

Webinar on rural education provision – Agenda

OECD project on Understanding Present and Future Public Service Delivery Costs

Thursday, 2 April 2020

The link between cost of service provision and density levels suggests the need for a differentiated policy strategy for delivering public services with a clear spatial approach. The OECD project *Understanding Present and Future Public Service Delivery Costs* aims to help policy makers better understand how to address present and future public services in OECD countries. The project consists of a *quantitative pillar* and a *policy pillar*. The *quantitative pillar* will estimate costs of service provision of public services (including education and health) at different geographic scales. The *policy pillar* will focus on policy responses at national, regional and local level that can improve the provision of services taking into account the cost drivers and technological advancements.

On 2 April 2020 at 13.00-14.30 CET, an education-specific webinar on rural service delivery will provide government officials and experts with an opportunity to learn about intermediate project findings and to exchange about relevant lessons learnt from different approaches to improving education provision in rural and remote areas across OECD countries.

The webinar will be delivered using Zoom. Delegates and experts interested in participating are invited to register by sending an email to arno.engel@oecd.org by 1 April 2020.

12.40-13.00 Connection of participants and technical check

13.00-14.30

Item 1. Welcome and overview of service delivery project [OECD/EC DG REGIO]

Item 2. International insights on policies for delivering high quality education in rural areas [OECD]

Item 3. National and local approaches to delivering high quality education in rural areas

Item 3.a. The example of “Network Schools” using ICT in Quebec, Canada [École en Réseau]

Item 3.b. Estonia’s approach to rural and digital education service provision [Estonia Ministry of Education and Science]

Item 3.c. Rural education provision and digitalisation in Iceland [Iceland Ministry of Transport and Local Government & Bifröst University]

Item 4. Discussion and next steps [OECD]

Discussion questions for participants

1. To take **better decisions about rural education provision, what would be useful to know** about your own region or country -- or the experience of others? What (expected) insights from the *service delivery* project would be most relevant for your policy debates?

2. How is rural education provision **regulated** in your countries (e.g. what are **requirements** with regard to **coverage**, **travel distances** and **utilisation of capacity**)?
3. What **challenges** are you facing in providing high-quality education services in rural and remote areas?
4. What **measures are regulated or common practice** to handle the implications of dwindling student numbers and financial pressures?