

This newsletter is aimed at Regional Co-ordinators, experts and others interested in the OECD work on higher education in regions. The main purpose is to keep you informed about progress made in the reviews of higher education in regional and city development. You are welcome to contribute to the contents for example, by informing us about related events and meetings; email: HEregions@oecd.org

The State of Sonora joins the reviews!

Fifteen regions and city-regions are participating in the second round of OECD Reviews of Higher Education in Regional Development in 2009-2010.

In the place of the Metropolitan Region of Campinas, that has decided not to go ahead with the review, we now have the State of Sonora in Mexico. The key partners in Sonora include the State Ministry of Education and Culture (SEC); HEIs headed by *Instituto Tecnológico de Sonora* (ITSON) and the State Commission for Higher Education Planning (COEPES).

Region

Australia: State of Victoria
Brazil: State of Parana
Chile: Bío Bío Region
Germany: City of Berlin
Israel: the Galilee

Italy: Region of Lombardy

Mexico: State of Sonora
Mexico: State of Veracruz
Malaysia: Penang
Netherlands: City-Region of Amsterdam
Netherlands: City-Region of Rotterdam
Spain: Autonomous Region of Andalusia
Spain: Autonomous Region of Catalonia
US-Mexico: Paso del Norte Region

United States: Southern Arizona

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Third round of reviews now launched - rolling programme

More regions are invited to sign up for the Rolling Programme of Reviews in Higher Education in Regional and City Development. The reviews in this category have the same overall goals, methodology and funding implications as the reviews in the second round (2008-2010). The key difference is the timing: the first OECD-led review visits will be scheduled for 2011-2012.

The cities and regions that sign up now can begin their self-evaluation process and benefit from the knowledge sharing and benchmarking with regions in the second round of reviews. The rolling programme is open mainly to cities and regions that have IMHE member institutions.

Read more about the [Rolling Programme](#) and [how to join IMHE](#).

Our website has been updated

Our dedicated website has been revamped. It has now more information and allows for easier navigation. New features include a section to explore the past and current participating regions using Google Maps™ mapping service. Twelve out of the fifteen regions are featured through their own region-specific webpages. *Regional co-ordinators are invited to help us kept the region-specific webpages up-to-date.* [Visit our new website.](#)

Interactive web 2.0 Community will be launched soon

This interactive web 2.0 community, using Clearspace platform, will go live soon and will facilitate knowledge exchange, shared learning and reaching out within and between the regions and their HEIs. It allows members of the community to:

- Participate in discussions to share experience, knowledge and good practice examples on the role of higher education in regional and city development and, more specifically, on the organisation of the review process in the cities and regions (self-evaluation process, the OECD-led review visits, the dissemination meetings etc.)
- Submit and follow brief blog entries / articles (300 – 400 words) linked to the theme of higher education in regional and city development
- Receive documents from the OECD about the review process and related OECD work and consult these at all times.

To take full advantage of knowledge sharing we would like to include in this community the members of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) as well as other key partners that are collaborating in the reviews. *Regional co-ordinators are requested to send the list of the RSC members with their full contact details as soon as possible to the OECD HE & Regions Team.*

RSC members, Regional co-ordinators and experts will receive an invitation to access our web 2.0 community by May 20.

For more information, please contact **Ernesto FLORES** (ernesto.flores[at]oecd.org; tel +33 1 45 24 87 73) who is in charge of the conceptual development of this community.

OECD pre-visits and review visits

The forthcoming summer and autumn months will be full of activity both in the regions and among the HE & Regions Team. The first review visit will take place in the **Bío Bío Region** in Chile in August. The review will be carried out by a joint **OECD/World Bank Team** and co-ordinated by **Ernesto FLORES** (OECD/IMHE) and **Philip WADE**, an expert in regional development, who has recently retired from the OECD Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate. Timetable and experts for each review are now available [online](#).

Guidelines for regions on how to organise OECD review visits will be available on the [web 2.0 community](#).

Region	Review visit date	Region	Review visit date
Bio Bio, Chile	16-22 Aug 2009	Paraná, Brazil	6-12 Dec 2009
Berlin, Germany	13-18 Sep 2009	Andalusia, Spain	24-31 Jan 2010
Amsterdam, Netherlands	13-18 Sep 2009	Penang, Malaysia	Mar/Apr 2010
Southern Arizona, US	4-10 Oct 2009	Sonora, Mexico	Mar/Apr-2010
Veracruz, Mexico	11-17 Oct 2009	Catalonia, Spain	TBD
Paso del Norte, US-Mexico	25-31 Oct 2009	Lombardy, Italy	TBD
Rotterdam, Netherlands	8-13 Nov 2009	Victoria, Australia	TBD
Galilee, Israel	21-27 Nov 2009		

Swine flu

At the moment, we are not considering changes to the review timetable but we will keep a close eye on developments.

Nearly 50 experts will take part in the OECD review visits

A pool of international experts with different backgrounds and expertise areas has been created for the purposes of the OECD reviews. The HE & Regions Team is now in the process of allocating experts to the individual reviews. Seven review teams out of the 15 are now fully populated. [Read more](#).

