



Financing Climate Action in Regions and Cities Launch Conference

 Wednesday, 22 June 2022  9:30 – 12:30 CET

 Virtual conference (Zoom)

The event will have **English, French, Italian and Spanish** interpretation.

[Link to register](#)

■ What is the issue?

Regions and cities play a key role in the green transition and the global response to climate change. This is, in large part, due to their jurisdiction over crucial adaptation and mitigation-relevant policy areas such as land-use planning, waste management, transport, housing and buildings development, and more. However, despite this recognition, the true scale and nature of their financial role in catalysing the green transition remains poorly understood. Little is known about:

- How much are subnational governments spending and investing on climate change adaptation and mitigation and how has this climate-related spending and investment evolved over time?
- What impact have recent recovery packages had on enhancing subnational government climate finance?
- What revenue streams are available to subnational governments for their climate action? How can these sources be scaled-up and how can additional public and private sources of funding and financing be mobilised?
- Are the spending, investment, and revenue raising decisions of subnational governments aligned with their green objectives?

The COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine, which has had an acute impact on energy security and energy prices, have reinforced the need to accelerate the green transition. Subnational governments are important actors in realising this transition but they need more technical and financial support for scaling-up their climate action as well as tools for monitoring their progress. To this end, the OECD and the European Commission (DG REGIO) launched a joint project in 2020 to help bridge the knowledge gap and to enhance the tracking, measurement, and mobilisation of subnational government climate finance.

This conference will take stock of the final outcomes and outputs of this project and serve as an opportunity to convene key stakeholders, such as national and subnational governments and climate finance practitioners, to share their knowledge and experiences on the topic in order to develop a forward-looking road-map for further OECD work.

Agenda

9:30 – 9:45 Opening remarks

- **Yoshiki Takeuchi**, Deputy Secretary General, OECD
- **Marc Lemaître**, Director General, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

9:45 – 10:00 Financing Climate Action in Regions and Cities: key findings of the OECD-EC Project

The OECD will present the key findings of the OECD-EC project on “Measuring and Enhancing Subnational Government Finance for Environment and Climate Action in OECD and EU Countries”. The project seeks to enhance the measurement, tracking, and mobilisation of subnational public climate finance.

- **Nadim Ahmad**, Deputy Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD
- Launch of the new Subnational Government Climate Finance Hub (video)

10:00 - 11:20 Session 1: Making the most of green budgeting

Green budgeting is emerging as a potential important practical tool for national and subnational governments to align their budgets with their climate and environmental objectives. This session will focus on green budgeting practices in the OECD and EU to identify the opportunities and challenges of green budgeting at the subnational level. It will discuss support needed to further disseminate and provide momentum to subnational green budgeting.

Setting the scene: The OECD guidelines on subnational green budgeting – **Isabelle Chatry**, Head of Unit, Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division, OECD/CFE

Roundtable discussion and Q&A moderated by **Kate Power**, Policy Analyst, OECD/CFE:

- **Margaux Lelong**, Policy Analyst, Budgeting and Public Management Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD
- **Gildas Lebreton**, Deputy General Manager, Brittany Regional Government (France)
- **Massimiliano De Martin**, Counsellor for Environment and Private Housing, City of Venice (Italy)
- **Morgane Nicol**, Director of the Territory Programme, Institute for Climate Economics - I4CE (France)
- **Trude Rauken**, Special Advisor, Department of Environment and Transport, City of Oslo (Norway)
- **Vincent Chauvet**, Mayor of Autun (France) & Rapporteur of the European Committee of the Regions draft opinion on “The implementation of green budgets at local and regional levels”
- **Catrin Robertsen**, Project Manager, C40 Cities

11:20 - 12:20 Session 2: Mobilising public and private finance for subnational climate action

Regions and cities play a key role in catalysing the green transition, the need for which has been accentuated by the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing war in Ukraine. However, subnational government budgets are insufficient on their own to finance and fund the scale of climate action needed to transition to a carbon-neutral economy by 2050. There is therefore a crucial need to support subnational governments in mobilising additional public and private climate finance.

Roundtable discussion and Q&A moderated by **Courtenay Wheeler**, Policy Analyst, OECD/CFE:

- **Catherine Wendt**, Head of Unit for Smart and Sustainable Growth, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- **D. Ignacio Méndez Cortegano**, Secretary General of Finance, Regional Government of Andalusia (Spain)
- **Björn Bergstrand**, Head of Sustainability, Kommuninvest (Sweden)
- **Monica Scatasta**, Director, Technical Assessment and Monitoring Directorate, Council of Europe Development Bank
- **Priscilla Negreiros**, Manager, Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance
- **Riikka Torppa**, Deputy Head of Unit for Revenue Administration and Public Financial Management, DG Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM), European Commission

12:20 - 12:30 Closing remarks

- **Catherine Wendt**, Head of Unit for Smart and Sustainable Growth, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- **Dorothee Allain-Dupré**, Head of Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division, OECD/CFE