

Country Spotlight Reports Series

Background

The OECD project “*Strength through Diversity: the Integration of immigrants and refugees in school and training systems*” seeks to:

- identify a new set of indicators to examine how societies have responded and are responding to the challenges to social cohesion posed large scale international migration;
- create improved data infrastructure that supports the development of strong evidence;
- identify policy responses that have been pursued by countries and their results;
- collect evidence on the conditions under which such policies achieve or do not achieve their objectives; and
- stimulate a discussion among key stakeholders to support peer learning and strengthen collaboration.

The project has two primary strands: (1) data collection, indicator development and data analysis, and (2) policy review and implementation.

The data collection, indicator development and data analysis strand aims to mobilise OECD’s expertise in exploiting in detail OECD-led data initiatives (such as PISA and PIAAC) and integrating them with other data sources to: develop key indicators of successful integration; and enhance current OECD large-scale data collection initiatives to ensure that they provide strong evidence on the outcomes of migrants and refugees and their potential to integrate effectively.

The policy review and implementation strand uses the results obtained in the data collection, indicator development and data analysis strand as the basis for convening a series of thematic policy fora of interested countries for the purposes of identifying country-specific challenges and policy responses and implementation strategies for ensuring that education systems effectively integrate migrants and refugees in schools and advance broader social integration and social cohesion goals. This identification will be based on input from international experts, OECD Secretariat analysts and stakeholders from other participating countries who have been involved in similar integration related decisions. Additionally, this strand includes a series of country spotlight reports to provide countries with evidence to help them deal effectively with the challenges of increased migration flows.

Objectives

Each country spotlight will present an overview of the state of play of key dimensions (i.e. educational and well-being outcomes of immigrant children) as well as current education and integration policies in the country. It will discuss up to three main challenges that the country is facing in terms of integrating immigrant children and include possible policy directions for future development. The country spotlights seek to provide member countries with evidence to help them deal effectively with the challenges of increased migration flows.

The objectives of the spotlight reports are to:

- produce new insights about policy responses that can help education systems adapt to successfully integrate migrants into their host countries, so as to achieve better outcomes for these migrants and for communities as a whole; and
- provide tailored policy advice to countries on developing and implementing more effective policies and practices.

The reports will draw on OECD data including PISA, PIAAC and EAG, as well as other available data sources. In order to identify a defined set of policy challenges for participating countries, the OECD Secretariat will first develop a short country note with key indicators on the outcomes of migrant students in the countries' education system and on integration relevant indicators. This exercise, will consider indicators that relate both to the challenges countries face in *integrating migrants into education* and the challenges countries face in promoting *integration through education*. The initial phase will review policy evidence and statistics from OECD and non OECD data sources to engage in a discussion with the country to agree on a specific focus on challenges the country faces when considering education responses to migration flows and the current refugee crisis.

Based on initial data analysis and desk research, the OECD team will propose up to three key challenges for integrating immigrant children in the country. These challenges will then be agreed upon by country representatives.

One internal workshop will be organised in the country, designed to bring practitioners from across government ministries and agencies, social partners, regional actors, academia and non-governmental organisations together to discuss policy challenges for education systems in relation to migration flows and the refugee crisis. The workshops will be designed to build upon the knowledge and expertise of each participant to identify key policy design and implementation considerations. The workshop would be guided by expert peer reviewers from other OECD countries and experts from the OECD Secretariat. Following the validating of key challenges in the member country, the OECD team will work with the external experts to complete the country spotlight report reflecting the discussion developed in the context of the workshop. The reports will be developed in English and translated in the language spoken in the country under study, to ensure wide dissemination at all levels of government and among social partners in the civil society. Both the English and the national language version translations will be shared with country representatives prior to finalisation and publication.

Output: A 30-35 pages report (translated into English and national language version if different).

Timeline: Each country spotlight report would take around 5 months to complete.

Resources: Each spotlight report would require a VC of EUR 90,000.

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