

Place-based policies for the future: **Workshop #5**

The governance of place-based policies now and in the future

15 September 2023 | Paris



Place-based policies for the future

Workshop 5

The governance of place-based policies now and in the future

■ Background

Governance systems across OECD and EU countries are diverse. In particular, the forms and extent of decentralisation vary greatly from one country to another – and even within the same country. Large variations also exist in terms of responsibilities carried by subnational governments, of local decision-making powers, and of resources available to meet local needs, including the ability to raise own-source revenues. There are also varying degrees of upward and downward accountability, and of central government control. These factors contribute to the complexity of designing and implementing place-based policies, which often involve various levels of government (supra-national – as in the EU – or national, regional, municipal) and a variety of policy sectors.

Complex multi-level governance models come with high transaction costs and are vulnerable to rent-seeking behaviours and capture by certain interests. A key issue to consider is how structures can be designed in an effective and agile way that support quick and innovative policy action to respond to emerging intelligence and shocks at the right scale and in the right place. At the same time, there needs to be clarity and transparency in roles and accountability to citizens for the decisions made and their outcomes. Furthermore, sustained investment in capacity, dialogue and learning-by-doing at the subnational level is a must. Finally, the effectiveness of multi-level governance systems depends, to a large extent, on broader institutional and regulatory frameworks that can either enable or hinder the efficiency of co-ordination efforts.

■ Key topics

The discussion on the requirements of making place-based policies work on the ground today and tomorrow will address the following key questions:

- What are the governance requirements, including institutional and regulatory frameworks, to support the effective design and implementation of place-based policies at the right scale and in the right place?
- How can we minimise transaction costs, rent-seeking activities and political interests associated with multi-level governance?
- What approaches can be deployed to improve the incentives and accountability of different actors?
- When and how to co-ordinate among levels of government and across stakeholder groups (private sector, civil society), and what are the costs of not doing so?
- What types of multi-level governance frameworks can contribute to ensuring that subnational governments are adequately equipped in terms of their public finances to fulfil their responsibilities?
- To what extent do place-based policies provide the possibility to address complex policy trade-offs?

■ Venue

Room D, OECD Headquarters, Paris

The OECD Headquarters are situated at 2 rue André Pascal, 752016 Paris. The following link provides various transport options: <https://www.oecd.org/site/conferencecentre/gettingtotheoecd.htm>

Security arrangements are strict around the OECD Headquarters. Participants will need to be registered for the meeting to obtain access to the conference centre (security badge). There is a security check outside the Conference Centre where participants must show a QR pass and will be given a badge (sent out by email to registered participants and can be in either printed form or on a smart phone). **Participants will also need to show some form of ID.**

Agenda

[Central European Time]

15 September 2023

9.00-9.30

Welcome

9.30-9.50

Opening remarks

Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD

Peter Berkowitz, Director for Policy, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

9.50-11.00

Multi-level governance of place-based policies

MODERATOR

Dorothee Allain-Dupré, Head of Regional Development and Multi-Level Governance Division (RDG), CFE, OECD

9.50-10.20

SCENE SETTER

Andrew Beer, Professor and Executive Dean, UniSA Business

10.20-10.45

REACTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Niamh Moore-Cherry, Professor of Urban Governance and Development, School of Geography, University College Dublin

Philip McCann, Chair of Urban and Regional Economics, Alliance Manchester Business School

André Torre, Professor of Economics, University Paris-Saclay, INRAE, Agroparistech; President at European Regional Science Association

10.45-11.10

COFFEE BREAK

11.10-12.10

DISCUSSION

All participants

12:00-12.50

Development: A Conceptual Framework for Cohesion Policy

12.00-12.20

PRESENTATION

Michael Storper, Professor of Economic Geography, LSE; Distinguished professor of Regional and International Development, UCLA, and Researcher, Center for European Studies and Comparative Politics, Sciences Po

12.20-12.50

DISCUSSION

All participants

13:00-14.20

Lunch break, Restaurant de Nations (OECD Headquarters)

14:30-15.40

Capacity-building to address complex, place-based problems

MODERATOR

Rudiger Ahrend, Head of Economic Analysis, Data and Statistics Division, CFE, OECD

14.30-15.00

SCENE SETTER

Sarah Giest, Professor of Public Policy, University of Leiden

15.00-15.40

REACTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Thomas Wobben, Director for Legislative Works, European Committee of the Regions

Katja Fuder (Dr.), Regional Economic and Structural Policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany

Paul Smoke, Professor of Public Finance and Planning, Director of the Master of Public Administration in Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy, NYU (Virtual)

Edurne Magro, Senior Researcher, Orkestra-Basque Institute of Competitiveness and Deusto Business School

15.40-16.00

COFFEE BREAK

16.00-17.20

DISCUSSION

All participants

17.20-17.30

Summary and closing remarks

Nadim Ahmad, Deputy Director, CFE, OECD

Peter Berkowitz, Director for Policy, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

■ About the workshops

This workshop is in a series of six EC-OECD workshops on “Place-Based Policies for the Future”.

The six workshops consider place-based policies from the following angles: how place-based policies have evolved; the articulation of place-based policies against other policymaking frameworks; how place-based policies can address current and future societal problems; the design, measurement and evaluation of place-based policies; governance and coordination; and what place-based policies are needed for the future.

The workshops will result in a series of papers and a summary report on future directions for place-based policies. This work will ultimately be relevant for policymakers at all levels of government who are interested in improving the design and implementation of place-based policies to contribute to equitable and sustainable economic futures.

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities 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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CONTACTS

Courtenay Wheeler | Courtenay.Wheeler@oecd.org
Michael Flood | Michael.Flood@oecd.org

