



SNGWOFI

World Observatory on Subnational
Government Finance and Investment



AGENDA

Launch Conference of the Third Edition of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment SNG-WOFI

24 October 2022

10:00-18:00 (CET)

 OECD Headquarters (Paris)

English and French interpretation



Launch Conference of the Third Edition of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment

■ About the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment

The World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment (SNG-WOFI) is a joint endeavour led by the OECD and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). The goal of the Observatory is to increase knowledge and promote dialogue on multi-level governance and subnational finance around the world, by collecting and analysing standardised quantitative data and qualitative information. It also helps monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and other global development agendas, such as the Addis-Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework or the New Urban Agenda.

More specifically, the SNG-WOFI has the following four main objectives:

- To bridge the fiscal data gap and facilitate access to standardised, reliable, transparent and comparable data and information on subnational government structure, finance and investment. It also aims to define and share common methodological approaches, tools and indicators.
- To support policy-making at all levels of government on multi-level governance and subnational finance reforms. In particular, it aims to identify the challenges faced by subnational governments in terms of capacity and financing. The ultimate goal is to help enhance multi-level governance and decentralisation frameworks, particularly fiscal ones.
- To serve as a capacity-building tool on subnational governance and finance at the international, national and subnational levels.
- To support international dialogue and facilitate the exchange of experiences, peer learning and constructive discussions between international, national and local stakeholders, and their financial partners.

After two previous editions, in 2016 and 2019 respectively, the SNG-WOFI has become the largest international knowledge repository on subnational government structure and finance ever produced. It provides systematised information on decentralisation processes, territorial reforms, subnational government powers and responsibilities, fiscal decentralisation reforms, and fiscal rules around the world, and covers dozens of indicators on subnational expenditure, investment, revenue and debt.

■ About the Third Edition of the SNG-WOFI

This conference marks the launch of the third edition. This 2022 edition includes data from 135 countries, covering almost 90% of the world surface area, 93% of the world population and 94% of global GDP.

The conference will bring together national and subnational governments, international organisations and stakeholders from around the world involved in this wide-ranging project, to present the key findings of the new edition and to discuss current challenges related to subnational finance and multi-level governance, in light of new data and analysis.

After the opening remarks, the session will include a keynote presentation of the main results of the third edition, followed by a high-level panel discussion of the main findings and challenges ahead. Then three roundtables will discuss the resilience of subnational finances in the face of crises, including the COVID-19 crisis, the war and energy crisis, the territorial dimension of recovery plans, the strengthening of property taxes as a means to consolidate the financial base of subnational governments, and the access of subnational governments to external financing for infrastructure investment.

During the event, the OECD and UCLG will launch the synthesis report and country profiles as well as the new on-line interactive web platform (www.sng-wofi.org), which provides access to the updated online fiscal database, the 135 country profiles and an interactive visualisation tool that allows country comparisons.

9:30-10:00	<i>Welcome coffee</i>	
10:00-10:15	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yoshiki Takeuchi, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD ▪ Emilia Saiz, Secretary-General, UCLG 	
10:15-11:30	<p>OPENING SESSION</p>	<p>Introduction of the Third Edition of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment</p> <p>Keynote speech: Highlights from the World Observatory, Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD</p> <p>Round-table: Discussions and reaction on the key findings, moderated by Emilia Saiz, Secretary-General, UCLG</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carlo Monticelli, Governor, Council of Europe Development Bank ▪ Francisco Saffie Gatica, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the OECD, Chile ▪ Asmaa Rhlalou, Mayor of Rabat, Morocco ▪ Marie-Hélène Loison, Deputy Director General, French Development Agency ▪ David Jackson, Director, Local Transformative Finance, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
11:30-12:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
12:00-13:15	<p>SESSION 1</p>	<p>How to improve the financial resilience of subnational governments to external shocks?</p> <p>Challenges, such as those caused by the COVID-19 crisis, climate change, Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the energy crisis have shown the critical role that subnational governments play in responding to the urgent needs of their communities. They have also exacerbated regional and local disparities and revealed the imbalances of incomplete and fragile decentralisation systems, in particular fiscal decentralisation.</p> <p>The session will include a presentation of key findings from the World Observatory, followed by a panel discussion on how multi-level governance arrangements and subnational government finance can be made more resilient to adapt to external shocks.</p> <p>Setting the scene based on the findings of the SNG-WOFI: Isabelle Chatry, Head of Unit, Decentralisation, Subnational Finance and Infrastructure, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD</p> <p>Round-table moderated by Christel Alvergne, Team Lead for Africa, UNCDF</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Junghun Kim, President of the Fiscal Policy Institute, Korea, and Chair of the OECD Network on Fiscal Relations across Levels of Government ▪ Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary-General, UCLG Asia-Pacific ▪ Jordi Vaquer, Secretary-General, Metropolis ▪ Thomas Rougier, Secretary-General, Observatory on Local Finance and Public Management, France ▪ Ahmed Aziz Diallo, Mayor of Dori, Burkina Faso

