

National Center for Education Statistics Disclaimer

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## NETWORK A MEETING RECORD

### Network A Plenary Meeting October 7-10, 1995, Dublin, Ireland

#### Participants

Friedrich Plank (Austria)  
Aletta Grisay (Belgium)  
Marjorie Mercer (Canada)  
Kimmo Leimu (Finland)  
Jacqueline Levasseur (France)  
Dieter Schwedt (Germany)  
Thomas Kellaghan (Ireland)  
Chiara Croce (Italy)  
Gerbo Korevaar (Netherlands)  
Jules Peschar (Netherlands)  
Rosemary Renwick (New Zealand)  
Marit Granheim (Norway)  
Gertrudes Amaro (Portugal)  
Guillermo Gil (Spain)  
Sten Petersson (Sweden)  
Uri Trier (Switzerland)  
Michael Richardson (United Kingdom)  
Eugene Owen (United States, Chair)  
Jay Moskowitz (United States)  
Andreas Schleicher (CERI/OECD)

#### Observers

Lieve Oosterlinck (Belgium)  
Jana Straková (Czech Republic)  
Judit Kádár-Fülöp (Hungary)  
Lucio Pusci (Italy)  
Sietske Waslander (Netherlands)  
Pedro Rocha Dos Reis (Portugal)  
Miguel Guerra Garcia (Spain)  
Flora Gil (Spain)  
Esther Garcia Gonzales (Spain)  
Shelley Kirkpatrick (United States)  
Ina Mullis (United States)

#### Purpose of the Meeting

The plenary session had the following objectives:

- To review and then approve the data strategy paper;
- To review the proposed indicators for EAGIV;
- To review and discuss the costs associated with implementing the data strategy;
- To begin to discuss implementation of the data strategy; and
- To provide the Network briefings on the work of the CCC and GOALS subgroups.

## **Welcome**

The meeting was chaired by Eugene Owen. Mr. Sean MacGleannain, Chief Inspector of the Irish Department of Education, provided a kind welcome to Dublin. Throughout the meeting our Irish hosts were extremely generous in their hospitality. Special thanks to Thomas.

Andreas updated us on Norberto's improving status. We wish a rapid recovery to Norberto and hope to see him again soon.

Andreas provided us with a PRAG update. Based on the INES General Assembly in Lahti, the priorities for the next INES phase focus on increasing the coverage of domains while reducing the number of overall indicators. Indicators must be policy relevant, policy malleable, and able to reflect changes in important aspects of education systems; they also should be reliable, valid, and comparable. Indicators should be presented in an accessible manner. A new set of products will be developed:

- Education at a Glance will be targeted toward policy makers, senior public officials, the press and the public; it will focus around certain themes;
- The OECD Education Indicators will be aimed at academics and public officials seeking more in-depth information on a certain topic; and
- The OECD Education Statistics will provide highly detailed statistics on the indicators.

## **Data Strategy Paper**

After some discussion, a motion to accept the data strategy paper was accepted with 15 "yes" votes and 0 "no" votes, with the provision that the paper will be revised according to the changes agreed upon, a summary of which follows:

- clarify the reasons for the strategy;
- clarify the use of the terms "disadvantaged students," "equity," and "cross-cutting variable";
- refer to citizens instead of workforce;
- clarify the definition of "minor" data collection;
- add additional possible future topics;
- bring in the proficiency levels sooner in the paper;
- modify language on the topic trace analysis; and
- clarify the role of CCCs in the cycle (although it is up to the CCC subgroup to develop its own data strategy and to align such a strategy with the Network's strategy).

We will remain flexible on the details of the strategy and will revise the strategy as budget information and other details become more clear. Additionally, Eugene will work with Thomas

to address his concerns on about the paper. Once these changes have been made, the paper will be submitted to PRAG.

### **CCC Report**

Jules provided a progress report on the CCC feasibility study. See CCC notes for more details.

### **GOALS Report**

Marit updated the Network on the GOALS Survey. So far, 10 countries have participated in the survey, and results from four more countries are expected. Marit presented a listing of each country's responses, noting that only once all responses are received, will the results be analyzed. In sum, the results seem reasonable and the survey was successful.

