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**Karine Tremblay**, Project Manager

## Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the AHELO Newsletter.

This Newsletter will be published regularly to update readers on the conduct and unfolding of the [OECD Feasibility Study for an Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes](#) (AHELO).

This newsletter will be disseminated widely by e-mail, so please feel free to forward it to interested colleagues.

If you wish to be added in our mailing list, or unsubscribe to this Newsletter, please send a message to [ahelo@oecd.org](mailto:ahelo@oecd.org)

## Introduction: What is AHELO all about?

By Karine Tremblay, Project Manager

Innovation, knowledge and human capital are at the core of our economies and societies' progress and higher education has a key role to play in preparing students - all students - to thrive as workers and as citizens.

Ensuring success for all is a widely shared goal, but making it a concrete reality is a much more challenging task for practitioners. Indeed, mass access yields greater diversity in student backgrounds, needs, and the institutions to serve them. Lifelong learning and internationalization also bring their own challenges.

And yet, little is known of learning outcomes in higher education, making it difficult to identify *what works, for whom, in which contexts?*

The [OECD](#) believes in evidence-based policy and practice: diagnosis as a basis for change and improvement. AHELO is about better understanding teaching and learning in higher education as well as the factors that influence prominently learning outcomes, to help institutions and other stakeholders build on their strengths and identify areas for action.

### OECD Directorate for Education

Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes

2 rue André-Pascal  
75775 Paris Cedex 16  
France

[www.oecd.org/edu/ahelo](http://www.oecd.org/edu/ahelo)

✉: [ahelo@oecd.org](mailto:ahelo@oecd.org)

Tel: +33 1 45 24 92 77

Fax: +33 1 44 30 61 76

## [AHELO Feasibility Study at a Glance](#)

The AHELO feasibility study aims to assess whether it is possible - scientifically and practically - to measure higher education learning outcomes across diverse types of institutions and countries. The focus is on the feasibility of the exercise, not on its results.

The goal is to provide a proof of concept that it is feasible to measure various types of learning outcomes - from generic to discipline-specific - validly and reliably across national and institutional boundaries, while preserving cultural and institutional diversity.

The feasibility study will explore [Generic Skills](#), discipline specific skills in [Economics](#) and [Engineering](#), and methodologies for [Measuring the Value-Added component of learning](#). It will also explore contextual factors to assess their influence on learning outcomes.

This is a global exercise, currently involving 10 countries spread over 4 continents.

## [Call for Tenders](#)

A Call for Tenders for the development and implementation of instruments for the AHELO Feasibility Study has been launched on 25 June 2009.

An information session is organized for interested Bidders on 9 July 2009 in Paris. The deadline for the receipt of Tenders is 5 August 2009, 10:00 a.m. (Paris time).

## [AHELO Fundraising](#)

During the 2009 [OECD forum](#) on "The Crisis and Beyond", panelists agreed that times of crises are the time to invest in the future. Higher education is no exception if it is to pave the way toward an innovation-driven, sustainable and equitable recovery.

The [OECD](#) is confident that higher education will continue to be a priority for grant makers whose mission is to improve the standards and equity of higher education worldwide. We are now raising funds for this multimillion € initiative.

As a reader, you can help by spreading the word and helping us leverage foundations' support.

Download our [Brochure](#) for more details on the AHELO Feasibility Study



## [Upcoming events: AHELO calendar](#)

- 5 Aug:** Deadline for the receipt of Tenders
- 3-4 Sept:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the AHELO Group of National Experts (OECD HQ, Paris, by invitation only)

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More details on the Call for Tenders  
[www.oecd.org/edu/ahelo/callfortenders](http://www.oecd.org/edu/ahelo/callfortenders)

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More information to potential grant-makers  
[www.oecd.org/edu/ahelo/fundraising](http://www.oecd.org/edu/ahelo/fundraising)

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