

## OUTLINE

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In the absence of migration, there will be 30 percent more exits than entries to the working-age population of high-income OECD countries in the year 2020. Immigration, in conjunction with policies such as better mobilisation of domestic human resources, is one way to help alleviate the labor shortages that will result from these demographic trends. Indeed, prior to the crisis, many OECD countries had already taken measures to facilitate labor migration, and these policies were one of the driving forces behind the growth in international migration until 2008. Yet public opinion in many countries does not seem readily accepting of more labor immigration, as evidenced by the rise of anti-immigrant parties. One of the central elements shaping public opinion on migration is the fiscal impact of immigration, and in many countries there is a debate about the links between migration and the welfare state.

In this context, the conference aims at shedding some new light on these important issues shaping migration policy – the fiscal contribution of migrants, public opinion on migration, and the links between the two. The conference is jointly organised by the OECD, the French research center in international economics (CEPII) and its Club, the research team Equippe of the University of Lille, the Fondazione Rodolfo Debenedetti, the University of Luxemburg and IRES (the Catholic University of Louvain).

The morning session (session 1) will first look at the empirical evidence regarding the **fiscal impact of immigration**, starting with in-depth country studies from France, Italy and Scandinavia. These will then be put in the broader international perspective, to highlight both cross-country differences and common challenges.

The afternoon session (session 2) will then discuss the links between the fiscal impact of migration – not only the actual impact, but more so the perceived impact – and **public opinion on migration**, based on novel empirical evidence.

Against this background and the looming labour shortages facing many countries, the conference will conclude with a roundtable discussion on **migration and public opinion in the context of labour shortages**, gathering senior representatives from employers and trade unions, the European Commission and the press.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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OECD: 2, rue André Pascal - 75016 Paris

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## IMMIGRATION IN OECD COUNTRIES: FISCAL IMPACT AND PUBLIC OPINION

*First annual conference*

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Monday, 24 October 2011

OECD Conference Center - Auditorium  
2, rue André Pascal - 75775 Paris Cedex 16



# PROGRAMME

9:00 Welcome address

**Christophe DESTAIS**, DEPUTY Director, CEPII

**John P. MARTIN**, Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

9:15 Keynote Speaker: **Assaf RAZIN**, Professor, Cornell University & Tel Aviv University

*Migration and the Welfare State: The Magnet Hypothesis vs. The Fiscal-Burden Hypothesis*

9:45 General debate

## SESSION 1 – FISCAL IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON HOST COUNTRIES

10:00 **Country-based approach**

Chairman/discussant: **Hubert JAYET**, Professor, Université Lille 1

**Xavier CHOJNICKI**, Research fellow, CEPII ; Assistant Professor, Equippe & Université Lille 2

*Impacts of Immigration on Aging Welfare-State: An Applied General Equilibrium Model for France*

**Eskil WADENSJÖ**, Professor, Director of SULCIS, Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI), Stockholm University

*The Significance of Immigration for Public Finance in Denmark*

**Michele PELLIZARI**, Assistant Professor, Università Bocconi

*The Use of Welfare by Migrants in Italy*

11:00 General debate

Coffee break – 11:20

11:40 **Comparative approaches**

Chairman/discussant: **Frédéric DOCQUIER**, Research Associate, FNRS;  
Professor, Université Catholique de Louvain

**Thomas LIEBIG**, Migration Specialist, International Migration Division, OECD  
*Fiscal Impact of Migration in OECD Countries: Overview and First Results*

**Martin KAHANEC**, Assistant Professor, Central European University in Budapest; Deputy Program Director «Migration», IZA

*Unemployment Benefits and Immigration: Evidence from the EU*

12:20 General debate

Lunch – 12:45

14:00 **SESSION 2 – FISCAL IMPACT AND PUBLIC OPINION**

Chairman/discussant: **Stefano SCARPETTA**,  
Deputy Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

**Gilles SPIELVOGEL**, Assistant Professor, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne  
*Beliefs and Preferences About Immigration: Heuristic vs. Systematic Judgment*

**Christian DUSTMANN**, Professor, University College London; Director, Centre for Research and Analysis on Migration

*Immigration, Wages, and Compositional Amenities*

**Giovanni FACCHINI**, Professor, Erasmus University Rotterdam & University of Milan

*Open to Goods, Closed to People?*

15:00 General debate

Coffee break – 15:20

15:40 **ROUND TABLE – PUBLIC OPINION AND IMMIGRATION IN THE CONTEXT OF LABOUR NEEDS / IMMIGRATION ET OPINION PUBLIQUE DANS LE CONTEXTE DE BESOIN DE MAIN D'ŒUVRE**

With Club du Cepii  
(simultaneous translation in French and English)

Chairman: **John P. MARTIN**, Director for Employment,  
Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

**Benoît ROGER-VASSELIN\***, President, Commission Emploi-Formation, Medef

**John EVANS**, General Secretary, Trade Union Advisory Committee, OECD

**Assaf RAZIN**, Professor, Cornell University & Tel Aviv University

**Jacqueline HÉNARD**, Senior Policy Associate, European Council of Foreign Relations; Senior Lecturer, Sciences Po Paris; Editorialist, France Culture

**Philippe LEGRAIN\***, Principal Adviser, Head of the Analysis, Team Bureau of European Policy Advisers, European Commission

17:30 Concluding remarks

End – 17:45

\* to be confirmed