



Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development

#### About us

As part of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, the **Division on Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development** works to improve quality of life and achieve more inclusive societies in cities of all sizes, while addressing a range of issues – from managing urban expansion and congestion to encouraging innovation and environmental sustainability.

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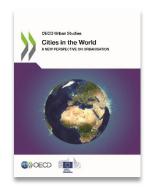
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### General

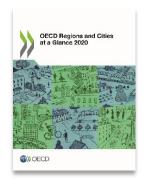


#### Cities in the World: A New Perspective on Urbanisation

Substantial differences in the way urban and rural areas are defined across countries hinder robust international comparisons and accurate monitoring of SDGs. This report addresses this void and provides new insights on urbanisation by applying for the first time two new definitions of human settlements to the entire globe: the Degree of Urbanisation and the Functional Urban Area.



https://doi.org/10.1787/d0efcbda-en



### Regions and Cities at a Glance

Regions and Cities at a Glance 2020 provides a comprehensive assessment of how regions and cities across the OECD are progressing towards stronger, more sustainable and more resilient economies and societies. In the light of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the report analyses outcomes and drivers of social, economic and environmental resilience.



https://doi.org/10.1787/959d5ba0-en

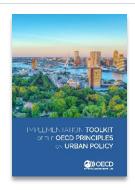


### Global State of National Urban Policy 2021

National Urban Policy (NUP) is a key instrument to achieve sustainable urban development in a shared responsibility across countries, regions and cities. The scale and urgency of the current urban challenges has given prominence to NUPs. The COVID-19 crisis has amplified the potential of NUPs in shaping more resilient, green and inclusive cities as part of countries recovery packages.



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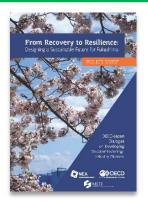
### OECD Principles on Urban Policy and Implementation Toolkit

Policymakers need to leverage cities to keep recovery from the pandemic on track and build longer-term resilience against complex, interlinked shocks. The Implementation Toolkit of the OECD Principles of Urban Policy aims to support cities, regions and countries in their use of the principles as a driver of policy reform and improvement, through the self-assessment framework and policy database.

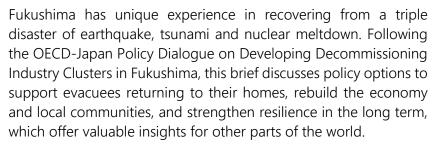


https://doi.org/10.1787/630e0341-en

### **Global shocks and COVID-19**



## From Recovery to Resilience: Designing a Sustainable Future for Fukushima







### Building Resilient Cities: An Assessment of Disaster Risk Management Policies in Southeast Asia

Asian cities are particularly vulnerable to risks associated with natural disasters. While they are exposed to various types of natural hazards, flooding and other water-related disasters pose particularly significant risks and undermine long-term economic growth, especially in coastal cities.



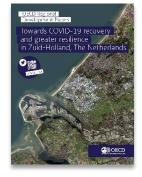
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#### Cities Policy Responses to COVID-19

The OECD collected local policy responses to protect residents and local economies from the economic and social crisis triggered by COVID-19. This note includes an overview of the impact of the pandemic on cities, and examples of the use of digital tools, urban design and collaborative governance. It also suggests recommendations to help rebuild more resilient cities for the future.





# Towards COVID-19 Recovery and Greater Resilience in Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands

This paper guides the Zuid-Holland province (The Netherlands) on developing a post COVID-19 Joint Growth Agenda. It draws on OECD analysis of cities' policy responses to COVID-19, the OECD Principles on Urban Policy and the OECD Territorial Review of the Metropolitan Region of Rotterdam-The Hague (2016).



https://doi.org/10.1787/53b967a6-en



### Pour la relance post-COVID-19 & la résilience de la métropole Aix-Marseille-Provence, France : Une perspective internationale

La crise est venue amplifier les défis structurels auxquels la Métropole Aix-Marseille-Provence était confrontée avant le début de la pandémie, mais elle a aussi généré de nouvelles opportunités. Pour les saisir, la Métropole pourrait renforcer les priorités, tandis que la hiérarchisation de ses projets, et introduire une collaboration plus étroite avec les autres niveaux administratifs.





