



Final conference of ESPON Targeted Analysis 'SPIMA'
(Spatial dynamics and strategic planning in Metropolitan Areas)
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OECD PERSPECTIVE ON METROPOLITAN AREAS

Soo-Jin KIM

OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities
Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division



OUTLINE

1. Why does the OECD work on metropolitan areas?
2. Why does metropolitan governance matter?
3. Spotlight on spatial planning in selected metropolitan areas
4. Final considerations



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Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): 35 member countries



In the process of accession:



Key Partners:





A platform for policy dialogue between **national** governments for growth and well-being...

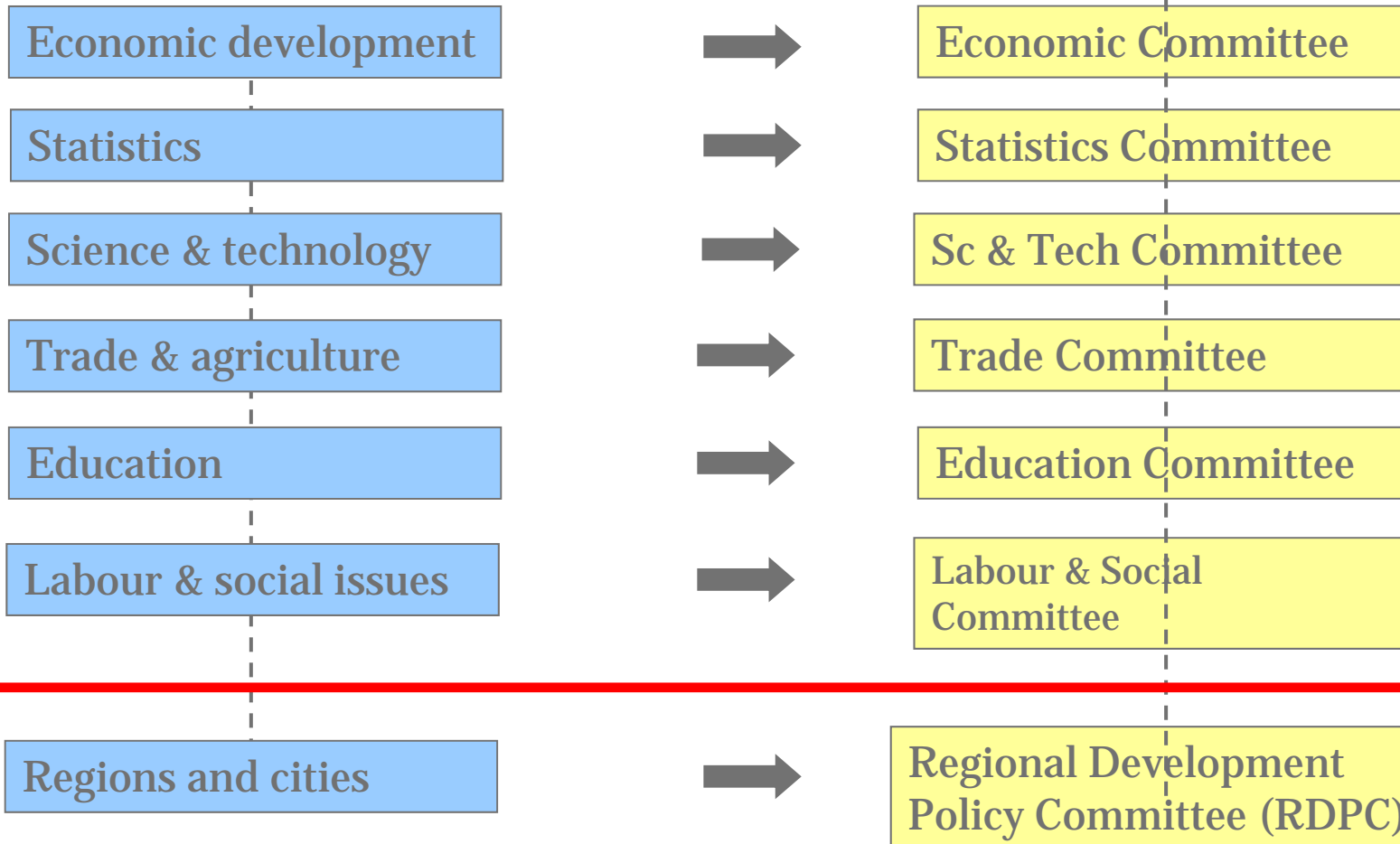




... working on a number of sectoral policy areas, with an increasing focus on **urban** issues.

