

Foreword

*I*n the OECD Directorate for Education, we are very aware of the key role played by knowledge management in a world of information overload and knowledge-based economies. Traditionally, as OECD analyses have shown, education has not been exemplar in its own knowledge management, despite “knowledge” being education’s core business.

We have applied this observation to our own work. We have become aware that despite – or because of – our continued energetic output of publications there was need to create greater transparency about the key messages from our output as a whole. We have identified the need to present these in an accessible way so that they can be used by different audiences – our own national contacts, other sections of governments, experts, media, and the wider public – who do not have the time to tackle the full corpus of international analysis coming out of our Directorate. Few users read OECD reports cover to cover: this report represents a resource in modular format to help readers to dip in and out and take from it those findings of most interest to them.

We have limited the scope of this resource so that it includes only published results and policy orientations, and those applicable to most OECD countries (rather, for example, than single country reviews). The coverage includes some analyses that have depended on other Directorates in OECD with a direct interest in education in cases where these have been published, at least jointly, by the Directorate for Education.

This is a “first” of its kind for the OECD Directorate for Education. We intend to update it at regular intervals but not to publish every year – how frequently it will be published and in what format will depend in part on the reception this initial edition receives. Within the Directorate for Education, this synthesis has been undertaken by the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) and future updating is included in the CERI programme. It was prepared by David Istance, with Delphine Grandrieux who was responsible for copy-editing and Eric Charbonnier and Corinne Heckmann who provided the statistical graphics.

Barbara Ischinger, Director
Directorate for Education