### ***EAGIV* Indicators**

Although no data will be available by the Spring meeting, the wording and language of the indicators will be discussed and “mockups” of the indicators will be presented. The following issues related to the EAGIV indicators were discussed:

- The incorporation of National Goals Indicator represents a slightly different type of indicator than we've had previously.
- The write-up for the Multiple Comparisons in Maths and Sciences Indicators will call attention to the fact that many adjustments to the scores could be made, although no adjustments actually will be made to the indicator. Also, the correct age for population 2 – 13 year-olds – will be listed in all TIMSS-based indicators.
- The Distributions in Maths and Sciences Indicator will appear as it is presented in the information book, with edits to clarify the fact that classes, not schools, were sampled. Although both within and between class and school variances are important, TIMSS did not obtain samples from representative schools.
- The Within and Between Class Variances in Maths and Sciences Indicator will appear as it is presented in the information book, with edits to clarify the fact that classes, not schools, were sampled. Although both within and between class and school variances are important, TIMSS did not obtain samples from representative schools.
- The Gender Differences in Maths and Sciences Indicator will appear as presented in the information book.
- The Profiles of Adult Literacy and Adult Literacy by Level of Education Indicators will be similar to indicators reported by IALS. These indicators will appear in the information book.

## **Data Strategy Costs**

Eugene invited Ina Mullis, of Boston College, to present the international cost estimates that she had developed. Ina presented the assumptions that she worked under in estimating costs, which are presented in the handout provided at the meeting. Additional assumptions are that the project will stay on schedule and that 10 countries will participate in the data collection. The marginal costs of adding countries would consist of variable costs, such as data processing, attending meetings, quality control. Fix costs, such as developing a manual, would remain the same.

We agreed that we can examine the effects that different assumptions will have on the international costs; Eugene will work with Ina on this for the Spring meeting. However, it was emphasized that the estimate is robust, meaning that minor modifications to the assumptions do not decrease the international costs significantly. In fact, many changes discussed would increase the international costs; for example, allowing each country to prepare its own sample will be more expensive than performing the sampling centrally, as the costs of monitoring each country's sample will be high.

The formula for dividing up the international costs was discussed. Although we do not have an exact formula at the present time, we agreed that the international costs should be divided up proportionally to each country's OECD percentage. However, because not all OECD countries will participate in implementing the strategy, the nonparticipating countries' costs will need to be allocated among the participating countries. The exact formula for doing so will need to be agreed upon.

We agreed that the international costs estimates should be the basis for discussions within each country as to each's national costs. Given differences across countries, we agree that it is best for each country to develop its own estimates of its national costs, and that members should bring their national cost estimates to the Spring meeting.

## **Spring Meeting and Next Steps**

The next Network meeting will be hosted by Spain. The plenary session will begin on the evening of Tuesday, April 16, 1996 and will continue until Friday, April 19. The CCC subgroup will meeting will begin about noon on Monday, April 15 and continue to the early evening of Tuesday, April 16.

The next steps for continuing to develop and implement the data strategy is to begin work on implementation issues. Also, one aspect of implementation that requires in-depth attention is the development of proficiency levels. The Network agreed that two temporary subgroups will be formed for each of these issues. The following members tentatively agreed to serve on the Implementation Subgroup:

Friedrich Plank (Austria)  
Marjorie Mercer (Canada)  
Jaqueline Levasseur (France)  
Dieter Schwedt (Germany)

Marit Granheim (Norway)  
Gertrudes Amaro (Portugal)  
Guillermo Gil (Spain)  
Flora Gil (Spain)  
Michael Richardson (United Kingdom)

This subgroup will examine the details of implementing the data strategy, including defining the population and sample, estimating the total number of items that will be required in the pilot test. The following members tentatively agreed to serve on the Proficiency Levels Subgroup:

Friedrich Plank (Austria)  
Aletta Grisay (Belgium)  
Luc Van de Poele (Belgium)  
Jacqueline Levasseur (France)  
Dieter Schwedt (Germany)  
Judit Kádár-Fulop (Hungary)  
Chiara Croce (Italy)  
Gerbo Korevaar (Netherlands)  
Jules Peschar (Netherlands)  
Uri Trier (Switzerland)  
Michael Richardson (United Kingdom)

Given the high degree of relationship between the tasks of each subgroup, it is expected that the subgroups will coordinate with each other as necessary. These subgroups will begin work immediately and will report on their progress at the Spring 1996 meeting.

Between now and the next meeting the Network is:

- Submitting the data strategy paper, with minor revisions, as agreed in Dublin.
- Analyzing GOALS Survey results.
- Continuing analysis of CCC feasibility study.
- Examining implementation issues, in the form of a new subgroup.
- Examining issues associated with developing proficiency levels, in the form of a new subgroup.
- Continuing to estimate data strategy costs.