

Regional Outlook 2019

MEXICO

Regional Development Policy in Mexico



General policy approach

Within the framework of the 2013-18 National Development Plan, a Regional Development National Policy was developed. It focuses on regional, urban and rural development and the provision of related infrastructure, as well as general concerns of competitiveness, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. The Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development (SEDATU) has also developed regional programmes for development that cover the North, South-Southeast and Centre regions of the country. These are countersigned by 15 ministries. New spatial analyses of functional areas (called rural-urban systems) are being used to inform policy. The National Development Plan 2013-18 aims to

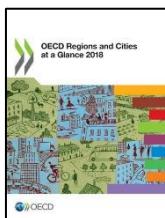
provide a suitable environment for the development of a decent life through a smart, sustainable development model to ensure decent housing for Mexicans. Both the National Urban Development Program and the National Housing Program aim to control urban sprawl, improve the quality and reduce the deficit of urban and rural housing, and diversify housing solutions to contribute to the strategic objectives of the National Development Plan. Within rural policy, agricultural development has had a long-standing focus on legal certainty for land tenure issues.

Recent policy changes

- The SEDATU was created in 2013, combining responsibilities in the areas of agriculture and territorial and urban development under one ministry. This has led to a new emphasis on urban policies, including land policies, as well as better institutional co-ordination in the sector.
- A functional territorial analysis is being used to inform regional policy that goes beyond administrative boundaries to measure the flows of people, goods, traffic, etc. It defines rural-urban systems, hubs where economic, social and cultural activities are gathered.
- In 2015, a new programme to create four special economic zones was announced, in Coatzacoalcos – Salina Cruz in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Lázaro Cárdenas – La Unión, Progreso and Puerto Chiapas. The aim is to bridge the development gaps between the south and the rest of the country through the creation of new development poles.
- There is a new urban model to promote compact development, productivity, accessibility, mobility and sustainability. The Perimeters of an Urban Containment instrument, based on geographic information systems, are designed to prevent urban sprawl. The instrument is also used to define the spatial targets of some federal programmes in relevant fields.
- The legislative authority approved the General Law of Human Settlements, Territorial Planning and Urban Development. It includes the Right to the City, and better instruments for urban planning, disaster risk reduction, territorial planning and metropolitan co-ordination.

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- In 2016, a constitutional reform was passed in congress to give the Federal District the status of a federal state called Ciudad de México (Mexico City). It gives the city access to extra funding from the national government and active participation in constitutional reforms.
- In 2016, the SEDATU designed the Urban Resilience Guide, to be used by municipal authorities throughout the country. It contains a step-by-step explanation of the methodology used to compile a resilience profile (CRPP) for each region.

Institutional arrangements to prepare for global megatrends

The Subsecretaría de Desarrollo Urbano y Vivienda is Mexico's long-term planning, centre-of-government unit for regional development, housing, land, urban development and urban infrastructure. The unit develops the National Urban Development Program, which includes an analysis of the urban development situation and the main objectives, strategies and action plan. The unit takes into account the National Regional Development Policy, and seeks to promote a co-operative and inclusive federalism, sustainable economic development, connectivity and infrastructure, and the well-being and prosperity of Mexicans.

The government also produces three national regional development programmes, for the centre, north and south regions. Each programme considers different objectives, strategies and action plans, which were determined by an analysis of the regional strengths and challenges that the federative entities making up the different regions face. Additionally, six sub-regional programmes cover the North Border, California Gulf, Mexico Gulf, Tierra Caliente, Mixteca and South Border.

Other institutional arrangements include the Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development's Methodological Guide for the Elaboration and Updating of Municipal Urban Development programmes, and Sustainable Cities Network, to create and implement co-ordinated strategies towards sustainable housing, public spaces, natural resources infrastructure and transport.

OECD Regional Outlook 2019: Leveraging Megatrends for Cities and Rural Areas

The 2019 edition of the *OECD Regional Outlook* examines the regional dimensions of global megatrends and their implications for the well-being of people living in different places. It discusses how place-based policies, public investment and multi-level governance reforms can respond to these megatrends to revive productivity growth, reduce inequalities, improve quality of life and increase sustainability.

Consult the full publication and the other country profiles on line: <https://oe.cd/pub/2vg>.