Experts are required to have understanding of higher education and/or local and regional development from the perspective of knowledge transfer, innovation and human capital development. They have ability to work under pressure in a multicultural environment and respect for deadlines. They also have experience in or familiarity with the OECD or with other reviews, policy analysis and design, and research and/or evaluation in a relevant field. In addition to the expertise and skills of the team members, the review teams will be balanced, as much as possible, in terms of the national background of the experts as well as their gender, and are geared to the particular concerns of the city or region under review. Contracts are now being prepared for each expert specifying their particular tasks and timelines for his/her contribution.

The HE & Regions Team is also forging partnerships with other OECD Programmes and Directorates as well as international organisations and foundations. The reviews in the Bío Bío Region, State of Parana and the State of Veracruz will be conducted by a joint OECD-World Bank team. Inter-American Development Bank will take part in the review of Veracruz. Lumina Foundation will be participating in the reviews of the Bío Bío Region, the Galilee and the State of Veracruz with one more to be confirmed.

Guidelines for experts on preparing the review reports will be available on web 2.0 community. They describe the structure and contents of the review report as well as the tasks of the experts and the timeline for publishing the report.

Events linked to the reviews

25 March 2009 – The first ad hoc meeting for the reviews of Amsterdam and Rotterdam City-Regions, OECD, Paris

The meeting was organised to explore common areas for the reviews of the two Dutch city-regions, to discuss the review process and to agree dates for the OECD visits. **Monique DE KNEGT** and **Gerlof RIENSTRA** from Rotterdam and **Merlijn DRAISMA** and **Bert TIEBEN** from Amsterdam travelled to Paris to meet the OECD Team. The Dutch representatives also included **Remmert COHEN** from the OECD Permanent Delegation of the Netherlands as well as the two OECD representatives who will lead the reviews to the Netherlands: **Richard YELLAND**, Head of IMHE and **Patrick DUBARLE**, who recently retired from the OECD Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate.

In Amsterdam, the OECD review is seen as a tool to achieve stronger evidence base for decision making and to identify areas of shared interest for future collaboration. It is also hoped that the process would help in introducing a stronger knowledge component to the economic development strategy of Amsterdam. In Rotterdam, the key motivation for participation in the OECD review is the need to move away from academically oriented analyses to concrete action points. Rotterdam has put in place an exemplary project management structure that will ensure maximum engagement of stakeholders in the review and partnership building process.

Find out more about the Dutch meeting and the Rotterdam project management structure on the [web 2.0 community](#).

3 April 2009 – The OECD review kick off meeting in Curitiba, Paraná: Universities, governments and private sector come together for the review of Paraná

Early April, the State of Paraná (Brazil) launched the OECD self-evaluation phase under the leadership of the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR). During the meeting Prof **Zaki AKEL SOBRINHO**, the Rector of the UFPR, stressed the historic momentum that was bringing together the universities, private sector and government to build an innovative state. **Francisco MARMOLEJO** (CONAHEC), who took part in the OECD review of Northern Paraná in 2006 as an OECD Secretariat representative, shared insights and experiences from the first round of reviews.

More than 60 people attended this meeting that was hosted by the Brazilian Micro and Small Business Support Service (SEBRAE) in Paraná. Participants came from the UFPR and the Federal Technological University of Paraná (UFTPR), the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), Federation of Industries of the State of Paraná (FIEP), the Ministry of State for Science, Technology and Education and the Curitiba Agency for Development and Promotion.

Read more on the [UFPR website](#) (in Portuguese)

Forthcoming events

Please let us know about any national or regional events on higher education and regional and city development that could be of interest to the regions participating in the reviews.

12 June 2009 (10h00-16h30) - World Class Universities or a World Class System?

This colloquium will take place in Dublin, Ireland, hosted by the Dublin Institute of Technology (Aungier Street) in co-operation with the OECD Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE) and the Irish Higher Education Authority.

In a time of economic crisis, increasing attention is being focused on how higher education can contribute to the national and regional strategies. This conference focuses on HEIs' contribution in Ireland and to the country's Smart State strategy. The purpose is to explore ways in which a diverse and coherent portfolio of differentiated high performing, globally-focused institutions can successfully maximise their collective capability beyond the individual capacity of HEIs. Successful global cities and mega-regions depend upon specialised clusters of HEIs and research institutes interacting with their cities and regions, exchanging ideas and personnel. Different HEIs have different strengths which are complementary and working together can be magnets for international students, researchers and investment.

Speakers include Professor Emeritus **John GODDARD**, University of Newcastle, UK (The academic leader of the first round of reviews), **Josep VILALTA**, University of Catalonia ACUP (and the Regional co-ordinator for the review of Catalonia), and **Jaana PUUKKA**, OECD/IMHE, leader of the OECD work on HE and Regional and City Development.

