

Call for examples:  
Policies and programmes to strengthen local leadership   
for place-based transformation

Do you have an example of a policy or programme to strengthen local leadership for place transformation?

**The OECD is looking for examples of policies or programmes that seek to strengthen local leadership capacities to support place transformation and local development.** Do you have a best practice to share? Submit an abstract describing a policy or programme from your country, region or city today. Selected examples will help to inspire communities around the world and be featured in OECD work, such as the [[P.L.A.C.E.S. web portal](https://oecd.org/stories/local-development)](https://oecd.org/stories/local-development) and a seminar in May 2024 on “Leading local change: the role of individuals and institutions”.

**Examples should cover best practice policies or programmes that seek to empower, mobilise, and/or build the capacities of local leaders across different sectors (e.g. public, private, community) to support positive place transformation.** This could include, for example, training or capacity building programmes for individuals in formal or informal leadership roles; building or strengthening local coalitions or networks for collective leadership; support for local institutional actors (e.g. economic development organisations, universities, chambers of commerce) to take up greater leadership roles, or changes in governance that empower local actors in new ways.

**We welcome submissions of policies or programmes that:**

* **Originate from the public (national, regional or local), private or third sector**, and have a focus on enhancing leadership for the common good.
* **Seek to address some kind of place-based transformation:** For example, this could include how a community responds to long-term structural changes (e.g. the digital and green transition, demographic change, or industrial transition) or shocks (e.g. major employer closing; cost of living crisis, or extreme weather events).
* **Have some evidence of success or impact, or represent a promising innovation**, even if too early to have documented impacts. However, the policy or programme needs to be already implemented. While this may include early-stage pilot projects, ideas and proposals do not meet the criteria for this call.
* **Focus on one or more** [**members of the OECD**](https://www.oecd.org/about/)

How to submit

Policymakers, practitioners and researchers are invited to submit a short application describing the relevant policy or programme. The OECD Secretariat will then select the most relevant examples to feature in future OECD work. The corresponding authors / key contacts may then be invited to present their example in an upcoming OECD seminar and/or to develop it into a fuller case study to be featured in an OECD publication, with a corresponding stipend.

To submit your application, please send the submission formbelowby **20 February 2024** to [TransformingPlaces@oecd.org](mailto:TransformingPlaces@oecd.org). Applicants will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Further background

This call for case studies feeds into the OECD’s *Transforming Places* project, funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) which is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The *Transforming Places* project will develop new international evidence on catalysing economic and social transformation in struggling communities. In reality, fostering such a transformation is about more than just boosting productivity and growth in “left behind” places. Holistic local development considers both economic and social outcomes, considering how a place can improve its economic future, the quality of life, and opportunities for all residents, leveraging a broad range of local assets.

In particular, this call informs a stream of work to strengthen the evidence base on the role of “soft” infrastructure in driving local social and economic transformation. The importance of individual and institutional leadership has become increasingly central to discussions around place transformation. Within academic circles, there is a growing focus on understanding the role of “change agency” or “institutions” and on the policy front, questions on local leadership can be seen in debates ranging from devolution to the organisation of smart specialisation strategies.

Across the OECD, local governments often hold such a leadership role. However, local development operates over longer time frames, broader geographies, and with wider institutional collaboration than is usual for local government services or political cycles. The importance of other stakeholders such as universities, business leadership groups, economic development agencies and civil society groups is increasingly recognised.

Submission form:   
Policies and programmes to strengthen local leadership for place-based transformation

1. **Name of policy or programme**

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1. **Short overview of policy or programme (up to 250 words)**

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1. **Lead organisation and partners**

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1. **Target in terms of geography and participants**

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1. **Is any evidence already available on the programme / policy’s impact? If so, please describe briefly**

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1. **Links to any additional information (okay if in country language)**

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1. **Name and contact info for key contact**

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**Submit this form by 27 February 2024** to [TransformingPlaces@oecd.org](mailto:TransformingPlaces@oecd.org).