## Leveraging Productivity in UK Core Cities for Post COVID-19 Resilience

While second-tier cities in most other large OECD countries match or surpass national productivity levels, Core Cities stand 14% below the UK average. COVID-19's economic and social shock magnified longstanding challenges in Core Cities and called for recasting the OECD's previous recommendations in a new context of uncertainty. This brief summarises the highlights of a follow up policy dialogue the OECD conducted with Core Cities and the UK Government.





## Building the STRING Megaregion as a Green Hub in the Wake of COVID-19

Building on its green expertise and innovation, STRING (a political organisation of five cities and eight regions in Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway) could reap the benefits of agglomeration economies. This report guides STRING to develop green transport infrastructure and establish itself as a sustainable megaregion.



https://doi.org/10.1787/40c840c3-en



### BLOG: Mexico needs to get its cities right to recover from covid-19

Typically, city dwellers have access to better opportunities in terms of incomes, education, and housing but Mexico has not fully captured the "agglomeration benefits" that would normally accompany urban population growth. Urban sprawl and, with it, poor connectivity within urban areas, has played a key role.



## National urban policy reviews and Metropolitan reviews



### **OECD National Urban Policy Review of Colombia**

This report provides a comprehensive assessment of the country's national urban policy 'the System of Cities' and of different sectoral policies that affect urban life. Colombia faces five intertwined crises: COVID-19, rising levels of poverty and inequality, a wave of mass international migration, the peace process consolidation, and the climate emergency.



https://doi.org/10.1787/9ca1caae-en



### OECD National Urban Policy Review of Viet Nam

This report provides a comprehensive assessment of Viet Nam's urban policies and analyses how national spatial planning for urban areas, along with specific sectoral policies, directly and indirectly affect Viet Nam's urban development. It points to a number of policy areas which Viet Nam can tap into, to capitalise on unique opportunities including urban transport, housing, land, the quality of urban environment, and urban green growth.



https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264286191-en



### OECD Territorial Reviews: Hamburg Metropolitan Region, Germany

With about 8% of national territory, the Hamburg Metropolitan Region (HMR) is the second largest in Germany. In the first OECD Territorial Review to cover Germany, the HMR is examined under the lens of its competitiveness, innovation, and sustainable urban and regional development.



https://doi.org/10.1787/29afa27f-en



### Urban - Rural Linkages in Poland

The OECD report Urban-Rural Linkages in Poland analyses the potential of urban and rural territories for development and improved well-being. Urban and rural areas have different yet often complementary assets, and their better integration is important for socio-economic and environmental performance.



https://doi.org/10.1787/94b5c782-en



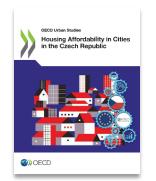
## Enhancing Productivity in UK Core Cities: Connecting Local and Regional Growth

With the right policies and sufficient investment in key policy areas, Core Cities could become centres of economic activity that pull their regions and the entire UK to higher productivity levels. This report unpacks UK productivity and offers policy recommendations to achieve higher productivity and more inclusive growth.



https://doi.org/10.1787/9ef55ff7-en

## Housing, transport and land use



### Housing Affordability in Cities in the Czech Republic

While the full effects of the COVID-19 crisis on housing affordability in cities in the Czech Republic remain to be seen, the pandemic has reinforced the urgency of tackling pre-existing challenges, such as a consistent shortage of housing supply in cities and structural obstacles for urban households to access affordable housing.



https://doi.org/10.1787/bcddcf4a-en



### Housing Policies for Sustainable and Inclusive Cities

This paper offers a framework to analyse housing markets in cities by outlining drivers of supply and demand, and the composition of housing markets: homeowners, renters, single- and multi-family homes, market and below-market price segments. It provides inspiration from global policy instruments, and provides recommendations to deliver more sustainable and inclusive cities.



https://doi.org/10.1787/d63e9434-en



### Improving Transport Planning for Accessible Cities

Transport connects people with opportunities and cities provide access with varying degrees of success – especially regarding green transport. This report argues that building sustainable transport networks for accessible cities requires holistic planning, a sound institutional framework, reliable funding, strong governmental capacity, and should build on community engagement.



