Policy advice and implementation

One of the main functions of the OECD is to provide countries with timely and tailored policy advice. Increasingly the OECD is also collaborating with countries in the design and implementation of reforms and policies.

Building on countries’ participation in OECD surveys and work on education indicators, as well as thematic policy reviews and research projects, the Directorate for Education and Skills supports countries and subnational entities in policy design and implementation. Countries benefit from sector-wide reviews or reviews on topics not covered by on-going thematic projects.

The OECD provides support in two main ways:
1. Education policy review
2. Policy dialogue and implementation support

Examples of recent work

EDUCATION POLICY REVIEW

The Norway review analysed lower secondary education and helped develop action plans with education stakeholders.

The Puebla (Mexico) review provided policy advice from state level perspectives and is currently supporting the reform implementation in some priority policy areas.

The Czech Republic benefited from a spotlight report on equity and quality in education, which fed into the Equity and Quality in Education publication, which was part of the national seminar on this topic.

POLICY DIALOGUE AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Iceland benefited from a workshop, including policy recommendations to prevent dropout in upper secondary schools.

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Policy Advice and Implementation
OECD Directorate of Education and Skills
www.oecd.org/edu/policyadvice.htm
Two types of tailored policy advice and implementation support:

1. EDUCATION POLICY REVIEW

Education Policy Reviews cover a wide range of topics and sub-sectors, from early childhood education and care to higher education. They are conducted in both OECD and non-member countries. For reviews in non-member countries we often work in partnership with international organisations such as the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and UNESCO.

APPROACH

Education Policy Reviews are based on an in-depth analysis of a country’s strengths and weaknesses, using various sources of available data such as OECD Programme for International Student Assessment, Teaching and Learning International Survey and The Survey of Adult Skills, national statistics, research on relevant policies and intensive discussions with stakeholders. They draw on policy experience from benchmarking countries and include expert analysis of the key aspects of education policy and practice being investigated.

The reviews are conducted by a team of OECD analysts and international experts. This mixture of knowledge, skills and experience in the review team has proven invaluable for gaining an in-depth understanding of the specific country context, while benefitting from an ever-expanding knowledge base of best practices and international research evidence, and for the tailoring of concrete policy recommendations.

2. POLICY DIALOGUE AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

The OECD provides support to countries to inform policy making and implementation, building on evidence from reform experiences of other countries.

Support ranges from ad-hoc expert input to events that enable policy dialogue to technical support and advice during the process of reform implementation.

Examples of support include:

- **Policy seminars** to mobilise stakeholders and launch debates on policy reform or implementation, with support from the OECD in the design, technical aspects and mobilisation of international speakers.
- **Peer-learning events** to exchange with other countries and learn from common challenges and best practices.
- **Education strategies or action plans**. The OECD can provide technical support to draw up a strategy paper and action plan with a country’s stakeholders to act as a tool for the reform implementation.

**COST**

Typical costs of an Education Policy Review range from EUR 150 000 to EUR 250 000, depending on the scope of the project.

**FOCUSED ADVICE**

In response to countries’ needs for a more rapid and focused advice Education Policy Review can also provide a short assessment report which:

- Summarises the performance of the specific area of an education system.
- Provides expert views on reform priority areas by building on data and thematic policy knowledge generated by the OECD.
- The cost and timeframe of such an option depends on the scope of the project.