New societal and environmental challenges

Policy Profiles

Green innovation for a circular economy

Concerns about the environmental unsustainability of past economic growth patterns and increased awareness of the impact of climate change have propelled green growth issues to the forefront of economic and innovation policies. Awareness has moved to policy action as illustrated by the adoption of Paris Agreement on Climate Change and discussions on implementation to ensure the world can achieve the Paris Agreement's long-term aims to limit the extent of climate change to "well below 2°C". Read more... [1]

Innovation for an ageing society

The continuing increase in life expectancy represents a remarkable achievement of humankind, but it raises significant questions about how it will affect countries' economies, and the viability of health and social security systems. Across OECD countries, population ageing is the result of declining fertility rates, reductions in child mortality rates and an increase in longevity, which altogether can lead to significant increases in the share of older people in the total population. Read more... [2]

Innovation for societal challenges

Innovation can make a substantial contribution to dealing with societal challenges such as poverty, ageing, social exclusion and health. Rapid technological change, and in particular the wide application of information and communication technologies (ICTs), can also affect overall well-being, thanks notably to the sharp decline in the cost of ICTs, which are now largely accessible to all categories of the population, including in developing economies. Read more... [3]

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