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#### Global Compendium on Land Value Capture Policies

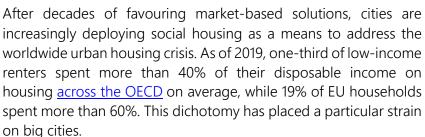
The Global Compendium of Land Value Capture, a joint project by the OECD and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, is an ambitious undertaking to understand the full landscape of land value capture (LVC) instruments, how they are configured and deployed across the globe in OECD and Non-OECD countries, and what it would take to unleash their full potential as a sustainable revenue source.



https://doi.org/10.1787/4f9559ee-en



## BLOG: Old tool for the new school: the return of social housing in cities







### BLOG: Can office conversion help solve the housing crisis in cities?

The rise of remote working during the COVID-19 crisis significantly reduced activity in cities' business districts, renewing policy makers' interest in turning underused office buildings into much needed residential housing in cities. This creates a unique window of opportunity to shape more sustainable and inclusive urban development.





## BLOG: How can cities get transport and cycling right to ensure a sustainable covid-19 recovery?

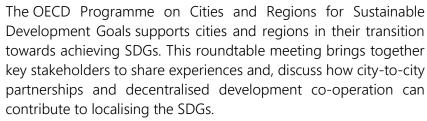
COVID-19 stigmatised public transport as unable to preserve physical distancing and therefore health. COVID-19 redistributed transport modes, to the detriment of public transport.



## **Sustainable Development Goals**



## OECD Roundtable on Cities and Regions for the Sustainable Development Goals







## A Territorial Approach to the Sustainable Development Goals: Synthesis Report

Cities and regions are grappling to preserve social inclusion, foster economic growth and transition to a low carbon economy. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set the global agenda for the coming decade to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. The report includes a Checklist for Public Action to help policy makers implement a territorial approach to the SDGs.



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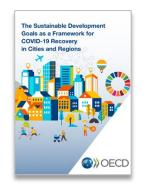


### OECD Toolkit for A Territorial Approach to the SDGs

As cities and regions face continuing shocks, how can governments ensure they stay on-target to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? *The OECD Toolkit for a Territorial Approach to the SDGs* presents lessons learned from 10 policy dialogues, provides guidance on how to implement the recommendations, 50 examples, and a self-assessment tool.



 $\frac{https://www.oecd.org/cfe/oecd-toolkit-for-a-territorial-approach-to-the-sdgs-2913bae2-en.htm}{}\\$ 



## The Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for COVID-19 recovery in cities and regions

Local and regional governments took a solid engagement in the implementation of the SDGs and a promising uptake of the SDGs as a guiding framework for place-based recovery. Yet, more efforts are needed to engage local and regional governments in Voluntary National Reviews, address funding gaps caused by the pandemic and strengthen human and technical capacities.



https://doi.org/10.1787/6d25b59b-en



## A Territorial Approach to the Sustainable Development Goals in Córdoba, Argentina

The province of Córdoba in Argentina has started to integrate the SDGs in its governmental actions to deliver social inclusion. The province has established three axes of governmental action linked to the SDGs – social justice, sustainable economic growth and strengthening institutions.



https://doi.org/10.1787/f11a65c2-en



# A Territorial Approach to the Sustainable Development Goals in Kitakyushu, Japan

The city of Kitakyushu in Japan has developed an SDG-based vision, which outlines the city's main sustainable development targets and actions and sets up a governance framework with a strong focus on citizen participation and private sector engagement.



https://doi.org/10.1787/12db268f-en



# A Territorial Approach to the Sustainable Development Goals in Paraná, Brazil

The state of Paraná in Brazil is aligning its Multi-Year Plan (PPA) for 2020-23 and other planning and budgeting tools with the SDGs to reduce territorial disparities and to foster the exchange of good practices among municipalities at different levels of development.



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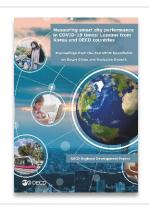
### Smart cities and innovation



#### OECD Roundtable on Smart Cities and Inclusive Growth

The OECD Programme on Smart Cities and Inclusive Growth supports cities and regions in their transition to a digital future. This Roundtable brings together key stakeholders to share new trends and initiatives on smart cities, understand what lessons can be learnt from existing indicator frameworks on smart cities, and identify how measuring smart cities performance can help cities better shape and implement COVID-19 recovery strategies.





### Measuring Smart City Performance in COVID-19 Times

Measuring smart city performance is critical to deliver effective policies, identify cost-effective public services, improve government accountability and track progress and impact. The proposed OECD Smart City Measurement Framework encompasses the uptake of digitalisation in cities abd how digital innovation can improve well-being outcomes, inclusion, sustainability and resilience.



