



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
AND RESEARCH



OECD Implementing Education Policies

# **Supporting Estonia to enhance data-informed strategic governance in education**

Stakeholder Seminar:  
Reviewing monitoring and evaluation practices  
in an international and national context  
Tallinn, 27 May 2020

# Introduction

The Estonian education system is one of the best performing systems among OECD countries, combining quality and equity in education. One of its main features is its decentralised governance and high degree of autonomy of local authorities (school owners): the state sets national standards and establishes principles of education funding, supervision and quality assessment. Within these guidelines, local authorities and schools have a high level of autonomy for resource allocation and curriculum.

In this context, the improvement of learners' experience and the quality of education as a whole requires the use of relevant evidence and data allowing for a sound strategic education governance. Monitoring education is a central activity in balancing autonomy with accountability, promoting more effective and efficient policy-making, and ensuring equitable and quality education for all. As Estonia is finalising the Education Strategy 2035, reaching the goals will largely depend on the country's capacity to select, retrieve and analyse relevant data to inform stakeholders' decisions.

The Ministry of Education and Research (MoER) has identified four key shortcomings in the current education monitoring system:

- The fragmentation and lack of coherence of the current sub-systems of monitoring (e.g. between self-evaluation, school improvement planning, external evaluation), which hinders policy coherence and does not support efforts towards school improvement and learners' progress;
- The lack of agreement on what are meaningful indicators to monitor key education information, including the quality of teaching and learning, the risk of low achievement, the progress of educational institutions regarding strategic objectives; and the need to define social-economic background and develop indicators to monitor the impact of socio-economic background on learning pathways and learning outcomes.
- Limited knowledge and skills of several key stakeholders in data analysis and use, including of parents and learners themselves;
- The need for advice on addressing issues of data management and use, including matters of privacy, ethics and risks mitigation.

In order to design an effective education monitoring system that addresses the above-mentioned issues, the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research requested technical support from the Directorate General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM, formerly Structural Reform Support Service, SRSS) of the European Commission. DG REFORM selected the OECD as implementing partner to provide Estonia with the relevant expertise and stir the process over one and a half year to eventually produce a coherent and comprehensive set of recommended indicators and monitoring principles aligned to Estonia's Education Strategy 2035.

The project is a co creation process that relies on the specific OECD expertise, the analysis of relevant practices from EU Member States and regular consultation and validation sessions with national stakeholders. The objectives of this seminar is to engage Estonian education stakeholders in the process, by introducing them to relevant international experiences and gathering their feedback on the current and

future monitoring of the education strategy. In particular, the seminar will bring together different actors involved in education monitoring, such as Ministry officials, school owners, school principals, teachers, etc.

During the seminar, participants are therefore expected to provide feedback and actively participate in discussion, as they will come together to:

- **Analyse** with OECD and international experts monitoring systems in a comparative perspective, and the proposed OECD framework to guide monitoring in Estonia.
- **Discuss** key indicators of the Estonian monitoring systems based on the preliminary findings presented by the OECD.
- **Propose** new indicators that could help monitoring the new Education Strategy 2035.

# Agenda of the event

## Stakeholder Seminar, 27 May 2020

Tallinn time	Paris time	Activity	
9h30-10h00	8h30-9h00	Signing in to the seminar	
10h00-10h10	9h00-9h10	Welcome and introduction by Mart Laidmets, Secretary General of the MoER	
10h10-10h20	9h10-9h20	Introduction by Patricia Pérez-Gómez, DG Reform, and Beatriz Pont, OECD	
<i>Thematic session 1: Education monitoring systems from a comparative perspective</i>			
10h20-11h00	9h20-10h00	<b>Working session 1:</b> <i>10 min presentations, 10 min Q&amp;As</i>	The Estonian education monitoring system: current situation and future trends, and an OECD perspective Tatjana Kiilo, MoER, and Pierre Gouédard, OECD
<b>11h00-11h15</b>	<b>10h00-10h15</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11h15-11h45	10h15-10h45	<b>Working Session 2:</b> <i>15 min presentation, 15 min Q&amp;A</i>	The Danish education monitoring system Jon Jespersen, Danish Ministry of Education
11h45-12h15	10h45-11h15	<b>Working Session 3:</b> <i>15 min presentation, 15 min Q&amp;A</i>	The Dutch education monitoring system Renze Portengen and Jos Verkroost, Dutch Ministry of Education
<b>12h15-13h30</b>	<b>11h15-12h30</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>	
<i>Thematic session 2: The Estonian education strategy</i>			
13h30-14h00	12h30-13h00	<b>Working Session 4:</b> <i>20 min presentation, 10 min Q&amp;A</i>	Presenting an original OECD Monitoring Framework Mapping the Estonian education strategy to the OECD framework Manon Costinot and Corinne Heckmann, OECD
14h00-15h00	13h00-14h00	<b>Working Session 5:</b> <i>15 min presentation, 45 min table discussion</i>	A proposed set of indicators to monitor the Estonian education strategy Manon Costinot and Corinne Heckmann, OECD
<b>15h00-15h15</b>	<b>14h00-14h15</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	
15h15-16h00	14h15-15h00	<b>Working Session 6:</b>	Plenary discussion on the outcomes of Working Session 5 Tatjana Kiilo, MoER
16h00-16h15	15h00-15h15	<b>Wrap-up session</b>	