At the invitation of the Republic of Latvia the OECD holds its next Policy Roundtable on Equal Access to Justice on 5-6 July 2018 in Riga, Latvia. Under the purview of the OECD Public Governance Committee, the meeting will highlight the efforts across OECD member and partner countries to strengthen equal and people-focused access to justice for inclusive growth and sustainable development. It will call for increased investment in access to justice, deepening the business case and supporting the national implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 on inclusive institutions and access to justice. The meeting will also discuss the user-centric approach in accessing justice for business and investors, including small and medium enterprises, in support of the OECD Inclusive Growth Agenda and Policy Framework for Investment.

In particular, the event will present evidence-based and innovative policy tools and criteria pertaining to people-focused access to justice and legal empowerment, and will explore the impacts of technology on legal frameworks and accessibility of justice services. Participants will showcase the latest country progress in understanding and measuring what works and assessing the impact, outcomes, cost-effectiveness and efficiency of legal assistance provisions and justice services as well as focus on access to justice for groups with vulnerabilities (e.g. women, children, elderly, SMEs, etc.).

The roundtable will feature a mix of high-level panels and expert discussions with the participation of OECD Public Governance Committee delegates, country representatives responsible for the promotion of access to justice, academia, experts and civil society. It will aim to facilitate interactive exchange and discussions.

It will feature the launch of the OECD Report on Access to Justice for Business and Inclusive Growth in Latvia.

The Roundtable will also consider the:

- OECD-Open Society Foundations Toolkit on Legal Needs Surveys
- preliminary version of the OECD report on People-centred Access to Justice for Inclusive Growth, including the draft criteria for people-centred legal and justice service delivery.

The roundtable is organised by the OECD in collaboration with the Latvian Court Administration. The Open Society Justice Initiative and the Justice Taskforce of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies also co-convene events.
Day 1: Thursday, 5 July 2018

8.30 – 9.00 Arrival of participants, welcome coffee

9.00 – 9.10 Introduction

This session will outline the objectives of the OECD roundtable on Equal Access to Justice and their relevance for the public governance agenda.

- **Tatyana Teplova**, Head, Governance for Gender and Inclusiveness, Public Governance Directorate, OECD
- **Anna Skrabina**, Project Leader, Court Administration, Latvia

9.10 – 10.20 Session 1. Actioning the Justice Development Goals

This session will highlight country actions to implement SDG 16.3 on access to justice and how they can relate to broader national planning efforts. Countries will be invited to showcase their initiatives in this area.

- **Moderator: David Steven**, Senior Fellow and Associate Director, New York University's Center on International Cooperation, New York University; Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

**Speakers**

- **Ab Currie**, Senior Research Fellow, Canadian Forum on Civil Justice
- **Chantal Joubert**, Senior Policy Adviser, Capacity building & Rule of Law Support Unit, Directorate for European & International Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Netherlands
- **Manuel Felipe Diaz Rangel**, Department of National Planning, Colombia –video conference

**Questions for discussions**

- What is the state and importance of access to justice for inclusive growth and the sustainable development agenda? What action is needed?
- What are country approaches to implementing SDG target 16.3 as part of the 2030 Agenda? What are the implementation challenges? How can international organisations support and facilitate the implementation and monitoring of country SDG commitments to enable equal and inclusive access to justice?
This session will explore current initiatives and impacts in strengthening legal education and literacy as a prevention and empowerment measure, particularly for women, young people, marginalised communities, migrants and indigenous populations. Limited legal capability, literacy and empowerment can be a major impediment to equal access to opportunities and services, as well as the ability of people to exercise their rights effectively. This session will aim to highlight country initiatives to promote legal and civic empowerment in order to foster access to justice, active citizenship and accountable, transparent and inclusive institutions, as part of the national implementation of the SDG 16 and how justice services address these justice needs. It will also explore aspects related to judicial training with a view to introducing the access to justice approach. This session is organised jointly with the Open Society Justice Initiative.

