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Governance Research Brief · Edition 9 · 30 October 2026

AI computing, public budgets and the decisions behind delivery

AI Ambition and the Work of Government

Five recent publications from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) examine the public arrangements behind artificial intelligence (AI) computing, disaster costs, national budgets and integrity. The central question is how institutions secure the resources, information and authority needed to carry a commitment through.

An AI computing facility needs a dependable electricity supply, skilled operators and terms of access that its intended users can meet. Funding equipment settles only part of that arrangement. The same practical question runs through the other readings: what still has to be decided, and which institution is able to decide it?

Artificial intelligence computing

The public cost of disasters

National plans and public budgets

Conflicting departmental priorities

Integrity beyond the capital

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMPUTING

AI computing needs power, people and workable access

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) · 13 October 2026 · Older selection
Policy mapping across GPAI members and the EU

Securing AI compute: Government policy approaches

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

The OECD maps government approaches to securing the hardware and software infrastructure needed for AI. In its May 2026 review, 13 of 18 AI strategies adopted or updated in 2025–26 treat computing as a dedicated pillar, compared with 8 of 26 from 2019–24. Policy instruments include investment support, workforce development and international access arrangements. The report stresses local needs assessment and acknowledges limited comparable evidence about effective policy levers.

> **Scope of the evidence**
>
> Strategy content indicates policy attention, not installed capacity, reliable access or policy success. The two groups contain different strategies and are not a global country census. The strategy assessment predates the report's October publication.

THE GOVERNANCE READING

Global South

Owning equipment, purchasing cloud access and sharing regional facilities carry different dependencies. The useful comparison includes foreign currency exposure, specialist staffing and the ability of local institutions to obtain usable access. A domestic facility can remain inaccessible to public-interest users if allocation and support receive little attention.

Wider significance

Computing policy brings industrial ambition into contact with energy constraints and international interdependence. A sovereignty claim becomes more informative when it specifies the access or decision power being secured. Announced capacity should remain distinct from capacity that intended users can operate and afford.

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THE PUBLIC COST OF DISASTERS

A disaster reaches more than the emergency budget

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) · 23 October 2026
Policy brief drawing on a 2025 survey of 29 respondents

How governments account for disasters: Closing the data gap

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

Drawing on 29 survey respondents, including 26 OECD members, the brief finds that governments capture relief and reconstruction costs more consistently than wider fiscal effects. Revenue losses, additional benefit payments and costs carried by public agencies can escape a consolidated account. The problem includes inconsistent definitions and financial systems that record expenditure by ministry or programme without identifying a common disaster event. The brief describes Poland's use of budget tagging and recommends consolidation led by a central finance or budget authority.

> **Scope of the evidence**
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> The survey describes accounting and reporting practices. It does not measure all disaster losses or establish a common percentage of costs omitted. The number of respondents is not a worldwide coverage claim.

THE GOVERNANCE READING

Global South

Where fiscal reserves and borrowing options are limited, a partial cost record can leave the next response competing with planned services for money that has already been committed. Relating expenditure and revenue losses to the same event would make those choices clearer. This interpretation concerns the information available for a budget decision; the brief does not estimate a financing need for individual developing countries.

Wider significance

A disaster can affect several departments and public entities while each reports only its own transactions. Consolidation changes what legislators and finance officials can examine, including the balance between recovery spending and prevention. The relevant distinction is between a cost being recorded somewhere and its being included in an intelligible account of the event.

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NATIONAL PLANS AND PUBLIC BUDGETS

A national priority needs a place in the budget

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) · 29 October 2026
Country institutional assessment

OECD Policy Coherence Scan of the Slovak Republic: Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms for Sustainable Development

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

The scan finds insufficient connections between Slovakia's long-term objectives and budgeting, investment and implementation. Multiple sectoral strategies create risks of duplication. Co-ordination can arrive late and concentrate on procedural compliance. The OECD recommends a stronger centre of government and clearer links between priorities and resources, building on emerging strategic co-ordination arrangements rather than assuming that another strategy document will settle competing commitments.

> **Scope of the evidence**
> This institutional assessment identifies weaknesses and recommends reforms. It does not estimate the service gains a stronger centre of government would produce.

THE GOVERNANCE READING

Global South	Governments managing domestic resources alongside development finance need a common view of what each funding stream supports. A growing catalogue of plans can conceal overlapping commitments or unfunded operating costs. Central co-ordination is useful when it helps expose those choices without displacing the expertise of delivery institutions.
Wider significance	A long-term commitment can survive as official language while annual allocation follows another logic. The scan invites scrutiny of the connection between strategic ambition and the budget decision, including the institutional route through which a conflict receives a recorded resolution.

