



You are here: [Home](#) ▶ [Speakers](#)

Speakers



Arzeni	Sergio	more	OECD CFE
Barrett	Chris	more	Australian Delegation to the OECD
Cusmano	Lucia	more	OECD CFE SME
Descy	Pascaline		Cedefop
Ekins	Paul		University College of London
Establie d'Argencé	Marie-Pierre		Alliance Villes Emploi, France
Gaušas	Simonas		Public Policy and Management Institute, Lithuania
Geiger	Gerhard		3S Unternehmensberatung GmbH, Austria
Giguere	Sylvain		Head of OECD CFE LEED Division
Hoeckel	Kathrin		OECD EDU
Hofmann	Christine		ILO
Jagger	Nick		Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policies, UK
Leterme	Yves		OECD
Marsden	Joel		GHK, United Kingdom
Martinez-Fernandez	Cristina		OECD CFE LEED
Mueller	Wolfgang		German Federal Employment Agency
Owczarzak	Radoslaw		Eurofound
Pinninti	Rao		Rutgers University, USA
Pinto	Ray		Microsoft Europe, Middle East and Africa (BIAC)
Ranieri	Antonio		Cedefop
Schneider	Roland		TUAC
Schröder	Antonius		Technische Universität Dortmund – Sozialforschungsstelle, Germany
Schwager	Petra		UNIDO and DCED GGWG
Shanghi	Sunita		Planning Commission Government of India, India
Steiner	Regina		FORUM Umweltbildung
Strauss	Robert		European Commission
Swaim	Paul		OECD ELS
Willems	Luc		Benelux Secretariat

[All CVs](#) 

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

(in alphabetical order)



Sergio ARZENI is the Director of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Local Development. The Centre oversees the work of the Local Economic and Employment Development programme (LEED), the Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, the Tourism Committee, and the OECD LEED Trento Centre for Local Development (Italy). Mr. Arzeni has worked at the OECD for over 20 years. Prior to joining the OECD, Mr. Arzeni served as an economist for the Italian Parliament, the Italian Trade Unions and the European Commission. As an economic journalist he has contributed to several Italian and international newspapers. He holds a First Class Honours Degree in Political Science from the University of Rome and specialised in Industrial Economics at the International University Institute of Luxembourg and in International Economic Relations at the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C., USA. He speaks French, Spanish, English, German and Italian.



Chris BARRETT was born in 1969 and holds a Bachelor of Commerce, a Bachelor of Arts with Honours and a Masters in International Relations from the University of Melbourne, as well as a Masters in Public Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

Mr. Barrett began his career with the Boston Consulting Group in Melbourne, where he worked from 1992 to 1996. From 1996 to 2002, he served as a senior adviser to then Opposition Leader the Honourable Kim Beazley MP. Between 2003 and 2007, Mr. Barrett held several positions with the Department of Premier and Cabinet in the State Government of Victoria, culminating as Deputy Secretary and Head of Cabinet Office. In 2007, he was appointed Chief of Staff to the Treasurer of Australia, the Honourable Wayne Swan MP, where he served until 2010.

Before his nomination as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the OECD, Mr. Barrett was Australian Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC.

Ambassador Chris Barrett took up his duties as Permanent Representative of Australia to the OECD on 23 August 2011.



Lucia CUSMANO is Senior Economist at the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) & Local Development (CFE) and Executive Secretary for the OECD Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (WPSMEE). Ms. Cusmano has a PhD in Economics from the University of Pavia (Italy) and has completed a Master of Science in Economics at Warwick University (UK). She has published extensively in international journals on SMEs, entrepreneurship, innovation, structural change, institutions and economic development in advanced and developing regions.

Ms. Cusmano holds the position of Assistant Professor of Political Economy at Insubria University, Varese (Italy) and Research Fellow at KITES (Knowledge, Innovation and Technology Studies), Bocconi University, Milan (Italy).



Pascaline DESCY is Head of Research and Policy Analysis, Cedefop (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training). Ms. Pascaline Descy manages a team of experts working in European VET policy analysis, identifying skill needs in Europe and VET research.

