming events

- 15-16 May, 2014 - Workshop: The Governance of Land use Policies, Prague, Czech Republic
- 10 June 2014 - Policy Forum: Urban green growth in Dynamic Asia, OECD Paris, France
- 19 September 2014 - Multi-stakeholder Workshop: Stakeholder Engagement for Effective Water Governance, OECD Paris, France
- October 2014 - Publication launch: *How's life in your region? Measuring regional and local well-being for policymaking*, Paris, France
- 17 October 2014 - International Roundtable for Cities : Sustainable Urban Development Policies in Ageing Societies, Toyama, Japan
- 24-25 November 2014 - 4th Meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative, OECD Paris, France
- 24-27 November 2014 - TDPC Week (TDPC and Working Party meetings), OECD Paris, France

To subscribe/unsubscribe to this newsletter and/or provide feedback, please write to govcontact@oecd.org.

Topics

[Regional development policy](#)
[Data tools for cities and regions](#)
[Urban development](#)

[Rural development](#)
[Multi-level governance and public finance](#)
[Regional innovation](#)
[Water governance programme](#)

Statistics

[OECD Regional database](#)
[OECD Metropolitan database](#)
[OECD Regional eXplorer](#)
[OECD Metro eXplorer](#)

Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development