

OECD THEMATIC REVIEW ON MIGRANT EDUCATION - NEWSLETTER UPDATE NO. 4

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Publications produced by the Thematic Review on Migrant Education

Final synthesis report 'Closing the Gap for Immigrant Students'

The report *Closing the Gap for Immigrant Students: Policies, Practice and Performance* will be placed on the Electronic Discussion Group (EDG) on 12 February for countries to review the extent to which their comments on the first draft have been integrated. **We will not be asking countries for new comments, but rather to approve the changes that have been made based on their oral and written comments.**

The final version of the report will then be posted on OLIS in March 2010 and be published as a hard copy in April. The report is structured as a concise action-oriented handbook for policy makers. It will also be of special interest to teachers, school leaders, parents and all those who are active in immigrant communities.

OECD Country Notes

The Country Notes on [Austria](#), [Ireland](#) and [Norway](#) have been published on our website (www.oecd.org/edu/migration). We will upload the Country Notes on Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden as they are finalised and approved. These country reviews provide evidence on the current situation of immigrants in each country's education system and develop context-specific policy recommendations to raise the education outcomes of immigrant children.

Country Background Reports

Comprehensive national background reports have been prepared by the six countries participating in the review strand of the project and are available on our website ([Austria](#), [Denmark](#), [Ireland](#), the [Netherlands](#), [Norway](#) and [Sweden](#)). Moreover, responses to an international questionnaire on migrant education have been provided by [Finland](#), [Hungary](#), [Korea](#), [Spain](#) and [Turkey](#) (www.oecd.org/edu/migration).

Literature Review

The literature review "[What Works in Migrant Education? A Review of Evidence and Policy Options](#)" has been published as OECD Education Working Paper No 22. The paper is available on our website (www.oecd.org/edu/migration), as well as through SourceOECD and RePEc.

A shortened and updated version ("[Improving the Education Outcomes of the Children of Immigrants](#)") has been prepared for the joint EC/OECD seminar on the labour market integration of the children of immigrants.

Dissemination, conferences and seminars

Korea-OECD International Seminar “Policy for Educational Support for Multi-cultural Students and the Exploration of its Action Plan”, Seoul, 27 January 2010

The Korean Institute for Educational Development (KEDI) will organise an international seminar on policies and its action plan for educational support for multi-cultural students. Deborah Roseveare, Head of the OECD Education and Training Policy Division, will present the findings from the OECD Thematic Review on Migrant Education at the international seminar. Moonhee Kim will participate in the seminar as a discussant to talk about the implications of findings from the OECD Migrant Education Project on Korean education policies for students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Launch of the Country Note for Ireland, 11 January 2010

The Country Note for [Ireland](#) was launched in January 2010. Minister for Integration, John Curran, T.D. welcomed the publication of the report. Noting that education is a key aspect of his integration remit, Minister Curran stated that “This OECD report is very informative and will progress the debate on migrant education in Ireland”. The Minister emphasised that its findings will inform the development of the Intercultural Education Strategy which he expects will be finalised in spring 2010. The Government has yet to finalise details regarding the timing of the launch of the Intercultural Education Strategy and the role of the Country Note. In addition to being available on the OECD website the report is available at www.education.ie and www.integration.ie. **Media coverage** since the release of the report has focused on the recommendation to shift provision of primary education to state-run schools (and away from the present system dominated by church-run schools) to better the needs of an increasingly multiethnic pupil population.

Launch conference of the Country Note for Austria, 3-4 December 2009

The Country Note for [Austria](#) was launched at the conference "Vielfalt ist Zukunft" (Diversity is Future) in Vienna, Austria on 3-4 December 2009. The conference brought together about 150 participants including Minister Claudia Schmied, policy makers and stakeholders. The conference took a very interactive and dynamic format that could be a model for other countries. Discussions were organised in parallel sessions each focusing on one of the main recommendations from the Country Note. In each session, a cross-section of policy makers and stakeholders from across the system worked together to propose strategies and concrete steps towards implementation of the OECD recommendation. Participants could then explore the different feedback rooms and pin their business cards next to the proposals for action, e.g. if they were interested in creating a network, or in working with researchers to have their project evaluated. Deborah Nusche from the OECD team presented findings from the Country Note and from the OECD comparative work. A migrant education website (http://www.bmukk.gv.at/schulen/unterricht/konferenz_vielfalt.xml) as well as a password-protected discussion forum for participants were set up by the Ministry as a follow-up to the conference. The Country Note is also being translated into German.

International Congress Catalonia 2.0: The Sons and Daughters of Migrations, Barcelona, 10-12 November 2009.

