



**PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE  
TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

**GOV/TDPC/TI/M(2003)1**  
**For Official Use**

**Working Party on Territorial Indicators**

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th SESSION**

**OECD Headquarters, 13 January 2003**

*This document presents the Summary Record of the 5th Session of the Working Party on Territorial Indicators, held at OECD Headquarters on 13 January 2003. A list of participants is attached in the Annex of the document.*

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**English - Or. English**

## WORKING PARTY ON TERRITORIAL INDICATORS

### SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th SESSION

OECD Headquarters, 13 January 2003

#### 1. Adoption of the agenda

GOV/TDPC/TI/A(2002)1/REV1

1. The Agenda was adopted.

#### 2. Summary record of the 4th Session

GOV/TDPC/TI/M(2002)2

2. The summary record of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session, held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002 was approved.

#### 3. Statement by the Director of the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate

3. Mrs. Odile Sallard, Director of the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, welcomed the Delegates to the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Party. The Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate was created as a result of the merger between the Public Management Service and the Territorial Development Service. The change affects the Secretariat but not the structure of the committees and working parties. The objective is to build on synergies in terms of skills and experiences within the Secretariat. Mrs. Sallard gave an overview of recent developments in the OECD on:

- **The OECD reform and budget process.** The recent annual budget discussions resulted in a 6% cut in the 2003-2004 work programmes of the OECD's different sectors of activity. This is due to a shrinking budget envelope and an increasing demand from Member countries to produce more with limited resources. The budget process has moved to a performance-based system of budgeting focusing on outcomes and outputs designed to allow the Organisation to define its most valuable activities. The second part of this new budget system concerns the reallocation mechanism. The Organisation will increasingly depend on voluntary contributions and this will be the next issue to focus on in order to set up a process to successfully choose activities according to high, medium or low priorities.
- **OECD Committee Structure.** A high-level consultant, Mr. Peter Nicholson, was assigned to evaluate the OECD Committee structure and to assess possible ways of streamlining it. The Nicholson report recognises strong synergies between the TDPC and PUMA Committees. It suggests the creation of a steering group convening the Chairs of the 2 Committees and those of their respective Working Parties to a meeting, which could take place on an annual or 18 monthly basis. This would entail reviewing the programme of work and identifying key issues and challenges that should be addressed in both Committees in order to ensure a complete governance approach.

#### 4. Programme of Work of the TDPC and its Working Parties for 2003-2004

GOV/TDPC/(2002)1/CORR

4. The Director gave a brief presentation of the Programme of Work of the TDPC and its Working Party for 2003-2004, which takes into account comments made by Delegates at the TDPC's 7<sup>th</sup> Session in July 2002. The 3 main pillars of the Committee's work are the territorial reviews, horizontal and statistical

work. Horizontal work and analysis on multi-country studies will draw heavily on the national and thematic reviews. The programme of work has been designed to ensure coherence, between the expected output of each activity, co-operation, between the TDPC and its subsidiary bodies, and communication, to enhance visibility internally and externally.

5. The Chairman requested some information about the publication plans of the *OECD territorial Outlook* over the next biennium. The Delegation of Japan requested some clarifications as regards the link between the implementation of the POW 2003-2004 and the new structure of the Secretariat, in particular the proposed institution of a Steering group. It also invited the Secretariat to have a balanced approach to the distinction between urban and rural regions. The Delegation of the UK suggested that the WPTI should assess the demand for territorial statistics from policy-makers and could benefit from the work of the High Level Committee on "Information for Policies" established in the UK and composed by representatives of ten ministers. The Delegation of France suggested that the regional focus of national reviews should be made more explicit in the drafting of the POW and the distinction between urban and rural, although relevant, should not prevent from having a unified approach to the analysis of governance and competitiveness. The delegations of Australia, France and Italy welcomed the new activity on geographic equity in health. In particular, the delegation of Italy announced that its country would make a contribution to finance this new activity.

6. In response to these questions, the Director of the Public Governance and Territorial Development informed the Delegates that the publication of the *OECD Territorial Outlook* had to be postponed to 2003 due to the reorganisation of the Secretariat. All pending contributions by the WPTI (the executive summary of the RISI Report, the papers by Mr. McGranahan, Mr. Alasia and Ms. Cattan) will therefore be published in the next issue of the *Territorial Outlook*. She also pointed out that the institution of the Steering group was only a proposal at this stage. If approved, the mandate of the Steering group would be to favour consistency between the activities of the TDPC and PUMA Committees as well as of their Working Parties. The Secretariat expressed his full appreciation of the importance of information for policies while the Chairman suggested that the WPTI should discuss on how to assess the demand for territorial indicators from policy-makers. Finally, the Secretariat indicated that the distinction rural/urban is not fixed and its application will depend on the specific issue analysed.

