WHAT’S THE OBSERVATORY?

The World Observatory (SNG-WOFI) is a multi-stakeholder initiative led by the OECD and UCLG dedicated to collecting comparable data and information on subnational finance and territorial organisation from over 120 countries.

The Steering Committee gathers representatives of national and subnational governments, international organisations, development banks and research centres, while it offers comparable information to support decision-making of national and subnational governments around the world.

MEMBERS

The Steering Committee comprises founding members (OECD, UCLG); national governments representatives (incl. ministries, agencies, national observatories); subnational governments (incl. national and regional associations of subnational governments, EU Committee of the Regions); international organisations (incl. European Commission, Council of Europe, UNCDF); multilateral and national development banks and donors (incl. AFD, CEB); foundations, institutes and other networks (incl. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, DeLoG)

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

For a full picture of the World Observatory data, country profiles and methodology, please visit our interactive website:

www.sng-wofi.org

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There is a growing demand worldwide by national and subnational governments, academics, development banks, donors, and NGOs, for relevant, reliable, objective and comparable information and data presented in a systematic way on different topics regarding multi-level governance and finance. Today, it is not easy to find these data on standardised/comparative perspectives.

The OECD and UCLG joined forces to set up the World Observatory on Subnational Governments Finance and Investment to help bridge this gap.

WHAT’S THE ISSUE?

Subnational governments represent

25% public spending
37% public investment

at the global level.

The OECD and UCLG joined forces to set up the World Observatory on Subnational Governments Finance and Investment to help bridge this gap.

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure standardised, reliable and transparent access to data.
- Support international dialogue and decision-making.
- Serve as a capacity-building tool.

THE OBSERVATORY IN PRACTICE

Data collection and indicators on subnational government’s structure and finance in over 120 countries.

The Observatory proposes:

- **A unique worldwide multi-level platform** with comparable and standardised data on subnational government structure, finance and investment.
- **A broad international focus** that includes the least developed countries.
- **Common methodological approaches, tools, and indicators**, improving those that already exist and developing new ones.
- **A capacity-building tool** for key stakeholders at all levels of government.
- **Helping decision-makers** at all levels of government, banks and private actors to assess their multi-level governance frameworks.
- **A global network of experts** to exchange knowledge and generate active, constructive and informed multi-level dialogue.

WHICH INFORMATION AND DATA?

- Regional and local government structures and current territorial reforms and trends in decentralisation;
- Assignment of responsibilities and subnational expenditure (total amount and breakdown by type and sectors) with a special focus on investment;
- Assignment of revenues in relation to spending responsibilities; total amount of revenue and breakdown by source (grants and subsidies, taxes, user charges and fees, property income); assessment of fiscal autonomy;
- Access to borrowing and financial markets; debt levels and prudential rules applying to subnational governments;
- Fiscal co-ordination and multi-level governance mechanisms.

2019 REPORT

In the 2019 Report you can find:

1. **Country profiles** with qualitative information on subnational government structure and responsibilities, macro financial data, and financial indicators for 121 federal and unitary countries worldwide.
2. **Key findings** with a snapshot of multi-level governance reforms, a synthesis of how subnational governments are organised around the world, their main responsibilities and their financial structures.