Directorates

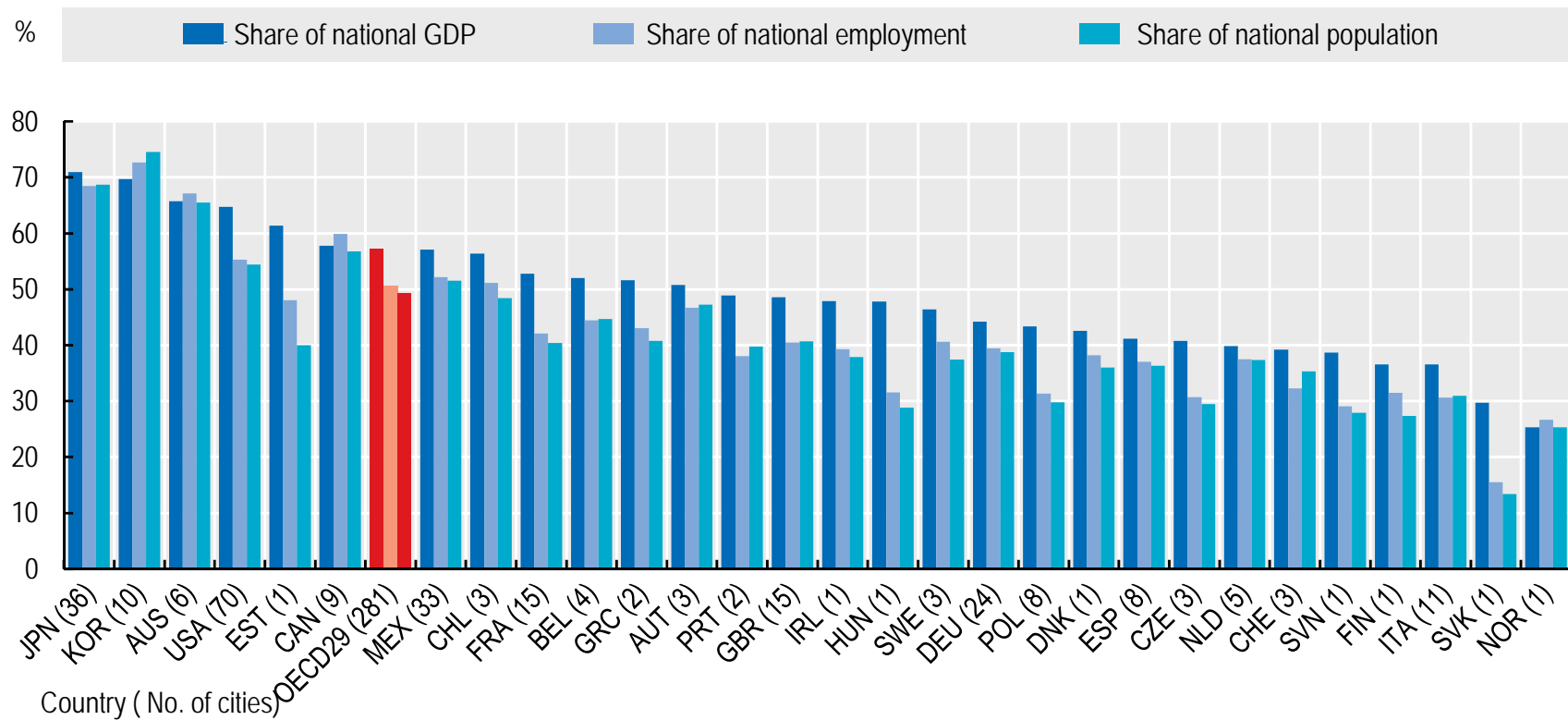
Committees (composed of central government officials)





Cities represent around **half** of the OECD area

Cities account for **49% of population, 51% of employment, and 57% of GDP** in the OECD area (2013).

