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## Economics

### OECD Economic Surveys: Costa Rica 2023

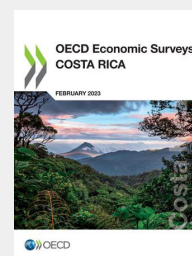
Costa Rica recovered well from the pandemic-induced recession. Sustained and resilient export performance continues to support growth, while consumption is hindered by high inflation and unemployment. The fiscal situation improved but remains challenging, requiring sustained efforts to contain spending and boost public sector efficiency for several years. Maintaining and reinforcing the commitment to foreign direct investment and trade, which has been key to diversify the export basket, and improving the conditions for domestic companies to thrive are key challenges to boost living standards and formal job creation. This would require reducing the regulatory burden, improving the tax mix, fostering competition in key markets and continuing decarbonisation and environment protection efforts. Supporting higher female labour participation and upgrading social protection will help to adapt to ongoing demographic changes and improve the equality of opportunities. Education and training are a high priority for Costa Rica that devotes to them one of the highest spending shares among OECD countries. However, educational outcomes remain poor and firms struggle to fill their vacancies, particularly in technical and scientific positions. Improving efficiency and quality of public spending in education is needed to better support growth and equity.

SPECIAL FEATURES: EDUCATION AND TRAINING; SKILLS

## Finance and Investment

### Mortality and the Provision of Retirement Income

This report analyses the development of mortality assumptions to build mortality tables to better protect retirement income provision. Mortality assumptions are necessary to ensure the sustainability of lifetime incomes. It explores considerations and traditional approaches for developing mortality tables, as well as provides an international overview of longevity trends and drivers over the last several decades, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report also details the standard mortality tables developed across OECD member countries and offers guidelines to assist regulators and supervisors in assessing whether the mortality assumptions and tables used in the context of retirement income provision are appropriate.



#### Print ver.

Code: eco-2022-1793-en-print

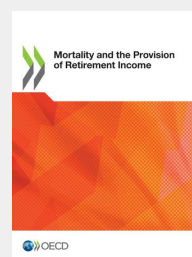
ISBN: 9789264628298

pages: 120 \$60.00

#### PDF ver.

ISBN: 9789264898288

\$36.00



#### Print ver.

Code: daf-2022-255-en-print

ISBN: 9789264380141

pages: 140 \$42.00

#### PDF ver.

ISBN: 9789264852402

\$25.00



**Print ver.**

Code: daf-2022-249-en-print

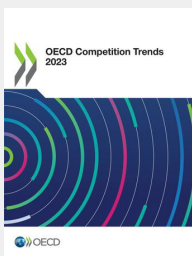
ISBN: 9789264552432

pages: 85 \$30.00

**PDF ver.**

ISBN: 9789264893757

\$18.00

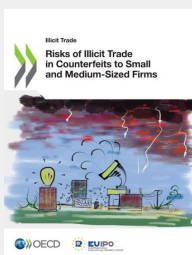


**PDF ver.**

Code: daf-2023-34-en-pdf

ISBN: 9789264339323

pages: 40 Free



**Print ver.**

Code: gov-2022-741-en-print

ISBN: 9789264577770

pages: 150 \$42.00

**PDF ver.**

ISBN: 9789264875579

\$25.00

## Finance and Investment

### Improving the Landscape for Sustainable Infrastructure Financing

This report examines how to promote sustainable infrastructure investment. It discusses data needs for infrastructure investment and the current environment, social and governance (ESG) approaches before offering policy recommendations to help ensure that investors are better equipped to make investment decisions related to infrastructure assets. The report explores legal and regulatory barriers to quality infrastructure investment, and considers how governments can help infrastructure actors promote quality infrastructure projects, ensure project objectives and reporting correspond with investor expectations, and how to mobilise funding and financing for inclusive and quality infrastructure investment in both regions and cities.

## OECD Competition Trends 2023

This report highlights worldwide competition enforcement trends using the unique OECD CompStats database that includes 34 variables covering competition authority resources, cartels, abuse of dominance, mergers, and advocacy. This report presents comparisons between geographic regions and trends over time, allowing jurisdictions to understand how their data compares to peers and the broader competition community. This edition focuses on the main developments in global competition enforcement in 2021, and contributes to continuously improving competition law and policy around the world.

## Governance

### Risks of Illicit Trade in Counterfeits to Small and Medium-Sized Firms

Illicit trade in counterfeit goods causes economic damage by reducing sales and profits as well as innovation incentives in legitimate industries. This study looks at damages caused by illicit trade in counterfeits to small and medium-sized enterprises. The robust evidence on the magnitude, scope and trends of this risk informs policy makers about the need to include anti-counterfeiting elements in policy packages designed to support SMEs.