#### **5. The TDPC High-level Meeting (24 June p.m. -26 June a.m., 2003) GOV/DTPC/(2002)2/REV1**

7. The Director introduced the Draft Agenda of the TDPC High-level Meeting. The document [GOV/TDPC(2002)2/REV 1] provides a basis for discussion sets out the main objectives of the meeting, which include consideration of short- and long-term priorities, objectives and strategies of territorial development policy, consultation with BIAC, TUAC, representatives of regions and cities and civil society; and a discussion concerning future work by the Committee and the OECD. It is organised around 3 main themes: Session 1 – Territorial Development Policy and the Challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; Session 2 – The Role of Central Government in Territorial Development Policy: What are the policy challenges? and Session 3 – Multi-level Governance and Policy Implementation.

8. The Director informed the Delegates that the background report for the discussion at the HLM would be composed of three parts. The first section summarises the lessons learned on regional competitiveness, territorial governance and sustainable development. The second section is fed by the statistical analysis undertaken by the Working Party on Territorial Indicators. The third section points out the main conclusions and policy recommendations drawn from the Territorial Reviews. The background report will provide a structure for the forthcoming issues of the *OECD Territorial Outlook*, whose publication will be resumed in 2003.

9. The Chairman suggested that the agenda of the HLM should include a presentation of the ongoing work of the WPTI as a way to benchmark the discussion about territorial policies. The delegation of the UK endorsed the Chairman's proposal as an opportunity to stress the importance of statistical information for policy-makers. The Secretariat invited the Chairman of the WPTI to submit his proposal to the next Session of the TDPC, when the agenda of the HLM will be finalised.

10. The Delegate of Switzerland, Mr. M. Schuler, invited the WPTI to hold its summer session in Lausanne on 23 and 24 June, immediately before the HLM. The WPTI accepted the invitation from Switzerland, although the Delegation of France reminded that, on principle, France is opposed to holding OECD meetings outside Paris.

## **6. Territorial Typologies**

### **Identifying the Determinants of Regional Performances**

**GOV/TDPC/TI(2002)1**

11. The Secretariat (Mr. Vincenzo Spiezia) presented the preliminary results of a study on the determinants of economic performances at the regional level. The aim of this study is to elaborate a regional typology in order to *i*) assesses the existence of untapped resources and *ii*) identify the objectives for territorial development policies. The Delegates were invited to give comments on the proposed methodology and approve the continuation of the study.

12. The Delegates expressed interest for the methodology and the results of the study and drew the attention to the following issues: a different benchmark could be used to measure regional economic performances, such as the average GDP per capita by regional type (the Netherlands) or the OECD average (France); the methodology for estimating GDP at the territorial level 3 may affect the results (Switzerland, the UK); accordingly, it would be preferable to undertake the analysis at the territorial level 2 (France); the very concept of GDP may be inadequate to measure economic performances (the UK); despite these limitations, some important information can be derived only at the territorial level 3 (Austria, Italy, the Netherlands and Portugal); labour productivity estimates are likely to be affected by the lack of information on working hours (the UK); although the proposed typology may prove useful for policy-makers, one should be careful in drawing policy implications from the results obtained so far (the UK).

13. In summarising the above discussion, the Chairman invited the Secretariat to move to the second phase of the study; to carry out a sensitivity analysis in order to assess the effect of alternative hypotheses (*e.g.*: territorial level, benchmark used for comparison) on the proposed typology; to present the results as maps.

## **7. Territorial database and indicators**

### ***A) Geographic Concentration and Territorial Disparities: An International Comparison for OECD countries***

**GOV/TDPC/TI(2002)2**

14. The Secretariat (M. Vincenzo Spiezia) presented an update of the study on Geographic Concentration and Territorial Disparity [DT/TDPC/TI(2002)9]. Further to the request of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the WPTI, the update included: more detailed information on data sources and definitions; an analysis of the effects of commuting; estimates of average labour productivity based on employment at the workplace; an assessment of the effects of the economic cycle on territorial disparities. The Delegates were invited to give comments on the update of this study and approve its publication in the forthcoming issue of the *OECD Territorial Outlook*.

