



OECD/CERI International Conference on

## **“Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Research, Innovation and Policy”**

15-16 May 2008 Paris, France OECD Conference Centre

Learning is central in knowledge-based societies and economies. In many countries there is a push to reflect this by ensuring that reforms of the education system focus more strongly on learning itself rather than simply changing structures and educational organisation. But what does a ‘focus on learning’ mean in concrete terms? Why is it important? And crucially, is the knowledge base on learning strong enough to help policy-makers shape the direction of educational change?

To celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation is hosting a conference to address the state of the art on learning. The CERI approach of combining futures thinking with evidence-informed research and innovation results is an especially useful lens for addressing these issues. This conference will be a forum for the discussion of recent major CERI analyses on Learning Sciences and Brain Research, Alternative Models of Learning, and New Millennium Learners, and will incorporate related OECD analyses on learning and learning environments (PISA and the Programme on Educational Building (PEB)).

Specifically, the Conference will address such questions as:

- Why is it important to focus on learning?
- Who are 21st century learners – are their demands and capacities same as earlier generations?
- What do we know about how people learn, including the functioning of the brain, and how well is this reflected in educational practice?
- What do we know about learning environments and different approaches to learning?
- Are there significant gaps between educational arrangements and what is known about successful learning? How might these be closed?
- What more do we need to understand about the different processes of learning to make it effective in shaping educational reform?

To address these questions and how they relate to the broader context of learning, the conference will include active exchange of all participants in a series of plenary and workshop sessions. A detailed programme, documentation, and practical information will be made available prior to the conference.

Countries have been invited to send representatives covering the following profiles: policy-makers, officials, and those engaged in introducing educational reforms; programme leaders and practitioners involved in innovations and networking in education and learning; as well as researchers and specialists in learning sciences and related fields.

While much of the focus of the background documentation has been on school-age learners, the conference may usefully bring in insights regarding older learners and non-school learning environments; specialists in these fields would also be very welcome.

# Programme

**THURSDAY, 15 MAY 2008**

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**09:30 – 10:45**

PLENARY SESSION – Room 12

## **1. Welcome, Conference Aims, & the Critical Policy Focus on Learning**

This session will set the broader OECD context and introduce the aims of the conference, giving a substantial introduction to why learning has moved to the heart of policy concerns in education. This will include presentations from the Directorate for Education, PISA, and CERI.

*Frances Kelly, Barbara Ischinger, Andreas Schleicher, David Istance*

*10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break*

**11:15-13:00**

PARALLEL SESSIONS

## **2. Learners and Learning: International Evidence**

The conference will break into three ‘mini-conferences’ with the focus on different aspects of new international knowledge on learning and learners. Substantial results, including recent publications, will provide the background to these mini-conferences.

*Session 1: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners—New Demands and Contexts (Room 12)*

*Chair: Gabor Halasz*

*Presentation: (40 min): (CERI New Millennium Learners) Oystein Johannessen, Yngve Wallin, Doug Brown, Georges-Louis Baron, Francesc Pedró*

*Discussion (50 min)*

*Session 2: Learning Science – New Insights (Room 13)*

*Chair: Sylvia Schmelkes*

*Presentation: (40 min): (CERI Innovative Learning Environments) Anne Sliwka, Francisco Benavides, Reijo Laukkanen*

*Discussion (50 min)*

*Session 3: Learning through the focus on Neuroscience and Brain Research (Room 10)*

*Chair: Jarl Bengtsson*

*Presentation: (40 min): (CERI Brain Research and Learning) Hideaki Koizumi, Bruno Della-Chiesa, Koji Miyamoto*

*Discussion (50 min):*

*13:00-14:30 Lunch*

**14:30-16:00**

PARALLEL SESSIONS

### **3. Creating Conditions for Optimising Learning**

The conference will again break into three ‘mini-conferences’ shifting from knowledge about learning and learners to learning environments. It will bring to the fore substantial results, including recent publications. With these six ‘mini conferences’ a substantial basis of analysis will be presented with which to guide subsequent workshops and panels.