The OECD participated in this international congress on the children of immigrants, organised by the Catalan Secretariat for Immigration, in cooperation with the Spanish Ministry of Work and Immigration. The event brought together about 400 participants including the Minister for Social Action and Citizenship of the Catalan government, local and regional policy makers, researchers and stakeholders. Deborah Nusche from the OECD team presented the Working Paper [*What Works in Migrant Education?*](#) and participated in the discussion. The aim was to share international evidence and provide local government and practitioners with knowledge and tools on how to best respond to the new diversity in Catalonia's population. The event was a good opportunity to disseminate findings from the Thematic Review on Migrant Education in a country which had not participated in the review strand of this project. There is a lot of interest in the topic of migrant education in Spain, and particularly in Catalonia, because of its fast growing immigrant population (over the past 10 years, the share of foreign-born in the Spanish population has grown from 3% to 12%).

Norway: National Dissemination Seminar at the National Centre for Multicultural Education, 22-23 October 2009

Miho Taguma presented the Country Note for [Norway](#) to an audience of about 320 participants, including policy makers from the national governments, counties and municipalities, teachers and school leaders from all levels of education, and researchers. This was the second national seminar in Norway. While the first launch event targeted mostly policy makers and researchers, this second seminar targeted a wider audience, mainly teachers and school leaders, who are the actors of policy interventions for immigrant students. This was a good example of how to make the best of the country note. It facilitated raising awareness of, understanding about, and creating a sense of ownership towards the OECD policy suggestions among the front-line practitioners. The country note has been translated into Norwegian. International researchers were also invited as key note presenters.

Norway: Committee on Equal Education, 23 October 2009

Norway has set up a Committee to implement the policy strategy 'Equal Education in Practice', which focuses on academic success of immigrant children in school. Norway has moved towards an implementation phase from a policy-design phase. Miho Taguma, the visit leader of the Norwegian review team was invited to participate in the internal discussion among the Committee. Discussion in a closed meeting with the selected key stakeholders was a good example of providing opportunities for more open and frank discussions on politically sensitive topics as well as clarification on specific issues in-depth on the Country Note for [Norway](#). The key topics for next steps included: (1) What strategies would be effective to implement the policy suggestions; (2) What would be the best way to mobilize knowledge and experiences among municipalities, school leaders and teachers without a strong intervention from the state; (3) Who will be at risk of being forgotten by furthering universal measures and targeted measures?

European Commission Conference on "Migration and Mobility: Challenges and opportunities for EU education systems", Brussels, 20 October 2009

Claire Shewbridge from the OECD team attended the conference on *Migration and Mobility: Challenges and opportunities for EU education systems* organised by the European Commission, Directorate General for Education and Culture. The aim of the conference was to ‘wrap up’ the public consultation on the EU Green Paper on Migrant Education. The OECD was invited to present preliminary findings on the OECD Migrant Education review regarding measures to integrate newly arrived immigrant children in schools. The results of the public consultation fed into conclusions by the Education Council which were briefly presented by Karin Henriksson (representing the Swedish Presidency). The major points were: For migrant education to be successful there needs to be a collective and collaborative effort from many stakeholders; Start early (importance of ECEC); Move towards education systems valuing both quality and equity; Ensure permeability of educational pathways; Provide additional instruction in the language of the host country (and mother tongue where possible); Provide targeted support where students need it. For more information, see the EC website on migrant children and education:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news490_en.htm

Joint OECD / EC Seminar on the Labour Market Integration of the Children of Immigrants, Brussels, 1-2 October 2009.

The seminar was organised jointly by the European Commission and the OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (DELSA). It brought together about 140 participants, including OECD and EC delegates, external experts and academia. The seminar was concerned with the labour market outcomes of second generation immigrants. New OECD data was presented, showing that the children of immigrants tend to have lower labour market outcomes than natives in most countries. The low level of labour market integration of the children of immigrants can partly be explained by their lower educational attainment. Therefore, one main focus of the seminar was on “Compensating for Education Deficiencies”. Deborah Nusche from the OECD team prepared and presented a short policy options paper (*"Improving the Education Outcomes of the Children of Immigrants"*), based on the earlier literature review (EDU Working Paper No.22). The paper and other documentation from the conference are available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=88&langId=en&eventsId=207&furtherEvents=yes>

Website

For more information about the project, please consult our website: www.oecd.org/edu/migration. The website provides information about our analytical approach, recent meetings and related documents.

Other related information

OECD has launched the **educationtoday lighthouse**, a collaborative website to help chart the way for the education sector to navigate through the current crisis and shape the post-crisis economy and society, at: www.oecd.org/edu/lighthouse

OECD's Education Lighthouse Offers You:

- Up-to-the-minute information, evidence and analysis on the impact of the crisis on education, with concrete examples of how governments and institutions in different countries are coping with the crisis.
- Information on high priority issues such as education budgets, education in stimulus packages, how unemployment affects motivation and learning attitudes ... and much more.
- An opportunity for you to contribute to this information sharing platform with other members of the fast-growing OECD social network.

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