
Thursday – 18 March 2021

13.00 **Welcome and introduction**

Opening remarks

- Mr. Paulo Santiago, Head of the Policy Advice and Implementation Division (**OECD/Directorate for Education and Skills**), will provide opening remarks and explain the objectives of the Forum.

Introduction

- Ms. Lucie Cerna, Leader of the Strength through Diversity Project (**OECD/Directorate for Education and Skills**) will present the project and provide an overview of the project's [Policy Brief on equity and inclusion during COVID-19](#). Building on the challenges for diverse vulnerable students that emerged during school closures and (intermittent) school re-openings due to COVID-19, the Policy Forum will be looking forward to lessons learnt from the pandemic and opportunities for equity and inclusion in education.
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13.25 **Plenary Session: Shaping future equity and inclusion policies in education**

This session will build on the challenges highlighted in the introduction and by different stakeholders during the COVID-19 crisis. It will then identify key policy areas for future policy changes to advance equity and inclusion in education post COVID-19. Presenters will discuss how to highlight equity and inclusion policy issues in order to transform challenges brought about by COVID-19 into opportunities. Presenters might reflect on the following questions:

- What policy areas have emerged from the challenges highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic as priorities to promote equitable and inclusive education systems?
- How can education policy makers turn COVID-19 related challenges into opportunities for future policy changes/reforms in the field of equity and inclusion?

Presentations on future policy priorities in education

- Halsey Rogers (Lead Economist), World Bank: Realising the Future of Learning
- Manos Antoninis (Director), UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report: Education post-COVID-19
- Stefaan Hermans (Director of Policy Strategy and Evaluation, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture), European Commission: Achieving the European Education Area by 2025

Plenary discussion: Participants are invited to ask questions to the presenters and share relevant experiences from their own countries. Specifically, participants might reflect on the following questions:

- How has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your country, institution or organisation's perspective on equity and inclusion in education?
 - Has your country, institution or organisation already identified priorities for future policy changes towards equity and inclusion?
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Coffee break (14.45-14.55)

14.55 **Breakout sessions**

Based on the key policy areas identified in Session 1, participants will be divided in small groups in this item. They will be invited to propose forward-looking policies and envisage future reforms for more equitable and inclusive education systems.

15.40 **Final discussion and conclusion**

This item will allow participants to summarise the discussions delivered in the breakout sessions and elaborate on the takeaways from the 8th Strength through Diversity Policy Forum.

Final discussion: Participants are invited to share what they have learnt and further reflect on the applicability of proposed policy opportunities for their education systems.

Wrap-up:

- Mr. Paulo Santiago will provide a summary of the Forum.

Close of Policy Forum (16:00)
