

Outcomes, Benefits and Returns

Understanding the impacts of education beyond the classroom

- ▶ How does learning affect social and personal well-being?
- ▶ How could we measure the outcomes of learning in higher education?
- ▶ How can we assess knowledge and skills of the adult population?

Fifteen-year-olds are at a watershed in their education – it is a time when they make decisions affecting their future careers and opportunities. The **Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)** measures how well they apply their knowledge in key subjects to real life situations, and allows for comparison of national education systems.

Evaluation and assessment in school systems are increasingly important in national agendas. There is widespread recognition that they are key to both improvement and accountability in school systems. OECD **Reviews of Evaluation and Assessment in Education** provide country specific descriptions of evaluation and assessment frameworks, analyse strengths and challenges of approaches to evaluation and assessment, and provide recommendations for improvement.

The **Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes** (AHELO) programme is designing criteria to measure learning outcomes on an international scale. AHELO goes beyond current university rankings that say more about image and prestige to examine how well institutions teach and how well students learn.



Everybody has views on what education should be and whether the system is doing a good job. Yet sound policy can hardly be based on opinion alone. Objective, comparable data on performance and what works in achieving goals can help participants in the debate to assess their own proposals and learn from the experience of others. It is also important to know how education influences aspects of individuals' well-being outside the classroom and contributes to society more broadly.

DID YOU KNOW... That over 60 countries have participated in PISA so far and that they represent roughly 90% of the world economy?