She joined Cedefop in 1997 and worked for several years as an expert in VET research, in particular co-authoring Cedefop's Research Reports, which present comprehensive and critical reviews of VET-relevant socio-economic research and draw implications for policy.

In recent years, she has investigated the economic and social benefits to education, training and skills. Prior to joining Cedefop, Ms Descy was a researcher at the University of Liège in Belgium, where she was involved in comparative education projects. Pascaline Descy holds a Master's degree in education science from the University of Liège, Belgium.



Paul EKINS has a PhD in economics from the University of London and is Professor of Energy and Environment Policy at the UCL Energy Institute, University College London. He is also a Co-Director of the UK Energy Research Centre, in charge of its Energy Systems theme, and also leads UCL's involvement in large research consortia on Bioenergy and Hydrogen. His academic work focuses on the conditions and policies for achieving an environmentally sustainable economy, with a special focus on energy and climate policy, and the modelling of the energy system; on innovation; on the role of economic instruments such as environmental taxes; on sustainability assessment; and on environment and trade.

He has published 12 books and numerous articles and papers on these topics.



Marie-Pierre ESTABLIE D'ARGENCÉ has been the General Delegate of the "Alliance Villes Emploi" since it was founded in 1993. She also was at the origin of the "Employment Centres" concept in France and contributed to their development and spread in 2005 in the frame of the French "Social Cohesion Plan". She also initiated in 2008, together with the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), the project "Employment Houses and Sustainable Development" on 33 territories in order to better think and anticipate climate change mitigation policies effects on employment and skills locally.



Simonas GAUŠAS is Research Manager in Public Policy and Management Institute. He has more than 7 years of work experience in public policy research including research of education (especially vocational education and training, adult learning, education financing issues) and labour market policies (especially issues related to the impact of climate change on employment, sectoral labour market trends and anticipation of skills needs of the economy). Currently he works in Eurofound project 'Growth and employment: Anticipating and managing the effects of greening of industries in the EU' (2011-2012), Cedefop study "Financing training in Europe" (2010 – 2012) and is a

country group expert in the Cedefop project "Forecasting Skill Supply and Demand in Europe" (2009-2012). Simonas holds a MA degree in European Public Administration from Vilnius University.



Gerhard GEIGER holds a Diploma in International Cultural and Business Studies and is currently working on a doctoral thesis with an interdisciplinary governance approach. He is project manager in research and consulting projects in the field of vocational education and training with a focus on upper secondary VET and the tertiary sector. Experience in quality assurance, quantitative and qualitative analyses of labour market needs; assessment of the matching of acquired skills in vocational training with occupational qualification needs in alumni census; support of universities and universities of applied sciences ("Fachhoch-schulen") in developing curricula, which anticipate current and prospective labour market needs.



Sylvain GIGUÈRE is Head of the Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Division since 2008. Based at the OECD Headquarters in Paris, he leads a team of 25 economists, researchers, statisticians and administrative assistants, which includes the OECD LEED Centre for Local Development in Trento, Italy, and shapes the development of the LEED programme of work.

A Canadian national, Sylvain joined the OECD in 1995, first to work in the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (DELSA). In 2002 he was appointed Deputy Head of the LEED Programme, where he developed a policy research agenda to help governments get better results by revamping their governance structures and increasing their ability to coordinate and target policy.



Kathrin HOECKEL is a policy analyst in the OECD's Directorate for Education in Paris/France where she is currently responsible for developing the OECD Skills Strategy.

From 2007 to 2010 she worked on the OECD VET Policy Review. She was responsible for country reviews of Australia, Austria, Germany, the UK (England and Wales) and Switzerland and for analytical work on costs and benefits in VET.

