

News from the OECD Champion Mayors

Spring 2022

Welcome to the new Chair of the OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth

The OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth initiative is delighted to welcome our new Chair, [Dagur Eggertsson](#), Mayor of Reykjavik (Iceland).

To reduce inequalities in his city, Mayor Eggertsson has pushed forward many key initiatives such as **Reykjavik's Housing Plan** to provide affordable housing for everyone. On the climate front, the city's **2040 Municipal Plan** guides daily decision-making on issues such as sustainable development, more compact urbanisation, and eco-friendly transport, and the city's **Climate Response Policy** aims to deliver a carbon-neutral Reykjavik by 2040.

Mayor Eggertsson brings 20 years of experience serving on the Reykjavik city council, including 9 years as mayor. We look forward to working closely with our new Chair in driving the agenda for the Champion Mayors initiative. Read more about [Reykjavik's inclusive initiatives](#) and the OECD's [press communiqué](#) on the nomination of our new Chair.



We would also like to pay tribute to our outgoing Chair and founding Champion Mayor [Anne Hidalgo](#), Mayor of Paris (France), who has served as Chair of the Champion Mayors initiative since 2017. Mayor Hidalgo's support, leadership, and commitment to promoting inclusive growth is gratefully acknowledged, and we look forward to continuing to work with her within the Initiative.

Leeds is embracing digitalisation and culture to promote inclusion Mayor of the Moment – James Lewis, Leeds, UK



“We want to ensure Leeds is not just a digital city, but a digitally inclusive city, where everyone can benefit from the opportunities the digital revolution brings.”

James Lewis
Council Leader, Leeds



The City of [Leeds](#) (UK) is embracing digitalisation to improve access to jobs, housing and health services for all residents. The 100% Digital Leeds programme aims to reduce health inequalities by supporting the use of online services to access healthcare. Leeds is promoting inclusive economic growth by celebrating culture at **Leeds 2023** – an event that aims to create employment and opportunities for youth. The city is also working with stakeholders to provide affordable housing for its growing population.

[Read the interview.](#)

How can cities keep COVID-19 recovery on track and build urban resilience?

At the 11th World Urban Forum (26-30 June 2022, Katowice, Poland), the OECD launched two toolkits to guide policymakers in the implementation of the [OECD Principles on Urban Policy](#), and to support [A Territorial Approach to the SDGs](#). Each toolkit provides a guiding framework and policy database of 50+ global examples to inspire action to make cities more liveable and sustainable.



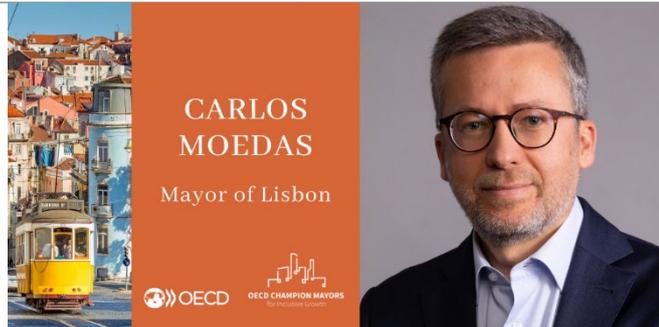
[Discover the Toolkit](#)



[Explore the Toolkit](#)

Welcome to our new Champion Mayors

Mayor of Brussels (Belgium) [Philippe Close](#) is implementing environmentally friendly programmes such as the [10-minute city](#) project to reduce the use of cars and increase the cycling and pedestrian network as well as the development of energy efficient housing. The city also offers a reception office for migrants to increase their social, economic and cultural participation. Brussels is increasing citizen engagement in major urban projects through councils of citizens, and is financing innovation projects such as the IT master plan, The New Administrative Centre, and smart waste bins.



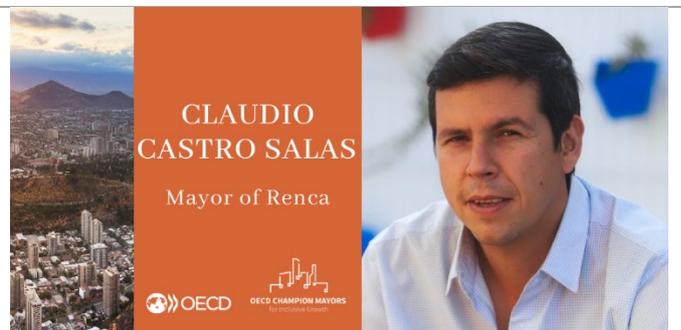
Mayor of Lisbon (Portugal) [Carlos Moedas](#) is fighting climate change through initiatives such as the Heat Wave Project that promotes adaptation, prevention and management of the risks associated with rising temperatures, and the General Drainage Plan to protect the city from floods. With the [Supported Lease Programme](#), Lisbon is offering affordable housing to low income earners at below market rates. The city has also adopted a [resilience action plan](#) as Lisbon is particularly exposed to natural shocks.

Mayor of Marrakesh (Morocco) [Fatim Ezzahra El Mansouri](#) is promoting gender equality. To provide girls and women in the city with more opportunities, she created an advisory body called the 'Body for equity, equal opportunity and gender' in December 2021 to consult with the city council. The city is also investing in local sports equipment to help its youth better access physical activity. A sustainable transport programme providing [electric buses](#) and live travel updates is being implemented to reduce carbon emissions.



