



Policy Exchange on Present and Future Public Service Delivery in Rural Areas
4th February, 2020, Évora, Portugal

The link between cost of service provision and density levels suggests the need for a differentiated policy strategy for delivering public services with a clear spatial approach. The OECD project *Understanding Present and Future Public Service Delivery Costs* aims to help policy makers better understand how to address present and future public services in OECD countries. The project consists of a *quantitative pillar* and a *policy pillar*. The *quantitative pillar* estimates costs of service provision of public services (including education and health) at different geographic scales. The *policy pillar* focuses on policy responses at national, regional and local level that can improve the provision of services taking into account the cost drivers and technological advancements.

This policy exchange will provide countries, regions and municipalities with a space to discuss and exchange relevant lessons on public service provision in rural areas and learn from various approaches to service provision across OECD countries. The event will gather representatives from national ministries, regions and municipalities, the European Union, and international experts in the subject. The discussion will focus on topics related to health and education services, including cross-border arrangements.

The event aims at sharing experiences around the following **policy questions**:

- How is the governance and funding of public service provision organised across different levels of government? (How) does this differ across OECD regions?
- How is rural public service provision regulated in your countries or regions (e.g. what are requirements with regard to coverage, travel distances and utilisation of capacity)?
- What persistent and emerging challenges are you facing in providing high-quality services in rural and remote areas?
- What measures are regulated or common practice to handle the implications of dwindling population numbers and financial pressures? What has worked and what can be improved?
- What new or innovative solutions are you implementing or considering? What benefits and hurdles do you see with regard to digital delivery approaches?
- What insights about other regions' or countries' experiences would be useful to inform your own decisions?

Draft agenda

8:30 – 08:45	Welcome
08:45 – 09:00 <i>Opening and setting the scene</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roberto Pereira Grilo, CCDRA • Ana Moreno Monroy, OECD: Introduction to the project and expectations for the event
09:00 – 10:15 <i>The governance of cross-border service provision</i>	<p>Moderator: Claire Charbit, OECD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ricardo Ferreira, DG-REGIO • Mert Kompil, EC-JRC Ispra • Francesc Bonet, Cerdanya Hospital (remote) • Catarina Branco, Câmara Municipal de Elvas • Jose Manuel Carrasco, Junta de Extremadura • Joaquim Fialho, CCDRA • Discussion

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap up from exchanges (Moderator)
10:15 –11:30 <i>Innovative service delivery in rural areas</i>	Moderator: Ana Moreno Monroy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mats Stjenberg, Nordregio • Sara Bianchi, SSPA • Veronika Korcekova, ENRD • Discussion • Wrap up from exchanges (Moderator)
11:30 – 11:45	Health break - networking
11:45 – 13:00 <i>Ensuring quality education provision in rural areas</i>	Moderator: Arno Engel, OECD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sabrina Lucatelli, OECD WPRUR Vice-chair • Pedro Abrantes, Ministry of Education, Portugal • Gunnar Stenberg, Swedish National Agency for Education • Giuseppina Cannella, INDIRE (remote) • Discussion • Wrap up from exchanges (Moderator and OECD WPRUR Vice-chair)
13:00-14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 15:30 <i>Ensuring quality health provision in rural areas</i>	Moderator: Ana Moreno Monroy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pasquale Falasca, Public Health Agency Abruzzo • Sandra Santos e Silva, ARSA • Catarina Branco, Câmara Municipal de Elvas • Discussion • Wrap up from exchanges (Moderator)
15:30 –16:00	Wrap up and final reflections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana Moreno Monroy • Duarte Rodrigues, AD&C

Notes:

CCDRA: Regional Coordination and Development Commission of Alentejo

DG-REGIO: Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

EC-JRC: European Commission Joint Research Centre

ULSNA: Health Local Unit of North Alentejo

SSPA: Southern Sparsely Populated Areas

ENRD: European Network for Rural Development

WPRUR: OECD Working Party on Rural Policy

INDIRE: National Institute for Documentation, Innovation and Educational Research

ARSA: Health Regional Administration of Alentejo

AD&C: Development and Cohesion Agency, I.P.

Venue, transfer and contact information

The event will take place at Hotel M'ar de Ar Muralhas, Travessa da Palmeira, 4 – 7000 – 546 Évora, kindly hosted by CCDR Alentejo. There will be Portuguese-English-Portuguese translation services available on site. For any urgent communication in Portugal, you can contact +33754161275 or +33788346660.