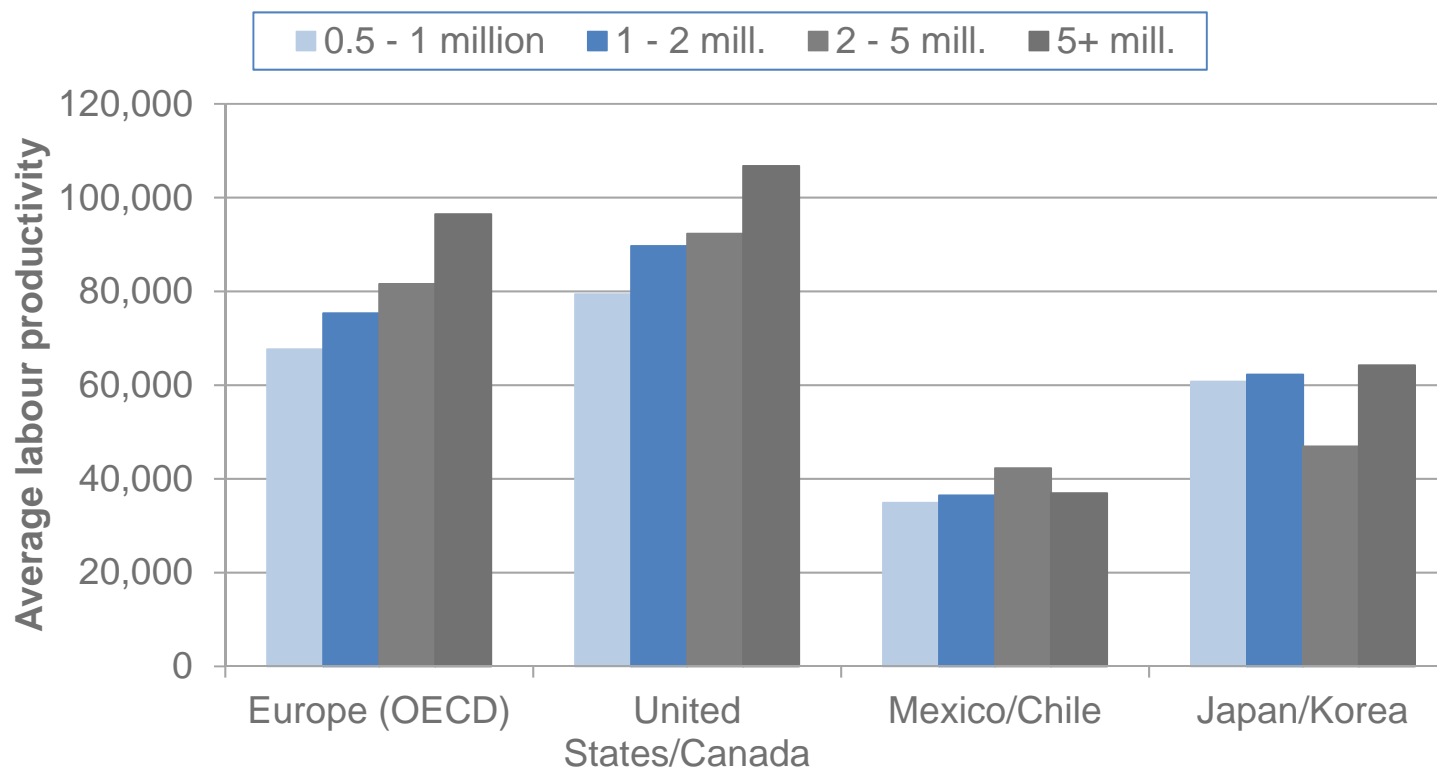


Source: OECD (2016), *Regions at a Glance 2016*, OECD Publishing, Paris



Urbanisation can benefit **economic growth**

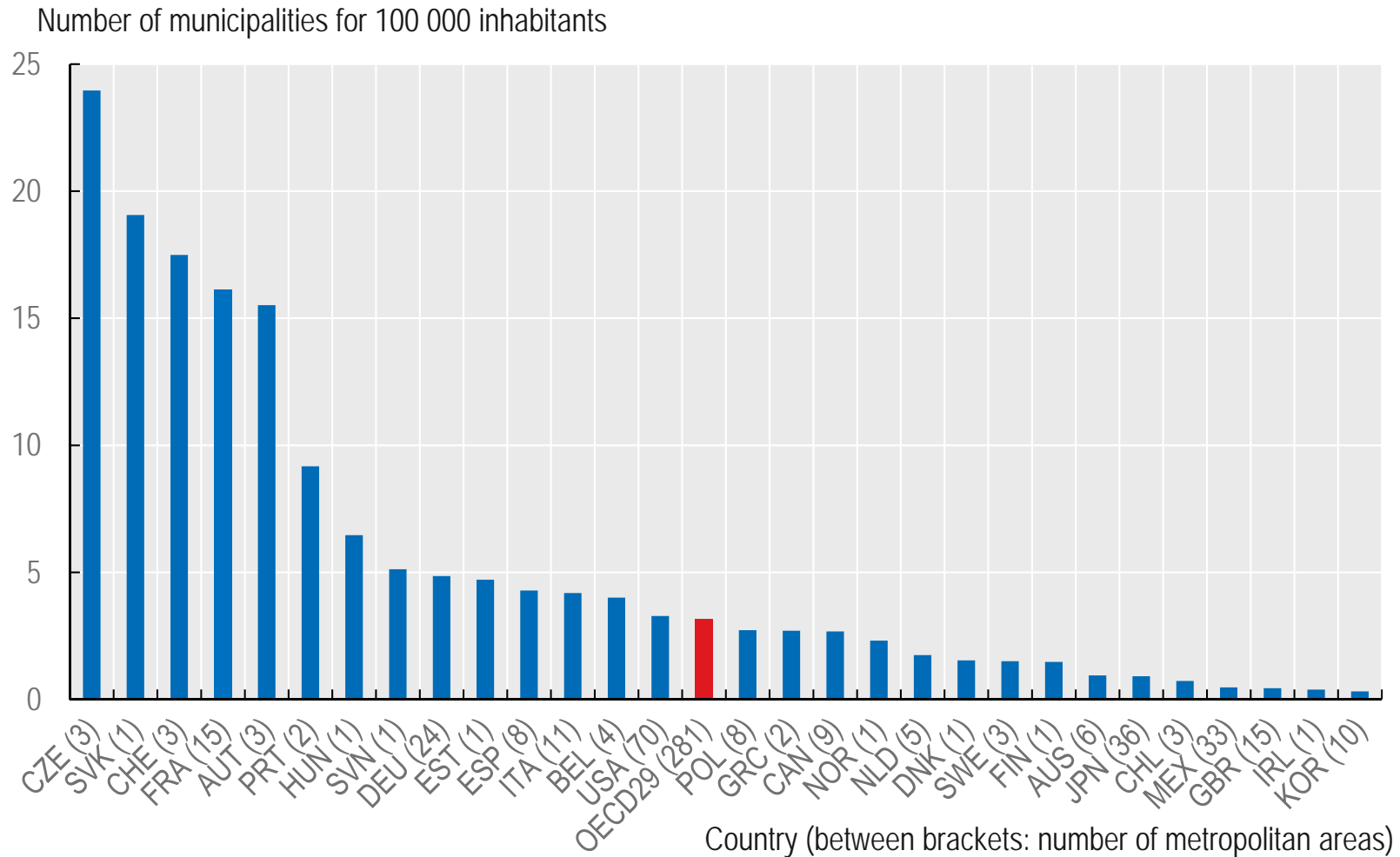
Agglomeration benefits can make larger cities more productive



Source: OECD (2015), *The Metropolitan Century: Understanding Urbanisation and Its Consequences*, OECD Publishing, Paris



... but many metropolitan areas are characterised by **administrative fragmentation**



