

The OECD Innovation Strategy: New Policies for a Changing World



Stimulating innovation: people and education

Innovation is a driver of growth and well-being. New technologies, products, services and organizations create jobs and rejuvenate industries. But to reap those gains, policy makers need to understand how the way we innovate is changing. This has implications for human resources and education systems if they are to feed this innovation society. This also presents new opportunities for innovation and improvement in education systems. A major policy research project underway at the OECD, the Innovation Strategy, offers a new approach to support innovation in a networked, global economy.

The changing drivers of innovation

- The 21st century model for innovation is global, mobile and wired.
- New players emerge quickly and collaborate informally via open knowledge networks.
- New types of knowledge management are emerging, together with new business models.
- The Internet enables new models of co-invention in global markets.
- Talent and investments for innovation are highly mobile; competition for both is intense.
- Governments are not only “rule setters”, but are increasingly innovation actors.

The Innovation Strategy

A major policy initiative underway at the OECD, the Innovation Strategy, offers a cross-government approach to drive sustainable growth and improved social welfare. It links recommendations across education, entrepreneurship, research, immigration, tax and trade needed to help countries capture the economic benefits of innovation in a new era. The final report, due in 2010, will offer rigorous data and evidence-based analysis for updating policies across the whole of government.

The human capital pillar of the Innovation Strategy

International events and analytical reports by end of 2010:

- Skills for innovation and their educational implications
- Innovation and improvement in education

Innovation in education

Innovation is not only relevant to the private sector. A good innovation policy in education is critical to improve learning outcomes, equity, cost-efficiency and student satisfaction.

- Could the **traditional instruments of innovation policies** be used more effectively in education and how – for example, promoting public and private investment in R&D, intellectual property rights, competition, etc.?
- Would it be possible to foster the development of a strong **pedagogical industry** that could be compared to the pharmaceutical industry in the health sector?
- How to **manage knowledge** effectively to foster innovation and improvement in education – links between research and practice, incentives for networking and knowledge sharing within schools, etc.
- How to use and coordinate **policy instruments** such as assessment and accountability, teacher professional development, school organisation, parental involvement to promote innovation and improvement.
- What are the appropriate methods of **evaluation** for different types of educational innovation?
- How to **measure** innovation in education.

Education for innovation

The skills needed for innovation go beyond the traditional emphasis on science and engineering. This represents a new challenge for policy makers, educators and industry willing to promote an innovation-friendly environment.

- What are the **critical skills for innovation**?
- What is the **balance** between the different types of skills that are needed, for example **science and engineering, entrepreneurship, vocational skills, social and “soft” skills, critical thinking**?
- How does **education and training** need to evolve to develop the skills needed in the changing innovation landscape? Are some **pedagogies** more suited than others?
- What business and social **organisational models** are the most effective in using and further developing these skills for innovation?
- How can **higher education systems** contribute further to the production of these skills and to innovation?
- What role does the **cross-border mobility** of people and education play in innovation?



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