



OECD Higher Education News

February 2014

Please feel free to forward this e-mail to interested colleagues

[Upcoming events; OECD higher education and other activities;](#)
[OECD publications and resources; News from our members](#)

Upcoming events

*Register now for your **FREE** events!*

Registration is now open for the following workshops and webinars for [IMHE members](#). Please circulate this information to colleagues in your organisation, who may also attend. More than one person from each member organisation may attend.



- **Webinar – 4 March 2014**

Educational and organisational innovations in higher education

4pm/16h00, Paris time, 1.5 hours

with [Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin](#)

REGISTER: <http://webnet.oecd.org/Survey/Survey.aspx?s=a6067e0af3044d9a930d7399448f350f>

- **“What Works” conference – quality in teaching – 8-9 April 2014, OECD Headquarters, Paris**
with [Fabrice Hénard, Learning Avenue](#)

Following the 19th IMHE Governing Board meeting on 7 April

REGISTER: <http://webnet.oecd.org/Survey/Survey.aspx?s=1a79e9b1b04041c69e66724541feba07>

Further information

www.oecd.org/edu/imhemeetings

OECD higher education and other activities

Highlights from the workshop on New strategies for the commercialisation of public research

13-14 November 2013

Thirty-four participants from 20 countries attended this workshop to discuss approaches in higher education to commercialising research done within academia. There are already a number of models for bringing basic and applied research from the university to industry; however, the main emerging model is the Technology Transfer Office (TTO). A TTO may be organised within a single institution or act as a hub for multiple institutions or entire regions. Policy Analysts from the OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry presented findings from the recent publication [Commercialising Public Research: New Trends and Strategies](#). Specialists from private business (L'Oreal), government sector and entrepreneurial higher education institutions shared examples of how they bring academic research to businesses and applied practice. The highlights from the presentations are available to IMHE members [here](#).



Webinar on OECD reviews of postsecondary vocational education and training: key findings

28 January 2014

This webinar, the third of the Programme's series of webinars for members, brought together practitioners from higher education institutions and associations, ministries of education and other stakeholders from 14 countries to explore some of the key issues in postsecondary Vocational Education and training (VET) and consider what steps can be taken to enhance quality. Viktoria Kis, Policy Analyst at the OECD, described the [OECD reviews on postsecondary VET](#) and several of the issues identified for analysis in the forthcoming synthesis report, including teacher training and keeping teachers up-to-date with their fields of specialisation, the role and contribution of work-based learning to educational programmes, and the challenge of ensuring that all students achieve sufficient levels of basic skills. The highlights from this event are available to IMHE members [here](#).

Quarterly Briefs on "What it Means for Higher Education" – adding best practices from member institutions

Last November, the OECD consulted the IMHE Governing Board on the strengths and weaknesses of the Membership package products and services in order to improve their value and usefulness to members. With respect to the Quarterly Briefs (the "[What it Means for Higher Education](#)" series), participants suggested that this series would benefit from complementing the policy-oriented content of these Briefs with practical case studies highlighting how member institutions tackle specific issues in practice. Accordingly, we will try out this new approach in our next Brief (to be released in March 2014). This Brief will take a closer look at equity and gender balance issues based on the PISA 2012 results, and examine the implications for higher education.

We will, therefore, shortly call on you to flag any initiative you may have adopted in your institution to:

- provide academic support to under-prepared students;
- attract and retain disadvantaged students and help them reach graduation;
- promote female enrolments in scientific programmes;
- use role models (whether female scientists or resilient disadvantaged students) to foster students' self-confidence;
- foster attitudes that are associated with successful higher education (autonomy, perseverance in problem-solving, self-efficacy, etc.)



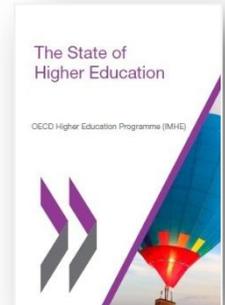
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[FreeDigitalPhotos.net](#)

Higher education: investment or waste?

The OECD Secretary-General, Angel Gurría, participated in an Open Forum on higher education, as part of the World Economic Forum in Davos, where the focus was “Is it time to reconsider whether a college degree is worth the investment?” Mr. Gurría believes that it pays to go for higher education, to go the extra mile. Watch the forum here: www.openforumdavos.ch/en/higher-education-investment-or-waste.html

The State of Higher Education 2014

In 2013, IMHE presented a report on financial and non-financial returns to higher education, links with employment and skills, and the findings of the AHELO feasibility study. This year’s publication will focus on recent innovations in higher education, remaining concerns and obscurity in quality assurance, and other emerging trends. Chapters based on OECD data and analysis will be supplemented by independent essays by top international higher education experts. The 2014 edition of The State of Higher Education will be available in December, exclusively for IMHE members.



Other higher education activities

EAIE Spring Academy 2014

7-11 April 2014, The Hague, The Netherlands

www.eaie.org/home/training/spring-academy-2014

A new series of 11 hands-on courses, as well as networking events.

