INES Advisory Group

ROLES AND RESPONSABILITIES OF THE INES WORKING PARTY AND THE CERI GOVERNING BOARD IN OVERSEEING EDUCATION AT A GLANCE

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Things that are straightforward

**CERI Governing Board**

1. In the past, *Education at a Glance* was produced under the responsibility of the INES Technical Group and INES National Co-ordinators which reported to the Joint Session of the Education Policy Committee and CERI Governing Board. Under the new governance arrangements, *Education at a Glance* is produced under the responsibility of the INES Working Party which, in turn, reports to the Education Policy Committee.

2. However, given that the outputs relating to *Education at a Glance* will, in the 2009-2010 biennium, be financed by the CERI Governing Board, the Education Policy Committee could assign the former role of the Joint Session to the CERI Governing Board. That would mean that the INES Working Party would report to the CERI Governing Board on all outcomes relating to *Education at a Glance*.

**INES Working Party**

3. The mandate of the INES Working Party stipulates that the working party will monitor, oversee and coordinate statistical work as well as the development of indicators and quantitative analyses. With regard to *Education at a Glance* and other INES publications, the mandate stipulates that the Working Party will “disseminate its policy advice, analysis, research and data to a wide range of stakeholders in member and non-member economies and, in particular, review indicator material in preparation for its publication in *Education at a Glance* and sign off on national data publications and the use of national data in *Education at a Glance*.”

Things that need discussion

4. While the role of oversight and funding should likely be with the CERI Governing Board and the role of producing and disseminating the volume remains with the INES Working Party, there is a “grey area” for which responsibilities will need to be defined.

5. Decisions on the general nature and orientation of the volume have in the past been made by INES National Co-ordinators, the former equivalent of the INES Working Party. However, it could be argued that those decisions could, in the future, be transferred to the CERI Governing Board, as the CERI Governing Board decides on the allocation of financial resources to the volume. Similarly, it would be the CERI Governing Board that would decide on complementary volumes, such as a country-based publication. The INES Working Party would then have the responsibility of operationalising the content of successive editions of *Education at a Glance* in a way that was consistent with the overall nature and orientation set by the CERI Governing Board.
6. In the past, INES National Co-ordinators prepared the long-term cycle of indicators which was then finalised by the Joint Session. The most straightforward option would be for the INES Working Party to assume the role of National Co-ordinators and the CERI Governing Board to assume the role of the Joint Session. So the INES Working Party would make proposals for the content of Education at a Glance and these proposals would then be finalised by the CERI Governing Board.

7. There have, at times, been issues of debate on the inclusion of specific indicators in the volume (the last example concerned the use of efficiency indicators prepared by the Economics Department). Such issues have been discussed in the Technical Group, INES National Co-ordinators, and the Joint Session of the EDPC and CERI Governing Board. The problem with these arrangements has been that it was not clear who would make decisions on these issues. In order to ensure that such decisions are based on sound scientific considerations, it would seem most appropriate to assign the INES Working Party the responsibility for establishing on technical grounds the merits or demerits of publishing such indicators. However, if the Working Party felt that there were policy considerations that needed wider view, then the CERI Governing Board would be consulted.

Internal arrangements

8. In the past, *Education at a Glance* has been conceptualised, produced and disseminated by the Indicators and Analysis Division, as part of its CERI-funding stream. In the future, the governance functions that fall under the responsibility of the CERI Governing board could be supported by the CERI Division, while the management, operational and production functions of the INES Working Party would continue to be supported by the Indicators and Analysis Division. Both divisions would remain accountable for their respective CERI funding streams.