Linking indigenous communities with regional and rural development

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1. OECD approach to rural development

2. Why indigenous communities are important to rural and regional development

3. Better linking indigenous communities with regional and rural development
Regional Development Policy Division

- Almost 20 National Reviews (since 2000)
- Around 35 Regional Reviews (since 2000)
- 11 National Rural Policy Review
- 3 National Urban Policy Reviews
- Thematic reviews (e.g. urban-rural linkages, and linking renewable energy with rural development)

Large knowledge pool and qualitative database from which to identify good policy!

http://www.oecd.org/gov/regional-policy/
## The OECD Rural Policy Paradigm 3.0.
**Integrating policies, actors and places**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives</strong></td>
<td>Equalization</td>
<td>Competitiveness</td>
<td>Well-being considering multiple dimensions of (i) the economy (ii) society and (iii) the environment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Policy Focus</strong></td>
<td>Support for a single dominant resource sector</td>
<td>Support for multiple sectors based on their competitiveness</td>
<td>Low density economies differentiated by type of rural</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tools</strong></td>
<td>Subsidies for firms</td>
<td>Investments in qualified firms and communities</td>
<td>Integrated rural development approach - spectrum of support to public sector, firms and third sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key Actors &amp; Stakeholders</strong></td>
<td>Farm organizations and national governments</td>
<td>All levels of government and all relevant departments plus local stakeholders</td>
<td>Involvement of (i) public sector - multi-level governance, (ii) private sector - for-profit firms and social enterprise, and (iii) third sector – non-governmental organisations and civil society</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Policy Approach</strong></td>
<td>Uniformly applied top down policy</td>
<td>Bottom-up policy, local strategies</td>
<td>Integrated approach with multiple policy domains</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rural Definition</strong></td>
<td>Not urban</td>
<td>Rural as a variety of distinct types of place</td>
<td>Three types of rural: i) embedded in metropolitan region, ii) adjacent to metropolitan region, and iii) far from metropolitan regions</td>
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### Indigenous population across OECD countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Indigenous peoples</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>% national population</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Indigenous/Koori</td>
<td>670 000</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>First nation/Inuit/Metis</td>
<td>1 400 685</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>1 565 915</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark (Greenland)*</td>
<td>Inuit</td>
<td>51 377</td>
<td>0.9 (91.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Sami</td>
<td>8 000</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France (New Caledonia)*</td>
<td>Kanak</td>
<td>70 000</td>
<td>0.1 (25.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Anui</td>
<td>28 782</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>15 703 474</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Māori</td>
<td>645 000</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Sami</td>
<td>50 000 – 65 000</td>
<td>1.0 – 1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Sami</td>
<td>20 000</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan native</td>
<td>5 200 000</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


*Greenland is defined as an autonomous country within Denmark, whilst New Caledonia is a special collectivity of France
Indigenous populations are significant in rural and remote areas

Why indigenous communities are important to rural (and national) economies

Connection to land:
- Legal recognition/rights and stewardship of land, sea, and resources - key players in shaping tradeable sectors
- Local knowledge that is important for managing natural resources and adapting to climate change

Source of economic growth and opportunity:
- Unique business and employment opportunities (e.g. ecotourism, food and agriculture, natural resource management) that can diversify remote economies
- Indigenous populations are generally growing faster than non-indigenous populations – labour resource and consumption of services

Significant barriers to economic participation remain:
- Experience poorer socio-economic outcomes (health, education, housing, and employment) – latent potential and key to achieving inclusive growth
Institutional challenges remain

**Challenging and difficult historical context:**
- Historical context of assimilation, dispossession and conflict – resulting in lack of trust in mainstream institutions
- Indigenous communities can still be seen as an impediment to economic development (e.g. conflicts over mining and infrastructure projects)
- Engagement processes by government and private sector which are not culturally appropriate

**Self-determination can also generate challenges:**
- Variability in institutional structure and capacity
- Lack of multilevel governance with state and regional/local administrations – often governed by bilateral relationship with national agency
- Governance of reservations separate from its surrounding regional context
- Lack of reliable data and information about local communities and economies
**Institutions and policies**

**Empowerment**
- Empowering indigenous communities to participate in decision making and co-produce services
- Acknowledging and supporting the role of informal coordination, particularly brokers and social entrepreneurs who can build linkages with institutions and markets

**Institutions and multi-level governance:**
- Supporting regional development practitioners to incorporate indigenous issues and aspirations into regional policies
- Identifying ways to improve multi-level governance (devolution of resources, role of central agencies)

**Improving regional and rural development strategies:**
- Examining ways to improve data collection and incorporating indigenous norms and values into how we understand regional economies
- Assessing the economic potential of indigenous communities within a regional context (including enabling conditions whilst incorporating traditional values)
Policy instruments and tools

Range of options to explore, including ...

• Supporting entrepreneurship and business growth including access to capital and financial intermediation (e.g. micro credit)
• Skills and education – school attendance, mentoring, pathways into work and vocational training
• Unlocking the economic value of land e.g. clarifying/simplifying leasing and land use administration
• Home ownership – access to capital and shared equity schemes
• Assessing the appropriate role of the public sector in stimulating indigenous economic development e.g. procurement and public sector employment
• Capacity building – leadership programmes, corporate governance, and management training
• ...

Development of road map and tool kit to implement this approach

- **Scoping phase**: test interest of member countries to undertake further work in this area, and seek their input to the development of a thematic project.

- **Work collaboratively with member countries and place-based indigenous communities** to assess:
  - Regional socio-economic performance, growth potential, and unexploited resources
  - Policies for enhancing regional competitiveness, attractiveness and sustainable development (e.g. human capital; physical infrastructure; business environment; social cohesion)
  - Efficacy of local institutions and multi-level governance arrangements linking indigenous communities with regional and rural development
  - Specific sub-theme important to the development of the community (e.g. service delivery, skills, tourism, extractive industries)

- **Deliver recommendations** to:
  - improve national policy settings and programmes for Indigenous communities in rural areas
  - Improve outcomes for place-based indigenous communities
thank you

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