**Moderator:** Peter Chapman, Senior Policy Officer, Open Society Justice Initiative

**Speakers**

- **Simon Trost**, Legal Officer, Mediation, Conciliation and International Conflicts in Parent and Child Cases, Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection Germany
- **Aniko Parjiani**, Head, Analytical and International Relations Unit, High School of Justice, Georgia in collaboration with Anna Skrjabina, Project Leader, Court Administration, Latvia
- **Makhsat Bereketov**, Director of the Department of International Law and Cooperation, Ministry of Justice, Kazakhstan
- **Beatrice Duncan**, Advisor, Rule of Law (Justice and Constitutions); Focal Point on Indigenous Issues, Leadership & Governance Section, UN Women

**Questions for discussion**

- What are the key elements of legal capability and empowerment? Why is it important? What are country examples of strengthening citizens’ legal capabilities? What are country initiatives to advance legal capabilities of vulnerable groups?
- How can the provision of legal and justice services build empowerment? What are empowerment good practices? How can legal empowerment build a justice system that works for all? What are the broader benefits of legal empowerment?
- Why is this important and why should governments invest in legal empowerment?

**11.40 – 12.00 Coffee break**
This session will discuss issues related to the measurement of progress in people-focused access to justice, including understanding justice priorities, measuring people’s legal needs and their experiences with accessing justice and legal services. The panel will further explore the potential of big data and data analytics, as well as how measurement and policy frameworks can drive improvements in effective access to justice. The session will also discuss principles for emerging global indicators for people-focused access to justice. The Open Society Justice Initiative-OECD Guidance on Legal Needs Surveys will also provide the basis for discussions.

- **Moderator: Pascoe Pleasence**, Co-director, Centre for Empirical Legal Studies, Faculty of Law, University College London

**Speakers:**

- **Young Gi Kim**, Director, Judicial Policy, National Court Administration, Korea
- **Isabel Schmidt**, Chief Director, Social Statistics, Statistics South Africa
- **Adrian Franco**, General Director, Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics, INEGI, Mexico
- **Mikko Aaltonen**, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Justice, Finland

**Questions for discussion**

- What statistics and data are most relevant for understanding people-centred access to justice? How can countries and civil society use data and evidence to contribute to policy-design and improve existing legal and justice services?
- Why are countries investing in legal needs surveys? What are countries’ approaches to measuring legal needs? How can we use the OECD-OSJI legal needs toolkit to expand the use of legal needs surveys? How do legal needs surveys provide a strong evidence base for recognising and specifically addressing people’s legal and justice needs?
- What is the potential and challenge of big data in this perspective?
- What are global measures of people’s access to justice? What do emerging national measurement frameworks for people-focused access to justice tell us about developing meaningful global measures? How can international organisations like the OECD effectively support countries towards more effective generation of access to justice data?
**Session 4. Towards evidence for the business case: evaluating the impacts of access to justice initiatives**

This session will explore the latest developments in measuring the effectiveness of legal and justice interventions, including from a people-focused perspective. It will explore the remaining gaps in global knowledge on the effectiveness of various legal and justice interventions and will aim to identify the next steps in developing an international research agenda, which could deepen the evidence-base on what works (which types of legal and justice services and legal empowerment interventions), for whom and under what circumstances.

*Moderator: Reza Lahidji*, Senior Advisor to the OECD, Research Associate, HEC Paris, Menon Economics

**Speakers:**
- **Trevor Farrow**, Chair, Board, Canadian Forum on Civil Justice – *video conference*
- **Christopher Griffin**, Research Director, Access to Justice Lab, Harvard Law School
- **Adrian Di Giovanni**, Senior Program Specialist, Law & Development, Inclusive Economies, International Development Research Centre, Canada
- **Bilal Siddiqi**, Economist, Development Impact Evaluation, Development Research Group, World Bank
- **Winnie Martins**, Director, Community Centre for Justice and Development in South Africa

**Questions for discussion**

- What are the links and clusters between justice and other socio-economic factors (health, education, employment etc.)? What is the evidence of socio-economic benefits (at the individual and community level) of improving access to justice, including various legal and justice interventions? What is the empirical basis for demonstrating the business case for access to justice?
- How can the impact of various access to legal and justice services by citizens be conceptualised and measured? What are the successful country initiatives in impact evaluations of legal and justice services? What data and evidence is available?