## Governance

### Open Government Scan of Canada Designing and Implementing an Open Government Strategy

The Open Government Scan of Canada provides an evidence-based assessment of the governance of Canada's efforts to foster transparency, accountability and citizen participation against key provisions of the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government. The Scan seeks to support Canada in its ambition to design the country's first holistic and integrated Open Government Strategy. It includes recommendations for strengthening the governance of Canada's open government agenda in the short, medium and long term. OECD Open Government Scans are short, tailored policy reviews that focus on specific key priorities of the commissioning government.



#### Print ver.

Code: gov-2022-550-en-print

ISBN: 9789264886438

pages: 77     \$30.00

#### PDF ver.

ISBN: 9789264551879

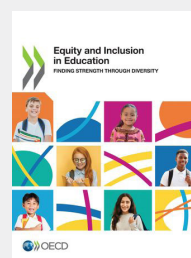
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## Education

### Equity and Inclusion in Education Finding Strength through Diversity

Governments and education policy makers are increasingly concerned with equity and inclusion in education due to several major global trends such as demographic shifts, migration and refugee crises, rising inequalities, and climate change. These developments have contributed to increasing diversity within national populations and flagged some concerns around the ability of education systems to be equitable and inclusive of all students.

This report by the Strength through Diversity project examines how education systems can respond to increasing diversity and foster greater equity and inclusion in education. Based on a holistic framework for studying diversity, equity and inclusion in education, the report examines five key policy areas (i.e., governance; resourcing; capacity building; school-level interventions, and monitoring and evaluation), provides examples of policies and practices, and offers policy advice on promoting more equitable and inclusive education systems.



#### Print ver.

Code: edu-2023-1-en-print

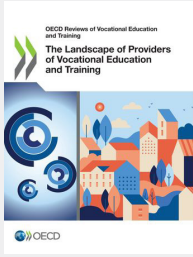
ISBN: 9789264704077

pages: 376     \$114.00

#### PDF ver.

ISBN: 9789264480933

\$68.00



**Print ver.**

Code: skc-2022-101-en-print

ISBN: 9789264416246

pages: 52      \$30.00

**PDF ver.**

ISBN: 9789264444492

\$18.00



**Print ver.**

Code: skc-2023-1-en-print

ISBN: 9789264599499

pages: 270      \$78.00

**PDF ver.**

ISBN: 9789264314207

\$46.00

## Education

### The Landscape of Providers of Vocational Education and Training

Vocational education and training (VET) is an important part of education systems around the world. VET systems differ widely between countries in how programmes are designed and delivered. Moreover, countries differ in terms of the types of providers that deliver VET. This report looks at the VET provider landscape in Australia, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. It provides insights into the number of different providers by country, their focus areas and target populations. It describes how providers are different and how they overlap, as well as structures and initiatives to foster co-ordination between them.

### OECD Skills Strategy Luxembourg Assessment and Recommendations

Skills are the key to shaping a better future and central to the capacity of countries and people to thrive in an increasingly interconnected and rapidly changing world. Megatrends such as digitalisation, globalisation, demographic change and climate change are reshaping work and society, generating a growing demand for higher levels and new sets of skills.

OECD Skills Strategy projects provide a strategic and comprehensive approach to assess countries' skills challenges and opportunities and help them build more effective skills systems. The OECD works collaboratively with countries to develop policy responses that are tailored to each country's specific skills needs. The foundation of this approach is the OECD Skills Strategy Framework, which allows for an exploration of what countries can do better to: 1) develop relevant skills over the life course; 2) use skills effectively in work and in society; and 3) strengthen the governance of the skills system.

This report, OECD Skills Strategy Luxembourg: Assessment and Recommendations, identifies opportunities and makes recommendations to provide labour-market relevant adult learning opportunities, guide and incentivise skills choices, attract and retain foreign talent to fill skills shortages, and strengthen the governance of skills data in Luxembourg.