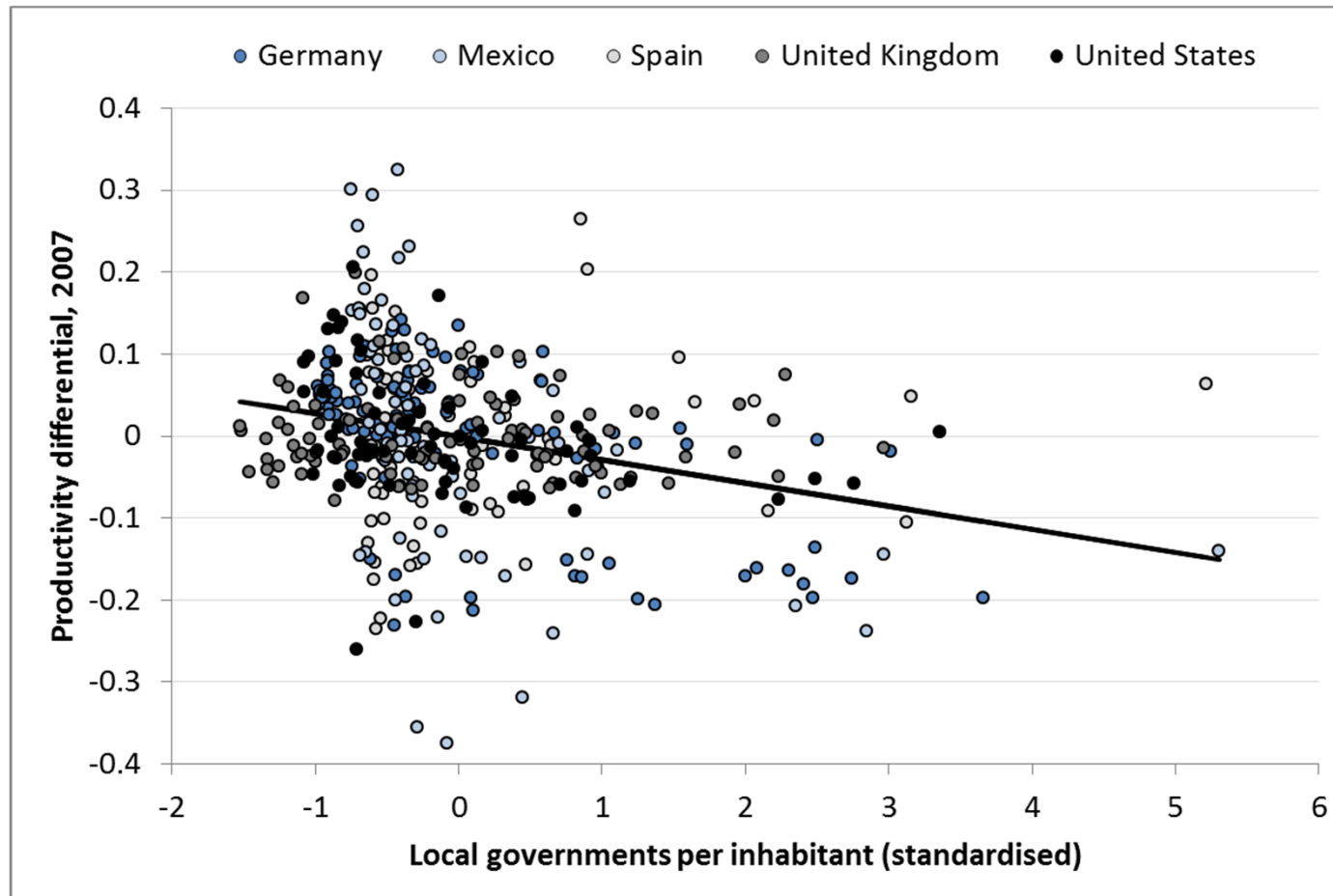


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Higher administrative fragmentation is associated with **lower productivity**



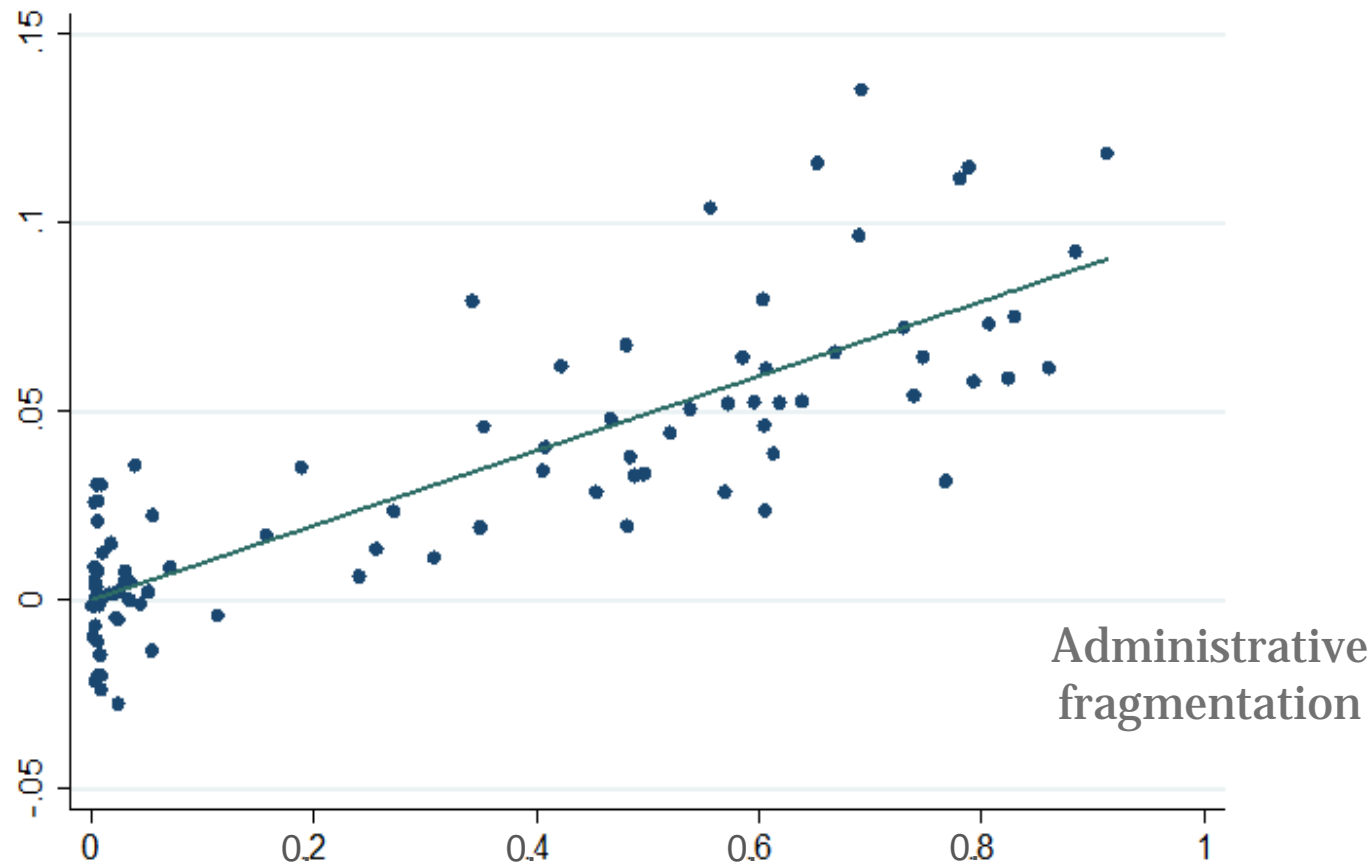
Productivity **falls** by 6% for a doubling in the number of **municipalities** (for a given population size)

