DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

WORKSHOP ON THE USE OF INDICATORS FOR EFFECTIVE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES: LESSONS FROM OECD COUNTRY CASES

28 November 2006, 15:00 – 18:00
Room C, OECD Headquarters, Paris

The Workshop is open to delegates of the Territorial Development Policy Committee, to its Working Party on Territorial Indicators and to the delegates of the OECD Network on Fiscal Relations across Levels of Government. It will allow for multidisciplinary policy dialogue and support debate among practitioners from different ministries, all interested in improving effectiveness of governance for decentralised policies by inciting sub national authorities to enhance their performance. Delegates will have the opportunity to exchange views and practices on the mechanisms applied for regional development policies, as an instance of policies shared among levels of government.

The Draft Annotated Agenda and Issues for discussion of the Workshop is submitted to TDPC at its 15th Session for INFORMATION and DISCUSSION.

For further enquiries about the Agenda of the Workshop please contact Claire Charbit, Administrator, Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division, OECD: E-mail: Claire.Charbit@oecd.org

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I. Introductory Session

1. Promoting regional development generally requires mechanisms for measuring and monitoring progress, often through the use of indicators attached to sub national units performance. Yet countries are at different stages with respect to their use of indicators for regional development policy. Some countries/regions have well-developed systems, while others are in the process of discussing or adopting them. The goal of the workshop is to describe the landscape of systems currently in place (or in development) in various OECD countries, their added value or inefficiencies for regional development policies, and to provide useful insight regarding the development and use of different approaches for countries, which have not yet built or implemented performance indicators system.

2. Mr. Junghun Kim, Chair, will open the session of the Workshop. Mr Kim is Director of the Office of Public Finance Research in the Korea Institute of Public Finance. Mr Kim is the Chair of the Statistical Group of the OECD Network on Fiscal Relations across Levels of Government.

3. A working document about this topic is available [GOV/TDPC/RD(2006)10]. It provides background information on the use of indicators of performance in multi-level governance for regional development and underlines the different policies adopted in EC, Italy and France. One of the authors of this document, Mr. Massimo Florio, will also contribute to animating the debate (M.Florio is Head of the Department of Economics, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Milan and Jean Monnet Chair of Economics of European Integration).

4. The country cases will be presented according to two main sessions:

II. The use of indicators in performance-based regional development policies:
The impact of European Commission evaluation mechanisms

5. European Commission (EC) performance-based policy has greatly influenced the governance of regional development policy in European countries but to different degrees. In particular it has led to bonus and sanctions mechanisms which have been extended (in Italy) or, on the contrary, limited (in France). This session will be based on three contributions, in order to help the audience to better understand the EC mechanisms based on performance, the impact of this policy and recent discussion for reforming it. The cases of Italy and France will thus be discussed to look at the learning process attached to the use of performance-based policies. Italy adopted a path of extending the initial request of the EC by using performance-based mechanisms for improving its institutional competences. France is in the process of improving evaluation of multi-level contracts for regional policy, but remains attached to the use of indicators for evaluation rather than for incentives based on bonus and sanctions.
Speakers will be:

- European Union - Madeleine Mahovsky, Acting Head, Unit of Evaluation and Additionality, Directorate General for Regional Policy European Commission
- Italy - Laura Raimondo, Head, Unit of Evaluation of Public Investments, Ministry of Economic Development
- France - Thomas Peguy, DIACT, Interministerial Office on Territorial Planning and Competitiveness

The presentations will be followed by a general discussion.

III. Assessment of performance-based policy: the specificities of regional development field

6. Some countries are more traditionally oriented towards evaluation attached to the use of public funds (this is the case of the UK and the US for example). Experts will provide information about the state of practices with respect to using indicators for managing decentralised projects and present their perception of advantages and drawbacks of such systems. In this context, the specificities of regional development performance measurement will be underlined. For concluding this session the case of Sweden, which is currently developing a new indicator for regional development, will be discussed.

Speakers will be:

- United Kingdom – David Silk, Senior Policy Analyst, Regional Economic Policy, Devolved Counties and Regions Team, HM Treasury
- United States- William Kittredge, Director, Programs’ Performance Evaluation, Economic Development Administration - Department of Commerce
- Sweden – Sverker Lindblad, Expert in Regional Analysis, NUTEK, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, Ministry of Industry

The presentations will be followed by a general discussion.

7. During the course of the afternoon, the following questions will be addressed in order to present and assess the incentive role of indicators for improving the performance of sub national units:

- What are the primary goals for indicator systems?
- How are indicators used to promote accountability and learning?
- What is the role of rewards and sanctions?
- Who are the major stakeholders and how are they involved in the process of selecting, collecting, and using indicators?
- What costs are associated with developing and implementing different indicator systems?

Coffee break (approximately 4:30 p.m.)