

Regional Outlook 2019

TURKEY

Regional Development Policy in Turkey



General policy approach

The Tenth National Development Plan (2014-18) establishes the medium-term priorities for regional policy. It states that regional development policy will contribute to national development, competitiveness and employment by increasing the productivity of regions, while addressing the objective of reducing regional and rural-urban disparities.

The National Strategy for Regional Development (2014-23) seeks to ensure national-level co-ordination for regional development and competitiveness, and strengthen the linkages between spatial and socio-economic development policies. It also establishes a general framework for sub-scale plans. Regional plans for the 2014-23 period for all 26 NUTS-2 regions have been put together under the co-ordination of its national network of regional development agencies.

The main axes of the 2010-23 Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan (KENTGES) concern: restructuring the spatial planning system, improving the quality of space and life in settlements, and strengthening the economic and social structures of settlements.

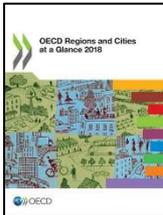
The National Rural Development Strategy (2014-20) prioritises five strategic objectives: 1) developing the rural economy and increasing employment opportunities; 2) improving the rural environment and ensuring the sustainability of natural resources; 3) improving the social and physical infrastructure of rural settlements; 4) improving the social capital of rural society and alleviating poverty; and 5) building institutional capacity for rural and local development.

Recent policy changes

- The National Strategy for Regional Development was approved in 2014 to improve the co-ordination of regional development and competitiveness at the central level of government, and to establish a general framework for regional plans and strategies. Regional development plans (2014-23) for all 26 NUTS-2 regions were developed under the co-ordination of regional development agencies.
- The number of municipalities was reduced from 2 950 to 1 395 in 2014 to improve efficiency, co-ordination and quality of services through economies of scale. In parallel, the number of metropolitan municipalities increased from 16 to 30 and their boundaries extended to match those of the associated provinces.
- The National Rural Development Strategy (2014-20) was approved and the Rural Development Action Plan adopted in 2015. The Rural Development Committee was established in 2012 to strengthen the governance of rural policy making, implementation and monitoring. The Rural Development Action Plan's expiry date was the end of 2018; it has been updated for the years 2019-20. Its approval process is currently ongoing.
- The National Urbanisation Council/Forum was reorganised in February 2017. The reorganised council was designed to embrace the new urban agenda in the national urban development strategy focusing on the emerging challenges of urbanisation in Turkey.

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<https://oe.cd/pub/2n9>

- The Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation has started to prepare the National Spatial Strategy Plan.
- The Smart City and National Geographic Information System Strategies are currently being prepared simultaneously by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation.

Institutional arrangements to prepare for global megatrends

The Presidency of Strategy and Budget, a centre-of-government unit, is responsible for Turkey's macro planning, budget, public investment programme, and economic and social sectors. The unit considers regional dimensions while preparing the public investment programme.

The Ministry of Industry and Technology (MoIT) is in charge of regional development policy. Under the MoIT, the Directorate General for Development Agencies is directing 26 development agencies. At the local level, there are development agencies in all 26 NUTS-2 regions and investment support offices within the body of development agencies operate in 81 provinces.

OECD Regional Outlook 2019: Leveraging Megatrends for Cities and Rural Areas

The 2019 edition of the *OECD Regional Outlook* examines the regional dimensions of global megatrends and their implications for the well-being of people living in different places. It discusses how place-based policies, public investment and multi-level governance reforms can respond to these megatrends to revive productivity growth, reduce inequalities, improve quality of life and increase sustainability.

Consult the full publication and the other country profiles on line: <https://oe.cd/pub/2vq>.

