Effective Learning Environments
OECD NEWS ON EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
FEBRUARY 2019

This e-newsletter aims to keep you informed about the activities, publications, research and events linked to Effective Learning Environments and the GNEELE. Further information can be found on our website.

The focus of the GNEELE meeting revolved around the OECD School User Survey, its potential implementation in various countries, as well as the development of an Analytical Framework for the collection of case studies. Additionally the GNEELE discussed the outputs of the Effective Learning Environments project in the biennium 2019-2020, which are related to:

- The OECD School User Survey;
- The case studies on the transformation of learning environments; and
Do you have a case to present?
Call for case studies to be published soon!

_CALL FOR CASE STUDIES & ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK:_ The OECD Secretariat will publish a call for case studies in **April 2019**, after finalising the Analytical Framework for Case Studies Collection. This framework will guide the collection and curation of a set of case studies designed to explore how schools around the world are transforming from traditional teaching-led learning environments supported by conventional school building design to innovative pedagogical approaches supported by responsive spatial environments.

Government officials, architects, school principals will be contacted to provide data for the case studies. The case studies will be published on a rolling base on the webpage and as a report at the end of 2020. More information will be available on the next newsletter.
**GNEELE MEETING:** The next meeting of the Group of National Experts on Effective Learning Environments will take place in Tokyo on 19-20 November 2018. The meeting will be attended by the official representatives of the OECD member countries and observers. For information about the meeting, please contact the OECD Secretariat [email to EffectiveLearningEnvironments@OECD.org].

**EDPC MEETING:** The 25th session of the Education Policy Committee [EDPC] meeting will take place in Paris on 11-12 April 2019.
News from OECD: publications

**TRENDS SHAPING EDUCATION 2019**

Trends Shaping Education 2019 examines major economic, political, social and technological trends affecting education including topics related to globalisation, democracy, security, ageing and modern cultures. This 2019 edition also includes a new section on future’s thinking inspired by foresight methodologies.

Read the blog titled “The future of education is now”

Read and Share

Buy the Book
MEASURING INNOVATION IN EDUCATION 2019: What Has Changed in the Classroom?

Measuring innovation in education and understanding how it works is essential to improve the quality of the education sector. This new edition examines what has (or has not) changed for students over the past decade in OECD education systems. It reviews no fewer than 150 educational practices.

Read and Share

Download (for institutions with a subscription to OECD iLibrary)
RESPONSIVE SCHOOL SYSTEMS: Connecting Facilities, Sectors and Programmes for Student Success

This comparative report brings together findings from the OECD’s School Resources Review and includes a systematic analysis of the governance of school networks, their adaption to demographic changes and student needs in urban, rural and remote areas.

Read and Share
Download (for institutions with a subscription to OECD iLibrary)
Buy the Book
TEACHING FOR THE FUTURE: Effective Classroom Practices to Transform Education

Teachers are the most important school-related factor influencing student learning. Teachers can help level the playing field and provide opportunities for success to all their students. They can inspire students to innovate; to think and reflect and to work in collaboration with others.

Read and Share
Download (for institutions with a subscription to OECD iLibrary)
MEASURING DISTANCE TO THE SDG TARGETS

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by world leaders at the United Nations in 2015, sets out an ambitious plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, with the overarching objective of leaving no one behind. This Study of the distances from the SDGs of selected OECD countries is designed to help governments as they consider developing national action plans.

Read and Share

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OECD Council Recommendations

_EARTHQUAKE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS_

_HIGHER EDUCATION_
In 2005, the OECD Council approved the Recommendation of the Council concerning Guidelines for Quality Provision in Cross-Border Higher Education [link].

_PUBLIC INVESTMENT_
In 2014, the OECD Council approved the Recommendation of the Council on Effective Public Investment Across Levels of Government [link].

_COMPENDIUM OF OECD LEGAL INSTRUMENTS_
For all OECD recommendations and legal instruments please refer to the Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments [link].
The National Institute for Educational Policy Research [NIER] hosted the International Symposium on Educational Reform 2018 "Schools as Creative Physical Work Environment for Teachers - Case Studies of Singapore and Japan" [Tokyo, 30 January 2019]. The symposium attracted 220 participants, including school officials and researchers. The OECD School User Survey was also presented during the symposium.
WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2018: Learning to Realize Education’s Promise

The World Development Report 2018 (WDR 2018) - Learning to Realize Education’s Promise, published by the World Bank, is the first WDR devoted entirely to education. The 2018 WDR explores four main themes: 1) education’s promise; 2) the need to shine a light on learning; 3) how to make schools work for learners; and 4) how to make systems work for learning.

