



OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

Spatial Productivity Lab

Getting to know the Team



THE SPATIAL PRODUCTIVITY LAB

The Spatial Productivity Lab at the OECD Trento Centre, integral part of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), contributes to the broader OECD work on productivity. The work of the Spatial Productivity Lab focuses on mechanisms that support the catching up of regions and cities that are lagging behind the (national or global) productivity frontier. It assesses to what extent national productivity can be raised through national, regional and local policy measures, e.g. through better policies and governance arrangements that leverage agglomeration economies generated by cities beyond the city itself.

More on the Spatial Productivity Lab at <http://oe.cd/spl>

THE OECD TEAM



Nadim Ahmad is Deputy Director at the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), helping to drive momentum in the development of integrated policies that look holistically at people, places and firms, and, in doing so, better policies for better lives, and resilient and sustainable economic growth. In his role, Mr Ahmad provides intellectual leadership and quality control to ensure that the OECD is at the forefront of policy thinking in the domains covered by CFE. Mr Ahmad joined the OECD in 2000. Before joining CFE in 2020, he worked in the OECD's Statistics and Data Directorate, where he led international efforts to better account for globalisation, entrepreneurship and business performance, and, in particular, the role of MNEs and SMEs in global value chains, and the OECD's Directorate for Science Technology and Innovation, where he developed the OECD's first estimates of carbon dioxide emissions embodied in international trade. Prior to joining the OECD, Mr Ahmad worked in the UK's office for National Statistics (1996-2000) and the UK's Ministry of Finance (1993-1996).

✉ Nadim.AHMAD@oecd.org [@OECD_local](https://twitter.com/OECD_local)



Rudiger Ahrend is the Head of the Economic Analysis, Statistics and Multi-level Governance Section in the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions, and Cities. He has been supervising numerous projects on regional and urban development, including thematic research on productivity and growth in cities and regions and reviews of economic trends and policies in major metropolitan agglomerations. Prior to his work on regional and urban policies, he has worked as a Senior Economist in the OECD's Economic Department. He has published widely, both in academic journals and newspapers.

✉ Rudiger.AHREND@oecd.org [@RudigerAhrend](https://twitter.com/RudigerAhrend) [@OECD_local](https://twitter.com/OECD_local)



Alexander C. Lembcke is an Economist and Policy Analyst in the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Regions and Cities. His work considers the economic and social development in regions and cities, the growth of SMEs and the role that public policy can play in supporting them. He has (co-)authored many articles and reports including the recently launched OECD report "Productivity and Jobs in a Globalised World: (How) Can All Regions Benefit?".

✉ Alexander.LEMBCKE@oecd.org [@ACLembcke](https://twitter.com/ACLembcke) [@OECD_local](https://twitter.com/OECD_local)



Carlo Menon is the Lead of the OECD Spatial Productivity Lab and an Economist and Project Coordinator in the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions, and Cities. He brings to the SPL 14 years of experience in leveraging micro-data and experimental data sources to expand the evidence base in the areas of regional and urban economics, business dynamics and productivity, innovation, and policy evaluation. He first joined the OECD in 2011 and also held positions at the Bank of Italy in Rome and at a Laterite, a fast-growing research company based in Kigali, Rwanda. Carlo's research has been published in renowned academic journals, including Economic Policy, Journal of Economic Geography, Industrial and Corporate Change, and World Bank Economic Review.

✉ Carlo.MENON@oecd.org [@carlo_menon](https://twitter.com/carlo_menon) [@OECD_local](https://twitter.com/OECD_local)



Andrew Paterson is a Senior Counsellor providing advice on strategic direction and management across the work of the OECD's Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. He is a professional economist with more than 15 years' experience in policymaking and analysis within the UK Government. He led the UK Business Productivity Review, identified new emerging technological strengths as a focus for the Government's Industrial Strategy, and developed the UK's approach to "levelling up" through local growth. In previous roles he led the UK Government's Housing, Planning and Local Growth analysis, economic and financial reforms in Britain's Overseas Territories from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and neighbourhood renewal and regeneration policy from the UK Treasury. Andrew holds a Masters in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from the University of Oxford.

✉ Andrew.PATERSON@oecd.org [@OECD_local](https://twitter.com/OECD_local)



Alessandra Proto is the Head of the OECD Trento Centre for Local Development, based in Italy, where she has been working since its establishment in 2004. She supervises the OECD Trento Centre activities, including the Spatial Productivity Lab and the capacity building initiatives. Previously, as policy analyst, she managed numerous projects on capacity building and local development, developed thematic research and reviews including on culture, creative industries and local development.

✉ Alessandra.PROTO@oecd.org [@AlessandraProto @OECD_local](https://twitter.com/AlessandraProto)



Wessel Vermeulen is an Economist at the OECD Trento Centre where he conducts research and other activities for the Spatial Productivity Lab. Before joining the OECD, he was a lecturer at Newcastle University and Research fellow at Oxford University. His research spans issues in international trade and regional economics among others, and has published in various leading academic journals.

✉ Wessel.VERMEULEN@oecd.org [@wvnverm @OECD_local](https://twitter.com/wvnverm)