Prior to this activity, Kathrin worked on the issue of school leadership ('Improving School Leadership' OECD, 2008) and took part in writing the final comparative report and disseminating the findings of a thematic review on adult learning ('Promoting Adult Learning' OECD, 2005) at the OECD. Before joining the OECD, she worked in the field of development cooperation, inspecting and evaluating development projects of local NGOs in Morocco (including on special education and vocational education and training) and carried out a research project with field visits on post-war reconstruction and state-building in Lebanon.

Kathrin holds a M.Sc. in history and political science from Munich University (Germany) and a Master's degree in public administration from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Kathrin is of German nationality.



Christine HOFMANN has been working for the ILO Skills and Employability Department since 2006. She co-authored the book *Skills for green jobs. A global view*, arising from a global policy-applied research project covering 21 countries world-wide, in collaboration with Cedefop. She also participated in research on early identification of skill needs for the low-carbon economy, a joint ILO/EC management agreement, resulting in two sector studies and a comparative analysis of methods.

Apart from contributing to the ILO's Green Jobs portfolio, Christine has developed a resource guide on upgrading informal apprenticeship in Africa, delivers trainings and advises technical cooperation projects in countries in Asia and Africa. Before joining the ILO, she worked in political consulting and coordinated development projects for trade unions in Africa and Asia for a German labour foundation promoting social sustainability in national and international fora such as the UN CSD. She holds a degree in International Business and Area Studies.



Nick JAGGER is currently researching the role of low carbon skills in enabling the low carbon transition as part of the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy at the University of Leeds. He has previously researched high and intermediate level skills and international indicators of Human Resources for Science and Technology as well as a wide range of employment and technology policy related topics at the Institute for Employment Studies and the Science Policy Research Unit in Brighton.



Yves LETERME was appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD on 8 December 2011. He is in charge of Social Affairs, Education, Governance and Entrepreneurship.

Before joining the OECD, Yves Leterme held a variety of political posts in Belgium at all levels and in all areas of government. After starting his career as an alderman in his home town of Ypres, he became a Deputy in the Chamber of Representatives, Group Chairman, National Secretary and Chairman of the CD&V party, Minister-President of the Flemish Government, Federal Senator, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Budget and Mobility, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister. Yves Leterme is currently Minister of State and a municipal councillor in Ypres. At a professional level, Yves Leterme has worked, inter alia, as a deputy auditor at the Belgian Court of Audit and an administrator at the European Parliament.

Yves Leterme, who was born on 6 October 1960, has a degree in Law and Political Science from the University of Ghent.



Joel MARSDEN is a Consultant with GHK. Joel is an Economist with 2 years of experience in providing research, analysis and evaluations of public policy across EU, national and regional government in the private and public sector. The primary focus of his work is on the linkages between environment, economic and education policy.

Joel has previously conducted research and policy analysis on green skills demand and the responsiveness of VET provision to match emerging trends, as well as providing advice on the development of the EU emissions trading system. At GHK, he is currently developing a catalogue of jobs and identifying skill needs in relation to EU biodiversity objectives for DG Environment. He is also leading research to establish good practice measures for VET to support sustainable development.



Cristina MARTINEZ FERNANDEZ is a Senior Policy Analyst specialised on Employment and Skills, Green Growth, Demographic Change, and Southeast Asia at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) programme. She works on issues related to the challenges of skills and training systems for SMEs, entrepreneurial and innovation activities; industrial policy, climate change and the transformation of labour markets into the low-carbon economy; the challenges of demographic changes and an ageing society for skills and employment development. Cristina also manages the OECD/LEED Initiative on Employment and Skills

Strategies in Southeast Asia (ESSA). Before joining the OECD she was a Professor at the Urban Research Centre, University of Western Sydney in Australia where she led the Urban and Regional Dynamics programme which analyses industry change, urban performance and socio-economic development within the frameworks of innovation, globalisation and the knowledge economy. Cristina has university degrees on industrial psychology from the University of Salamanca, University Pontificia and UNED (Spain); she holds a Doctorate from Salamanca University and a PhD on Planning and Urban Development from the University of New South Wales (Sydney, Australia). She has published more than 100 works in international scientific journals, books and OECD policy reports. Cristina has Spanish and Australian nationalities.



