

Place-based policies for the future: **Workshop #3**

Avoiding a tragedy of the commons: Public goods provision through place-based policies

9 June 2023 | Paris



Place-based policies for the future

Workshop 3

Avoiding a tragedy of the commons: Public goods provision through place-based policies

■ Background

Without proper interventions, public goods are generally under-supplied in the market due to their non-rivalrous and non-exclusionary nature. Place-based policies can facilitate the effective provision of some public goods, especially when the benefits and trade-offs straddle regional boundaries. A classic example of such a public good is the environment. Shutting down coal mines or otherwise limiting activity in carbon intensive industries protects the climate, a public good that everyone enjoys regardless of location. However, these policy decisions may adversely impact the industrial base and employment opportunities where these activities are located, while deteriorating local public finances that are crucial to deliver essential public goods and services. Other public goods provided through inter-regional networks, such as transport, energy, and utilities, also benefit from place-based policies that facilitate collective action.

Changes in demography and pressures on national and local public finances have also created new challenges for policymakers in ensuring high quality, accessible and efficient provision of public goods across all regions. This has led to unequal provision of necessities such as education, public transport, and health care, among others, which tends to be under-provided in lagging areas. At the same time, some infrastructure, such as roads and utilities, may be overprovided where local populations are shrinking, and by contrast, infrastructure investment may be insufficient in other areas. Place-based policies can help to improve the targeting of resources to local needs and create liveable built environments in all regions, but especially in declining regions where efficiency gains are needed most.

A proper discussion of utilising place-based policies to provide public goods requires determining which public goods are most relevant in the current and future context, characterised by megatrends such as climate change and demographic decline. Consideration also must be given to how and through what criteria areas should be targeted, and the potential trade-offs and synergies that arise with neighbouring areas, as well as the appropriate level for policy action. Finally, it is important to determine how national and supranational level policies can arbitrate collective action problems that arise at the local level.

■ Key topics

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

- Given the pressing issues of society such as climate change, demographic change, productivity growth and growing inequality and social exclusion, which public goods should place-based policies seek to prioritise?
- How should national and supra-national place-based policies address the collective action problem when providing for public goods that have potentially unequitable ramifications across localities? In particular, how can place-based policies help to ensure that the environmental and climate transition will be spatially just?
- Which place-based policies for public good provision and commons preservation create self-sustaining long-run gains and limit the risk of local discontent?

■ **Venue:** Salle BB3, **OECD Boulogne-Billancourt Building**, Paris

The OECD Headquarters are situated at **46 Quai Alphonse le Gallo, 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt**. 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]

9 June 2023

9.00-9.30

Welcome

9.30-9.50

Opening remarks

Nadim Ahmad – Deputy 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

Environmental

MODERATOR

Andrés Fuentes Hutfilter – Head of Environmental and Land Use Economics Unit, OECD

9.50-10.20

SCENE SETTER

Felix Creutzig – Head of Working group for Land Use, Infrastructure and Transport and Chair of Sustainability, Technical University of Berlin (Germany) and lead author of the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report for analysis of the Global Energy Assessment

10.20-11.00

REACTIONS AND FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Adina Vintan – Just Transition Platform (Romania)

Roman Hoffmann – Lead Researcher, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (Austria)

Erika Jaráiz – Professor, University of Santiago de Compostela, Department for Political Science and Sociology

Olivier Richard – Urban planner and designer, Atelier parisien d'urbanisme (APUR)

11.00-11.30

Coffee break

11.30-12.50

Open discussion on environment and sustainability

13.00-14.30

Organised lunch with all attendees

14.30-15.40

Demographic challenges

MODERATOR

Jose Enrique Garcilazo – Head of Regional and Rural Policy Unit, OECD

14.30-15.00

SCENE SETTER

Josefina Syssner – Professor in Human Geography at the Center for Local Government Studies at Linköping University (Sweden)

15.00-15.40

REACTIONS AND FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Frank Cörvers – Professor in Demographic Transitions, Human Capital and Employment, Maastricht University (Netherlands)

Kristi Grišakov – Head of Policy Analysis, Spatial Planning Department of the Estonian Ministry of Finance

Stephan Whitaker – Policy Analyst, Regional Analysis and Research Department, Federal Reserve of Cleveland (US)

Manuel Wolff – Research Associate, Humboldt University (Germany)

15.40-16.10

Coffee break

16.10-17.30

Open discussion on demographic change

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 third of six workshops in the EC-OECD series called “Place-based Policies for the Future”.

The series of six 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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CONTACTS

Alison Weingarden | Alison.Weingarden@oecd.org
Andrés Fuentes Hufilter | Andres.Fuentes@oecd.org

