

“Governing the City in the Metropolitan Century”

**Launch Event
Brussels**

A Launch Event of the OECD publications

“Governing the City” and “The Metropolitan Century”

Hosted by the Cities Alliance
Chaired by Clare Short, Senior Policy Advisor Cities Alliance

With support of the European Commission

Date: 04 March 2015

Time: 15:00 – 17:00

Venue: Philanthropy House Brussels
Board Room
Rue Royale 94, 1000 Brussels

RSVP by Monday, the 2nd March
at: events@citiesalliance.org



With the financial assistance
of the European Union

Background

The Cities Alliance is hosting a launch event for two publications recently developed by OECD – “The Metropolitan Century – Understanding Urbanisation and its Consequences” and “Governing the City”. Both publications are the result of an extensive OECD research project on “Urban Trends and Governance” that was initiated by, and has benefitted from financial and intellectual support of, the European Commission – DG Regional and Urban Policy.

“*The Metropolitan Century*” provides an outline of recent and likely future urbanisation trends and discusses the consequences. The world is in the middle of an urbanisation process that will cause urbanisation rates to rise from low double digit rates to more than 80% by the end of the century. It argues that this is both a great opportunity and a great challenge, as decisions taken today will affect the lives of people for a long time to come. The report aims at explaining why cities exist, and what can make them prosperous and function well. It also discusses whether cities are good for residents, for the countries they are located in and for the global environment. The report argues that cities exist and grow because they are a source of economic prosperity and offer amenities that benefit their residents. It concludes that urbanisation is a process that needs to be shaped by policy makers to ensure that all benefit from it.

“*Governing the City*” deals with the question of “How do cities govern themselves as they grow bigger?” The answer can shape the competitiveness and quality of life in those cities and depends on a number of factors, ranging from the country's institutional framework to the cities' specific socio-economic dynamics. This report presents a typology of metropolitan governance arrangements observed across OECD countries and offers guidance for cities seeking for more effective co-ordination, with a closer look at two sectors that are strategically important for urban growth: transport and spatial planning. The report draws from international examples of metropolitan governance mechanisms, and includes a series of in-depth case studies in a selection of six large metropolitan areas: Aix-Marseille (France), Frankfurt (Germany), Athens (Greece), Daejeon (Korea), Puebla-Tlaxcala (Mexico), and Chicago (United States).

About the Event

The launch event will present two recent OECD publications on cities and urbanisation. It will offer a platform for discussion between local policy makers, the European Commission and the OECD about the challenges and advantages of urbanization, and explore how policy makers can ensure that all citizens benefit from these processes. Another focus of the discussion will be on the different governance arrangements that metropolitan areas can adopt when dealing with cities that grow beyond their formal borders. This event is part of a global launch of these reports building upon launches in Washington (DC) and London (UK).

About the OECD and the Cities Alliance

The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems.

Cities Alliance is a global partnership of local authorities, national governments, non-governmental organisations, foundations and multi-lateral organisations working together to ensure that cities increasingly are characterised by effective local government, active citizenship, and delivering improved and responsive services to the urban poor.

Chair

Clare Short, Former Secretary of State for International Development (UK) / Senior Policy Advisor Cities Alliance

Presenters

Rudolf Niessler, Director General Regional Policy, European Commission

Joaquim Oliveira Martins, Head of Division Regional Development Policy, OECD

Juliane Kürschner, Senior Urban Planner/Vice president of METREX, City of Amsterdam

William Cobbett, Director, Cities Alliance

TIME	SPEAKER
Opening and Introduction	
15:00 – 15:05	Clare Short , Senior Policy Advisor, Cities Alliance
Presentation of OECD Publications	
15:05 – 15:30	Joaquim Oliveira Martins , Head of Division Regional Development Policy, OECD
Response Speech	
15:30 – 15:45	Rudolf Niessler , Director General Regional Policy, European Commission
Discussant Remarks	
15:45- 16:00	Juliane Kürschner , Senior Urban Planner/Vice president of METREX, City of Amsterdam
Plenary Discussion	
16:00 – 16:30	All participants
Wrap-Up	
16:30 – 16:40	William Cobbett , Director, Cities Alliance
Refreshments will be served	