Wolfgang MUELLER is the Director of the European Representation of the Bundesagentur fuer Arbeit, the German Federal Employment Agency. He is the advisor for European Affairs for the Director General. He was the Chair of the Working Group "New Skills for New Jobs" of the European Heads of Public Employment Services Network dealing also with Green Jobs/ Green Skills, he is representing the Network in the European Qualification Framework Advisory Group, the European Vacancy Monitor Advisory Group and the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network. He will represent the European Heads of Public Employment Services Network in the network of observatories on Skills needs and mismatches of the

European Skills Panorama. He participated in two EU-US-Roundtable on Skills, the EU-China Seminar on Green Jobs and the WAPES-China Seminar on Green Skills. He also participated in the EESC-Study Group on Green Jobs. He gave various presentations on the Green Jobs-/ Green Skills Agenda (e.g. EXPAK-Conference, European Employment Week).



Radosław OWCZARZAK is Research Manager in European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), the European Union Agency based in Dublin, responsible for the Network of European Observatories, future oriented sector studies, research in the links between quality of work and performance, in the future skill needs, projects on undeclared work and on the impact of greening of industries on quantity and quality of jobs. A business economist, with a PhD in strategic management from Poznań University of Economics in Poland, a DESS in Finance and Banking from University Paris 2 and a certified Project Management Professional (PMP). Before joining Eurofound, he worked in academia, strategic consultancy and in the business management. He has been also involved in the NGOs promoting sustainable social development and education.



Rao PINNITI teaches at Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, USA. He has several years of research, teaching, consultancy and management experience in India and in the United States of America. He has been a consultant to several international organizations including the JICA, ILO, UNDP, World Resources Institute, and a few others.

He has published about a dozen books and several research papers, including “The Architecture of Green Economic Policies” (Heidelberg: Springer Verlag, 2010), and “International Trade Policies and Climate Change Governance” (Heidelberg: Springer Verlag, 2012). He served as a member of the National Policy Committee for Energy and Environment for the Obama-Biden campaign, and has also served on several committees and boards over the years, besides as Chairman of a public enterprise. He also initiated and organized a few international conferences including the top-level Indo-French Colloquium on Multi-Level Economic Planning.



Ray PINTO is the Lead on Government Policy for Environment for Microsoft Europe, The Middle East and Africa. Mr. Pinto can share his experiences on how technologies today are enabling solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and providing advanced healthcare solutions. He can share insights in new technologies being developed in its global labs that are being developed to tackle some of the planet’s and society’s biggest challenges.

His environmental work encompasses working with non-governmental organizations such as The Climate Group and government agencies such as the United Nations (UNFCCC, UNEP, UNIDO) and the European Environment Agency in developing best practices and projects that will reduce the forces causing climate change and help societies adapt to their changing environment. Internet and Communication technologies are increasingly being used to understand and compute large amounts of data to tackle the complexity of the planet’s life support system, the interactions of biodiversity and ecology and reach large populations to raise awareness and change behavior. His work brings him into negotiations with governments around the world as they look for credible solutions in tackling issues around energy including increasing renewables, development of smart grids, electric vehicles or smart logistics all of which needs software in its development.



Antonio RANIERI is Project Manager at Cedefop within the Research and Policy Analysis area. An economist by training, Antonio Ranieri has taught regional and urban economics at the University of Roma. As Head of Area at CLES in Rome, an independent centre of studies on labour market and economic development issues, he coordinated research projects in the fields of policy design and evaluation of public investment. At Cedefop, where he has worked since 2010, Ranieri coordinates the project ‘Skill needs in sectors’, and his brief also covers skills forecasting, and labour market imbalances.



Roland SCHNEIDER is currently Senior Policy Advisor at the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. As an international trade union organization with members in all OECD countries, TUAC is the interface for labor unions with the OECD. It has consultative status with the OECD and its various committees. Subsequent to an apprenticeship as a toolmaker, Mr. Schneider completed studies in mechanical engineering as well as in political science and economics.

