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COUNCIL

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Council

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL ON A DECENTRALISED PROGRAMME
FOR PRODUCING INDICATORS ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
ON A REGULAR BASIS**

(adopted by the Council at its 909th Session on 26 September 1997 [C/M(97)20/PROV])

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THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to articles 5 a) and 20 of the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960;

Having regard to the Financial Regulations and the Financial Rules of the Organisation;

Considering that the Member countries listed in document C(97)176 have agreed to participate in a Programme for Producing Student Achievement Indicators on a Regular Basis;

On the proposal of the Secretary-General;

DECIDES:

1. The Secretary-General is authorised to implement a decentralised Programme for Producing Student Achievement Indicators on a Regular Basis. The mandate for this Programme shall extend until 31 December 2001.
2. The participating countries are those OECD Member Countries which have notified the Secretary-General of their intention to participate by the commencement of the Programme and, thereafter, at the entry points specified in document DEELSA/ED/CERI/CD(97)4.
3. There is hereby established a Board of Participating Countries responsible for supervising the above-mentioned decentralised Programme, which shall be composed of representatives of the participating countries. The operating rules of the Board of Participating Countries are those outlined in the Appendix [Annex 1 to document DEELSA/ED/CERI/CD(97)7].
4. The Secretary-General is authorised to hold in a separate account of the Organisation, up to 31 December 2001, the funds constituted for the purpose of the decentralised Programme. These funds shall include the contributions of participating countries in the decentralised Programme, as well as the voluntary contributions and grants accepted by the Board of Participating Countries, in respect of the activities included in the Programme.
5. The Board of Participating Countries of the Programme shall establish a proposed budget authorising expenditure to be charged against this separate account. The proposed budget shall be examined by the Budget Committee which shall address its comments to the Board of Participating Countries and shall refer to the Council any questions which cannot be settled by agreement with the Board of Participating Countries of the Programme. The budget shall be deemed adopted at the end of this procedure. It shall empower the Secretary-General, pursuant to the Financial Regulations and the Financial Rules of the Organisation, to commit and authorise expenditures and, up to the limit of the amounts of the separate account provided for above, to make all authorised payments necessary to carry out the Programme.
6. The costs of the Programme shall be borne by the participating countries and shall be apportioned among them according to the operating rules of the Board of Participating Countries mentioned above.

7. While the budget of the decentralised Programme is not part of the OECD's budget, the Secretary-General is authorised by the Council to exercise management responsibilities and financial control over the operations of the Programme.

8. Appropriations for which no commitment has been entered into before the end of the Financial Year for which they were appropriated shall be automatically carried forward to the budget for the ensuing year by decision of the Secretary-General.

APPENDIX

OPERATIONAL ROLE

OF THE BOARD OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Establishment of the Board of Participating Countries

1. The Board of Participating Countries (BPC) shall monitor and evaluate the programme of work of the decentralised Programme that will carry out the implementation of the strategy for producing student achievement indicators on a regular basis as described in document DEELSA/ED/CERI/CD(97)4.
2. It shall be composed of one national expert in the field of competence of the Programme from each of the participating countries.
3. It is understood that members of the Board of Participating Countries shall have considerable understanding of both student assessment projects and the interface with policy in order to fulfil the functions described in document DEELSA/ED/CERI/CD(97)4 (paragraphs 72-77). To ensure the overall coherence of the project, continuity in membership of the BPC across survey cycles will be desirable.
4. Representatives on the BPC will be appointed by the participating Member countries.
5. The BPC shall elect its chair for a period of three years. The BPC shall also elect, on a rotational basis, three vice chairs for a period of three years. The BPC may appoint a nominating committee from among its members that would propose nominations. The BPC reports to the OECD Education Committee and CERI Governing Board, through the INES Steering Group.
6. The BPC will establish an Executive Group, consisting of the chair, the three vice chairs and the Secretariat. The Executive Group will facilitate the management of the Programme.

Frequency of meetings

7. The Board of Participating Countries (BPC) and the Executive Group will meet as required by the programme of work and at least twice per year.

Decisions and approval of the programme of work

8. The BPC will seek consensus of all members in its deliberations and decisions. Decisions which are brought to a vote by either the chair or any of its members will need to be made by at least a two-thirds majority decision of the members of the Board.

9. Each year the BPC shall prepare and approve by at least a two-thirds majority decision of the members of the Board the draft programme of work and budget for the following year.

10. The BPC shall, by a two-thirds majority decision of the members of the Board, submit the annual estimates for expenditure to the OECD Budget Committee for adoption.

11. The BPC shall, by unanimous vote, adopt any necessary regulations and rules for the application of the rules governing its operation, changes to the scale of country appropriations to the budget as well as changes to the project design and structure described in document DEELSA/ED/CERI/CD(97)4.

Funding

12. The Programme is financed by contributions from countries participating in the project and observers. The Programme may include special activities to be financed in whole or in part from voluntary contributions by public institutions or grants from private institutions.

13. Budgetary allocations are determined by a scale of contributions which builds on the OECD Scale 1 of country contributions in respect of Part I of the Budget of the Organisation except that *i*) the costs will be distributed only among countries participating in the project and *ii*) an annual floor equivalent to US\$ 40 000 (based on the 1998 budget) will be introduced.

14. Appropriations for which no commitment has been entered into before the end of the Financial Year for which they were appropriated, shall be automatically carried forward to the budget for ensuing year by decision of the Secretary-General.

Participation/observers

15. All OECD Member countries are entitled to join the decentralised Programme. Regulations for joining a particular survey cycle are set out in document DEELSA/ED/CERI/CD(97)4 (paragraphs 109-114). The Board of Participating Countries (BPC) may also decide to invite other countries as observers. The BPC will determine the financial contributions for countries participating in the programme of work as observers. In determining the cost, the BPC will take into consideration the level of participation of the observer.