

The OECD Regional Database (RDB)

Monica Brezzi

OECD Public Governance and Territorial
Development Directorate

2nd April 2008

ESPON workshop on territorial indicators and
indices

OECD RDB Objective

- Developed to support the analytical work of the *OECD Territorial Development Policy Committee* and its *Working Parties*
- Provides internationally comparable quantitative information on sub-national development conditions and trends, revealing the diversity and disparities of territorial development for specific policy related indicators and for different types of territory

OECD RDB: where we are/1

- The OECD Regional Database (RDB) includes some 40 regional statistics for 30 OECD member countries on demography, regional economic accounts, labour market, social indicators.
- Topics, statistics and methods are discussed within the Working Party on Territorial Indicators and data are usually collected directly through access of NSOs, other official institutions web-sites and Eurostat-New Cronos.
- In addition a questionnaire is sent to member countries annually to collect data not accessible elsewhere

OECD RDB: where we are/2

- (**Regional grids**) Regions in each member country are classified at two territorial levels (TLs): Territorial Level 2 (335 macro regions) and territorial Level 3 (1679 micro regions).
- For European countries this classification is largely consistent with the Eurostat NUTS2 and NUTS3 regions
- The classification is officially established (and relatively stable) in all OECD member countries and used by central governments as a framework for implementing regional policies.
- (**Regional typology**) Regions at the TL3 level are classified into Predominantly Urban, Intermediate or Predominantly Rural according to the share of population living in rural communities. Further refinement of typology in 2007 (on the size of urban centres contained in the TL3 region).
- (**Metropolitan database**) Definition of metropolitan regions (based on population, pop density, commuting rate); applied for policy analysis

Use of RDB

- **" OECD Regions at a glance "** (factors of national growth, unused regional resources to improve regional competitiveness, broader dimension of regional well-being support regional competitiveness and improve social cohesion)
- Decomposition of regional growth around six key factors
- Econometric analysis on regional competitiveness
- Quantitative analysis on specific issues or areas
- Member Countries for comparison and benchmarking

Issues and future developments/1

- Adequate dimension for assessing territorial policies
 - Improvement of the geographical unity of analysis (revised rural typology, proposed metropolitan areas definition, comparability of functional areas use of geographical integrated systems for computing) according to the purpose of analysis

Ex. Spatial correlation in innovative cluster

Link to policy evaluation: include information on how territorial policies are delivered (resources, multilevel governance, mechanism)

Issues and future developments/2

- Significant indicators to analyse regional competitiveness

Example global relations

OECD enlargement and enhanced engagement

- Find synthetic comparable measures in a less homogeneous group
- Include new dimensions relevant for regional policy analysis (ex. Migrations, delivery of public goods quality of local services)
- Link with indicators produced at local level