

Foreword

Building on the findings from the OECD 2018 study *Reshaping Decentralised Development Co-operation: The Key Role of Cities and Regions for the 2030 Agenda*, this report offers country-specific guidance to the German federal government, states and municipalities on how to strengthen the impact, effectiveness and monitoring of their decentralised development co-operation (DDC) policies and programmes. It is the result of an 18-month policy dialogue with more than 100 stakeholders from all levels of government in Germany and peer learning with subnational DDC players in Belgium, France, Italy and Spain.

The report analyses the DDC legal and institutional framework, policies, strategies and implementation approaches of German federal, state and municipal levels, multi-governance challenges and opportunities, and the effectiveness of co-ordination mechanisms in place. The report also looks into co-financing schemes and official development assistance (ODA) volumes reported by German subnational agencies in the OECD Creditor Reporting System, as well as the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of DDC programmes. Finally, the report provides tailored policy recommendations to strengthen DDC activities, harmonise definitions and guidelines as well as M&E modalities, improve multi-level governance and collaboration, including financing, and improved data and tools, such as for ODA reporting by states and municipalities.

The report incorporates findings from more than 50 bilateral interviews and 2 surveys conducted with the federal government, states and municipalities about their DDC activities between November 2021 and May 2022. Three workshops were organised to discuss the DDC activities of German federal states (24-25 March 2022) and those of municipalities (14 June 2022), as well as preliminary findings and recommendations (17 November 2022). An earlier version of the report was discussed at the 32nd Session of the Working Party on Urban Policy on 29 November 2022. The final report was presented at an OECD DDC Technical Seminar with DAC members on 31 March 2023 and approved via written procedure by the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC) on 6 April 2023 under cote COM/CFE/RDPC/DCD/DAC(2023)1.

Acknowledgements

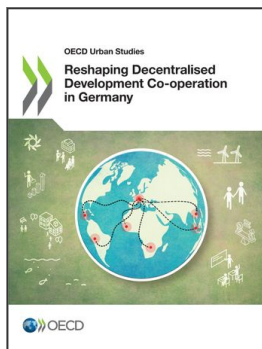
This report is the outcome of a project carried out by the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) led by Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director, as part of the Programme of Work of the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC), in co-operation with the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) led by Pilar Garrido, Director, as part of the Programme of Work of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The project was funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) by Engagement Global.

The project and the underlying policy dialogue were managed by Stefano Marta, Co-ordinator of the OECD Programme A Territorial Approach to the SDGs, CFE, in co-operation with Rachel Morris, Policy Analyst, DCD, under the supervision of Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, and Soo-Jin Kim, Deputy Head of Division, CFE, as well as Haje Schütte, Deputy Director of DCD and Head of the Financing for Sustainable Development Division and Olivier Cattaneo, Team Lead, Policy Analysis and Strategy, DCD. The report was drafted by a joint team including Lorenz Gross and Joshua Monje-Jelfs, CFE, as well as Rachel Morris and Christian Steidl, DCD, with inputs from Aline Matta and Vincent Winterhager, CFE.

The OECD is grateful to the BMZ, GIZ and SKEW for the excellent collaboration, their active engagement and relentless support to carry out interviews, organise workshops and provide feedback on interim results, in particular Daphne Gross-Jansen and Gerlinde Sauer from the BMZ, Dieter Anders and Jelena Jorczyk from GIZ, as well as Bart Denys, Sebastian Ohlmeyer, Christopher Rohles, Inga Steude, Bas van Asselt and Katrin Weible from SKEW.

The OECD is also grateful to all representatives from the German federal government, federal states and municipalities who have participated in interviews and workshops. Thanks are also conveyed to the international peer reviewers for sharing their best practices and providing strategic guidance, namely Ine Baetens (Region of Flanders, Belgium), Hanne Albert and Heleen Voeten (Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities, Belgium), Marit Baelus (Municipality of Brasschaat, Belgium), Marina Avdibegovic, Xavier d'Argoeuves, Axel Raphalen and Marie Rodriguez (Government of France), Anne-Claire Gaudru (City of Toulouse, France), Lorenza Biasetto (Province of Trento, Italy), Pilar Moreno (Government of Spain), Noemi de la Fuente Pereda (Basque Country, Spain), Javier Sánchez Cano (Region of Catalunya, Spain) and Nicola Gharbi (City of Madrid, Spain).

Thanks are extended to François Iglesias and Pilar Philip in the CFE for preparing the report for publication, as well as to Eleonore Morena for editing and formatting the report.



From:
Reshaping Decentralised Development Co-operation in Germany

Access the complete publication at:
<https://doi.org/10.1787/afedb776-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2023), "Foreword", in *Reshaping Decentralised Development Co-operation in Germany*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/8f698636-en>

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