15. The Delegates considered that the comments and requests expressed in the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the WPTI were fully taken into account by the update of the study. Following a suggestion of the Chairman, the discussion focused on the most appropriate weighting scheme to be applied to the territorial disparity index. The delegation of France consider it preferable to weight regions by their geographic size rather than population while the delegation of Norway suggested that the opportunity to restrict weights to productive land should be explored.

16. The WPTI approved the publication of this study in the forthcoming issue of the *OECD Territorial Outlook* subject to the revisions to be proposed by the Chairman in order to fully reflect the results of the above discussion.

***B) Internet Access to the Territorial Database on the OECD Corporate Data Environment (CDE)***

17. The Secretariat (Ms. Cécile Hochet) gave a presentation on the Internet access to the OECD Territorial Database at the territorial level 2.

18. The Delegates welcomed the possibility to access a significant set of territorial indicators for all OECD countries. Following a request from the delegate of the European Commission (Mr. Carlquist), the Chairman observed that, at the present, the publication of the database at the territorial level 3 would not be consistent with the dissemination policy of Eurostat and some Member countries.

***C) Environmental Indicators in OECD Regions: A preliminary Assessment of Available Data***

***GOV/TDPC/TI(2002)3***

19. The Secretariat (Ms. Cécile Hochet) reported on the results of the survey on the availability of selected environmental indicators at the territorial level 2. Eleven countries filled out the questionnaire and indicated the availability of a large number of the proposed indicators. The Secretariat also informed the Delegates of the proposal received from Eurostat to establish a joint EU-OECD questionnaire for the collection of regional environmental indicators.

20. The Delegates of Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Italy and Sweden informed that they are in the process of collecting relevant information and will shortly complete the questionnaire. The representative of the OECD Environmental Directorate (Ms Myriam Linster) indicated the interest of her Directorate in the collection of environmental indicators at the regional level.

21. The Delegates invited the Secretariat to establish contacts with Eurostat in order to assess the feasibility of a joint questionnaire and proceed to the collection of regional environmental indicators.

***D) Development of the OECD Territorial Database***

***GOV/TDPC/TI(2002)4***

22. The Secretariat (Mr Vincenzo Spiezia) presented an assessment of the statistical data required for the implementation of the Programme of Work 2003-2004 of the TDPC and the activities of the Working Party on Territorial Indicators. Delegates were invited to discuss whether the proposed statistics are appropriate to meet the objectives of each activity and define a timeframe for the collection of relevant data.

23. The Delegates invited the Secretariat to proceed to the collection of the statistical data indicated in the document and, in particular, expressed their encouragement to the proposed activity on geographic equity in health. Following the comments of the delegations of the Netherlands and Mexico about the limitations of the proposed indicators of social capital, the Chairman invited the Secretariat to review the statistical literature on this issue and propose alternative indicators. The Delegates of Australia, Canada

and Norway indicated that they would inform the Secretariat of the research activities on social capital currently undertaken in their countries.

#### **9. Roundtable on New Research and Data Collection undertaken in Member countries**

24. The Chairman invited each national delegation to undertake an analytical study on a specific territorial issue, to be agreed with the Secretariat, based on the OECD Territorial Database. These studies should be presented in a two-day workshop to be held in one of the Member countries in spring 2004. Canada would be pleased to host this workshop.

25. The Delegate from Switzerland (Mr. Martin Schuler) reported on the progress of his bilateral consultations about the proposed territorial typology based on accessibility and economic specialisation. He pointed out that some of the adjustments suggested by a certain number of delegates were not consistent to the approach underlying the typology and invited the WPTI to indicate whether they considered it opportune to continue this work.

26. Although the WPTI praised the work undertaken by Mr. Schuler, a certain number of delegates reiterate their doubts (Canada, the Netherlands) or disagreement (Australia, Italy, Portugal and the UK) over the proposed typology. Given the specific nature of these comments, the Chairman suggested that interested delegates should continue the discussion at the end of the Session. During this discussion, it became apparent that the objections raised by a certain number of Delegates could not be accommodated within the typology. Nonetheless, the Chairman suggested that the indicators on accessibility and economic specialisation elaborated by Mr. Schuler should be included in the Territorial Database as two separate sets of indicators.

ANNEX

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13 January 2003, OECD Headquarters, Paris

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