Student Views on Learning with Information and Communication Technology
An OECD Roundtable, Aix-en-Provence, France, 8-9 December 2000

How do students use Information and Communication Technology, or ICT, in a learning environment? Do computers, CD-ROMs and access to the Internet facilitate learning, or are they just another means of getting to information and at worst even an impediment? Such questions will be the theme of an International Roundtable organised by the OECD’s Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) in Aix-en-Provence, France, on 8-9 December 2000.

The conference will provide a forum for discussion between students and educational decision-makers on the use of ICT in a learning environment. It is supported by the City of Aix-en-Provence, the General Council of Bouches-du-Rhône, the Regional Council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, France Telecom and IBM France, and it will be open to the media.

In presentations based on their own experience during a five-month period earlier this year, 29 students aged between 17 and 20 and representing almost all of the OECD’s Member countries will report on their use of information and communication technology for learning, whether in formal school and post-school environments or at home. They will also report on the “digital divide” between those who have adequate access to ICT in schools and at home and those who do not. The first day will concentrate on “what works?” and “what does not work?” The second day will address issues of access to ICT and how public and private-sector partnerships can help.

OECD governments are investing more and more in ICT as a tool for teaching and learning. But is ICT actually helping to improve the learning of basic and higher-order thinking skills and in particular the skills of “learning to learn”? A multiyear study by CERI on “Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and the Quality of Learning” is resulting in a series of reports to be published by 2001. This conference and the work of the panel of students that preceded it will lead to one such publication.

For further information, and to register for the conference, please contact Nicholas Bray in the OECD’s Media Relations Division (tel. 33 1 45 24 80 90 or e-mail nicholas.bray@oecd.org). For information about CERI’s work in this area, please contact Edwyn James (tel 33 1 45 24 76 03 or e-mail edwyn.james@oecd.org).