OECD Public Governance Reviews were launched in 2007 to provide governments with a 360 degree perspective on their performance and where it may need to be improved, in order to strengthen countries’ potential for sustainable growth and to improve the well-being of citizens. In the aftermath of the 2008 crisis, the importance of this approach has sharpened as governments grapple with complex and interlocking public policies in an often tight fiscal environment.

- Is there a strategy that meets current and future challenges?
- Can the public administration deliver on this strategy?
- Is there effective steering and communication on reform?
- How open and transparent is public governance?
- Are ministries, agencies and sub-national entities well structured and well co-ordinated?
- Are resources efficiently allocated?
- Are public services meeting the needs of citizens and businesses?

The Reviews offer a diagnosis of the issues, capacity building and implementation support, in-depth analysis, and actionable recommendations to give the reform agenda a concrete shape. Reviews can also address specific aspects of governance (such as HRM) in greater depth, according to need, and specific sectors or policies and their governance framework (for example, social welfare policy).

Typically, Reviews are divided into two phases: in phase one the OECD conducts a peer-reviewed assessment that generates a set of recommendations. In a second phase, the OECD can support countries in implementing the advice from phase one that the countries chooses to accept.

“The OECD Public Governance Review report highlights the significance of values in public governance and leadership, and in particular, in the attainment of positive changes. Finland now needs the application of the traditional Finnish values – the virtue of work, trust and confidence to the future – and further adaptation of new public sector values.”  Auditor-General of Finland
EXAMPLES OF WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

1. In-depth analysis: Finland, Estonia, Poland, Peru, Costa Rica and Paraguay have been reviewed in depth by the OECD across a wide range of public governance issues, culminating in recommendations for action.

2. Strategic diagnostic: The OECD has provided strategic advice on Hungary and Spain’s national reform programmes for the public administration, identifying gaps and challenges that need to be addressed if reforms are to be successful.

3. Capacity building: The OECD has organised workshops and seminars on one-stop shops, administrative simplification, tools and processes to strengthen integrity, performance measurement and HRM, among other issues, prior to running full scale reviews. Beneficiary countries have included Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Colombia and Peru.

4. Follow-up and implementation assistance: Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru are receiving support, through workshops and other activities, for the implementation of reforms based on the OECD’s recommendations. In 2016, Spain also requested a progress report on the implementation of the OECD’s recommendation.

5. Emerging governance challenges: Some workshops address emerging and widely shared governance challenges. Workshops were organised for Hungary and Poland to explore the relationship between senior civil servants and ministers.

PUBLIC GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

Published Reviews:

- Better Governance, Planning and Services in Local Governments in Poland (2021)
- Monitoring and Evaluating the Strategic Plan of Nuevo León 2015–2030 (2021)
- Towards a More Effective, Strategic and Accountable State in Kazakhstan (2017)
- Decentralisation and Multi-level Governance in Kazakhstan (2017)
- Peru: Inegrated Governance for Inclusive Growth (2016)
- Spain: Linking Reform to Results for the Country and its Regions (2016)
- Northern Ireland: Implementing Joined-up Governance for a Common Purpose (2016)
- Hungary: Reforming the State Territorial Administration (2015)
- Costa Rica: Good Governance, from Process to Results (2015)

Forthcoming Reviews:

- Public Governance Review of Haiti (2021)

Ongoing implementation programmes:

- Fostering Institutional Efficiency and Public-Governance Effectiveness in Colombia
- Programme for Implementation Support for the Public Governance Review of Peru

http://oe.cd/PGR