

Joint European University Institute - OECD Seminar

IMPROVING PUBLIC SECTOR EFFECTIVENESS IN ITALY AND ELSEWHERE

Monday 8 November 2021

Place: Palazzo Buontalenti, School of Transnational Governance, EUI, Florence

Type: Livestreamed event, with physical audience of EUI students and Policy Leader Fellows

Media: Event open to Italian and International media

PROGRAMME:		
1.	14.00-14.10	<p>Opening Speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexander Stubb (Director & Professor, STG, former Prime Minister of Finland) • Laurence Boone (OECD Chief Economist) <p><i>Improving the public sector's effectiveness is central to Italy recovering from the COVID-19 crisis and returning to sustained, inclusive growth. It is a high priority for the government and central to Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan. The political economy of reforming the public sector is however complex, in Italy as in many other countries.</i></p>
2.	14.10 -14.30	<p>Strengthening Italy's Public Sector Effectiveness – the OECD Assessment</p> <p>Presenter: Álvaro Santos Pereira (OECD; former Minister of Economy and Employment, Portugal)</p> <p><i>In the coming years Italy will have a unique opportunity to improve the effectiveness of its public sector, through the Recovery and Resilience Plan, the renewal of the public sector workforce, and the potential of technological innovations. The 2021 OECD Economic Survey of Italy proposes options to strengthen public sector effectiveness by looking at what interventions the public sector makes in the economy, how the public sector mobilises its workforce, procures goods and services, and leverages the benefits of digitalisation, and who acts across levels of government and between the public and private sector. It concludes that recruiting and developing the necessary skills in the workforce, monitoring performance, as well as encouraging coordination will be key to better improving budget allocations, the regulatory environment, and delivering quality public goods and services.</i></p>
3.	14.30-15.20	<p>Discussion: What the public sector does, how it does it and who delivers good and services</p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elsa Pilichowski (Director of Public Governance, OECD)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcella Panucci (Head of Cabinet of the Minister for Public Administration, Italy) • Claudio Radaelli (Professor of Comparative Public Policy, STG) <p>Interviewer: John Hooper, The Economist</p> <p><i>Building on the OECD assessment, the discussion will focus on: what public goods and services the public sector can effectively deliver by reallocating spending and reforming regulations; how to navigate entrenched interests to allow for agile recruitment of public servants, ongoing training and flexible working arrangements, assessing and rewarding performance, and rules that encourage taking prudent risks and innovating; and who can deliver goods and services across multiple layers of government so as to better adapt public services to differing user needs and conditions.</i></p>
4.	15.20-15.30	Break
5.	15.30-16.30	<p>Policy panel: Public Sector Reform: How to ensure this time is different</p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurence Boone (OECD Chief Economist), • Mario Nava (Director General, Directorate-General “Structural Reform Support”, European Commission) <p>Moderator: Alexander Stubb (Director & Professor, STG, former Prime Minister of Finland)</p> <p><i>Identifying priorities for improving the public sector’s effectiveness is only one step. Successfully implementing reforms and maintaining the reform momentum can be far more challenging. How can we ensure this time is indeed different and that the opportunities created by the COVID-19 crisis and the national recovery and resilience plans lead to sustained gains in the delivery of public goods and services?</i></p>