Discover the OECD

Better Policies for Better Lives
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1 Who we are:
Our origins and our global approach
Who we are

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation in which governments work together to find solutions to common challenges, develop global standards, share experiences and identify best practices to promote better policies for better lives.
1948

The Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) was formed to administer American and Canadian aid in the framework of the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe after World War II.

• *One stipulation*: Countries had to *work together* to decide how to allocate and prioritise resources.

1960

14 December 1960: the Convention transforming OEEC into OECD is signed, and enters into force in 1961.

• *Article 1 of the Convention*: The aims of the OECD [...] shall be to promote policies designed:

  a) to achieve the *highest sustainable economic growth* and *employment* and a *rising standard of living in Member countries*, while maintaining financial stability, and thus to contribute to the development of the world economy;

  b) to contribute to sound *economic expansion in Member as well as non-member countries* in the process of economic development.
Who we are: Our global reach

OECD 37 Member countries and 5 key partners represent about 80% of world trade and investment

Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>Austria</th>
<th>Belgium</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>Chile</th>
<th>Colombia</th>
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<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Poland</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>United States</td>
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Key Partners

| Brazil | China | India | Indonesia | South Africa |

Most recent accessions

- 2000: Slovak Republic
- 2010: Chile, Israel, Slovenia, Estonia
- 2016: Latvia
- 2018: Lithuania
- 2020: Colombia, Costa Rica*

Six Prospective Members have requested OECD membership: Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Peru, Romania

*Note: Costa Rica was invited to join the OECD on 15 May 2020, its membership will take effect upon the deposit of its instrument of accession to the OECD Convention

The European Union has a permanent delegation to the OECD
--- Who we are: Our global reach

The OECD brings together **Member countries and partners** that collaborate closely on key global issues at national, regional and local level. Through our standards and initiatives, our work helps drive and anchor reform in **more than 100 economies around the world**, building on our collective wisdom and shared values.

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<th>Member Countries</th>
<th>Key Partners</th>
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<td>OECD 37 Member countries span the globe</td>
<td>In 2007, the Secretary-General was invited to strengthen OECD cooperation with Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa through enhanced engagement programmes.</td>
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**GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

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<tr>
<th>Development Centre</th>
<th>Regional Programmes</th>
<th>Country Programmes</th>
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<td>56 countries, of which 27 are OECD members and 29 are developing and emerging economies</td>
<td>Africa, Eurasia, MENA, Latin America and the Caribbean, Southeast Asia and South East Europe</td>
<td>Peru and Kazakhstan completed, Thailand and Morocco underway, Egypt and Viet Nam under discussion</td>
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How we work

Organisational structure and our approach: Inform, engage and set standards
How we work: Organisational structure

**COUNCIL**

Oversight and strategic direction
Representatives of member countries and the European Union provide strategic orientations for the OECD. Chaired by the Secretary-General, decisions are taken mostly by consensus.

**COMMITTEES & OTHER GROUPS**

Discussion and review
Expert Committees and their subsidiary bodies bring together Members, partner economies and other stakeholders to share policy experiences, develop standards, innovate and review policy implementation and impact.

**SECRETARIAT**

Evidence and analysis
OECD Directorates collect data, provide analysis and formulate proposals to inform committee discussions.

**Consensus**

is at the heart of our approach and decision-making

**POLICY MAKERS & POLICY SHAPERS**

Representatives from government, business, labour, civil society and academia participate in our work through consultations and regular exchanges.
How we work: Our approach

Our goal is to shape policies that foster **prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all**. The OECD regularly reviews its tools, policy analysis and standards to ensure that they are fit for purpose and maintain their **relevance and impact**.

**PILLARS OF TRANSFORMATION**

- **Supporting country reforms: from a think-tank to a ‘do-tank’**
- **People-centred** growth and well-being: a multi-disciplinary approach
- **Strengthening our contribution to global governance** (e.g. G20/G7, APEC, UN)
- **Levelling the global playing field through international standards**
- **Increasing our global reach**
- **Increasing engagement with civil society, local governments and private sector**
- **Innovating and rethinking** our approach (e.g. NAEC, Strategic Foresight)
How we work: Our approach

By convening countries and experts, stimulating technical dialogue, and sharing our expertise on social, economic and environmental issues, we help identify innovative and effective policy solutions. We do this by:

**Inform & advise**
- As one of the world’s largest and most trusted sources of comparative socio-economic data and analysis, we provide knowledge and advise to inform better policies
- **500+** major reports and country surveys annually
- **5 billion+** data points annually

**Engage & influence**
- We bring policy makers and policy shapers together to exchange ideas, share experiences and forge progress across a range of policy areas
- **140,000+** policy makers and shapers visit the OECD annually
- **300+** committees and working groups underpin our work

