

Agenda

10 July 2024 | Paris | Virtual

Workshop

Rural Policy Dialogues to examine the Principles of Rural Policy: The Path to Economic Resilience in Rural Areas

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Date: 10 July, 2024

Time: 15:00 – 16:30 CEST

Virtual (Zoom)

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SME's, Regions and Cities (CFE) helps local, regional, and national governments 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. In 2019, the Working Party on Rural Policy adopted the OECD Principles on Rural Policy. The Principles are designed to assist national, regional and local governments in implementing more effective rural policies that will lead to improved quality of life and a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive future for all. This workshop forms part of a series of activities to gain a deeper understanding of how OECD member countries are implementing the Principles.

What's the issue?

Rural places are very diverse across the OECD, characterised by a variety of local economies, and undervalued assets. The mix of industries present in rural communities is influenced by the constraints of geography and scale. Rural economies are more vulnerable to shocks. Major employers leaving, changes in policies or the economic downturn of a neighbouring city can disrupt rural communities' development paths. Rural economies are constrained by higher relative fixed costs, which make the viability of operations more difficult and the returns on investment weaker. This affects decisions in both the public and private sectors. Megatrends including demographic change, digitalisation and globalisation are also contributing to the transformation of rural economies. Given the evolving nature of the rural economy, it is imperative to re-dedicate resources to rural communities in order to foster resilience and ensure their continued prominence in the future.

The OECD Principles on Rural policy encourages leveraging the potential of rural areas to benefit from globalisation, trade and digitalisation and supporting entrepreneurship to foster job creation and build resilience in rural areas. This, coupled with locally-tailored economic development strategies that value and build upon place-based assets, could foster recreation, amenity-based, and service economies in rural places. Creating a path to economic resilience in rural areas will also require empowering local leaders and stakeholders to identify and leverage existing assets and knowledge and to promote local economic opportunities. Rural economic resilience should enable the capacity to use shocks and disturbances to spur renewal and innovative thinking. In this hybrid workshop, co-hosted by the Netherlands and CFE, the presenters will share different perspectives on the path to economic resilience in rural communities along with example of initiatives.

Key issues/questions for discussion

- Understanding the factors that could improve the resilience of rural economies.
- Crafting policy that aligns with rural realities. How to reimagine the approach to rural economic development and the role of national, regional and local government?
- What is the role for urban regions? Understanding the economic interdependence of rural and urban areas in creating resilient rural regions
- What are the opportunities for the social economy to increase the wellbeing in rural areas?
- Overcoming tensions that emerge between economic, social, and environmental dimensions of resilience as it relates to rural economies and business activity in rural communities.

Registration

- Please [click here](#) to register for the workshop.

About OECD Rural Development Policy

For over 30 years the OECD has been engaged in rural development. The Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) at the OECD has developed a research programme on rural development. Rural regions make strong contributions to the national economies. But these contributions are uneven—some regions flourish while others struggle. Achieving inclusive and sustainable growth remains a major challenge for many rural regions. The OECD's rural program responds to this challenge by delivering evidence-based reviews with thematic comparative analyses all using evidence based research methods. The OECD works closely with national officials, regional and local leaders, mayors, representatives from the private and educational sector and community groups. The goal is to promote opportunities, wellbeing, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and economic competitiveness in rural regions.

For more information, visit our website: www.oecd.org/regional/rural-development/

CONTACT:

If you are interested in learning more about rural development, or to get involved, please contact Enrique Garcilazo, Head of the Regional and Rural Policy Unit | joseenrique.garcilazo@oecd.org

