

Autumn 2014



Regional Outlook 2014: Regions and Cities: Where Policies and People Meet

Regions and cities are on the front lines of many challenges faced by OECD countries, from education and jobs to health care and quality of life. Getting regions and cities “right”, adapting policies to the specificities of where people live and work, is vital to improving citizens’ well-being. *Regional Outlook 2014* aims to help countries do just that. The publication was launched by the OECD Secretary-General during the Open Days at the European Parliament Hemicycle in October 2014. [Read more...](#)



How’s Life in Your Region? Measuring Regional and Local Well-being for Policy Making

How’s life? The answer depends on which region you live in. Expanding on the OECD Better Life Initiative, this report looks closely at well-being where evidence shows it matters for people’s daily lives. Both the web tool www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org launched in June and the final report launched in October garnered press coverage in international, national and local papers. [Read more...](#)



Territorial reform in France

The OECD Secretary-General presented the report [Structural reforms in France: Impact on growth and options for the future](#) to French President François Hollande at a meeting with the heads of international economic organisations on 17 October 2014. The report was a result of collaboration with the Economics Department and the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate and included, for the first time, a quantification of the potential economic impacts of territorial reforms, along with those for labour and product-market reforms. [Read more...](#)



Urban Green Growth in Dynamic Asia

This project explores ways to promote greening and competitiveness in fast-growing Asian cities. It also identifies strategies to improve environmental performance in cities and urban quality of life as well as to increase the institutional capacity to achieve green growth. A [Conceptual framework](#) was released in June 2014 and the OECD has organised several [Knowledge Sharing events](#) around this theme.



OECD Water Governance Initiative Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement

This multi-stakeholder workshop gathered participants from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors to discuss the key findings and recommendations of the draft report on stakeholder engagement. Attendees exchanged experiences and good practices on how to effectively engage stakeholders in water projects and policies drawing valuable lessons from sectors such as education, regulatory policy, innovative service delivery, and post-disaster recovery. [Read more...](#)



Innovation and Modernising the Rural Economy

This report is based on discussions at the OECD’s 8th Rural Development Policy Conference of the same name. It focuses on identifying the attributes of the modern rural economy, showing how it differs from the traditional rural and metropolitan economies. It also illustrates how rural innovation can be a key driver of rural economic growth. [Read more...](#)



Resilient Cities in Ageing Societies

This event held in Toyama (Japan) on 17 October 2014 provided a stimulating platform for policy dialogue among stakeholders from cities challenged by ageing along with the private sector, academia, national governments and international organisations. It will feed into the *Sustainable Urban Development Policies in Ageing Societies* report, which will propose policy recommendations based on ageing trends and key policy practices in cities and regions. [Read more...](#)

Additional Reports

- [OECD Rural Policy Reviews: Chile 2014](#) examines the main trends in rural regions, policies and governance arrangements. It highlights the need to establish a national rural policy framework in Chile, in order to better co-ordinate the wide range of national policies and programmes currently targeting rural areas. It also investigates the evolving role of "rural" in development, highlighting the need to design rural policies in a strategic way so that potential complementarities with urban policy can be realised as the country develops.
- [A Sub-national Perspective on Financing Investment for Growth I: Measuring Fiscal Space for Public Investment](#) analyses the different factors affecting sub-national governments' fiscal space for public investment. It proposes an indicator for measuring this fiscal space and analyses the evolution of its different components during 2007-12.
- [A Sub-national Perspective on Financing Investment for Growth II - Creating Fiscal Space for Public Investment](#) explores the institutional ability of sub-national governments (SNGs) to influence their fiscal space for public investment. In this context, it also analyses the main challenges to be faced by SNG finances in the decades to come, as well as recent reforms implemented by SNGs to tackle these specific issues.
- [What Makes Cities More Productive? Evidence on the Role of Urban Governance from Five OECD Countries](#) estimates agglomeration benefits based on city productivity differentials in Germany, Mexico, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It highlights the relationship between cities' governmental fragmentation and productivity, and presents the first empirical analysis of how metropolitan governance structures affect this relationship.
- [The OECD Metropolitan Governance Survey](#) gives an overview of governance arrangements in OECD metropolitan areas. Although metropolitan areas account for half of the population, and an even larger share of economic activity of OECD countries, almost no systematic information on governance structures in these areas exists. The study is based on a new data set put together by the OECD's Regional Development Policy Division.
- [Does Regional Economic Growth Depend on Proximity to Urban Centres?](#) analyses the spatial patterns of regional economic growth in Europe over the 1995 to 2010 period. It finds that regions which contain large urban agglomerations have been growing significantly faster than those that do not. The study also shows that measures of population density are positively correlated to growth.
- [Approaches to Metropolitan Area Governance](#) provides an overview of country specific approaches to metropolitan area governance. It provides brief descriptions of the typical structures of metropolitan governance, and identifies metropolitan areas that have unusual governance arrangements.

Upcoming events

- 4th Meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative, OECD Paris, France, 24-25 November 2014
- TDPC week (TDPC and Working Party meetings), OECD Paris, France, 24-27 November 2014
- Launch of Compact City Policies: Korea, OECD Paris, France, 28 November 2014
- Resilient Cities Project Kick-off, OECD Paris, France, 28 November 2014
- Water & Cities conference, OECD, Paris 13 February 2015
- Workshop on Metropolitan Governance, (February/March 2015, date and venue to be confirmed)
- TDPC week (TDPC and Working Party meetings), OECD Paris, France, 27-30 April 2015
- 10th Rural Development Conference: National Prosperity through Modern Rural Policy, United States, 19-21 May 2015
- 5th Meeting of the Water Governance Initiative, Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom, 26 May 2015
- OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy, Guadalajara, Mexico, 13-15 October 2015
- 6th OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers, Mexico City, Mexico, 15-16 October 2015
- Meetings of the TDPC, WPTI, WPRUR and OECD Water Governance Initiative, OECD Paris, France, 2-6 November 2015

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