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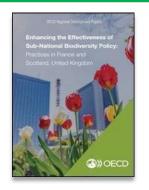
## Leveraging Innovation and Data Use in Cities: A Road to Increased Well-being

This report is a first-of-its-kind providing evidence on how cities' innovation and data use can result in improved resident well-being. Analysis of government innovation capacity shows cities with higher levels of innovation capacity and data use have increased levels of life satisfaction. The report offers 10 recommendations to help boost innovation capacity.



https://doi.org/10.1787/9f53286f-en

### **Climate**



## Enhancing the effectiveness of sub-national biodiversity policy: Practices in France and Scotland, United Kingdom

Drawing on policy practices from Scotland (UK), France and other signatories to the Edinburgh Declaration, this paper provides an overview and analysis of sub-national strategies, plans and mechanisms to ensure policy coherence and co-ordination. It then examines the policy instruments that subnational governments can leverage to deliver positive biodiversity outcomes.





# An integrated approach to the Paris Climate Agreement: The role of regions and cities

This paper highlights the need for an integrated approach in implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term emission development strategies (LT-LEDS) and presents key policy options.. It also assesses the potential for co-ordination of national, regional and local climate mitigation investment through the lens of the OECD Recommendation on Effective Public Investment Across Levels of Government adopted in 2014.





## Financing climate objectives in cities and regions to deliver sustainable and inclusive growth

The investment choices we make in the coming years will either lock-in a climate-compatible, inclusive growth pathway, or a high-carbon, inefficient and unsustainable pathway. Cities and regions are significant contributors to spending and investment related to climate. This paper focuses on how national and sub-national governments can align subnational financial flows to transition towards low-carbon, resilient and inclusive cities.





#### Green Growth in Cities

This report synthesises the findings from six case studies of urban green growth policies, four at city level (Paris, Chicago, Stockholm, Kitakyushu) and two at the national level (China, Korea). It offers a definition of urban green growth and a framework for analysing how it might play out.



https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264195325-en



#### BLOG: Biodiverse cities: resetting our relationship with nature

Urban activities are harming our environment through consumption of land and materials. In particular, urban sprawl is resulting in a loss of biodiversity, which is now considered to be among the top global risks to society, together with climate change. How can our cities reset their relationship with nature?



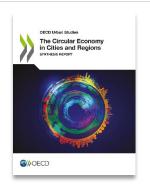
### Circular economy



### OECD Roundtable on Circular Economy in Cities and Regions

The OECD Programme on the Circular Economy in Cities and Regions supports cities and regions in their transition towards a circular economy. The Roundtable brings together key circular economy stakeholders from cities, regions, national government, business, academia and international organisations to share knowledge, experiences and best practices.





### The Circular Economy in Cities and Regions: Synthesis Report

Cities and regions are fundamental to the transition from a linear to a circular economy. This report brings together the findings from 51 cities and regions responding to a Survey, and Policy Dialogues carried out in Groningen (Netherlands), Umeå (Sweden), Valladolid (Spain) and on-going in Glasgow (United Kingdom), Granada (Spain), and Ireland.



https://doi.org/10.1787/10ac6ae4-en



### The Circular Economy in Glasgow, United Kingdom

The transition to a circular economy in Glasgow is part of the city's broader journey to transition from 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial centre to a carbon-neutral city by 2030. The 2020 Glasgow Circular Economy Route Map offers a system where people can access local jobs and green business practices contribute to achieving zero carbon goals.



https://doi.org/10.1787/7717a310-en



#### The Circular Economy in Granada, Spain

This report summarises the findings of a two-year policy dialogue with the city of Granada in Spain, and provides recommendations and a vision to transition to a circular economy. The report argues Granada can play a role as a promoter, facilitator and enabler of the circular economy. This will require a collective and coordinated approach across all stakeholders and levels of government.



https://doi.org/10.1787/5f8bd827-en



### The Circular Economy in Valladolid, Spain

The transition to the circular economy for Valladolid represents an opportunity for greater attractiveness and competitiveness, while providing responses to environmental challenges. This report aims to support Valladolid in developing a coherent circular economy strategy to finance circular economy projects, raise awareness and promote an entrepreneurial culture on the circular economy.



