

**Overcoming School Failure: Policies that Work
National Coordinators Working Meeting
26 (p.m.)-27 April 2011**

Venue: Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, (Ministerie van SZW)
Anna van Hannoverstraat 4, 2595 Den Haag, Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands.

AGENDA

Meeting objectives:

- a) discussing the progress of the final report and obtaining feedback from participating countries.
- b) revising the next stages to finalise the publication, including the revision of the English and French final drafts.
- c) discussing options for final event and other possible national events.

Tuesday 26 April 2011

Chair: Beatriz Pont, Sr. Analyst, Education and Training Policy Division, OECD.

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.45 Welcome, opening remarks, update

- Formal opening.
- Brief remarks on the challenges of overcoming school failure. Fred Voncken, Director of the Department on 'Tackling Drop Out', Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.
- Equity: a Priority for OECD Countries. Beatriz Pont, Sr. Analyst, OECD.
- Introduction of participants.
- Update of the project and presentation of preliminary outline of the report. Francisco Benavides, Analyst, OECD.

15.45 -16.00 Coffee Break

16.00- 17.15 Discussion on Chapter 1 of the publication: an overview

- OECD introduction to the chapter. Anna Pons, Consultant, OECD.
- Group discussion.

This chapter introduces the concept of equity and school failure, its costs and consequences, in a context of increasing budgetary constraints and limited resources. It also includes a comparative assessment framework with a set of indicators for a better understanding of equity and school failure across OECD member countries.

***Actions:** Participants are invited to comment based on the questions included in the draft outline.*

19.00 Dinner (venue to be confirmed)



Wednesday 27 April 2011

09.00-9.30

Discussion on the learning culture at home and its impact on equity

- The experience of De Katrol Initiative in Rotterdam. Sandra Pardoel, Director, De Katrol
- Group discussion.

***Actions:** Participants are invited to share their national experiences on how to support the involvement of disadvantaged families in the education of their children.*

9.30-10.45

Discussion on Chapter 2: Actions to reduce failure in schools.

- OECD introduction to the chapter. Francisco Benavides, analyst, OECD.
- Group discussion.

This chapter deals with measures targeting equity and school failure in schools. It includes initiatives involving support to students, teachers and principals, as well as with the improvement of the learning environment of schools and classrooms. In particular it stresses the importance of investing on equity at the school and classroom level, and presents measures that can contribute to the reduction of school failure and student dropout. While recognising the complexity of implementation, it emphasises how these measures are particularly relevant for “at risk” and “underperforming” schools and students.

***Actions:** Participants are invited to comment based on the questions included in the draft outline.*

10.45-11.15

Coffee Break

11.15-11.45

Discussion on how to respond to the challenges of “implementing” systemic changes to improve equity

- José Lazeroms, Director General on Primary and Secondary Education.
- Group discussion.

***Actions:** Participants are invited to share their national experiences on how to implement successfully systemic changes.*

11.45-12.15

Discussion on Chapter 3: Systemic actions that hinder equity.

- OECD introduction to the chapter. Pauline Musset, Consultant, OECD.
- Group discussion.

This chapter reviews systemic policies that may threaten equity and lead to school failure when they are not carefully designed and implemented. These policies are based on *steps* already identified in *No More Failures (2007)* and are highlighted as important by countries participating in the activity. The section focuses on how countries have responded to these challenges and gives examples of good practices.

12.15-13.30

Lunch



13.30-14.15 Discussion on Chapter 3: (Continuation)

Actions: Participants are invited to comment based on the questions included in the draft outline.

14.15-15.15 Discussion on the options for final project event and other national events OECD

- OECD presentation. Francisco Benavides.
- Group discussion.

OECD would like to explore the possibility of organising a capacity building seminar for high level policy makers. Its goal would be to provide participants with practical knowledge on policy design and implementation in focused areas, using the OECD recommendations as a background. Another option would be to organise an international conference with the aim of disseminating the main findings of the report.

Actions: Participants are invited to comment on the proposals, to make them more relevant for their teams. They are also invited to express their interest in organising other relevant national dissemination events.

15.15-15.45 Coffee Break

15.45-16.30 Wrap up summary and next steps

- Chair summary.
- Presentation of Publication's Calendar of following stages.
- Group discussion.

Actions: Participants are invited to comment on the conclusions and to take note on the next steps of the project.

16.30-17.00 Open Q&A session

17.00 End of the meeting