

Strengthening the International Platform for Policy Coherence for Development

- Draft concept note-

(October 2012)

Background

The *OECD Strategy on Development* approved by the Ministerial Council in May 2012, gives a new impetus to the Organisation's work on policy coherence for development (PCD). The Strategy not only recognises the importance of deepening ongoing work on institutional practices for promoting PCD, but also emphasises the need for going beyond institutional and sectoral aspects and looking more in-depth at the negative and positive international spillover effects of domestic policies, especially in a context of new and more complex dynamics of the global economy. This effort to strengthen the OECD's work on PCD will help to provide members with additional policy tools for a more robust implementation of the 2010 Recommendation of the Council on Good Institutional Practices in Promoting Policy Coherence for Development, which recognizes that "policy makers increasingly need to be aware of the impact that policies developed at times in seemingly unrelated areas may have on development issues".

On the basis of a broader approach to PCD, the Strategy provides us with the mandate to:

- broaden and deepen evidence-based analyses on the costs of incoherent policies as well as on the benefits of more coherent policies;
- work with a wide range of partners to develop robust indicators to monitor progress and assess impacts of diverse policies on development;
- apply a PCD lens to ongoing OECD work in order to contribute to the analysis of key issues (such as global food security, illicit financial flows and green growth); and
- provide a platform for dialogue with key stakeholders on PCD issues from OECD and partner countries.

To fulfil this mandate and to make the best use of the *International Platform for PCD*, additional applications to support and increase its functionality will be put in place based on a consultation with the network of the national focal points for PCD. Such an upgrade will help to move from a repository of PCD resources towards a more interactive, shared workspace, able to facilitate collective advocacy on policy coherence for development, knowledge sharing and dissemination of good experiences and lessons learned, as well as undertake joint initiatives.

The purpose of this note is to present a proposal to strengthen the platform with a view to provide interactive tools for collaboration and dialogue that can help to create feedback loops with the involvement of multiple stakeholders (policy makers, academics, policy implementers, civil society), including from developing countries. This document includes suggestions on the vision, objectives, content, structure, operational aspects and key elements for success for a reinforced platform. It also outlines a general work plan and the basic components of the virtual workspace. An annex to this document provides an overview of the basic structure of the reinforced PCD platform.

1. Vision

To be the key online source of information and an inclusive international hub for collaboration and knowledge sharing on policy coherence for development.

2. Objectives

In line with the aims of the OECD Strategy on Development, the PCD platform will have three main objectives:

- 1) Improve the accessibility, availability and dissemination of knowledge and evidence on the benefits of coherence and the costs of incoherence.
- 2) Act as repository of knowledge and information and provide a space for promoting more systematic dialogue and collaboration on PCD among key stakeholders.
- 3) Support the network of PCD focal points in their efforts to identify effective policy solutions and tools to improve policy coherence in their countries and beyond. The platform will be the web-based environment to facilitate collaboration among the network of PCD focal points; assist policy coherence processes in capitals; and involve a wider range of policy actors and stakeholders.

3. Proposed content and structure

The PCD platform will continue to be hosted by the OECD, as an interactive tool under the OECD Strategy on Development. The OECD will continue to offer the website service and ensure its maintenance and updating. The OECD will provide information, evidence-based analysis, data, and tools in a wide range of policy areas drawing on the collective work of different areas across the Organisation. Content of the PCD platform can also be uploaded by members of the network and contributors at their discretion. Contributions could be either:

- Uploads of electronic publications (reports, papers, analyses) as well as published information, (PowerPoint, audio and video files, etc.), or links to them.
- Contributions by diverse OECD experts as well as other key stakeholders (CSOs, think tanks, field staff, and developing country actors) on specific topics and sectors with the aim of identifying and sharing analysis and evidence on the benefits of coherence and the costs of incoherence.
- Contributions made by initiating or animating discussion fora on key issues for PCD and by promoting virtual participation and multi-stakeholder involvement.

Contributions will be tagged and organised according to the following categories: PCD tools and methods; PCD analyses by theme (innovative and sustainable sources of growth, mobilisation of resources for development, governance for development, and measuring progress for development); multilevel focus (by country, region or global).

Contribution can be made after signing up on the Platform. Visitors and PCD platform members can also sign up to our regular newsletter informing them about the newest happenings in the PCD field.

As a key tool for the network of national focal points, the PCD platform will function not only as a repository of PCD resources and knowledge, but also as an interactive platform for collaboration. Most of the content will be available to both visitors and network members. One corner on the platform, however, the virtual workplace, will be open only to the national focal points, OECD staff and Key Partners who wish to engage.

