Regional Outlook 2021

OECD Regional Outlook 2021: Resilience of rural and urban regions in the COVID-19 crisis and in the transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions
What’s the issue?

The COVID-19 crisis has revealed the close relationship between environmental risks and those to the foundations of human well-being – and the cascading effects on the economy and society. It has also highlighted the importance of anticipation and early action. These are also key to integrating climate policy into regional development, albeit on a larger scale. As with COVID-19, the climate challenge is global, but the response needs to build on regional and local actors, natural environments, geographies and infrastructures.

About the report

The 2021 edition of the OECD Regional Outlook shows that a place-based approach is vital for resilience in the face of both these challenges. It analyses the different territorial impacts of COVID-19 on health and the economy, as well as policy responses. The report explores the different territorial implications of moving to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 whilst adapting to inevitable climate change, as well as providing fresh analysis of regional data. It provides insights for integrating the climate challenge into multi-level governance and urban and rural development so as to leave no region behind. It highlights the opportunity we have to draw the lessons from Covid-19 for a place-based response to the climate challenge.

A panel of renowned experts will discuss these findings of the OECD Regional Outlook, followed by a Q&A session with participants.

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About the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies.
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<td><strong>PRESENTER</strong> Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship,</td>
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<td>11.50-12.35</td>
<td>Panel discussion: Integrating climate policy in regional development and</td>
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<td>multilevel governance: Lessons from the COVID-19 crisis and ways forward</td>
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<td><strong>MODERATOR</strong> Rüdiger Ahrend, Head, Economic Analysis, Data and Statistics</td>
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<td>Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD</td>
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<td><strong>PANELISTS</strong> Zuhal Demir, Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement,</td>
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<td>Environment, Energy and Tourism, Flanders, Belgium.</td>
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<td>Simon Upton, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, New Zealand.</td>
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<td>Nick Godfrey, Director, Coalition for Urban Transitions, New Climate Economy.</td>
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<td><strong>CLOSING SPEAKER</strong> Flavia Terribile, Chair, OECD Regional Development</td>
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