



Financing Climate Action in Regions and Cities Launch Conference

 Wednesday, 22 June 2022  9:30 – 12:30 (Paris time)

 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 subnational 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 Lebret**, Deputy General Manager of Resources, Brittany Regional Government (France)
- **Massimiliano De Martin**, Counsellor for Urban Planning and Environment, 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**, Head of Climate Budgeting, 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

Speaker information



Nadim Ahmad is Deputy Director at the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), helping to drive momentum in the development of integrated policies that look holistically at people, places and firms, and, in doing so, better policies for better lives, and resilient and sustainable economic growth. Mr Ahmad joined the OECD in 2000. Prior to joining the OECD, Mr Ahmad worked in the UK's office for National Statistics (1996-2000) and the UK's Ministry of Finance (1993-1996)



Dorothee Allain-Dupré is the Head of the Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division in CFE, where she drives the OECD's Regional Development Policy Committee work. This includes providing support to OECD Member and Partner governments in their efforts to advance regional development policy and multi-level governance in areas such as regional performance, mitigating regional disparities, rural development, regional attractiveness, decentralisation, public investment, regional and local finance.



Björn Bergstrand is Head of Sustainability at Kommuninvest (Sweden). He co-leads Kommuninvest's green and social financing efforts and is also in charge of Kommuninvest's ESG agenda. Björn takes an active role in shaping sustainable financing market practices. Björn initiated and leads the Nordic public sector issuer cooperation on impact reporting, which has resulted in the publication of the Nordic Position Paper on Green Bonds Impact Reporting. He served as a member of the expert committee attached to the Swedish government inquiry on green bonds and is a board member of the Swedish National Advisory Board on Impact Investing.



Isabelle Chatry is the Head of the "Decentralisation, Subnational Finance and Infrastructure Unit" at the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. Her work covers several topics related to multi-level governance and regional development, including decentralisation and territorial reforms, subnational government finance, infrastructure and subnational climate finance. Prior to joining the OECD in 2013, Isabelle worked at Dexia Crédit Local's Research department, as a private consultant and at Crédit Local de France. Graduated from the Ecole Normale Supérieure of Fontenay-Saint Cloud, Isabelle holds an "agrégation" in geography.



Vincent Chauvet is the Mayor of Autun (Bourgogne - Franche Comté; France) since 2017. In 2020, he was appointed to the European Committee of the Regions, representing the French Mayors' delegation. As Coordinator of the Committee of the Region's Environment Commission, he is currently the Rapporteur of the draft CoR opinion on "The Implementation of Green Budgets at Local and Regional Levels". Mr. Chauvet graduated from HEC Paris and Sciences Po in 2011, and holds a bachelor's degree in History from the Paris-Sorbonne University.



Massimiliano De Martin has been the Counsellor for Urban Planning and Environment of the City of Venice since 2015 and believes in applying a transversal strategic approach to addressing the environmental challenges facing the entire spatial area of Venice. He is also the political contact for the UNESCO site of Venice and its lagoon.



Gildas Lebret is the Deputy General Manager of Resources of the Regional Government of Brittany, France. He returned in 2013 to the services of the Regional Government of Brittany which he had left in 2008 to serve as Deputy Secretary General of the Government of New Caledonia, (Executive Body of the French *sui generis* territory of New Caledonia).



Marc Lemaitre worked at the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU Between 1996 and 2006. He joined the Commission in 2007 and headed several cabinets of commissioners and services. Since September 2016, he is Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy.



Margaux-Lucrèce Lelong, a French national, is a Policy Analyst in the OECD Budgeting and Public Expenditure division. Prior to joining the OECD, Margaux served as a Financial Magistrate in the French regional and national *Cour des comptes* and as an external auditor for international organisations (UNESCO, UNWFP), before moving to the French Ministry of Economy and Finance. She also worked for the IMF as an expert on Public Financial Management - Fiscal Transparency Evaluation.



Ignacio Méndez Cortegano is Regional Inspector, Head of the Regional Financial and Tax Inspection Unit of the Special Delegation of Andalusia, Ceuta and Melilla of the Tax Agency, a role he assumed in July 2004. He has spent the last 30 years of his administrative career as a Tax Inspector, occupying various posts in the Tax Agency. Among them, Head of the Inspection Unit in the Barcelona Tax Agency Delegation; Deputy Head of the Regional Collection Unit in Seville; Head of the Technical Office of the Provincial Financial and Tax Inspection Unit in Seville, and Head Inspector of the Provincial Financial and Tax Inspection Unit in Seville.



