

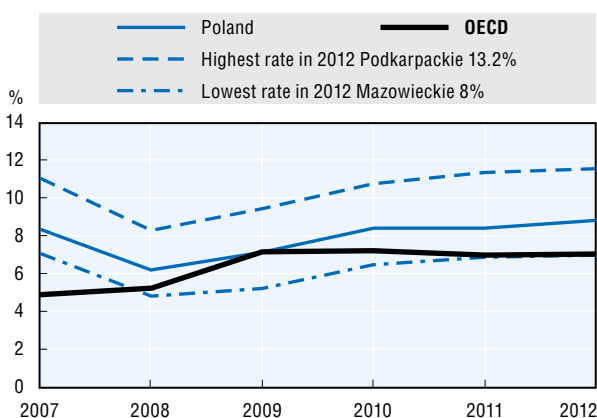
Poland

Recent policy developments

- At the end of 2013, the Ministry of Regional Development and the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Marine Economy were merged to create the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development.
- In 2010, Poland developed a new National Strategy of Regional Development 2010–20: Regions, Cities, Rural Areas (NSRD). The strategy sets out the objectives of regional policy in reference to individual territories of the country, including, in particular, urban and rural areas. Its main goals include: i) support for the competitive growth of the regions; ii) establishment of territorial cohesion and prevention of the marginalisation of problem areas; and iii) establishment of conditions for efficient, effective and partnership implementation of development measures targeted at territories.
- To strengthen partnership and improve co-ordination of territorially oriented activities at different levels of development management, the NSRD introduces “territorial contracts” between the government and regional self-governments on the most important undertakings to be implemented in a given territory. This instrument aims to create synergies among all policy instruments having a territorial dimension.
- The National Concept of Spatial Development 2030, approved by the Council of Ministers in December 2011, sets out a spatial policy of Poland for the next 20 years.
- Political discussions are underway to increase local engagement in development processes, provide financial incentives to encourage voluntary amalgamations and decentralise new functions to municipalities. The organisation of metropolitan areas is still being discussed.
- Poland is currently elaborating its National Urban Policy (NUP). The NUP will be a separate document dedicated only to cities and their functional areas.

Government structure	Municipal-level governments	Intermediate-level governments	Regional or state-level governments
Unitary	2 479	380	16
Regional development policy			
Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Ministry of Infrastructure and Development		
Regional development framework	The National Strategy of Regional Development (NSRD) 2010-20 promotes functional areas building on cities, revitalisation of lagging areas, institutional capacity building and increasing spatial accessibility.		
Urban development policy			
Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Ministry of Infrastructure and Development		
Urban policy framework or strategy	A National Urban Policy framework is being developed. Some important themes for urban policy in Poland include: i) clarifying national priorities for cities; ii) working to improve inter-municipal co-ordination and co-operation across levels of government; and iii) designing policies to reflect the challenges of Polish cities of various sizes and to connect them better in a system of cities.		
Rural development policy			
Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Ministry of Infrastructure and Development		
Rural policy framework or strategy	Rural Development Strategy; National Concept of Spatial Development 2030		

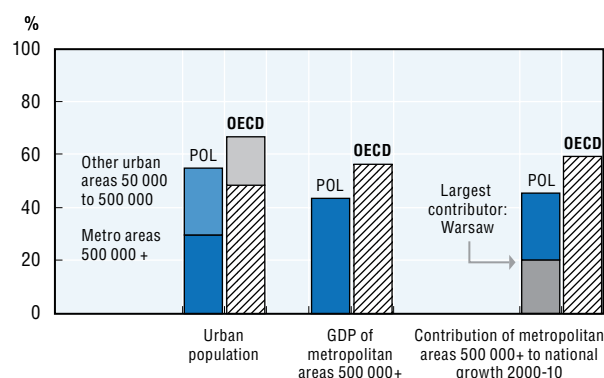
Regional disparities in recent unemployment trends



In 2012, the highest unemployment rate is found in Podkarpackie (13.2%) which also has the highest youth unemployment rate (40.8%).

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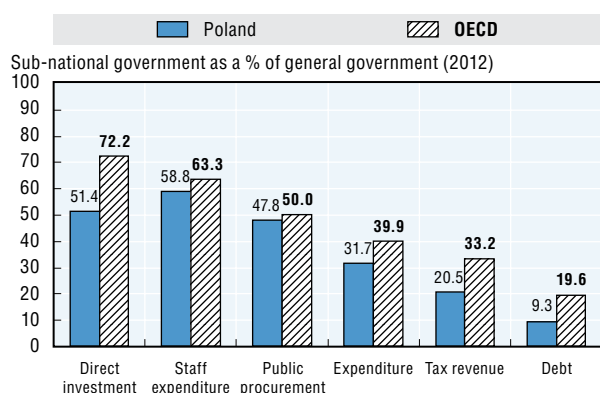
The importance of urban areas



In Poland, 55% of the population lives in cities of different sizes: the share of population in metropolitan areas (urban areas with more than 500 000 inhabitants) is 30%, compared to 49% in the OECD area.

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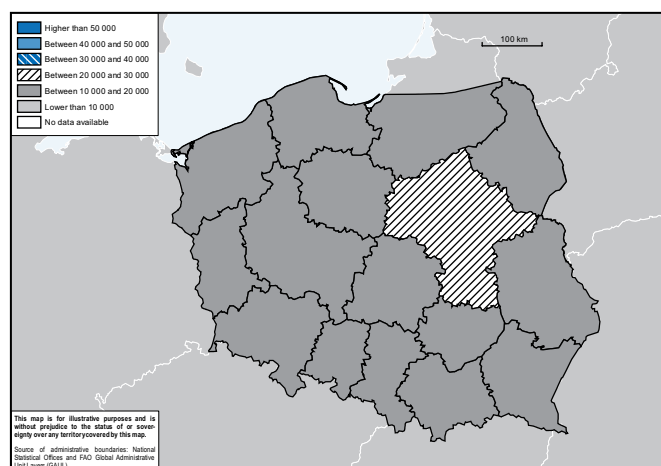
The role of sub-national governments in public finance



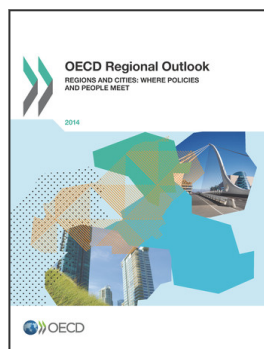
Education and economic affairs are the two largest spending items for SNGs in Poland: together they represent 45% of sub-national expenditure, which is in line with the OECD average (40%).

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Regional differences in GDP per capita levels



Poland had the 8th smallest regional disparities in GDP per capita in OECD countries in 2010. In the previous decade, regional growth varied from +4.8% annually in Mazowieckie to +2.4% in Zachodniopomorskie.



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