## Social issues/Migration/Health

### Supporting Lives Free from Intimate Partner Violence Towards Better Integration of Services for Victims/Survivors

Many OECD governments regularly identify violence against women as the top gender equality issue their country faces. Yet in all countries, addressing this multifaceted issue presents serious governance and implementation challenges as victims/survivors have complex needs both during and after experiences of violence. Different service delivery providers such as health, justice, housing and social protection must work together seamlessly – across governmental and non-governmental providers – to provide an effective response. This report presents a stocktaking of OECD governments' efforts to integrate service delivery to address the most prevalent form of gender-based violence against women: intimate partner violence. It presents an overview of different strategies for coordinating key services commonly offered in OECD countries: health-care, justice, housing, child services, income support, and preventative programmes to stop the reoccurrence of violence. Based on extensive feedback from 35 out of 38 OECD countries and a consultation with non-governmental service providers, this report identifies best practices and investigates the barriers to resolving one of the most pressing human rights issues in OECD countries today.

### Time for Better Care at the End of Life

With more chronic conditions and an ageing population, a growing share of the population will need end-of-life care, reaching close to 10 million people by 2050. While end-of-life care services help improve quality of life through relieving pain and other symptoms, currently, there are substantial gaps in the provision of services. More than half of deaths still occur in hospital across OECD countries, despite home generally being the preferred place of death, because of lack of appropriate services and poor care co-ordination. There are marked inequalities in access with people from higher education twice as likely to receive end-of-life care services than those with low education. Planning, recording of wishes and shared decision-making fall short of what is desirable, with only one-quarter of wishes being recorded in the form of advance directives. People at the end of life do not always receive appropriate symptom relief, while others suffer from overtreatment. This report suggests avenues to improve care for the dying by enhancing measurement and monitoring of quality and rethinking funding and governance models of care. End-of-life care could also be improved by increasing knowledge among health care staff across different care settings, and making communication around the topic more person-centred.



#### Print ver.

Code: els-2023-3-en-print

ISBN: 9789264482098

pages: 200 \$60.00

#### PDF ver.

ISBN: 9789264908703

\$36.00



#### Print ver.

Code: els-2023-1-en-print

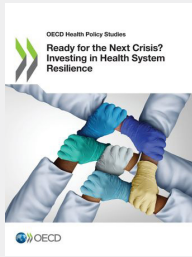
ISBN: 9789264884472

pages: 250 \$72.00

#### PDF ver.

ISBN: 9789264539303

\$43.00



**Print ver.**

Code: els-2022-1717-en-print

ISBN: 9789264794634

pages: 380 \$114.00

**PDF ver.**

ISBN: 9789264830875

\$68.00



**Print ver.**

Code: els-2022-1033-en-print

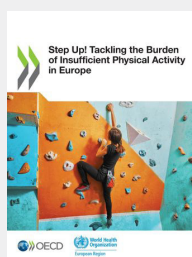
ISBN: 9789264427082

pages: 123 \$36.00

**PDF ver.**

ISBN: 9789264915206

\$21.00



**Print ver.**

Code: els-2022-669-en-print

ISBN: 9789264788107

pages: 90 \$30.00

**PDF ver.**

ISBN: 9789264410305

\$18.00

## Social issues/Migration/Health

### Ready for the Next Crisis? Investing in Health System Resilience

The COVID-19 pandemic had massive consequences for societies and health systems across the OECD and beyond. Health systems were not resilient enough. Resilient health systems plan and are ready for shocks, such as pandemics, economic crises or the effects of climate change. They are able to minimise the negative consequences of crises, recover as quickly as possible, and adapt to become better performing and more prepared. Smart, targeted investments in health system resilience are needed to improve health and ensure the next shock is less disruptive and costly. This report reviews the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic and applies them to build policy recommendations to ensure the global community is ready for the next crisis. The reviews and recommendations cover health system issues – including workforce, digitalisation, continuity of care and mental health – and other topics, including long-term care, supply chains and international co-operation.

### Introduction Measures for Newly-Arrived Migrants

The OECD series Making Integration Work summarises, in a non-technical way, the main issues surrounding the integration of immigrants and their children into their host countries. Each book presents concrete policy lessons for its theme, along with supporting examples of good practices and comparisons of the migrant integration policy frameworks in different OECD countries. This sixth volume presents a set of considerations for policy makers in designing introduction measures for newly-arrived immigrants and includes a mapping of national practices.

### Step Up! Tackling the Burden of Insufficient Physical Activity in Europe

This report calls on policy makers to step up the policy response to increase physical activity. Being physically active is one of the most important things people can do to improve their physical and mental health. It helps prevent a range of non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease and cancer, and improves mental health and cognitive functioning, among other benefits. Nevertheless, too many Europeans are physically inactive. One in three European adults do not meet the WHO physical activity guidelines, and almost half never exercise or play sport. The report describes patterns and trends of insufficient physical activity in Europe. It reviews the detrimental impact that current physical inactivity levels have on population health and health expenditure. The report provides policy makers with options to address insufficient physical activity, drawing on case studies from across Europe.

