

# Engagement with Local and Regional Authorities in Development Co-operation

## Poland-OECD seminar

24 September 2021 - Online

Session 1 – 09.00 to 12.00 (Paris/Warsaw time)

Session 2 – 14.00 to 15.30 (Paris/Warsaw time)

## Background

Since 2018, Poland and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Co-operation Directorate (OECD-DCD) have worked together in the framework of a roadmap of collaboration for development co-operation policy reform. A number of activities and a series of reports have been carried out to support the country's capacities and strategic reflections, particularly towards the development of its [2021-2030 Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme](#). In 2021, one of the areas of this collaboration is the engagement with local and regional authorities in development co-operation, which is explicitly recognized and valued in the new programme, leading to the organization of this dedicated seminar.

## Objective of the seminar

The 2030 Agenda calls for enhancing partnerships and concerted efforts of all development actors as well as the 'localisation' of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to meet the challenges of their implementation. According to the OECD, at least 105 of the 169 SDG targets will not be reached without proper engagement and coordination with local and regional governments.<sup>1</sup> The Addis Ababa Action Agenda further stresses this urgency to address the growing financing and capacity needs at all levels of government in developing countries. In this context, decentralised development co-operation (DDC) – the exchange of financial and non-financial resources between subnational governments in developed and developing countries – is gaining even more traction as an effective approach to address the issues closest to citizens and to raising awareness and promoting the achievement of the SDGs. In the past decades, subnational actors, including cities and regions of OECD countries have played a crucial role in the sharing of knowledge, resources, experience and policy solutions to cities and regions in the developing world. Yet, their enormous potential to support the achievement of the SDGs globally is largely untapped. International aid remains overwhelmingly channelled through central governments. While 70% of cities worldwide engage in peer-to-peer exchanges, including cross-border partnerships and technical exchanges, only 1.3% of total bilateral official development assistance (ODA) is provided in support of cities and regions in developing countries.<sup>2</sup>

This seminar, organised jointly by the OECD-DCD/FOR and the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Polish aid, aims to facilitate a discussion and an exchange of ideas on engaging with local and regional authorities in development co-operation, focusing on the Polish context. It will be articulated around two main sessions.

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<sup>1</sup> OECD (2020b), A Territorial Approach to the Sustainable Development Goals: Synthesis report, OECD Urban Policy Reviews, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/e86fa715-en>

<sup>2</sup> OECD (2019), "Decentralised development co-operation: Unlocking the potential of cities and regions", *OECD Development Policy Papers*, No. 22, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/e9703003-en>.

The first will focus on the strategies, policies and instruments of local and regional authorities engaging in development co-operation, including a peer exchange. The second session will focus on the ODA eligibility and reporting mechanisms and issues of DDC activities.

## Registration

[Registration available through this link.](#)

## Agenda

<b>Session 1. Engaging with local and regional authorities: Comprehensive overview</b>	
<b>09:00-09:20</b>	<p>Welcoming remarks</p> <p>The Poland-OECD/DCD partnership for development co-operation</p> <p>Paweł Jabłoński, Undersecretary of State for Economic and Development Cooperation, Africa and the Middle East</p> <p>Jorge Moreira da Silva, Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD</p>
<b>09:20-10:00</b>	<p>Engaging with local and regional authorities in development co-operation: a comprehensive overview</p> <p>Q&amp;A (15 min)</p>
<b>10:00-10:10</b>	Break
<b>10:10-11:00</b>	<p>Polish mechanisms and experiences of decentralised development co-operation</p> <p>Q&amp;A (15 min)</p>
<b>11:00-12:00</b>	<p>Sharing country, region or city experiences around decentralised development co-operation</p> <p>Q&amp;A (15 min)</p>
<b>11:50-12:00</b>	Concluding remarks and way forward
<b>Session 2. Addressing the data challenge of decentralised development co-operation</b>	
<b>14:00-15:15</b>	<p>Addressing the data challenge: ODA eligibility and reporting of projects implemented by local and regional authorities</p> <p>Q&amp;A (30 min)</p>
<b>15:15-15:30</b>	Concluding remarks, seminar feedback and way forward