



# The future of teleworking

## A place-based toolkit for local development



By joining this project, OECD national, regional and local governments will obtain up-to-date information on the spread of teleworking in their own territory, going beyond preliminary estimations run in the early stage of the pandemic. In addition, they will gain a deeper understanding of the multiple factors that enable and constrain teleworking across local industries, firms and workers. Evidence-based recommendations will guide their efforts to ensure that increased teleworking contributes to wider local development strategies. Finally, they will gain insights from across the OECD through peer learning and new communities of practice.

### Why this project?

The pandemic has triggered a mass teleworking experiment, unprecedented in size and scope. The shift towards a large-scale, enduring teleworking model could have strong implications for the geography of local employment. Different degrees of preparedness to teleworking could widen divides between firms and workers, as well as different places. At the same time, teleworking comes with opportunities, such as reduced air pollution in cities and increased competitiveness for businesses and regions offering attractive teleworking arrangements. Public policies have the potential to minimise disparities and seize the opportunities arising from an increased use of teleworking.



### Five guiding principles for a smooth teleworking transition.

- 01 Take a comprehensive approach to policy design for teleworking.** A long-lasting and large-scale use of teleworking could deeply affect local employment and economic development in many ways not yet fully predictable. A multidisciplinary, long-term perspective would help to devise adaptive responses.
- 02 Promote fairness and inclusiveness across people, firms and places.** Teleworking is unevenly accessible by different types of workers, places and firms, and has diversified effects across them. Policies on teleworking could help level the playing field if complementary measures are in place.
- 03 Prioritise societal goals.** In the long term, mass teleworking may contribute to achieving several sustainable development goals. However, it may also imply adaptation costs, including for private players. Policies could prioritise general-interest objectives and facilitate needed transitions.
- 04 Provide relevant national and local framework conditions.** The availability of an agile legal framework and effective local public services as well as secure, high-speed internet and digital skills are key to make teleworking accessible and secure for all.
- 05 Create a new evidence base.** Given its unprecedented features, large-scale teleworking requires new data and metrics to inform policy decisions. Policy design could facilitate data collection and systematically provide for forms of ongoing monitoring and evaluation.

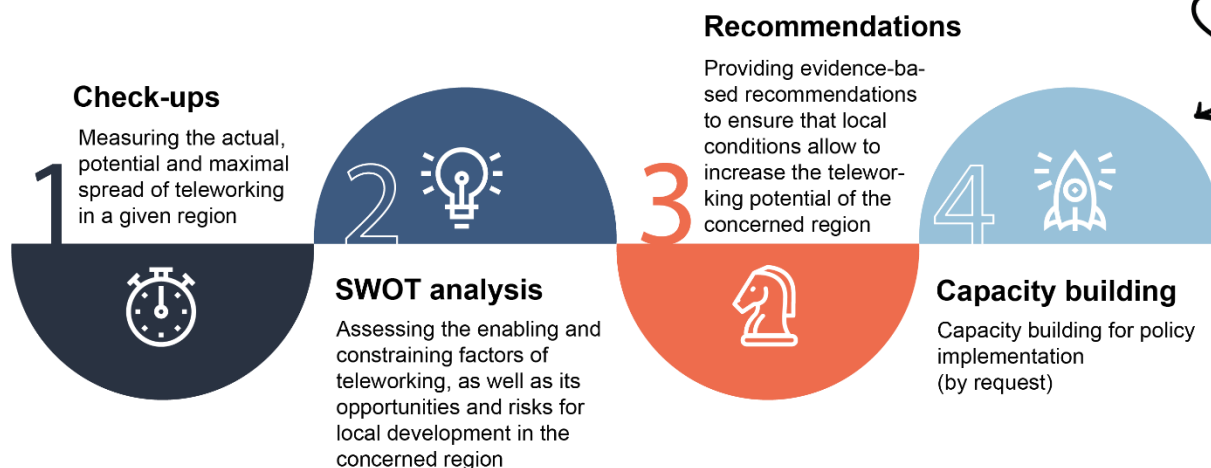
Find out more: OECD (2020), "Exploring policy options on teleworking: Steering local economic and employment development in the time of remote work", *OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Papers*, No. 2020/10, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/5738b561-en>.

## Project approach

This project aims to support national, regional and local governments of the OECD in promoting a smooth transition to the likely large-scale and enduring use of teleworking conducive to sustainable social and economic local development. Both opportunities and challenges arise from teleworking.

This project takes a neutral stance and aims to inform policy solutions for countries and regions seeking to capitalise on teleworking potential. Ultimately, joining governments will be more aware and capable of dealing with the trade-offs inherent in the transition to large-scale teleworking.

The project provides:



## Benefits of joining

OECD-led workshops will facilitate peer-learning amongst policy makers. Early policy adopters will have an advantage in adapting to the future of work, making the most of a rapidly evolving geography of jobs and becoming more competitive in talent attraction and retention.

## Costs and timeframe

Costs are dependent on the scope of the project tailored to the recipient. A toolkit for one region covering the first three steps is approximately six months.

### CONTACT

If you are interested to learn more about the project or to get involved, please contact

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### About the OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

The OECD Trento Centre for Local Development is an integral part of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. The Trento Centre uses a holistic “from data to practice” approach to policies for sustainable development to offer local policy analysis, advice and capacity building activities for improved policy implementation for people, firms and places.

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