At the start of his professional career he conducted research focusing on technology assessment at the Economic and Social Research Institute (WSI) of the German federation of trade unions (DGB) in Düsseldorf, Germany.

At TUAC, he is in charge of employment and labor market policy issues as well as on education and training issues. He has published intensively on R&D, innovation, technological change and on technology assessment as well as on labour market and employment policy.



Antonius SCHRÖDER is a senior researcher and member of management board of the Sozialforschungsstelle sfs – Technische Universität Dortmund (Social Research Centre at the University of Technologies Dortmund), responsible for European Research. He has worked in and coordinated several European projects in the fields of vocational education and training, organisational and personnel development (including equality and diversity, multi-cultural aspects), industrial change, industrial relations and social dialogue. He is member of the European Steel Technology Platform ESTEP - Working Group 5 "People".



Petra SCHWAGER works for the Environmental Management Branch of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). In 2004 she initiated UNIDO's Chemical Leasing activities. Since 1995 she has been involved in building-up UNIDO's global Cleaner Production Programme, which currently includes 47 countries. She has managed National Cleaner Production Centres and Programmes in more than 15 countries and developed UNIDO's Regional Cleaner Production Network for Latin America. Fostering Public-Private Partnerships and encouraging innovative approaches to sustainable chemicals management in developing and transition countries are additional fields of her work. She studied Economics at the Vienna University of Business Administration and Social Sciences and Environmental Management at the University of London.



Sunita SHANGHI, an officer of Indian Economic Service, is working at a Senior Management Level as Adviser in the Planning Commission, Government of India. She has more than 25 years of experience in different ministries of the Government of India. At present looking after the work relating to preparation of National Five Year Plans and issues pertaining to Labour, Employment and Manpower. She has been deeply associated with the Coordinated Action on Skill Development and other labour matters. She has done her Masters in Economics from Delhi University, India and Masters in Development Studies from University of East Anglia, United Kingdom.



Regina STEINER studied Biology and Environmental Studies. She holds a doctoral degree and wrote the dissertation on competence oriented education for teachers for Education for Sustainable Development. She is lecturer for higher education with a strong focus on Education for Sustainable Development, Education Science and, Action Research. She has led several projects on Education for Sustainable Development on national and European level. She is leader of the section of FORUM Umweltbildung in Salzburg.



Robert STRAUSS entered the European Commission in 1985. Spent the next 15 years in DG Industry/Enterprise working in the areas of steel, chemicals, cars and trade negotiations. Joined DG Employment in 2001 as head of the Knowledge Society unit. From 2004 until 2010, was Head of Unit for Employment Strategy. Since 1st January 2011, is Head of Unit for Employment Analysis providing analytical input into the employment related aspects of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Current priorities include the appropriate labour market measures for exit from the global crisis and ensuring job-rich recovery and growth and the employment aspects of the move to a low carbon economy.



Paul SWAIM is an Economist at the OECD where he has written extensively for the OECD Employment Outlook. His work has addressed such topics as wage inequality, job training, working time, employment protection legislation, wage-setting institutions, poverty dynamics, labour market effects of globalisation and the implications of the recent economic crisis for labour market and social policy, in addition to green jobs and skills. Before joining the OECD, Paul taught economics at the University of Massachusetts and held several research positions in the US Federal government. Paul has a Ph.D. in economics from MIT.



Luc WILLEMS has been the Deputy Secretary-General of the Benelux Union, an intergovernmental organisation headquartered in Brussels, since 2009. Prior to this he held political mandates on the international, national and local levels. During the period 1995-1999 he was a member of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives and from 2003-2007 a member of the Belgian Senate. As senator he was chairman of the Finance and Economics Committee and deputy chairman of the Justice Committee. Luc Willems graduated with a Master in Law from the Catholic University of Leuven and earned a postgraduate degree in Financial Law at the Catholic University of Brussels. As a lawyer he specialised in economic law.