

Israel

Statistical profile

Information not available for Israel

Policy framework and Institutional setting of rural development

Rural Definition

- ❖ There are different definitions of rural areas in Israel. In terms of governance, they are the areas that lie within the jurisdiction of a regional council and are not an urban enclave and contains communities in which reside up to 2000 people or, settlements with certain predetermined agricultural characteristics, of up to 5000 people. In terms of land use and planning, the definition is related with the use of the land (e.g. farming settlements). The definitions acknowledge mixed rural/urban areas, rural areas close to cities and remote rural areas

National rural policy

- ❖ Israel has a national rural policy defined by the Planning and Building Law issued in 1965 and amended in 2016. The law specifically requires the preservation of agricultural areas and open space and creates a designated planning institution (Valkachshap). It determine the planning tools in support of the rural sector: Rural development (as well as agricultural/open space protection) are regulated in national, district and comprehensive local statutory plans.

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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 of Agriculture and Rural Development	Within the Ministry, The Planning and Rural Development Authority (PRDA) and Rural Growth and Development Division (RGDD) that is the execution body under the supervision of PRDA. Planning, funding and program/plan implementation.
Israel Planning Administration (IPA) , Ministry of Finance	Planning. IPA's activity is governed by the Planning and Building Law which specifies the preservation of open space and agricultural land as one of its main goals. Master plans (national, regional and local) approved by IPA's planning institutions determine development and preservation policies regarding the rural sector (including rural settlements, agricultural land and open space).
Ministry of Finance (at large)	Funding
Ministry of Housing	Planning and implementation
Israel Land Administration	Planning, funding, land allocation
Committee for the Protection of Agricultural Land and Open Space (Valkachshap), IPA	Planning institution acting along the National Planning and Building Board. It is chaired by the IPA but includes representatives of other relevant bodies. Its main functions are oversight, evaluation of proposed plans and development.
The center of Regional Councils (national organization)	Policy evaluation and coordination.

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

Institutions	Role
Regional offices of some of the aforementioned ministries. (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture and the IPA)	Implementation
Regional councils	Planning and implementation

Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms

- ❖ Israel'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 Israel are dedicated grants programmes.

Table 3. Sectors relevance in rural development policy

Policy areas	Weight on rural policy	Average OECD
Economic	50%	40%
Social	40%	30%
Environment	10%	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
Agricultural production	Annual Development Program for Agriculture Investments including several subject related reforms (for example milk and eggs sectors) and the implementation of government resolutions (such as compensation for limiting water quota)	Grants
Land occupation, resilience and landscape preservation	Landscape preservation – NMP 35 , the district master plans and the comprehensive local plans relate to the landscape and cultural aspects of the rural environment (Rural texture, Preserved texture and Mixed preserved texture; see above) AND Agricultural land occupation in accordance with relevant land use plans and the land administration policy.	-
Innovation support to "rural" sectors	Part of the Annual Development Program for Agriculture Investments	Grants
Support to private sector, jobs and investment	Master plans, Comprehensive local plans and detailed plans to allow for/that include regional industrial parks, local farming amenities complexes, education centers, tourist and agro-tourist facilities, renewable energy.	-
Environmental sustainability	National master plans (NMP) for nature reserves, national parks, landscape preservation, forest preservation and man-made forestation (national plans – NMP - 8 and 22). NMP 35 defines 5 types of development textures in order to balance between urban growth and protection of open space. National plans for renewable energy facilities such as photovoltaic installations and wind turbines (NMP 10). Such facilities are becoming a part of the rural landscape.	Subsidies/grants - (Innovationsfonden) and Outplacement of governmental jobs

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

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