





Support to Enhanced Administrative and Public Economic Governance in Egypt

Training: "Strengthening whole-of-government strategic planning and decision-making for Egypt Vision 2030"

7-8 June 2023, Cairo *Summary Note*



The EU-funded project "Support to Enhanced Administrative and Public Economic Governance in Egypt" is implemented by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for a period of five years (2022-2026). It aims to support the efforts by the Government of Egypt to strengthen the monitoring and implementation of priority public governance reforms. More specifically, the EU funded project addresses three priority areas through two components, namely support to the Egypt Vision 2030 and the National Administrative Reform Plan, as well as support to the effective and efficient execution of public finance systems. These objectives respond to the EU-Egypt Partnership Priorities 2021-2027 and will be implemented through the strategic collaboration between the Government of Egypt, the EU, and the OECD.

Objective of the training

The **training**: "Strengthening whole-of-government strategic planning and decision-making for Egypt Vision 2030" was organised by the OECD on **7 – 8 June 2023** and aimed to strengthen capacities of **21 public officials** in **MPED** to **steer strategic planning reforms for Egypt Vision 2030** in line with the new planning law (18/2022) and state Budgeting law (6/2022). The first day of the training presented various existing models, tools and methodologies on key areas of the strategic planning process in OECD countries, with a focus on the institutional arrangements, processes, and instruments for strategic alignment and coordination. These concepts and models were expanded on through practical case studies from Portugal, Canada, the UK and other OECD countries. The second day promoted interactive discussions between the SDU and other units in MPED on strategic planning methods and tools for Egypt Vision 2030, opportunities for up-scaling existing efforts as well as the way forward.

Summary

Discussions during the workshop underlined the following key takeaways that will be further deepened and reflected during the course of the project, in particular through the OECD Public Governance Review of Egypt , follow-up capacity building workshops and the subsequent on-site coaching phase.



Strategic Planning Frameworks and Models in OECD countries

This session provided an overview of the different strategic planning models in the OECD countries to facilitate a whole-of-government coordination. It provided an overview of models used to coordinate the process of strategic objective setting and prioritisation with line-ministries, by looking at the model of strategic units in Finland and Estonia, as well as the model of the Competency Centre on strategic planning in Portugal (PlanAPP). Participants also reflected on how this process is aligned with broader national planning frameworks, how it is aligned with budgets, and its broader implementation. The workscope of the Government Strategy Department in Finland was introduced, which includes a wide range of strategic planning activities, among which includes ensuring alignment with the main strategic document of the country, preparation and monitoring of the action plan, facilitation and support of the interministerial working groups focused on national priorities and foresight capabilities.

Instruments, Capabilities and Mechanisms for steering whole-of-government strategic planning

Governments need institutional arrangements for coordinating the strategic planning process, participants discussed the coordination mechanisms and the instruments used in strategic planning in OECD member countries. Discussions mainly covered aspects regarding the collaboration with line ministries, the coordination



and delivery of key strategic priorities and the alignment with the national planning broader framework(s) (such as Egypt Vision 2030). Discussions focused on the practice of interministerial working groups, particularly in the case of Finland. The use of online databases as strategy repositories and to share and review strategic documents were presented with a focus on the case of Czech Republic. Participants then reflected on the key strategic planning capacities within Egyptian Administrative Units, and identified the key capacity building programs that can assist them in effectively conducting strategic planning.

Performance Frameworks and tools to support decision making and delivery of key priorities

Effective performance reporting and monitoring arrangements are a core aspect of good governance. During this session, participants explored performance management frameworks that are in place in OECD member countries to strengthen decision-making as well as coordinate and deliver key strategic priorities. Furthermore, it shared concrete enablers for the use of performance information. Egyptian stakeholders presented ISIPPM, the online database for investment, that was further discussed with the peers and the audience. The discussions highlighted the need to further connect these initiatives with the strategic objectives in Egypt Vision 2030. The UK peer also



provided a deep dive into the UK's performance framework at the centre of government to share lessons learned and reflect on shared challenges both Egypt and the UK are facing.

Governance of cross-cutting policy priorities

Governments are increasingly faced with complex, multidimensional policy challenges across multiple sectors such as climate change, digitalisation, gender and sustainable development. This session discussed how countries address these complex and crosscutting policies. It explored different institutional settings and the instruments (ex. coordination bodies, monitoring frameworks) used in OECD member and partner countries. Throughout the session, good practices focused specifically on how to adopt a gender-based lens across policies and plans to underline the importance of grounding policies and services on the needs of specific groups in Egypt.

Exchange of good practices

The Portuguese and Canadian peers, as well as OECD representatives, actively participated in all sessions by sharing their insights and country experiences on strategic planning, whole-of-government coordination, performance frameworks, and the governance of cross-cutting policy priorities. Institutions at the centre of government (CoG), particularly PlanAPP in Portugal, the Government Strategy Department in Finland, and the Privy Council in Canada play key roles in preparing, reviewing and aligning key national strategic documents and ensure that the key objectives and priorities are reflected in all strategic materials prepared by line Ministries. The challenge function of the CoG was introduced, whereby the CoG needs to review strategic plans, engage with Ministries and sometimes return materials to ensure that all strategic documents are of good quality and consistent with the government's strategic objectives. Interministerial Committees and networks are crucial to ensure the consistency and coordination of strategic documents and the uptake of guidelines and templates.

Egypt Vision 2030 and the way forward

During the first part, attendees divided into working groups to develop a SWOT analysis on the existing institutional set-up, legal framework and mechanisms underpinning Egypt Vision 2030 and the alignment of sectoral strategic plans in line-ministries with the objectives therein.

Representatives from different units in MPED reflected on the **existing strategic planning instruments, tools and stakeholders** involved in **Egypt Vision 2030** to identify the way forward. Attendees began by reflecting on the complex network of actors, within and outside MPED, involved in the implementation of Egypt Vision 2030 and the need to clarify roles and responsibilities. Discussions emphasised the importance of developing formal coordination mechanisms, in particular to enhance co-operation between the SDU and the strategic planning unit for the implementation of Egypt Vision 2030 and engagement with line-ministries. Attendees agreed on the importance of strengthening the work of the Technical Committee for the Implementation of SDGs.



Next Steps:

- As key outcomes, the training supported MPED in identifying a potential pilot for the coaching phase to assist the annual strategic investment planning process and Egypt Vision 2030 through the development, enhancement and scaling of relevant strategic planning tools. Follow-up discussions will continue with government partners on the potential to update existing strategic planning manuals for line-ministries and/or support the SDU to develop an action plan for one of the goals within Egypt Vision 2030.
- Insights from the training will inform the main findings and recommendations of the OECD Public Governance Review of Egypt, which will provide guidance for MPED on the implementation of Egypt Vision 2030.

For more information:

Support to Enhanced Administrative and Public Economic Governance in Egypt (2022-2026)