Upcoming events

Register now for your FREE events!
Registration is now open for the following events for OECD Higher Education Programme (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. Remember, places are limited!

- **16 June 2014, 4pm/16:00 Paris time, 1.5 hours**
  Webinar for IMHE members on *English as a Medium of Instruction: Philosophies and Policies*
  With Divya Madhavan and Julie McDonald, École Centrale de Paris
  More information: Food for Thought paper
  Deadline for registration: 13 June, 17:00 Paris time

- **25 September 2014, 4pm/16:00 Paris time, 1.5 hours**
  Webinar for IMHE members on *Higher Education at a Glance*
  With Andreas Schleicher, Acting Director of the OECD Directorate for Education and Skills
  Deadline for registration: 23 September, 17:00 Paris time
OECD and higher education activities

Annual report news
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, research excellence 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.

Following up on members’ interest in adding a more practical focus to our Quarterly Briefs “What it Means For Higher Education” series, we complemented our March issue on PISA results and the features of future student cohorts with case studies highlighting how member institutions tackle specific issues in practice. Thanks to 17 member institutions, ministries and organisations across 11 countries who shared their practices, we were able to develop two compendia of best practices to foster peer learning among members: Fostering inclusion for disadvantaged students and Promoting female participation in STEM.

Our next Quarterly Brief, to be released in June 2014, will focus on the findings from a recent OECD report on fostering research excellence. It will provide an overview of what we know to date of the features and impact of government-driven “research excellence initiatives”, which aim to promote research excellence through a new funding approach. Following up on the success on our last call for contributions, we would like to ask you to share how you foster research excellence in your institution or system, focusing on both government-led initiatives, as well as institutional strategies.

We are, therefore, calling on you to flag any initiative or approaches that you have adopted to:

- Promote research excellence in your institution or system
- Make your internal structures for research most effective (e.g. centres of excellence, research labs)
- Secure third-party funding and/or partner with external stakeholders, including industry
- Foster collaboration in research across departments and disciplines
- Raise the international profile of your research and of your institution
- Better link research to teaching

To make it easier for you, we have developed a short template where you can describe your initiatives. We encourage you to use it as a basis to develop your contribution, although it is by no way prescriptive.

Please send your contributions by end of day Monday, 16 June to emily.groves@oecd.org and patricia.mangeol@oecd.org
**Thomas J. Alexander Fellowship – final call for proposals**

Applications for the OECD’s [Thomas J. Alexander Fellowship](#) close on Friday, 30 May 2014. Candidates will be selected on the basis of the innovative, potential, and technical quality of the proposals, as well as on the qualifications and experience of the applicant and their value added during their time working at OECD headquarters in Paris. Fellows will be expected to spend at least three months and up to a maximum of 12 months in Paris. They will be expected to produce a publishable research paper or report at the end of their fellowship. [More information on the OECD website](#).

**We welcome Joohyun Park!**

Joohyun Park has joined the OECD Higher Education Programme as an intern until August and will be working on a range of issues.

She is a lawyer from South Korea, and currently studying in the Master’s Degree Programme of Research and Innovation in Higher Education (MARIHE) offered jointly by the Danube University Krems (Austria), University of Tampere (Finland), University of Applied Sciences Osnabruck (Germany) and Beijing Normal University (China).

She was previously Management Chairperson of the Presidential Committee on Aging Society and Population Problems in Korea, making a five-year plan of aging society with twelve ministries, NGOs and experts. Prior to this, she was Chief Secretary of Participation and Reformation for the President of Korea, gathering civil petitions and policy proposals online as well as offline and reforming the policies to solve the related problems with public officials from several governmental administrations.

She is a Representative Director of the People’s Institute of Economic and Social Studies in Korea, which has been dealing with public policy issues, including innovating industry-university collaboration and building life-long learning systems to increase the competitiveness of small and medium sized enterprises’ workers.

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

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**OECD publications and resources**

**Education GPS - Find your way through OECD education policy work**

The “Review education policies” strand of the [Education GPS platform](#) was launched at the beginning of May for OECD Week 2014. This innovative tool provides quick and easy access to a large (and growing) share of the OECD’s work on education and skills. The “Analyse by country” and “Explore data” parts of the Education GPS continue to give you the latest OECD data and statistics on education. Key indicators from Education at a Glance 2013, PISA 2012 and the OECD Skills Surveys are all already available. Data from TALIS 2013 will be available at the end of June. **Look out for news on an upcoming GPS webinar!**
Making Innovation Policy Work: Learning from Experimentation

This book explores emerging topics in innovation policy for more inclusive and sustainable growth, building on concrete examples. It develops the notion of experimental innovation policy—which integrates monitoring and feedback at the policy design stage, and occurs continuously to improve impact and implementation. This approach should help improve the quality and efficiency of public expenditures supporting innovation policy.

Experimental policy making is particularly important for new and emerging innovation domains, where the scope for learning and improvement is the greatest. To make the discussion as concrete and relevant as possible for practitioners and policy makers, three emerging domains of innovation policy are explored in greater detail: innovative entrepreneurship, green innovation, and pro-poor or base-of-the-pyramid (BoP) innovation.

Poorly skilled adults: a neglected factor in income inequality

by Dirk Van Damme, Head of the Innovation and Measuring Progress division, Directorate for Education and Skills

The rise of income inequality in OECD countries, especially from 1985 onwards, is now a well-documented fact, and a reason for much concern among policy-makers and economists. The concept of “inclusive growth” suggests that without finding an adequate and effective policy response to increasing inequality future sustainable economic growth might also be jeopardised. However, the causes and underlying mechanisms behind the increase in inequality are less clear. A new paper based on data from the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) hints to the role skills play in the puzzle behind income inequality. Read more...

The Great Gatsby Curve: Does it really exist and is education the key?

by John Jerrim, Thomas J. Alexander Fellow, Directorate for Education and Skills

Income inequality is high and rising in a number of developed and developing countries. There are many potential economic, social and political consequences of this. But perhaps none are more worrisome than the possibility that rising income inequality will limit educational and economic opportunity in the next generation. Read more...

News from our members

News from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Twelve leading universities – including the UOC – and companies in eight European countries announced the launch of the new EMMA project, which will provide access to MOOCs in different languages and supported by automatic transcription. The first EMMA MOOCs will go live in September 2014 and are provided by universities in Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the UK on subjects as diverse as Business Management, Social Innovation and Cultural Heritage, Climate Change and Searching on the Internet.

SpeakApps, the innovative language learning portal developed by a team of faculty and technologist from the UOC, has won a silver medal at the prestigious international 2014 Learning Impact Awards organised by the IMS Global Learning Consortium, a non-profit organisation promoting use of learning technologies in higher education. The SpeakApps platform was created by the
UOC’s School of Languages and the UOC’s Office of Learning Technology to provide a response to the need to work on oral production and interaction in foreign languages in virtual environments.

Who are your fellow members?
Find them at www.oecd.org/edu/imhe/members

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.

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.