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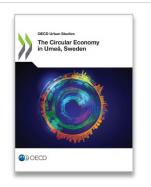


#### The Circular Economy in Groningen, The Netherlands

In 2018, Groningen decided to make the circular economy a priority for the city, identifying three priority areas: public procurement, waste and knowledge. This case study presents the state of the art of the circular economy in Groningen, the main challenges for designing a circular economy strategy and the ways forward for the city's circular transition.



https://doi.org/10.1787/e53348d4-en



### The Circular Economy in Umeå, Sweden

This report aims to support Umeå in becoming the leader in the circular economy as stated in its strategic plan for 2016-2028. The rapidly growing population has consequences for housing, use of natural resources and waste production. As such, the local government is developing a model integrating environmental, social and economic aspects within a circular economy approach.



https://doi.org/10.1787/4ec5dbcd-en



#### The Circular Economy in Ireland

Ireland is at a turning point for the transition to a circular economy. The 2022 Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy provides the policy framework for the circular economy in the country, and the forthcoming Circular Economy Bill is expected to strengthen waste and circular economy legislation.



https://doi.org/10.1787/7d25e0bb-en



#### BLOG: Can the circular economy become the new normal in cities?

Only 17% of the total sums allocated to COVID-19 economic recovery plans have been dedicated to environmentally positive measures. Of which, only around 1% address resource efficiency and waste management. How can a circular economy help?





## BLOG: Resilient people and places: Why cities should embrace the circular economy to shape our post-COVID-19 future

We all know that climate change will have a detrimental effect on economic activities and people's lives. Yet, in practice, what are we doing individually and collectively to ensure there is no 'going back'? Why is it so hard to shift from short-term responses to long-term risk management?



### Water governance



#### **OECD Water Governance Initiative**

The OECD Water Governance Initiative is a multi-stakeholder network of 100+ delegates from public, private and non-profit sectors gathering twice a year in a Policy Forum to share on-going reforms, projects, lessons and good practices in support of better governance in the water sector. The WGI is hosted by the OECD, and coordinated by a multi-stakeholder steering committee.

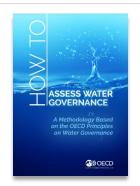




#### **OECD Principles on Water Governance**

The OECD Water Governance Principles provide the 12 must-do's for governments to design and implement effective, efficient, and inclusive water policies. To date, they have been endorsed by 170+ stakeholder groups or governments: 37 OECD member countries, 7 non-member countries, and 140 stakeholder groups.

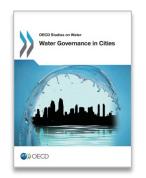




#### How to Assess Water Governance

This one-stop-shop guides the effective, efficient, and inclusive assessment of water governance systems in a shared responsibility with stakeholders engaged in water-related policy or decision-making. It includes a background section about the OECD Indicators on Water Governance and a section on the ten-step Methodology to undertake the assessment of water governance systems through a multi-stakeholder consultation process.





#### Water Governance in Cities

Building on a survey of 48 cities in OECD countries and emerging economies, this report analyses key factors affecting urban water governance, discusses trends in allocating roles and responsibilities across levels of government, and assesses multi-level governance gaps in urban water management. It provides a framework for mitigating territorial and institutional fragmentation and raising the profile of water in the broader sustainable development agenda.



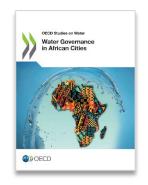
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# OECD-UCLG Africa Roundtable of African Mayors for Water Security

This Roundtable brings together 100+ Mayors to facilitate the design and implementation of robust local water policies to bridge the key governance gaps identified in the OECD report on Water Governance in African Cities. It foresees the production of new water-related data and place-based evidence about sustainable development goals, and will encourage exchange among Mayors.





#### Water Governance in African Cities

Building on a Survey on Water Governance across 36 cities of all size in Africa, this report provides a regional overview of the allocation of roles and responsibilities for water management, the existence and implementation of institutional, policy and regulatory frameworks, as well as the critical governance gaps that need to be bridged in order to boost city government capacity to drive water security in the continent.



https://doi.org/10.1787/19effb77-en



### Water Governance in Cape Town, South Africa

As a result of a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue involving 100+ stakeholders from the city of Cape Town and South Africa, this report assesses key water risks and governance challenges in Cape Town, and provides policy recommendations towards more effective, efficient and inclusive water management building on the OECD Principles on Water Governance.



https://doi.org/10.1787/a804bd7b-en



#### BLOG: What if women ruled the world of water?

Water is one of our most precious resources. The role of women in water decision-making remains marginal. Making the water sector more gender-balanced, and involving more women in water decision-making could help make water management more effective, more equitable and more sustainable.





