

Place-based policies for the future: **Workshop #1**

How have place-based policies evolved to date and what are they now?

14 April 2023 | Paris



Place-based policies for the future

Workshop 1

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■ Background

Theories of regional economic development have made huge strides in recent decades. Those that once simply predicted convergence or divergence have given way to more sophisticated concepts of the role of place in shaping a broad range of trajectories and social outcomes – encompassing issues of sustainability, human capital, innovation, agglomeration, connectivity, institutions, trust, and broader notions of capital.

This new theoretical landscape acknowledges that regions differ not only in their economic performance, but also calls for place-based policies that help all types of regions use their full endogenous growth potential to drive productivity, create more and better-quality jobs, and ultimately improve people's well-being. In particular, place-based policies were traditionally reactive – targeted at economically lagging regions. Increasingly, such policies are becoming proactive to aid regions that are striving for drastic positive economic transformations, and not necessarily preceded by the economic decline that had often necessitated regional industrial change in the past. Moreover, such policies are increasingly discussed in connection with climate policy and strategies for local industrial transformation in order to meet decarbonisation goals and to develop a basis for sustainable economic growth. Despite these important developments, place-based policies are still in the making, and the concept of a “place-based approach” and its motivation deserve reflection.

■ Key topics

The first seminar of the series will address key framing questions, such as:

- How has the concept of place-based policy evolved over time and what has shaped its objectives and success? How has the global context – including recent shocks and global transitions – affected our understanding of the role of place? How far has the proactive approach to place-based policies developed, and what are the corresponding challenges?
- What should place-based policy objectives be (looking both at policies on the expenditure and the revenue side)? What is their role in reducing regional disparities, fostering development in all places or in the least fortunate ones, and/or maximising growth and wellbeing at the national/EU level?
- How should we decide which policies are needed and for which places, given the multidimensionality of place-based vulnerabilities and strengths?

■ Venue

Room D, OECD Headquarters, Paris

The OECD Headquarters are situated at 2 rue André Pascal, 752016 Paris. The following link provides various transport options: <https://www.oecd.org/site/conferencecentre/gettingtotheoecd.htm>

Security arrangements are tight around the OECD complex. Participants will need to be registered for the meeting to obtain access to the conference centre (security badge). There is an initial security check outside the Conference Centre where participants must show a QR pass (sent out by email to registered participants and can be in either printed form or on a smart phone). There is a second formal security entrance inside the Centre where you will be given a badge. **Participants will also need to show some form of ID.**

Agenda

[Central European Time]

14 April 2023

9.00-9.30

Welcome

9.30-9.50

Opening remarks

Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

Peter Berkowitz, Director for Policy, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

9.50-11.00

Theoretical underpinnings

MODERATOR

Rudiger Ahrend, Head of Economic Analysis, Data and Statistics Division, OECD

9.50-10.20

SCENE SETTER

Jens Suedekum – Professor of International Economics, Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf (Germany)

10.20-11.00

REACTIONS AND FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Jiří Blazek – Professor, Charles University (Czech Republic)

Rachel Franklin – Professor of Geographical Analysis, Newcastle University (United Kingdom)

Markku Sotarauta – Professor, Tampere University (Finland)

Frank van Oort – Professor, Erasmus University (Netherlands)

11.00-11.30

Coffee break

11.30-12.50

Open discussion

13.00-14.30

Lunch break, Restaurant des Nations (OECD headquarters)

14.30-15.40

Policy and implementation considerations

MODERATOR

Dorothee Allain-Dupré, Head of Regional Development and Multi-Level Governance Division, OECD

14.30-15.00

SCENE SETTER

Philip McCann – Chair of Urban & Regional Economics, Alliance Manchester Business School (United Kingdom)

15.00-15.40

REACTIONS AND FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Fabrizio Barca – Co-coordinator of the Forum on Inequality and Diversity, former Minister for Territorial Cohesion (Italy) and former Chair of the OECD Territorial Policy Development Committee

Zsoka Koczan – Lead Economist, Office of the Chief Economist, EBRD

Duarte Rodrigues – Vice President, Portuguese Cohesion and Development Agency (Portugal)

Sabine Weck – Deputy Director, ILS Research Institute for Urban and Regional Development (Germany)

15.40-16.10

Coffee break

16.10-17.30

Open discussion

17.30-17.45

Summary and closing remarks

Peter Berkowitz, Director for Policy, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Rudiger Ahrend, Head of Economic Analysis, Data and Statistics Division, OECD

■ About the high-level expert workshops

This workshop is the first of six workshops in the EC-OECD series called “Place-based Policies for the Future”.

The subsequent five workshops will consider place-based policies from the following angles: synergies with sectoral investment and fiscal equalisation policies; addressing current and future societal problems; policy design, measurement and evaluation; governance and coordination; place-based policies for the future.

The outcomes of the workshops will underpin an OECD summary report and form the basis for a broader discussion with stakeholders on the future direction of place-based policies. As such, the work will be relevant for policy-makers at all levels of government interested in improving the design and implementation of regional policies that contribute to equitable and sustainable economic futures.

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies.

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