

DRAFT AGENDA

16 November 2023 | 17:00-18:00 (CET) / 11:00-12:00 (EST) | Hybrid

OECD Enhancing Rural Innovation in the United States: Report Launch

■ About the event

This session launches the OECD 2023 publication *Enhancing Rural Innovation in the United States*.

Innovation and entrepreneurial ingenuity have long been drivers of growth and prosperity in the United States (US) and the US continues to innovate at the forefront of the technology frontier. Yet not all places in the United States have the same opportunities to participate in, and benefit from, innovation and entrepreneurship, which in part explains many longstanding geographical inequalities between large metropolitan areas and rural places. Tackling geographical inequalities in innovation, including in the factors conducive to it, are therefore critical. There is growing awareness that a different approach is needed for rural areas, including in addressing enabling factors.

This session will discuss the report that offers a diagnosis of innovation in the rural context with lessons drawn from similar research in other OECD countries. It provides policy recommendations on the delivery of federal programmes to support rural innovators and entrepreneurs at a time when two of the largest stimulus packages have been approved by the US congress, the Infrastructure and Investment in Jobs Act (IIJA) and the IRA. The analysis and chapters focus on innovation and entrepreneurship within the structure of rural counties, focusing on direct and indirect initiatives to support innovation. It also places a special focus on the importance of access to digital communications infrastructure and access to education and skills for rural innovation.

Contact

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

For more information, visit our website:

<https://www.oecd.org/regional/rural-development/rural-innovation.htm>

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Agenda

Moderator: Jose Enrique Garcilazo, Deputy Head of Division and Head of Regional and Rural Policy Unit, OECD

16 November 2023: Welcoming remarks

17:00-17:05 (CET)
11:00-11:05 (EST)

Opening
remarks

- **Nadim Ahmad**, Deputy Director of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (TBC)

Summary of findings on Enhancing Rural Innovation in the United States

17:05-17:15 (CET)
11:05-11:15 (EST)

Presentation

- **Michelle Marshalian**, Economist and Project Manager, Enhancing Innovation in Rural Areas - CFE/OECD

Panel discussion

17:15-17:55 (CET)
11:15-11:55 (EST)

Moderator

- **Jose Enrique Garcilazo**, Deputy Head of Division and Head of Regional and Rural Policy Unit, OECD

Guiding
Questions

What lessons can we learn from the US experience on addressing place-based inequalities in access to services that support entrepreneurs and innovators?

What insights can be learnt from the US experiences on ways to improve equity in access to innovation and entrepreneurial support for women, minorities and underserved communities?

What insights can be gathered from recent initiatives to improve access to broadband infrastructure? How does these compare with other OECD regions' experiences?

Speakers

- **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
- **Dr. Basil Gooden**, Nominee Under Secretary for Rural Development, Current Director of State Operations for Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture

Reactions

- **Laura Landes**, Associate Director of Research & Data, Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- **Peter Wostner**, Editor of the National Productivity Report, The Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development, Slovenia; chair of the Working Party on Rural Policy and Vice-Chair of the Regional Development Policy Committee
- **Marc Plancherel**, Policy Advisor and Head of Innovation, Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, SECO, Switzerland

Conclusion

17:55-18:00 (CET)
11:55-12:00 (EST)

Closing
remarks

- **Dorothee Allain-Dupré**, Head of Division, Regional Development and Multi-level Governance, OECD

