



HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

The World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment (SNG-WOFI) is a multi-stakeholder initiative led by the OECD and UCLG, with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the French Development Agency (AFD), the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), the Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG), the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

The SNG-WOFI is dedicated to collecting comparable data and information on multi-level governance and subnational government finance from around the world to support decision-making at the international, national and subnational levels. The 124 countries covered by the World Observatory in 2019 represent 84% of the world surface area, 86% of the world population, and 89% of global GDP.

The SNG-WOFI has issued two reports in October 2016 and June 2019, respectively. A third edition will be released in July 2022.

The SNG-WOFI is led by a Steering Committee which was established in 2017. It met on November 2017 and December 2018 at the OECD headquarters. Its third meeting was held virtually on 20 January 2022.



STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee comprises founding members (OECD, UCLG) and supporting partners (ADB, AFD, CEB, DeLoG, GIZ, MEAE and UNCDF). It also gathers representatives of national governments (ministries, agencies and observatories), associations of subnational governments, international organisations, multilateral and national development banks and donors, foundations, researchers and other networks.

SUPPORTING PARTNERS



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WORLD OBSERVATORY ON SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE AND INVESTMENT





WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Subnational governments represent



25%
of total public
spending



37%
of total public
investment

at the global level.

There is a growing demand worldwide by national and subnational governments, international organizations, development banks, donors, academics 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 data with standardised/comparative perspectives.

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 governments' structure and finance in over 140 countries.

The World 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 least developed countries and covers all geographical areas worldwide: Europe, Latin America, North America, Middle East, Africa, West Asia, Asia-Pacific and Euro-Asia.
- ✦ **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 multi-level governance and fiscal frameworks.
- ✦ **A global network of experts** to exchange knowledge and generate active, constructive and informed multi-level dialogue.



KEY INFORMATION AND DATA

- ✦ Regional and local government structures, 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
- ✦ The impact and management of the **COVID-19 crisis and recovery**

NEW FEATURES INCLUDED

In the 2022 edition you can find:

- Country profiles** with qualitative and quantitative information on subnational government structure and responsibilities and financial indicators for **around 140** federal and unitary countries worldwide.
- 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 fiscal frameworks, and the territorial impact and management of the COVID-19 crisis and recovery in each country.
- Updated online data base** and online website.