OECD Young Professionals Programme 2013 – Assignments

You will find details of the 2013 assignments in the descriptions below. They are grouped thematically to help candidates identify those which best match their profile and aspirations. Applicants were asked to indicate a maximum of three positions and to prioritise them according to their competencies and preference. They also responded to a series of questions whose relevance varies according to the assignment.

Development

Post-2015 Development Goals (MDGs) [ref: DCD_6]
OECD Strategy on Development [ref: DEV_7]

Green Growth

Environmental taxation – green growth [ref: CTP/ENV_3]
Green investment [ref: DAF_4]
Green growth and development [ref: DCD_5]
Environmental policies and productivity growth [ref: ECO_8]
Improving the effectiveness of climate-related finance – developing countries [ref: ENV_11]
Inclusive green growth [ref: ENV_12]

Growth and Innovation

Financing Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Entrepreneurs [ref: CFE_1]
New Sources of Growth [ref: STI_17]
Governance of Innovation in Education [ref: EDU_9]
Innovation in the public sector [ref: GOV_14]
Measuring progress and well-being [ref: STD_16]

OECD Strategic Orientations

Support for the delivery of the Secretary-General’s strategic objectives [ref: SGE_15]

Regional Development

Territorial Development: Cities and Regions [ref: GOV_13]

Skills

Investment in skills - Impact of tax systems [ref: CTP_2]
OECD Skills Strategy [ref: EDU_10]
Discussions on the post-2015 goals framework are intensifying. Poverty reduction should remain at the core, but new challenges and new circumstances also need to be accommodated. Work on the post-MDG framework for which the Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) has the lead is one of the implementation projects of the OECD Development Strategy. It is very high-profile innovative work which involves co-operation with the Office of the Secretary-General and other directorates / OECD policy communities, such as the Busan Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, the OECD Better Life Initiative, the Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) work, Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) for development, the OECD-wide gender equality initiative, Peace and Statebuilding Goals (PSG) and analytical work conducted by the Development Centre.

You will contribute to conceptualising, drafting and co-ordinating OECD contributions to the UN-led process of the post-2015 development framework. The work will include assisting with the preparation and follow-up of meetings of the OECD Post-2015 Task Team and manage the post-2015 SharePoint site. You will monitor developments in the UN context, research and NGO communities, as well as scanning, analysing and summarising relevant MDG and post-2015 documents, reports and related literature. Another important part of the work will be your contributions to the preparatory work for the Development Co-operation Reports (DCRs) 2013-15 (“Global Development Cooperation post-2015”), the flagship publication of the DAC/DCD.

At the 2012 Ministerial Council Meeting, Ministers endorsed the OECD Strategy on Development, welcoming a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to development by the Organisation and a further deepening of its contribution to major international processes including the MDGs and post-2015 framework, the G20 Development Agenda, and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. The OECD Development Centre (DEV) will be in charge of developing innovative approaches such as multi-dimensional country reviews and “cluster dialogues” among countries facing similar economic challenges or structural characteristics. The work will include conducting cross-cutting research on a broad range of development policy issues, including promoting national competitiveness and social inclusion, managing commodities-based development and climbing global value chains. The Centre's contribution to the implementation of the OECD Strategy on Development focuses on projects that adopt a multidimensional framework of analysis and benefit from co-operation with other Directorates - both priorities of the Secretary-General.
You will gather data and information on a country under review assessing not only its growth performance and how it performs relative to its potential, but also whether growth is sustainable from economic, social and environmental perspectives. You will gauge the extent to which citizens benefit from economic growth. Thus, you will get a broad and fairly comprehensive picture of economies chosen as pilots for multi-dimensional reviews. You will acquire new skills to analyse policy issues from multiple angles, cutting across several sectors. You will contribute to the ongoing conceptual work in this area and provide inputs into policy dialogue papers on selected common policy challenges of countries endowed by natural resources or countries integrated into global supply chains. You will also be involved in organising events related to the above two types of work i.e. the multi-dimensional country reviews and the policy dialogue among countries sharing common challenges.

