

Higher Education

Improving access, quality and relevance

- ▶ **What do we know about the outcomes of higher education?**
- ▶ **What can policy makers do to improve access, quality and value for money in higher education?**
- ▶ **What can higher education institutions do to improve governance, financing and partnerships?**

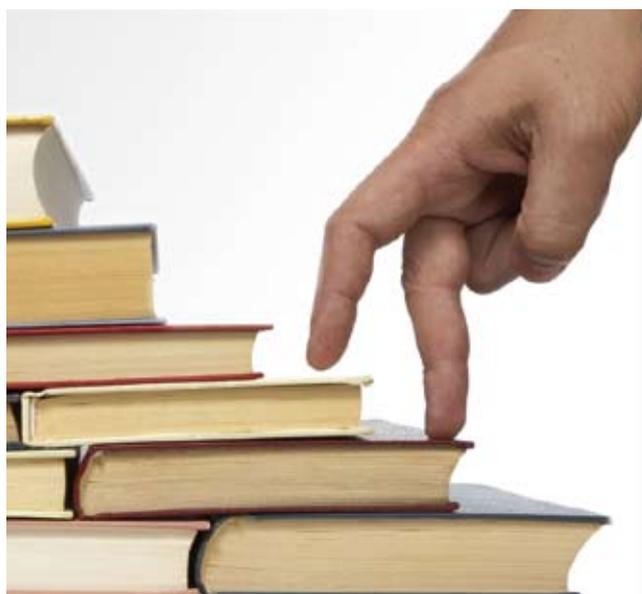
Better management and delivery of tertiary education help countries achieve their economic and social objectives. We explore the factors underlying high quality teaching and learning, and offer advice on system objectives, quality assurance, financing and policies, and mechanisms to ensure effective governance.

The Feasibility Study for the International **Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes (AHELO)** is breaking new ground in assessing learning outcomes internationally.

Reviews of higher education in regions and city development show that stronger interaction and engagement between institutions and local actors will benefit social and economic development by reinforcing human capital and attracting investments.

In the midst of profound change, the university of the future is emerging from the interplay of socioeconomic forces at local, national and global levels. Analysis of **University Futures** trends on globalisation, demography and technology is helping institutions and systems adapt to new strategic demands.

Internationalisation affects many aspects of institutional behaviour while providing new and exciting opportunities for all types of higher education institutions. With more emphasis being placed on having international, foreign



language and inter-cultural skills to interact well in a global setting, internationalisation issues will be a major focus over the next years.

Higher education faces a paradox as a result of the economic crisis. It is seen as key to paving the path to economic recovery and sustainable growth. Yet in many places the resources available to higher education systems to meet rising demand and prepare for future needs have been cut back. Ensuring higher quality, improved access and greater responsiveness, as well as facing closer scrutiny of the cost-effectiveness of strategies and policies, are some of the challenges facing the sector today.

DID YOU KNOW... Nearly three-quarters of 18-year-olds are still in education across OECD countries (73%).