
 30 March 2021

 Registration: [Zoom](#)

 09:00 – 10.00 CET (16:00 – 17:00 JST)

 Documentation: <https://oe.cd/gicp>

## AGENDA

### Update on the OECD Gender Inclusive Competition Policy Project

The fight for gender equality is one of the defining challenges of our age. While progress has been made in many areas, the relationship between gender and competition policy remains largely unexplored. Competition policy usually thinks in terms of consumers and firms, government and regulators. Traditionally, consumers have been considered only by their willingness to pay, their (rational) preferences, their ability to substitute between products offered by firms. Meanwhile, firms are treated as entities that are defined by the profit-maximising objectives of their owners, and only rarely seen as collections of people. Competition policy is therefore largely gender blind and prides itself on its objectivity. However, in 2018, the OECD began to explore whether a gender lens might in fact help deliver a more effective competition policy by identifying additional relevant features of the market, and of the behaviour of consumers and firms, as well as whether a more effective competition policy can in turn help to address gender inequality.

After producing a series of blogs, papers, interviews and discussions, the OECD launched its [Gender Inclusive Competition Policy project](#) in the summer of 2020 with the support of the Canadian Government. As part of the project, the OECD asked research teams from around the world to generate new evidence to inform the debate and help us to develop guidance on how to develop a more gender inclusive competition policy. On 25 February 2021, the OECD hosted an open [workshop](#) to hear from the [seven selected research teams](#) that are exploring these issues in order to identify practical steps that competition agencies can take. The projects are still at an early stage but will be finalised by the summer, however, the workshop provided a timely opportunity to hear about the scope and progress of these projects and to discuss both their approach and their possible implications. This briefing session will update interested stakeholders, notably across Asia, and engage them in the ongoing discussions.

08:45 – 09:00 **Link open for registered participants**

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09.00 – 09.05 **Welcome and Opening Remarks by Antonio Capobianco, Acting Head, Competition Division, OECD**

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09.05 – 09.10 **Agency Perspective: Why a Gender-Inclusive Lens is Important**

**Remarks by Nadia Vassos, Senior Competition Law Officer, International Affairs Directorate, Competition Bureau Canada.**

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09.10 – 09.25 **Report on Cartels and Collusion Themed Projects**

This session will report on the three projects that explore different aspects about the relationship between collusion and the diversity of corporate boards and senior management.

1. **Alexis Brunelle's and Carolina Abate's** project explores diversity amongst those that engage in anticompetitive behaviour, and examines whether the prevalence of an entrenched "boy's club" dynamic helps to enable coordination and hence preserves cartel stability (
  2. **Joan-Ramon Borrell, Carmen García, Juan-Luis Jiménez and José Manuel Ordóñez-de-Haro** use different econometric techniques to explore the link between board diversity and collusion for past Spanish and EU cartel cases.
  3. **Justus Haucap, Christina Heldman and Holger Rau** at DICE and University of Goettingen use a laboratory experiment approach to explore whether there are gender differences in propensity to collude.
- **Report by Session Chair: Isolde Lueckenhausen (ACCC, Australia and OECD)**

09:20 – 09:30	<b>Reflections from a discussant:</b> Jamie Smith (Fijian Competition & Consumer Commission)
09:30 – 09:50	<p><b>Report on Market Definition, Prioritisation and Public Interest Approach Projects</b></p> <p>This session explored four diverse topics: market definition, consumer surveys, prioritisation and public interest objectives of competition law.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Oxera's</b> project examines consumer surveys commissioned in past cases to explore any differences in response by gender, which may help to identify if accounting for gender when designing or interpreting such surveys might make a difference to the conclusions.</li> <li>2. <b>Analysis Group's</b> project will explore how a gender lens may affect market definition analysis in merger reviews and antitrust investigations.</li> <li>3. <b>Mpumelelo Tshabalala, Betty Mkhathshwa and Sonia Phalatse</b> are examining whether there is a case for extending public interest considerations to include gender inequality lessons learned from South Africa's experience in using its competition law to address the country's past economic social and racial disparities.</li> <li>4. <b>Bill Kovacic</b> will review budgeting, resource allocation, and project selection decisions by the US FTC and will suggest approaches for taking gender considerations into account.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Report by Session Chair: Chris Pike</b></li> </ul>
09:50 – 10:00	<b>Reflections from a discussant:</b> Natalie Harsdorf (Acting Managing Director, BWB, Austrian Competition Authority)
10:00 – 10:10	<b>Q&amp;A, comments from the floor</b>
10:10 – 10:15	<b>Closing remarks by Lynn Robertson, Competition Expert, Competition Division, OECD</b>