



7th OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers 19 March 2019 | Athens, Greece

The context: cities of all sizes contribute to economic growth and regional development

The role of large cities as engines of growth, and their enormous potential for job creation, innovation and higher quality of life has been well recognised – they produce 60% of total GDP in the OECD area. However, cities are at the frontline of growing challenges such as climate change, population ageing, inequality, insecurity, pollution, poor connectivity, and even water and food shortages.

The challenge: how to make the most of megatrends for a sustainable and secure future

National and city leaders are increasingly faced with complex megatrends such as globalisation, migration, digitalisation, climate change, densification, technological change, smart cities, and healthy buildings. These megatrends present challenges for cities in different ways, and the capacity and potential of cities to capitalise on megatrends varies. But megatrends also offer new opportunities to shape more sustainable, healthy and inclusive spaces for urban dwellers. Many of these trends require the use of sophisticated technology, additional resources, innovative governance arrangements, and creative thinking. Some cities are fostering social, technological and public sector innovation to create ideas and solutions to socio-economic and environmental challenges and transform megatrends into assets for development.

A tool for action: the 7th OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers

The 7th OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers, organised in partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Development of Greece and the City of Athens, will see ministers and mayors exchange ideas, experiences and good practices from around the world on how to channel megatrends for more productive, sustainable and inclusive cities in a constantly changing world.

Mayors and Ministers will discuss how they can work together and address challenges such as:

- How can National Urban Policies support a whole-of-government and multi-level approach to anticipating, targeting and managing the key megatrends on the horizon?
- How can cities of all sizes transform the megatrends into opportunities for growth and well-being?
- What joint solutions can national and local governments implement to boost productivity, create jobs and improve well-being levels ?



About the OECD Roundtable for Mayors and Ministers

Established in 2007, the OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers is a unique global platform convening high-level representatives from both *national* and *local* governments to discuss pressing urban policy issues. It builds on a long established expertise in urban development and effective policy dialogue across levels of government at the OECD.

Previous meetings took place in:

Mexico City, 2015 | The Metropolitan Century: Policies for Resilient & Inclusive Cities

Marseille, 2013 | Better Cities for Better Lives: Bridging National & Local Policies to Deliver Growth and Well-being

Chicago, 2012 | Mobilizing Investments for Urban Sustainability, Job Creation & Resilient Growth

Paris, 2010 | Cities & Green Growth

Milan, 2008 | Cities & Climate Change

Madrid, 2007 | Cities in the Global Economy

7th OECD Roundtable for Mayors and Ministers

The 7th OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers will take place on the morning of 19 March 2019 in Athens, Greece.

The Roundtable will follow the 4th Meeting of the **OECD Champions Mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative** hosted by Champion Mayor Georgios Kaminis in Athens on 18 March 2019 which will focus on how cities can leverage all types of innovation – social, technological, and public sector - to advance inclusive growth and achieve higher citizen well-being levels. The Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative is a coalition of willing leaders who have committed to tackling inequalities and promoting more inclusive economic growth in cities.

The Roundtable precedes the **OECD Regional Development Policy Committee** meeting at Ministerial level that will convene on 19-20 March 2019 under the theme of 'Megatrends: Building better futures for regions, cities and rural areas'.

For more information

Please visit www.oecd.org/urban/roundtable or contact RTMM@oecd.org

