



Building capacity for assessment in PISA for Development countries

- The PISA for Development (PISA-D) initiative aims to make PISA more accessible to middle- and low-income countries.
- A key component of PISA-D is building capacity in the participating countries for managing large-scale student learning assessments and using the results to support national policy dialogue and evidence-based decision making.
- The capacity-building approaches and instruments piloted in PISA-D will be available to all PISA participating countries in need of capacity building support from the 2021 cycle onwards.

PISA-D countries have been prepared for their participation through a three-stage process that starts with an analysis of their capacity to implement PISA and make use of PISA data, and includes planning to strengthen that capacity. Countries are supported by the OECD and its contractors at each stage of the PISA cycle:



This process helps middle- and low-income countries overcome two potential barriers to participation in PISA: a lack of capacity to implement the assessment and a lack of experience in using PISA data and results. To overcome the latter obstacle, in PISA-D the OECD and its contractors offer training and assistance in data analysis, the interpretation of PISA results, report writing and communication through the following process:



The capacities strengthened through PISA-D are relevant to countries' management of their own national assessments and other large-scale international or regional assessments in which they might participate.

Capacity building is conducted primarily through the PISA-D National Project Manager meetings and other international training events. Ten of these meetings are scheduled during the 2015-18 period and are attended by all country teams. The training is delivered by OECD contractors. Country representatives who attend the meetings are responsible for disseminating the training to the rest of the staff at their national centres. The OECD and its contractors complement the international training events with weekly calls, scheduled teleconferences, webinars and country visits. PISA-D



development partners provide additional support, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, which conducts regional training workshops in Spanish for PISA-D countries in Latin America. Representatives from PISA-participating countries and from countries that do not (yet) participate in PISA are also welcome to these training workshops.

An important innovation in PISA-D is the introduction of peer-learning partnerships between PISA-D countries and countries that already have experience with PISA. Peer learning is a feature of every international training event with experienced PISA participants sharing their lessons and experiences with the PISA-D country representatives. Some strong partnerships have already been forged between these two groups of countries. For example, Korea is a peer-learning partner for Cambodia. Representatives of Korea's PISA national centre, the Korean Institute for Curriculum and Evaluation, have made several support visits to Cambodia since 2015. The peer-learning partnership between Chile and Paraguay is also strong and has involved support visits by the Chilean PISA National Project Manager to the PISA-D team in Paraguay.

Some lessons for capacity building have already begun to emerge:

- Preparing countries for their participation in PISA-D through the three-stage process works well and is already being used in the main PISA cycles in 2018 and 2021.
- The technical training delivered to PISA-D countries has helped countries complete the complex tasks required of them in order to advance from one phase of the project to the next while adhering to PISA's technical standards.
- The OECD and PISA-D contractors closely monitor countries' progress against clearly defined tasks at each stage of survey implementation. This is essential for identifying countries in need of extra support and providing assistance in a timely manner.
- Learning-by-doing works: simply by participating in PISA-D with its well-established and high-quality procedures and technical standards, the countries have acquired valuable knowledge and understanding of how to manage a large-scale assessment.
- Peer-to-peer learning is an effective way to build capacity, especially when it takes place in the context of an on-going cycle of activity like the PISA assessment.

The PISA-D project serves as the basis for developing a model of capacity-building support within PISA that will be offered to all participating countries from the 2021 cycle onwards.

For more information

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Coming next month

Sampling and survey operations for the field trial of the PISA-D out-of-school assessment

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