

Supporting green skills and green jobs in SMEs

An online workshop organised by the OECD in collaboration with Portugal's Ministry of Economy and with support from DG REFORM

Thursday, 12 December 2024

10h00-12h20, Lisbon Time – 11h00-13h20, Central European Time

Background

EU Member States are actively supporting the green transition of SMEs in many different ways, which include the development of so-called “green skills” and “green jobs. Although a standard definition for green skills and green jobs has not yet been established, both the OECD and the ILO describe green jobs as those that involve tasks aimed at sustainability or environmental goals. As a consequence, green skills and green jobs are not limited to industries directly linked to the green transition, such as renewable energy and the circular economy, but they can be found throughout the entire economy, as long as the involved tasks aim to make business activities more environmentally sustainable. Examples include skills and jobs related to a more efficient use of materials (i.e., reduced material intensity), the use of new materials (e.g., bioeconomy products), or the deployment of more energy-efficient equipment in production.

The green transition also has a strong regional dimension, as the recent OECD publication [Job Creation and Local Economic Development 2023: Bridging the Great Green Divide](#) shows. Local economies have different levels of carbon intensity and, therefore, are not by the green transition. Some regions are also better placed than others to cope with the green transition thanks to a more versatile labour force, which can be more easily redeployed from one sector or activity to another without extensive retraining.

Aim

The workshop is part of the Technical Support Instrument project “**Supporting the green transition of SMEs and green entrepreneurship in Portugal**” undertaken by the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, in collaboration with Portugal's Ministry of Economy (General Directorate for Economic Activities, DGAE) and with support from DG REFORM of the European Commission. It aims to address the following questions:

- What do we exactly mean by green skills and green jobs? What are the pros and cons of existing definitions?
- What is the distribution of green skills and green jobs across EU member states and other OECD countries? Which local labour markets are affected by the green transition? Which ones are better placed to benefit from the ongoing transformation?
- What are the most common green skills policies being implemented by national governments? Is there any impact evidence?
- What have been the main challenges that governments have faced in the implementation of these policies and how have they been overcome?
- How have these policies evolved in the last years and how are they expected to change in the near future?

Registration link

To follow

Agenda

The following agenda uses the Central European Time (CET) zone. Please note that Lisbon's time zone is one hour earlier.

11.00-11.10

Opening remarks

- Ms. Anabela Silva, Director for Business Policy, DGAE, Ministry of Economy, Portugal.
- Ms. Milena Raykovska, Deputy Head of Unit, Sustainable Growth and Business Environment, DG REFORM, European Commission.

11.10-12.15

Measuring green skills and green jobs: Policy-driven research agendas

Moderator: Raffaele Trapasso, Head of Unit, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities.

- Mr. Lukas Kleine-Reuschkamp, Head of Unit, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities – *Bridging the Great Green Divide: Green skills and green jobs across OECD regions and policy implications.*
- Mr. Guy-Stéphane Akanza, Project Manager, France's Ministry of the Green Transition, Energy, Climate and Risks Prevention – *The experience of the French National Observatory of Jobs and Professions in the Green Economy.*
- Ms. Jana Fingerhut, Project Manager, Bertelsmann Foundation, Germany – *Climate jobs and green skills in Germany.*

Roundtable discussion

12.15-13.20

International experiences in green skills policies

Moderator: Marco Marchese, Policy Analyst, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

- Mr. Carlos Fonseca, Director of the Qualification Services Division, Institute for Employment and Vocational Training, Portugal – *Portugal's approach to green skills and green jobs policies.*
- Ms. Barbara Alexander-Bittner, Senior Expert, Austria's Energy Agency – *The green skills dimension of Austria's Climate Protection Initiative (Klimaaktiv)*
- Ms. Mary Lyons, Director & Ms. Louise MacAvin, Assistant Manager, Enterprises, Employees and Skills Dept., SOLAS (Further Education & Training Agency), Ireland – *The micro-qualification approach to green skills in Ireland*

Roundtable discussion & conclusions

About us

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to 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.

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