The Insurance, Private Pensions and Financial Markets Division (IPPFM) division serves two OECD committees: the Committee on Financial Markets (CMF) and the Insurance and Private Pensions Committee (IPPC). These two committees cover a wide range of topics: financial markets policies, public debt management, sustainable finance, infrastructure, financial consumer inclusion/protection and education, private pensions and insurance.

**MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**

**Workshop on SME Access to Alternative Sources of Finance in ASEAN**

On 5-6 November, the OECD, in cooperation with SME Corp. Malaysia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat, held a workshop in Kuala Lumpur to explore alternative sources of finance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in ASEAN. The event gathered 35+ speakers from all ASEAN countries and around 100 participants from the public and private sectors to discuss the development of markets and policies for alternative SME financing mechanisms in Southeast Asia.

**Advancing Financial Literacy in South East Europe**

On 7-8 November 2019, the high-level conference, “Advancing Financial Literacy in South East Europe” was held in Tbilisi, Georgia and focused on national strategies for financial education in the region. Back-to-back workshops examined policies on financial education for youth and in schools, rural populations, and owners and managers of MSMEs. The meetings, co-hosted by the National Bank of Georgia, are part of an OECD/INFE Regional Technical Assistance Project, supported by the Dutch Ministry of Finance and its MoneyWise Platform.

**New Chair of the Working Party on Private Pensions**

On 2-3 December 2019, the Working Party on Private Pensions (WPPP) met with its new chair, Preston Rutledge, US Assistant Secretary of Labor. The discussions focused on the role of funded pensions for non-standard workers, gender, communication, adequacy, risk sharing, and risk profile of investment strategies. The WPPP has also embarked on the revision of the OECD Roadmap for the Good Design of DC Pension Plans and approved new projects on longevity modelling and on the structure of the pay-out phase.
Working Party on Debt Management meeting
On 6-7 November 2019 the annual meeting of the Working Party on Debt Management (WPDM) took place in the OECD Conference Centre. Key issues such as benchmark interest rate reform, global risks and cash forecasting, business continuity and cyber risks were discussed. The WPDM invited external speakers to provide information on the use of new technology, particularly blockchain, in primary markets.

NBC-ADBI-OECD Conference

Task Force on Pension and Insurance Statistics
The Task Forces on Pension and Insurance statistics met on 4 December 2019. On the pension side, the group discussed challenges around the comparison of costs of running pension plans across countries, the correction of the multiple counting in membership data when individuals hold several pension plans, and the modifications of statistical frameworks and surveys. On the insurance side, the discussion focused on how to revise the statistical template, which has become outdated, and on areas where better alignment with the EU supervisory reporting can be sought.

Insurance and Private Pensions Committee
On 5-6 December, the Insurance and Private Pensions Committee (IPPC) held a roundtable on insurance intermediation in the digital age as well as discussing the finalisation of reports on cyber insurance, big data and AI, long-term care and health insurance, and the structure of insurance regulation and supervision. The Committee agreed to proceed with projects analysing the contribution of insurance to public long-term and health care and the integration of ESG factors by institutional investors.

High level Conference on Financial Education in CIS
On 9-10 December 2019, the OECD/INFE Technical Assistance Project on Financial Education in the Commonwealth of Independent Sates, carried out with financial support from the Russian Ministry of Finance, held its annual high-level conference in Moscow. Participants celebrated the achievements of the first phase of the Project, focused on the insights of a Policy Handbook on Financial Education of Young People in the CIS’ and a report on Financial Literacy Needs of Migrants and their Families, and discussed the directions of the Project’s second phase.
OECD Blockchain Expert Policy Advisory Board

In 2019, to provide advice on its work on blockchain and other distributed ledger technologies, the OECD formed an advisory board bringing together a multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary group of experts. Drawn from OECD and non-OECD economies, the Blockchain Expert Policy Advisory Board (BEPAB) first met (virtually) on 16 December and again on 20-21 January at the OECD. It provided extensive feedback on the structure, rationale and content of the forthcoming OECD Blockchain Principles. The full list of the BEPAB members can be found online.


On 11-12 December 2019, the OECD FinEd and Financial Consumer Protection team, in collaboration with the Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), organised a conference on ‘Financial Education and Financial Consumer Protection in Asia-Pacific’ in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. During the conference, the OECD launched a new report titled Cryptoassets in Asia: Consumer attitudes, behaviours and experiences. Over 200 participants attended, mostly from financial public authorities in Asia-Pacific.

LATEST REPORTS

**Tokenisation of Assets and Potential Implications for Financial Markets**
The report explores the policy implications of asset tokenisation – the digital representation of real (physical) assets on distributed ledgers, or the issuance of traditional asset classes in tokenised form.

**The Impact of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Insurance Sector**
The report examines both the benefits and risks that big data and AI can bring to the insurance industry and outlines areas where policymakers may consider action in the insurance sector in relation to big data and AI going forward.

**Global Insurance Market Trends**
Gross premiums continued to rise in most countries in 2018, especially in the non-life sector. Premium growth partly depends on the demand for insurance products, which varies across lines of business and is influenced by external factors such as economic growth and changes in taxation practices among other factors.
In Focus

Strategic Policies for Sustainable Infrastructure

The Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs (DAF) is leading the OECD Horizontal Project “Strategic Policies for Sustainable Infrastructure”, bringing together 17 teams across the organisation and agencies to provide a cross-cutting and multidisciplinary response to ensure infrastructure delivers its economic, environmental, social and development objectives. The project is led by Deputy Secretary-General, Masamichi Kono, and managed by André Laboul, IPPFM Senior Counsellor, with support from the Sustainable Finance and Infrastructure team. The initiative aims to harness the wide range of OECD expertise and knowledge to provide guidance, good practices, data and analysis that can support policymakers in delivering key aspects of sustainable and quality infrastructure. The main outputs of the initiative will be two forthcoming handbooks: a Compendium of Good Practices for Quality Infrastructure Investment, and a report on Delivering Sustainable Infrastructure, to be delivered in 2020. Check out the Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY
10 Feb | Asset Manager and Institutional Investor Dialogue on Private Investment in Infrastructure, Paris
26-28 Feb | IOPS Committee meetings, Supervisory workshop and International Conference on Pension Supervision and Regulation, Mauritius

MARCH
16 Mar | Meeting of the Steering Board of the Infrastructure Data Initiative, Singapore
16 Mar | Asset Manager and Institutional Investor Dialogue on Private Investment in Infrastructure, Singapore
16-17 Mar | OECD-ABDI-IRDAI Roundtable on Insurance and Retirement Saving, Hyderabad
17 Mar | High-level Seminar on Quality Infrastructure Investment in Asia, Singapore
18 March | FinCoNet Open Meeting, Paris

APRIL
22-24 Apr | Committee on Financial Markets (plus Ad Hoc EGFD), Paris

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