

Enhancing Innovation in Rural Regions

Status Update



Enhancing Innovation in Rural Regions: Status Update

This work is built on the previous initiatives focused on (i) linking renewable energy to rural development (OECD, 2012^[1])(ii) the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas report, covering 14 regions from Norway, Finland and Sweden (OECD, 2017^[2]) (iii) the [11th OECD Rural Development Conference](#) : Enhancing Rural Innovation in Edinburgh (2018) (iv) the [12th OECD Rural Development Conference](#): Delivering Well-Being in Korea and (v) several discussion papers.

Current work on rural innovation

The project *Enhancing Innovation in Rural Areas* was launched in November 2019 with the support of five OECD countries including Canada, Japan, the US, Scotland and Switzerland. The project is part of the 2019-20 and 2021-22 Programme of Work and Budget of the OECD Regional Development Policy Committee.

The project will consist of an **OECD Analytical Report** and five **Country Reports**:

- The **OECD Analytical Report** is a cross-country analytical study of innovation in rural regions, its drivers and outcomes. It aims to better understand rural innovation and how innovation operates in different geographies. The analysis will make use of various sources of input including data from the OECD Regional Database, new data from additional databases and from micro-data sources, responses to the *OECD Policy Questionnaire on Enhancing Innovation in Rural* and data made available by the participating countries.
 - Note 21 member countries (Australia, Austria, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Norway, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the European Commission) have already submitted the *OECD Policy Questionnaire on Enhancing Innovation in Rural Areas*. We encourage country delegations who have not responded yet, to provide responses as soon as possible.
- The project also consists of **Country Reports** for each of the five participating countries. The country reports will benefit from generic findings of the OECD Analytical Reports, the policy questionnaire, country specific questionnaires, and fact-finding missions, and interview with stakeholders for identifying opportunities and challenges. It will include case studies and a collection of policy responses to support the innovation ecosystem and global transformation in rural regions.

The project will also benefit from a number of working papers on relevant topics to the study. Among others, the topics identified are on social innovation, measuring innovation in rural regions and rural-urban linkages. The working papers will deepen the technical analysis of each topic and will enrich both reports.

As part of the governing structure of the project, the Secretariat consults with an *Expert Advisory Committee on Rural Innovation*, which is composed of approximately 20 academics and 20 business leaders from universities, research institutes, businesses and incubators. These experts gather twice a year to provide guidance, and provide a network for open discussion and dialogue. Each member of the committees was either nominated by partner delegates or by the OECD Secretariat, based on their area of expertise. Participating countries confirmed committee members after a vetting process. Annex A provides the full list of committee members.

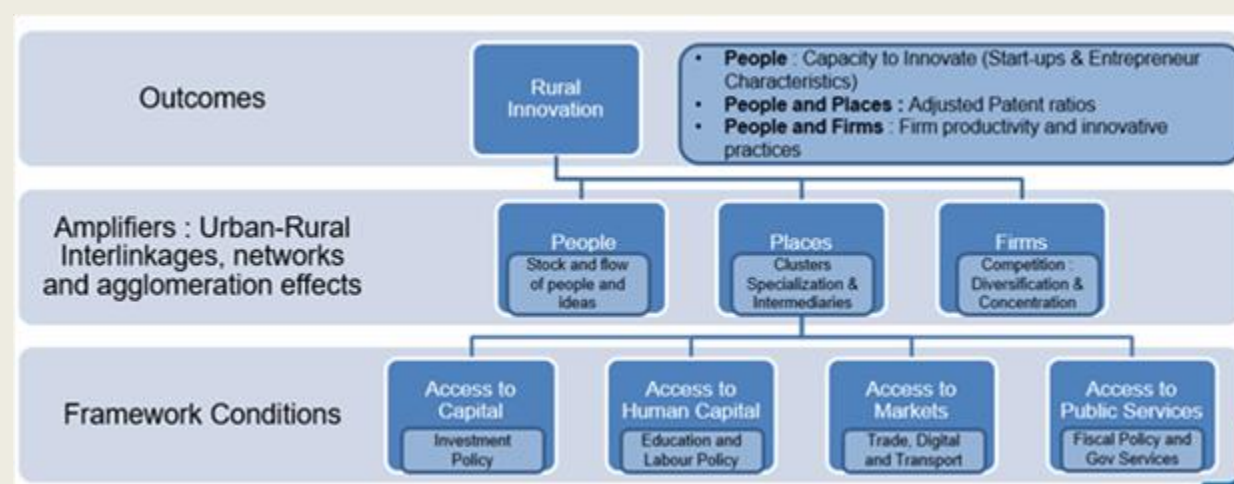
OECD analytical report and country case studies

This section provides a first draft of the table of contents for the two main deliverables. Through a process of consultation starting with a discussion with delegates, two meetings with members of the *Academic and Business Expert Advisory Committee on Rural Innovation*, the Secretariat first elaborated a first draft of the report that was shared with project stakeholders. After feedback from the first draft, a revised draft was developed. At the core of this analysis is the framework on drivers of rural innovation elaborated in Box 1. This framework will guide the analytical framework in both the OECD Analytical Report and Country Reports.

