

Norway-OECD High-level Roundtable

Starting Strong: Implementing Policies for High Quality Early Childhood Education and Care

Oslo, 23-24 January 2012

Radisson Blu Oslo Plaza Hotel

AGENDA

The objectives for this roundtable are to:

- Focus attention on the economic and social importance of investing in high-quality early childhood education and care;
- Highlight key policies and practices that can enhance investment in high-quality early childhood education and care in countries; and
- Share perspectives and foster dialogue with, and among, stakeholders to promote understanding of the implementation challenges and how to address them.

To achieve these objectives, the agenda is structured to promote active participation and discussion amongst all participants in several different configurations. Participants will include Ministers, legislators; government officials; kindergarten and childcare owner representatives; union representatives and practitioners; parental representatives; and media. There will also be a working dinner for Ministers and high-level officials only.

Site visits to Norwegian Early Childhood Education and Care centres during the day and open for all participants. For Ministers arriving early, tailored bilateral programmes can be arranged.

Monday 23rd January

Site visits to ECEC centres

Participants who have registered for the site visits will meet at the **Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel** at **11:00** and visit their registered choice of the following options:

1. Curiosity, Activity and learning – Outdoor as a learning arena
 - a. Visit to University of Oslo – the National Centre for Science in Education
 - b. Visit to Outdoor Kindergartens/Nature Kindergartens
2. Culture and Arts – Museum and Kindergarten
 - a. Visit to Munch Museum – Education guides
 - b. Visit to Kindergartens with a Creativity and Arts profile
3. Inclusion and Equity – Multiculturalism as a quality in education – Language learning and social cohesion
 - a. Visit to the National Centre for Multicultural Education
 - b. Visit to Kindergartens with a high proportion of multicultural children and families

Working Dinner for Ministers or equivalents, (19:00, Restaurant Oslofjord, 33rd Floor, Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel)

Topic: How to finance public investment in high-quality Early Childhood Education and Care when government budgets are tight

Keynote speech by Mr. William R. White chairman of the Economic Development and Review Committee (EDRC) at the OECD

Informal Dinner for Other Participants (19:00, Restaurant Gaio/Lakata 2nd Floor, Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel)

Participants are invited to get to know each other and establish international contacts across different sectors before the roundtable starts.

Tuesday 24th January

08:30-09:00 Registration opens

09:00-09:15 **OPENING: Words of welcome (Olympiasalen, 2nd floor)**

<<Live streaming>>

Moderator: Ms. Deborah Roseveare, Head of the Education and Training Policy Division - OECD

Speaker: Ms. Kristin Halvorsen, Minister of Education – Norway

Speaker: Dr. Barbara Ischinger, Director for Education – OECD

09.15-09.30 **Speech by Minister Kristin Halvorsen**

<<Live streaming>>

09:30-10:30 **Keynote Speaker and panel discussion: “ECEC as a Priority Investment”**

<<Live streaming>>

Dr. W. Steven Barnett, Director, National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), Board of Governors Professor, Rutgers University

Panellists will discuss the scope for investment in high quality ECEC and why it can be considered an important priority.

Panellist: Ms. Nyamko Sabuni, Minister of Gender Equality, Deputy Minister of Education – Sweden

Panellist: Ms. Paraskevi Christofilopoulou, Deputy Minister of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs – Greece

Panellist: Ms. Karen Kornbluh, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Delegation of the United States to the OECD – United States

10:30-10:45 Coffee break

10:45-13:00

Parallel sessions

Ministers and equivalents

(Holmenkollen meeting room, 33rd floor)

Roundtable discussion

For each round, two or three ministers will be invited to briefly set out the issues they are facing and share their experiences for each topic, followed by questions and wider discussion.

Moderator: Ms. Kristin Halvorsen, Minister of Education – Norway

Round 1: Investing in ECEC

Speaker: Ms. Frances Fitzgerald, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs – Ireland

Speaker: Mr. Jean-Michel Blanquer, Director General of School Programmes, Ministry of Education – France

Stakeholders and media

(Olympiasalen, 2nd floor)

Roundtable discussion

For each round, a panel of stakeholders will be invited to share their perspectives and priorities on the topic, followed by questions and wider discussion.