Early bird deadline: 17 February 2014

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IMHE OECD -Higher Education-



OECD Higher Education Programme – IMHE

Image: <http://icons.yootheme.com>

[Who's Who in the OECD Higher Education Programme](#)

OECD publications and resources

Ageing Societies

Countries across the OECD are in the midst of a rapid demographic transformation. The average life expectancy across OECD countries has risen from 69 years in 1970 to an average of 79.7 years in 2010. In fact, there will be more than twice as many people over the age of 80 in 2050 as there are now. This poses a number of questions for education, such as:

- What role should education play in meeting the learning needs of the older members of the population?
- What formal and informal roles can retired people play in helping to educate the young and securing knowledge transmission between the generations?
- As the education workforce ages in line with the general population, how can we attract and retain sufficient numbers of teachers to the profession?

To read more:

- The Spotlight: <http://www.oecd.org/edu/cei/SpotlightAgeing.pdf>
- Blog: <http://oecdeducationtoday.blogspot.com/2014/01/our-ageing-societies.html>



Keep up with blogs on education at:



Government at a Glance

[On iLibrary](#)

Measuring government performance plays an important role in increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the public administration. This third edition of *Government at a Glance* looks at trust in government and provides readers with key indicators covering: strategic governance; public finance and economics; budgeting practices and procedures; public sector employment and compensation; women in government; public procurement; open and inclusive government; and the accessibility and quality of public services. Individual country fact sheets cover a selection of 22 indicators from the publication. A *Government at a Glance* online statistical database will be developed and updated on an annual basis.



A first edition of *Government at a Glance* in selected Latin American and Caribbean countries is slated for release in 2014 in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank.

How can tertiary education institutions better prepare students for innovation?

Educating Higher Education Students for Innovative Economies: What International Data Tell Us

[A new paper](#) by Francesco Avvisati, Gwenaël Jacotin and Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin explores the characteristics of university programmes undertaken by innovative employees in Europe. The paper shows that:

- The development of skills for innovation, such as creativity or critical thinking, is not among the top strengths of higher education.
- Graduates from all disciplines contribute to the innovation process, and that their likelihood to participate in it is associated with the relative predominance of practical or theoretical forms of instruction, depending on the field of study.

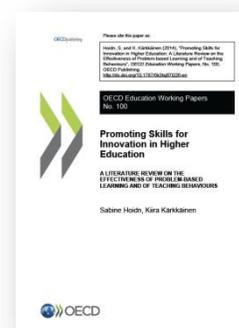
Promoting Skills for Innovation in Higher Education: A Literature Review on the Effectiveness of Problem-based Learning and of Teaching Behaviours

by Sabine Hoidn, Kiira Kärkkäinen

[On iLibrary](#)

Higher education plays an important role in providing people with skills for innovation, but a number of important questions remain as to what kind of higher education teaching can be conducive to the strengthening of skills for innovation. This report aims to shed light on this issue by reviewing the current evidence on the effectiveness of problem-based learning compared with more traditional approaches in higher education teaching. Some of the key findings include:

- Problem-based learning may be more effective than traditional teaching practices for fostering knowledge application and certain behavioural skills but not for test performance.
- A number of trainable teaching attributes such as organisation, expressiveness, enthusiasm and rapport/interaction appear to support the acquisition of certain skills for innovation.



2014 access to OECD online publications

Programme members benefit from free access to OECD publications in the online database [OECD iLibrary](#). Please contact emily.groves@oecd.org for the 2014 login and password. **Please note:** this access is for personal use only by your organisations' main contacts.

Other publications

Towards a Mobility Scoreboard: Conditions for Learning Abroad in Europe

Eurydice has published a first ever report outlining and “scoring” existing EU Member State policies to help and encourage higher education students to spend part of their studies or training abroad. The report [Towards a Mobility Scoreboard: Conditions for Learning Abroad in Europe](#) defines indicators which reflect the objectives of an EU Council Recommendation on promoting the learning mobility of young people, adopted in 2011.

The Scoreboard indicators focus on five areas: information and guidance; foreign language preparation; portability of public grants and loans; recognition of learning outcomes and mobility support to students from a low socio-economic background. Each area is covered in the same way, with maps presenting the most important factors or variables and a set of scoreboard indicators combining the different variables in pre-defined categories.

The Scoreboard covers all 28 EU Member States, as well as Iceland, Turkey, Liechtenstein and Norway.

More information

Full publication: [Towards a Mobility Scoreboard: Conditions for Learning Abroad in Europe](#)

News from our members

Call for papers: “MOOCs: Game Changer or Passing Fad?”

A [call for papers](#) is now open for the next special section of the *Universities and Knowledge Society Journal (RUSC)*, an open-access e-journal jointly published by the [Universitat Oberta de Catalunya](#) (Open University of Catalonia, UOC, Spain) and the University of New England (UNE, Australia). Details can be found here: <http://www.uoc.edu/portal/ca/index.html>

Submission deadline: 30 June 2014

Welcome to the OECD Higher Education Programme!

We welcome the following new members:

- [University of Newcastle](#) – Australia
- [Tampere University of Applied Sciences](#) – Finland
- [Lebanese American University](#) – Lebanon
- [International Institute of Public Administration and Management of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration](#) – Russia



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Who are your fellow members?

Find them at www.oecd.org/edu/imhe/members

Share your news!

Is there information about your higher education activities (e.g. conferences, publications) that you wish to **share with other members**? Let us know and we can add it to OECD Higher Education News.

Keep in touch with your Programme. This e-newsletter aims to keep you informed about the activities, publications, conferences and other events linked to our member institutions and the higher education world. And if you want even more information, you'll find it on our [website](#) or by contacting IMHE@oecd.org.



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