



Mr. Sergio ARZENI

Former Director

**Centre for Entrepreneurship, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Local Development
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&

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Born in Macerata, Italy, 1950, is a Counselor to the Managing Director of the Italian National Agency for Territorial Cohesion, which is under the Prime Minister's Office, and Italian Delegate to the Steering Committee of the OECD-LEED Centre in Trento-Venice.

For 33 years he worked at the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) in Paris, and until July 2015 he was for over 12 years the Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Local Development (CFE).

The Centre oversees the work of the Programme on Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED), the Trento Centre for Local Development in Italy, the Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship and the Tourism Committee. It is under his leadership that the OECD Scoreboard on SME and Entrepreneurship Finance has been developed as well as the SME Policy Review series and the SME Policy Benchmarking Report.

He was the founder of the OECD Centre for Capacity building in Trento and Venice, of the OECD LEED Partners Club and Forum on Local Partnerships, and the main architect of OECD work on local development, social inclusion, job creation, entrepreneurship, innovation, culture, creative industries and tourism. He inspired and directed most of the OECD publications on these subject matters.

Currently he is also:

- Vice President of both INSME (International Network of SMEs promoted by the OECD and the Italian Ministry of Economic Development) and Friends of Europe, a Brussels based Think-Think chaired by Etienne Davignon;
- Visiting Professor at the Business School of the University of Essex, UK;

- President of the Scientific Committee for Research and Innovation of the Piedmont Region, in Turin;
- Member of the Strategic Committee of the Banque Publique d'Investissement (BPI France) in Paris;
- Member of the Scientific Committee of Formaper, the Milan Chamber of Commerce Special Agency on Skills for Entrepreneurship and Management in SMEs;
- Member of the Advisory Board of SRM, the Research Centre on the Mediterranean of Intesa San Paolo Bank, in Naples.
- Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Emerging Economies (published by Sage Publishing in London, New York and New Delhi);
- Member of the Comité d'Orientation of IREFI, Institut des Relations Économiques France-Italie, Paris-Rome;
- As an economic journalist he contributed to several Italian and international newspapers.

He served as a policy analyst both in the European Commission in Brussels, in the Italian Parliament and the Italian Trade Unions (CISL) national economic research department in Rome, was a member of the Commission for the Mezzogiorno of the National Research Centre (CNR) chaire by Prof. Felice Ippolito and was Co-founder of the Italy-Japan friendship Association, before joining the OECD.

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.