

BETTER GOVERNANCE, PLANNING & SERVICES IN MUNICIPALITIES: POLAND

Background

At the request of the Government of Poland, and in close collaboration with the Association of Polish Cities (APC – ZMP using the Polish acronym), the OECD is carrying out a public governance and territorial development assessment that aims to advise Polish municipalities on how to strengthen their capacity to pursue integrated local development planning. The ultimate objective is to service citizens and businesses better using good governance methods based on international best practice. The project is funded under the EEA and Norway Grants mechanism and supported by the Polish Ministry of Investment and Economic Development (MIED).

This project builds on numerous collaborations between Poland and the OECD, including the Public Governance Review (2013) and the Rural Policy Review (2018) of Poland.

Objectives

This project, entitled “Better Governance, Planning and Services in Municipalities in Poland: an OECD Assessment” will assess municipal policy and practice in key thematic areas of public governance and territorial development. It will provide recommendations for reforms to improve capacity in municipalities to better serve citizens and businesses. The Assessment’s eight thematic areas of public governance include:

1. Centre of government co-ordination across administrative siloes
2. Strategic planning in municipalities
3. Use of evidence in strategic decision-making
4. Linking development strategies to finance and budget systems
5. Multi-level governance and municipal investment capacity
6. Strategic human resources management in municipal administrations
7. Open government policies and frameworks for greater accountability
8. Regulatory frameworks to reduce administrative burden and red tape



In addition, the OECD will accompany and support three categories of Polish cities and municipalities (small, medium and large) in the design and implementation of their Development Plans through the design and use of a municipal public governance self-assessment tool.

To inform both the development of the Assessment and the self-assessment tool, 50 municipalities will be asked to provide information through an OECD composite questionnaire to be administered by the APC/ZMP on behalf of the OECD. A representative sample of 6 to 10 cities will undergo a more in-depth review.

Timeline

Starting in July 2019, the project will be conducted over the course of 22 to 24 months and will consist of the following phases:

- Within the first six months of the project, the OECD will develop and have administered thanks to the APC/ZMP a comprehensive questionnaire to collect information on governance, planning and territorial development issues faced by Polish municipalities.
- A team composed of OECD policy experts and international peer reviewers will conduct fact-finding missions to meet with a representative sample of municipalities and key national and regional/local stakeholders to assess and analyse in-depth the Assessment's thematic areas.
- To test a preliminary version of the draft self-assessment tool, the OECD will manage information-sharing and capacity-building workshops for a representative sample of municipalities.
- The OECD will present and discuss a synthesis of the Review's main preliminary findings and recommendations with relevant stakeholders in Poland.
- The Assessment will then be finalised with Polish stakeholders and presented to the OECD's Public Governance committee (PGC) and the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC) in 2021. This will enable the OECD and the APC/ZMP along with the MIED to launch the Assessment's findings formally in 2021.