**Coffee break**
This session will consider the latest country initiatives in planning, tailoring and delivering legal and justice services (including ADRs) to address people’s legal needs, including vulnerable groups. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss the proposed OECD principles and criteria for people-centric legal and justice services and explore the potential of using modern policy and community-based approaches (e.g., problem-solving justice, behavioural insights) to develop tailored solutions to different groups (e.g. for tackling gender-based violence, strengthening indigenous outcomes, juvenile and child-friendly justice, migrants).

- **Moderator: Leopoldo Velarde**, Chief of Advisor to the Undersecretary of Social Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Mexico

Speakers:

- **Janet McIntyre**, Deputy Director General, Intergovernmental and External Relations Division, Department of Justice, Canada
- **Minna Sipola**, Training Expert, Ministry of Justice, Finland
- **Aneta Jakubiak – Mirończuk** & **Kinga Francuzik**, Specialist, Mediation Team, Department of Strategy and European Funds, Minister of Justice, Poland – *video conference*
- **Florence Lifchitz**, Deputy Head, Service de l’Accès au Droit et de l’Aide aux Victimes, Ministry of Justice, France
- **Geoff Mulherin**, Director, Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales – *video conference*
- **Daniela Piana**, Professor of Political Science, University of Bologna; UNESCO; Associate Fellow ISP Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris Saclay et Institut des Hautes Etudes sur la Justice – *video conference*

**Questions for discussion**

- What are some successful examples of planning, tailoring and delivering legal and justice services for all? How can we ensure those services match people’s legal needs? What are countries’ approaches to ensuring equality and inclusion in design of people-centred legal and justice services? What are some strategies to respond to the particular needs of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups?

- How can the proposed OECD principles and criteria for people-centric legal and justice services support development, design, delivery and evaluation of legal and justice services? What are good practices in this regard? What other principles could be taken into account?

- What are modern approaches to planning and delivering legal and justice services? What are countries’ initiatives to address social issues such as: gender-based violence, indigenous outcomes, juvenile and child-friendly justice?
Day 2: Friday, 6 July 2018

8.30 – 9.00  Welcome coffee

9.00 – 9.15  Introduction

- Marcos Bonturi, Director, Public Governance, OECD


This session will highlight the development of business-friendly legal and justice services including the legal framework, accessibility of services and a user-centric approach for commercial, investment and administrative dispute resolution. It will highlight the importance of a sound justice policy and service framework for business development and healthy investment climate, using the business-centric and investor perspective - from small- and medium-sized firms to multinational enterprises. It will highlight ways to understand and measure legal needs of businesses, and accessibility of the full spectrum of dispute resolution mechanisms for addressing business-related disputes in an efficient, cost-effective and fair manner. It will feature the discussion of the (forthcoming) OECD Report on Access to Justice for Business and Inclusive Growth in Latvia.

Moderator: Marcos Bonturi, Director, Public Governance, OECD

Speakers

- Laila Medina, Deputy State Secretary of Justice, Latvia
- Jean Messinesi, President, Commercial Court of Paris, France – video conference
- Rob Cross, Research Manager, Legal Services Board of England and Wales, UK
- Felix Steffek, University Lecturer, Faculty of Law; LLM Deputy Director; Deputy Director of the Centre for Corporate and Commercial Law; Director of Studies, Newnham College, University of Cambridge

Questions for discussion

- What are main barriers in accessing justice for business (including small and medium enterprises)? What are businesses legal and justice needs and experiences? How do we know? What are country approaches to mapping and addressing those needs?

