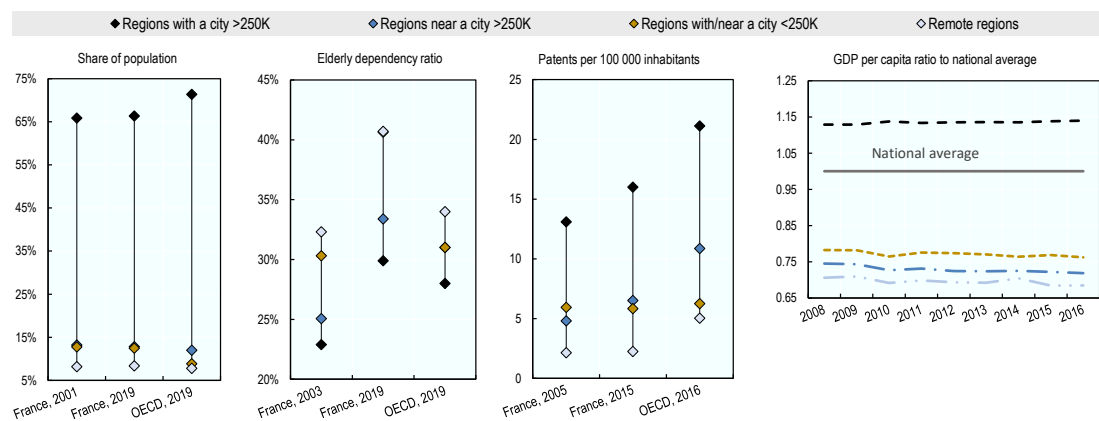


France

Statistical profile

Figure 1. Statistical profile



	Population growth 2008-2019 (%)	Growth in employment 2008-2017 (%)	GVA per worker (1 000 USD ppp)	GVA manufacturing share (%)	Hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants
Regions with a city >250K	0.5 (0.7)	0.4 (0.9)	95 (92)	10.5 (17.2)	6.0 (8.0)
Regions near a city >250K	0.2 (0.3)	0.9 (0.5)	75 (79)	15 (22.4)	5.5 (8.1)
Regions with/near a city <250K	0.3 (0.2)	-0.1 (0.0)	76 (71)	15 (19.6)	5.8 (4.9)
Remote regions	0.3 (0.5)	1.2 (0.2)	73 (73)	13 (17.5)	5.9 (4.6)

Note: OECD average is presented in parenthesis. Data for hospital beds are from 2018 and data for GVA per worker, GVA by sector and unemployment rate are from 2017. GVA and GDP are measured in USD PPP (2015). The OECD average by order in the table has been made with 33, 25, 26, 25, 19 countries with available data. Employment growth measured as employment in the workplace.

Source: (OECD, 2020^[1]) OECD Regional Statistics (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-e>.

Policy framework and Institutional setting of rural development

Rural Definition

- ❖ In France there is not a single definition of “rural”. The French institute for statistics (Insee), based on the functional differentiation of territories, identifies six types of urban areas and describes the cities’ influence on the hinterland. Likewise, the Territories Observatory (Observatoire des territoires) defines rural areas based on a multiplicity of indicators, excluding urban units gathering more than 10 000 jobs. This typology identifies three types of rural areas, coastal areas and urban countryside, agricultural rural area and ageing

areas. Overall, the definitions in France recognise the variety of rural areas including mixed rural/urban areas, rural areas close to cities and remote rural areas

National rural policy

- ❖ France does not have an explicit national rural policy. The current government is working on a Rural Agenda, following the European rural agenda defined by the Cork Declarations. It consists in a national plan to encourage rural development and improve the living conditions of rural residents. A mission to draw propositions has been launched on March 2019. Currently the “contrats de ruralité” (rural contracts) for the 2017- 2022 period, are the mechanism to coordinate public investment in rural areas. This policy was based on a interministerial committee for Rural territories and signed between local authorities and the State.

Policy framework and Institutional setting of rural development

Lead ministry(ies) and other co-ordination bodies in charge

Table 1. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the national level

Ministries/Departments (most important first)	Role
Ministry for territorial cohesion and local authorities	Defining and implementing planning policies, urban and rural development policies
Ministry of agriculture and food	Defining and implementing agriculture policies
National rural network	National committee gathering ministries, managing authorities (regional council), civil society organization and companies about rural development policies implemented by the EU and the state, financed by EFRD (LEADER program) and national and regional credits. This committee aims at exchanging experiences and good practices about rural development. Existing in other EU countries.

Table 2. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the sub-national level

Institutions (most important first)	Role
Deconcentrated national agencies and autonomous regional agency	Planning and implementation

Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms

- ❖ France’s rural development allocates a high degree of importance to economic areas (Table 3). Table 4 shows the main priorities of rural policy.
- ❖ The main delivery mechanisms of the rural development policy in France are contracts and agreements with local communities.

Table 3. Relevance of sectors in rural development policy

Policy areas	Weight on rural policy	Average OECD
Economic	33%	40%
Social	33%	30%
Environment	33%	30%

Note: Self-reported responses from country delegate to the question: “Please grade from 1 to 10 the importance rural development policies in your country assigns to economic, social and environmental areas”.

Source: OECD (2018), “Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries”.

Table 4. Relevant objectives in rural development policy

Top objectives	Programmes	Main financial mechanisms to support the strategy
Service Delivery	Service house for people (Maisons de services au public)	Financial support to local authorities
Agricultural production	The EU's common agricultural policy (CAP), National plan of food	Subsidies
Capacity Building	National agency of territory cohesion (Agence nationale de cohésion des territoires). A transformation of the deconcentrated organization and the support to local authorities has been engaged	Direct payments.
Quality of life/well-being of rural residents	-	
Environmental sustainability	Contracts for ecologic transition (Contrats de transition écologique), gathering civil society, companies, residents and local authorities to elaborate a common project climate change	Subsidies and direct contributions.

Note: Objectives presented are the objectives with higher scores in the survey responses.

Source: OECD (2018), “Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries”.