Source: Ahrend, Farchy, Kaplanis and Lembcke (2014), “What Makes Cities More Productive? Agglomeration Economies & the Role of Urban Governance: Evidence from 5 OECD Countries”, Journal of Regional Science



Higher administrative fragmentation is associated with **stronger inequalities**

Spatial segregation by income

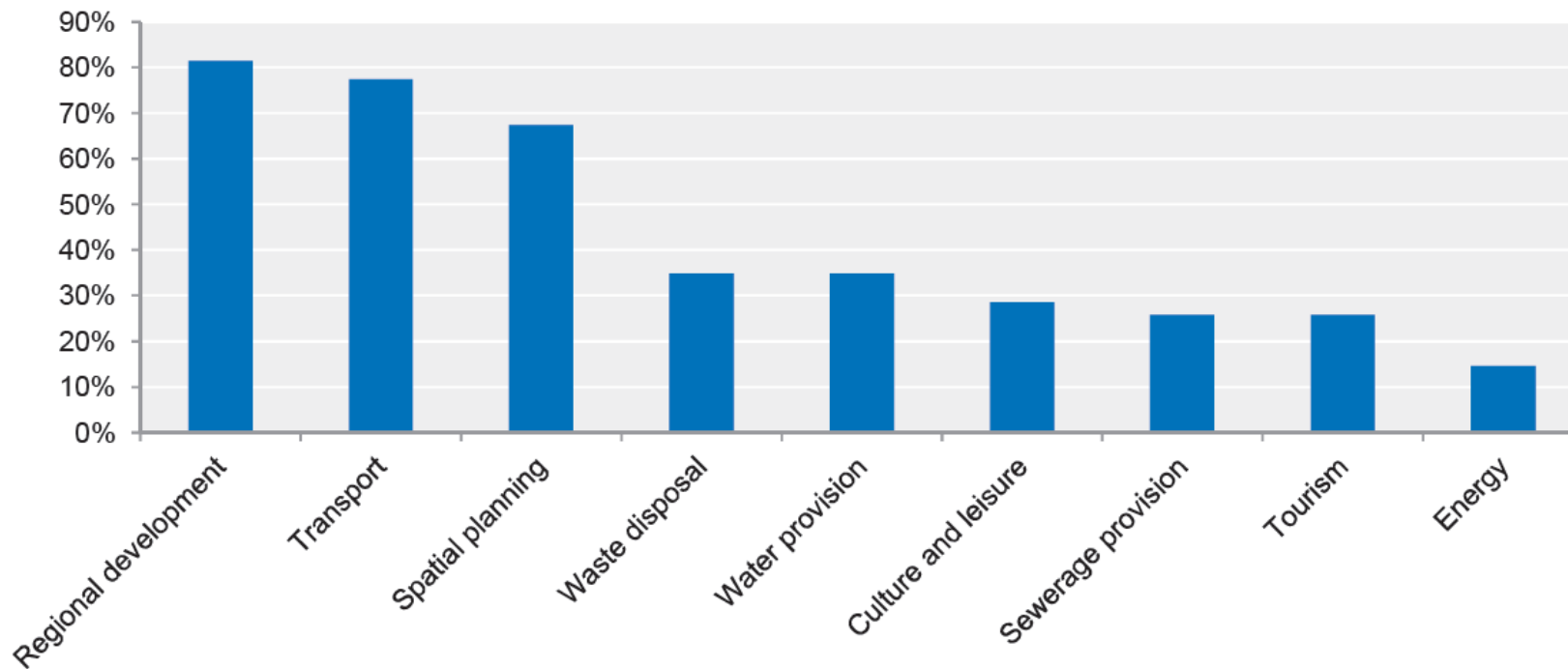


Source: Brezzi, Boulant & Veneri (2016), "Income Levels And Inequality in Metropolitan Areas: A Comparative Approach in OECD Countries", OECD Regional Development Working Papers, 2016/06



Metropolitan governance is widespread in OECD countries

- About **2/3** of OECD metropolitan areas have a metropolitan governance body.
- Most of them work on **economic development, transport and spatial planning.**