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CONFLICTING DEPARTMENTAL PRIORITIES

A meeting cannot settle every policy conflict

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) · 29 October 2026
Country institutional assessment

OECD Policy Coherence Scan of Austria: Strengthening Coherence in Development Policy and Co-operation

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

Austria has extensive consultation and co-ordination arrangements, but the scan finds limited authority to resolve cross-sectoral trade-offs. No single actor systematically carries unresolved conflicts to higher administrative or political levels. It also finds that effects of domestic policy on developing countries are not specifically assessed, monitored or evaluated. The recommendations seek more strategic use of existing arrangements, with clearer responsibilities and follow-up.

> **Scope of the evidence**
> The scan diagnoses institutional practice and proposes changes. It does not demonstrate that a particular domestic policy has caused a measured loss in another country.

THE GOVERNANCE READING

Global South

For countries affected by donors' wider domestic policies, aid commitments provide only part of the picture. Examining cross-border effects makes room for interests that may have little influence inside the donor's ministerial process. This is a question of whose consequences enter the decision, as well as how departments co-operate.

Wider significance

Ministerial mandates can each be defensible while their combined effects remain incoherent. Assigning responsibility for escalation allows conflicts to become explicit political choices. It also makes it possible to ask whether affected parties received an answer and whether promised follow-up occurred.

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INTEGRITY BEYOND THE CAPITAL

An integrity plan must reach local services

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) · 27 October 2026
Regional review using Public Integrity Indicators

The Next Decade of Action for Public Integrity in Latin America and the Caribbean

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

The report examines the gap between integrity frameworks and their operation. In its subnational analysis, 8 of 14 Latin American and Caribbean countries include collaboration with subnational institutions in integrity action plans. It argues for arrangements proportionate to local functions and capacity, supported by practical assistance. It also distinguishes public managers' responsibility for controls from the assurance and scrutiny supplied by auditors.

> **Scope of the evidence**
> The 8-of-14 measure concerns the content of action plans. It does not measure local compliance, service quality or the prevalence of corruption.

THE GOVERNANCE READING

Global South	A national rule can impose substantial work on a small municipality without supplying the people or systems to perform it. Shared advisory services and support adapted to local responsibilities offer a more credible basis for implementation than assuming every local authority can maintain an identical specialist apparatus.
Wider significance	Integrity reforms deserve assessment at the point where officials exercise discretion. Formal adoption and implementation are different achievements. Public reporting should allow readers to see which one an indicator actually describes, especially when international comparisons reward the existence of laws or plans.

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THE GOVERNING QUESTION

What still has to be settled after a public commitment

The computing review starts with a distinction between policy attention and usable capacity. A strategy can identify infrastructure as a priority while power, staffing and access arrangements remain unsettled. Public investment therefore involves decisions held by energy authorities, funders and operators as well as the sponsoring ministry. The review's strategy counts do not establish that those arrangements work.

The disaster brief and the Slovak scan expose different information gaps in budgeting. Disaster costs can be recorded across government without being consolidated by event. National priorities can be published without a reliable connection to annual allocations. Both concern what finance officials and legislators can see when deciding what the government can afford and which commitments will proceed.

Austria's scan distinguishes consultation from the authority to resolve a conflict. The integrity review distinguishes a plan's content from safeguards in operation. These distinctions matter when a commitment is being assessed: the relevant evidence may be access to a facility, an allocation, a complete account or a decision on an objection. The connections are the edition's analysis, not a common effect demonstrated by the studies.

REFLECTIONS FOR POLICY WORK

Who will be able to use the computing capacity?

An investment proposal can specify equipment while leaving access prices, operating support and allocation unresolved. What evidence shows that the intended public institutions and researchers will be able to use it?

Which commitments have resources attached?

A published priority, an emergency allocation and a full fiscal cost describe different things. Can the budget record distinguish what is promised, what is funded and what the government may still have to meet?

Where does an unresolved disagreement go?

When consultation ends without agreement, which administrative or political authority can decide, and how will the institutions and people affected receive an answer?

ORIGINAL PUBLICATIONS

Sources and publication dates

The research accounts report each publication's claims. The governance readings and synthesis are Ahmednadhir.com's analysis. These different forms of evidence do not establish a common measured effect on public services.

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Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) · 13 October 2026 · Older selection
Policy mapping across GPAI members and the EU

https://doi.org/10.1787/7f96dc99-en

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Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) · 23 October 2026
Policy brief drawing on a 2025 survey of 29 respondents

https://doi.org/10.1787/479dc095-en

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Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) · 29 October 2026
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