- How can institutional, legal and justice frameworks improve the business environment? How can legal and justice services be organised (e.g., bundled in one-stop-shops for business) and tailored to address the legal needs of business? What are the countries’ experiences? What are countries’ strategies for reducing administrative burdens in accessing justice for business?
• How do countries plan and design public services for businesses to ensure their accessibility and responsiveness? How can digital/technology solutions improve delivery of those services?

10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break

11.15 – 12.45 Session 7. The implications of technology on people-centric services and access

This session will consider the potential contributions, impacts and limitations of recent technological trends on accessibility of justice both in courts and ADRs for different groups, including the use of blockchain and artificial intelligence (AI), as well as modern approaches to simplifying and digitalising legal and justice services to improve accessibility and effectiveness. It will also consider technological implications for people’s and businesses’ capabilities in accessing justice as well as implications for legal and justice service providers.

Moderator: Felix Steffek, University Lecturer, Faculty of Law; LLM Deputy Director; Deputy Director of the Centre for Corporate and Commercial Law; Director of Studies, Newnham College, University of Cambridge

Speakers

• Irēna Kucina, Deputy State Secretary on Court, Ministry of Justice, Latvia
• Georg Stawa, Head of Unit, Ministry of Justice, Austria; President of European Commission of the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)
• Carolina Berto, Advisor, Cabinet of Secretary of State for Justice, Ministry of Justice, Portugal
• Rohan Grove, Head, Behavioural and Customer Insight, HM Courts and Tribunals Service, UK
• Martin Gramatikov, Head of Measuring Justice, Senior Justice Sector Advisor, HiiL
• Doris Reiling, Honorary Senior Judge, Independent IT and judicial reform expert, Netherlands –video conference

Questions for discussion

• How use of technology could enhance or hinder access to justice? What are recent technological innovations in access to justice? What could be the impacts of new technologies, such as the Internet of Things, blockchain, artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms on the provision of legal and justice services? What are future trends?
• How IT could support access to justice reforms? How technology could improve justice systems efficiency? How to design and implement a sound e-justice system?
• What are associated risks and opportunities with the increased use of technology in justice sector and provision of legal and justice services digitally? How can policy makers equip themselves to effectively deal with them? How to ensure data security?
13.00 – 14.15 Lunch

High-Level Session

Investing in Access to Justice for All!

This session will be opened by remarks from Angel Gurria, Secretary General of the OECD, and Dzintars Rasnačs, Minister of Justice of Latvia. It will see the launch of the OECD report on Access to Justice for Business and Inclusive Growth in Latvia. It will also feature a high-level panel highlighting the case for investing in access to justice for all in order to achieve country-based implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16. In particular, the session will make the case for inclusion in access to justice of diverse groups, including women, girls and boys, youth and older people, indigenous communities and other vulnerable communities.

14.15 – 15.00 Welcoming remarks & Launch of the OECD report on Access to Justice for Business and Inclusive Growth in Latvia

- Angel Gurria, Secretary General, OECD
- Dzintars Rasnačs, Minister of Justice, Latvia

Special Address

- Jānis Citskovskis, Director of the Chancellery, Latvia
- Sanita Osipova, Deputy President, Constitutional Court

15.00 – 16.30 High-Level Session

- Moderator: Laila Medina, Deputy State Secretary of Justice, Latvia

Speakers:

- Angel Gurria, Secretary General, OECD
- Dzintars Rasnačs, Minister of Justice, Latvia
- Vittorio Ferraresi, Deputy Minister of Justice, Italy
- Irma Gudžiūnaitė, Vice-Minister of Justice, Lithuania
- Łukasz Piebiak, Deputy Minister of Justice, Poland
- Nataliia Bernatska, First Deputy Minister of Justice, Ukraine
- Pieter Jan Langenberg, Ambassador designated to Latvia, The Netherlands
- Egils Levits, Judge, Court of Justice of the European Union
- Georg Stawa, President, Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), Council of Europe
- Irene Khan, Director-General, International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
16.30 – 17.00  Call for Action and Investment in Access to Justice for All
  
  - High-level statement

17.00 – 18.00  Cocktail reception