Source: OECD (2015), *Governing the City*, OECD Publishing, Paris

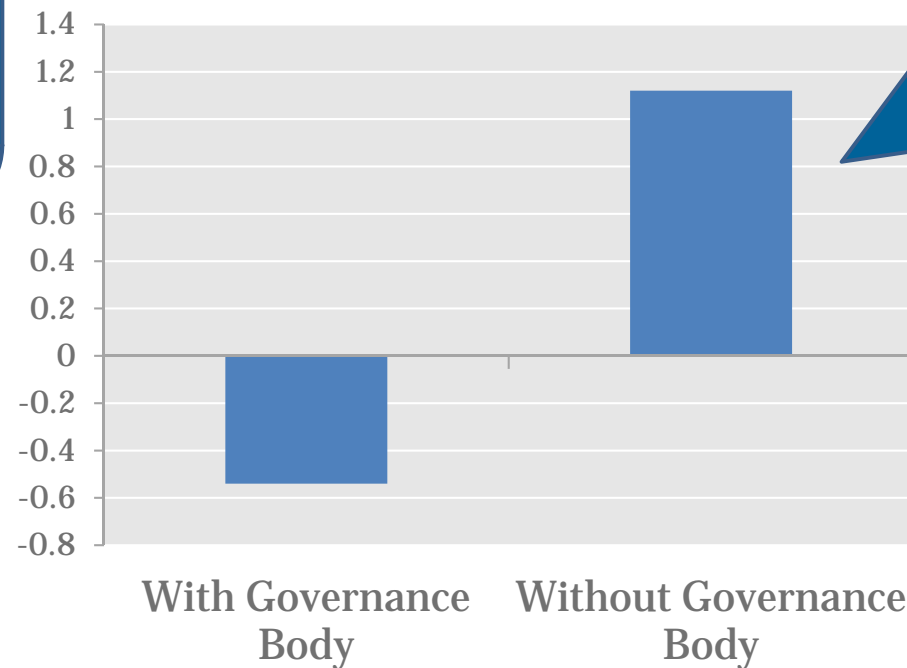




Metropolitan governance is associated with **lower urban sprawl**

Urban sprawl **decreased** in metropolitan areas that **have** a metropolitan governance body

Change in urban sprawl (2000-2006)



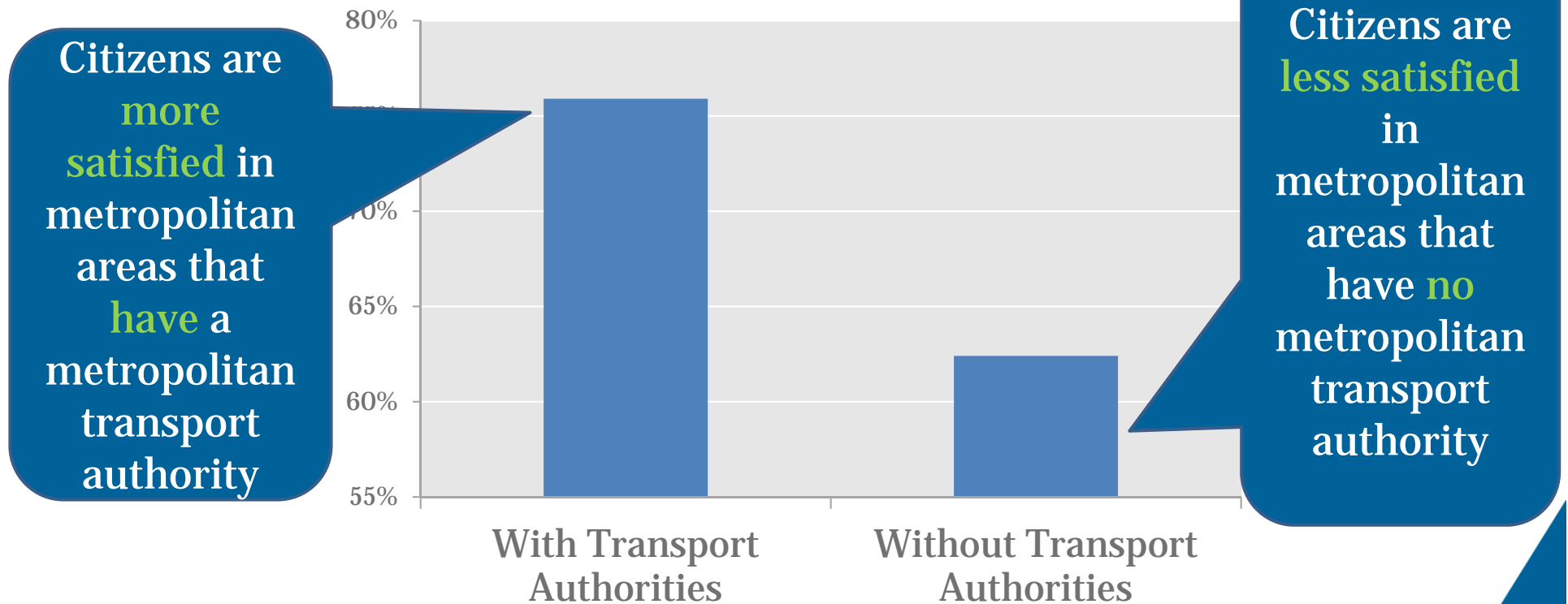
Urban sprawl **increased** in metropolitan areas that have **no** metropolitan governance body

Source: OECD (2015), *The Metropolitan Century: Understanding Urbanisation and Its Consequences*, OECD Publishing, Paris



