STRATEGIC EDUCATION GOVERNANCE

PROJECT PLAN

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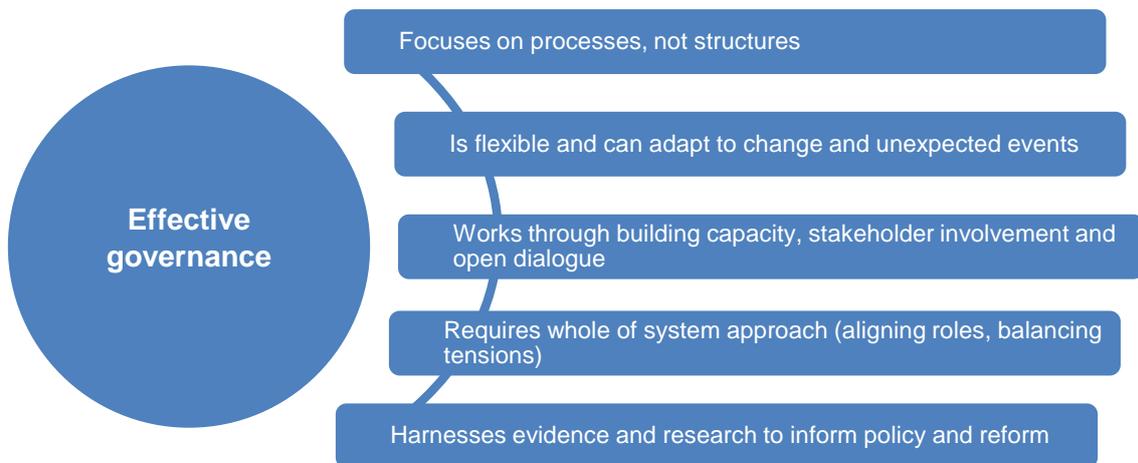
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Today's education systems are characterised by multi-level governance arrangements where the links between multiple actors operating at different levels are to a certain extent fluid and open to negotiation. At the same time, ministries of education remain responsible for ensuring high quality, efficient, equitable and innovative education. One of the crucial questions for OECD countries is, therefore, how to achieve national objectives for education systems under the condition of increasing complexity.

The Strategic Education Governance (SEG) project aims to set the agenda for modern governance: open, adaptable, and flexible governance mechanisms that reinforce trust, confidence, and build legitimacy among stakeholders. It will provide realistic and feasible suggestions for policy reform and strong examples from the field.

The work is founded on the five elements of effective governance proposed in previous OECD/CERI work on Governing Complex Systems. They are:

Effective governance

- Focuses on processes, not structures
- Is flexible and can adapt to change and unexpected events
- Works through building capacity, stakeholder involvement and open dialogue
- Requires whole of system approach (aligning roles, balancing tensions)
- Harnesses evidence and research to inform policy and reform

Source: Burns, T. and L. Cerna (2016), "Enhancing effective education governance", in T. Burns and F. Köster (eds.), Governing Education in a Complex World, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264255364-13-en.

PROJECT GOALS

The **Strategic Education Governance (SEG)** project builds on the previous work of Governing Complex Education Systems (GCES), an OECD CERI project that ran from 2011 to 2016. The GCES project helped better understand and approach governance in education systems characterised by increasing complexity. SEG will contribute to develop smart and strategic state capacity for reform and problem solving as a way of promoting effective, efficient and equitable education.

SEG will focus on two main strands of work:

- *Developing tools that offer concrete practical support to decision-makers.*

- *Continued exploration of cutting-edge themes in education governance*

In order to reach these goals, the SEG project aims to:

i. Develop and pilot governance indicators to support strategic thinking and effective realisation of policies in education systems.

ii. Support the enhancement of education governance through peer learning sessions that bring together experts and decision-makers.

iii. Continue research on cutting-edge themes in education governance through OECD working papers, work with experts and a thematic conference.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

2017

- Indicator Development:

  - Q1/2: Expert meetings on purpose and methodology; design of conceptual framework; mapping of existing work on governance indicators

  - Q3/4: selecting and designing SEG indicators and instrument development for piloting.

- "Strategic Governance Learning Seminars": Peer learning workshops for interested countries (ongoing)

- Analysis of cutting edge challenges: desk-based research and publication of OECD *Working Papers* on specific themes in governance

2018

- Indicator Development:

  - Q1/2: Piloting indicators with a small group of interested countries;

  - Q3/4: validation and taking stock with experts and policy makers; proposal for next steps.

- "Strategic Governance Learning Seminars": Peer learning workshops for interested countries (ongoing)

- Analysis of cutting edge governance challenges: desk-based research and publication of OECD working papers on specific themes

- Thematic Conference