The PCD platform could:

- **Provide a virtual, interactive workplace** where members of the network can hold regular exchanges based on the discussions of the meetings of PCD focal points at the OECD. This new functionality will facilitate interaction and continued on-line collaboration among the members of the PCD network to identify common challenges, build common understanding, and develop PCD tools adapted to different needs and institutional contexts. This workplace will only be open to the national focal points, interested OECD members and OECD staff.
- **Facilitate online dialogue series involving multiple stakeholders.** The virtual forums will be hosted and facilitated by the OECD and structured around the theme of PCD in a changing global economy and the implications for the objectives and measurements of PCD. Each dialogue will explore a different aspect of this theme. The long-term purpose is to gain a deeper understanding of the multiple dimensions of PCD and build common ground to develop jointly an updated narrative for PCD. This workplace will be open to all website visitors.
- **Include an online PCD Help Desk function** to provide support to the members of the network and website visitors in case there is any specific request for factual information which might be available in any of the OECD databases.
- **Give news and updates on events, activities and upcoming conferences**, etc. (PCD International calendar).

The reinforced platform will be structured around five elements (see annex):

1. Basic information on **“the PCD Platform”** (welcome, about us, news and events, useful links, practical tips, rules governing the use of the site, and popular tags).
2. The **PCD Digital library** (repository of knowledge and documents), freely accessible to all. It will include tools and methods, evidence-based analyses and resources such as recommendations and guidance. It will be complemented with new products, such as the PCD electronic policy brief series, and the annual PCD Flagship Report. A *Did you know?* Section will complement this element highlighting relevant facts and figures related to PCD.
3. The **“In focus”** section, presenting a special PCD topic every month, drawing on the multidisciplinary expertise and ongoing work of different policy communities at the OECD.
4. The **Virtual WorkSpace** as a tool for knowledge sharing and for ensuring follow-up to the discussion in the PCD focal points meeting. Task groups will be created to continue the discussions and the work related to measurement and PCD indicators in the areas identified by the OECD Strategy on Development: Global food security, illicit financial flows and green growth.

Work plan and suggested timeline

<i>Collaborative task</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
- Setting up the three task groups and nominate co-chairs for each group among the members of the network: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. food security. 2. illicit financial flows. 3. green growth. 	7 November (in the context of the meeting of national focal points for PCD)

- Identify common challenges in measuring PCD. - Build common ground on the PCD objectives for the three areas. - Build common understanding on what kind of methods, indicators, measuring tools, and information are required.	7 November (in the context of the meeting of national focal points for PCD)
- Putting in place the reinforced platform with the virtual WorkSpace and identify facilitators/moderators from OECD secretariat.	November
- Setting PCD objectives in each of the 3 areas of work and defining what needs to be measured and how. (online consultations could be organised through the E-PCD Forum to get the views and feedback from diverse stakeholders).	Q1 2013 (Virtual WorkSpace)
- Formulating a common monitoring framework for each of the three areas.	Q2 2013 (Meeting of National Focal Points for PCD in Paris, tbc)
- Developing indicators and monitoring tools to assess (actions, changes in policies, effects).	Q3 2013
- Presenting progress of the work undertaken through the Virtual WorkSpace and defining next steps	Q4 2013

5. The *PCD e-Forum* to launch a virtual dialogue series which aims to involve multiple stakeholders. It will include a special section to highlight the partner countries' views on the issue of PCD; an academic exchange corner and a civil society corner. It is envisaged to build up collaborations with students and young academic staff to help foster the PCD e-Forum and foster academic PCD work by integrating them into discussions, fora, and meetings.

The PCD e-Forum could be also used to undertake broad consultations on the issues included in the wokplan suggested for the virtual workspace, and as a means to reach out key stakeholders.

Operational aspects

The new functionalities and improvements in the platform will be done according to the following steps:

- Step 1, the existing platform will be enriched with news, information and links on relevant work across the OECD (elements 1-3 above).
- Step 2, simultaneously, a virtual workspace will be put in place to follow up on the discussions and agreements reached at the 7 November PCD Focal Points meeting. This virtual workspace will be reserved for the focal points and any nonmember focal points who wish to engage (element 4).
- Step 3, the PCD eForum, will be launched after receiving the inputs and feedback from the focal points on the topics and modalities (element 5). This issue could be discussed at next meeting of focal points.

The following aspects require further considerations:

- Language (s) necessary to reach a broader audience.
- Rules and guidelines for collaboration in the task groups.
- Dissemination strategy

Key elements for success

- Commitment and willingness from the members of the network to dedicate time to feed, follow-up, interact, and disseminate the platform
- Ability of members of the network to share information.
- The development of an annual work plan for the platform with inputs from the member of the network.
- Dedicated personnel to manage the platform.

ANNEX: INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING ON POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT (BASIC STRUCTURE)