## Social issues/Migration/Health

### The Road to LGBTI+ Inclusion in Germany Progress at the Federal and Länder Levels

This report is the first country review undertaken as part of the OECD work on LGBTI+ inclusion. It explores legal and policy progress towards LGBTI+ equality in Germany at both the national and subnational levels, and identifies good practices. The report first investigates the life situation of LGBTI+ Germans by presenting the most up-to-date data on the share of Germans who self-identify as LGBTI+, evaluating the extent to which LGBTI+ Germans face discrimination and violence, and assessing how this population fares in terms of well-being, mental and physical health. The report then examines whether laws critical to achieving LGBTI+ equality have been passed and how LGBTI+ equality in Germany could be further improved through legislation. Finally, beyond laws, the report focuses on policy achievements towards LGBTI+ equality, by distinguishing between remedial policies, aimed at enforcing antidiscrimination and anti-violence laws, and preventive policies, aimed at fostering a culture of equal treatment of LGBTI+ individuals at school, in the workplace, and in healthcare.

## Employment

### Evaluation of Active Labour Market Policies in Finland

This report uses rich administrative data from different registers in Finland to evaluate the impact of two types of training available to jobseekers: labour market training; and self-motivated training. Training outcomes are examined that go beyond the probability of employment and how different population groups are affected. The report also assesses the framework for impact evaluation of active labour market policies (ALMPs) in Finland, covering the whole cycle of evidence-based policy making from strategy and planning of evaluations, resources, data collection and evaluation methodologies to dissemination of evidence and use in policy making. Finally, the report makes recommendations for improving the effectiveness of Finland's ALMPs and strengthening the capacity of the Finnish authorities in conducting ALMP impact evaluations. This report is the eleventh in a series of country reports on policies to connect people with better jobs. It was produced as part of the OECD's project with the European Commission which aims to raise the quality of the data collected and their use in the evaluation of the effectiveness of ALMPs.



#### Print ver.

Code: els-2022-1035-en-print

ISBN: 9789264564473

pages: 180 \$54.00

#### PDF ver.

ISBN: 9789264946477

\$32.00



#### Print ver.

Code: els-2022-1244-en-print

ISBN: 9789264629646

pages: 130 \$36.00

#### PDF ver.

ISBN: 9789264424982

\$21.00



**Print ver.**

Code: cfe-2022-711-en-print

ISBN: 9789264777651

pages: 130     \$36.00

**PDF ver.**

ISBN: 9789264851085

\$21.00



**PDF ver.**

Code: tad-2023-4-enfr-pdf

ISBN: 9789264374355

pages: 82     Free

## Industry and Services

### Framework for the Evaluation of SME and Entrepreneurship Policies and Programmes 2023

Evaluation is the foundation of evidence-based policy. Yet there is a dearth of reliable impact evaluation in the area of SME and entrepreneurship policy. This publication issues OECD guidance on how governments can promote reliable SME and entrepreneurship policy evaluation. It emphasises practices including using control groups, setting clear policy objectives and targets and accounting for business survival and non-survival. It shows that reliable evaluation of SME and entrepreneurship policy is increasingly accessible given improvements in data and techniques in recent years and illustrates this with examples of 50 reliable evaluations across many SME and entrepreneurship policy areas and 28 OECD countries. Overall, the publication issues a call for more systematic and reliable evaluation of SME and entrepreneurship policies following the guidance offered.

The publication also examines the findings of reliable evaluations internationally, including meta evaluations. The evidence is mixed but generally more robust and consistent for policies to improve access to finance than in the provision of training and advisory services. Some policies have positive impacts on key measures whereas others do not. The reasons are explored, including poor targeting of policies and variations in the effectiveness of different delivery instruments.

## Agriculture and Food

### International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables Passion Fruit

This brochure is published within the framework of the Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables established by OECD in 1962. It comprises explanatory notes and illustrations to facilitate the uniform interpretation of the current standard for Passion Fruit. It demonstrates the quality parameters on high quality photographs. Thus it is a valuable tool for the inspection authorities, professional bodies and traders interested in international trade in this produce.