**Green Growth**

**Environmental taxation – green growth [ref: CTP/ENV_3]**

*Hosts: Centre for Tax Policy and Administration (CTP) and Environment Directorate (ENV)*

*Other relevant background: Environmental policy tools and evaluation; Green growth and taxation; the Political economy of environmentally related taxes; Taxation innovation and the environment*

A broader use of environmental taxation or emission trading systems in order to incorporate the costs of environmental damage into market price signals would be one of the most efficient and effective ways of promoting green growth. However, practical implementation of such policy instruments is often slowed down by political economy factors, such as concerns about their effectiveness and potentially negative impacts on income distribution and on the competitiveness of the most affected economic sectors - for example energy intensive industries.

Building on earlier OECD work, you will work with the Centre for Tax Policy and Administration (CTP) and the Environment Directorate (ENV) to conduct new analysis and assess recent experiences in both member and non-member countries on issues such as behavioural responses to environmental taxes, tax and trading system design, revenue recycling, and border adjustments. This will involve reviewing, critiquing and synthesising existing studies, and planning and conducting new analyses (both quantitative and qualitative in nature) in co-operation with country officials and independent researchers. The objective will be to develop practical advice on methods to overcome common political economy obstacles, backed by solid evidence from case studies.

**Green investment [ref: DAF_4]**

*Host: Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs (DAF)*

*Horizontal collaboration: Environment Directorate (ENV)*

*Other relevant background: Investment for development – Investment for green growth*

An open, transparent and non-discriminatory investment environment is a central criterion for investors considering investment in green energy infrastructure in OECD, developing and emerging market economies. The importance of placing international investors on an equal footing with domestic investors is rapidly gaining recognition in face of the vast investment gaps faced by many countries in green energy infrastructure. In this context, this work stream within the Directorate for
Financial and Enterprise Affairs (DAF) includes a joint project on "Creating a level-playing field for international investment in green energy" with the Environment Directorate (ENV). The project is aimed at addressing investment protectionism and anti-competitive behaviours which might result in sub-optimal flows of investment in renewable energy. This work-stream will also cover other related issues such as guidance for investment in clean energy infrastructure, and policies aimed at promoting green investment, including in the context of Investment Policy Reviews.

You will contribute to the transversal project on "Creating a level-playing field for international investment in green energy", and to the Secretary-General’s strategic objective on promoting Green Growth. You may also contribute to analytical work on enhancing investment in clean energy infrastructure – in particular the application and further development of the draft Policy Guidance for Investment in Clean Energy, which is focused on developing countries and therefore contributes to the OECD Development Strategy. Both projects would feed into the global effort on mitigating Climate Change, and to work related to Sustainable Development. You will also participate in drafting the green investment and infrastructure chapters of the Investment Policy Reviews.

Green growth and development [ref: DCD_5]
Host: Directorate for Development Co-operation (DCD)
Horizontal collaboration: Environment Directorate (ENV), Development Centre (DEV), and Directorate for Employment and Social Affairs (ELS)
Other relevant background: Green growth

Developing countries are key to greening growth at a global scale. The impacts of environmental degradation are critical for developing countries as they are often highly dependent on natural resources for economic development and livelihoods and they are more vulnerable than developed countries to food, water and energy insecurity as well as to climate change impacts. The greening of development has the potential to accelerate poverty eradication and manage environmental risks through more sustainable, efficient use of natural resources, such as water, land and energy and through social and technical innovation. The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), with its members’ experience on development planning and development co-operation policy, poverty reduction and environment, is well placed to link green growth and development. It is working to assess progress and practical experience in developing country contexts with the integration of green growth objectives into development strategies, planning and policies at national and sector levels.