BOX 1. CONCEPTUALISING INNOVATION IN RURAL REGIONS

The conceptual framework for the study puts a rural focus on understanding what innovation in rural regions may look like, as well as the network and framework conditions that accompany it. Because the literature finds that standard methods of understanding and measuring innovation are often ill suited for understanding innovation in rural regions, the framework of the project proposes to focus on the capacity of individuals to innovate. When available, we use standard measures such as patents, adjusted to the territorial composition of the workforce. Finally, framework conditions are important to the way in which firms and individuals function within the society. Understanding how innovation occurs within different framework conditions is important information for policy makers in OECD countries.

FRAMEWORK FOR DRIVERS OF INNOVATION IN RURAL REGIONS



Source: Author's own elaboration

Report and case study outlines

OECD Analytical report outline

Part I: Drivers of innovation and well-being

Chapter 1: Understanding innovation for rural regions

Chapter 2: Driving innovation: framework conditions and policies for innovation in rural development

Part II: Adoption and Diffusion of Innovation through Urban-Rural linkages

Chapter 3: Urban-Rural linkages, network and agglomeration effects

Chapter 4: Governance models for innovation

Chapters 5-8: Profiles of innovation by rural typology¹

Part III: Working paper series

Annex: Profiles of rural regions

Country reports (Canada, Japan, Switzerland, Scotland (United Kingdom), United States).

Part I: Synthesis report

Chapter 1. Innovation profile of rural regions

Chapter 2. Understanding the drivers of innovation through national, regional and local framework conditions and policies (benchmarking)

Chapter 3. Making the most of innovation in rural regions

Chapter 4. Adapting to change in rural regions

Part II: 3-6 case studies

Part III: Snapshot of selected rural regions

¹ Excludes region with a very large city >1M inhabitants & region with a large city >250K inhabitants.

Annex A. Expert Advisory Committee

TABLE A A.1. ACADEMIC EXPERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Name of nominee	Affiliation
Akcigit, Ufuk	University of Chicago
Asik, Gunes	TOBB University of Economics and Technology
Bollman, Ray	Brandon University
Brouwer, Aleid	University of Groningen
Coyle, Diane	University of Cambridge
Crescenzi, Riccardo	London School of Economics
Cukier, Wendy	Ryerson University, Diversity Institute
Destefano, Timothy	Harvard Business School
Fluharty, Chuck	Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI)
Giuliani, Gianluca	Flury-Giuliani
Maloney, William F.	World Bank
Mayer, Heike	Bern University
McCann, Philip	Sheffield University
McCoull, Ian	Scottish Enterprise
Okudo, Atsuko	International Telecommunications Union
Radosevic, Slavo	University College London
Rodriquez-Pose, Andres	London School of Economics
Roper, Stephen	Warwick Business School
Scherer, Roland	University of St. Gallen
Shobayashi, Mikitaro	Gakushuin Women's University
Van Leeuwen, Eveline	Wageningen University
Wojan, Tim	National Science Foundation

Note: As of 15 October 2020

TABLE A A.2. BUSINESS EXPERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Name	Name of Firm or Association
Baylac, Charlotte & Serban, Asinetta	Amazon AWS
Bentovim, Lyrion	Glimpes Groupe
Campillo Alonso, Juan & Lopez-Barajas Huder, Gonzalo	Telefonica
Clarke, Richard & Alvarez, Amy	AT&T
Cobb, Zita	Shorefast
Craigie, Jane	Rural Youth Project
Cruz, Genero	GSMA
Dejus, Didzis	Baltic 3D
Dobson, Alastair	Arran Dairies & Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Board
Dunne, Matt	Center on Rural Innovation
Erni, Jon	Miaengiadina
Falcone, Cristina	UPS
Gagne, Marie	Synchronex

Name	Name of Firm or Association
Giuliani, Gianluca	Flury-Giuliani
Haan, Nicholas	Singularity University
Heery, Daniel	Cybermoor
Johansson, Niklas	LKAB
Jones, Doug	Ignite Atlantic
Kittridge, Teresa	100 rural women
Nykänen, Ikka	Bussiness Joensuu
Oram, Oliver	Chainvine
Primmer, Nicole	BIAC
Rossi, Maurizio	Hfarm
Toufani, Amin	T-labs
Varza, Roxanne	Station F
Yanaka, Shugo	INSPIRE

Note: As of 15 October 2020

References

- OECD (2019), *OECD Regional Outlook 2019: Leveraging Megatrends for Cities and Rural Areas*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264312838-en>. [3]
- OECD (2017), *OECD Territorial Reviews: Northern Sparsely Populated Areas*, OECD Territorial Reviews, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264268234-en>. [2]
- OECD (2012), *Linking Renewable Energy to Rural Development*, OECD Green Growth Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264180444-en>. [1]