*Session 4: Learning Organisation and Environments* (Room 10)

Chair: *Tony Mackay*

Presentation: (40 min.): (Social and Psychological Dimensions of Learning Environments (PISA); Quality Physical Learning Environments (PEB) *John Cresswell, Claire Shewbridge, Hannah von Ahlefeld*

Discussion (50 min.)

*Session 5: The Potential and Practice of Digitally-rich Learning Environments* (Room 12)

Chair: *Oon Ying Chin*

Presentations: (40 min): (CERI analyses on Digital/Open Learning Resources, and E-Learning in Higher Education) *Jan Hylén, Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin, Yves Punie, Francesc Pedró*

Discussion (50 min)

*Session 6: Assessment for Learning* (Room 13)

Chair: *Frances Kelly*

Presentations: (40 min): (CERI Analyses on Formative Assessment and Related Teaching Strategies) *Dylan Wiliam, Anne Sliwka, David Istance*

Discussion (50 min)

*16:00-16:30 Coffee Break*

**16:30-18:00**

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

### **4. The Learning Agenda – Findings and Issues**

The aim of these workshops will be to consolidate the knowledge and issues arising from the different ‘mini-conference’ sessions under the main headings: the *Learning Sciences* (room 13), *Digital Approaches and Resources* (Room 12), and *Learning Environments* (Room 10). They will allow the inter-connections to be drawn between these different themes. Chairs: *Petter Skarheim, Michael Lanners, Anneke Boot*

*Learning Sciences* (room 13) Chair: *Petter Skarheim*, Discussant: *Reijo Laukkanen*

*Digital Approaches and Resources* (Room 12) Chair: *Michel Lanners*, Discussant: *Francesc Pedro*,

*Learning Environments* (Room 10) Chair: *Anneke Boot*, Discussants: *Tony MacKay, Valerie Hannon*,

*18:00-19:30 Cocktail*

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**FRIDAY, 16 MAY 2008**

**09:00-9:45**

PLENARY SESSION – Room 12

### **5. The Learning Agenda and Education**

This session will report back on key points from the preceding workshops *a) Learning Sciences b) Digital Approaches and Resources and c) Learning Environments* in order to get into the challenges for education for Day 2. It will begin to sharpen the focus on the overall conference themes of research, innovation and policy. Chair: *Frances Kelly*, Animator: *Tony MacKay*, Presentations: *Petter Skarheim, Michel Lanners, Anneke Boot, Michael Stevenson*

**9:45-11:00**

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

### **6. Challenges Arising for Education: Research, Innovation and Policy Perspectives**

The workshops will develop the challenges for education of creating 21<sup>st</sup> century learning systems, *How can the research agenda be used for educational change? How to integrate education policy* examining:

**Knowledge Development** (*research*): Chair: *Gabor Halasz* Room 10

**Changes in Learning Environments** (*innovation*) : Chair: *Klaus Luther*

**Creating the Means, Conditions and Incentives for Change** (*policy*): *Sylvia Schmelkes*

*11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break*

**11:30-13:00**

PLENARY SESSION – Room 12

### **7. Panel: Education for Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

The panel will interrogate the main workshop issues and conclusions, and will broaden the discussion with different stakeholders.

Chair: *Frances Kelly*

*Gabor Halasz, Klaus Luther, Sylvia Schmelkes, reporting on Research, Innovation and Policy workshop themes*

*Valerie Hannon on Research, Innovation, and Policy inter-linkages*

*Charles Fadel on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and Partnerships*

## **8. OECD Keynote: Drivers for Reform Strategies - Learning and Innovation**

Presentation by Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of OECD

*13:00-14:30 Lunch*

**14:30 – 16:30**

PLENARY SESSION – Room 12

## **9. The Learning Reform Agenda**

This session will seek to draw together the main themes and conclusions regarding the agenda for educational reform, including the issue of how far current reforms are consistent with the directions identified in the debates. It will ask what might be done in OECD countries to ensure that the reform agenda is strongly defined by the promotion of successful learning and innovation. Chair: *Frances Kelly*, Animator: *Tony MacKay*

## **10. Conference Conclusions and Closing Remarks**

This session will draw the conference to a close both through reiteration of the key lessons learnt and through looking to longer-term themes for CERI work in the future.

*Aart de Geus, Bernard Hugonnier*