



OECD Programme on Educational Building (PEB) and Ministry of Education, Portugal

First ad hoc Experts' Group Meeting on Evaluating Quality in Educational Facilities Lisbon, Portugal, 1 to 3 June 2005

Introduction

The OECD Programme for Educational Building (PEB), in co-operation with the Ministry of Education in Portugal, is initiating an international activity on evaluating the quality of educational facilities. The guiding framework for future activities of this programme will be discussed and refined during this first *ad hoc* meeting.

While international studies such as the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) seek to define and measure quality learning environments, few have focused on the importance of the built environment in providing quality learning environments. However, researchers and administrators in a number of countries have defined evaluative criteria for school buildings and are in the process of evaluating their school buildings.

Desired outcome

The primary outcome of the meeting is a comprehensive report providing the following:

1. **A set of international principles and criteria for assessing quality in educational facilities**, and identification of the challenges and obstacles to applying these principles in local, regional, national and international settings (see Theme 1).
2. **Methodologies that have been used to measure these criteria in different countries**, and identification of the challenges and obstacles to implementing these methodologies in local, regional, national and international settings (see Theme 2).
3. **Proposal for an international methodology for assessing quality in educational facilities** (see Theme 3).

The international principles and criteria defined by the Experts' Group will be presented to the PEB Governing Board for approval. An international manual will be developed on the basis of the principles and methodologies discussed at the meeting with a view to commencing an international activity.

Venue

The experts' meeting will be held in the Caparide Centre, near Lisbon in Portugal.

Items for discussion

This meeting addresses **three themes**, which are explored in plenary and group sessions.

1. Defining principles and criteria for assessing quality in educational facilities.
 - How has current research defined quality in educational facilities?
 - How have common frameworks or sets of principles for assessing quality been developed?



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- How can these principles be relevant to all schools in all cultures?
- 2. Identifying methodologies to evaluate quality.
 - Which methodologies are best suited to measure some or all of these criteria?
 - What have been some of the obstacles and challenges to using the methodologies?
 - How could these methodologies be adapted to meet local, regional, national and international needs?
- 3. Proposing an international methodology for assessing quality in educational facilities.

Working languages

The working languages for the meeting are English and Portuguese.

