

OECD Global Forum

on Education

Education plays a key role in achieving goals of sustainable economic development. Substantial networks of education officials and experts in both member and non-member economies have been established through various OECD programmes and activities since 1991. Most non-members have embarked on reforms to meet the education for all (EFA) challenge and equity of access to lifelong learning. Several non-member economies have turned to the OECD for policy reviews and recommendations. The OECD Global Forum on Education was created in 2005 to help satisfy this demand in areas of current activities of the OECD Directorate for Education (i.a. tertiary education, special needs and lifelong learning). The second Global Forum on Education will be held in Africa in 2007.



■ Objectives

The OECD Global Forum on Education aims to strengthen and expand OECD networks of education officials and experts to include a wider range of non-member economies. In particular the Forum contributes to:

- Identifying major developments, problems and issues in the moves to adapt education systems to the needs of changing economies and societies;
- Relating these moves to wider trends, such as democratisation, technological change, demographic factors, the progress of science, the globalisation process, etc.
- Considering and further develop an agenda of challenges and tasks on which further collaborative work might be undertaken between countries.

■ Topic of the First Global Forum on Education

2005 "Challenges for Education in a Global Economy", Santiago, Chile, 24-25 October 2005.

■ Participants

Participants include ministers, senior level education officials and experts from OECD and more than 20 non-member economies, intergovernmental organisations, specialised NGOs and civil society organisations.

■ Outcomes & Achievements

- Substantial networks of education officials and experts in OECD Member and non-Member economies;
- More than 40 Monitoring reports & Peer reviews on non-Member economies;
- Analytical use and development of comparable data (i.a. World Education Indicators (WEI), Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA → 2006 edition involves 28 non-Members), etc.);
- Elaboration of special tools to improve outcomes for students with special needs.

■ Involved OECD Bodies

OECD Committee for Education
 CERI Governing Board
 OECD Directorate for Education (EDU)
 ↳ Unit for Co-operation with non-Member economies
 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

www.oecd.org/edu
www.oecd.org/edu/nonmembereducation
www.oecd.org/pisa

■ Key partners – Useful Links

Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)
 Civilian Research Development Fund (CRDF)
 European Training Foundation (ETF)
 South-Eastern Europe Education Co-operation Network (SEEECN)
 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
 World Bank
 Youth Empowerment Partnership Programme (YEPP)

www.adeanet.org
www.crdf.org
www.etf.eu.int
www.see-educoop.net
www.unesco.org
www.worldbank.org
www.yepp-community.org

Activities in 2006

PEER REVIEWS & SPECIAL REPORTS

March 2006	OECD Publication on “Education for at Risk Students and those with Disabilities in South Eastern Europe”
March 2006	Peer review on Education in Mauritius In 2005, the ADEA and the Ministry of Education of Mauritius signed a Framework for Co-operation for a peer review exercise in Mauritius. It aims to develop recommendations for the further improvement of education provision in terms of Mauritian national goals. A site visit of international experts from Benin, Kenya, Nigeria, OECD and UNESCO was carried out in November 2005.
April 2006	Peer review on Education in the Dominican Republic In December 2005, site visits were carried out for a review on education in the Dominican Republic. This review was requested and is financed by the Dominican authorities. The first draft report will be available in April 2006.
Mid-2006	Review of Education in the Northern Caucasus region of Russia In 2006, EDU/NME will undertake a review of education in the Northern Caucasus region in Russia. The OECD team will provide recommendations for vocational educational training reform in the North Caucasus region.
2006-2007	Peer review on the education system in Gabon The Peer review will focus on policy reform and better use of human and financial resources.
2006-2007	Review of Higher Education Policy in Kazakhstan The review, in partnership with the World Bank, will include recommendations on policy reform on access, equity, gender issues and quality.

CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Feb. 2006 - Oct. 2007	Sino-Swiss project on “Policy Dialogue on Financing Higher Education and Sustaining the Quality of Mass Education for Lifelong Learning” As a follow up to recommendations from the two reviews on China which had an important impact on legislation and policy development in the sector, the OECD is aiming to strengthen research capacity on tertiary education finance and quality. The goal of this activity is the establishment of a long-term research collaboration between Chinese, Swiss and other OECD area universities and research institutions on policy issues of mutual interest in the domain of education development and governance. An initial meeting between Swiss and Chinese authorities will take place in Geneva on 2-7 April 2006 and a conference will take place in Beijing in October 2006.
April 2006 - April 2007	Micro-projects on Statistics and Data Gathering As part of the OECD project on “Education development for Disabled and at Risk Students in South Eastern Europe”, education ministries have been invited to participate in activities to address capacity building in the field of statistics and data gathering. Country-specific micro-projects will be implemented in 2006/2007. Results of the micro-projects will be available in 2007.
23-28 May '06	Teacher Training Seminar in Jerusalem/Israel As part of the ongoing project on “Education Development for Disabled and at Risk Students in South Eastern Europe”, the OECD will organise a teacher training seminar in Jerusalem, co-hosted by the Ministry of Education of Israel.
June 2006	Preparation of G8 Meeting in St. Petersburg The OECD Directorate for Education (EDU/NME) has an advisory role in the preparations for the G8 meeting in St. Petersburg. It actively contributes to preliminary meetings on G8 preparation.
October 2006	Human Resource Development in Russia As a follow-up to recommendations from the two reviews of the Russian Federation, the OECD Secretariat initiated an activity on intellectual property rights and research management in Russian universities. In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Civilian Research Development Fund (CRDF) a series of seminars has had an important impact on raising research capacity in the university sector: The next project conference will take place in Russia in October 2006.

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