

AGENDA

27 September 2023 | 14:00-15:30 (CEST) | Virtual

OECD Enhancing Rural Innovation Report Launches

■ About the event

This session launches two publications as part of the OECD Project on Enhancing Rural Innovation. The two publications include the *Enhancing Innovation in Rural Regions: Scotland (UK)* and the thematic publication *Networks and Rural-Urban Linkages for Rural Innovation*.

As Scotland starts to implement a new innovation strategy for the next ten years (2023-2033), the report *Enhancing Rural Innovation in Scotland, United Kingdom* encourages the Scottish Government to consider framing an innovation strategy that understands the various forms of innovation that go beyond science and technology, while also focusing on implementation through their regional development partners across the different geographies of Scotland. In Scotland, Universities, National Innovation Centres, and government programmes for entrepreneurs, provide a robust support system for innovators that can help implement this strategy. In addition to traditional innovation support channels, there is also a strong commitment from three regional economic development agencies in Scotland – Highlands and Islands Enterprise, South of Scotland Enterprise, and Scottish Enterprise – to provide support to entrepreneurs and companies looking to innovate across Scotland's rural regions. Furthermore, a long history of support for social entrepreneurs and innovators has played a critical role in building opportunities for rural areas.

The thematic publication *Networks and Rural-Urban Linkages for Rural Innovation*, focuses on building the scale needed for innovation. The report shows that although innovation occurs in rural regions despite lower density and further distances to markets, scaling up and creating more density through connected networks can bring advantages when it comes to overcoming challenges of access to skills and technological assets. This report also explores several approaches to tackling these challenges, such as through ensuring access to quality digital infrastructure in rural areas, encouraging interregional mobility, and building links between businesses and innovation partners that can develop through university-firm linkages, trade and global value chain facilitation and cluster development or smart specialisation policies.

The launch event will be an opportunity to present the report's main findings and discuss its policy implications with a panel of speakers.

Contact

Questions? Email us at michelle.marshalian@oecd.org

For more information, visit our website: <https://www.oecd.org/regional/>

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Agenda

27 September 2023: Welcoming remarks

14:00-14:10	Opening remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dorothee Allain-Dupré, Head of Division, Regional Development and Multi-level Governance
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Summary of findings on Enhancing Rural Innovation in Scotland and Linkages for Innovation

14:10-14:25	Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Michelle Marshalian, Economist and Project Manager, Enhancing Innovation in Rural Areas - CFE/OECD
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Panel discussion

14:25-15:25	Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Michelle Marshalian, Economist and Project Manager, Enhancing Innovation in Rural Areas - CFE/OECD
	Speakers [to be confirmed]	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Anna Densham, Deputy Director, Head of Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy, Scotland (UK)▪ Dennis Alvord, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development and Chief Operating Officer, Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce, United States and Chair of the Regional Development Policy Committee▪ Jeremy Phillipson, Professor, Newcastle University; Director of the National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise; member of the OECD Rural Innovation Advisory Committee▪ Peter Wostner, Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development, Slovenia and Chair of OECD Working Party on Rural Policy

Conclusion

15:25-15:30	Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Jose Enrique Garcilazo, Deputy Head of Division and Head of Regional and Rural Policy Unit, OECD
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