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13:15-14:45	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
14:45- 16:00	SESSION 2	How to strengthen property taxes to enhance subnational government revenue? Property tax is one of the key local taxes and a major source of own revenue for many subnational governments around the world. However, it remains critically under-mobilised, especially in developing countries. Given its significant revenue potential and numerous advantages, it is important to understand the obstacles to the development of property taxation, and to unlock its potential. The session will start with an overview of global property tax practices based on SNG-WOFI data and will be followed by a panel discussion on how to optimise property tax revenue in strained subnational fiscal contexts. Setting the scene based on the finding of the SNG-WOFI: Margaux Vincent , Policy Analyst, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD Round-table moderated by Damjan Sarvan , Advisor at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sarah Perret, Head of the Personal and Property taxes Unit, Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, OECD▪ Dario Runtic, Government Affairs and Public Policy Expert, Association of Cities of the Republic of Croatia▪ Huascar Eguino, Lead Fiscal Management Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank▪ Graeme Stewart Wilson, Technical Lead, Diagnostic Assessments, Local Government Revenue Initiative (LoGRI), Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto▪ Niño Raymond B. Alvina, Executive Director, Bureau of Local Government Finance, Department of Finance, Philippines
16:00-16:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
16:30-17:45	SESSION 3	How can subnational government access to external resources be improved to finance infrastructure investment? Subnational governments are major public infrastructure investors. In the context of the COVID-19 recovery, the impact of wars and the challenges posed by megatrends, their role is even more important. For this, additional resources must be mobilised to complement public funds. This session will include a presentation of key findings from the World Observatory on the role of subnational governments in leveraging external resources to finance infrastructure investment. A panel discussion will follow on the barriers and enabling conditions for subnational governments to tap into external financing solutions. Setting the Scene based on the finding of the SNG-WOFI: Courtenay Wheeler , Policy Analyst, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD Round-table moderated by Emilie Maehara , Deputy Executive Director, Director of Programmes, Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV)

Speakers:

- **Rachana Shresta**, Public Management Specialist, Governance Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank
- **Violeta Crudu**, Mayor of Cruzesty Municipality, Moldova
- **François Paul Yatta**, Director of Programs of UCLG Africa
- **Flo Clucas**, Cheltenham Cabinet Member and Council Councillor, United Kingdom, Finance Spokesperson of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
- **Nicolas Painvin**, Head of International Public Finance, Fitch ratings

17:45-18:00

CLOSING
SESSION**Conclusions and Way Forward**

- Closing remarks from **SNG-WOFI supporting partners**
- **Serge Allou**, Special Advisor, UCLG
- **Dorothee Allain-Dupré**, Head of Regional Development and Multi-Level Governance Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD

18:00-19:30

SOCIAL

Cocktail (Marshall Room – Château de la Muette)

Agenda

▪ Participants

The conference is hybrid. Participants need to register on-line: <http://www.sng-wofi.org/events>. Only registered participants will be able to access the conference. In case of difficulty in the registration process, please contact Leslie Greenhow (Leslie.GREENHOW@oecd.org).

The link to follow the webinar is the following:

https://meetoeecd1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dRIXFshbTgKYY3UX9I32Gg

▪ Meeting information

The meeting will be held in **Room CC7** of the OECD Conference centre. The entrance is located at: 2, rue André Pascal – 75016 Paris. More information available here: www.oecd.org/conference-centre/

Public transport:

Metro/RER

- Line 9, La Murette station (9 minutes by foot)
- RER C, Avenue Henri Martin (7 minutes by foot) or Boulainvilliers station (11 minutes by foot)

Bus routes 22, 32, 52, 63, PC1 Stations

- La Murette-Boulainvilliers • Octave feuillet • Porte de La Murette

More information at: https://www.oecd.org/site/conferencecentre/Get_to_OECD_Muette.pdf

Hotels close to OECD: <https://www.oecd.org/conference-centre/planyourtrip/hotels-close-to-oecd.htm>

▪ Badge and security

Security arrangements are tight around the OECD complex. Participants will need to be registered for the meeting to obtain access to the conference centre (security badge). There is an initial security check outside the Conference Centre where participants must show a QR pass (sent out by email to registered participants and can be in either printed form or on a smart phone) to receive a visitor's badge. There is a second security check inside the OECD. Please bring an ID with you.

You need to plan around 30 minutes to go through the security measures at the entrance. For security reasons, you must wear your visitor's badge at all times.

▪ Interpretation

Interpretation in English and French will be provided during the meeting.

▪ Cocktail

All participants in the meeting are invited to the cocktail from 6 pm (Marshall Room, Château de la Murette).

Contact

- OECD: Isabelle Chatry, Head of Unit, Decentralisation, Subnational Finance and Infrastructure (isabelle.chatry@oecd.org)
- UCLG: Serge Allou, Local Finance Technical Advisor at UCLG, (s.allou@uclg.org)

For more information, visit our website: <https://www.sng-wofi.org>

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