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## OECD's origins

The forerunner of the OECD was the [Organisation for European Economic Co-operation](#) (OEEC), which was formed to administer American and Canadian aid under the [Marshall Plan](#) for reconstruction of Europe after World War II. Since it took over from the [OEEC](#) in 1961, the OECD vocation has been to build strong economies in its member countries, improve efficiency, hone market systems, expand free trade and contribute to development in industrialised as well as developing countries.

After more than three decades, the OECD is moving beyond a focus on its own countries and is setting its analytical sights on those countries-today nearly the whole world - that embrace the market economy. The Organisation is, for example, putting the benefit of its accumulated experience to the service of emerging market economies, particularly in the countries that are making their transition from centrally-planned to capitalist systems. And it is engaging in increasingly detailed policy dialogue with dynamic economies in Asia and Latin America.

But its scope is changing in other ways too. The matrix is moving from consideration of each policy area within each member country to analysis of how various policy areas interact with each other, across countries and even beyond the OECD area. How social policy affects the way economies operate, for example. Or how globalisation will change the world's economies by opening new perspectives for growth, or perhaps trigger resistance manifested in protectionism.

As it opens to many new contacts around the world, the OECD will broaden its scope, looking ahead to a post-industrial age in which it aims to tightly weave OECD economies into a yet more prosperous and increasingly knowledge-based world economy.

## CONVENTION

Click [here](#) to obtain the Convention of the OECD and Associated Protocols

## THE VENUE **MARSHALL PLAN**



50th Anniversary of the Marshall Plan Speech

## OEEC TO OECD

The conference for European Economic Co-operation and the Committee for European Economic Co-operation :  
**A Short History**

Organisation for European Economic Co-operation,  
 1948 to 1961

## ARCHIVES

OECD Deposits at the Historical Archives of the European Communities, Florence, Italy - [Release Policy](#)

OECD Historical Series: The OECD publishes [historical monographs](#).

**OECD's archives**  
 Access to Descriptions of the Archives

Ageing Society

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Biotechnology

Competition and Regulatory Reform

Competition

Regulatory Reform

Corporate Sector Issues

Economics

Education and Skills

Electronic Commerce

Emerging and Transition economies

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Finance and Investment

Food Safety

Future Studies

Governance

Public Management

Governance in Transition Countries

Growth

Health

Information Society

Insurance and Pensions

**International  
Development**

Development  
Assistance Committee  
Development Centre  
Club du Sahel  
Centre for Co-  
operation with Non-  
Members

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