You will work with a small team of analysts in the Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) to build the evidence-base on how green growth issues are playing out in developing countries and in the field of development co-operation, working directly with representatives of partner countries and with development co-operation agencies. Your work may include statistical analysis, for example using the DAC-Creditor Reporting System “Rio Markers” data, and/or other data sourced on development finance flow to developing countries. One challenge for the team is to work with partner countries and development co-operation practitioners to build capacity and systems to track and monitor the effectiveness of aid and other development finance that targets climate change or other green growth goals. The work is fast paced and aims to influence the ongoing international policy debate on the interface between green growth and climate change responses on the one hand and poverty reduction, alternative development pathways, development policies and development co-operation practice on the other hand.
Environmental policies and productivity growth [ref: ECO_8]

Host: Economics Department (ECO)

Horizontal collaboration: Environment Directorate (ENV) and Science, Technology and Industry Directorate (STI)

A good understanding of the relationship between environmental policies and economic growth is vital for policy-makers aiming to achieve greener growth. In this context, this project has two goals: to construct a set of cross-country indicators on environmental policies; and then to use these indicators in assessing the influence of environmental policies on productivity growth in countries, sectors and at the firm level. The project will contribute to a broader set of work across the OECD, in particular to mainstreaming green growth into the OECD’s economic surveys and country surveillance. The results will be discussed in committees of the Directorates involved.

You will directly contribute to designing the structure of environmental policy indicators and the collection of the missing data. Using these newly created indicators, you will apply and further develop your experience of panel data econometrics to perform empirical analysis of the effects of environmental policies on productivity growth across countries. You will also be involved in drafting a paper summarising the results. You will work under the supervision of a Senior Economist, jointly between the Economics Department (ECO) and the Environment Directorate (ENV), and have the opportunity to closely co-operate with experts from different Directorates in directly related fields such as innovation and productivity, environmental policy and regulation.

Improving the effectiveness of climate-related finance – developing countries [ref: ENV_11]

Host: Environment Directorate (ENV)

Horizontal collaboration: International Energy Agency (IEA), Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD)

Other relevant background: Green growth

Significant transfers of resources will be required to help developing countries achieve low-carbon development, and increase their resilience to climate impacts. These resources are already starting to flow: for example, $22.9bn of official development assistance was identified as specifically contributing to these goals in 2010. However, fundamental questions remain about the scale of finance currently being delivered (from the public and private sectors) and how to maximise the effectiveness of those resources. Working closely with the Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) and the International Energy Agency (IEA), this project within the Environment Directorate (ENV) will focus on tracking climate-related finance, assessing the results being achieved and recommending approaches for maximising effectiveness. The overall aim of this will be to assist countries set up institutions and processes that help foster green and climate-resilient growth, as well as maximising the economic and environmental impact of public expenditure (e.g. by increasing leverage of private sector investments).

You will be responsible for researching and co-drafting papers assessing the impacts of climate-related expenditure in developing countries. In doing so, you will build on your background in climate change, finance and/or development, to develop expertise in this high-profile area of climate change
policy. This project will provide you with opportunities to showcase this work at international workshops and conferences.

Inclusive green growth [ref: ENV_12]

Host: Environment Directorate (ENV)

Horizontal collaboration: Centre for Tax Policy and Administration (CTP), Economics Department (ECO) and Directorate for Employment and Social Affairs (ELS)

Other relevant background: Environmental economic modelling

Equity considerations are an integral part of policy design and are gaining momentum in the face of current economic and financial challenges. Against this backdrop, more analysis is warranted on the distributional impacts associated with the implementation of both environmental and climate change policies. This project aims at providing quantitative insights into the equity and other related policy dimensions associated with the implementation of selected climate-related policies, including carbon taxes with alternative redistributions of revenues. It will combine insights from a dynamic general equilibrium model (ENV-Linkages) with household level data on income and expenditures to shed new light on the distributional impacts of green growth policies. The enhancements foreseen in the project will also improve the representation of household groups in ENV-Linkages. The project within the Environment Directorate (ENV) falls under the heading of Inclusive green growth, and considers interactions between equality and environmental issues.

You will focus on doing analysis of the consequences of green growth policies, including climate mitigation and energy policies, on different income groups and households living below the poverty line. You may also participate in the collection and consolidation of the best available data on income sources and expenditures of different household groups; collaborate with colleagues to improve consistency between these data and the aggregated consumer behaviour in the ENV-Linkages model; build a specific module that uses information from the ENV-Linkages model and the income distribution data; perform quantitative analysis of the impacts of selected green growth policies on different household groups; and participate in the co-drafting of related papers. These tasks will be executed in close collaboration with other members of the modelling team, and experts throughout the OECD. You will help build linkages to advance this work across several directorates.