Read and download the Report
SCHOOL DESIGN AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS IN THE CITY OF ESPOO, FINLAND

Thematic review published on 13 December 2018. Main findings and recommendations resulting from a review of education infrastructure investments in the city of Espoo, Finland, carried out by the Council of Europe Development Bank’s [CEB] Technical Assessment & Monitoring Directorate.

Download the thematic review
AN ARCHITECTURE GUIDE TO THE UN 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Institute of Architecture and Technology at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation, the Danish Association of Architects and the UIA Commission on the UN Sustainable Development Goals have created this architecture guide to the Goals. This guide book looks into how the built environment interacts with the goals and expects to inspire architects and stakeholders involved in the built environment to engage with the challenges.

Download the guide
One of European Schoolnet’s key aims is to broker educational research findings and other evidence to key stakeholders: ministries of education, schools, teachers, and industry partners. The European Schoolnet publishes two issues of the Perspectives series annually that aim to:

- Summarise research evidence from key studies on innovation in education
- Translate this evidence into concrete ideas for policy action
- Conclude with the implications of the evidence for using technology in teaching and learning

Download the December 2018 issue; see all issues here.
TRANSITIONS 19: The University of Melbourne will host the “TRANSITIONS 19” conference on 2-4 October in Melbourne, focusing on the interconnections between learning spaces, teaching practice and student learning. For more information click [here](#).

LEARNINGSCAPES 2019: The Association for Learning Environments [A4LE] will host the “LEARNINGSCAPES 2019” conference on 4-6 October in Anaheim, California, to discover how ‘Co-Creation’ runs through the planning, design, construction, teaching pedagogies and operations of our learning environments across the world. For more information click [here](#).
DOES YOUR SCHOOL WORK FOR YOU?
Read the post on Alastair Blyth’s blog about how the OECD survey was developed; the blogpost also describes the potential implementations of the survey.

GLOBAL SCHOOL USER SURVEY HAS ACOUSTIC QUESTIONS!
Read the Acoustics Bulletin article about how the OECD School User Survey is designed to support the improvement of learning spaces by empowering school users. The article also focuses on the 5 acoustic related questions, that are included in the survey.
_BBC: 10 GLOBAL MEGATRENDS FACING EDUCATION_

Read the BBC news [article](#) by Andreas Schleicher, OECD Director for Education and Skills. In this article Schleicher sets out the biggest social, economic, political and technological questions being asked of schools around the world and presents the big international trends coming over the horizon that are going to affect education systems around the world.

- “World Class - How to build a 21st century school system” is the latest [book](#) by Andreas Schleicher.
2019: THE YEAR OF NEW CHRISTCHURCH SCHOOLS OPENING

Read the Stuff.co.nz story about the progress of the Canterbury Schools Rebuild programme in New Zealand. Two new Christchurch schools have welcomed their first pupils, marking the start of several major school rebuilds coming to fruition in 2019. The Ministry of Education is also fast-tracking the redevelopment of 14 schools in its $1.13 billion Christchurch Schools Rebuild programme to bring the 10 year project's end date forward to 2021. The 6.3 earthquake in Christchurch occurred on 22 February 2011, killing 185 people and injuring several thousand.
INNOVATIVE LEARNING SPACES IN ITALY

Internationally there is a growing interest in how learning spaces can best support students in developing the skills and knowledge they need for the future. Read this post on University of Melbourne iletc* blog that provides insights into the research being conducted in Italy.

*ieltc = Innovative Learning Environments and Teacher Change
_IN CRETE AND RHODES, STUDENTS LEARN ABCs THANKS TO PPPs: Read this post on European Investment Bank’s blog about the new schools to be developed under PPPs in Greece, in the islands of Crete and Rhodes.

_QATAR BANKING SECTOR OPTIMISTIC ABOUT NEW PPP MODEL FOR SCHOOLS:_ Read the Gulf Times article about the new public private partnership (PPP) model in the schooling sector. The PPP, the first of its kind in the social infrastructure of the country, will deliver 45 public schools at an estimated capital expenditure of more than QR4bn in the next five years.
COLOURFUL BOOTHs ENLIVEN TEL AVIV SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN OF REFUGEES

Read the dezeen [article](#) about the house-shaped reading nook and the colourful paintwork that are among the playful features in this school for the children of refugees living in Tel Aviv.