Moderator: Dr. Wendy Jarvie, Visiting Professor University of New South Wales – Australia

Round 1: Investing in ECEC

Panellist: Dr. Joan Lombardi, Child Development and Social Policy Advisor – United States

Round 2: Policies to enhance quality in ECEC

Speaker: Ms. Sarah Teather, Minister of State for Children and Families, Department of Education – United Kingdom

Speaker: Ms. Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Minister of Education, Science and Culture – Iceland

Round 3: Implementation challenges and strategies

Speaker: Mr. Pascal Smet, Minister of Education, Youth, Equal Opportunities and Brussels' Affairs – Flemish Community (Belgium)

Speaker: Canada (to be confirmed)

Round 2: Policies to enhance quality in ECEC

Panellist: Ms. Anne-Marie Dieu, Director of Research, Observatoire de l'enfance, de la jeunesse et l'aide à la jeunesse – Wallonia-Brussels Federation (Belgium)

Round 3: Implementation challenges and strategies

Panellist: Mr. Roar Grøttvik, Union of Education, TUAC – Norway

13:00-14:00

Lunch Break

14:00-14:30

Launch of *Starting Strong III* and OECD Early Childhood Education and Care Online Toolbox (Olympiasalen, 2nd floor)

<<Live streaming>>

With the launch of the Policy Toolbox, key messages that emerged from the *Starting Strong III* will be introduced. The Online Version will be also presented, which will have additional, practical information for the users of the toolbox.

Moderator: Ms. Deborah Roseveare, Head of the Education and Training Policy Division – OECD

Joint-presenter: Ms. Miho Taguma, Senior Policy Analyst, Education and Training Policy Division – OECD

Joint-presenter: Dr. Jacqueline Jones (United States), Chair, OECD Network on Early Childhood Education and Care

14:30-15:00

Media Session (Olympiasalen, 2nd floor)

Journalists are invited to ask questions about *Starting Strong III*. There will be press releases from the OECD Secretary General, Norwegian Minister of Education and other participating Ministers. Journalists are also invited to ask questions to Ministers as a group or bilaterally.

15.00-17:00

Small group discussions

The small group discussions are designed to promote an active and open dialogue across a wide range of actors who have a stake in ECEC policy development and implementation.

Each group will focus on one of the five policy levers identified in the OECD Quality Toolbox: participants will be asked to select which group they wish to join.

Lever 1: Quality goals and regulation (Room 301, 3rd floor)

Moderator: Dr. Riyo Kadota-Korogi, Professor, Seinan Gakuin University – Japan

Discussant: Canada (to be confirmed)

Lever 2: Designing and implementing curriculum and standards (Olympiasalen, 2nd floor)

Moderator: Mr. Christer Tofténus, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Education and Research – Sweden

Discussant: Ms. Sarah Teather, Minister of State for Children and Families, Department of Education – England (United Kingdom)

Lever 3: Workforce qualifications and training (Room “Vampyr”, 1st floor)

Moderator: Dr. Young Lee, President of Korea Institute of Child Care and Education – Korea

Discussant: Mr. Bernd Sibler, Secretary of State, Bavarian Ministry for Education and Culture – Germany (to be confirmed)

Lever 4: Engaging families and communities (Room “Salome”, 1st floor)

Moderator: Ms. Tove Mogstad-Slinde, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Education and Research – Norway

Discussant: Ms. Aileen Campbell, Minister for Children and Young People – Scotland (United Kingdom)

Lever 5: Data collection, research and monitoring (Room “Madonna”, 1st floor)

Moderator: Mr. Richard Walley, Senior Policy Manager – Early Childhood and Education, Ministry of Education – New Zealand

Discussant: Ms. Lea Rosenberg, Deputy Director-General and Director of the International Relations and UNESCO Division, Ministry of Education – Israel

17.00-18.15 **Plenary Discussion (Olympiasalen, 2nd floor)**

<<Live Streaming>>

A panel of experts will be invited to answer questions and address issues raised by ministers, participating stakeholders and social partners.

Moderator: Ms. Deborah Roseveare, Head of the Education and Training Policy Division – OECD

Panellist: Mr. Jan Trzuszczński, Director General of Education and Culture – European Commission

Panellist: Mr. Shinichi Yamanaka, Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology – Japan

Panellist: Ms. Isabel Leite, Secretary of State for Basic and Secondary Education – Portugal

Panellist: Dr. Jacqueline Jones, Senior Advisor on Early Learning to the Secretary of Education – United States

Panellist: Ms. Wendy Jarvie, Visiting Professor, University of New South Wales – Australia

18.15-18:30 **Closing remarks and next steps (Olympiasalen, 2nd floor)**

<<Live Streaming>>

Speaker: Ms. Kristin Halvorsen, Minister of Education – Norway

Speaker: Dr. Barbara Ischinger, Director for Education – OECD

Some questions for discussion

Investing in ECEC

- Why should countries invest in ECEC?
- What kinds of evidence and arguments have been used by those countries that succeeded in increasing public spending on ECEC?
- What are the competing drivers for investment?
- How to balance universal and targeted provision of ECEC?

Policies to enhance quality in ECEC

- What policy interventions have been made?
- What are country experiences?
- Which dimensions of ECEC policies do countries wish to prioritise in the future?
- Which policies are most effective to enhance quality?

Implementation challenges and strategies

- What kind of challenges countries face in implementing policies to enhance quality?
- What kind of strategies countries have used to overcome such challenges?
- What are the key to success in gaining stakeholder buy-in and working with them closely and what are the potential pitfalls?
- How to effectively engage the public and build support for investing in high-quality ECEC?