

OECD-NORWAY WORKSHOP ON LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION IN NORWAY: DISCUSSIONS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The Bristol Hotel, Oslo (8 February, 2011)

The quality of an education system today can help greatly shape what a country will be like tomorrow. The OECD is working to support greater improvement of lower secondary education in Norway, by providing comparative analysis and contextualised tailored recommendations. Targeting lower secondary education is key to improve overall educational attainment, as it is a fundamental level to lay the foundation of educational, social, and economic outcomes that follow. To collaborate with Norway on this task, the OECD and the ***OECD-Norway Steering Group for Quality in Lower Secondary Education*** have done an assessment and developed a set of preliminary recommendations to be published in April 2011. They will also organise a workshop (February 2011), and an OECD-Harvard High Level Seminar (June 2011) to work on the design and implementation strategies for these recommendations.

AGENDA

Objective: To provide input for the development of the White Paper on the Quality of Lower Secondary Education in Norway by engaging key stakeholders in discussing international practices and a set of OECD preliminary recommendations.

- The Workshop will comprise different actors involved in the design of lower secondary education policies in Norway, such as: Ministry officials, directorate officials, trade union representatives, school owners, municipalities, school principals, teachers, students or parents. Participants will also include the team in charge with writing the White Paper and those who will be participating at the OECD High Level Seminar. They will organise in teams to analyse:
 - The key issues, strengths and challenges, facing Norwegian lower secondary education.
 - The OECD preliminary recommendations and how they can be better focused towards the specific needs of the lower secondary education system in Norway.
 - Prioritisation and policy design.

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Chair: Alette Schreiner (Norwegian Ministry)

From 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coffee and cake available. 	
11:00-11:10 <i>Opening session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome by the Minister of Education of Norway, Kristin Halvorsen Objectives and structure of the workshop, OECD background and methodology of the project (<i>Beatriz Pont, OECD Project Manager: Policy Implementation</i>) 	
11:10-12:00 <i>Making reform happen in Norway: Presentation of the project and OECD recommendations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnosis of the Norwegian education system (<i>Diana Toledo, OECD Policy Analyst</i>) (15 minutes) The OECD recommendations for Norway (<i>Beatriz Pont, OECD Project Manager</i>) (20 minutes) Presentation of the White Paper (<i>Kjersti Flåtten, Education Ministry</i>) (15 minutes) 	12:00-12:15 <i>Questions and comments</i> PARALLEL COFFEE BREAK
12:15-13:15 <i>International evidence on what works to improve lower secondary education across countries</i>	<p><i>15 minutes per presentation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower secondary in a comparative perspective (<i>Pauline Musset, OECD Analyst</i>) Teachers in Finland (<i>Pasi Sahlberg, OECD-Norway Steering Group</i>). Successful student pathways in the United States (<i>Nancy Hoffman, OECD-Norway Steering Group</i>) School effectiveness in Alberta (<i>Dennis Shirley, OECD-Norway Steering Group</i>) 	13:15-13:30 <i>Questions and comments</i>
13:30-14:40 Lunch		
14:40-15:40 <i>Parallel thematic sessions</i>	<p>Participants will be organised into thematic groups moderated by the OECD Steering Group Members. Each group will receive a set of recommendations on a different topic to work on: a) teachers, b) school effectiveness, c) student pathways, d) governance and implementation.</p>	
15:40-16:00 Coffee break		
16:00-17:00 <i>Plenary: discussion of recommendations</i>	<p>Moderator: <i>Kirsti Klette (OECD-Norway Steering Group)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each team will take 5 minutes to present their conclusions relative to the recommendations. Discussion Conclusions of discussion by the moderator. 	
17:00-17:10 <i>Wrap up with stakeholders</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of conclusions by OECD and Ministry. 	
17:10-17:20 Coffee		

The OECD-Norway Steering Group: A combination of OECD and international experts to guide the work

To develop the analysis and recommendations, a specific OECD Norway Steering Group is composed of a group of high level international, Norwegian and OECD experts:

Nancy Hoffman is Vice President and Senior Advisor of Jobs for The Future. She also worked as a consultant for the OECD, in its study of vocational education and training, "Learning for Jobs." Dr. Hoffman has held posts as academic services dean at Harvard Graduate School of Education and programme officer at the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. She was a founder and faculty member of the College of Public and Community Service at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. At the University of Massachusetts, she also ran the Center for the Improvement of Teaching. Dr. Hoffman holds a B.A. and Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of California, Berkeley.

