

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
FAIR AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
Trondheim, Norway, 4-5 June 2007

FINAL PROGRAMME

Introduction

The conference on Fair and Inclusive Education is organised jointly by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It is designed to bring together policy makers, scholars and senior educational administrators from OECD countries who deal with equity in education issues to share recent research, discuss emerging policy issues, and consider how schools and education systems can respond to these challenges. It will be held in the Britannia Hotel, Dronningstgt 5, in Trondheim, Norway, 4-5 June 2007.

Conference objectives

The conference will discuss the outcomes of the OECD thematic review on equity in education, including the comparative report and examine a set of policy levers focused on fair and inclusive design, practices and resources. It will discuss key issues for equity in education, such as early childhood interventions, school choice or secondary education structures, measures to reduce dropout rates, financial or strategic policies countries have adopted or may envisage putting in place to enhance equity in their education systems. The conference will debate how to raise policy awareness of equity in education issues and how policies for equity in education can be best supported. Final conference conclusions and recommendations will be prepared.

Conference format

The format of the conference is designed to foster opportunities for meaningful discussion and dialogue among participants, national representatives, authors of background reports, international organisation representatives and experts. This is why we ask participants to take an active role in the conference.

The parallel working sessions

The parallel sessions in small groups aim to stimulate participants to discuss different strategies to promote greater equity in education and develop key conclusions and recommendations to be presented at the end of the conference. Sessions are based on a set of policy levers (Chapters 3-5 of the comparative report) which have been defined to provide a clear framework to target and deliver equity in education: i) conducive structures and pathways through education systems; ii) inclusive school and out of school practices; iii) equity priorities, resources and targets; and iv) groups at risk, migrants and minorities.

In each session, participants and country representatives are asked to reflect and prepare short five-minute presentations on the relevant policies and practices to be discussed in the session, focusing on the following issues:

- reasons why these policies have worked or not and under what conditions;
- challenges they pose for countries;
- difficulties met during implementation processes;
- outcomes of endorsed policies;
- planned strategies.

To encourage discussion the structure of the sessions will be as follows:

- an OECD presentation will frame the key issues to be discussed;
- 4-5 country representatives, with different policy approaches to the discussed question, will identify key issues related to their national experience;
- we will ask for some formal discussants to respond based on their own experiences;
- the other participants will be asked to contribute to discussions with their own reflections;
- rapporteurs will summarise the key conclusions and recommendations that have emerged from discussions to the plenary sessions (to be used in a final conference summary).

Special sessions

During special sessions, experts will present issues crucial for equity in education. The special session on 4 June will discuss recent OECD findings on accountability, school choice and equity in education – controversial and hotly debated topics in many countries. The second session will highlight the benefits for equity generated by investments in early education and care, especially for groups at risk.

Final session

The final session will bring together conclusions from previous sessions and will address how to follow up on the key findings from the activity and the conference: how to ensure awareness, visibility and continuity of policies for equity in education.

Conference summary

A conference summary will present the concrete conclusions and recommendations which are developed throughout the different sessions of the conference.

Simultaneous interpretation English-French

During the conference, there will be simultaneous interpretation in English and French in the plenary sessions, the special sessions and in the parallel working sessions C and D.



Sunday 3 June 2007 SOCIAL EVENT

18.30 – 20.00 Reception by Norwegian Minister of Education and Research, Mr. Øystein Djupedal at the Archbishop's Palace (walking distance from Britannia Hotel). Followed by a concert with Nidaros Cathedral Choir in the Cathedral. (<http://www.nidarosdomen.no/english/nidaroscathedral/>)

International Conference, Fair and Inclusive Education, Monday 4 June 2007

Conference chair, Monday: Ms. Barbara Ischinger, Director for Education, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

9.00 – 9.30 Registration

9.30 – 10.00 Opening Session: Equity in education – the context

Welcome by Mr. Øystein Djupedal, Minister of Education and Research, Norway

Address by Mr. Aart de Geus, Deputy Secretary General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

10.00 – 11.00 Keynote presentation: Equity in education from theory to practice

Mr. Ben Levin, Canada Research Chair in Education Leadership and Policy, OISE/University of Toronto

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 12.30 No more failures: Ten steps to equity in education

Presentation of key findings from OECD comparative report on equity in education, Mr. Simon Field, OECD

Discussant: Mr. Richard Teese, Director, Centre for Post-compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning (CPELL), University of Melbourne, and Co-editor, *International Studies in Educational Inequality, Theory and Policy*, Springer (May 2007)

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.45 Parallel working sessions

