

**Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE)
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Agenda: First Pilot Meeting on Multi-level Governance and Public Investment for
Regional Development**

Tuesday 17 November, 2020
12:30-15:00 CET
Virtual Meeting via remote participation – Zoom meeting tool

First Pilot meeting on Multi-level Governance and Public Investment for Regional Development

First pilot meeting

The first pilot meeting of the expert group on Multi-level Governance and Public Investment for Regional Development, under the auspices of the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC), will be organised (virtually) on 17 November 2020 from 12:30 to 15:00 (CET).

The purpose of the meeting is twofold. First, to discuss how multi-level governance instruments or reforms can support recovery across levels of government and help generate more resilient territorial development in the context of the COVID-19 crisis; and second, to discuss the objectives of this expert group and how it can best advance the design and implementation of RDPC work on multi-level governance.

Given the current context, the meeting will be virtual and its duration shortened to 2h30, instead of the full day initially planned. This will facilitate participation in diverse time zones.

Background

At its 41st meeting in November 2019, the RDPC discussed a proposal from the Chair to establish an expert group focusing on multi-level governance and public investment for regional development. The intention being to support activities in the RDPC's Programme of Work on "Effective multi-level governance and finance for more resilient regional development and trust".

Following the meeting, the Secretariat prepared a background note on the context and the opportunities of the proposal and posted it on the RDPC ONE Community Space for further discussion. Written comments received so far indicate broad support for the proposal (see RDPC Community discussion), with some countries requesting additional information.

At its 42nd meeting in April 2020, the RDPC discussed the renewal its mandate, and it was decided to launch an experimental phase and set up a pilot expert group with a view to organise a first pilot meeting in November 2020. Member Countries agreed that any decision regarding the future of the pilot expert group would take place after this experimental phase, which will take as long as needed for the Members over the next biennium.

During this experimental phase, the possibility of developing a draft mandate, which would highlight the priorities of the expert group, will be explored. Special attention would be placed on its value-added to Member countries, on how to steer the work on multi-level governance analytics, and how it would support the RDPC and the complementarities with the three Working Parties.

Constituency

Participation in the pilot meeting is open to RDPC delegates as well as to RDPC Working Party delegates. RDPC delegates may also nominate another representative from their country, in addition to or in place of their participation. Country participation is not limited to one representative, several representatives can participate for the same country (as with the Committee and the Working Parties). Partner countries involved in RDPC work are also invited to participate.

Other partners to the RDPC such as representatives of associations of subnational government are also invited to participate. The future participation in the next meetings during the pilot phase of a broader range of participants, including representatives of development banks, financial institutions, other international organisations, and experts will also be discussed, as it was recognised by the RDPC as an added-value of a dedicated expert group.

This first meeting will be organised using the virtual meeting tool Zoom. Delegates will receive an email with all the information linked to the registration.

Agenda

12:30-12:50

Item 1. Opening session

- Welcome and opening remarks: Chair of the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC)
 - Introductory remarks: Director, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities
 - Agenda overview and meeting objectives
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12:50-14:00

Item 2. Advancing Multi-level Governance and Public Investment for a Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery

Managing the COVID-19 Crisis and Recovery across Levels of Government

- Introduction by the Secretariat: Highlights from the new version of the report: *The Territorial Impact of COVID-19: Managing the Crisis and Recovery across Levels of Government*; the OECD-Committee of Regions survey results on the impact of the crisis; draft chapter on Sustainable Infrastructure in Regions and Municipalities for Post-COVID-19 Recovery (for the OECD Horizontal Infrastructure project).
- Experience sharing among participants
- Participant poll on several questions

Shedding light on multi-level governance reforms in the context of the crisis and recovery

- Highlights from countries that conducted a Multi-level Governance Study or other engaged in other multi-level governance work in 2020 (Bulgaria, Wales/UK, Morocco)
 - Experience sharing among participants
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14:00-14:50

Item 3. Priorities and Next Steps

The purpose of this session is to discuss the objectives of creating a community of experts on multi-level governance and public investment of regional development and how it can best advance the design and implementation of RDPC work on multi-level governance. The priorities of the expert group will be discussed, as well as specific proposed deliverables for 2021/22 and next steps. Delegate feedback and suggestions throughout the discussion are highly welcome.

Introduction by the Secretariat:

- Recent achievements, upcoming reports
- Priorities linked to the Multi-level Governance pillar of the Programme of Work and Budget 2021-2022 (PWB); Suggestions for specific deliverables to support the PWB
- Proposed deliverables to support the PWB:
 - Exploring possible outputs

- Framework on Multi-level Governance for Regional Development
- Extension of existing databases, new data and indicators needed to support the work on multi-level governance analytics
- Building synergies with RDPC Working Parties and other OECD Committees and Networks

Open Discussion

- Participants feedback and suggestions

14:50-15:00

Item 4. Closing session

- Main action points to be drawn from the first pilot meeting
- Proposed next steps for the year 2021
- Upcoming events related to multi-level governance and public investment

15:00 End

Annotated Agenda

Item 1. Opening

1. The Chair of the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC) and the Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) will make introductory remarks.
2. The Secretariat will present the pilot meeting's agenda and objectives.