## Urban, Rural and Regional Development

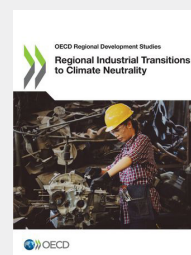
### Regional Industrial Transitions to Climate Neutrality

Some manufacturing activities are among the most difficult human activities to make climate neutral and they are typically regionally concentrated. Across Europe these regions are often socioeconomically relatively weak. Yet these sectors provide relatively well-paid jobs in many of these regions. Some of these regions may also have more difficult access to infrastructure to provide the hydrogen, carbon capture and storage and zero-emission freight, which can be important to some of these activities. Industrial transitions to climate neutrality therefore have regional development implications. Since regions differ in their socio-economic conditions, understanding these regional development implications will help policy makers prepare a just transition. This publication identifies manufacturing activities that are particularly difficult to decarbonise and the transformations they require. It shows how these activities are distributed across European regions, focusing on employment at emission-intensive production locations. It identifies conditions for getting access to needed infrastructure and how access conditions differ across regions. It investigates the socio-economic vulnerabilities of affected regions, their manufacturing businesses and workers. In some regions, workers and firms may be particularly vulnerable, for example, because of low-skill jobs, type of employment contract or low productivity.

## Development

### Development Co-operation Report 2023 Debating the Aid System

In the last three years, multiple global crises and the growing urgency of containing climate change have put current models of development co-operation to, perhaps, their most radical test in decades. The goal of a better world for all seems harder to reach, with new budgetary pressures, demands to provide regional and global public goods, elevated humanitarian needs, and increasingly complex political settings. Critique of the roots, rationale and operations of the international aid system is resulting in calls for fundamental change, manifesting for example in the movements to address colonial legacies and address racism in the sector. This 60th anniversary edition of the Development Co-operation Report takes stock of these challenges, and proposes ways forward along four lines of action: meet existing financial and other commitments; support locally-led transformation in partner countries; modernise business models and financial management practices; and rebalance power relations in international decision-making and partnerships. The report draws on insights from heads of state, leaders of international organisations, practitioners, academia and civil society, with particular emphasis on voices representing the diverse experiences and perspectives of low- and middle-income countries and their populations.



#### Print ver.

Code: cfe-2022-699-en-print

ISBN: 9789264725522

pages: 165 \$48.00

#### PDF ver.

ISBN: 9789264739628

\$28.00



#### Print ver.

Code: dcd-2023-2-en-print

ISBN: 9789264838291

pages: 212 \$60.00

#### PDF ver.

ISBN: 9789264944848

\$36.00



**Print ver.**

Code: dcd-2023-1-en-print

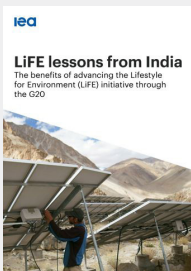
ISBN: 9789264476929

pages: 64 \$30.00

**PDF ver.**

ISBN: 9789264695993

\$18.00



**PDF ver.**

Code: iea-2023-3-en-pdf

ISBN: 9789264951983

pages: 21 Free

## Development

### OECD Development Co-operation Peer Reviews: Hungary 2023

The OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) conducts peer reviews of individual members once every five to six years. Reviews seek to improve the quality and effectiveness of members' development co-operation, highlighting good practices and recommending improvements. A DAC member since only 2016, Hungary has achieved impressive growth in its official development assistance (ODA). Bilateral co-operation has increased, in particular, and relies on close consultation with partners. Hungary champions sustainable water management, combining diplomacy, domestic expertise and development co-operation. In fragile contexts, it focuses its support to local civil society organisations, and in particular faith-based actors. As it continues to make progress towards established DAC standards and ways of working, an institutional re-organisation provides Hungary with significant opportunities for further reform. This peer review provides a set of recommendations to increase the impact of Hungary's engagement in partner countries, deepen collaboration across institutions and with stakeholders, strengthen internal systems, and balance tensions between domestic and global objectives.

## Energy

### LiFE Lessons from India The Benefits of Advancing the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) Initiative through the G20

India, the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative aims to encourage the adoption of sustainable lifestyles in India and internationally to tackle the challenges of environmental degradation and climate change.

This report examines how India has integrated several policies in its energy transition strategy that are aligned with the LiFE initiative, highlighting the potential for behavioural change and consumption choices to help advance energy transitions globally.

It then analyses the impact on energy consumption, costs and emissions of measures like those proposed by the LiFE initiative, such as buying an EV or taking public transport, if they were adopted globally.

Finally, it considers how India's first G20 Presidency could strengthen the LiFE initiative by anchoring it in the G20's current framing of energy transitions and initiating processes to gather experience and best practices of policies and programmes that G20 members are already conducting.

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