



Kick-off Workshop: Understanding Present and Future Public Service Delivery Costs
28th June, 2019 Brussels, Belgium

Delivering health, education and other services of general interest to inhabitants of rural and urban areas is a mandate for governments around the world. Many OECD countries have an explicit constitutional commitment to maintain equitable living standards across their territories, thus making this issue a priority. However, meeting this mandate is becoming more challenging in many countries in recent years because of tight fiscal budgets in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, demographic pressures of ageing societies, and increased public spending on social services and health care. Here, geography also matters. It is generally held that the cost of public service provision increases with the degree of remoteness and sparsity due to transportation costs, loss of economies of scope and economies of scale, and greater difficulty in attracting and retaining professionals (e.g., health care professionals).

The link between cost of service provision and density levels suggests the need for a differentiated policy strategy with a clear spatial approach. However, existing data on the cost of delivering services by geographic location is extremely limited and there is no country comparative data on this topic. The project *understanding present and future public service delivery costs* aims to provide a better understanding of present and future service provision in Europe by estimating costs of provision by clusters of grid cells that can be aggregated at different geographic scales, in order to help assess the benefits and viability of integrated and flexible service provision models. The initiation workshop will present the broad objectives of the project, discuss with experts and policy makers relevant lessons for the project and learn from various approaches to service provision across OECD countries.

Agenda:

9:45 – 10:00	Coffee and welcome
10:00 – 10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lewis Dijkstra (DG-REGIO, European Commission); Jose Enrique Garcilazo (OECD): Presentation of project
10:15 – 11:30 <i>Expert perspectives on access to health care</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Markku Tykkyläinen (University of Eastern Finland): Geospatial costs of delivering health in Finland (video) William Palmer (Nuffield Trust): The costs of delivering health care access in rural areas in the United Kingdom Q&A on measurement of spatial dimensions of access to health care
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee break and networking
11:45 – 12:30 <i>Expert perspectives on access to education</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anna-Maria Fjellman (University of Gothenburg): School choice and implications for equity - Analyses of educational restructuring in upper secondary education in Sweden Q&A on measurement of spatial dimensions of access to education
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch (at <i>Cafe - Laiterie Les Pêcheries</i>)
14:00 – 15:30 <i>Policy perspectives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sabrina Lucatelli (Inner Areas National Strategy, Italy): Basic services inequalities in Italian remote areas: the action of Italian inner areas strategy AD&C and CCDR Alentejo (Portugal): Provision of public services and territorial cohesion Q&A on policy responses to spatial dimensions of access to health care and education
15:30 – 15:45	Wrap up and final reflections (Alain Dupeyras, OECD)
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break and networking
16:00 – 17:00	Core group meeting (closed to JRC-EC-OECD)