Mayor of Montevideo (Uruguay) [Carolina Cosse](#) has been addressing the economic impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable through the [ABC Labor Plan](#), offering training and temporary work to those who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. The ABC Plan also focuses on combatting domestic violence by expanding a network of women's shelters (Comuna Mujer). The city is renovating unsafe buildings, supporting single mothers, promoting a [greener Montevideo](#), and [fighting food insecurity](#).

Mayor of Renca (Chile) [Claudio Castro Salas](#) is boosting local employment through schemes such as 'Hire a neighbour' and by helping women into work by providing skills [training and seed capital](#) for SMEs, and flexible childcare. Renca is tackling climate change through co-operation with two other Chilean cities to protect the environment. To forge a policy of transparency and citizen participation, Renca carried out a [workshop to co-design the Municipality's Action Plan](#). The city is promoting migrant integration and facilitating inclusion by offering Spanish language classes.



Champion Mayors at the Global Parliament of Mayors Annual Summit 2022

In partnership with the OECD, the [Global Parliament of Mayors \(GPM\) Annual Summit](#) addressing “*Transforming Together: How Cities Must Lead Democratic, Inclusive and Innovative Change*,” took place in Katowice, Poland on 25 June. OECD Champion Mayors attending included Mayor of Mannheim and GPM Chair [Peter Kurz](#), and Mayor of Bogota [Claudia Lopez](#). In her keynote speech, OECD Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, Lamia Kamal-Chaoui emphasised the critical role cities play in developing a more inclusive and sustainable world. Lively debates focused on welcoming migrants, democratic processes, and social infrastructure. [View the programme.](#)



Champion Mayors support migrant and refugee inclusion for more equal cities

Russia's large-scale aggression against Ukraine has resulted in the largest refugee migration in Europe since World War II. Local authorities are at the heart of efforts to integrate migrants into economic opportunities and social life. Promoting fair and effective labour market practices for migrants and refugees offers strong potential for inclusive growth. The OECD is supporting local government efforts in receiving and [integrating migrants](#) and vulnerable migrant groups, including refugees.

[Gaziantep](#) (Türkiye) hosts more than half a million refugees. The ‘Gaziantep model’, which is based on close co-operation between local and national government, UN agencies and NGOs, supports refugees and eases integration within the host community. The city provides refugees with education, language lessons and healthcare. Policies aim to ensure the common welfare of refugees and host communities because of the strong belief that raising the welfare of the disadvantaged will raise the welfare of society as a whole.



[Stockholm](#) (Sweden) aims to be a cohesive city where all children have the same opportunities, rents are kept at a reasonable level, and equal opportunity, gender equality and accessibility are mainstreamed. The city translates this ambition into concrete budget objectives such as: strengthening education and vocational training offered to newcomers, and facilitating access to public services by improving staff language and communication skills.

[Tokyo](#) (Japan) Metropolitan Government's website ‘Life in Tokyo’ helps support foreign residents by promoting intercultural cohesion. The site, written in Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean, provides information about daily life, systems such as education, employment and health, and links to further information on Japanese culture, disaster prevention organisations, and community groups. It also lists events including Japanese lessons, free legal counselling for foreigners, and seminars providing business financing advice.



Creating Cities in the New Normal at the 13th Asia Pacific City Summit

The 13th
Asian-Pacific City Summit
27–28 July 2022 Fukuoka, Japan



OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth joined the Asia Pacific City Summit (APCS) hosted by Champion Mayor city [Fukuoka](#). The [Actions towards Creating Cities in the New Normal](#) session explored global examples of post COVID-19 urban developments and a knowledge-sharing discussion with cities from Japan, Cambodia, Thailand, Viet Nam and New Zealand.

New reports



Inclusive Growth and Resilience in Bilbao, Spain

This study assesses inequality in Bilbao and how the COVID-19 pandemic and the city's response and recovery measures have affected its inclusive growth agenda. It also examines how Bilbao's approach to deploying a smart city strategy and localising the SDGs contributes to the city's overall resilience and inclusive growth objectives. [Read the report](#)



Global Compendium of Land Value Capture Policies

As cities face unprecedented challenges, financing infrastructure and climate adaptation has never been more important. In the first exercise of its kind, the OECD–Lincoln Institute's Global Compendium of Land Value Capture Policies explores land value capture enabling frameworks, obstacles and tools in use in 60 OECD and non-OECD countries. [Read the report](#)

Have your say on Localising the Blue Economy

Does a significant share of your city's economic activity depend on the ocean, deltas rivers or lakes? Are you curious about how to implement a resilient, inclusive, sustainable and circular (RISC-proof) blue economy? If you wish to share examples, good practices, and be featured in future OECD work on blue economy, complete the survey in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) or [Portuguese](#) by 16 September 2022.



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The OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth is a coalition of leaders committed to tackling inequalities and promoting inclusive economic growth in cities. The initiative helps governments analyse inequalities, monitor material living standards and broader well-being, and design policy packages that promote equity and growth. It takes a multidimensional approach to Inclusive Growth, going beyond income to see how people are faring in other areas of life, like jobs and health.

www.oecd-inclusive.com/champion-mayors/
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