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International learning from policy and practice - *Anne Green*

Building Inclusive and Sustainable Economies Workshop, Newcastle, 10/3/23

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Introductory remarks

- *“Success is difficult and rare”*
- Mixed outcomes
- No single blueprint or ‘silver bullet’ policy
- Gaps in the evidence base
- How a policy works depends on context – need for place-specific strategies



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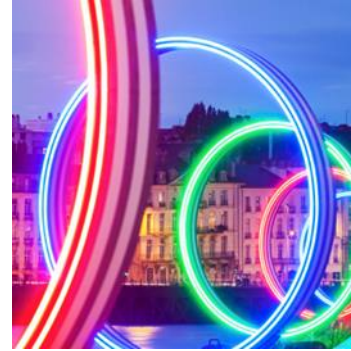
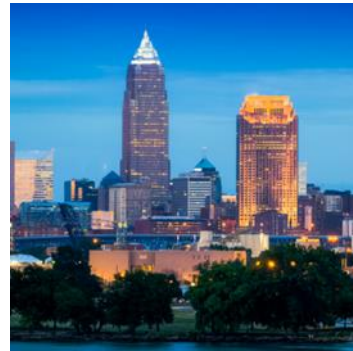
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Case study examples - synthesis

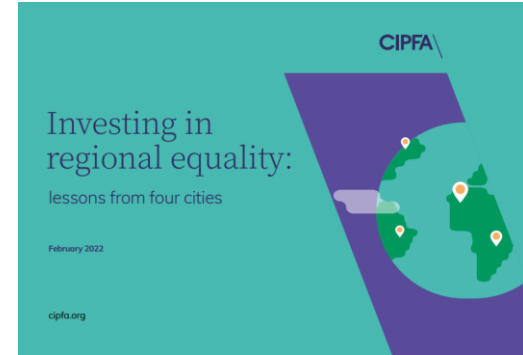
- Fukuoka (JP), Leipzig (DE), Cleveland (USA), Nantes (FR)



- San Antonio (USA), Lille (FR), Ruhr (DE)

- also Barcelona (ES), Hamburg (DE), Helsinki (FI), Malmö (SE), Rotterdam (NL), Portland (USA)

Evidence review, data analysis, interviews



How international cities lead inclusive growth agendas



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Ten takeaways

Scale of investment

Longevity of investment

Clear strategy & vision

Attractive place to live

Universities and innovation

Transport & digital infrastructure

Skills & future sectors

Shared political will, collaboration, partnerships, key players, leadership

Local knowledge, capacity & powers for adaptation & policy co-ordination

Monitoring & evaluation



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SCALE AND LONGEVITY OF INVESTMENTS

Sustained and large-scale public investment that led to an increase in private investment. Economic policy direction has remained constant regardless of local or national election results.



COLLABORATION

Constructive relationships between central and local government, businesses and residents have allowed identification of needed interventions and effective implementation.



ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO LIVE

Culture and tourism have played a key role in levelling-up not only through direct revenue, but also by re-shaping the image of places. High living standards and affordability can attract skilled residents.



UNIVERSITIES AND INNOVATION

Collaboration between places and universities can improve policy and drive local economic growth. Universities attract federal and private-sector funding and drive innovation.



TRANSPORT AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Evidence suggests that investing in transport and digital infrastructure can attract new investment and provide new employment opportunities.



SKILLS AND FUTURE SECTORS

Successful places built on their past strengths and focus on continual sectoral adaptation to build for the future. The success of these places was linked to investing in skills and re-training of the existing workforce.

Examples

Estonia

Received approximately €100 billion in business, infrastructure and human capital EU funding (2010-2019). Digital specialisation has been the main sectoral focus for over 20 years.

Greater Lille

Strong regional leaders have been particularly important in securing flagship projects for the area such as the Eurostar train station despite the additional costs to the French government.

San Antonio

The city has become a major tourist destination with around 30 million visitors each year, and its recreational improvements attracted young professionals.

Ruhr Region

The establishment of universities contributed to an increase in SMEs. The region is now the most dense German region in terms of the number of students and professors.

Greater Lille

Eurostar supported Lille to position itself as a strategic link between London, Paris, Brussels and Germany, attracting new investment. The underground increased internal connectivity.

Ruhr Region

Moved away from unprofitable coal mining and now is home to some of the largest clean energy corporations.



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Focus on Skills –

Future-Proofing Adult Learning Systems in Cities and Regions. A Policy Manual for Local Governments. (OECD, 2022)



THEME 3

Creating strong local skills ecosystems

Key policy areas

1. Improve co-ordination with higher levels of government

2. Strengthen co-ordination with local actors

3. Develop coherent financing models at all levels of government

Actions

1.1 Develop partnerships across different levels of government

1.2 Establish formal boards bringing together different levels of government

1.3 Engage in dialogue with national government on new competences

2.1 Engage private actors in local skills partnerships

2.2 Work with neighbouring municipalities

3.1 Negotiate flexible financing arrangements with higher levels of government

3.2 Develop local skills financing pacts between local stakeholders



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