Greater gender equality is not just a moral imperative, but is also key to the creation of stronger, more sustainable and more inclusive economies. The OECD has placed gender equality at the top of its agenda. The OECD combats inequalities of opportunities as enshrined in its Inclusive Growth initiative and the Secretary-General’s 21 for 21 Agenda.

The OECD actively promotes policy measures embedded in the 2013 and 2015 OECD Recommendations on Gender Equality in Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Public Life. For example, measures to ensure access to good quality education for boys and girls, policies to improve the gender balance in leadership in the public sector and providing fathers and mothers equally with financial incentives to use parental leave and flexible work options. The OECD was also instrumental in defining the target adopted by G20 Leaders at their 2014 Brisbane Summit to reduce the gender gap in labour force participation by 25% by 2025. The OECD continues to work closely with G20 and G7 presidencies on monitoring progress with reducing gender gaps such as these.

The OECD engages experts and policy makers to deliver better policies for better lives. As just one example, the 2020 High-Level Conference on Ending Violence Against Women discussed experiences, and exchanged initiatives and practices to prevent, address, and eradicate gender-based violence. The OECD also hosts working groups with a specific focus on gender, such as GENDERNET – the international forum for gender experts from DAC development co-operation agencies and foreign ministries – and the Working Party on Gender Mainstreaming and Governance.

Gender equality is central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. OECD’s work in support of the 2030 Agenda includes the updating and further development of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI). The SIGI is used as an official source for data on legal frameworks and non-discrimination on the basis of sex, collected in partnership with the World Bank Group and UN Women (SDG5.1.1). Together with the ILO and UN Women, the OECD is also one of the constituting International Organizations of the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) – a multi-stakeholder coalition that was launched in September 2017 and aims to contribute to progress on SDG 8.5, which calls for equal pay for work of equal value by 2030. The OECD’s work with the coalition involves knowledge sharing, capacity building, technical advisory services, and data analysis and monitoring.

The OECD Gender Data Portal includes about 75 indicators shedding light on gender gaps in education, employment, entrepreneurship, public governance, health and development.

The website provides good practices based on analytical tools and reliable data, but also shows how far we are from achieving gender equality and where action is most needed. The data cover OECD member countries, as well as partner economies including Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and South Africa.
Summary of OECD work on GENDER

- OECD Recommendation - Gender equality in education, employment and entrepreneurship (May 2013)
- OECD Recommendation - Gender equality in public life (December 2015)

Corporate governance
- G20/OECD Principles of Corporate Governance (Nov 2015)

Development
- Man enough? Measuring masculine norms to promote women’s empowerment (March, 2021)
- DAC Recommendation on Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance (July 2019)
- SIGI 2019 Global Report: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities, Social Institutions and Gender Index (March 2019)

Education
- Education Indicators in Focus: Why do more young women than men go on to tertiary education? (March 2021)
- Education at a Glance 2020: OECD Indicators (Sep 2020)
- Are Students Smart about Money? (May 2020)

Employment and Well-Being
- Is childcare affordable? (June 2020)
- Women at the core of the fight against the COVID-19 crisis (April 2020)

Entrepreneurship
- The Missing Entrepreneurs 2021 (Autumn 2021)
- Financing SMEs and Entrepreneurs 2020 (April 2020)

Environment
- Gender and Environment (Summer 2021)

Health
- Who Cares? Attracting and Retaining Care Workers for the Elderly (April 2020)

Public governance
- Gender Equality in Colombia: Access to Justice and Politics at the Local Level (July 2020)
- Toolkit for Mainstreaming and Implementing Gender Equality

OECD Regional Initiatives of Governance and Competitiveness
- Changing Laws and Breaking Barriers for Women’s Economic Empowerment in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia (November 2020)

Science and digitalisation
- The Role of Education and Skills in Bridging the Digital Gender Divide: Evidence from APEC Economies (2019)

Transport
- Transport Innovation for Sustainable Development: A Gender Perspective (February 2021)

Taxation
- Advancing Gender Balance in the Workforce - Tax Administrations (November 2020)
- Taxing Wages 2020 (April 2020)