Item 2. Advancing Multi-level Governance and Public Investment for a Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery

3. The Secretariat will briefly present recent work on how the COVID-19 crisis and recovery are being managed at different levels of government. The presentation will centre on three main deliverables:
 - The new edition of the OECD note: “The Territorial Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis: Managing the Crisis and Recovery across Levels of Government”. The [previous version](#) was posted on the OECD Coronavirus Platform and figures among the most downloaded notes of the OECD COVID platform. This new edition will be publicly released on the OECD platform by end-November, once inputs from the discussion and comments from RDPC delegates have been integrated.
 - The main findings of the CoR-OECD survey: “The Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on Regional and Local Governments: Governance, Finance and Recovery Plans”. This on-line survey was completed in June 2020 by representatives of regional and municipal governments in the European Union. It was translated by the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) in 24 languages and responses were gathered from 301 subnational governments representing 24 countries.
 - The draft chapter on “Sustainable Infrastructure in Regions and Municipalities for Post-COVID-19 Recovery: Bridging Regional Disparities, Financing and Governance Gaps.” This draft chapter also contributes to the OECD horizontal project – Sustainable Infrastructure in the post COVID-19 World – that will be presented at the 2021 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting and the G20.

Experience sharing among Delegates (25 min)

4. An open discussion among delegates to explore how multi-level governance instruments and reforms can help regional and local governments manage and recover from the COVID-19 crisis.

Questions for discussion

- How is your country coordinating responses to the COVID-19 crisis with regional and local governments? Which multi-level governance mechanisms are mobilised to co-ordinate crisis management and recovery efforts among national, regional and local governments in your country? How can disjointed responses be avoided?
- Many countries have adopted or plan to adopt national recovery strategies, with a focus on public investment. How can public investment strategies support regional and local recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, and how can these be used to attract private investment? What policy recommendations should the RDPC issue for the OECD horizontal infrastructure project and the G20?
- How should the [OECD Recommendation on Effective Public Investment across Levels of Government](#) be mobilised to support this?

Shedding light on multi-level governance reforms in the context of the crisis and recovery

5. Countries that conducted OECD Multi-level Governance Reviews in 2020 will intervene to highlight how some recommendations can help them strengthen regional governance in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis:

- **Wales (UK)** is confronted with successfully managing regional development and public investment challenges linked to Brexit, and now COVID-19. To do so, it is focusing on a place-based, regionalised approach to generate additional growth and well-being in its territory. This involves adjustments at all levels of government, in strategic processes, implementation mechanisms, and governance practices. Recommendations for accomplishing these reforms are the focus of the review.
- Since the early 1990s, **Bulgaria's** efforts for place-based regional development have fallen short of yielding the desired outcomes. Territorial disparities have increased, including with respect to service provision and public investment, hindering the potential for balanced growth. This Multi-level Governance Review focuses on how a reform of the municipal and regional governance could support the shift towards more effective place-based regional development policies, crucial in ensuring a more resilient recovery from COVID19.
- The **Morocco-OECD** Dialogue on the Use of State-Region Contracts supports the capacities of Moroccan regions to implement the reform on advanced regionalisation. It also promotes a coordinated response to the COVID-19 crisis. In particular, its *Checklist of Priorities for a State-Region Contract for an Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Territorial Development*, draws from best practices observed in Morocco and other OECD member and partner countries, and provides useful insights on deal-making to support territorial development in the new global environment.

Experience sharing among Delegates (25 min)

6. An open discussion among participants to explore how multi-level governance instruments and reforms can help regional and local governments manage and recover from the COVID-19 crisis.

Question for discussion

- How does the COVID-19 crisis and recovery contribute to or accelerate **multi-level governance reforms**, such as decentralisation or recentralisation, regionalisation, inter-municipal co-operation?

Item 3. Priorities, Proposed Deliverables and Next Steps

7. The purpose of this session is to discuss the objectives of creating a community of experts on multi-level governance and public investment of regional development and how it can best advance the design and implementation of RDPC work on multi-level governance. The priorities of the expert group will be discussed, as well as specific proposed deliverables for 2021/22 and next steps. Participants' feedback and suggestions throughout the discussion are highly welcome.

8. Recent achievements, as well as on-going and future priorities, linked to the Multi-level Governance pillar of RDPC work will be highlighted. The Secretariat will propose specific deliverables and explore possible outputs, including a discussion of the relevance and means of developing a framework on Effective Multi-level Governance Systems for Resilient Regional Development. The Secretariat will also highlight how existing databases on subnational governance and finance may be extended and which additional data and indicators could support the work on multi-level governance analytics. The Secretariat will highlight potential synergies and complementarities with the three Working Parties, as well as with

other OECD bodies, such as the Network on Fiscal Relations across Levels of Government, Local Economic and Employment Development Network (LEED), the Public Governance Committee (PGC), the Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC), etc., as multi-level governance and public investment are topics that run across the OECD.

9. An open discussion with delegates will follow to discuss the following questions:

Questions for discussion

- What role can the expert group play in driving the multi-level governance agenda for regional development at the OECD?
- What are the objectives and priorities of the expert working group's activities?
- What could be the main outputs to support the implementation of the 2021-22 PWB Multi-level Governance pillar?

Item 4. Closing session

10. The Secretariat and RDPC Chair will provide concluding remarks, a summary of the main action points to be drawn from the first pilot meeting and propose next steps in 2021.

11. It is proposed to organise other pilot meetings during 2021, most likely in a virtual format.