The Hayarden school is designed for children aged five to 16, who predominantly live in Tel Aviv's Hatikva Quarter – a working-class neighbourhood where there has been a surge in African asylum-seekers finding refuge.
EUROPEAN SCHOOL COPENHAGEN CLAD WITH RED BRICKS REFLECTS ITS HISTORICAL CONTEXT: Read the designboom article about the European School Copenhagen: a new international school that promotes modern learning landscapes whilst merging education and city together through open public spaces.

NOVA RUDA KINDERGARTEN IS ENCASED IN TWO LAYERS OF TRANSLUCENT FIBERGLASS: Read the dezeen article about how the architect has wrapped a double-skinned translucent façade of fiberglass around the Nová Ruda kindergarten in the Czech Republic. The studio designed the educational facility for the town of Liberec with the aim of balancing plentiful outdoor space with the need for security and privacy.
THE SCHOOL USING GIANT BOOK MURALS TO ENCOURAGE READING: Read the BBC news article about an Illinois school's attempt to encourage students to read by installing six floor-to-ceiling book covers lining the corridor of the school's English department. The vinyl prints, which wrap around sections of wall like the jackets of giant books, flank the doorways of three of the school's English classrooms.

THE CHILD-SCALED AND MULTI-SENSORY DESIGN OF A MONTESSORI KINDERGARTEN IN CHINA: Read the Domus article about turning an old building in Shenzhen, China, into a kindergarten. Faced with intense expansion, the IBOBI international learning centre has entrusted VMDPE Design with a Montessori-inspired international kindergarten for 0-6 years old children.
THIS SCHOOL IN PERTHES-EN-GATINAIS COMPRISSES MULTIPLE GABLED WOODEN VOLUMES: Read the designboom article about ‘school la rouche’, located in a green pedestrian area, in the heart of the historic town of Perthes-en-Gâtinais, France. The project is built in both wood framing and cladding, while its linear layout creates a spacious area that encourages the ongoing pedestrian nature of the school.

OLIVIER VADROT DESIGNS SCULPTURAL OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN: Read the dezeen article about an open-air playground made of geometric structures that encourage children to socialise, in the north-eastern suburbs of Paris. Called Conversations, the project aims to offer a special space for children to exchange ideas, tell stories and play.
_TOMOYUKI KUROKAWA TOPS PINK NURSERY SCHOOL WITH A CURVED ROOF:_ Read the designboom article about the Komaoka nursery school, in Yokohama. The school stands out from its densely populated surroundings with its salmon pink exterior, wooden frame, and curved roof formed by bent beams of laminated wood.

_Native Narrative Constructs Children’s Learning Centre in Philippines:_ Read the designboom article about the children’s learning centre in the Filipino village of Mas-in. The architects worked closely with local NGOs and the local government in the development of prototypes that were operationally undemanding, could be fabricated with locally sourced materials, and could be easily assembled with the help of relatively unskilled workers.
**DOs AND DON’Ts OF CLASSROOM DECORATIONS:** Read the Edutopia article about how the classroom decoration can affect students’ ability to learn. Heavily decorated classrooms can bombard students with too much visual information, interfering with their memory and ability to focus, a new study finds. This study examines the relationship between classroom environment and students’ executive functions.

**EDUCATION INTERIORS:** Read the School Planning & Management article about the interiors of three high schools, all designed or redesigned within the past few years, offer examples of responses to specific needs and goals.
CLEVER SCHOOL DESK BY NOS IS LIGHTWEIGHT AND STACKABLE: Read the designboom article about redesigning the traditional school desk for rural schools in Mexico. Aiming to create a product that would be affordable, resistant to extreme weather conditions and easy to use, the designers developed ‘clever’, a lightweight stackable desk with a seat.
**INNOVATIVE LEARNING SPACES: CATALYSTS/AGENTS FOR CHANGE, OR ‘JUST ANOTHER FAD’?** Read this post on iletc* blog about the new book School Space and its Occupation. In this book, Wesley Imms considers how historical developments in school design and teaching, as well as emerging research can inform the current debate on what types of learning spaces are needed in our schools.