Priscilla Negreiros is a Manager at Climate Policy Initiative, where she leads the Cities Climate Finance Alliance, which is the main platform for cooperation, partnerships, and advocacy in the field of subnational climate finance. She heads the urban climate finance team in CPI and works to ensure that finance will be deployed at scale for city-level climate action. Previously to CPI, Priscilla has worked in different leadership positions in the Brazilian government in Apex-Brasil, focused on promoting trade and investments in Brazil.



Morgane Nicol has been director of the “Programme Territories” of the Institute for Climate Economics (I4CE) since 2019. Before joining I4CE in 2016, Morgane worked as an Energy-Climate project manager at the AFD (Agence Française du Développement) agency in Istanbul and then as a project manager for Proparco's Equity Funds and Participations. She has also previously worked for Carbone 4, a consulting firm specialised in carbon strategy, as a senior consultant and then manager.



Kate Power is a Policy Analyst in the Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division at the OECD (CFE) where she works on topics related to subnational climate policy and climate finance. Prior to joining the OECD, Kate worked for the Yukon Territorial Government in the Department of Tourism and Culture. Kate holds a HBSc. in Global Health and Economics from the University of Toronto.



Trude Rauken is a Special Advisor on Climate to the City of Oslo, with a particular responsibility for leading Oslo's work on international climate collaboration. Before joining the city, Trude has worked with cities globally and as a scientific researcher. Trude brings expert knowledge on the role of local government in solving climate issues and asserts that “the world is local” whenever she gets the chance.



Catrin Robertsen is the Head of Climate Budgeting at C40 Cities. She is seconded from the City of Oslo to C40 Cities to manage C40's first project on climate budgeting. Prior to joining C40 Cities in June 2021, she was a technical advisor on Oslo's climate budget at the Oslo Climate Agency from 2017-2021. Here prior experiences include work on national GHG inventories and mitigation analysis at the Norwegian Environment Agency.



Monica Scatasta leads the Council of Europe Development Bank's (CEB) Technical Assessment and Monitoring Directorate, which comprises the Bank's sector, thematic and safeguards experts. She has over 25 years in policy advisory and project finance worldwide, working for institutions such as the European Investment Bank (EIB), the OECD, and the World Bank. Prior to joining the CEB in March 2020 she was the Head of Environmental, Social and Climate Policy at EIB, where she previously worked in and then led the water and waste management team. Monica holds advanced degrees in economics, finance, environmental policy and engineering from the University of Bologna and the Johns Hopkins University.



Mr. Yoshiki Takeuchi was appointed Deputy Secretary-General in November 2021. His portfolio includes the strategic direction of the OECD policy on Tax, Financial and Enterprise Affairs along with the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. He also represents the OECD at the Financial Stability Board. Mr. Takeuchi has had a distinguished career over nearly four decades at the Japanese Ministry of Finance. Prior to joining the OECD, he served as Special Advisor to Japan's Minister of Finance. Mr. Takeuchi has a wealth of experience in the field of international economy and finance.



Riikka Torppa is a Deputy Head of Unit in DG REFORM of the European Commission, responsible for overseeing the technical support provided through the Technical Support Instrument to EU Member States in the policy domain of Public Financial Management. Riikka works in close coordination with the PFM team in DG ECFIN. In this role Riikka has, among other things, championed the Green Budgeting Training project which supports 23 EU Member States in introducing and further enhancing green budgeting practices - Supporting the Implementation of Green Budgeting Practices among the EU Member States.



Catherine Wendt is currently Head of Unit for Smart and Sustainable Growth in the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission. Previously, she was Head of Unit in the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, first working on communications, then on Kosovo and finally on Montenegro and Serbia.



Courtenay Wheeler is a Policy Analyst at the OECD's Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. At the OECD, Courtenay works on projects relating to infrastructure investment, subnational finance and the recovery from COVID-19 in regions. His recent projects have included preparing a report on innovative funding and financing for infrastructure in regions and cities and coordinating the development of the OECD Regional Recovery Platform. Prior to joining the OECD, Courtenay worked for eight years across the infrastructure sector in Australia, including as a government adviser, consultant and engineer. His experience has included working on policy, infrastructure governance, project planning and project management