<p>Session B: Making education systems student friendly</p> <p>The session will discuss how differentiation mechanisms (academic selection/school choice) impact on equity and how attractive secondary education structures and pathways can contribute to more equitable opportunities. It will highlight the need to remove dead ends and provide second chances.</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Beatriz Pont, OECD</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <p>School choice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Belgium, Mr. Gaby Hostens <p>Secondary education pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Austria, Mr. Josef Neumüller• Sweden, Mr. Hans-Åke Öström <p>Measures to prevent dropout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alberta (Canada), Mr. Rick Morrow• Slovenia, Ms. Slava Pevec-Grm <p>Rapporteur: Ms. Nancy Hoffman, Vice President, Youth Transitions and Director of the Early College Initiative, Jobs for the Future, Boston</p>	<p>Session C: Inclusive school and out-of-school practices</p> <p>This session will discuss school practices to handle individual learning difficulties, including those of special needs students. It will also consider how to improve the out-of-school learning environment by reaching out to homes of disadvantaged children.</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Simon Field, OECD</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <p>Creating supportive learning environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finland, Mr. Reijo Laukkanen• Korea, Mrs. Jeong Won Kim• Luxembourg, Mr. Siggy Koenig <p>Measures for special needs students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Zealand, Ms. Joanna Curzon• OECD, Mr. Serge Ebersold <p>Rapporteur: Mr. Ides Nicaise, Professor, Head of Unit, Higher Institute for Labour Studies, Cath. Univ. Leuven, Belgium</p>
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15.45 – 16.15 *Coffee break*

16.15 – 17.00 **Special session: Accountability, School Choice and Equity**

Mr. Ludger Woessmann, Head of Department of Human Capital and Innovation, Ifo Institute for Economic Research, University of Munich



Monday 4 June 2007 SOCIAL EVENT

18.15 *Departure by foot from Britannia Hotel (you might want to bring a jacket)*

18.30 *Departure by boat from Ravnkloa Pier to Munkholmen (10 minutes travel). Informal dinner. Entertainment by young jazz music students from the well known Institute of Music at NTNU – The Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

22.00 *Boat back to the city*

International Conference, Fair and Inclusive Education, Tuesday 5 June 2007

Conference chair, Tuesday: Mr Eivind Heder, Director General, Department of Policy Analysis, Lifelong Learning and International Affairs, Ministry of Education and Research, Norway

9.00 – 10.45 Parallel working sessions

<p>Session D: Equity priorities, resources and targets</p> <p>This session discusses outcome measures such as numerically-defined policy targets for equity and school testing and how resources can be targeted to promote equity.</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Simon Field, OECD</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <p>Targeting resources to promote equity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Ireland, Mr. James O'Donovan</i>• <i>France, Ms. Nadine Prost</i> <p>School testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Norway, Mr. Johan Raaum</i>• <i>Scotland (UK), Mr. Bill Maxwell</i>• <i>England (UK), Ms. Juliane Wesemann</i> <p>Rapporteur: Ms. Luisa de Almeida Ferreira, Deputy Economic Advisor, European Investment Bank</p>	<p>Session E: Focus on groups at risk (eg. migrants and minorities)</p> <p>This section discusses how education can be a key tool of social advancement for groups at risk. It covers factors that influence migrants and minorities' underperformance in education (such as disadvantaged socio-economic status) and measures to reduce their negative impact on students' outcomes.</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Malgorzata Kuczera, OECD</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <p>Integration of migrants in education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Denmark, Ms. Ilkay Yüksel</i>• <i>Spain, Mr. Jorge Calero</i>• <i>Portugal, Ms Luisa Ucha Silva</i> <p>Educational approaches to Roma population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Czech Republic, Ms. Jana Strakova</i>• <i>Hungary, Mr. Zoltan Loboda</i> <p>Rapporteur: Mr. Petter Aasen, Director and Senior Researcher, Norwegian Institute for Studies in Research and Education, Center for Innovation Research, Oslo</p>
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10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break

11.15 – 12.00 Special session: Benefits from good quality early childhood education and care

Mr. John Bennett, OECD consultant, co-author of OECD report on ECEC "Starting Strong"

Mr. Jørgen Frost, Senior Adviser, Bredtvet National Resource Centre, Oslo and Assistant Professor, University of Oslo

12.00 – 12.45 Final roundtable: How do we move the equity in education agenda forward?

Conclusions from parallel working session rapporteurs

Mr. Ben Levin, Canada Research Chair in Education Leadership and Policy, OISE/University of Toronto

12.45 – 13.00 Concluding remarks

Mr. Øystein Djupedal, Minister of Education and Research, Norway

Ms. Barbara Ischinger, Director for Education, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development