For more information visit [DIT website](#) or contact:

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29-30 June 2009 - Higher Education at a Time of Crisis: Challenges and Opportunities, Copenhagen, Denmark

This conference, hosted by the Copenhagen Business School in co-operation with OECD/IMHE, will present a broad picture of the impact of the economic crisis on higher education. The credit squeeze, negative wealth effects and a generalised loss of confidence are dragging down economic activity and labour market conditions throughout the world. The crisis impacts higher education in multiple ways: Government budgets are under pressure and are likely to put a squeeze on the public funds available to education. At the same time, demand for and enrolments in the tertiary sector are increasing. Stimulus packages are bringing funds to knowledge infrastructure. In addition, the crisis also impacts the availability of staff with fresh industry and business experience.

Workshops will enable participants to study aspects of the crisis in detail, and examine the response of both HEIs and governments. The conference will analyse the role and the responsibility of HEIs and how to transform these challenges into opportunities. Threats and opportunities for HEIs at the local and regional level will be featured in a dedicated workshop with speakers from the regions that are undergoing the OECD review. Visit the [Conference's website](#) or contact: oecd2009[at]cbs.dk

Read about forthcoming [IMHE meetings](#).

Publications and weblinks

IMHE brochure *Higher Education in Cities and Regions*

This Brochure presents the scope, goals and methods of the OECD Reviews of Higher Education in Regional and City Development and highlights the benefits for the regions that participate in the review. Regional co-ordinators have received hard copies of the brochure to be distributed to the stakeholders involved in the review.

If you want to print extra copies of the brochure, please request a high resolution PDF file, by contacting Rachel.Linden[at]oecd.org

[Download the new revised version](#)

The OECD/LEED report *Entrepreneurship and Higher Education*

This report examines the role that HEIs are currently playing through teaching entrepreneurship and transferring knowledge and innovation to enterprises and discusses how they should develop this role in the future. The key issues, approaches and trends are analysed and compared across a range of countries. The report stresses the need to expand existing entrepreneurship efforts and introduce more creative and effective approaches, building on the best practices highlighted from around the world.

[Read more about this report](#)

OECD Regions at a Glance 2009 measures national and regional competitiveness

Understanding the variety in regional economic structures and performance is essential for designing effective strategies which improve regional competitiveness and in turn increase national growth. OECD Regions at a Glance makes these variations visible, providing region-by region indicators – mainly in the form of graphs and maps – to identify areas that are outperforming or lagging behind. Patterns of growth and the persistence of inequalities are analyzed over time, highlighting the factors responsible for them. This new edition has a special focus on regional innovation. It contains diverse regional data and includes a variety of indicators ranging from GDP per capita and population to student enrolment in tertiary education.

Read more about OECD [Regions at a Glance](#)

OECD eXplorer

The **OECD eXplorer** is an interactive graphical web-tool to analyse regional statistics and to support explorative spatial data analysis. It combines interactive maps to display the full set of OECD regional statistics - also over time (time animation) - with other visual presentations such as a scatter plot and a parallel coordinate panel. It provides new functions for presenting stories about the statistics embedded with interactive visualisation and features the possibility to load and explore your own data, write your own stories and share them with others.

Test the OECD [eXplorer](#)

OECD Policy Brief *How Regions Grow*

This *Policy Brief* discusses how innovation and other growth factors are linked to geography, explaining why some regions grow while others do not. Differences across regions within countries are often greater than differences between countries. The policy debate on regional policy and development focuses on whether policies should be on pro-equity or pro-efficiency, implying that a trade-off is inevitable. The OECD, however, argues that national governments should promote growth in *all* regions and regions should invest in the own growth by mobilising local assets and resources so as to capitalise on their specific competitive advantages, rather than depending on national transfers and subsidies. All regional co-ordinators will receive hard copies of this *Policy Brief* in May.

Read the [Policy Brief](#)

Growing by Degrees - Universities in the Future in Urban Development

The Royal Institute of British Architects and its Building Futures think tank has compiled a report on different scenarios to stimulate the debate about the future of higher education and its needs. As the role of HE in regional and local economies develops, the places where research and innovation, learning and knowledge transfer are carried out are no longer confined to the physical boundaries of an institution. They happen all over regions and cities within both formal settings such as classrooms and the workplace, but also informal such as cafés and other meeting places. With the continued expansion of HE, what will be the effect on the buildings, both business and higher education, and the public spaces? What is needed to underpin the developing needs of HE and business? One of the authors is **Alastair BLYTH** from the OECD's Centre for Effective Learning Environments (CELE). [Download the report](#)

OECD HE & Regions Team: Staff News

Ernesto FLORES from Instituto Tecnológico de Sonora (ITSON), Mexico joined the team in March for a period of 12 months. Flores is in charge of the launch and conceptual design of the interactive web 2.0 community for Higher Education and Regional and City Development and contributes to the project management, analytical work as well as reviews of a number of reviews. The OECD/IMHE is grateful for ITSON to make this secondment possible.

Christine MERK has returned to Germany at the end of March. She continues to work with the HE and Regions team in the area of indicators.

Caroline VOISINE joined the team in May for a period five months and will contribute to the knowledge mobilisation, collaboration with the regions and experts as well as analytical work. A French national, she is also fluent in Catalan, English and Spanish.

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