Kirsti Klette is an Associate Professor at the University of Oslo, Institute for Educational Research, Norway. Her teaching, research and writing are in the areas of teaching and teachers' work, classroom studies, and questions concerned with stability and change in schools. Recently she has been in charge of two major research projects: A comparative project together with Nordic colleagues focusing on restructuring in education and how it affect teachers' work in the Nordic countries, and a national project using classroom studies as way to describe how educational reforms are recognised at the classroom level.

Pasi Sahlberg is Director General of CIMO (Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation) in Helsinki, Finland. He has global expertise in educational reforms, training teachers, school improvement and advising policy-makers in more than 40 countries. In Finland he has worked as teacher, teacher-educator, senior advisor and director, and overseas served the World Bank (in Washington) and the European Commission (in Torino, Italy) as senior education specialist. His forthcoming book is titled "Finnish Lessons: What can the world learn about educational change in Finland". He has a Ph.D. from the University of Jyväskylä and is Adjunct Professor at the Universities of Helsinki and Oulu in Finland.

Dennis Shirley serves on the Scholars Forum of the Public Education Network, advises the One Square Kilometer of Education school improvement project of the Freudenberg Foundation in Berlin, and collaborates with the California Teachers Association on improving 480 schools in struggling circumstances. He has led three school improvement efforts with more than 13 million dollars in funding, and his research has been translated into German, Swedish, Spanish, and French. Dr. Dennis Shirley's work in education spans from the microlevel of assisting beginning teachers to the macrolevel of designing and guiding large-scale research and intervention projects. He recently published *The Fourth Way*, in collaboration with Andrew Hargreaves. He holds a doctorate from Harvard University.

OECD staff

Beatriz Pont is Senior Analyst on Education Policy Implementation in the OECD Education Directorate, where she is currently coordinating the OECD Project for Quality in Lower Secondary Education in Norway. At the OECD since 1999, she has focused on education policy issues, except for a year that she spent in the Secretary General's cabinet studying political economy of reform across OECD countries. She has managed and contributed to a range of education policy comparative reviews in the area of school improvement, school leadership, equity adult learning and adult skills, among others. Previously Beatriz was a researcher on education, training and active labour market policies at the Economic and Social Council of the Government of Spain and worked for Andersen Consulting in Barcelona. Beatriz has a B.A. in Political Science from Pitzer College, Claremont, California, holds a M.Sc. in International Affairs from Columbia University, and was a research fellow at the Institute of Social Science in Tokyo University.

Diana Toledo is Policy Analyst at the OECD Education Directorate, working for the OECD Project for Quality in Lower Secondary Education in Norway. Since 2007 she has collaborated on several OECD projects, such as: PISA 2006, TALIS, Education at a Glance, and the OECD-Mexico Project to Improve the Quality of Mexican Schools. She recently published *La participación social en las escuelas en los países de la OCDE*. Previously she also collaborated with the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the International Council of Museums (ICOM) at UNESCO headquarters. Diana holds a PhD in Development Socio-Economics and a M.Sc. in Comparative Development Studies from the EHESS, France, as well as a B.A. in Political Science from ITAM, Mexico.

Pauline Musset is Analyst for the OECD Directorate for Education project "Overcoming School Failure: Policies that Work" in the Education and Training Policy Division. She has been working for the OECD since June 2009. Her contributions to the Education Directorate include working papers on teacher training and on school leader development, and analytical work on equity in education – in particular on school choice. She is also currently working on the document *A comparative overview of lower secondary education policies and practices for Norway*.
