



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# REGIONAL GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN WALES, UK: MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

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## WHY THIS PROJECT?

The OECD aims to help the Welsh Government, regional bodies, and local authorities plan and invest better for the development of Wales and its communities.

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# BACKGROUND

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Wales is striving to generate inclusive growth and enhance the well-being of citizens across its territory, now and in the future. In 2018, 4 out of the 12 UK regions with the lowest gross domestic product (GDP) per capita were located in Wales.

Setting a long-term vision for Wales can provide a roadmap for Welsh Government, regional bodies, and local authorities to plan and invest together. They also need to enhance their capacity to implement policies effectively to achieve the vision.

The OECD is working with the Welsh Government to enhance the governance of regional development and public investment in Wales.

This project builds on the first phase of OECD work with the Welsh Government and the OECD report *The Future of Regional Development and Public Investment in Wales, United Kingdom.*



# What the Project Delivers

This project offers 4 key deliverables.



# 1

A **workshop series** with the Welsh Government, local authorities, and people from different Welsh communities to set a vision for Wales in 2037



# 2

**Action plans** to address capacity needs, a **workshop** on collaborative policy-making, and "**Master Classes**" for different levels of government in Wales



# 3

A **self-assessment toolkit** for regional bodies in Wales to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and to begin addressing these



# 4

An **OECD synthesis report** highlighting key lessons of the whole project



## Be strategic

### Workshop Series: Envisioning Wales in 2037

This workshop gathers the Welsh Government, local authorities and stakeholders from businesses, the third sector, academia, and various communities to share their visions of Wales, and collectively build a "story" of what regional development in Wales should look like in 2037.



## Be effective, and co-operative

### Action Plans: Addressing Capacity Needs

The actions plans – one for Welsh Government and each regional body – help identify concrete activities that will reinforce their ability to achieve regional development and public investment goals.

### Multi-stakeholder Workshop: Collaborative Policy-Making

This workshop gathers the Welsh Government, regional bodies, and local authorities to build trust and partnership. It explores how they can better co-design and co-implement regional development policy and public investment.

### Master Class: Hands-on Support from International Experts

The "Master Classes" invite international experts and practitioners to share good practices and help the Welsh Government – through concrete steps – address specific issues in implementing policies.

### Self-assessment Toolkit: Assessing Regional Structure Capacity

The self-assessment toolkit helps the regional bodies in Wales identify their gaps in administration, institutional strategic planning, and public investment management.

### OECD Synthesis Report: Key lessons

This OECD report presents key findings and lessons of the project, and recommends further actions to support stronger regional development and public investment in Wales.

## BACKGROUND: THE 2020 OECD REPORT


# *The Future of Regional Development and Public Investment in Wales, United Kingdom*

The 2020 OECD report *The Future of Regional Development and Public Investment in Wales, United Kingdom* recommends reinforcing fiscal frameworks and public investment financing in Wales, as well as building Welsh strategic and implementation capacity for public investment in regional development.

To reinforce strategic and implementation capacity, among the OECD recommendations in this report are that the Welsh Government:

- Establish a vision-based, long-term regional development strategy for Wales
- Introduce a single, integrated national regional development policy to realise strategic aims
- Strengthen and diversify co-ordination mechanisms for more effective policy and investment integration
- Reinforce subnational capacity to deliver on regional development planning and implementation responsibilities
- Reinforce governance tools that support regional development and investment outcomes





OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship,  
SMEs, Regions and Cities



The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies.



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