

Foreword

This book is designed to give policy makers, researchers, educational leaders, administrators and teachers a robust, non-specialist source of international comparative trends that have the potential to shape the future of education. Its aim is to inform strategic thinking and stimulate reflection on the challenges facing education, whether in schools, universities or in programmes for older adults. It will also be of interest to students and the wider public, including parents.

Trends Shaping Education 2013 provides an overview of key economic, social, demographic and technological trends and raises pertinent questions about their potential impact on education. This compilation makes use of a variety of robust international sources of data, including the OECD, the World Bank and the United Nations.

The first edition of this book was published in 2008, and the second in 2010. In preparation for this 2013 edition the content was significantly updated and extended to new countries, with a special emphasis on the emerging economies of Brazil, China, India, and the Russian Federation, which are included whenever the data are available. The 2013 edition also extended its coverage to new themes, and as a result a great number of completely new indicators (on security, skills, and emerging technologies) were added. The process of identifying and compiling relevant trends and data on such disparate subjects was necessarily a collaborative one, and this volume benefits enormously from the support and suggestions from the following OECD Directorates and Units: Employment, Labour, and Social Affairs; Environment, the International Transport Forum; the Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Programme; Science, Technology, and Industry; Statistics; and Trade and Agriculture.

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