Metropolitan governance is associated with **higher satisfaction among citizens**

Share of citizens satisfied with public transport



Source: OECD (2015), *The Metropolitan Century: Understanding Urbanisation and Its Consequences*, OECD Publishing, Paris



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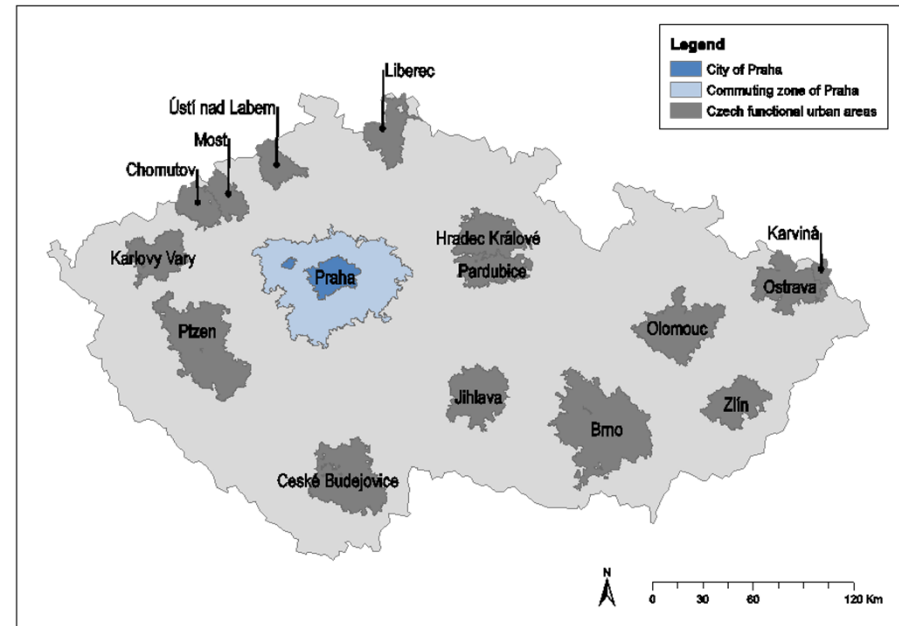
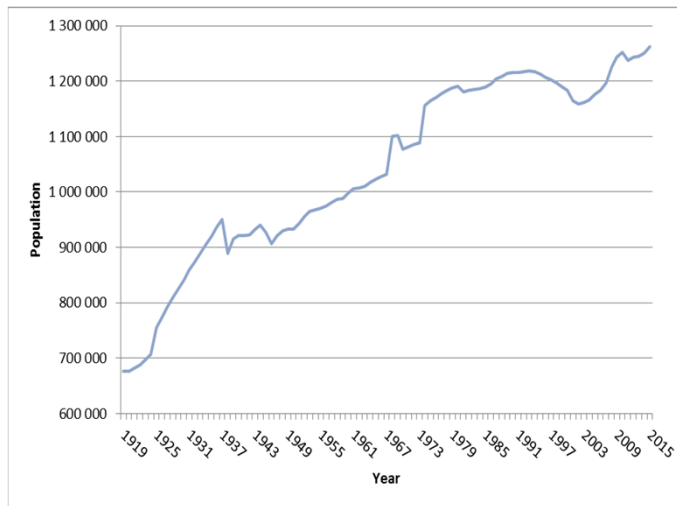
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Prague (Czech Republic)



Population growth in Prague (1919-2015)



OECD recommendations:

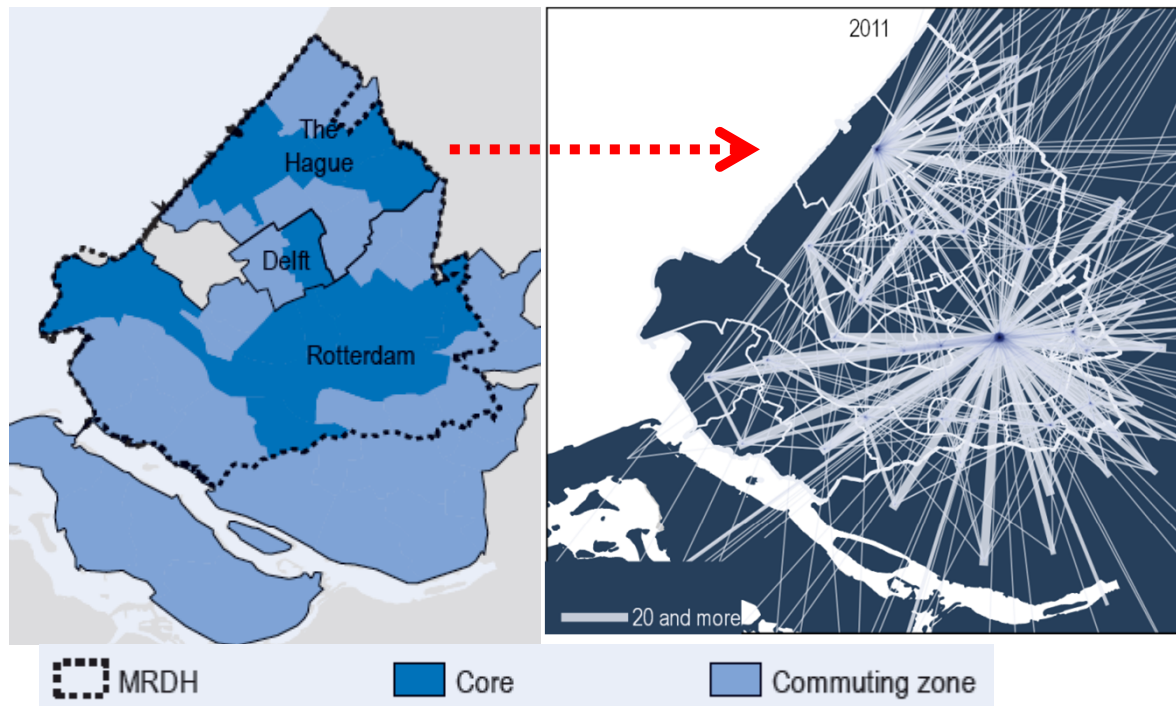
- Improve **integrated spatial planning** by aligning sectoral and borough-level plans with the Strategic Plan (2016)
- Reduce the **regulatory burden** for developers in terms of building approvals
- Establish (national) **fiscal incentives** and/or regulatory frameworks to encourage metropolitan spatial planning



