

**DIRECTORATE FOR EDUCATION
EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE**

Network on Early Childhood Education and Care

**DISCUSSION PAPER FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE MANDATE OF THE OECD NETWORK ON
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE**

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DISCUSSION PAPER FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE MANDATE OF THE OECD NETWORK ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

1. The OECD Network on Early Childhood Education and Care is a subsidiary body that reports to the Education Policy Committee (EDPC). The EDPC's mandate expires in December 2011, and the process of renewing the mandate for the following five years is currently underway. As a subsidiary body, the Network's mandate also requires renewal.
2. The mandate of the Network should support the EDPC in carrying out its mission, and the key elements of the draft revised mandate for the Committee provide a reference point for the Network (see Box 1). This exercise also provides a timely opportunity to take stock of the Network's mission and its working arrangements and obtain feedback from Network members on how the work of the Network could be made more relevant and useful to countries.
3. This note presents a range of questions below for Network members to consider. The questions are designed to stimulate discussion and delegates may also wish to raise other points. Following the discussion, the Secretariat will prepare a revised draft mandate for the Network to consider through written procedure before it is sent to the EDPC for approval. The current mandate can be found on OLIS using the following document reference codes: C(2006)173 and C(2006)173/ANN1.

Box 1. Key elements of draft revised mandate for Education Policy Committee

The work of the Education Policy Committee (EDPC) reflects and complements the priorities of the OECD as a whole, in providing employment opportunities for all, improving human capital and social cohesion. The Committee contributes to supporting OECD Members and non-Members in their efforts to achieve high quality lifelong learning for all, which contributes to personal development, sustainable economic growth and social cohesion.

In helping Members and non-Members build efficient and effective educational systems and improve learning outcomes, the EDPC provides comparative data and analysis on education policy and implementation. In its focus on education, economy and society, the EDPC covers policy issues ranging from early childhood education and care, schools and higher education to skill formation in youth and adults.

The EDPC is responsible for:

- Assisting governments to develop effective, efficient and evidence-based policies for education and learning to meet individual, social, cultural and economic objectives through the development of specific policy recommendations, policy reviews, analyses and data collection.
- Overseeing the strategic direction, coherence, quality and communication of OECD work on education carried out by the education bodies.
- Exchanging information and promoting international co-operation among OECD Members and, where relevant, with non-Members on the objectives identified under 1) above.
- Disseminating its policy advice, data and policy analysis to a wide range of stakeholders in OECD Members and non-Members.

Source: EDU/EDPC(2011)5.

Questions for discussion

1. In what ways can the Network most effectively support the work of the Education Policy Committee in developing effective, efficient and evidence-based policies for education and learning?
2. In what ways can the Network shape its activities to be more relevant and useful to governments in supporting their policy development in early childhood education and care?
3. What is the most appropriate balance in the Network's activities between peer learning, building the evidence base, carrying out policy reviews, and developing policy recommendations?
4. What are the most appropriate and effective ways for the Network to foster links between research, policy and practice?
5. Is the current practice of selecting a focus topic or theme for each meeting effective? If so, how should topics be chosen?
6. In what ways can the Network more effectively disseminate its work?