**Set standards & provide policy support**
- We encourage countries to do better by developing internationally agreed standards so that everyone plays by the same rules and co-operates to reach shared objectives
- **450+** international standards over the past 60 years
- **700+** country support projects annually
Inform and advise through knowledge and evidence

- The OECD monitors trends, collects data, analyses and forecasts economic development, and investigates evolving patterns in a broad range of public policy areas.
- The OECD is one of the world’s largest and most reliable sources of comparable statistical, economic and social data. OECD.Stat is our online platform to search for and extract data from across the many OECD databases.
- The OECD informs decision-making on better policies and standard-setting through knowledge and evidence.
- The OECD provides regular basic data on a wide range of areas. Examples include: quarterly and annual national accounts, business statistics, consumer prices, productivity, trade statistics, etc.
- The OECD Smart Data Strategy is pursuing the development of technical, organisational, legal and human capabilities, in close collaboration with OECD member countries and the broader data ecosystem, to meet policy demand with data innovation.
Engage and influence in a multilateral setting

- **OECD Committees at the core of its work**
  More than 300 OECD bodies meet regularly to review evidence and reach policy conclusions, underpinned is the consensus principles and peer review mechanisms.

- **OECD supports G20/G7**
  With analysis, expertise and standards to achieve the objective of strong, sustainable, and inclusive growth, as well as to level the global economic playing field.

- **OECD collaboration with the UN and global fora**
  As an Observer in both the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, we contribute to the work of UN bodies on issues such as sustainable development, environment, gender, statistics, and social affairs. The OECD also promotes effective and strong multilateral co-operation, partnering with other International Organisations and fora, as well as regional actors, on issues such as SDGs, climate, fair work, gender and south-south co-operation.

- **OECD global leaders programme**
  A platform for the ideas and projects of Global Leaders. Since 2007, we have received the visit of over 160 Heads of State and Government.

- **OECD engagement with civil society**
  Seeking the views of civil society through consultations, committee discussions and conferences [e.g. Business at OECD (BIAC), Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC), OECD Forum, OECD Observatory of Civic Space, OECD Better Life Index, OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth initiative, OECD Digital for SMEs Initiative (D4SMEs), Global Parliamentary Network and OECD/ DAC Civil Society Week].
OECD standards are developed by experts committees developed through a **rigorous evidence-based process building on best policies and practices** and involving a variety of stakeholders.

OECD standards help to **level the global playing field**, deepen international technical co-operation, and implement shared policy objectives to improve citizen well-being. Standards create efficiency savings for governments and ensure that policies benefit citizens.

The OECD has developed over **450 legal instruments (International Agreements, Decisions, Recommendations, Declarations)** with currently more than 250 in force, some relating to multiple sectoral areas.

**OECD standards have a truly global reach.** For example, the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes has 161 members (including 88 developing countries) working together on implementing tax transparency standards.

The **OECD Standard-Setting Review** is currently underway to strengthen the relevance and impact of OECD standards and improve the modalities of OECD standard-setting.

Based on standards and evidence-based analysis, the OECD supports individual countries in their **policy reform objectives**.
OECD standards are at the core of our mission to promote shared values, good policies and practices in both domestic and international settings, and well-governed markets.

Some examples are:

Examples of OECD standards

- G20/OECD Principles of Corporate Governance
- OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Codes of Liberalisation
- OECD Anti-Bribery Convention
- Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)
- Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters and Automatic Exchange of Information in Tax Matters
- Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence
- Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice
- Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence

Other examples:

- Recommendations on the OECD Polluter-Pays Principle
- Recommendations on Gender Equality
- Recommendation of the Council on the Governance of Infrastructure
- OECD Seeds Scheme
- Guidelines on Corporate Governance of SOEs
- Arrangement on Exports Credits
- DAC Recommendation on Ending Sexual Abuse
- Council Decisions on Mutual Acceptance on Data in Chemicals Assessment
- Recommendation on Ageing and Employment Policies
- Recommendation on Integrated Mental Health, Skills and Work Policy
What we do
Shape #BetterLives
What we do: Shape #BetterLives

The OECD helps countries develop better policies for better lives, boosting prospects for stronger, fairer and cleaner economies and societies while saving billions of dollars for taxpayers. Some examples:

**IMPROVING EDUCATION SYSTEMS**
- **600,000 students**
  Evaluated in 2018 across 79 countries and economies as part of the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

**COMBATING INTERNATIONAL TAX AVOIDANCE**
- **125+ countries**
  Taking part in the base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) initiative to put an end to tax avoidance by corporations

**ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT**
- **$445 million**
  of additional tax revenues collected to date by administrations participating in the Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) initiative