**CURATED LEARNING – CASE STUDIES FROM MUSEUM LEARNING SPACES:** Read the guest post on iletc* blog about what museum educators use when teaching during incursions in schools and the types of spaces inside schools they use as their learning environment.

*ieltc = Innovative Learning Environments and Teacher Change*
_RIBA: CHILDREN VILLAGE WINS THE RIBA INTERNATIONAL PRIZE 2018:_ Read the RIBA website article about Children Village, a new school complex on the edge of the rainforest in northern Brazil, that has won the RIBA International Prize 2018.

_BRINGING 20TH CENTURY EDUCATION INTO THE 21ST CENTURY:_ Read the School Planning & Management article about how one of the fundamental challenges in education is trying to fit 21st century learning environments into 20th century buildings.

_TEACH... THE CHANGE IS JUST BEGINNING:_ Read the World Bank blog post about Teach, a new classroom observation tool, as part of the launch of the Global Platform for Successful Teachers event. Teach was unveiled by the World Bank on January 31, 2019.
Effective Learning Environments online

EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS WEBSITE:
www.oecd.org/education/effective-learning-environments/

- click here
- click here
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Useful documents

Click here to read the OECD SCHOOL USER SURVEY: Improving Learning Spaces Together
Click here to view the infographic
Click here to read the blogpost of Andreas Schleicher
Click here to watch the launch event on 15 June 2018
Click here to read the LEEP FIELD TRIAL REPORT
Click here to read the LEEP INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT REPORT
Click here to read the LEEP FRAMEWORK
Click here for the publication PROTECTING STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS FROM EARTHQUAKES: The seven OECD principles for school seismic safety
How to use the OECD School User Survey

The OECD School User Survey is available online in English, French and Spanish in a PDF format for free and may be used by any interested actor. When using the Survey, the OECD recommends that:

- **Full recognition** be given to the OECD as the original author of the Survey, if applied independently.

The Survey must be administered in its current format and layout. The OECD School User Survey has been designed as an **integrated tool** to collect information from all three user groups (students, teachers and school leaders). Therefore all three questionnaires should be used together, and with all of the questions rather than a selection. Please inform us if you do not intend to use the full Survey or would like to include additional questions.
The OECD be informed when the Survey has been completed and results collected. In the next 12 months, we are looking to compile a selection of case studies from those who have used the Survey in order to highlight the effectiveness of the tool for schools.

Requests for the right to translate the Survey into other languages be sent to the OECD publications team rights@oecd.org who will provide a free license to translate the Survey, and will request an electronic version of the translation. Please keep our team on copy as well EffectiveLearningEnvironments@oecd.org
OECD School User Survey: Partnership opportunities

How can you get involved? **The OECD is looking for partners!**

- **Take the test!**
- **Support efforts to translate the Survey into your national language.**
- Actively help with dissemination and awareness-raising among relevant audiences (e.g. countries, school principals, teacher unions, local government authorities, universities).
- **Provide feedback for the continuous improvement of the OECD School User Survey questionnaires.**

Send your email to [EffectiveLearningEnvironments@OECD.org](mailto:EffectiveLearningEnvironments@OECD.org)
OECD EDUCATION AND SKILLS NEWSLETTER: Read previous issues online [November and December 2018, January 2019] that deliver the key education findings and policy directions emerging from recent OECD analysis in a single accessible free source.

ACCESS TO OECD ONLINE PUBLICATIONS: GNEELE member countries benefit from free access to OECD publications in the online OECD database iLibrary [http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/].

GET FREE EDUCATION REPORTS AND STATISTICS:
- www.oecd.org/edu/workingpapers for a series of education working papers
- gpseducation.oecd.org for more data on education and skills
- www.oecd.org/education for a selection of free downloadable OECD reports and data
Support the project!

**GROW THE NETWORK!** Please feel free to forward this e-mail and e-newsletter to interested colleagues.

**CONTRIBUTE:** You are invited to suggest content for the e-newsletter to [EffectiveLearningEnvironments@OECD.org](mailto:EffectiveLearningEnvironments@OECD.org)
Stay in touch!

_EMAIL: Send your email to EffectiveLearningEnvironments@OECD.org

_WRITE TO US: Directorate for Education and Skills - OECD
2, rue André Pascal - 75775 Paris Cedex 16 – FRANCE

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