Growth and Innovation

Financing Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Entrepreneurs [ref: CFE_1]

Host: Centre For Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development (CFE)

Horizontal collaboration: Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs (DAF) and Statistics Directorate (STD)

Other relevant background: SME Finance Scoreboard

The OECD has pioneered efforts to develop data and statistical information on SMEs’ and entrepreneurs’ access to finance, by developing an annual Scoreboard on SME and entrepreneurship finance. The Scoreboard provides trends and data on a range of indicators on debt, equity and framework conditions for SME finance for close to 30 countries. It provides information on government measures to support access to finance by SMEs and entrepreneurs, as well as thematic analysis of key issues for SME finance (e.g. ongoing reforms to the global financial system), and a
chapter on methodological issues. The Scoreboard is developed by working with SME finance experts in participating countries to obtain and refine the relevant data. Scoreboard analysis constitutes an important input to the G20 work on financial inclusion. It supports the OECD’s work on global relations as the Scoreboard aims to expand its participation to a significant number of non-OECD countries in the coming biennium. It contributes to the work on new sources of growth/innovation.

As part of the Centre For Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development’s team working on the Scoreboard and other related analysis, you will contribute to groundbreaking work in this area, developing concepts and methodology to standardise collection of data on SME finance across countries. You will have the opportunity to shape the future agenda and gain exposure to a global network of experts and policy makers in SME finance. You will develop your analytical, statistical, communications and drafting skills, and will contribute to anchoring the Scoreboard as the international reference for monitoring the landscape for SME finance.

New Sources of Growth [ref: STI_17]
Host: Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (STI)
Horizontal collaboration: Centre for Tax Policy and Administration (CTP), Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs (DAF), Economics Department (ECO), Statistics Directorate (STD)
Other relevant background: Strategic orientations by the Secretary-General (2012)

Employment patterns and productivity growth are at the core of the current policy discussion, as they play a central role in shaping the welfare of societies and the competitiveness of countries. Against such a background, this cutting-edge research project within the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (STI) relies on cross-country harmonised micro-aggregated data to analyse employment and productivity. It seeks to uncover how job dynamics are shaped by firm entry and exit, and by the performance of incumbent firms with different characteristics such as age, size and growth rates. It then investigates the extent to which different policy frameworks can shape the productivity of firms and the way resources are allocated to more productive firms.

You will contribute to the work on enterprise dynamics and productivity growth carried out by the Working Party on Industry Analysis. You will be involved in the collection and harmonisation of cross-country data, in the econometric analysis, and in drafting the results and drawing policy implications. Experience with cross-country firm-level databases and panel econometrics would be an asset. This project will give you the possibility to co-operate closely with recognised experts involved in this field - not only within the OECD but also in government agencies and renowned universities and institutes worldwide. You will also contribute to the work on New Sources of Growth, which is one of the Secretary-General’s strategic objectives.

Governance of Innovation in Education [ref: EDU_9]
Host: Directorate for Education (EDU)
Horizontal collaboration: Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD); Public Governance and Territorial Development (GOV) and Science, Technology and Industry Directorate (STI)

OECD economies have experienced a rapid transformation from industrial to knowledge-based systems in which lifelong learning and innovation are central. At the same time, governments in almost all OECD countries have increased school autonomy in their education systems. The combination of decentralised governance regimes with increasingly individualised, informed and
demanding populations suggests that complexity and the importance of diverse local contexts can only be expected to increase. Research at the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation investigates these trends through the lens of governance, innovation, and learning. It asks the question: how can we ensure high quality, efficient, equitable and innovative education, key pillars of a strong knowledge economy?

You will be assigned within the Education Directorate (EDU) to analytical tasks on the theme 'Governance of Innovation in Education'. Your work will include analysis on autonomy, accountability, and governance issues in education, including a synthesis of country case studies. You will also be responsible for a literature review on developing and sustaining innovative learning as well as contributing to project work on implementing change in education. OECD-wide work on inclusive innovation will be an important opportunity to work collaboratively as part of a larger network within the OECD. This position offers the opportunity to work on cutting-edge research and analysis that will play a key role in guiding countries and ministries as they address challenges in the governance of innovation in education.

