

**OECD Launch Event:  
Broad-based Innovation Policy for All Cities and Regions**

**Virtual Launch and Panel Discussion**

**Innovation policy for all Regions and Cities:  
Putting places on the path towards recovery**



# Broad-based Innovation Policy for All Cities and Regions

Read the report: [oe.cd/broad](https://oe.cd/broad)

## ■ What's the issue?

There is an increasing body of evidence suggesting that weaknesses in technology and knowledge diffusion in OECD countries are weighing on productivity growth and innovation, particularly among firms that are distant from the technological frontier (whether global or national). This weakens the capacity of OECD countries to adapt to meet future challenges and undermines inclusive growth. It is, therefore, necessary to examine whether current tools for innovation policy are too narrowly focused, targeting mainly research and development as well as science- and technology-based interventions. To empower firms in all types of regions to benefit from global trends and technological change, a broad-based innovation policy also needs to be flexible enough to adapt to the different capacity and innovation ecosystems in different regions and cities.

Strengthening and upgrading innovation capacity requires that policy efforts engage and leverage the local and regional innovation systems. In some places, strong systems are already in place with links between the stakeholders of the quadruple helix formed by the public sector, the education system, the private sector and civil society, that support creation, uptake and diffusion of innovation. In others, the historic achievements of the region have not translated into a successful transition of the local economy during the third or – ongoing – fourth industrial revolution. For some, there is a need to develop initial links and build on niches of strengths. The capacity of the public sector and its ability to learn and transform its processes are critical elements for the continued success of innovation policy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to severe disruptions across all parts of OECD economies and societies. Science, technology and innovation policy were and are crucial in combatting the crisis by improving our understanding of the virus, in developing vaccines, treatments and diagnostics. Innovation will also play a key role in putting regions and cities on a path towards post-crisis recovery. As OECD countries are committing to an increasing focus on digitalisation, sustainability and resilience, the central question is what approach should innovation policy take to help all regions and cities to “build back better”.

## ■ About the launch event and panel discussion

The event will commence with a scene setting presentation of the main lessons drawn from a series of high-level expert workshops that brought together academic and policy experts to discuss the current frontier in regional innovation policy under the heading “Broadening innovation policy – New insights for regions and cities”.

Following the scene setting, a panel of policy makers will discuss how innovation policy in regions and cities can be leveraged to ensure that regions and cities with different institutional capacities, different industrial structures and different local assets can follow a path towards resilient and sustainable recovery.

## ■ Venue

Virtual via Zoom

Sign up here: [Registration](#)

# Agenda

2.00-2.05

## Welcome and opening remarks

**Rudiger Ahrend**, Head of Division, Economic Analysis, Statistics and Multi-level Governance- CFE/OECD

2.05-2.25

## Setting the Scene: Broad-based innovation policy for all regions and cities

DESCRIPTION There is an increasing awareness that a narrow – purely excellence-oriented – approach to innovation policy misses the opportunities that innovation diffusion and upgrading of regional innovation systems provide to support regional and national growth. A broad-based approach can help unlock this potential. Taking the capacity of the regional innovation system into account, it aims to improve and grow the innovation system through learning and by leveraging opportunities that other policy areas provide. A broad-based approach is not meant to forego the support of excellence in innovation policy but rather acknowledges that different places have different needs to fully unlock their potential. This report establishes six principles that help broaden innovation policy to benefit all types of regions and cities.

OECD **Alexander C. Lembcke**, Coordinator Economic Analysis- CFE/OECD

2.25-3.05

## Panel discussion: Innovation policy for all regions and cities: Putting places on the path towards recovery

DESCRIPTION Even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt lives across OECD regions and cities it is important to consider how recovery can lead to more resilient and sustainable economies. What are the structural transformations that need to be achieved and how can a broad-based approach to innovation policy help achieve them?

MODERATOR **Mercedes Teruel**, Associate Professor, Universitat Rovira i Virgili (Reus, Spain)

PANELISTS **Peter Wostner**, Senior Advisor & Researcher, Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis and Development (Slovenia) and Chair of the OECD Working Party on Rural Policy

**Lukas Borunsky**, Economist, DG RTD, (Brussels, Belgium)

**Carmen Sillero Illanes**, Head of Division, Strategy and Programmes, Agency of Innovation and Development of Andalusia (Seville, Spain)

**Tomáš Holinka**, Head of S3 Strategy Unit, Ministry of Industry and Trade (Prague, Czech Republic)

**Jen Rae**, Head of UK Innovation Policy, NESTA (London, United Kingdom)

3.05-3.25

## Q&A with the audience

MODERATOR **Mercedes Teruel**, Associate Professor, Universitat Rovira i Virgili (Reus, Spain)

3.25-3.30

## Closing remarks

EUROPEAN COMMISSION **Peter Berkowitz**, Head of Smart and Sustainable Growth Unit, DG REGIO (Brussels, Belgium)

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies.

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