



## Webinar: A new indicator of inequality of opportunity in OECD countries Interpretation and uses for policy

24 January 2025 | 14:00-15:30 CET

Recent methodological advances have the potential to deepen our understanding of inequality and its drivers. However, to inform policy effectively, progress in measurement is not always enough. It must also translate into results that are robust and indicators that are fit for use and can be clearly interpreted by policymakers. In its follow up report to the 2018 landmark publication on social mobility *A Broken Social Elevator?*, the OECD is introducing an important new indicator of inequality of opportunity. Drawing on machine-learning techniques and an established methodology, this indicator goes beyond previous OECD analysis based on intergenerational elasticities and captures the share of inequality in outcomes that is due to circumstances beyond an individual's control. The aim in doing so is to provide a statistical estimate of social mobility that is not only more granular and informative, but also one that is closer to people's perceptions and evaluation of outcomes.

This webinar builds on prior discussion of the draft report by delegates at the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the *OECD Working Party on Social Policy* on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024. It has three main objectives: (i) to present the methodology underlying the indicator; (ii) to explain how the indicator can be used; and (iii) to reflect on the best ways to ensure that the indicator is relevant for policy. Key questions to guide the discussion include:

- *What are the methodological advantages and drawbacks of this new type of indicator?*
- *How can the indicator and results be communicated effectively to policy-makers and/or to the public?*
- *What type of information or comparison would be most useful in contexts where data are limited?*

To participate, please register via Zoom [here](#).

### Agenda

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|-------------|--|
| 14:00       | Introduction by <b>Carlotta Balestra</b> (OECD WISE Centre)  |
| 14:05-14:15 | Presenting the indicator: Why is it important to measure inequality of opportunity? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Paolo Brunori</b> (International Inequalities Institute / London School of Economics)</li></ul>   |
| 14:15-14:25 | Presenting the indicator: How has the OECD operationalised it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Guillaume Cohen</b> (OECD WISE Centre)</li></ul>   |
| 14:25-14:40 | Ensuring the indicator is relevant for policy: Lessons from Belgium and Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Rudi Van Dam</b> (BEL / FPS Social Security)</li><li>• <b>Florian Hertel</b> (DEU / European University of Flensburg)</li><li>• <b>Volker Schmitt</b> (DEU / German Social Insurance European Representation)</li></ul> |
| 14:40-14:50 | Measuring inequality of opportunity in non-European contexts: Insights from Mexico <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Alejandro Ruiz</b> (MEX / INEGI)</li></ul>   |
| 14:50-15:30 | Q&A with participants  |
| 15:30       | Concluding Remarks by <b>Romina Boarini</b> (OECD WISE Centre)   |