

December 2014

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- [Lobbying standards still not where they should be](#) - by Rolf Alter, Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD (EU Observer Blog)
- [Lobbying: an Opaque activity of dubious integrity?](#) (OECD Insights)
- [An Innovative Public Sector?](#) (OECD Insights)

Highlights

Think big, start small, move fast: Innovating the Public Sector



The conference [Innovating the Public Sector: from Ideas to Impact \(12-13 November\)](#) brought over 300 practitioners, leaders and academics to Paris for innovative exchanges, including real-time workshops, TED-style talks, and exchanges with policy-makers. Ministers from France, Spain and the United Kingdom responded to the [OECD call to action](#) to embed innovation in policy and service delivery, encouraging governments to not be afraid of trialling new things ("fail often, fail fast"); to make better use of frontline staff expertise; and to work closely with citizens -- "the wheels and engine" of innovation. Mexico launched the [first OECD Innovation Challenge](#) which invites countries to share innovative solutions on enhancing transparency in the energy sector. Innovations can reach a global audience through the [OECD Observatory of Public Sector Innovation's online platform](#). The meeting [Promoting Public Sector Innovation: the Role of Schools of Government](#) held back to back (13-14 November) was also an opportunity to showcase the role of these schools in promoting public sector innovation and developing skills.

OECD Forum on Financing Democracy and Averting Policy Capture



"In a democracy, public policy should never be for sale to the highest bidder" – OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría

Held in Paris on 3-4 December, the [Forum](#) advanced the global policy debate on the financing of political parties and electoral campaigns by highlighting critical issues such as incentives for compliance, legislative loopholes and impact on public policies and decision making processes. The Forum also validated the proposed [Framework on Financing Democracy](#) which maps a wide range of risk areas and provides policy options to adequately regulate the financing of political parties and electoral campaigns.

Open Government Principles at the Heart of Public Sector Reform



The [First OECD International Forum on Open Government \(Paris, 30 September\)](#) brought together open government leaders, including government and civil society representatives, from around the world. OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría opened the forum noting that the work presented was the "start of a long series in which open government champions from all around the world will engage with the OECD in a constructive policy dialogue to share and identify good practices and transfer relevant knowledge." The Forum debated how the principles of transparency, accountability, and citizen participation contribute to good governance and socio-economic development. The OECD launched a series of [Open Government Reviews](#) on Morocco, Tunisia, Myanmar and a regional report on Latin America.

Recent Events

Centres of Government: Driving Public Policy Performance



Delegates from 34 countries, the EU and the World Bank convened at the annual **Senior Officials from Centres of Government (CoG) meeting** in Vienna, Austria (**8-10 October**) to look at “Vision, Leadership and Innovation” at the centre of government. The discussion was supported by a new report, *Centre Stage: Driving Better Policies from the Centre of Government*, which is a unique comparative study on the centres of government in OECD countries.

4th OECD High Level Risk Forum



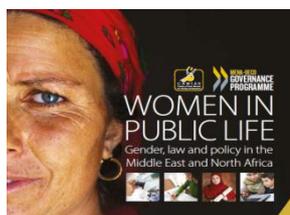
Senior representatives from government and industry gathered on **10-12 December** to discuss the implementation of the **OECD Recommendation on the Governance of Critical Risks**. Participants examined how a risk governance perspective can benefit from long-term forward looking approaches to risk assessment. They also discussed how a risk perspective can support such topical issues as containment of the Ebola outbreak in OECD countries and how behavioural economics can help inform policy design and risk communication. The **pilot Toolkit on Risk Governance (TRiG)** was unveiled to staunch support and broad offers to participate in making this OECD on-line platform a hub to share good practices in the management of critical risks.

OECD SBO Performance and Results Network



How do we move from gathering and reporting on performance information to really making use of that information? Do we get more value from using performance as an internal management tool or as an external accountability tool? How do we meet the information needs of different stakeholders? The **10th annual meeting of the OECD Senior Budget Officials Performance and Results Network** held on **24-25 November** discussed performance budgeting practices, including case studies from North America, France and Korea; examples from the education sector; choices and dilemmas when introducing spending reviews; and the evolving role of accountability institutions – Parliaments and SAIs – in performance informed budgeting systems.

Gender, Law and Public Policy: Trends in the Middle East and North Africa



A **High Level Seminar** was held in Amman, Jordan (**17-18 November**) under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan within the framework of the MENA-OECD Women in Government Platform. The event featured the launch of the 2014 OECD-CAWTAR report on **Gender, Law and Public Policy: Trends in the Middle East and North Africa**. The Seminar looked at strategic challenges faced by MENA countries in closing gender gaps; discussed the necessary conditions for women's empowerment in public life in the region and exchanged good practices in eliminating gender-based discrimination in laws and policy-making.

E-Leaders 2014: Towards Implementing the OECD Recommendation on Digital Government Strategies



How can digital government give citizens more voice and power over their lives? How does early involvement of stakeholders improve the planning and delivery of digital services? The **12th OECD E-Leaders meeting in Copenhagen (22-23 September)** drew government CIOs and representatives from business, academia and civil society to discuss how ICTs can bring government closer to citizens and businesses. Part of the meeting was webcast live and drew strong social media coverage. Participants also broke out into small working groups to discuss how to implement the recently adopted **OECD Council Recommendation on Digital Government Strategies**. They committed to jointly develop a Policy Toolkit in support of the Recommendation, to be presented at the next E-Leaders meeting in 2015 in Tokyo.