Innovation in the public sector [ref: GOV_14]

Host: Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development (GOV)
Horizontal collaboration: Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (STD)

Today’s governments are faced with ever-expanding fiscal pressures, citizen expectations and areas of responsibility. To meet these challenges, public sector innovation is needed now more than ever. The OECD Observatory of Public Sector Innovation (OPSI) was established in 2010 to provide practitioners with the latest information on innovative practices in the public sector, their impact, and the contextual understanding to find those practices most adapted and suitable to their needs. Based on actual practices in OECD countries, the OPSI database and web platform aim to improve the international understanding of what is public sector innovation and how to promote it; to create an international community of practice; and to diffuse good practice at all levels of government. Enhancing public sector effectiveness is a key strategic objective of the OECD, and the OPSI helps to advance this goal by providing countries with an instrument to leverage innovation for improving public sector performance and better responding to citizens’ needs.

You are committed to leading change in the public sector and are looking to have an impact on the mindset and ways of working of OECD governments. To achieve this, you will develop an understanding and knowledge of how to identify, promote, and evaluate public sector innovation in different administrative and political contexts. By developing your insights into the incentives, learning mechanisms and obstacles that are particular to the public sector, you will deepen your understanding of how it works and how it interacts with the private and voluntary sectors – growing partners for the creation of public value. Finally, you will take part in cutting edge thinking about the relationship between citizens and their governments in terms of how they are taking greater control and responsibility for the benefits they receive. This project will put you in regular contact with governments, practitioners and academics, and you will help to develop new information technology tools and platforms for interacting with them.
Measuring progress and well-being [ref: STD_16]
Host: Statistics Directorate (STD)
Other relevant background: Measuring progress and well-being; Better Life Initiative; OECD Better Life Index

You will contribute to the OECD’s work programme on measuring progress and well-being, and in particular to the new editions of the two main products of the OECD Better Life Initiative (How’s Life and Better Life Index). Beyond this, you will also contribute to the implementation of the Statistical Agenda for the Better Life Initiative with the aim of improving the information base of future editions of How’s Life?: Specific projects may include better understanding the role of emotions on well-being and decision-making, extending the OECD well-being framework to developing countries, developing indicators in the area of time use and unpaid work, and exploring the potential for building a harmonised dataset on well-being based on official national surveys.

You will work with a multi-disciplinary team within the Statistics Directorate (STD) responsible for the main reports on well-being produced as part of the OECD’s Better Life Initiative. This will include direct involvement in producing the reports themselves, but also taking responsibility for projects aimed at the Statistical Agenda ahead to build the infrastructure for better measurement in the future. You will engage with other OECD directorates, international organisations, academic experts, and national statistical offices to develop new measures of dimensions of well-being and encourage better, more comparable, data to be collected.

OECD Strategic Orientations

Support for the delivery of the Secretary-General’s strategic objectives [ref: SGE_15]
Host: General Secretariat/Office of the Secretary-General (SGE/OSG)
Other relevant background: Strategic orientations by the Secretary-General (2012)

The Secretary-General, his Deputies, and his Chief of Staff are key for the horizontal co-ordination and strategic leadership of the Organisation. The Office of the Secretary-General (OSG) supports the Secretary-General in his mission to ensure the relevance and quality of OECD outputs and in maximising their impact and usage by policy-makers and other key stakeholders to ensure better policy outcomes for Member and non-Member countries. OSG also takes a leading role in providing the policy directions for, and steering, horizontal projects and will notably lead the New Approaches to Economic Challenges (NAEC) project over the 2013-2014 biennium. OSG, under the guidance of the Sherpa, also takes the lead on providing OECD inputs to the G20 and G8.