**PROMOTING LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
- **1000+ regions & cities**
  in the OECD and partner countries that will be able to measure progress on SDGs using OECD guidance

**FIGHTING TRANSNATIONAL CORRUPTION AND ILLICIT TRADE**
- **800 sanctions**
  Obtained since the entry into force of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, which makes it a criminal offence to bribe officials in cross-border business deals

**GUIDING ECONOMIC REFORMS**
- **81% less**
  drop in price for mobile broadband in Mexico after a series of reforms were undertaken, starting in 2013, to make the telecommunications industry more competitive

**PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT**
- **49 countries**
  Adhere to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, encouraging companies to incorporate social, human rights and environmental considerations

**CO-ORDINATING HEALTH AND SAFETY TESTING**
- **$309 million**
  annual savings thanks to our test methods, data quality standards and sharing of chemical safety testing and assessments
The OECD informs decision-making on better policies and standard-setting through knowledge and evidence. Our strength lies in the ability to help countries learn from one another, and compare best practices so that one solution may also be adapted and applied elsewhere.

**Measuring and benchmarking economies**

- Outlook Series (Economic Outlook, Employment Outlook, International Migration Outlook, etc.)
- At a Glance Series (Education at a Glance, Health at a Glance, etc.)
- Jobs Strategy Dashboard
- OECD well-being indicators (How’s Life?)
- Trade in value Added (TiVA)
- FDI Restrictiveness
- Green Growth Indicators
- Product Market Regulation (PMR)
- Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)
- Settling in: Indicators of Immigration Integration
- Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
- Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)
- FDI Restrictiveness Index
- Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation
- Trade Facilitation Indicators
- OECD Broadband Portal
- Going Digital Toolkit
- OURdata Index on open government data
- Provision of regular basic data: annual national accounts, business statistics, consumer prices, etc.
- SME and entrepreneurship finance indicators
- Tourism and Trends policies
The OECD supports **country-to-country peer reviews**, regular monitoring of progress, exchange of information and experience, collection of best practices, and self-assessment tools.

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<td>Better policies series</td>
<td>Health systems and public health reviews</td>
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<td>SMEs and entrepreneurship reviews</td>
<td>Investing in youth reviews</td>
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<td>OECD Working Group on bribery reviews</td>
<td>Labour market reviews</td>
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<td>Review of local jobs creation</td>
<td>Getting skills right reviews</td>
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<td>Urban, rural and territorial reviews</td>
<td>Environmental performance reviews</td>
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<td>Telecommunications reviews</td>
<td>Multidimensional country reviews</td>
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<td>Going digital policy reviews</td>
<td>Production transformation policy reviews</td>
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Through the **peer review process**, the policies of a country in a particular area are examined by its peers on an equal footing. This **robust dialogue and open exchange of experiences**, supported by expert analysis in committees, is the OECD’s hallmark.
**What we do: Shape #BetterLives**

The OECD is making a difference by, for example:

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The OECD is constantly reviewing its tools, analysis and standards to ensure that they are fit for purpose and maintain their relevance and impact.

**New Approaches to Economic Challenges (NAEC)**
- Discuss and debate how to improve the analytical approaches and systems thinking to some of our most important policy questions.

**Multidisciplinary Approach**
- Explore cross-cutting issues, analyse policy synergies and inter-linkages, and explain why our work increasingly incorporates a horizontal ‘whole-of-OECD’ approach.

**OECD Strategic Foresight Unit**
- Assists the OECD, governments and other organisations with examining emerging trends, exploring alternative scenarios, and identifying implications for policy making.

**Centre on Well-being, Inclusiveness, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE)**
- Strengthen our measurement agenda on well-being, sustainability and inclusion, deepening the understanding of their drivers, the ways in which they interact and how they evolve.
The OECD’s response embraces a long-term strategy of co-ordinated, global action, and reflects on how we can move from addressing the immediate crisis to assessing the consequences and impact and to building a successful recovery.

Since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, the OECD has been providing data, analysis and recommendations on a wide range of topics addressing the pandemic, including its impact on health, the economy, employment and our societies, as well as member and partner country profiles, featured on a dedicated COVID-19 digital hub.
OECD in numbers

- **37** MEMBER COUNTRIES & WORK WITH 100+ ECONOMIES
- **80%** OF WORLD TRADE AND INVESTMENT (MEMBERS & PARTNERS)
- **140,000** VISITORS PER YEAR
- **4,000** CONFERENCES PER YEAR
- **5 BILLION** DATA POINTS
- **500** MAJOR REPORTS PER YEAR
- **450+** INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS DEVELOPED
Learn more

Discover more about the OECD at oecd.org/about