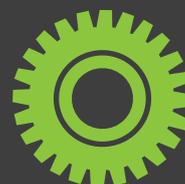


OECD

CENTRE FOR SKILLS



Our Mission

Skills transform lives and drive economies. Skills are central to achieving sustainable, innovation-driven economic growth and social inclusion. Yet few governments have successfully crafted a strategic approach to skills policy that builds bridges across ministry silos and engages stakeholders in delivering better skills outcomes.



The OECD Centre for Skills supports countries to achieve better economic and social outcomes by taking a whole-of-government approach and engaging with key stakeholders to develop and implement better skills policies.

What we do

Using the OECD Skills Strategy framework, the Centre works with governments to apply the OECD's multidisciplinary expertise, policy-relevant evidence and policy experience across different country contexts. The Centre analyses policy challenges, synergies and trade-offs and their implications for the development of relevant skills, the activation of skills and the effective use of skills.

The Centre mobilises a wide range of OECD expertise to develop analytical tools, promote peer-learning and carry out national skills strategy projects, tailored to the specific needs of countries in building – and implementing – more effective national skills systems. The OECD Centre for Skills generates value to countries across three broad areas:

- **Developing analytical tools:** by promoting and conducting policy-oriented research on developing, activating and effectively using skills, as well as on strengthening national skills systems; updating the *OECD Skills Strategy Diagnostic Toolkit and Action Toolkit*; and developing indicators to measure and compare performance across key elements of national skills systems.
- **Promoting international peer-learning and capacity building:** by convening regular meetings of Ministers responsible for a range of relevant portfolios in skills-relevant areas – such as education, employment, economic development, innovation and tax policy – at the Skills Summit; holding annual meetings of government officials from national project teams; and welcoming seconded experts from government and academia.
- **Building effective national skills strategies:** by working collaboratively with inter-ministerial national project teams and engaging a broad range of stakeholders to develop skills policies that are tailored to each country's needs and context. The diagnostic phase of each project builds a shared understanding of the main skills challenges facing the country and provides a solid basis for moving from diagnosis to action. The action phase supports governments and stakeholders to move to implementation by facilitating consensus on policy priorities and identify good practices for addressing the country's key skills challenges.

The OECD Centre for Skills will also ensure the ongoing relevance and impact of the OECD's work on skills by coordinating regular updates of the OECD Skills Strategy framework to reflect the most recent OECD analysis and insights, respond effectively to emerging challenges and embody the richness of country experience. The first update of the OECD Skills Strategy will be presented to the 2017 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting.

OECD Skills Strategy

The OECD Skills Strategy framework helps countries to develop skills policies that boost productivity, innovation and inclusive growth by assessing their performance in four interrelated areas:

- **Developing relevant skills** for the country's socio-economic and demographic context starting from early childhood up to adult education;
- **Activating skills supply**, including better integrating vulnerable groups into the labour market;
- **Using skills effectively** by ensuring that people are employed in jobs that are well-matched with their skills and in workplaces that make full use of those skills; and
- **Strengthening the skills system** by ensuring that the development and implementation of skills policies is evidence based, co-ordinated across sectors and involves all relevant actors, for example social partners and education and training providers.



How we work

Each country's situation is unique: countries have different skills strengths, challenges and objectives. Recognising this, the OECD Centre for Skills designs tailored technical assistance projects in close collaboration with governments to help build their capacity to develop and implement effective national skills strategies. The OECD can make a number of unique contributions, including:

- **Providing external, independent and cross-sectoral advice** on the strengths and weaknesses of the country's current skills policies and outcomes, drawing upon relevant international evidence – such as the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) – to help identify priority areas for action;
- **Collaborating with inter-ministerial national project teams**, whose representatives are appointed by the government and are drawn from all relevant ministries, including education, employment, economy and finance among others to identify skills challenges and the means to address them;
- **Engaging with a range of stakeholders** including employers, trade unions, students associations and education providers through a series of interactive workshops designed to promote engagement, develop a shared vision for the future, and secure their commitment to taking action to deliver better skills outcomes.
- **Promoting peer learning** to widen and deepen understanding of approaches to tackling skills challenges based on concrete examples from other countries in areas such as: initial education, vocational education and training, adult education, active labour market policy, skills assessment and anticipation systems, tax policy, and innovation and economic development policy.

To date, the OECD has engaged with a diverse range of countries to successfully undertake national skills strategy projects, including: Austria, Italy, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain. See www.oecd.org/skills for all published country reports.

Contact us

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www.oecd.org/skills

