1. Why does the OECD work on metropolitan areas?

2. Why does metropolitan governance matter?

3. Spotlight on spatial planning in selected metropolitan areas

4. Final considerations
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Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): 35 member countries

In the process of accession:

Key Partners:
A platform for policy dialogue between national governments for growth and well-being...
... working on a number of sectoral policy areas, with an increasing focus on urban issues.
Cities represent around **half** of the OECD area.

Cities account for **49% of population, 51% of employment, and 57% of GDP** in the OECD area (2013).

Urbanisation can benefit economic growth

Agglomeration benefits can make larger cities more productive

...but many metropolitan areas are characterised by **administrative fragmentation**
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Higher administrative fragmentation is associated with **stronger inequalities**.

Spatial segregation by income

Metropolitan governance is widespread in OECD countries

- About \( \frac{2}{3} \) of OECD metropolitan areas have a metropolitan governance body.
- Most of them work on economic development, transport and spatial planning.

Metropolitan governance is associated with **lower urban sprawl**

Urban sprawl **decreased** in metropolitan areas that **have** a metropolitan governance body.

Urban sprawl **increased** in metropolitan areas that have **no** metropolitan governance body.

Metropolitan governance is associated with higher satisfaction among citizens.

Share of citizens satisfied with public transport

Citizens are more satisfied in metropolitan areas that have a metropolitan transport authority.

Citizens are less satisfied in metropolitan areas that have no metropolitan transport authority.

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Prague (Czech Republic)

Population growth in Prague (1919-2015)

OECD recommendations:

• Improve **integrated spatial planning** by aligning sectoral and borough-level plans with the Strategic Plan (2016)
• Reduce the **regulatory burden** for developers in terms of building approvals
• Establish (national) **fiscal incentives** and/or regulatory frameworks to encourage metropolitan spatial planning
MRDH (Metropoolregio Rotterdam Den Haag): a new metropolitan authority encompassing 23 municipalités = 2.3 million people = more than 60% of the population of the Zuid-Holland province.

National

- Province (spatial planning)
- City-regions
- Municipalities
- MRDH (transport & eco dev)
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Key steps for effective metropolitan governance reform

1. Identify concrete metropolitan projects to motivate collaboration
2. Build ownership among key stakeholders
3. Ensure reliable sources of metropolitan financing
4. Provide incentives and compensation for compromises
5. Implement monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
Many OECD countries have (or are in the process of setting up) a national urban policy framework.

**No framework**
- Canada
- Norway
- Iceland
- United States

**Urban component of EU Regional Policy**
- Ireland
- Portugal
- Sweden
- Italy
- Spain

**Urban policy framework in preparation**
- Australia
- Hungary
- New Zealand
- Slovak Republic

**Primarily spatial planning framework**
- Austria
- Greece
- Japan
- Luxembourg
- Belgium
- Chile
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Korea
- Mexico
- Poland
- Slovenia
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United Kingdom

THANK YOU

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