

Foreword

Trends Shaping Education 2019 is designed to support long-term strategic thinking in education. It provides an overview of key economic, social, demographic and technological trends and raises pertinent questions about their impact on education. This book fills an important need: decision makers and practitioners in education often have only anecdotal or local information on the megatrends that play out in their context; too often they do not have solid facts in front of them, especially about trends.

Using trends to think about the future requires robust international sources of data, including the OECD, the World Bank and the United Nations. The work is aimed at policy makers, researchers, educational leaders, administrators and teachers. It will also be of interest to students and the wider public, including parents.

The first edition of this book was published in 2008 and subsequent editions appeared in 2010, 2013 and 2016. This 2019 edition features new chapters on ageing, modern cultures and security. It updates and extends the interactions between the trends, links to education and futures-thinking. Unlike previous editions, which had specific chapters on technology, this edition incorporates technology across all the chapters, an acknowledgement that it has now become thoroughly integrated into our daily life.

The process of identifying and compiling relevant trends and data on such disparate subjects is necessarily a collaborative one, and this volume benefits enormously from the support and suggestions of a number of different individuals and institutions. The authors thank the Flemish Ministry of Education for consistently supporting this work since its inception. Jeroen Backs and his dedicated team made possible an expert workshop in 2018, which helped strengthen our work and the content of the publication. Enormous thanks also to the dedicated, dynamic and multidisciplinary group of experts who took part in that Brussels meeting: Queralt Capsada, Bernhard Chabera, Patrick Deboosere, Ruby Gropas, Jan Germen Janmaat, Siv Hilde Lindstrom, Candy Lugaz, Eamonn Noonan, Petra Packalen and Micheline Scheys.

We would also like to acknowledge the following OECD Directorates, Units and partner Agencies who generously shared their expertise and work with us: Development, Economics, Employment, Labour, and Social Affairs, Financial Affairs, Public Sector Governance, Science, Technology, and Industry, Trade and Agriculture, the Centre for Entrepreneurship, the International Energy Agency, the Nuclear Energy Agency and the International Transport Forum. Your expert advice and collegiality is much appreciated.

The authors would also like to thank the many members of our Education and Skills Directorate who gave their expert ideas throughout the process, from the first brainstorming of “bright minds” to providing feedback and comments on specific chapters and areas of expertise. Your time and assistance is invaluable to us. We also thank Andreas Schleicher, Director, and Deborah Roseveare, Head of CERI, for their comments on the draft. The CERI Governing Board provided encouragement, ideas, and feedback throughout the process, and we are grateful for their guidance. Thank you.

Within the OECD Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI), this publication was written by Tracey Burns, Marc Fuster, Julie Hooft Graafland and Joshua Polchar with assistance from Peer-Benedikt Vincent Bussiek and Quynh Nguyen. Sophie Limoges, Rachel Linden, Leonora Lynch-Stein and Anne-Lise Prigent contributed to the final stages of preparation for publication.



From:
Trends Shaping Education 2019

Access the complete publication at:
https://doi.org/10.1787/trends_edu-2019-en

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2019), "Foreword", in *Trends Shaping Education 2019*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1787/trends_edu-2019-1-en

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