### BLOG: Water security for all: how can we achieve it?

While three billion people lack basic handwashing facilities at home, global access to water continues to be a persistent inequality, if only to wash hands, one of the basic measures adopted since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to prevent the spread virus. How can we achieve water security for all?



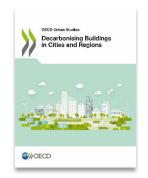


## BLOG: Boosting the blue economy: how our cities can make a splash!

The blue economy is a major driver of urban and regional development. In coastal cities, it provides jobs for millions of people, but the blue economy is not only about money. It includes non-market benefits, such as carbon storage, coastal protection, cultural values and biodiversity.



## **Energy efficiency in buildings**



#### **Decarbonising Buildings in Cities and Regions**

Accounting for nearly 40% of global energy-related CO2 emissions and sometimes 70% in large cities, buildings and construction are central to the low-carbon transition. Decarbonising buildings, especially old stock, through energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy use, reduces carbon emissions, and generates co-benefits in health, energy affordability and the labour market.



https://doi.org/10.1787/a48ce566-en



# BLOG: Are our buildings costing the earth? Protecting our pockets and the planet

Rents and mortgage repayments are not the only expense attached to our buildings. Many are leaking energy, leaving a hole in our pockets as well as climate ambitions. And it's high time to fix them.



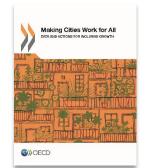
## Inequalities and inclusive growth



### **OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth**

Champion Mayors form a coalition of willing leaders who have committed to tackling inequalities and promoting more inclusive economic growth in cities. This initiative has helped governments analyse rising inequalities, monitor material living standards and broader well-being, and design policy packages that promote equity and growth. It is driven by a multidimensional approach to Inclusive Growth, going beyond income to see how people are faring in other areas of life, like jobs and health.



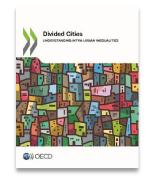


### Making Cities Work for All

This report provides ground-breaking, internationally comparable data on economic growth, inequalities and well-being at the city level in OECD countries, and a framework for action, to help national and local governments reorient policies towards more inclusive growth in cities.



https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264263260-en



### Divided Cities: Understanding Intra-urban Inequalities

This report provides an assessment of spatial inequalities and segregation in cities and metropolitan areas from multiple perspectives. The chapters in the report focus on a subset of OECD countries and non-member economies, and provide new insights on cross-cutting issues for city neighbourhoods.



https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264300385-en



#### Migrant and Refugee Integration in Stockholm

To shed light on developments in Stockholm's policies and governance mechanisms for migrant and refugee inclusion, this scoping note builds on some of the blocks identified in the OECD Checklist for public action to migrant integration at the local level. It provides examples of comparable policies implemented in other OECD countries, highlighting possible policy implications for Stockholm that can be further articulated and monitored.





#### Inclusive growth in Seoul, Korea

This report assesses inclusive growth trends and challenges in the Seoul metropolitan area. The analysis goes beyond income to assess the barriers faced by specific groups - non-regular workers, youth, women, the elderly and migrants - across four dimensions: education, labour market, housing and the urban environment, and infrastructure and public services.



https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264290198-en



## BLOG: Mayors champion strategies for green, inclusive and thriving cities post covid-19

While the impacts of the pandemic were felt globally, not all places were equally prepared to deal with the COVID-19 health crisis. Almost half the world's population live in cities, and the bigger the city, the greater the inequalities in opportunity, access to public services and transport, and life expectancy. COVID-19 magnified these inequalities and needs to be used as a catalyst for change.



## **Public procurement**



# Unlocking the Strategic Use of Public Procurement in Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Subnational governments carry out more than 60% of total public procurement in OECD countries. As such, public procurement can offer a powerful tool for cities to boost local growth and advance their strategic priorities, ranging from innovation and inclusion to the transition to a low-carbon economy.



https://doi.org/10.1787/d616e4d9-en





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