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The OECD Territorial Outlook 2001: Making Sense of the Maze

Rural and urban regions do not fit into neat categories in terms of populations, jobs and incomes. Some rural areas are flourishing, whereas some urban regions perform below the national average. How, under such circumstances, can governments judge which policies are best suited to help different regions prosper?

Cities and regions need more and better data to identify their assets and their shortcomings in areas such as transport, housing, and education. They need strategies to integrate vulnerable groups and better involve civil society in governance. They need access to the world economy through infrastructure and communications.

From now on, the OECD will be reporting annually on territorial policy trends in OECD countries, and providing the comparative information that can help in making policy decisions. **The OECD Territorial Outlook 2001** provides an atlas of GDP, employment trends, income distribution and population change and density for each OECD country broken down into regions. Comparisons of regional trends within countries show which regions are gaining or losing jobs and people.

The report also looks at governance questions. What impact do national policies have on regions and municipalities? How can fiscal and other incentives for firms to settle in a particular region be linked with the local social, economic and environmental situation to help make it more competitive and firmly anchored there? Land use and planning are important areas for policy innovation. The integration of sustainable development objectives should help control the development on the green edges of cities, contribute to a more efficient use of infrastructure and increase the amenities that make cities and regions attractive to business and residents.

The OECD Territorial Outlook 2001 will be available to journalists at 11.00 a.m. on 11 July 2001 on the OECD's password-protected website. Journalists may also obtain a copy of the report under embargo from the OECD Media Relations Division (request by fax: 33 1 45 24 80 03 or news.contact@oecd.org). **The report will be presented to the media at 1.00 p.m. on 11 July 2001 at OECD headquarters.** Journalists wishing to attend the briefing, which will take place over sandwich lunch, should notify Jacob Arfwedson in the OECD Media Relations Division (tel 33 1 45 24 81 03 or jacob.arfwedson@oecd.org).

For further information on the report, journalists are invited to contact Josef Konvitz in the OECD Territorial Development Service (tel: 33 1 45 24 97 47 or josef.konvitz@oecd.org).

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