Rotterdam-The Hague (Netherlands)



MRDH (*Metropoolregio Rotterdam Den Haag*): a new metropolitan authority encompassing 23 municipalities = 2.3 million people = more than 60% of the population of the Zuid-Holland province



National

Province
(spatial
planning)

~~City-regions~~

MRDH
(transport &
eco dev)

Municipalities



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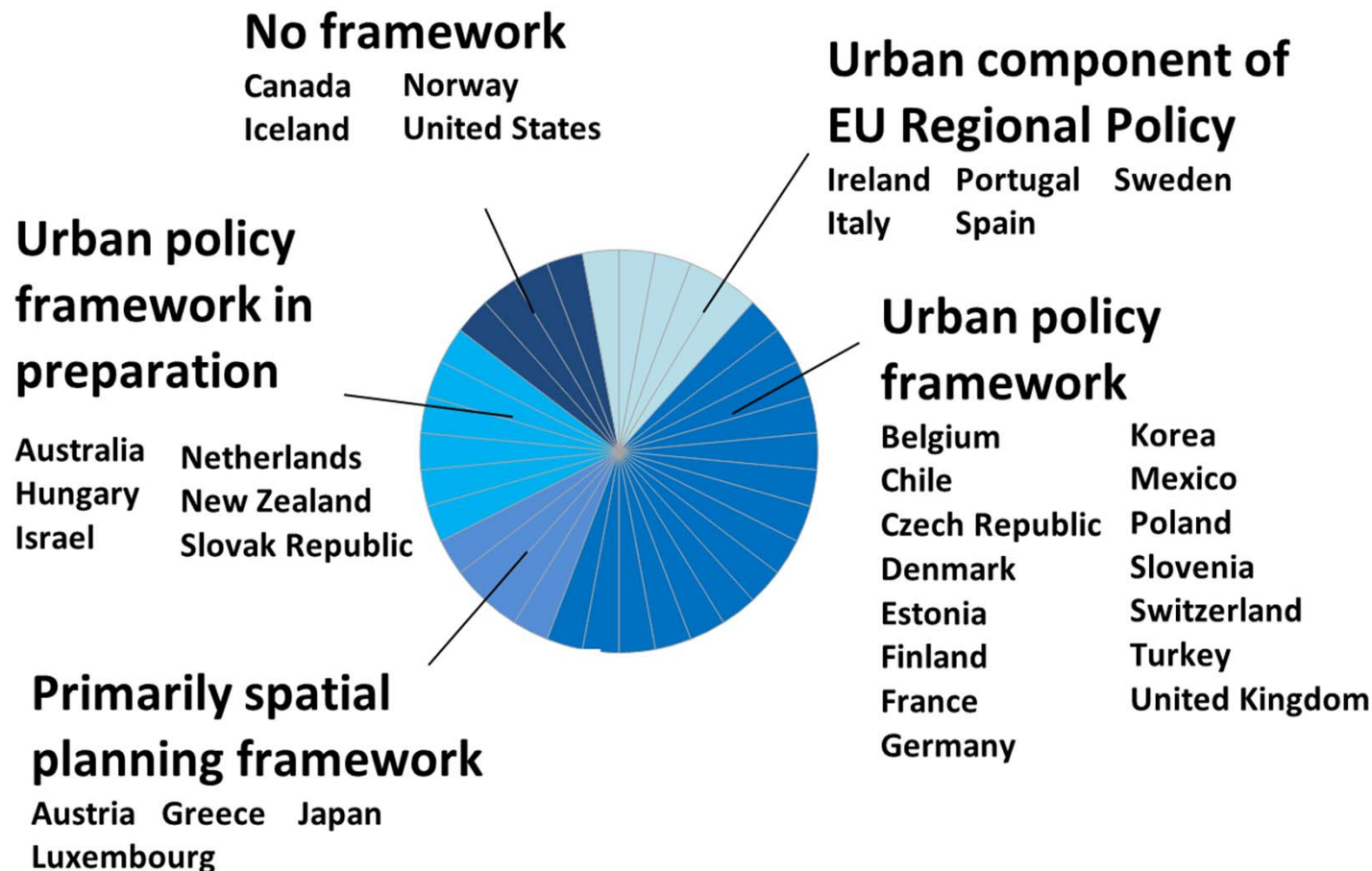
Key steps for effective metropolitan governance reform

- 1 Identify concrete metropolitan projects to motivate collaboration
- 2 Build ownership among key stakeholders
- 3 Ensure reliable sources of metropolitan financing
- 4 Provide incentives and compensation for compromises
- 5 Implement monitoring and evaluation mechanisms





Many OECD countries have (or are in the process of setting up) a **national urban policy framework**



Source: OECD (2016), *OECD Regional Outlook 2016*, OECD Publishing, Paris





THANK YOU

Contact:
soo-jin.kim@oecd.org