As part of the OSG team, you will support the Chief of Staff and the team in delivering the Secretary-General’s strategic objectives. You will assist in preparing briefings, talking points and speeches for the Secretary-General’s official functions, ensuring that key strategic issues are covered and key strategic messages are transmitted. You will keep abreast of developments within OECD and the global political and economic agenda. These tasks will be undertaken at the strategic hub of the Organisation with exposure to the highest levels of strategy and policy-making; to all streams of OECD work; and to cutting-edge discussions. You will work and engage with a talented, highly committed team of professional staff, in a vibrant, fast-paced environment.
The evolution of Cities and Regions has increasingly gained the attention of economists and social scientists alike. While economic growth is being driven both by developments in rural and urban areas, urbanisation is globally progressing at a rapid speed. Large metropolitan areas now frequently surpass countries both in economic output and population size. This raises questions about the future economic and social role of cities, including prominently how sub-national policies and governance structures can improve economic, social and environmental outcomes in metropolitan areas. The Regional Development Policy Division, a part of the Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development (GOV), undertakes territorial and urban reviews to help improving policies at the sub-national level, as well as cutting-edge horizontal work on issues connected to regional or urban economics and/or governance.

You will be assigned to work on region/city-specific studies, as well as on horizontal projects exploring issues relevant to improving policies in cities and regions. You will undertake both qualitative and quantitative analysis in areas related to economics and/or governance. You will draft significant parts of OECD reports that are discussed in international forums of policymakers and experts. You will meet and learn to work with policymakers, both in meetings at the OECD and on international missions.

The tax treatment of tuition and training costs, progressive personal income taxes on wage earnings, the taxes on household savings, and special personal and corporate income tax provisions play a significant role in decisions about which skills to acquire, when they are acquired and whether they are financed by the student, the employee or the employer. The Centre for Tax Policy and Administration (CTP) has been analysing the impact of tax systems on incentives for skills formation as part of the OECD Skills strategy, including the collection and analysis of taxation and skills measures and the calculation of marginal and average effective tax rates on skills. The next stage will be to further develop and analyse country specific policies, to deepen the analytical and statistical analysis, focus on best country practices, develop country specific tax policy recommendations and communicate the results more widely.
You will contribute to work that follows up on the Skills Strategy, helping and advising countries to design better tax systems that stimulate skills formation as part of a country’s broader labour market policies. You will use the data from and liaise with the OECD Education Directorate and ensure that the newly developed tax indicators feed into other OECD work. You will further extend the Taxation and Skills (and possibly develop new) effective tax rates and develop the statistical framework and models such that the indicators can be updated regularly, possibly leading to a Taxation and Skills OECD report. You will write papers on taxation and skills and present the results at OECD expert and country meetings.

**OECD Skills Strategy [ref: EDU_10]**

**Host:** Directorate for Education (EDU)

**Horizontal collaboration:** Centre For Entrepreneurship (CFE), Centre for Tax Policy and Administration (CTP), Directorate for Employment and Social Affairs (ELS)

**Other relevant background:** OECD skills work

The OECD Skills Strategy provides countries with a strategic approach to developing the right skills and turning them into better jobs and better lives. An effective skills strategy depends on a clear diagnosis of the strengths and challenges a country faces, a comprehensive and inclusive approach to policy design and successful implementation. The OECD Skills Strategy was launched at the Ministerial Council Meeting 2012 where Ministers called upon the OECD to work with countries while pursuing its multidisciplinary work on human capital development and deployment. The next phase of the project aims to leverage OECD data, analysis and expertise in a broad range of policy areas to work with countries on developing effective skills strategies at the national and local levels.

You will contribute to the next phase of the OECD Skills Strategy along two main axes: developing effective skills strategies at national and local levels; and preparing for the new flagship report OECD Skills Outlook (2014 edition). In doing so you will have the opportunity to deepen your own skills in comparative policy analysis and generate new insights into policy inter-linkages, especially between economics, labour markets, social policies and education in the area of skills development, supply and use. You will also gain practical experience in engaging stakeholders, building support for policy change and ensuring successful policy implementation. Last but not least, you will join a stimulating multicultural and multidisciplinary team within the Education Directorate (EDU) generating outputs that countries value highly.