

Place-based policies for the future: **Workshop #4**

Measuring progress better: Cutting-edge approaches to monitoring and evaluating place-based policies

7 July 2023 | Paris



Place-based policies for the future

Workshop 4

Measuring progress better: Cutting-edge approaches to monitoring and evaluating place-based policies

■ Background

In a constantly shifting global environment, place-based policies need to be regularly, rigorously and rapidly evaluated to assess their impact and cost-effectiveness and enable policymakers to quickly adapt and improve their approaches. Several countries have developed sophisticated approaches, while the European Commission is also assessing the impact of EU cohesion policy on a regular basis. Building on evaluations already conducted, it is possible to advance the debate and find evidence of “what works”, and the equally important question of “what works where.”

Evaluating place-based policies begins with collecting relevant data at a relevant scale, which can often present challenges when data collection becomes costly and complex, especially when collected in real-time and at granular scales. Proper evaluation also depends on the use of suitable indicators built upon the data that is available. Evaluation also requires defining the correct level of geography to identify both the direct effects (e.g., additional goods or services provided) and indirect effects (e.g., induced wellbeing impacts, changes in productivity, job creation, environmental quality, etc.). Monitoring should ideally be done continuously, starting before a policy intervention, and be sensitive to linkages with national policies, broader macro-economic and regulatory frameworks, as well as other space-blind approaches that inevitably affect the outcomes of interest at the local level. Finally, yet importantly, the very use of place-based policy evaluation to inspire the adoption of good practices is key for effective public action.

To deploy place-based policies more effectively, it is necessary to first take stock of how place-based policies have been monitored and evaluated, with an aim to learn from good practices and previous mistakes. A discussion is needed to share the experiences of countries in devising evaluation mechanisms for place-based policies. A review of cutting-edge methods and new data sources is also needed to develop evaluation and monitoring frameworks for place-based policies into the future.

■ Key topics

The fourth seminar of the series will address key framing questions, such as:

- What can we learn from previous approaches aiming to monitor and evaluate place-based policies?
- How can past place-based policies best be evaluated to grasp “what works” under various circumstances and inform future policymaking?
- Which outcomes are particularly relevant for monitoring, given policy contexts and resource limitations? How can we create a framework for developing suitable indicators and otherwise monitoring outcomes that are comparable across regions, given data limitations and the widening scope of place-based policies, today and in the future?
- How can we identify and utilise new data sources and methods to better evaluate and monitor place-based policies? What diffusion of evaluation results and their use for policy making can best lead to the adoption of good practices?
- How can we use experimentation to analyse impacts of place-based policies?

■ Venue: Chateau 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 tight around the OECD complex. Participants will need to be registered for the meeting to obtain access to the conference centre (security badge). There is an initial security check outside the Conference Centre where participants must show a QR pass (sent out by email to registered participants and can be in either printed form or on a smart phone). There is a second formal security entrance inside the Centre where you will be given a badge. **Participants will need to show their passport or national ID.**

Agenda

[Central European Time]

7 July 2023

9.00-9.30

Welcome

9.30-9.50

Opening remarks

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

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

9.50-11.00

What works? Why evaluate place-based policies

MODERATOR

Alexander Lembcke – Head of Economic Analysis Unit – Data and Statistics Division, OECD

9.50-10.20

SCENE SETTER

Max Nathan – Associate Professor – Applied Urban Sciences, University College London (UCL)

10.20-11.00

REACTIONS AND FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Ana Garcia-Hernandez – Policy and Research Manager, J-PAL Europe/Spain

Arti Grover – Principal Economist and Regional Program Leader – International Finance Corporation (IFC), The World Bank Group

Bruce Wilson – Professor and Director of the European Union Centre of Excellence – Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University (RMIT) (Australia – virtual)

Sofia Fernandez Guerrico – Horizon Europe MSCA Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Department of Applied Economics, Université Libre de Bruxelles

11.00-11.30

Coffee break

11.30-12.50

Open discussion

13.00-14.30

Lunch break, Restaurant des Nations (OECD headquarters)

14.30-15.40

How does it work? Evidence-based policy design, monitoring & evaluation

MODERATOR

Courtenay Wheeler – Policy Analyst, Regional Development and Multi-Level Governance Division, CFE, OECD

14.30-15.00

SCENE SETTER

Alessandra Faggian – Professor of Applied Economics, Director of Social Sciences and Vice Provost for Research – Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI)

15.00-15.40

REACTIONS AND FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

David Charles – Professor of Enterprise and Innovation – Newcastle Business School, Northumbria University

Federica Bertamino – Head of Unit – Studies and Research Division, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Italy)

Ralf Martin – Associate Professor of Economics – Imperial College Business School

Ryan Flynn – Civic Design Researcher, The Lab @ DC – Office of the Washington DC City Administrator (US – virtual)

15.40-16.10

Coffee break

16.10-17.30

Open discussion

17.30-17.45

Summary and closing remarks

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

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

■ About the high-level expert workshops

This workshop is the fourth of six workshops in the EC-OECD series called “Place-based Policies for the Future”.

The series of six workshops will consider place-based policies from the following angles: synergies with sectoral investment and fiscal equalisation policies; addressing current and future societal problems; policy design, measurement and evaluation; governance and coordination; place-based policies for the future.

The outcomes of the workshops will underpin an OECD summary report and form the basis for a broader discussion with stakeholders on the future direction of place-based policies. As such, the work will be relevant for policy-makers at all levels of government interested in improving the design and implementation of regional policies that 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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