

Building competencies for green and digital innovation through higher education – what are the options?

International Peer Learning Workshop (Thursday 29 February 2024, 13:45 – 15:15 CET)

Zoom Videoconference, click [here](#) to register

About this workshop

This event is organised by the OECD Higher Education Policy Team, in collaboration with the European Commission and the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture. Together, we will explore options for building competencies for green and digital innovation through higher education. Two potential policy options will be discussed:

- a **"widening attainment"** approach - which aims to increase the overall number of students and the throughput of degrees in the higher education system and thus achieve higher levels of educational attainment among the population. The underlying assumption of this strategy is that the advanced competencies necessary for leading green and digital innovation are nurtured through higher education.
- a **"democratisation of learning"** approach – where higher education institutions seek to transcend their traditional boundaries and build knowledge and skills across the entire society. The idea behind this approach is that everyone will need new competencies to participate in and adapt to technological and green innovation.

Finland provides an interesting national anchor for discussing these policy options, since it is simultaneously seeking to achieve higher levels of educational attainment (through its drive to substantially accelerate higher education attainment by 2030), and to further democratise learning (through its [Digivisio 2030 project](#)). The workshop will bring together national policymakers and practitioners from Finland and peer countries, along with members of the Education and Innovation Practice Community (EIPC) to discuss each of these pathways in turn.

The Education and Innovation Practice Community (EIPC)

The EIPC was launched by the OECD and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (Unit C.1 – *Innovation and EIT*) in 2022. Its objective is to boost dialogue and advance understanding of the competencies that help to trigger and shape innovation for the digital and green transitions, as foreseen under the [New European Innovation Agenda of the EC](#).

Please click [here](#) to join the EIPC network.

For more information, please contact the OECD Higher Education Policy Team (HigherEducation@oecd.org) or the European Commission (EAC-UNITE-C1@ec.europa.eu).

Programme

Session 1 – Setting the scene

13:45 – 14:00 **Opening**

- Gillian Golden, Analyst, OECD

Presentation - *Building competencies for green and digital innovation through higher education - Recent higher education policy initiatives in Finland.*

- Sirkku Linna, Director General, Department for Higher Education and Science Policy, Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland

Session 2 – Widening attainment to drive green and digital innovation

14:00 – 14:05 **Country opener:** *Challenges and enabling factors for raising educational attainment in Finland.*

- **Sirkku Linna, Director General, Department for Higher Education and Science Policy, Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland**

14:05 – 14:35 *Roundtable discussion: Reflections from peer countries*

- *Expanding higher education attainment in Ireland – what is driving recent success and how does the future look?*

Mariana Reis-Efinda, Senior Manager for Access Policy, Higher Education Authority, Ireland

- *Broadening access to higher education – a perspective from Portugal*

Joaquim Mourato, Director General, Directorate General for Higher Education, Portugal

Moderation: Nikolaj Broberg, Analyst, OECD

Audience Q&A

Session 3 – Democratising higher education – the future of learning for innovation?

14:35 – 14:40 **Country opener:** *Digivisio 2030 - Finland's strategy for building the expertise needed for the future.*

- **Hanna Nordlund, Programme Director, Digivisio, Finland**

14:40 – 15:10 *Roundtable discussion: Reflections from peer countries*

- *Navigating implementation challenges to achieve Austria's strategic vision for higher education.*

Helga Posset, Policy Officer, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Austria

- *Increasing digital participation in education to grow the green innovation economy.*

Robert Luke, Chief Executive Officer, eCampusOntario, Canada

Moderation: Gillian Golden, Analyst, OECD

Audience Q&A

15:10 – 15:15 *Closing remarks*

- **Loredana Lombardi, Policy Officer, Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC, Unit C1 – Innovation and EIT), European Commission**