Upcoming Events

Committee meetings:

- **12th meeting of the Regulatory Policy Committee**, followed by the **4th meeting of the Network of Economic Regulators**, 15-17 April 2015, Paris, France
- **51st session of the Public Governance Committee**, week of 20 April 2015, Paris, France
- **32nd Session of the Territorial Development Policy Committee**, 27-30 April 2015, Paris, France
- **Ministerial Meeting on Public Governance: "Policy Performance for Inclusive Growth: Challenges for Public Governance"**, 28 October 2015, Helsinki, Finland

Integrity:

- **2015 OECD Integrity Week**, 23-27 March 2015, Paris, France. **The Working Party of Senior Public Integrity Officials** will also meeting during Integrity Week.
- **Meeting of the Working Party of the Leading Practitioners on Public Procurement**, week of 20th April 2015, Paris

Budgeting and public expenditures:

- **4th meeting of the Joint DELSA/GOV Network on Health Expenditures**, 16-17 February 2015, Paris, France
- **15th Annual OECD Public Sector Accruals Symposium**, 26-27 February 2015, Paris, France
- **8th meeting on Public-Private Partnerships**, 23-24 March 2015, Paris, France
- **7th Annual Meeting of the OECD Parliamentary Budget Officials and Independent Fiscal Institutions**, 16-17 April 2015, Vienna, Austria

Digital Government:

- **Expert Group Meeting on Open Government Data: Assessing and Measuring Impact**, Paris, 22 April 2015 (date to be confirmed)
- **OECD E-Leaders 2015**, 29-30 September 2015, Tokyo, Japan

Public Employment and Management:

- **Expert meeting: "Lead-Engage-Perform: Public Sector Leadership for Improved Employee Engagement and Organisational Success"**, 21-22 January 2015, Paris, France

MENA:

- **Towards an Efficient and Transparent Public Procurement System in Tunisia**, 20-21 January 2015, Tunis, Tunisia
- **The Role of Independent Institutions in Promoting Good Governance: National Conference, and Open Government in Morocco**, 23 January 2015, Rabat, Morocco
- **Meeting of the MENA-OECD Initiative Steering Group: A Regional Agenda for Inclusive Growth, Employment and Trust**, 5 February 2015, Paris, France
- **3rd UAE Government Summit**, 9-11 February 2015, Dubai, UAE
- **MENA Transition Fund Project - Yemen "Study Visit for the Centre for Legal and Judicial Research"**, 22– 27 March 2015, Caserta, Italy

Open Government:

- **Launch of the OECD Network on Open and Innovative Government in South East Asia**, Myanmar, March 2014 (date to be confirmed)
- **Launch of the Indonesia Country Review on Open Government**, Myanmar, March 2014 (date to be confirmed)

Regulatory Policy:

- **ASEAN-OECD Good Regulatory Practices Conference and 1st meeting of OECD Southeast Asia Good Regulatory Practice Network**, 10-12 March 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Regional Development:

- **10th Rural Development Conference: "National Prosperity through Modern Rural Policy"**, 19-21 May 2015, Memphis, Tennessee, United States
- **6th OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers**, 15-16 October 2015, Mexico City, Mexico

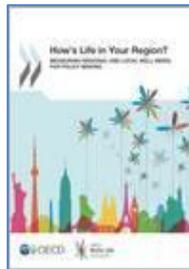
Recently Published

Lobbyists, Governments and Public Trust: Volume 3



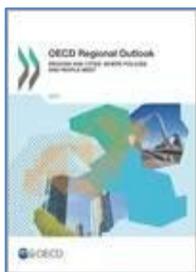
This report takes stock of progress made in implementing the *2010 Recommendation on Principles for Transparency and Integrity in Lobbying* and found that although there is an emerging consensus on the need for transparency to shed light on lobbying, new regulations are often scandal-driven instead of forward looking.

How's Life in your Region?



How's life? The answer can depend on what region you live in. Evidence shows that some factors that most influence peoples' well-being are local issues. Expanding on the OECD Better Life Initiative, *both the report and the web tool* look closely at well-being where it matters for people's daily experiences.

OECD Regional Outlook



Regions and cities are on the front lines of many challenges faced by OECD countries today, from education and jobs to health care and quality of life. Getting regions and cities "right", adapting policies to the specificities of where people live and work, is vital to improving citizens' well-being.

Open Government in Latin America



This publication takes stock of open government strategies and practices in Latin American countries, allowing them to compare and benchmark against good international practice. It is the first in a series of OECD Open Government regional reports and has led to the creation of the OECD Network on Open and Innovative Government in Latin America.

International Regulatory Co-operation and International Organisations



International organisations have a strong role to play to 'harness' and create the common rules of globalisation but is full advantage taken of their potential to address the global challenges of our times and to help all citizens reap the benefits of globalisation? This report reflects

discussions held among 16 international organisations, OECD countries and stakeholders in April 2014 and provides insights into the growing role of international organisations as standard-setters.

The Governance of Regulators



What does it take to be a "World Class" regulator? Governments are responsible for public policies but regulators are at the forefront of policy delivery. Governance of regulators is critical for strengthening the legitimacy and integrity of public institutions. However, guidance on governance arrangements has been elusive so far. To fill this gap, the OECD

has issued key principles to help regulators with their governance arrangements which are already supporting the work of economic regulators internationally.

More information on:

- Budgeting and public expenditures
- E-government
- Fighting Corruption in the Public Sector
- MENA
- Observatory of Public Sector Innovation
- Open Government
- Public Employment and Management
- Public Governance Reviews
- Regional Development
- Regulatory Policy
- Risk Management
- Schools of Government
- SIGMA Initiative
- Women in Government

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Back issues of the newsletter can be found [here](#).