



Towards Inclusive Growth - Access to Justice: Supporting people-focused justice services

Why is access to justice crucial today?

Inclusive growth and citizen well-being

Countries around the world are taking steps to promote access to justice and modernise functions and capacities of legal and justice services in order to support inclusive growth, tackle inequality and poverty and foster good governance. Yet multiple challenges exist:

- Up to **45% of people's legal needs remain unmet** across member and partner countries, with only a few legal problems being resolved in courts.
- People often **cannot afford to resolve their legal problems** through the formal processes in courts, especially from marginalised groups and in remote communities.
- Inability to resolve legal problems **diminishes access to economic opportunity**, reinforces the poverty trap, and undermines human potential and inclusive growth.
- **Many legal and justice services remain** fragmented, uncoordinated, underdeveloped thus limiting justice sector productivity, sustainability and value for money

OECD work on access to justice

The OECD contributes to improving and understanding [access to justice](#) and people-focused legal and justice service delivery across member and partner countries:

- Links between access to justice and dimensions of inclusive growth (e.g. health, employment)
- Comparative policy experiences on understanding people's legal needs and justice pathways
- Reviews and implementation support for the delivery of people-focused legal and justice services
- International and domestic policy dialogue on the quality, responsiveness and accessibility of justice services.

Our work builds on its international peer-expert networks and comparative knowledge. It also facilitates the implementation of country commitments under the [Sustainable Development Agenda \(SDG 16\)](#).





How does the OECD support national and subnational justice reform agendas?

Building on country needs and priorities the OECD stands for a justice modernisation partner by:

- **Strengthening performance and monitoring of legal and justice services.** This includes supporting countries in putting in place an integrated framework and processes for monitoring and evaluating ability of current legal and justice services to address countries' legal needs, including data collection, analysis, and evaluation
- **Providing tailored and actionable policy advice by undertaking a strategic diagnosis and mapping** of accessibility, effectiveness and capacities of current legal and justice services to address people's legal needs
- **Supporting the design and implementation of access to justice modernisation initiatives** through capacity building activities ranging from exchange of good practices and lessons learned in OECD and partner countries to hands-on support in drafting reform proposals, workshops and advisory sessions
- **Identifying people's legal needs** in civil, family, administrative and criminal justice along with the multiple justice pathways to resolve legal problems, and **developing people-oriented approaches** to delivering access to justice
- **Promoting domestic policy dialogue** with relevant stakeholders

Our support is:

- Based on a partnership with the requesting country
- Tailored to the country's context (institutional, cultural, legal)
- Involve all relevant actors, within as well as outside the justice sector
- Led and facilitated by an expert OECD team
- Supported by peer reviewers and experts from other countries
- Set in an international comparative perspective, and best international practice
- Built on insights from the OECD work on access to justice and public governance innovation
- Starting with the country's own perspective and reform plans



For further information contact tatyana.teplova@oecd.org or chloe.lielievre@oecd.org

<http://oe.cd/justice> @OECDgov