

Participate in our work

The OECD's Education Policy Committee has launched new work to help countries enhance the performance of their higher education systems. This work will strengthen the comparative evidence base on higher education, enabling the analysis of higher education system performance and the identification of effective strategies to enhance performance. It will strengthen the OECD's evidence base so that we can offer countries more robust policy advice in the future.

Country participation

Countries may choose to participate in one or both of the strands of the higher education work in 2017-18, according to their national priorities.

For more information on participating in our work on higher education, please contact the project manager or visit our website:

www.oecd.org/edu/skills-beyond-school/higher-education.htm

Stakeholder dialogue

It is important to maintain and strengthen the engagement of higher education institutions and other stakeholders with OECD work on higher education.

A stakeholder forum will be held once a year from 2016. In addition, there will be opportunities to provide feedback online. This will help the OECD gain valuable feedback on its higher education work and get the sector's perspectives on emerging trends and policy concerns.

Participation in the stakeholder dialogue process is free of charge.



Enhancing higher education system performance

How to become involved in the OECD's new work on higher education



Enhancing higher education system performance

The OECD is developing two new, interrelated strands of work to help countries enhance their higher education system performance. The analyses will provide policy makers with insights into the impact and effectiveness of different policy levers and approaches in higher education. This work will also generate new insights on the development of advanced skills which will be incorporated into the OECD's Skills Strategy work.

1. Benchmarking higher education systems performance:

The OECD will collect data and information across different performance dimensions of higher education within a conceptual framework. This will enable:

- the identification of strengths and weaknesses within higher education systems; and
- the comparison of performance across higher education systems.

The benchmarking higher education system performance project will help countries to learn from each other about 'what works', and to implement improvements in their own systems. The enhanced evidence base and a comprehensive framework for policy dialogue will enable the OECD to provide more robust policy advice.

2. In-depth analysis of higher education topics:

The OECD will develop and apply a rigorous framework to analyse specific topics on higher education to enable a deeper understanding of policy challenges and their underlying causes. This work will identify the linkages between policies, policy levers and system outcomes and provide tailored policy advice to countries.

Topics will be chosen by countries. The first topic to be tackled is the labour market relevance and outcomes of higher education systems.

Why are we doing this work now?

Higher education is at the heart of the knowledge society – it contributes to the development of high-level skills, creates and applies new knowledge and spurs innovation.

Rapid expansion of the higher education sector, coupled with increasing globalisation of the economy and labour markets over the past two decades, and reforms granting higher education institutions much greater autonomy, has led to dramatic transformations of the higher education landscape since the OECD completed a major review of tertiary education from 2004 to 2008.

Many countries find it challenging to keep up with the changing higher education landscape and are seeking advice from the OECD on ways in which they can improve the performance of their higher education systems.

The Education Policy Committee in 2014 sought to identify what work on higher education would be most relevant to OECD countries and how that work might be done. During 2015 and 2016, the OECD has continued working closely with countries to refine and shape the new strands of work to ensure that they will respond closely to the priorities and challenges that countries are facing.

What will this work produce?

Benchmarking higher education system performance:

- A conceptual framework for the comprehensive analysis of higher education systems
- The collection of quantitative and qualitative data and information on the higher education systems of participating countries
- The analysis of performance including the impact and effectiveness of different policy levers
- Reports on the performance of higher education systems of participating countries
- A synthesis report comparing the performance of participating countries and providing an analysis of 'what works' in higher education systems
- Peer-learning opportunities
- Continuous expansion over time along three axes (breadth, depth and country coverage) to improve the OECD's evidence base and its capacity to provide robust policy advice

In-depth analysis of higher education topics:

- An analytical framework for approaching the selected topic
- A self-assessment tool for countries
- Country reviews and tailored policy advice for specific countries
- Peer-learning opportunities
- New evidence and insights to support the benchmarking higher education system performance project

Contact the higher education team

Shane Samuelson, Project Manager

E-mail: shane.samuelson@oecd.org

Tel: +33 1 45 24 13 48